

**The Twenty first
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the years
2006/2007**

Edited by
Tom Callan

Assisted by
Paul Daw

Systematic List by
Paul Daw
Assisted by **Bob Furness (seabirds)**
Tom Callan
and
Malcolm Chattwood

ISSN 1363-4386

Copyright: Argyll Bird Club Feb. 2010

Argyll Bird Club
Scottish Charity Number SC008782
February 2010

Founded in 1985, the Argyll Bird Club aims to promote interest in and conservation of Argyll's wild birds and their natural environment. The rich diversity of habitats in the county supports an exceptional variety of bird life. Many sites in Argyll are of international importance. The Club brings together people with varied experience, from complete beginners to experts, and from all walks of life. New members are particularly welcome.

Activities

Every spring and autumn there is a one-day meeting with illustrated talks and other features. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations. Throughout the year there are field trips to local and more distant sites of interest.

Publications

The annual journal of the Club is the *Argyll Bird Report*, containing the Systematic List of all species recorded in the county during the year, together with reports and articles. The less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Eider*, gives details of forthcoming events and activities, reports of recent meetings, field trips, articles, and shorter items by members and others.

Website

www.argyllbirdclub.org

Honorary Secretary: Katie Pendreigh, The Whins, Ferry Road, Tayinloan, PA29 6XQ.
Tel. 01583 441 359 E-mail: katiependreigh@aol.com

To apply for membership, please (photocopy and) complete the form below and send to our Membership Secretary: **Sue Furness**, The Cnoc, Tarbet, G83 7DG.
Tel. 01301 702 603 E-mail: r.furness@bio.gla.ac.uk

I/We wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club.

Name(s):

Address:

_____ Postcode

Telephone number(s) _____ E-mail _____

Please make cheques payable to "Argyll Bird Club". If you wish to pay by standing order, which reduces our administration and costs, please ask the Membership Secretary to send you the appropriate form.

Annual subscription (please tick):

Ordinary	£10	Junior (under 17)	£3
Family	£15	Corporate	£25

**Argyll Bird Club
Officials and Committee as at Mar 2010.**

Chairman	Nigel Scriven, 2 Allt na Blathaich, Loch Eck, Dunoon PA23 8SG
Vice-Chairman	vacant
Secretary	Katie Pendreigh, The Whins, Ferry Road, Tayinloan, PA29 6XQ
Treasurer	Prof. Bob Furness, The Cnoc, Tarbet, Loch Lomondside, G83 7DG
Committee	Richard Allan, Tom Callan, Malcolm Chattwood, Danielle Clark, Paul Daw, Mike Harrison, Andy Robinson, David Warden, and Mark Williamson.
Membership Secretary	Sue Furness, The Cnoc, Tarbet, G83 7DG
Argyll Bird Records Committee	Dr Tristan ap Rheinallt, Roger Broad, Jim Dickson (Secretary), David Jardine, Dr John Bowler, Dr Malcolm Ogilvie
Editor of <i>Argyll Bird Report</i>	Tom Callan, Corra, Otter Ferry, Tighnabruaich, Argyll PA21 2DH
Editor of <i>The Eider</i> (newsletter)	Mark Williamson, Port Ban, Kilberry, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6YD

Other useful addresses

S.O.C. Recorder for Argyll:

Paul Daw, Tigh-na-Tulloch, Tullochgorm, Minard, Inveraray PA32 8YQ.

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Organiser for Argyll mainland & Mull: Paul Daw, Tigh-na-Tulloch, Tullochgorm, Minard, Inveraray PA32 8YQ.

B.T.O. Representatives for Argyll:

North Argyll, Mull, Coll, Tiree & Morvern: **Sue Dewar**, Auchnacraish House, Torosay, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA65 6AY

Islay, Jura and Colonsay: **John S. Armitage**, Airigh Sgallaidh, Portnahaven, Islay, Argyll PA47 7SZ.

Argyll South, Bute and Gigha: **Richard Allan**, An Grianan, Easdale Road, Isle of Seil, Oban PA34 4RF

R.S.P.B. Conservation Officer, Argyll & Bute: Andy Robinson, RSPB S&W Scotland RO, 10 Park Quadrant, Glasgow, G3 6BS

Contents

Editorial	
<i>Tom Callan</i>	5
Systematic List for 2006/7 - Introduction	6
<i>Paul Daw/Bob Furness/Tom Callan/Malcolm Chattwood</i>	
Swans	18 - 20
Geese	20- 28
Ducks	28 - 43
Game birds	43 - 45
Divers & grebes	45 - 48
Fulmar, shearwaters, petrels	48 - 51
Gannet, cormorants, egrets, herons	51 - 54
Raptors	54 - 65
Rails	65 - 67
Waders	67 - 94
Skuas, gulls, terns	94 - 106
Auks	106 - 108
Pigeons & doves	109 - 110
Cuckoos & owls	111 - 114
Nightjar, swift, kingfisher, woodpeckers	114 - 116
Skylark, swallows, pipits, wagtails	116 - 121
Waxwing to wheatear	121 - 125
Thrushes	125 - 128
Warblers	128 - 134
Goldcrest, flycatchers, tits, treecreeper	134 - 138
Orioles, shrikes & crows	138 - 142
Starlings, sparrows, finches	142 - 149
Buntings	149 - 152
Escapes & introductions	152 - 153
Rejected and Pending records	153 - 155
References, acknowledgements & contributors	155 - 156
Index	157 - 160

EDITORIAL

I regret that once again on behalf of the team I must apologise for not being able to publish this report until three years after the last date included in it. Part of the problem is actual compiling of the data base, the writing of the species accounts and the editing, each of which takes considerable time and effort. Another important reason for the delay, in the last three reports at least, is the delay by some in the sending of records to Paul, our hard working Recorder. It is difficult, if not impossible, to compile the species accounts until we receive these records. To proceed without them would make the report of much less value.

We are now half way through the third year of the BTO 2007-11 Bird Atlas project. It has been interesting that although this report only includes the first early winter surveys in 2007 it has already resulted in an increased number of records compared to previous years. Could I ask that anyone who is doing TTVs for the atlas also send their records for each TTV to Paul. Atlas records for the breeding season (Apr to Jul for most species) require the inclusion of BTO breeding status codes. Use of these codes makes the records both more valuable and more interesting and we would be most grateful if they could be used in future. This leads me to another way of making records more interesting and that is by adding comments to at least some records. Many examples come to mind such as: if feeding was observed, what was being eaten: was the location/ behaviour / plumage etc unusual? An example would be that I had a record of a Greenfinch in my garden a couple of days ago, nothing unusual in that, but my comment that this was only my third bird in the garden this year makes the record interesting. Another example would be that some books say that our Common Crossbills should be feeding mainly on older Spruce cones whereas virtually all my records are of birds on young Larch cones. I would hope that most would agree that inclusion of such comments makes for a more interesting and readable report. News of our user new friendly recording system and other helpful information is given on page 7 under Bird Recording in Argyll.

As we move into spring 2010 I fear that we may find that our resident birds have suffered badly over the last three frozen months. Our recording and commenting on these species, with our knowledge over the years, should prove interesting.

Finally my thanks to all concerned with this publication and especially to all those who send us their observations and records.

Tom Callan
March 2010

Argyll Bird Report 21

Systematic list for 2006-2007

Paul Daw

Tigh-na-Tulloch, Minard, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8YQ

Tel. 01546 886260

E-mail: monedula@globalnet.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

The following systematic list includes entries for 219 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2006 and 230 such species recorded in 2007 (*cf* average 215 species during the years 1993 – 2005)*. Three new species were added to the Argyll list (*viz.* Marsh Warbler, American Herring Gull, Whiskered Tern), which stood at 331 species seen up to December 2007. Records for 2 category E species in 2006 and 2 in 2007 are also listed, as are 4 additional races in 2006 and 4 in 2007.

* A description was supplied for a Red-footed Falcon seen at Tod Hill *Kintyre* on 12 Jul 2005. This was subsequently accepted by BBRC and brings the total for that year to 220.

For the information of readers we have included at least a status summary in the text of all species on the Argyll list except those in Category B (see beginning of the systematic list).

To save space we have dispensed with the month by month Ornithological Review for this issue.

BIRD RECORDING IN ARGYLL

If all records are received in an approved standard format it is very quick and easy to add them to the database. To make it easier for club members (and others) to do this Committee member Danielle Clark has devised for us a user friendly automated bird record template. You simply enter the basic information about the birds you have seen and the template produces a standardised Excel file of records that can be automatically e-mailed to the Recorder. With just a little practice you can also use it to keep your own bird records. **To use this system you will need a PC with Excel software and an internet connection.**

The software comes complete with full instructions and I am also happy to talk people through the system on the phone if help is needed. Why not try the Argyll Bird Record System out and save myself and the kind people who have assisted me with processing bird records over recent years (Tom Callan, Morag Rea, Mary Gregory and Jane Mitchell) literally hours (indeed days!) of our time.

All you need to do to get your hands on this brilliant and time saving system is to e-mail Paul Daw monedula@globalnet.co.uk with details of the operating system you are using (e.g. Microsoft XP, Vista etc) and the version of Excel you have (e.g. Excel 2000 or later releases) and I will send you a ZIP-file of the appropriate software and the instructions for using it. Advice on what to record is available on the Argyll Bird Club website www.argyllbirdclub.org under 'Sending in records'.

For those of you who do not have access to a computer or the internet I am happy to continue to receive your records on paper (record forms available from Paul Daw on request).

Advice to contributors sending in records on paper.

When submitting records, sightings should be listed in species order used in the Argyll Bird Report and should include the following details:

- **Your name and address.**
- **Species name.** The commonly used English name is usually sufficient (British Birds – List of English Names), but scientific (Latin) name is helpful if reporting sub-species.
- **Date.** Please give exact date whenever possible (rather than ‘June’ or ‘Spring’) as this makes the record much more valuable and enables us to relate it to other records received. There are two boxes for dates. If you are just entering a record for a single date use just the first box. If you want to record a first and last date e.g. for rare bird records enter a different date in each box. Enter date in the format 11/01/2009 not 11th Jan 2009.
- **Grid reference** if known. If you know the four figure grid ref. enter it here e.g. NR9695 (if you know it, the six figure grid ref. can be useful in some cases but please enter this in the Comments box.
- **Location name.** Used in conjunction with the above to avoid ambiguity (e.g. there are umpteen Loch Dubhs in Argyll) but mistakes can also occur with grid refs!
- **Number of individuals.** Precise number whenever possible or, failing this, an estimate. Even a rough estimate is more useful than ‘many’, ‘large flock’, ‘several’ or ‘few’, which are too subjective to have much value.
- **Breeding Status.** If you have any evidence of breeding, even for very common species, please enter it here. Please use the 2007-11 Atlas breeding codes if you know them (see BTO website www.bto.org/birdatlas/index.htm under Taking Part - Breeding Evidence).
- **Sex and age if known.** This is especially useful for ‘white winged’ gulls e.g. 1st winter Iceland Gull
- **Comments.** Other interesting comments are always welcome e.g. indications of breeding, behaviour, food, interactions with other birds/animals etc. Individual anecdotes add value to what can otherwise be rather a ‘dry’ report.

Rare birds

Details of all rare bird sightings should be sent in as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8UF. Tel. 01546 603967 E-mail: j.dickson@tiscali.co.uk . Please use the standard form (available from Jim Dickson, Paul Daw or the club website www.argyllbirdclub.org). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (whose members are listed on p. 3), sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or sent on to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

The list below details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description (see Jim

Dickson's helpful guide in 'The Eider' for March 2009 pages 8 & 9 - also available on the club website www.argyllbirdclub.org). It is made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those considered by SBRC marked *). UK rarities assessed by BBRC require the same treatment and are marked in the main systematic list (page 17 onwards) with an asterisk (*) where they have already occurred in Argyll. In general any claims of birds belonging to unusual races e.g. the races of Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed, Grey Headed etc) must be supported by a description and any species not already on the Argyll list will also require a description before being accepted.

No record of any of the species and plumage phases listed below will be published unless adequate supporting details (including a description) are available. In addition, brief details may be requested for occurrences of scarce species not on the list where the circumstances appear to warrant this.

Species considered by the ABRC and SBRC (#) from January 2009.

NB some of these species are not yet on the Argyll list.

Bewick's Swan	Hobby
Bean Goose	Spotted Crake
European White-fronted Goose	Common Crane
(race <i>albifrons</i>)	Avocet
American Wigeon	Stone Curlew#
Green-winged Teal	Little Ringed Plover
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Kentish Plover#
Red-crested Pochard	American Golden Plover
Ring-necked Duck	Temminck's Stint
Ferruginous Duck#	White-rumped Sandpiper#
Surf Scoter (except adult males)	Pectoral Sandpiper
Smew	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruddy Duck	Spotted Redshank
Red-necked Grebe	Red-necked Phalarope (away from
Black-necked Grebe	traditional breeding areas)
Cory's Shearwater#	Long-tailed Skua (except adult)
Great Shearwater#	Mediterranean Gull (except adult)
Balearic Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Wilson's Storm-petrel#	Ring-billed Gull
Eurasian Bittern (Bittern)	Yellow-legged Gull#
Night Heron#	Roseate Tern
Little Egret	Black Tern
Great White Egret#	White-winged Black Tern#
Purple Heron#	Little Owl
White Stork	Alpine Swift#
Eurasian Spoonbill (Spoonbill)	Nightjar
Honey-buzzard	European Bee-eater
Black Kite#	Wryneck
Montagu's Harrier#	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker#
Goshawk	Short-toed Lark#
Rough-legged Buzzard#	Wood Lark#
Red-footed Falcon#	Shore Lark

Red-rumped Swallow#
 Richard's Pipit
 Tawny Pipit#
 Red-throated Pipit#
 Water Pipit#
 Rock Pipit (race *littoralis*)
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)
 Common Nightingale#
 Bluethroat
 Cetti's Warbler#
 Aquatic Warbler#
 Marsh Warbler#
 Reed Warbler
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler#
 Barred Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat*
 Dartford Warbler#
 Subalpine Warbler#
 Greenish Warbler#
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
 Radde's Warbler#
 Dusky Warbler#
 Firecrest
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Bearded Tit
 Marsh Tit
 Willow Tit
 Crested Tit
 Eurasian Nuthatch
 Red-backed Shrike
 Great Grey Shrike
 Woodchat Shrike#
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Tree Sparrow
 European Serin#
 Common Redpoll (all races)
 Arctic Redpoll#
 Scottish Crossbill
 Common Rosefinch
 Hawfinch
 Cirl Bunting#
 Ortolan Bunting#
 Little Bunting#
 Rustic Bunting#
 Corn Bunting

*descriptions of Lesser Whitethroats are
 required for all records apart those from
 Coll & Tiree during Aug-Oct inclusive.

INTERPRETATION OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

As agreed by the Argyll Bird Club Committee the English and scientific names, as shown in 'The *British Birds* list of Western Palearctic Birds' (Jul 2006), are used in the species accounts below. To avoid confusion, where there are changes, the 'old' name is shown in brackets after the 'new' name. The sequence of species follows the order in the same list.

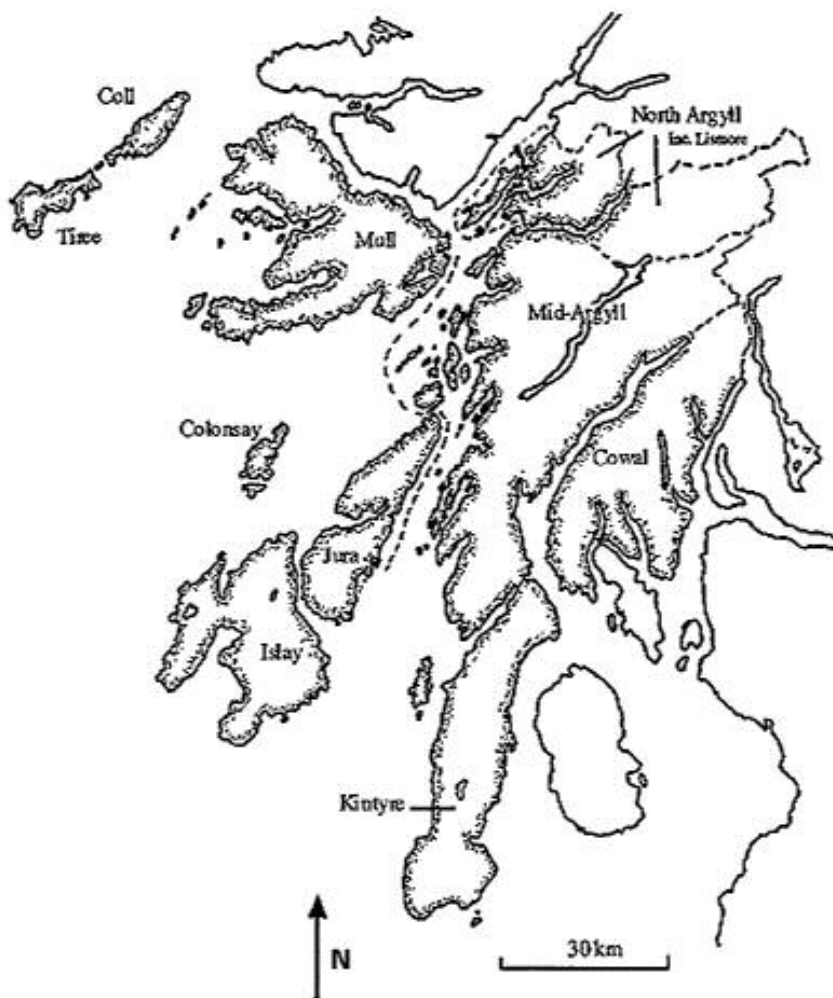
Each species heading in the report contains the following information:

Common name- new (old)	Scientific name	Gaelic name	EURING code
e.g. COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN)	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Fitheach	1572

Each heading is followed by a summary of the bird's known status and distribution within Argyll (*see* species status categories – below), together with any other relevant information. The information regarding sites of national or international importance for wintering/passage birds is taken from Musgrove, A. J. *et al.* (2007) *Waterbirds in the UK 2005/06: The Wetland Bird Survey*. The qualifying threshold for identification as such a site is generally that they hold, at some time during the qualifying period, at least 1% of the national (Great Britain) or international population of the species. The minimum qualifying count is normally 50 birds, although a lower figure has sometimes been chosen where the British population is very small. Significant 2004 and 2005 records are then listed in approximate chronological order. For scarcer species, records for 2004 or 2005 may be followed by late records or recent acceptances from earlier years.

For the purposes of this report, Argyll is divided into 10 areas, which are named on the accompanying sketch map. Because very few records have been received from Lismore in recent years, it is no longer considered a separate area but has been merged with North Argyll. For similar reasons Gigha is no longer considered as a separate area and records are included with those from Kintyre. Note that, for the moment at least, boundaries of the Argyll recording area remain unchanged despite local government reorganisation in 1996.

Records of rarities in the systematic list are accompanied by the names of the observers, starting with the finder(s)/identifier(s) (or, in the absence of this information, the person who first reported the bird to me), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different. Summarised data from many surveys of breeding birds are also accompanied by the initials of the observers or organisations responsible, in order to help readers who are interested in obtaining more detailed information.



Map showing the recording areas of Argyll used in this report

Place names

An attempt has been made to ensure that all place names in the systematic list feature on the 1:50,000 (Landranger Series) Ordnance Survey maps. An exception is The Laggan (Kintyre), which refers to the roughly triangular area west of Campbeltown, bordered by the B843, the A83, and Machrihanish Bay. Campbeltown Airport (previously RAF Machrihanish) is in this area. The Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (SBO) is situated at Uisaed Point on the western outskirts of Machrihanish (NR628209). In Mid-Argyll, Kilmichael Glen extends north-eastwards from Kilmichael Glassary at NR8593. On Mull, the Mishnish Lochs are the series of lochs extending from NM4652 to NM4853.

On Islay, the term 'Loch Gruinart' may refer to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve at Loch Gruinart, or to parts of the loch lying outside the reserve. When the observer has made a distinction and when presenting counts of breeding pairs within the reserve, the abbreviation '**RSPB L. Gruinart**' is used throughout. 'Loch Gruinart Floods' refers to the area of flooded fields to the south of Loch Gruinart. The same applies to the use of the terms 'Moine Mhor' and 'Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve (NNR)' (*Mid-Argyll*); I have used the former term to cover an area extending west to the landward edge of Loch Crinan and north to Barsloisnoch.

The following places are mentioned frequently in the text and are cited as shown in the first column. The relevant recording area is shown in the second column and a four figure Grid Ref. is given in the third. Where the location is a large feature (such as many of the sea lochs) the Grid Ref. is conventional and refers to approximately the centre of the feature.

Add Estuary	Mid-Argyll	NR8093
Ardnave L.	Islay	NR2873
Balephetrish Bay	Tiree	NM0047
Campbeltown L.	Kintyre	NR7220
Dunoon	Cowal	NS1776
Frenchman's Rocks	Islay	NR1554
Gigha	Kintyre	NR6449
Gott Bay	Tiree	NM0546
Holy Loch	Cowal	NS1681
Iona	Mull	NM2625
L. a' Phuill	Tiree	NL9541
L. Awe	Mid-Argyll	NN0016
L. Bhasapol	Tiree	NL9747
L. Caolisport	Mid-Argyll	NR7475
L. Crinan (incl. Add Estuary)	Mid-Argyll	NR7994
L. Don	Mull	NM7332
L. an Eilein	Tiree	NL9843
L. Feochan	Mid-Argyll	NM8623
L. Fyne	Mid-Argyll	NR9386
L. Gilp	Mid-Argyll	NR8685
L. Gruinart	Islay	NR2868
L. Indaal	Islay	NR2961
L. na Keal	Mull	NM5038

L. Riaghain	Tiree	NM0347
L. Scridain	Mull	NM4525
L. Sween	Mid-Argyll	NR7484
Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory)	Kintyre	NR6220
Moine Mhor (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR8192
Oban	Mid-Argyll	NM8529
Oronsay	Colonsay	NR3489
Otter Ferry	Cowal	NR9284
Outer L. Etive (i.e. Connel Br. to Taynuilt)	North Argyll	NM9434
Sanda Island(s)	Kintyre	NR7204
Sorobaidh Bay	Tiree	NL9942
Sound of Gigha	Kintyre	NR6749
Sound of Jura	Mid-Argyll	NR6480
Sound of Mull	Mull	NM6144
Tayinloan (jetty)	Kintyre	NR6946
Taynish NNR (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR7384
Treshnish Isles	Mull	NM2842

All other locations are given as a place name followed by the recording area in italics e.g. Minard *Mid-Argyll*. Occasionally, where the locality is not well known, a qualifier may be added in brackets, e.g. Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*.

Tables

Tables 2.1 - 3.2, 5.1 - 6.2 and 8.1 – 9.2 are derived chiefly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) goose counts.

Tables 1, 10.1 - 22.2 and 32.1- 44 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) and the *Islay* database for 2006 and 2007, although higher counts have been included where available. Some tables include ‘monthly maximum day-counts’ on *Tiree*. These may be at one site but often represent the total number of birds seen at two or more sites on the island on a given day.

Tables 23.1 - 30.2 and 45.1- 48.2 and are based on the Argyll Raptor Study Group monitoring summaries produced by R. A. Broad.

Figures in these tables for ‘Loch Gruinart’ represent the total for the whole of RSPB Loch Gruinart including the area known as Gruinart Floods (the area of flooded fields to the south of L. Gruinart). Loch Crinan includes the outer Add estuary. In most cases the figures come from the respective WeBS counts for these areas although where higher counts are available these have been used. Also, ‘outer Loch Etive’ refers to WeBS counts covering the area from Connel Bridge to Taynuilt. ‘*Tiree*’ refers to WeBS counts covering the four main freshwater lochs on the island *viz.* Loch an Eilein, Loch Bhasapol, Loch Riaghain and Loch a ‘Phuill unless ‘monthly maximum day-counts’ are specified. In September 2007, WeBS counts were resumed (by George Newall) for the important site of Holy Loch *Cowal*. Significant counts are included in the tables for the relevant species.

Special studies carried out in 2006 and/or 2007

(1) Common Bird Census. This national scheme is run by the British Trust for Ornithology and involves mapping breeding territories of common and widespread birds in around 200 selected plots throughout the United Kingdom. The aim has been to quantify trends in bird populations and it has been instrumental, for example, in drawing attention to the declines among farmland birds. The scheme has been running nationally since 1962. From 1990 onwards two plots in the Tainish National Nature Reserve *Mid-Argyll* (one woodland and one coastal) have been monitored by John Halliday. Because it is very labour intensive (involving around 10 detailed survey visits each breeding season) the CBC has been gradually replaced by the simpler BBS scheme, which requires only three visits. From 2001 the CBC has no longer been supported nationally. However a core of about 50 high priority sites continued to be supported and fortunately, the two Tainish plots are among them. Because of the detailed nature of this survey and the continuity of the work (over 10 years now) at Tainish, the data provided are particularly significant for Argyll.

(2) Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) study of seabird breeding success [J. C. A. Craik] As part of an on-going wider study of seabird breeding success, selected species were monitored in a study area along the west coasts of *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *N. Argyll* (including Lismore), and at additional sites in Loch Fyne (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll*) and *Mull*. In particular the effect of mink predation on, mainly island nesting, seabird colonies has been monitored since 1990. The effects of efforts to reduce the mink population at especially vulnerable/important sites has also been assessed.

In 2007 a tidal surge caused by a storm on the night of 18-19 May destroyed clutches of eggs at some sites.

For further details see: Craik, J. C. A. (2006 and 2007). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2006 and Results of the mink-seabird project in 2007. Privately Published (copies available from Dr J. C. A. Craik, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA.).

(4) Systematic sea-watching at Machrihanish SBO (*Kintyre*) [E. J. Maguire].

Movements of seabirds, wildfowl and waders past this site are monitored regularly during certain months of the year. With a few exceptions, all individual birds flying past when the hide was manned are identified and logged. In the systematic list below, E. J. Maguire has provided all records relating to Machrihanish SBO.

(5) Wintering wader survey – Tiree February 2006.

Two surveys of the entire coastline of *Tiree* including the coastal sections of the Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (*Tiree* Wetlands and Coast) were conducted on 5-10 February 2006, by a team of 15 fieldworkers, using the same methodology as in previous counts (1985, 1986, 1995, 1998 and 2000). The highest counts for each species were used. None of the key species (Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone) showed significant declines since the earlier surveys, in contrast to similar counts from Eastern Scotland. *Tiree* remains the premier site in the UK for wintering Purple Sandpiper and Turnstones. See individual species in the following systematic list for details of counts.

Bowler, J. et al (2008) Wintering wader surveys on the Isle of *Tiree*, Argyll. *Scottish Birds* (Vol.28 June 2008: 32-41).

(6) Breeding Birds Survey (BBS)

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) started in 1994. Its objective is to extend and improve the monitoring of population changes of common breeding birds. It now counts birds annually in more than 2,300 randomly chosen one-km squares in the UK, using a line-transect method. Results for one-km squares surveyed in Argyll have been referred to in previous reports but too few squares were covered during 2006 and 2007 to yield significant results for our area. **New recruits are always needed for the BBS.** If you think you might be interested but are not sure how much time it would take or how expert you need to be, or would like to know the location of the squares needing coverage, please contact your local BTO Representative (see p. 3 for details). It is hoped to include results for Argyll in future Argyll Bird Reports.

(7) BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011. In Nov 2007 survey work began on the national Bird Atlas that will show the latest distribution patterns of all British birds in both winter and the breeding season. Casual records (Roving Reports), timed visits to tetrads i.e. 2km x 2km squares (TTVs) and results from other surveys will be used to compile the atlas. For full details see the BTO website www.bto.org (click on Bird Atlas). Some selected early findings from survey work in Argyll are quoted in this report.

Categories of the British list (as revised by the BOURC – Oct 2005):

Category A. Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st Jan 1950. (The great majority of species recorded in Argyll naturally fall into this category.)

Category B. Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1st January 1800 and 31st Dec 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently. (The only species recorded in Argyll that falls into this category is White-faced Petrel although there are seven species (Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Petrel, American Bittern, Sora, Little Crake, Great Snipe and Pallas's Sandprouse) that have been recorded in Britain since 1st Jan. 1950 but only prior to that date in Argyll.)

Category C. Species that, although introduced now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

C1 *Naturalised introduced species* - species that have occurred *only* as a result of introduction e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*.

C2 *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*.

C3 *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.

C4 *Naturalised feral species* - *domesticated* species with populations established in the wild e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove)/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.

C5 *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalised populations abroad (e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5).

C6 (Subcategory added 2005) *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised population is either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*.

(There are less than 20 Argyll species that include Category C in their designated status although some may have a combined status e.g. Gadwall AC2 where birds were released or escaped in the past but also occur in a natural state.)

Category D. Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that; there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals.

(The only Argyll species in this category are Ruddy Shelduck and Red-headed Bunting although there are records, not identified as to species, of Flamingo and Pelican.)

Category E. Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees, or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species that have bred in the wild are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals (unless already included within Categories A, B or C).

(A dozen or so species have been recorded in Argyll which fall into this category although it appears that reporting of such species has been very patchy in the past. **Readers of this report are encouraged to submit records of any apparently escaped birds they see.)**

Species status, categories: definitions

Resident	Resident and normally sedentary.
Breeding	Breeding and wintering ranges may differ.
Summer visitor	Breeds unless otherwise stated.
Passage migrant	Birds passing through en route to breeding grounds or winter quarters.
Winter visitor	Includes species that are also resident but whose numbers are augmented by immigrants during the winter months.
Introduced	Introduced species recorded in Argyll that may or may not breed here.
Vagrant	Five or fewer records since 1980.
Site of national importance	Sites of national importance in Great Britain (as defined by The Wetland Bird Survey).

Symbols and abbreviations

*	Description required by BBRC
<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
Ad(s).	Adult(s)
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
approx.	approximately
b/-	brood of...young
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOURC	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
c/-	clutch of...eggs
<i>cf</i>	confer = compare
CBC	Common Birds Census
CES	Constant Effort (ringing) Site

<i>et al.</i>	at alii = and others
excl.	excluding
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
Gruinart Fl.	Gruinart Floods
hr/hrs	hour/hours
imm.	immature
inc.	including
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
L.	Loch
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum (the highest of 2 or more counts at a given locality during the period being analysed)
min.	minimum
misc.	miscellaneous
Moine Mhor NNR	Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NEWS	European Non-estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey
NNR	National Nature Reserve
n/r	not recorded (in tables of counts, where no count was made)
nr.	near
RSPB Loch Gr.	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve
SAMS	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Sd.	Sound
SBO	Seabird Observatory
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
TTV	Timed Tetrad Visit in connection with the Bird Atlas.
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey

ARGYLL BIRD RECORDS 2006/7

The species accounts are summaries derived from the information in the Argyll Bird Club database. In recent years this has contained somewhere in the region of 18,000 records annually, from a variety of sources. More detailed information from this source is available from the Argyll Bird Recorder (contact details above).

NB The following species are on the Argyll list but have not been recorded since 1st January 1950 (Category B): **Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Storm-petrel, White-faced Storm-petrel*, American Bittern*, Sora*, Little Crake*, Great Snipe*, and Pallas's Sandgrouse***. They are not referred to further in the following Systematic List.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Eala

0152

A widespread and fairly common breeding species on the mainland and Tiree: scarcer on the other large islands. Not recorded on Colonsay until 1999. Flocks gather at favoured localities throughout the year especially during moult but in decreasing numbers in autumn and winter.

Jan-May 2006. The highest count reported was 36 on *Tiree* on 13 Feb. The only places with counts in double figures were L. na Keal (15 on 11 Apr), L. Gruinart (12 on 11 Apr), and Holy Loch (10 on 29 May).

2007. The peak WeBS count on *Tiree* was 31 (mostly at L. a' Phuill) on 22 Jan and on 19 Feb. The highest count elsewhere was 16 in Oban harbour on 26 Mar. Other double figures counts included: 12 at L. Sween on 18 Feb, 11 at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 8 May, and a max. of 11 in Apr at L. Gruinart.

Breeding 2006. Of 12 pairs known to have nested in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 5 pairs were sitting on eggs earlier in the season, 6 were seen with young of varying sizes and one pair had no young. Four pairs at L. Gruinart fledged 10 young and at least 5 broods (totalling 17 young) were found on *Tiree* in Jun from 9 nests. Single pairs were at: Tayinloan in Jun (2 cygnets), Ruvaal Lighthouse *Islay* on 24 Jul (1 cygnet), L. Craiglin (Loch Sween) on 24 Jul (5 cygnets), and Loch Scotnish (Loch Sween) on 28 Jul (4 large cygnets).

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, pairs with young or on eggs were seen at 14 sites and pairs without young at a further 7 sites. Pairs with medium/large young were seen at 5 sites later in the year. Eleven nesting pairs were found on *Tiree* where several failed but at least four broods were produced from which 10 young fledged. On *Islay*: 4 pairs at L. Gruinart produced 15 young, 2 at Ardnave fledged no young, and one with 4 small young was on L. Finlaggan in Jun. An adult with 2 small young was at Craighouse *Jura* on 11 Jun and a pair on the Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* had 3 cygnets in Jul.

Jul-Dec 2006. The highest WeBS count was 49 at L. Sween on 15 Oct, followed by 43 on *Tiree* on 18 Sep. Other counts in double figures included 16 on L. Etive on 17 Sep, 21 on L. Indaal on 15 Nov, 13 in Oban Bay on 22 Nov and 10 at L. Gruinart on 22 Nov.

2007. The peak WeBS count on *Tiree*, of 44 on 8 Oct, included 27 at L. Bhasapol. At L. Sween, the peak WeBS count total of 32 (all adults) on 7 Oct included 30 at Ulva Lagoons. Elsewhere, 12 were at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 14 Jul, 13 (2 pairs with 9 young) at L. Gruinart on 28 Sep, 20 in Oban harbour on 25 Dec, 15 on L. Etive on 11 Nov, and 10 on Ballachuan Loch (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct.

A rare autumn and spring migrant: less than annual, with records mainly from Kintyre and Islay

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

0154

A common passage migrant with smaller numbers wintering. Loch a 'Phuill (Tiree) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. A few birds summer in most years and breeding has been recorded.

Jan-Apr 2006. The peak count on *Tiree* was 119 on 11 Jan (92 of which were on the four main freshwater lochs). The largest number elsewhere was 10 at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 1 Jan. The main movement of migrants was during late Mar/early Apr when counts (mostly of birds flying N) included: 14 at Lochan na Beithe *North Argyll*, 35 at L. Kinnabus *Islay* on 20 Mar, 17 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar, 267 in West *Tiree* on 29 Mar, 38 at Machrihanish on 30 Mar, 48 at L. Gruinart on 31 Mar, 39 at Harrison's Loch *Mull*, 64 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 8 Apr, 17 at Treshnish *Mull* on 9 Apr, and 14 at L. Assapol *Mull* on 17 Apr.

2007. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 111 on 25 Feb; the highest count elsewhere was 13 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 27 Feb. Counts of migrants moving N included: 12 over Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, 28 north over Sandaig *Tiree* on 23 Mar plus a flock heard calling flying N over Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* that night, 24 at L. Gilp at dawn on 24 Mar, 18 at Tayinloan and 8 at L. Gilp both on 25 Mar, and 21 over Treshnish *Mull* on 5 Apr.

Summering birds 2006. At least 6 birds were present throughout the summer on *Tiree* and a pair was on L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* in Jul but there was no evidence of breeding in either case.

2007. Two were present throughout the summer on *Tiree* and a pair was present near Laggan *Islay* in Jun. Two birds on a hill loch in *Mid-Argyll* during the breeding season were behaving as a pair but no young were seen.

Sep-Dec 2006. The peak count on *Tiree*, of 349 (including 36 cygnets) on 20 Oct, included a record 341 at L. a' Phuill. Peak counts elsewhere included: 140 at L. Gruinart and 52 at Ardnave during Oct, 21 on Oronsay on 1 Oct, 60 at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 17 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 23 Oct, 10 flying down the Kyles of Bute *Cowal* on 20 Oct, 19 at Machrihanish SBO on 1 Nov, ca 30 at The Powder Dams (nr Millhouse) *Cowal* on 14 Nov, 12 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 15 (incl. 5 juvs) at the head of L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, and 18 flying SW over Oban on 22 Nov.

2007. The peak count on *Tiree*, of 199 on 25 Oct, included 144 at L. a' Phuill only 12 of which were juveniles. Peak counts elsewhere included: a maximum of 126 during Oct at L. Gruinart, 24 (12 heading S over Seil and 12 at Moine Mhor on 10 Oct which were possibly the same birds), 13 flying up L. Etive on 12 Oct, 17 over Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 15 over Otter Ferry on 15 Oct, 24 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 20 Oct, 34 flying over Scoor *Mull* on 29 Oct, 72 flying S over Oronsay on 18 Oct, 21 over Dunbeg (nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Oct, 13 at L. Beg *Mull* on 5 Nov, and 34 at the head of L. Indaal on 20 Nov.

Table 1.1. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at L. Gruinart in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	-	-	48	14	-	-	-	-	-	140	45	1
Tiree	119	79	61	13	8	8	6	3	3	349	215	92

Table 1.2. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at L. Gruinart in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	9	126	3	3
Tiree	102	111	82	74	11	2	2	5	5	199	153	156

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

0157

Vagrant, recorded in only seven of the 26 years 1980-2005.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. An adult of the nominate race *fabalis* seen on the sea at Machrihanish SBO on 16 Sep flew off to the S [E. Maguire]. Record accepted by ABRC.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Gèadh-gorm

0158

There are variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks. Relatively few winter.

Jan-May 2006. Approx. 20 were reported flying NW over L. Assapol Mull on 10 Apr. Otherwise 1-5 birds were reported in winter from: *Islay*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

2007. A group of 12 was present on *Tiree* from 23 Feb to at least 18 Apr. Otherwise 1-6 birds were reported from: *Islay*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Summering birds 2006. Singles were reported in Jun from *Colonsay*, *Cowal* and *North Argyll*.

2007. One was feeding with Greylag Geese on *Iona Mull* in Jun and two were feeding with Greylag and Greater Canada Geese at Inveresragan *North Argyll* on 29 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2006. Small groups totalling 20 or so passed through *Tiree* on 24 Sep. The peak count on Oronsay during Oct was 94, 44 were on *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 252 were at The Laggan *Kintyre* (an exceptional number for this site) on 16 Oct, at least 270 (in 3 skeins) flew over Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Oct, 65 were on *Tiree* on 20 Oct, and 14 were at Heylipol *Tiree* on 22 Oct. Numbers at The Laggan *Kintyre* had fallen to 182 by 3 Nov and 30 were present on *Tiree* on 21 Nov in scattered groups of up to 12. Elsewhere, 7 were at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct and up to 6 were reported from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree* to the end of Dec.

2007. The first bird of autumn was a single with Greylags on *Tiree* on 27 Aug. Thereafter flocks recorded included: 17 on *Tiree* on 17 Sep, 23 at L. Gruinart on 23 Sep, 26 >S over Oban on 5 Oct, ca150 >S over *Tiree* in flocks of 30 or so on 7 Oct, 50 >SW at Fidden *Mull* and 30 >SW at Uisken *Mull* both on 16 Oct, 23 >SW over Fidden *Mull* on 20 Oct, and groups of 88 and 31 > S over Scoor *Mull* on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, up to 3 birds were reported, to the end of Dec, from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree* to the end of Dec.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* Gèadh-bhlàr

0159.2

The Greenland race A. a. flavirostris winters in a small number of traditional haunts, and is also a passage migrant. Argyll holds about 50% of the world population of this race in winter. A small introduced population breeds on the Rinns of Islay. The European race A. a. albifrons is a rare vagrant.

Jan-May 2006. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 12,314 birds in Argyll [Table 2.1]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,433), Clachan (153), Tayinloan (955), and Gigha (149). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (180), Keills (155), and Moine Mhor (30) [SNH Goose Project]. The majority of birds had left *Tiree* by 16 April, although a single late bird was present at L. Bhasapol 19 – 30 May.

2007. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 10,677 birds in Argyll [Table 2.2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,339), Tayinloan (940), Clachan (186), and Gigha (105). In *Mid-Argyll* at: Danna (45), Keills (181), Ulva (32), and Moine Mhor (24). A higher count, of 974, was recorded on *Tiree* on 21 Feb. The peak count on *Colonsay* was 97 at Kiloran on 3 Apr

and numbers at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* peaked at 121 on 16 Jan. The latter included 8 birds with neck collars: two of these (N0A and N6C) had been marked at Wexford, Ireland in winter 2002/2003 and since recorded both there and in Appin. The remaining 6 (P5C, P7S, P8S, P9D, S4D & S6D) had all been caught at Hvanneyri, W Iceland in the autumns of 2001 or 2005 and had spent several previous winters in Appin.

Breeding 2006/2007. No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay*. A lone bird was with Greylag Geese at L. an Eilein on 5 Jun 2006.

Sep-Dec 2006. Twelve returning birds were at Claddach Loch *Islay* on 16 Sep, 4 were at L. Etive on 17 Sep and the first returning birds at Machrihanish SBO were 23 on 30 Sep. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 10,939 birds in Argyll [Table 3.1]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,716), Tayinloan (761), Clachan (88), Gigha (99), and Glenbarr (40). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (94), Keills (147), Ulva (35), and Moine Mhor (16). Numbers at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* peaked at 120 on 11 Nov when they included four birds with neck collars. All been caught at caught at Hvanneyri, W Iceland and spent previous winters in Appin

2007. Two at L. Gorm on 24 Sep were the first arrivals noted on *Islay* and 40 flying E at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 28 Sep were the first on the mainland. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 10,204 birds in Argyll [Table 3.2]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,224), Tayinloan (692), Clachan (120), Gigha (192) and Glenbarr (44) while in *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (50), Keills (53), Ulva (56), and Moine Mhor (23). No figures were submitted for *Mull*. Number in Appin *North Argyll* peaked on 11 Dec, when 94 were counted at Ardnaclach. During the L. Sween WeBS count on 15 Dec, 123 were counted at Loch na Cille.

Table 2. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in spring.*

2.1 – Mar 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,690	365	0	53	714	1,112	111	0	7,111	0

2.2 – Mar 2007

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,570	282	0	0	658	933	0	0	6,025	0

Table 3. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

3.1 – Dec 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,704	292	0	45	682*	702	76	26	6,194	16

* counted 22 Nov 2006

3.2 –Dec 2007

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,272	182	0	n/r	272	752	77	32	6,617	n/r

EUROPEAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. a. albifrons*

0159.1

2006. A tired looking European White-fronted Goose was seen and photographed at Heylipol, *Tiree* on 3 May. It was found freshly dead on 16 May [J. Bowler]. There are only four previous records of this race in Argyll, the most recent on *Islay* in Mar 1986. Record accepted by ABRC.

2007. No records.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE* *Anser erythropus* Geadh-bhlàr-beag 0160
Vagrant last recorded Islay March 1986.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* Gèadh-glas 0161

A resident with an increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Tiree, Coll, Machrihanish, Moine Mhor, Rhunahaorine (Tayinloan) Kintyre, Colonsay, Islay and Clachan are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Northwest Scotland population of this species. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.

Jan-Apr 2006. In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 4,368 birds in Argyll, of which, 62.5% were on *Tiree* [Table 5.1]. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 82 near Beinn Chladan, Ross of Mull on 11 Apr, 75 near Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar, and 52 on Loch na Keal on 6 Mar.

2007. An all-island count on *Tiree* found a total of 3,937 birds (including 2 apparently leucistic birds) on 21 and 23 Feb and a total of 274 were found on *Colonsay* on 7 Feb. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded a total of 5,043 birds in Argyll, of which 67% were on *Tiree* [Table 5.2]. Larger counts elsewhere included: 116 on Oronsay on 17 Jan, 53 near Fearnoch Farm Cowal on 3 Mar, 119 at L. Etive during a WeBS count on 20 Mar, and 63 at Gruline Mull on 26 Mar.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area Clive Craik reported that “there are now so many Canada Geese and Greylags breeding by the shores of sealochs and other water bodies of Argyll that it is impossible to count them all. My regular visits to islands detect all those nesting on smaller islands but miss many on larger islands and all those on the mainland. Thus the “pairs nesting” column below (table 4) is a very incomplete minimum. A better index of the current population explosion of both these goose species might be given by the sizes of the largest flocks seen in each area each year (last column below).”

Table 4.1 *Breeding Greylag Geese in the SAMS study area in 2006 – summary.*

Area	No of nesting islands or sites	Min. pairs nesting (some estimated)	Largest flock seen in area
by Connel Airstrip			56
Kilmaronag	1	1	7
Airds			24
Abbot Isles	1	8	25
Saulmore	1	min 1	
Eilean Mor, Dunstaffnage	1	min 2	24
Loch Feochan	1	1	155
Kerrera	1		13
Sound of Mull	4	8	8
Loch Melfort	2	4	60
Craignish area	2	min 2	81
McCormaig Is	1	1	
Loch Fyne	1	1	1
Totals	16	min 29	

An all island count on *Tiree* on 28-29 Aug found a total of 4,005 birds. Of 2,617 that were aged, 835 (31.9%) were juveniles with a mean brood size of 2.82 (N= 296 broods). On *Colonsay*, 30 broods totalling 115 young were found in Jun. A group of 28 on inner L. Scridain *Mull* on 7 Jul included several large juveniles. The late summer moulting flock on the Treshnish Isles numbered at least 164 in late Jun.

2007. The comments for 2006 also apply to 2007 for the Argyll part of the SAMS study area. See the table below (4.2).

Table 4.2 *Breeding Greylag Geese in the SAMS study area in 2007 – summary.*

Area	No of nesting islands or sites	Min. pairs nesting (some estimated)	Largest flock seen in area
Burnt Islands	1	1	
Kilmaronag	1	1	
Airds			99
Abbot Isles	1	9	-
Saulmore	1	?	40
Sound of Jura	2	1	30
Loch Feochan	1	1	120
Ormsa, Sd. of Luing			7
Sound of Mull	5	min. 16	80
Loch Melfort	2	2	
Craignish area	1	2	
McCormaig Is			3
Loch Fyne	2	2	3
Totals	17	min 35	

A count on *Tiree* on 27-28 Aug found a total of 3,694 birds. Of 2,726 aged, 828 (30.3%) were juveniles with a mean brood size of 2.52 (N= 306 broods). On *Colonsay*, 26 broods totalling 92 young were found in Jun and an incomplete count on Oronsay found 4 broods totalling 16 young. Evidence of breeding on the Treshnish Isles included 5 adults with 6 half-grown goslings on S end of Lunga and the late summer moult flock around the islands numbered at least 77. Two pairs with b/2 and b/3 were found on Iona *Mull* on 6 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. A total of 117 birds were caught and colour-ringed at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 2 Jul. By 2 Sep there were 814 birds at L. Gruinart and 189 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 6 Sep. The WeBS count at L. Etive on 8 Oct found 129 birds and 300 were at Killiechronan *Mull* on 6 Nov. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 5,352 for Argyll [Table 5.1]. Elsewhere, 56 were on flooded fields near Connel airstrip *North Argyll* on 2 Dec and 160 were at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Dec.

2007. Numbers increased from late Jul, including counts of: 99 at Inveresragan *North Argyll* on 29 Jul, 105 at the head of L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug, 84 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 12 Aug, 200 at Bridgend *Islay* on 13 Aug, and an exceptional 1,357 at L. Gruinart on 30 Aug. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 5,603 for Argyll [Table 5.2]. Elsewhere: 150 were at Fidden *Mull* on 23 Sep, at least 300 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 23 Sep, 158 at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 27 Sep, and 161 during the WeBS count at L. Etive on 11 Nov.

Table 5. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in spring.*

5.1 – Mar 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
93	254	0	980	2,730	0	69	217	25

5.2 – Mar 2007

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
489	146	0	856	3,386	0	0	166	0

Table 6. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

6.1 – Dec 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
517	289	0	840	3,441	n/r	80	142	43

6.2 – Dec 2007.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
497	133	n/r	451	3,995	174	0	243	n/r

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* Gèadh-bàn

0163

The small introduced population on Coll breeds on a small off-shore island and is now very sedentary. Stragglers among wintering goose flocks of other species are probably often genuine vagrants.

Jan-Jun 2006. A count on *Coll* on 27 Jan found 34 birds. A single white morph with Greylag and Greater Canada Geese at L. Craignish *Mid-Argyll* from at least 21 Feb to 16 Mar could have been a genuine vagrant. An adult white morph bird flying N over *Coll* on 3 Apr was considered not to be part of the feral flock, which numbered 34 on 26 Jan, and a single white morph of unknown origin flew from Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 23 Jun.

2007. A single white morph with Greylag and Canada Geese at L. Craignish on 19 Jan could have been the same individual as in 2006. A very similar (probably the same) bird was with Greylag Geese near Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan. What was presumably the same wandering individual was subsequently at the head of L. Craignish on 24 Feb and in fields near Craobh Haven from 27 Feb to 18 Mar. The *Coll* flock remained at 22 birds with a further bird paired to a Greylag.

Breeding 2006/2007. Six pairs fledged four young on *Coll* in 2006.**Sep-Dec 2006.** The *Coll* flock numbered 22 birds in the Port-na-Luing area with an additional bird paired to a Greylag at Arileod/Uig.

2007. What was presumed to be the same returning white morph bird was with Greylag Geese in Balvicar Bay (Seil) from at least 25 Sep to 14 Oct. There were 22 birds in the *Coll* flock on 10 Dec.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh

0166

The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with occasional breeding attempts elsewhere. A transatlantic origin seems probable for at least some of the medium-sized and small individuals seen in winter goose flocks on Islay and Tiree.

Jan-May 2006. Larger flocks reported included: ca 80 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 4 Jan, 30 at Achnacarron *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar, and 21 at the head of L. Feochan on 7 Apr.

2007. Larger flocks included: 88 at Appin *North Argyll* on 23 Jan, 78 W of Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 20 Feb, 63 at Saulmore (nr Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr, 51 on East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 17 Feb, 51 at Inverfolla (Appin) *North Argyll* on 13 Feb, and 45 off Barr Beithe (L. Awe) on 8 Apr.

Breeding 2006. A summary of breeding in the SAMS study area is given in table 7.1 (but see comment from Clive Craik on breeding numbers under Greylag Goose).

Table 7.1 *Breeding Canada Geese in the SAMS study area in 2006 – summary*

Area	No of nesting islands	Min. pairs nesting (some estimated)	Largest flock Seen in area
Lismore area	5	10	22
Dunstaffnage	2	16	86
Lochan na Beithe	1	1 or 2	4
Abbot Isles	1	1	5
Kilmaronag	1	2	5
Loch Feochan	1	6	38
Sound of Mull	2	2	3
Loch Melfort	3	15-20	115
L. Scammadale	1	1	24
Craignish area	3	5	36
McCormag Is	2	3	6
Eilean Aoghainn	1	2	4
TOTAL	23	64-70	

2007. A summary of breeding in the SAMS study area is given in table 7.2

Table 7.1 *Breeding Canada Geese in the SAMS study area in 2006 – summary*

Area	No of nesting islands	Min. pairs nesting (some estimated)	Largest flock Seen in area
Saulmore area		4	63
Lismore area	8	23	40
Dunstaffnage	2	5	86
Lochan na Beithe	1	1	
Abbot Isles	1	2	
Kilmaronag	1	2	
Loch Feochan	1	5	43
Sound of Mull	3	5	
Loch Melfort	1	1	
L. Caolisport	1	1	
Craignish area	3	7	
Loch Crinan	1	1	
Loch Fyne	2	2	
Liath Sgeir Mhor	1	3	
Danna, L. Sween	1	1	
West L. Tarbert	1	1	
TOTAL	23	64	

Elsewhere in 2006, three broods totalling 8 young were found on *Colonsay* in Jun and at least 3 pairs with recently fledged young were on L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun. A female paired to a Greylag with 2 fledged hybrid young at Moss *Tiree* on 16 Sep represented the first presumed breeding on the island.

Elsewhere in 2007: 5 broods totalling 8 medium-sized young were found on *Colonsay* in Jun, and 3 family parties, each with 2 adults, and broods of 6, 4, and 1 young were on L. an Losgainn Mor (nr Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2006. The maximum counts were: 269 at L. Crinan on 7 Aug, 112 at L. Nell (nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Nov, at least 100 at Moine Mhor on 17 Aug, 76 in Upper L. Creran *North Argyll* on 1 Oct, 65 off Eilean nan Caorach (N. Lismore) *North Argyll* on 15 Jul, and a maximum of 49 on Oronsay during Sep.

2007. A remarkable count of 368 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 12 Aug was the highest number so far recorded in one place in Argyll: this reinforces Clive Craik's comments about the recent population explosion in the county. There were still 185 at the same location on 10 Oct. Other significant counts included: 54 at Kiloran Farm *Colonsay* on 11 Dec, 39 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov and 37 at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 13 Aug.

[LESSER CANADA GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*

What were formerly the races minima and hutchinsii of Canada Goose are now included with this new species. Although there have been many claims over the years of birds of this type, especially on Islay, there are currently no records accepted by BOURC.]

2006/2007. Several records from *Islay* were claimed, in both years of up to three birds, mainly with Barnacle Geese. All records are still under review by BBRC.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

0167

Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Islay, Tiree, Coll, Keills/Isle of Danna (Mid-Argyll) and Colonsay are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinns of Islay.

Jan-Apr 2006. The peak winter count on *Tiree* was 3,474 on 25 Jan and on Oronsay was 1,221 during Jan. *Colonsay* had 124 at Machrins on 8 April and 40 were at Kellan, (L. na Keal) *Mull* on 11 Apr. The SNH co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 54,126 birds (cf 44,554 in 2004 and 50,268 in 2005). The unusually high Kintyre count may include a local flock of hybrid Barnacle/Canada Geese. As usual, the great majority (47,303 or 87.4 %) were on *Islay* [Table 8.1].

2007. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 62,323 birds. This is by far the most ever counted in Argyll. Numbers have been increasing rapidly in recent years and this is more than double the total recorded as recently as spring 1994. Again the great majority (52,709 or 84.6 %) were on *Islay* [Table 9.1]. A count on *Tiree* on 2/3 Apr found 4,373 birds, a record number for the island. Other significant counts not covered by the co-ordinated goose count included: approx. 600 with Greylag Geese at the S end of Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan, 245 at *Colonsay* Golf Course on 13 Feb and 350 at Inch Kenneth *Mull* on 28 Mar.

Summering birds 2006. One paired with Canada Goose was near Inn Island (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 10 May and one was in a Cormorant colony at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) on 3 June.

2007. No records between late May and late Aug.

Sep-Dec 2006. A single bird of unknown origin was at L. Crinan on 11 Aug and the first returning birds on *Islay* were 4 at L. Gorm on 16 Sep. The first birds on *Tiree* appeared on 2 Oct and the main arrival on *Islay* was on 9 Oct, with 185 at L. Gruinart and 400 at L. Indaal. A total

of 1,385 were counted from the Oban - Barra Ferry 19 Oct, heading SE towards *Tiree/Coll* in groups of up to 74 (J. Bowler). Numbers on Oronsay peaked at 1,500 during Nov. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Dec, *Islay* had 45,721 (*cf* 37,520 birds in 2004) which accounted for 88.9 % of the Argyll total of 51,406 (*cf* 42,158 in 2004) [SNH Goose Project, Table 8.2].

2007. At least 100 flew SE over Fionnphort *Mull* on 23 Sep, 12 were at L. Gruinart on 24 Sep and the first birds on Oronsay were 3 on 4 Oct. The Dec co-ordinated goose count total for Argyll was 49,734, with 44,237 (or 88.9 %) of these on *Islay* [Table 9.2]. Other significant counts not covered by the co-ordinated goose count included: 600 flying SW at Fiddon *Mull* on 9 Oct, at least 500 at Danna (L. Sween) on 27 Oct, and 560 at Port a' Chreagain (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec.

Table 8. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in spring.*

8.1 - Mar 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
519*	451	0	2,240	3,313	0	300	47,303	0

* may include hybrids

8.2 - Mar 2007

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
67	627	240	2,456	4,323	0	1,901	52,709	0

Table 9. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

9.1 - Dec 2006.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
68	443	0	1,415	2,427	87	1,245	45,721	0

9.2 - Dec 2007.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
59	341	n/r	800	3,188	1	1,108	44,327	n/r

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

0168

A passage migrant, in varying numbers, with very few wintering. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the light-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla occur occasionally, and there has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans. All records refer to the pale-bellied race B. b. hrota unless otherwise noted.

Jan-May 2006. A single bird wintered (with Barnacle Geese) on *Tiree* from Jan - Mar. On *Islay*, 9 were at Gartnatra on 28 Jan, 20 on L. Indaal on 18 Feb, 7 at Bruichladdich on 10 Apr, 72 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 11 Apr, and 19 at Blackrock (L. Indaal) on 20 Apr. Three migrants arrived on *Tiree* on 28 Mar, a total of 22 were present on the island on 18 Apr, 5 flew N over Crossapol Bay on 27 Apr, and 4 were on the island on 11 May. A late flock of 34 appeared at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 May and 11 flew W over Uisken *Mull* on 26 May.

2007. Once again a single (possibly the same) bird wintered with Barnacle Geese on *Tiree* from Jan - Mar. On *Islay*: 20 were at Bridgend Merse on 10 Feb, 17 at Traigh an Luig on 17 Feb, and 7 at Bruichladdich on 27 Mar. Exceptional numbers were recorded during Apr including: 48 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 15 Apr, 50 at Hynish *Tiree* on 19 Apr, an estimated 600 flying NW over Orsay *Islay* on 19 Apr, an unprecedented 420 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr of which 12 were colour-ringed birds (7 from N Ireland and 5 from SW Iceland), 31 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Apr, and 146 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Apr.

Jul 2007. A single bird was feeding on seaweed on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2006. At RSPB L. Gruinart, the first returning birds were 16 on 29 Aug. They were followed there by: 41 on 18 Sep, 48 on 23 Sep, 68 on 25-28 Sep, and 30 on 1 Oct. *Tiree* had: 12 at Sandaig on 19 Sep, 67 at Balephetrish Bay on 22 Sep, and 25 passing through in small numbers on 24 Sep. A flock of 12 were in Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 13 Nov and single birds were seen at: Machrihanish SBO on 18 Sep, Ruaig *Tiree* on 1 Dec, and Slockavullin (Moine Mhor) on 24 Dec.

2007. All the larger flocks reported in autumn were on *Islay* and included: 271 at L. Gruinart on 23 Sep, 87 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 6 Oct, 37 at the head of L. Indaal on 14 Nov, 33 flying over Machir Bay on 23 Sep, and 46 at Bruichladdich on 20 Nov. Elsewhere: 6 were at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 7 at Machrihanish SBO on 30 Sep, 6 at Fidden *Mull* on 4 Oct, and 8 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 9 Oct. In winter, 14 were at Bowmore *Islay* on 3 Dec and 2 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 18 Dec.

A single **dark-bellied Brent Goose** (*B. b. bernicla*) at The Strand *Colonsay* on 27 Jan 2006 may have been the bird seen there on 17 Oct 2005.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE* *Branta ruficollis*

0169

Vagrant. An adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001, is the only previous record.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

COMMON SHELDUCK (SHELDUCK) *Tadorna tadorna* Crà-ghèadh

0173

A widespread, but not very numerous, breeding species around sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5 - 10 Feb found a total of 138 birds, including 54 E of Salum. Elsewhere counts of 10 or more birds (other than those listed in Table 10.1) included: 22 on Oronsay on 1 Apr, 19 at Tayinloan on 16 Apr, 18 at Machrihanish SBO on 19 Mar, 16 in L. Crinan on 2 Apr, 15 at Toward Point *Cowal* on 23 Feb, 15 at Loch Don *Mull* on 23 Apr, and 12 at the head of L. Gilp on 22 Apr.

2007. Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 10.2, included: 60 on the shore at Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Apr, 52 at Miodar *Tiree* on 21 Feb, 16 at Machrihanish on 12 Apr, and 12 at Lochdon *Mull* on 24 Jan.

Breeding 2006. On *Islay*, 7 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart, and 3 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. A total of 38 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 5 broods totalling 28 young were seen; 2 pairs bred on Oronsay. Six pairs were at Machrihanish SBO, with 37 ducklings counted, on 16 Jun included a brood of 12. Breeding pairs were widespread on *Tiree*, with at least six broods of young noted. Elsewhere pairs with young were seen at: Ruvaal Lighthouse *Islay*, Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (3 broods), Tayinloan, L. Beag (L. Craignish), L. Crinan, and Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll*.

2007. On *Islay*: 6 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart, a pair bred at RSPB Ardnave, and pairs with young were seen at Ruvaal Lighthouse. A total of 30 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 9 broods totalling 63 young were seen. At least 10 pairs bred or attempted to breed on Sanda Islands. Pairs with young were found at: 7 locations on *Tiree*, The Add Estuary, Otter Ferry, Campbeltown Loch, Oronsay, Iona, Ardalanish *Mull*, and Uisken *Mull*.

Aug-Dec 2006. Away from *Islay* there were no counts of more than 10 birds.

2007. Other than those listed in Table 10.2, the only larger count was 9 at Holy Loch on 10 Nov.

Table 10.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2006.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	119	177	361	216	91	62	8	1	0	1	53	45
Indaal	38	39	54	65	90	18	17	17	0	3	19	42
Sween	35	38	27	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	0	0	0	5

Table 10.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2007.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	173	178	166	96	127	14	37	8	1	0	29	78
Indaal	51	54	45	59	98	27	19	10	0	5	11	39
Sween	14	6	6	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	1	3

MANDARIN DUCK (MANDARIN) *Aix galericulata*

0178

An introduced species which has bred regularly at Loch Eck (Cowal) in recent years. The present size of the Argyll population (whose origin is unknown) suggests that it may well now be self-sustaining.

2006. The only record was of 3 birds on a flooded field at Strathadd (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May.

2007. Counts at the N end of L. Eck *Cowal* included 6 (4 males/2 females) on 21 Mar, 7 (1 male/6 females) on 13 Apr, and 3 (females) on 17 Dec. Elsewhere a pair were on Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr and 2 were on the pond at Hafton Woods (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 17 Dec.

EURASIAN WIGEON (WIGEON) *Anas penelope* Glas-lach

0179

A scarce and local breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor to all areas.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 433 birds. Other than those listed in Table 11.1, the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: L. Riddon *Cowal* (max. 84 on 21 Mar), Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* (max.75 on 24 Jan), L. Sween (max.70 on 11 Feb) and L. Gilp (64 on 4 Mar).

2007. Other than those listed in Table 11.2, the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* 143 on 5 Jan, Lussa Loch *Kintyre* (at least 100 on 16 Feb), L. Nell (nr. Oban) *Mid-Argyll* (54 on 8 Jan) and L. Riddon *Cowal* (52 on 20 Mar).

Breeding 2006. At least one pair bred at L. Tulla *North Argyll* (2 male, 6 females and one small duckling on 18 Jun. Pairs were also present in the breeding season at L. Gruinart and on *Tiree* but no young were seen.

2007. At least one pair bred at L. Tulla *North Argyll* (female with 4 large young in Jun). A pair was also present at a possible nest site at L. Gruinart but no young were seen.

Aug-Dec 2006. Other than those listed in Table 11.1, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: Bridgend *Islay* 540 on 26 Sep, L. Gilp (max. 292 on 31 Oct), Ulva Lagoons (250 on 16 Oct), Outer L. Etive (max 152 on 18 Nov), L. Sween (max 135 on 24 Nov), and L. Don *Mull* (ca 100 on 1 Oct).

2007. Other than those listed in Table 11.2, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: Add Estuary (max. 345 on 16 Oct), Bridgend Merse *Islay* (331 on 27 Sep), Holy Loch (max.203 on 9 Sep), L. Sween (max. 195 on 14 Nov), and L. Gilp (184 on 9 Oct).

Table 11.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at two sites on Islay, L. Crinan and on Tiree in 2006 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	294	501	436	301	3	3	0	6	18	315	405	463
Indaal	110	140	98	6	0	0	0	0	604	400	401	290
Crinan	n/r	n/r	112	44	0	0	0	3	270	512	325	225
<i>Tiree</i>	409	291	329	29	3	2	9	6	145	231	333	93

* Figures for L. Gruinart are the totals of WeBS counts at RSPB L. Gruinart and L. Gruinart Floods

Table 11.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at two sites on Islay, L. Etive and on Tiree in 2007 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	443	326	252	113	1	0	0	7	45	154	549	406
Indaal	180	126	101	11	0	0	0	0	519	361	382	278
Etive	133	127	124	0	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	22	65	107	109
<i>Tiree</i>	611	396	374	148	2	0	0	3	121	58	280	179

* Figures for L. Gruinart are the totals of WeBS counts at RSPB L. Gruinart and L. Gruinart Floods. NB There were no regular counts at L. Crinan in 2007.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

0180

A vagrant with eight or more previous Argyll records: all since 1989 and all of single males. Recent records in the Loch Craignish/Loch Crinan area have been attributed to a single returning individual.

2006. No records.

2007. A drake photographed with Eurasian Wigeon at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 18 Jan had gone by the following day [J. Bowler]. A first winter drake, initially seen on the evening of 6 Feb at Kildalloig Bay *Kintyre* (just beyond the mouth of Campbeltown Loch), remained in the area until at least 15 Mar [E. J. Maguire *et al*]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach-ghlas

0182

A scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor with most recent records from: Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree. Breeds sporadically on Islay and Tiree.

2006. On *Islay*, up to 4 birds were reported at L. Gruinart during Mar-Jun and Oct with two at Ardnave in Apr. A pair was noted on *Tiree* in May and one or two were seen in Jul and Aug. Elsewhere, one at Bunessan *Mull* on 16 Mar was the first record for the island since 1984, and 7 flew S at Machrihanish SBO during a seawatch on 7 Oct.

2007. Up to 4 (two pairs) were present on *Tiree* from Apr to Jul (see Breeding) and up to 8 were on the island during Aug-Oct. The only record from L. Gruinart was 3 on 30 Aug and a drake was again present at Bunessan *Mull* during Oct-Nov. Five 'female type' birds were seen at Machrihanish SBO on 26 Sep.

Breeding 2006. At least one pair probably bred at L. Gruinart. Two pairs were present on *Tiree* in early May but were not seen subsequently.

2007. Two pairs bred at a site on *Tiree*. A female with a brood of 9 ducklings 2/3 grown on 10 Jul were joined, on 31 Jul, by another female with a brood of three ducklings.

A widespread but uncommon breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* (5-10 Feb) found 521 birds. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 12.1, included: 194 at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Jan, 80 or more at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 2 Mar, 70 at L. Sween on 14 Jan, max. 70 on Oronsay during Feb, 62 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 24 Feb, 90 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 20 Mar and 60 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 21 Feb.

2007. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 12.2, included: 170 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Feb, 160 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 8 Jan, approx. 80 at the head of L.

Striven *Cowal* on 1 Feb, and 52 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan.

Breeding 2006. On *Islay*, 4 pairs bred at Ardnave and 19 pairs were found at RSPB Gruinart Floods. At least 27 pairs were located at likely breeding sites on *Tiree* in Apr. On *Colonsay*, 4 males and 2 females were on East Loch Fada on 6 May and a female with a brood of 2 was there on 9 Jun.

2007. On *Islay*, 4 pairs were located at RSPB Ardnave with 15 pairs at RSPB Gruinart. An incomplete survey on *Tiree* in May found 15-20 pairs at 8 likely breeding sites. A pair with a brood of 4 ducklings was at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 19 Jun and a female with one duckling was on East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 24 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2006. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 12.1, included: 435 at An Fhaodhail, *Tiree* on 5 Dec, 263 at The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Nov, 120 at L. Gorm *Islay* on 16 Nov, 87 at Ardnave on 21 Nov, max. 76 on Oronsay during Oct and 67 at L. Sween on 24 Nov.

2007. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 12.2, included: 230 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 14 Oct, ca 200 at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 28 Dec, 75 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 23 Nov, 75 at Loch Bhirceapol *Tiree* on 28 Dec and 59 at Holy Loch on 9 Dec.

Table 12.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at two sites on Islay, at L. Crinan and on the Tiree freshwater lochs in 2006 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart*	1511	1098	905	537	10	16
Indaal	112	99	65	17	0	0
Crinan	n/r	n/r	55	40	0	0
Tiree	389	237	93	48	0	0

Lochs	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	4	19	245	1452	1467	1136
Indaal	0	20	66	115	139	140
Crinan	0	0	30	438#	97	136
Tiree	34	15	220	220	390	564

* The great majority of L. Gruinart birds were found at L. Gruinart Floods.

Highest ever WeBS count for Teal at L. Crinan.

Table 12.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at two sites on Islay and on the Tiree freshwater lochs in 2007 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart*	978	747	688	135	12	21
Indaal	140	76	77	26	1	0
Tiree	369	218	169	74	0	2

Lochs	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	12	20	252	319	2022	1085
Indaal	0	18	67	100	143	160
Tiree	20	48	180	260	218	199

* The great majority of L. Gruinart birds were found at L. Gruinart Floods.

NB There were no regular counts at L. Crinan in 2007.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

0184.2

A rare visitor from North America with 12 or more accepted records since 1980, all on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.

2006/2007. A male seen at Portnahaven *Islay* on 5 Jun 2006 was paired with female Eurasian Teal [Clive McKay]. Record accepted by ABRC. No descriptions have been received for individuals reported at L. Gruinart in winter 2006/2007 and from Oct 2007 (see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach

0186

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Jan-Jun 2006. Other than those listed in Table 13.1, the only count to exceed 50 birds was a coastal survey of *Tiree* on 5-10 Feb which found 269 birds

2007. Other than those listed in Table 13.2, the only count exceeding 50 was 60 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 8 Jan.

Breeding 2006. On *Islay*, 33 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 4 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Broods were seen on at several sites on *Tiree* and were also reported from Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* and Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 4 pairs with eggs or young were found at 4 sites. Seven pairs were at RSPB Ardnave and 51 at RSPB L. Gruinart. Broods of young were seen at several sites on *Tiree*, and reported at Glenramskill (Campbeltown Loch) and at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull*.

Aug-Dec 2006. Other than those listed in Table 13.1, counts exceeding 50 included: 266 at The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Nov, 130 in Oban Harbour on 24 Aug, 119 in the Add Estuary on 5 Aug, at least 100 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 23 Sep, 86 in Outer L. Etive on 8 Oct, 77 in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, 72 in L. Fyne off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug and 66 at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 27 Dec.

2007. Other than those listed in Table 13.2, the only counts exceeding 50 came from: Loch Garradh na Capull *Tiree* (72 on 15 Jul), Tayinloan (53 on 4 Nov), Killiechranan *Mull* (50 on 5 Oct) and the head of L. Striven *Cowal* (at least 50 on 25 Dec).

Table 13.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at two sites on Islay and Tiree freshwater lochs in 2006 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	196	180	87	30	85	91	0	10	25	148	76	91
Indaal	119	119	34	12	12	19	26	26	33	60	77	137
Tiree	51	63	39	48	6	34	81	294	231	71	37	101

*Figures for L. Gruinart are the totals of WeBS counts at RSPB L. Gruinart and L. Gruinart Floods. NB There was no count of 100 or more at L. Crinan or L. Etive in 2006.

Table 13.2 Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at two sites on Islay L. Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs, in 2007 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	131	72	25	41	70	67	19	6	8	33	96	114
Indaal	123	101	27	15	12	34	31	20	44	49	88	155
Etive	51	45	46	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	99	76	111	106
Holy L.	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	146	67	171	134
Tiree	116	32	34	72	60	44	197	317	215	260	104	54

BLACK DUCK* *Anas rubripes*

0187

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) in Jun 2001.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Lach-stiùireach

0189

A very scarce breeding species on Tiree and a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor: regular only on Islay and Tiree.

Jan-Jun 2006. The highest count was 73 in a single flock at Bowmore (L. Indaal) on 28 Jan: a new record total for *Islay*. There were also unusually high numbers at RSPB L. Gruinart with a maximum of 46 on 10 Feb and 23 still present on 11 Apr. Allowing for the fact that there is some movement between L. Indaal and L. Gruinart numbers on *Islay* have been slowly increasing in the past few years. The highest count on *Tiree* was at L. Riaghain where 7 (incl. 4 drakes) were present on 13 Feb. None were recorded away from *Islay & Tiree*.

2007. The peak count at RSPB L. Gruinart was 60 on 15 Feb and up to 13 were present on *Tiree* from Jan to Mar. Single birds were seen at Dervaig *Mull* on 17 Apr and at Loch Breac *Colonsay* on 22 Apr: the only mainland record was a male at the head of L. Feochan (nr Oban) on 18 May.

Breeding 2006. At least two broods of young fledged on *Tiree* (f/7 and f/6).

2007. A record total of 7 pairs were apparently on territory on *Tiree* during Apr/May but only one brood of (5) young was found (on 25 Jul). A pair may have bred at RSPB L. Gruinart.

Jul-Dec 2006. The highest count was 55 at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 26 Sep and numbers at RSPB L. Gruinart peaked at 53 on 18 Dec. Up to 6 were present on *Tiree* from Sep to Dec. On the mainland: one flew S at Machrihanish SBO on 9 Sep and 9 were seen there on 18 Oct, single birds were at L. Gilp on 18 Oct (the first record here for many years), and L. Nell (nr Oban) on 3 Dec.

2007. Numbers on *Islay* peaked in Nov when 58 were at RSPB L. Gruinart on 12 Nov and 56 at L. Indaal on 19 Nov. Up to 4 were present on *Tiree* from Oct to Dec but none were seen away from these islands.

Table 14.1 Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2006.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	25	46	39	23	2	2	0	0	4	25	41	53
L. Indaal	11	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	22	45

Table 14.2 Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2007.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	46	50	26	3	1	1	0	0	2	20	58	49
L. Indaal	13	13	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	56	55

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

0191

A regular spring visitor to Islay and Tiree and has bred: in Kintyre in 1994, on Islay in 1997, and on Coll in 2004.

2006. A male was present on Oronsay for several days in late Apr/early May and another was at Canal Loch Coll on 5 May. The first arrival at RSPB L. Gruinart was on 7 May and by 10 May the unusually high number of 8 (5 male/3 females) were present. It is possible that a pair bred there although no young were seen. Two drakes were present on a pool on Tiree on 17 May and one was present elsewhere until 7 Jun. A drake was at Carnain (L. Indaal) Islay on 7 Jun and one was reported from Oronsay on 13 Jul.

2007. Single males were reported on Coll on 17 and 25 Apr and a pair was present on a machair loch on 27 Apr. The first bird arrived at RSPB L. Gruinart on 24 Apr followed by, 2 males on 26 Apr, and a female with young on 29 May. Elsewhere, males were seen on Oronsay on 2 May and on Tiree on 9 and 12 May.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL* *Anas discors*

0192

Vagrant. Only two or three previous records, all adult males: one on Tiree in 1986, one on Tiree in May 1998, and (possibly the same) one on Islay, also in May 1998.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* Lach-a'-ghuib-leathainn

0194

A scarce and localised breeding species restricted to Islay and Tiree. It is more numerous as a passage migrant and winter visitor: also largely restricted to Islay and Tiree.

Jan-Jun 2006. Birds feeding on the coast of Tiree included 28 at Clachan Mor on 5 Feb and 7 at Salum on 8 Feb. The only records away from Islay and Tiree [Table 15.1] were on Oronsay where up to 3 were present from Apr to Jun.

2007. Numbers at RSPB L. Gruinart peaked at 84 on 16 Feb. The only records away from Islay and Tiree [Table 15.2] were on Oronsay, where a male and 2 females were present on 23 Apr.

Breeding 2006. Some 15 pairs nested at 8 sites around Tiree, where at least two broods of young were seen. Eleven pairs are thought to have bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a pair bred on Oronsay.

2007. Some 15 pairs again nested on Tiree, including one pair at a new site, and at least 4 broods of young were seen. Ten pairs are thought to have bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a pair was present on Oronsay (Apr/Jul) although no young were seen.

Aug-Dec 2006. The only records away from Islay and Tiree [Table 15.1] were of 6 at Canal Loch Coll in Aug and one at Tayinloan on 10 Sep.

2007. The only record away from Islay and Tiree [Table 15.2] was a pair on Oronsay during Dec.

Table 15.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at RSPB L. Gruinart and on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	74	79	82	54	5	22	4	2	7	33	93	81
Tiree	33	1*	3*	24	30	5	7	14	5	23	19	18

*the majority of Shovelers on Tiree were feeding on the coast at this time.

Table 15.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at RSPB L. Gruinart and on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	67	84	55	9	6	5	0	2	6	25	60	50
Tiree	33	16	4	28	30	3	6	15	9	6	23	12

COMMON POCHARD (POCHARD) *Aythya ferina* Lach-mhàsach 0198

A scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant, in small numbers, particularly to: Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. There has been no confirmed breeding in recent years.

Jan-Jun 2006. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 13 on L. a' Phuill on 26 Jan and on *Islay* there were 10 at Ardnave on 30 Jan. A regular small flock on L. nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* during Jan and Feb peaked at 12 on 21 Jan. Elsewhere; single birds were on Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 30 Jan and, L. Gorm *Islay* on 17 Feb. Three drakes were on L. Ballygrant *Islay* on 20 Feb. There were no records after the end of Mar.

2007. The only record from *Islay* was at L. Ballygrant where 5 were present on 10 and 17 Feb. Birds were also scarce on *Tiree* with a maximum of 3 at L. a' Phuill on 17 Jan. On the mainland: numbers at L. nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 11 on 13 Feb, 4 were on L. Awe on 4 Jan, 8 were on L. Nell (nr Oban) on 8 Jan, 10 were on Lussa L. *Kintyre* on 16 Feb and 4 were on L. Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar. Elsewhere, 2 were near Port-an t-Saoir *Coll* on 26 Feb.

Oct-Dec 2006. The first returning bird was a female on L. Bhasapol on 22 Aug but thereafter only very small numbers were recorded on *Tiree*, with a maximum of 5 on L. a' Phuill on 12 Nov. Even smaller numbers were on *Islay* with a maximum of just 3 at Ardnave on 27 Nov. Numbers on L. nan Druimnean (nr Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 8 on 22 Nov and 7 were on L. Awe (nr. Kilchurn Castle) on 22 Nov. Elsewhere on the mainland 3 were on L. Nell (nr Oban) on 26 Nov.

2007. The highest numbers were on L. nan Druimnean *Mid-Argyll* with a maximum of 9 on 16 Dec. No more than two were seen at any one site on *Islay* or *Tiree*. Elsewhere, 5 were on L. Nell on 24 Oct, a pair was off Ardyne Point *Cowal* on 25 Dec and one at Harrison's Loch *Mull* was the first on the island for some years.

[REDHEAD *Aythya americana* 0198

No previous records. A report of an apparent female at L. Bhasapol Tiree in Dec 2005 was still in circulation with BBRC at the time of writing]

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* 0200

Vagrant. The first accepted record in Argyll was in 1982 with 8 further records to 2004.

2006. A drake present on L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 6 Dec was gone by the following day [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2007. Two adult males were present on various lochs on *Tiree* from 5 Jan to 23 Apr [J. Bowler *et al*]. A female found at L. Melldalloch *Cowal* on 17 Apr was present until at least 23 Apr [T. Callan, J. Dickson *et al*]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* 0202

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Bhasapol (Tiree) in Apr 2003.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* Lach-thopach 0203

A widespread winter visitor: most numerous on Islay and Tiree. Breeds in small numbers on: Colonsay, Islay, Mull and Tiree with scattered pairs found throughout mainland Argyll.

Jan-Jun 2006. Other than those listed in Table 16.1 the only site with a count of 10 or more was L. Seil *Mid-Argyll* with 10 on 10 Jan. Smaller numbers were reported from Lochan Dubh (nr

Oban), Loch Luachrach (Oban), Loch Melldalloch *Cowal*, Oronsay, Machrihanish SBO, L. Assapol *Mull*, L. Poit na h-I *Mull*, and Harrison's Loch *Mull*.

2007. Other than those listed in Table 16.2 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were: Ballyhogh Loch *Coll* (21 on 19 Jan), Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* (max. 19 on 26 Jan) and L. Nell (nr Oban) (max. 11 on 8 Jan). Smaller numbers were found at L. Melldalloch *Cowal*, L. Gruinart, L. Ballygrant and L. Finlaggan *Islay*, L. Awe, L. Leathan and L. nan Druimnean *Mid-Argyll*, L. Frisa *Mull* and Lochan na Beithe (N. Connel) *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2006. Some 15 pairs were present at suitable nesting sites on *Tiree* during May and at least 3 broods of young were found later. Three pairs bred at Ardnave L. *Islay*.

2007. Up to 13 pairs were at 4 sites on *Tiree* during May and at least 4 broods of young were found later. Two pairs bred at Ardnave L. and 2 pairs were seen on L. Kinnabus *Islay* on 10 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. Other than those listed in Table 16.1 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were at L. Skerrols *Islay* (12 on 22 Sep) and L. Nell (nr Oban) (max. 11 on 26 Nov). Smaller numbers were reported from: Allt Osde lochan (Kilbride Bay) *Cowal*, L. Melldalloch *Cowal* and, at: L. Awe, L. nan Druimnean *Mid-Argyll*, L. Leathan *Mid-Argyll*, Lochan Dubh (Oban), and Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll*.

2007. A count of 29 (incl. 26 males) at L. Nell (nr Oban) on 24 Oct was the highest count at this site for some time although large numbers were recorded here in the early 1990s. Apart from those listed in Table 16.2 the only other sites with counts of 10 or more were: Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) (10 on 12 Oct), L. Assapol *Mull* (max. 12 on 26 Oct), and L. Gorm *Islay* (10 on 15 Nov). Smaller numbers were reported from: East & West L. Fada *Colonsay*, L. Melldalloch *Cowal*, L. Gruinart *Islay*, L. Poit na h-I *Mull* and, in *Mid-Argyll* from: Crinan Canal, L. Bealach Ghearran (Minard), L. Craiglin (L. Sween), Lochan Dubh (Oban), Lochan Ceann a' Choin (Ford), L. Ederline (Ford), L. Glashan, and L. Leathan.

Table 16.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapol) in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	1	5	6	7	6	7	n/r	8	4	13	9	6
Tiree	129	125	146	104	31	8	1	4	15	33	112	107

Table 16.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapol) in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	5	5	7	13	6	12	3	2	11	15	16	6
Tiree	132	142	137	96	10	7	18	14	2	68	98	102

GREATER SCAUP (SCAUP) *Aythya marila* Lach-mhara 0204
A winter visitor and passage migrant with large numbers wintering at Loch Indaal (Islay): a site of national importance, but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn seawatches.

Jan-May 2006. There were no records away from L. Indaal [Table 17].

2007. The only records away from L. Indaal [Table 17] were single birds on L. Riaghain, L. a' Phuill *Tiree*, and L. Gruinart.

Summering Birds 2006/2007. No summering birds were reported in 2006. In 2007 a female was present on L. a' Phuill *Tiree* from late May until 4 Jun and one in non-breeding plumage was on L. Gilp on 15 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. At Machrihanish SBO: 19 flew S on 19 Sep, 33 were seen on 7 Oct, and 64 were in Machrihanish Bay on 18 Oct. Elsewhere: 12 were at Ardnave L. *Islay* on 16 Sep, 4 on L. Craighlin (L. Sween) on 15 Oct, and one at L. Gilp on 2 Oct.

2007. Up to 4 were seen at various freshwater lochs on *Tiree* from Oct to Dec, two were at Machrihanish SBO on 6 Aug, two were at Lochan Dubh (Oban) on 24 Oct, and singles were at L. Gruinart and Ardnave Loch in Nov.

Table 17 *Maximum monthly counts of Scaup at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2006 and 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	935	670	300	225	10	0	0	44	166	400	670	810
2007	735	505	290	178	0	0	0	36	158	390	810	870

LESSER SCAUP* *Aythya affinis*

0205

Vagrant. Two previous records: *Islay* in Nov 1998 and L. Leathan Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005.

2006. An adult female, seen and photographed, at L. a' Phuill from 12 to 16 Nov was a first for *Tiree* and only the second record for Argyll [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:698).

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

COMMON EIDER (EIDER) *Somateria mollissima* Lach-Lochlannach

0206

A resident breeding bird: common on all suitable coasts, especially on the Clyde. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep.

Jan-Jun 2006. During an all-island coastal survey of *Tiree* 5-10 Feb, the higher of the two total counts was 373. An aerial survey of the Sound of Gigha and outer West Loch Tarbert carried out by JNCC on 18 & 20 Mar found a total 225 (Söhle 2006). Other counts of over 100 away from L. Indaal [Table 18] included: 430 near the fish farm at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 290 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 180 (112 adult drakes, 22 immature drakes, 46 females) at Machrihanish on 23 Apr, 157 at North Connel *North Argyll* on 28 Jan, 142 at Shepherd's Point (Ardentinnny) *Cowal* on 18 Jan and 120 at An Carraigeon (nr Pennyghael) *Mull* on 21 Apr.

2007. An aerial survey of the Sound of Gigha and outer West Loch Tarbert carried out by JNCC on 23 Mar found a total 226 (Lewis 2008). The only counts of over 100 away from L. Indaal [Table 18] were 103 in L. Etive on 7 Feb and 101 (of which 83 were males) in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 679 nests were found at 25 sites. At Machrihanish, 57 ducklings (a higher count than usual) were seen between the observatory and the village 1km away on 16 Jun. Fifteen broods totalling 54 young were found between Hunter's Quay and Inverchaolain (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 17 Jun, a total of 36 chicks were seen in the Otter Ferry area on 7 Jun, and 7 broods totalling 17 young were seen on *Colonsay* in Jun. Broods of young were also recorded at many other sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* (inc. Treshnish Isles), and *Tiree*.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 442 nests were found at 20 sites. Colonies with long-term mink control (in particular Kilmaronag, Eilean Ruig, Dunstaffnage, Abbot Isles, and Ardachy islets) have increased or maintained numbers. Two formerly large colonies (at Sgat Mor and Eilean Aoghainn, Loch Fyne) are apparently now extinct or almost so. The largest colony (at Burnt Islands, Kyles of Bute) has decreased after near-annual predation of nesting birds by mink: numbers fell from 521 in 2001, to 429 in 2005, and 309 in 2007 (JCAC). On *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay), 20 females with broods totalling 57 young were found in Jun and 5 broods were noted around Lunga (Treshnish Isles) in late Jun (TIARG). Broods of young were

also recorded at many other sites in: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull* (inc. Iona), *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Autumn Eider Survey 2006. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave a total of 2,690 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long, some of which will belong with the Clyde area). This compares with: 3,326 in 2005, 4,183 in 2004, 3,393 in 2003, 3,409 in 2002 and 4,677 in 2001. Coverage for the Firth as a whole was again patchier than in previous years but numbers were still thought to have fallen (C. Waltho).

2007. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave: a total of 2,695 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long, some of which will belong with the Clyde area); *cf* 1999-2007 mean of 3,796. Coverage for the Firth as a whole was better than in the previous two years but the decline in numbers has continued (C. Waltho).

Jul-Dec. 2006. An all island moult survey on *Tiree* on 14 Aug found 710 birds, including 230 at Traigh Bhi, and 254 Traigh Bhaigh. Other counts of 100 or more away from L. Indaal [Table 18] included: 594 from Portavadie to Castle Lachlan *Cowal* on 16 Sep (387 males/207 females), 600 from Toward to the head of Holy Loch *Cowal* on 2 Nov, 363 in a moulting flock on 15 Aug around the spit at Otter Ferry, 171 (119 males/52 females) between Rubha Ban and Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 4 Oct, 151 in Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 3 Oct, 146 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 26 Sep, and 140 in Loch Beg *Mull* on 14 Sep.

2007. An all island moult survey on *Tiree* on 1 - 2 Aug found 670 birds at 10 sites, including 210 at Traigh Bhaigh. The maximum count at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 2 Aug was 575. Other counts of 100 or more away from L. Indaal [Table 18] included: 350 (238 males/112 females) from Otter Ferry to Castle Lachlan *Cowal* on 20 Sep, 325 around the spit at Otter Ferry on 18 Oct, 300 in L. Scridain *Mull* on 1 Oct, 213 in Campbeltown Loch on 18 Dec, 124 at Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec, 121 in Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 27 Sep and 112 in Holy Loch (max. WeBS count) on 10 Nov.

Table 18 *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2006 and 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	90	99	134	188	131	157	179	180	200	138	138	140
2007	67	101	119	165	147	200	169	200	189	157	124	151

KING EIDER* *Somateria spectabilis*

0207

Vagrant. At least 12 Argyll records dating back to 1889: all of single males. Several recent records could relate to returning individuals. The most recent was at Toward (Dunoon) Cowal in May 2003.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. A male was seen and photographed with Common Eiders at Bagh Sean-ghairt (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr [A. Smout]. An adult male arrived at Machrihanish SBO at 17:00 on 12 May and was photographed [E. Maguire]. A male was seen at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 24 May [T. Charmin/E. Maguire] and there were subsequent records from Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 6 Jun and at Machrihanish SBO until 7 Jul [E. Maguire *et al*]. All these records are presumed to relate to the same individual and have been accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 101:522).

HARLEQUIN DUCK* *Histrionicus histrionicus*

0211

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in Oct 1987.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha, Coll, Islay, and Tiree.

Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.

Jan-Jun 2006. The highest count recorded was 25 (two groups of 11 & 14) in the Sound of Gigha during the Argyll Bird Club field trip on 1 Apr. Smaller numbers were recorded there throughout the winter. On *Tiree*, numbers in Hough Bay peaked at 17 on 5 Feb and 16 were at Traigh Bhaigh on 23 Mar. The highest count in L. Indaal was 7 on 14 Feb and the only records elsewhere were: 2 at L. Gruinart on 4 Feb, and singles at Camas Rubha na Liathaig (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, and at E an Ruisg (L. Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan.

On 7 May, a late pair with the drake in full breeding plumage was seen at Hough Bay *Tiree* but there was no evidence of breeding.

2007. All records were in single figures with 7 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 16 Jan and 9 in L. Indaal on 25 Mar being the highest counts. Elsewhere: 2 were off Ganavan (Oban) on 22 Mar, one in Dunstaffnage Bay on 3 May, and a pair off Tayinloan, also on 3 May. A very late female was at the head of L. Feochan (nr Oban) on 8 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2006. A very early returning bird was in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug and 2 were in Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 24 Aug. Peak counts were at Hough Bay *Tiree* (15 on 17 Dec) and L. Indaal (15 between Bowmore and Bridgend on 15 Nov). Elsewhere, single birds were in Calgary Bay *Mull* on 25 Sep and flying past Machrihanish SBO on 4 Oct.

Jan-Dec 2007. The first returning bird was a female in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Sep and two there on 24 Oct. Numbers in Hough Bay *Tiree* peaked at 11 on 30 Nov and the most counted in L. Indaal was 6 on 17 Dec. Elsewhere: a female was present on Harrison's Loch (Scoor) *Mull* from 21 to 29 Oct, two were at Machrihanish SBO on 8 Nov, a female was at Oude dam (nr Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov, and 3 (2 males and a female) off Tayinloan on 2 Dec.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh

There is a very small breeding population in two localities. Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal (Islay) and in the Sound of Gigha (Kintyre): a scarce winter visitor elsewhere.

Jan-Jun 2006. Away from L. Indaal (Table 19) counts included: 32 off Rhunahaorine Point (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 18 Feb, 16 (mostly drakes) in the Sound of Gigha on 1 Apr, 15 heading east off the Tiree-Coll coast on 27 Jun, and 8 >S at Machrihanish SBO on 4 May.

2007. In addition to the WeBS data shown in Table 19 counts included: 127 from Ronachan Pt to Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 3 May, 94 off Port Charlotte, L. Indaal on 17 Apr, ca30 in the Sound of Gigha on 8 Feb and 22 >S at Machrihanish SBO on 16 May.

Breeding 2006. A male and a female were at a traditional site on *Islay* on 17 May but there was no further information on breeding anywhere in Argyll.

2007. A pair and an additional male were at a traditional site on *Islay* but, despite a national survey of Common Scoters in 2007, there was again no further evidence of breeding anywhere in Argyll. This is thought to be one of the fastest declining breeding species in the UK at present (*British Birds* 103:13).

Jul-Dec 2006. Away from L. Indaal (Table 19) counts included: 22 in the Sound of Gigha on 20 Oct, 7 > S at Machrihanish SBO on 18 Sep, and 7 in West Loch Tarbert on 17 Nov.

2007 Away from L. Indaal (Table 19) counts included: 63 in the Sound of Gigha on 3 Jul, 9 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 10 Dec, and 6 > S at Machrihanish SBO on 5 Aug. Two were off Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov, and singles were reported from Ganavan (nr Oban), L. Caolisport *Mid-Argyll*, and L. na Keal.

Table 19 *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2006 and 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	39	43	36	29	30	19	27	24	38	39	60	29
2007	31	38	36	34	19	21	25	25	29	31	40	31

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

0214

Rare. At least 13 Argyll records, mostly in spring.

2006. No records.

2007. A female was reported off Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 3 May [A Hogg]. Record accepted by ABRC.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

0215

Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha and, in much smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay. The wintering population in the Sound of Gigha is now much reduced from the population in the 1970s when over 50 were present.

2006. Two were off Tayinloan on 18 Jan and 5 males were off Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 25 Jun. Singles were reported: from L. Indaal on 15 Nov, West Loch Tarbert on 17 Nov, and Calgary *Mull* on 14 Dec. Two males were in the Sound of Gigha on 6 Dec.

2007. All records were from the Sound of Gigha and comprised 9 males and a female on 8 Feb, 8 males off West Coast Salmon on 1 Apr and 2 males off Ballochroy on 3 May.

COMMON GOLDENEYE (GOLDENEYE) *Bucephala clangula* Lach-bhreac

0218

A common winter visitor. Birds are regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr with occasional summer records.

Jan-Apr 2006. The highest count was 195 in L. Caolisport on 15 Jan with 152 there on 24 Feb. Numbers in L. Fyne, off Furnace, *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 145 on 12 Feb. Other than those in Table 20.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: L. Gilp (max. 52) on 2 Mar, head of L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* (32, mostly drakes, on 2 Mar), West Bay, Dunoon (14 on 23 Feb), L. Leathan *Islay* (13 on 3 Apr), L. Melldalloch *Cowal* (max. 11 on 8 Mar), Loch na Keal (11 on 11 Apr), and Bellochantuy (11 on 30 Apr).

2007. The highest count was again in L. Caolisport, where 220 were counted on 4 Jan falling to 138 by 21 Feb. Numbers in L. Fyne, off Furnace, *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 154 on 4 Jan. Apart from these two locations and those recorded in Table 20.2, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch na Keal (50 on 18 Feb), Clyde estuary from Kirn to Loch Striven *Cowal* (at least 50 on 23 Feb), L. Riddon *Cowal* (11 on 20 Mar), head of L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* (11 on 3 Apr), and L. Melldalloch *Cowal* (max. 11 on 3 Apr).

Summering birds 2006. A female was off Machrihanish SBO on 7 – 8 Jun.

2007. A male and 2 females were on L. Riaghain *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2006. A single early ‘brown-head’ was in L Fyne, off Furnace on 8 Aug but the first of winter on L. Gilp did not arrive until 13 Oct. Numbers off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* peaked at 123 on 19 Nov and 122 were counted in L. Caolisport on 13 Nov. Apart from these two locations and those recorded in Table 20.1, the only site with a count of 10 or more was East Bay, Dunoon with 17 in four groups on 2 Nov.

2007. The first arrival was a single bird at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 2 Aug and 2 were at the head of L. Riddon on 30 Sep. On 16 Dec, no less than 264 birds were counted in L. Fyne, off Furnace (P. Daw) and, quite independently, 263 were counted at the same site by Bob & Euan Furness on 30 Dec. These are the highest counts at any one site in Argyll to date. The highest count at the mouth of L. Caolisport was 116 on 16 Dec. It is not known why such large numbers gather at these two sites, but it may be no co-incidence that both have units producing salmon

smolts on the shore nearby. Apart from these two locations and those recorded in Table 20.2, the only site with a count of 10 or more was Barcaldine (L. Creran) *North Argyll* where at least 20, present on 27 Oct, were the first of winter.

Table 20.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in: Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll), and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	16	20	24	n/r		0	0	12
L. Sween	53	46	51	n/r		1	22	13
L. Indaal	10	11	2	2		9	9	14
Tiree	47	45	53	3		0	39	41

Table 20.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in: Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll), and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	5	11	12	n/r		0	0	12
L. Sween	29	35	21	n/r		1	22	13
L. Indaal	12	12	4	2		11	11	10
Tiree	45	49	49	6		9	27	45

SMEW *Mergus albellus* Siolta-bhreac

0220

Rare winter visitor. Last recorded L. Poit na h-I (Pottie) (Mull) in May 2004.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Siolta-dhearg

0221

A common resident breeder. Large moulting flocks gather, particularly in Loch Indaal and Sound of Gigha, during late summer. Loch Indaal (Islay) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Small numbers are found on fresh water.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 52 birds (highest of 2 counts made). The only other counts of 20 or more, away from the sites listed in Table 21.1, were at: Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* (72 on 25 Jun), L. an Eilein *Tiree* (31 on 6 Jun), Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* (29 on 7 Jun) and Otter Ferry (27 on 2 Feb).

2007. The highest counts away from the sites listed in Table 21.2, were at: Otter Ferry (16 on 21 Mar) and Tayinloan (15 on 2 Feb).

Breeding 2006. On *Tiree*, 13 pairs were noted at 6 likely breeding sites in Apr/May. On 5 Aug a female with b/5 was at L. an Eilein and females with b/3 and b/6 were at L. a' Phuill. The only other confirmed breeding record was a female with 6 ducklings at Ardferrin (L. Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a female with 4 medium-sized young was at the head of L. Craignish on 6 Jul, a predated clutch of 5 eggs was found on Eilean Eoghainn (West L. Tarbert) and two pairs are thought to have bred on Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage). On *Tiree*, 16 pairs were noted at 6 likely breeding sites in Apr/May and broods of young were later noted on L. an Eilein and L. a' Phuill. Other confirmed breeding records included: female with 8 small young at N end of L. Eck *Cowal* on 17 Jun, female with 2 small young at Otter Ferry on 30 Jun, female with b/7 in the Add Estuary on 8 Jul, pair with one small young in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jul, and 3 young birds with adults at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 24 Jul.

Jul-Dec 2006. Away from the sites listed in Table 21.1, the only other counts of 20 or more were: a maximum of 107 in L. Riddon *Cowal* on 24 Aug, 37 in West Loch Tarbert (Kennacraig to mouth of loch) on 13 Nov, 32 in L. Fyne (off Ardnò *Cowal*) on 10 Sep and 24 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 13 Sep.

2007. Away from the sites listed in Table 21.2, the only counts of 20 or more were: 115 in L. Caolisport on 16 Aug, 85 in the Sound of Gigha on 3 Jul, 72 in L. Riddon *Cowal* on 20 Aug, max. 39 at the head of Loch na Keal on 21 Oct, max. 36 off Otter Ferry on 18 Sep, 31 off Ardpatrik House (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep, and 27 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 10 Dec.

Table 21.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll) and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	13	19	25	19	8	6	4	28	23	43	21	13
L. Indaal	35	25	29	28	40	41	87	87	80	55	66	66
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	14	30	21	18	4	17	11	11	3	8
L. Sween	42	32	51	n/r	n/r	n/r	4	20	20	32	37	45

Table 21.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	11	14	19	15	1	12	0	45	14	36	22	15
L. Indaal	31	32	31	19	29	29	33	90	89	68	78	69
L. Sween	26	32	40	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	20	30	26	14

NB There were no regular counts at L. Crinan in 2007.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* Siolta

0223

A scarce breeding species mainly in: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and N Argyll. The population is more widespread in winter but in small numbers.

Jan-May 2006. Up to 4 were seen: in *Cowal* at Arrochar (R. Loin), Inver Cottage, (L. Fyne), Lephinmore (L. Fyne), L. Melldalloch, Otter Ferry, Ormidale (River Ruel), and Strachur Bay; in *Kintyre* at Conie Glen (Southend); on *Mull* at Dervaig, L. na Keal, and Mishnish Lochs; in *Mid-Argyll* at Dunstaffnage bay, L. Bealach an Fhiodhain (nr L. Nant), L. Craignish, L. Crinan, L. Feochan, L. Gilp, L. Nant, Lochan nan Gealaich (Kilchrenan), and on the Leacann Water (Furnace); and in *North Argyll* at Castle Stalker, L. Baile Mhic Chailein, and L. Tulla.

2007. At least 13 (6 male/7 female) birds were on L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 26 Mar, 5 were near Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) on 11 Feb and 5 were on Lussa Loch *Kintyre* 16 Feb. A male seen on L. Kinnabus *Islay* on 30 Jan was an unusual record. Smaller numbers were at various other locations in *Cowal* (3 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (8 sites), *Mull* (4 sites) and *North Argyll* (2 sites). One reported at Friesland *Coll* on 31 Oct was almost certainly the drake in eclipse plumage seen at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 1 Nov (the first record on *Tiree* since 1992).

Breeding 2006. Although pairs were reported at several suitable sites during the breeding season the only confirmed breeding was at L. Scammadale (nr Oban) where a female with 3 medium-sized young were seen on 16 Jul.

2007. The only confirmed breeding record was a female with 5 small young at the N end of L. Eck *Cowal* on 5 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. Eight were present in the Add Estuary on 9 Sep, 7 ‘red-heads’ were in L. Gilp on 9 Oct and 6 were in L. na Keal on 9 Nov. Elsewhere, smaller numbers were seen in *Cowal* (one site), *Mid-Argyll* (6 sites), *Mull* (3 sites) and *North Argyll* (one site).

2007. Seven 'red-heads' were on L. Feochan on 11 Aug, 6 were in the Add Estuary on 30 Aug, 5 'red-heads' were at the head of L Melfort *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep and 5 (4 males/1 female) were in L. Caolisport on 20 Nov. Up to 4 were reported from 8 other sites, all in *Mid-Argyll*.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

0225

A vagrant with only four accepted records since 1984. The most recent was at Claddach Loch (Islay) on 12th May 1999.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RED (WILLOW) GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* Coileach-fraoich

0329

A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.

2006. There were still birds on *Colonsay* in May: survivors from those released in Sep 2003. Birds were also reported outside the breeding season from nr. Beinn Bhreac (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll* and from Sgorach Mor (nr. L. Tarsan) *Cowal*.

2007. Birds were reported outside the breeding season at: Lochan Chuilceachan (Glendaruel) *Cowal*, Deucheran Hill *Kintyre*, Carn Gaibhre (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* and Port Haunn *Mull*.

Breeding 2006. On *Islay*, pairs were present at RSPB L. Gruinart and at Ardnave during the breeding season but no counts were made. Other locations with breeding season pairs included L. Nant and Beinn Chapuill *Mid-Argyll*, and Beinn Sgulaire and Beinn nan Lus *North Argyll*.

2007. On *Islay*, pairs were present at RSPB L. Gruinart but no counts were made. Birds were reported from Treshnish *Mull* and several pairs were present in the area S of L. Nant *Mid-Argyll*.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

0330

A very localised resident breeding bird: generally above 800m in north and east Argyll, and on Mull. All records required.

2006. In Mar birds were seen near the summit of Ben Cruachan *North Argyll*. Feathers or other evidence of presence was reported from An Sgriodan (Glen Strae) and Beinn a' Chochuill *North Argyll*. Also in *North Argyll*, pairs or evidence of presence was reported during the breeding season from: Bheinn Trilleachan (L. Etive), Ben Starav, Glas Bheinn Mhor, and Meall na Eun; all just within the boundary of our recording area with Highland. One was seen at Beinn an Dothaidh (Bridge of Orchy) *North Argyll* on 15 Oct.

2007. In Feb, 2 were seen on Beinn Chuirn (Glen Lochy) *Mid-Argyll*, 2 were at Beinn Bhuidhe (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* and one was at Beinn Mhic-Mhonaidh (Glen Strae) *North Argyll*. Six were reported near the summit of Beinn Narnain (nr Arrochar) *Cowal* on 15 Oct.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

0332

A scarce and local breeding resident with numbers apparently in steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.

2006. Only five records were received, these were: Beinn na Sroine (NW) (Glen Orchy) *North Argyll* on 15 Mar (distant calling male/s heard), Loch Bealach an Fhiodhain (nr Loch Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr (possible calling from SE), Tom a' Bhiorain (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 20 Apr (2 males at lek) also on 3 May (2 males and 1 female at lek), and Loch na Carraigeach (Loch Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May (distant lekking male/s heard).

2007. Records outwith the breeding season were: Abhainn Shira (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* on 25 Mar (1 year male feeding on Larch), Doire Darach (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* on 26 Mar (2 females feeding on Larch), Loch na Faoilinn (NR8188) *Mid-Argyll* (1 female) on 17 Jul, Rockhill Farm (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug (2 flushed in coniferous woodland), Creag Ruadh (Loch Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug (juv or eclipse ad flushed), Shenavallie (Benderloch)

North Argyll on 19 Oct (ad male shot on pheasant shoot, crop full of acorns (not mentioned in BWP as food source), reported to weigh 2 lbs 9 oz), Saddell *Kintyre* on 9 Nov (1 in odd plumage, poss. imm male or hybrid), Inverfolla *North Argyll* on 18 Nov – 12 Dec (2 males seen on several occasions), and Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec (a female regularly feeding with domestic poultry at Kilmaronag).

Breeding 2007. Birds at leks were reported from: River Nant (S) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr and 28 Apr (male/s calling), Creag a'Chrotha (SW) (Glen Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr (male/s calling), Deer Hill (Carradale) *Kintyre* on 23 Jun (4), and Loch Airigh na Creige (Loch Leacann) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul (1 ad female with part grown chick capable of flight).

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille 0335
A very rare resident. There have been a few records from Mid-Argyll, and is known to have bred in Cowal in 1993 but no recent records in either locality.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* Cearc-thomain-dhearg-chasach 0358
Birds (some hybrids with Chukar A. chukar) have been introduced to several areas. Although this species is in Category C of the British list, populations in Argyll do not appear to be self-sustaining.

2006. The largest number reported was 44 at S Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 8 Nov and 10 were at Tighnuilt (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 23 Feb. Reports from *Islay* during the year include one at Rockside on 13 Apr, 8 at Ardtalla on 23 Sep and 2 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 28 Nov.

2007. There were more reports than usual, presumably as a result of widespread releases. On *Islay*, up to 5 were seen at RSPB L. Gruinart through the year and birds were also reported from Laggan Farm and the Big Strand. In *Cowal* there were birds at Clachaig (Glen Lean), Goirtein (L. Fyne), Inverchaolain (L. Striven) and at the head of L. Striven. Twenty-three were seen at Killellan Park (near Southend) *Kintyre* in Mar. In *Mid-Argyll*, 22 were at Stonefield (nr Connel), one was seen nr. Lochgilphead, 2 were at Ardencaple (Seil) and 4 were at Ardmaddy. A covey of 19 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* in Oct were thought to derive from a release some years ago and appear to have naturalised.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* Cearc-thomain 0367
A very localised distribution. Introductions, which take place in several areas, do not appear to result in self-sustaining populations. All records required.

2006. An adult and 6 juvs. were reported near Grulinmore *Islay* on 16 Sep.

2007. One or two birds reported from Loch na Cachie, Kilchiaran and Rockside *Islay*.

COMMON QUAIL (QUAIL) *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh-gort 0370
A rare and irregular summer visitor; mainly to Kintyre and the islands.

2006. The only record was of one calling at Heylipol *Tiree* on 26 Jun.

2007. Calling birds were reported from: RSPB L. Gruinart on 30 May, Machrins *Colonsay* on 15 Jun and Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 30 Jun.

COMMON PHEASANT (PHEASANT) *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394

Abundant in those parts of Argyll where they are released for shooting. Reports are rare from Jura and North Argyll.

2006. Reported from all recording areas, except *Coll* and *Jura*, with breeding confirmed (eggs/newly hatched chicks) in *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. An estimated 150 birds were on the island of *Shuna Mid-Argyll* in August.

2007. Reported from all recording areas except *Coll*, including two locations on *Jura* in Jun, with breeding confirmed on *Tiree*. On 23 Nov, 68 were counted during an Atlas TTV at *Ballimore* (nr Otter Ferry) *Cowal*.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

There are no recent reports of the introduced population on Mull.

2006. No records.

2007. Three reported at *Jura House Jura* on 11 Jun were presumably from a recent introduction.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* Learga-ruadh 0002

A scarce widely distributed breeder (on moorland lochs), winter visitor, and passage migrant.

Jan-Apr 2006. Reported widely in small numbers: around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. The largest counts were 53 in *L. Indaal* on 18 Feb, and 30-40 north of *Gigha* on 29 Mar (counted from the *Kennacraig* to *Islay* ferry).

2007. Highest counts were: 20 in *L. Indaal* on 10 Feb, 37 in *West Loch Tarbert Kintyre* and the area north of *Gigha* on 24 Feb, and 37 at *Machrihanish Kintyre* on 3 May.

Breeding 2006. Birds were visiting hill lochans from about 22 Mar. The RSPB diver survey recorded 15 breeding pairs and 19 lochs occupied by non-breeding birds in Argyll. This is rather less than might have been expected. There were no data on breeding success.

2007. Birds visited freshwater sites from about 15 Mar. There were no data on numbers or breeding success.

Sep-Dec 2006. *Machrihanish SBO* reported 18 flying S in 5 hrs on 7 Oct. The highest count from *L. Indaal* was 12 on 25 Sep, with similar numbers there to the end of the year.

2007. *Machrihanish SBO* reported 22 flying S in 8 hrs on 24 Sep. The highest count from *L. Indaal* was 29 on 14 Sep, with slightly lower numbers there to the end of the year.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* Learga-dhubh 0003

A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. L. Caolisport is a site of national importance for wintering birds.

Jan-Apr 2006. Reported widely in small numbers: around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. Largest numbers were 25 north of *Gigha* on 29 Mar, and 6 in *West Loch Tarbert Kintyre* on 15 Feb.

2007. Largest numbers were 7 on 11 Feb at *Ardpatrick Mid-Argyll*, and 7 in *West Loch Tarbert Kintyre* on 29 Mar.

Breeding 2006. At least 8 pairs nested in Argyll, but only one chick fledged.

2007. Probably about 6-8 pairs nested in Argyll, raising 4 chicks to fledging.

Sep-Dec 2006. There were no counts in double figures, but 1-3 birds were noted at various sites. The largest count was 5 at *Blackrock* (Bowmore to *Bridgend*) in *L. Indaal* on 15 Nov.

2007. The largest counts were: 24 from *Kennacraig* to *Islay* ferry crossing on 16 Nov, 9 at *Port Charlotte Islay* on 15 Nov, and 5 in *Kilbride Bay Cowal* on 25 Nov.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachail

0004

A numerous visitor, both in winter and on passage. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May. A few individuals summer. Important sites for wintering birds are: L. Indaal, L. Caolisport, and Lochs Beg & Scridain, Mull.

Jan-May 2006. Reported from all coastal areas: especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Coll, Colonsay, Gigha, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*. Peak numbers seemed, as usual, to be seen in spring; many from the ferry crossing to *Islay*. The largest counts were: 75 north of *Gigha* on 29 Mar, 71 in Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 9 May, 66 in L. Indaal between Port Charlotte and Bowmore on 18 Feb, 35 at L. Indaal on 11 Apr, 22 off Hynish *Tiree* on 21 Apr, 26 at Machrihanish SBO on 3 May, and 24 West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 15 Feb.

2007. Particularly high numbers were reported, especially in late winter and spring, with the largest counts being: 506 between Ronachan Point and Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 3 May, 139 north of *Gigha* seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 24 Feb, 70 in the same area on 17 Feb, 51 in L. Indaal on 15 Apr, 47 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 29 Mar, and 41 in the Sound of *Gigha Kintyre* on 8 Feb.

Jun-Aug 2006/2007. Around *Coll*, there was a total of 34 in early Jun 2006, mostly in first summer plumage. This was the largest concentration seen in summer for some years. Otherwise, records were of ones and twos from: *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*, mostly of birds in first summer plumage. There were no suggestions of adults holding territory.

Sep-Dec 2006. Numbers built up in Sep, and counts of up to 20 birds were not uncommon from: *Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull and Tiree* through to the end of the year.

2007. As usual, numbers in autumn and early winter were generally lower than spring, but 52 were seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 6 Oct, and 43 were off Port Charlotte *Islay* on 15 Nov.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER* *Gavia adamsii* Learga-bhlàr

0005

Vagrant previously reported on only eight occasions, all since 1986, most recently in Loch Fyne in 2005.

2006. No records.

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

PIED-BILLED GREBE* *Podilymbus podiceps*

0006

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Peallach (Mull) in Jun 1998.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spàg-ri-tòn

0007

A local breeder in small numbers: widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter with concentrations at Loch Etive (North Argyll) and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll).

During both **2006 and 2007** there were records from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*.

Jan-Apr 2006. Numbers on L. Etive peaked at 15 on 11 Feb. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were: 24 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 14 Jan (including 10 together at Linne Mhuirich), 12 at L. Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, and 10 at L. Ballygrant *Islay* on 20 Feb.

2007. Numbers on L. Etive peaked at 22 on 18 Feb. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were: 15 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 29 Jan, and 6 on 3 lochs on *Colonsay* on 7 Feb.

Breeding 2006. Eight pairs were seen on the *Colonsay* lochs during the breeding season and a pair on a pool at Lerags (near Oban) had a brood of young on 30 Jun. Elsewhere birds were

recorded in suitable habitat during the breeding season at: Allt Osde Lochan *Cowal*, a small lochan near L. Nant, Luachrach Loch *Mid-Argyll*, and L. nan Cadhan and Lily Loch *Islay*.

2007. There were many more breeding records than usual. Six pairs were seen on the *Colonsay* lochs during the breeding season including a pair with one young on Lochan Gleann Raonabuilg. In *Cowal* birds were found in suitable habitat during the breeding season at 7 sites with confirmed breeding (eggs/young) at 5 of these. *Mid-Argyll* had: up to 3 pairs on the Black Lochs near Connel, pairs with young at 2 sites, and birds present at 2 further sites. A pair was seen with 3 young at Benderloch *North Argyll* and birds were also present at 3 sites on *Mull*.

Sep-Dec 2006. The highest winter numbers were recorded during WeBS counts when 22 were found on L. Etive on 18 Nov, with 20 at L. Sween on 20 Sep. The highest number elsewhere was 5 at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 7 Dec.

2007. Peak numbers during WeBS counts occurred on 7 Oct when 31 were on L. Etive and 29 at L. Sween (including 14 at Linne Mhuirich). Elsewhere: 10 were found during the WeBS count at Holy Loch on 9 Dec, 6 were in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep, and 5 on L. Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan-laparan 0009
An uncommon winter and passage visitor, with 1-6 records annually since 1984. Recorded in all months except Jun.

2006. Six birds were seen: 1 on L. Kinnabus *Islay* from 28 to 31 Mar, 1 in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 1 Sep, 2 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 13 Nov, and 2 on L. Long at Blairmore *Cowal* on 17 Dec.

2007. Four birds were seen: 1 at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 1 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 15 Nov, and 2 on L. Long at Blairmore *Cowal* on 10 Dec.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* Gobhlachan-ruadh 0010
A scarce winter and passage visitor: most records are in Sep-Mar.

2006. One seen off Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 25 Nov, 27 Nov and 8 Dec [T. Callan].

2007. No records

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan-mara 0011
A regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. L. Indaal is a well watched site of national importance for wintering birds and numbers in the Sound of Gigha and L. na Keal, Mull exceed the qualifying level for a site of national importance but are counted less frequently.

2006. Birds were most regular at: L. Indaal, L. na Keal, and Sound of Gigha (Table 22.1) but there were also records of: 2 at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 28 Jan, 23 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 18 Feb, 5 at Rubha Aird nan Eisirein (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 18 Apr, 2 at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 5 Oct, 2 at Killail *Cowal* on 1 Dec, and 1 at Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec.

Table 22.1 *Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2006 at the three main sites for this species in Argyll.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Indaal	21	37	7	4	0	0	0	0	12	14	21	21
L. na Keal	n/r	n/r	3	3	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	9	1	n/r	n/r
S. of Gigha	n/r	n/r	4	12	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	6	1	2

2007. Apart from the regular sites (Table 22.2) there were: 4 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 17 Feb, 3 at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 1 Oct (and singles there on 17 Aug and 25 Oct), 1 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 3 Sep, 1 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 1 Oct, 1 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 15 Nov, 3 at Ledaig *North Argyll* on 2 Dec, and 1 in Campbeltown Loch on 18 Dec.

Table 22.2 *Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2007 at the three main sites for this species in Argyll.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Indaal	18	18	11	11	0	0	0	0	10	10	21	28
L. na Keal	n/r	n/r	1	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	8	6	12
S. of Gigha	n/r	1	n/r	10	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	14	5	n/r

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Gobhlachan-dubh 0012

A rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom 0020

A common but localised breeding species in all areas except Cowal and North Argyll. Large numbers occur on passage off western headlands.

Jan-Apr 2006. In mid-Jan several hundred birds per hour flew past *Tiree*. On 21 and 26 Jan some 1000 birds were on nesting ledges on *Tiree*. Similar numbers were present on most days in Feb, but there were none there on 25 Feb.

2007. Very few were seen in Jan, but there was a pronounced return to breeding sites on *Tiree* from early Feb.

Breeding 2006. There were: 1400 AOS at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 24 Jun, 59 at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 24 May, 427 on the Treshnish Isles in Jun, and 391 on Urugaig *Colonsay* monitoring sample cliff on 19 Jun. There were 500 half-grown chicks on 12 Jul at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*. However, there were 300 large downy chicks, still there, on 2 Aug. This would suggest rather low breeding success with low chick growth rate.

2007. The 313 AOS on Lunga and 65 OAS on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) in Jun represented the lowest total for these islands since TIARG started annual monitoring there in 1971. The 360 AOS at Urugaig *Colonsay* monitoring cliff on 16 Jun also represented a continued decline. There were 1200 AOS on Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 29 Jun which produced 300-400 mid-sized chicks on 1 Aug, very late and growing very slowly, so apparently again a poor season as in 2006.

Jul-Dec 2006. Exceptionally few were seen on autumn passage.

2007. Only small numbers on passage and in winter. A dead "blue phase" bird was found at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 2 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* 0036

Rare passage migrant. Nine accepted records before 2006, involving eleven birds, mostly in Aug or Sep.

2006. No records.

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr 0040

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

2006. No records.

2007. Five were seen flying west off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep, four N of *Coll* from the Oban-Barra ferry on 7 Sep, and two flying west off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep [J. Bowler/J. Wilson]. All records accepted by SBRC.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh 0043
A passage migrant: almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes seen in large numbers during Aug-Sep from: western headlands, islands, and ferry crossings.

2006. There were 14 seen between *Tiree* and Barra on 24 Aug, and singles on: 28 Aug west off Aird *Tiree*, 13 Sep at Hynish *Tiree*, and 8, 12, and 13 Sep at Ardmore Point *Islay*.

2007. About 80 were reported on various dates between 28 Jul and 15 Sep, mostly from *Tiree*. During the same period, there were a few at Machrihanish SBO, and between *Mull* and *Coll*. The highest individual count was 20 in two hours west off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh-bàn 0046
Breeding colonies have been confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers are seen on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.

Mar-May 2006. The first records of the year were unusually late. These were on 1 Apr off Treshnish Point *Mull*, and 13 Apr at *Colonsay*. About 1500 were seen between *Mull* and *Coll* on 16 May. Most spring records came from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*, but there was an unusual record of 90 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 May.

2007. First spring records were on 27 and 30 Mar in Gunna Sound, *Tiree*. Only small numbers were reported in Apr, but there were some large numbers during May. These included several thousand off the north end of Iona *Mull* on 18 May, and 1500 between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 22 May.

Breeding 2006. There were no data on breeding numbers or breeding success. Quite exceptional numbers passed Aird *Tiree* on 22 Jun after a westerly gale overnight, with a count of 24,380 in one hour! On the same date, Machrihanish SBO also reported higher numbers than usual with about 800 seen in six hours of seawatching. Similarly high numbers at Machrihanish SBO were reported on 30 Jun and 2 Jul. There were no more large counts at *Tiree* until Aug.

2007. There were no data on breeding numbers or breeding success.

Jul-Sep 2006. Manx Shearwaters often pass off the north coasts of *Tiree* and *Coll* (and also often feeds around these islands) in large to huge numbers throughout the summer months as adult birds head to (and from) feeding areas from the vast breeding colony on Rum. The largest counts occur in the first hour or two of daylight off the north coast, particularly if the wind is in the west or NW which brings them closer to shore. However, as monitoring these birds in summer entails getting up extremely early, counts can only be made from time to time! For example, 13,200 passed Aird *Tiree* in two hours on 10 Aug. There is often a similar if less focussed stream of birds on summer evenings heading SW along the south coast of *Coll*, some of which head then north through Gunna Sound, whilst others pass north around West *Tiree*. Small numbers were reported elsewhere throughout the rest of Aug and Sep. These included flocks of 4-20 birds appearing in sea lochs such as L. Fyne, L. Goil and L. Long *Cowal*, with the last records of autumn passage on 3 and 7 Oct from Aird *Tiree*.

2007. Counts peaked in Aug, with 1800 flying S past Machrihanish SBO in 8 hrs on 6 Aug, and 5740 in 1.5 hrs off Aird *Tiree* on 7 Aug. In addition to the movements of hundreds of birds per hour past *Tiree* throughout Aug and the first half of Sep, there was a more unusual record of 400 at the mouth of L. Striven *Cowal* on 27 Aug. The last records of autumn passage were on 22 Sep near Port Askaig *Islay*, and 16 Oct from Aird *Tiree*.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

0046.3

A regular passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers: usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.

2006. No records.

2007. Eight birds were reported in total, all seen from Machrihanish SBO: singles on 5, 27 and 30 Aug, 3 on 18 Aug, and 2 on 14 Sep [E. Maguire].

NORTH ATLANTIC LITTLE SHEARWATER (MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER)*

Puffinus baroli

0048

Vagrant. The only accepted record is one seen at Frenchman's Rocks on 30 Jun 1974. A record from 2000 is still under consideration by BBRC.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL (STORM PETREL) *Hydrobates pelagicus* Pàraig 0052

A summer visitor. The main breeding colonies are on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles with a few pairs on Soa and Staffa. Breeding birds first come ashore in late May or Jun. Most sightings away from breeding colonies are during Jul-Sep, when non-breeders wander extensively.

May 2006. No records.

2007. No records.

Breeding 2006. Many churring birds were heard on Fladda and Lunga, and several on Cairn na Burgh More (all Treshnish Isles). TIARG caught up to 356 in one night on Lunga in June, suggesting that the colony there is quite large.

2007. No data. Attempts at mist netting on Lunga were mainly thwarted by rain.

Jul-Oct 2006. Small numbers were reported on many dates from the start of Jun to the end of Oct from all over the western fringes of Argyll. In contrast to the records of mainly one or two birds, there were a few reports of large numbers: 200 flew S past Machrihanish SBO on 22 Jun, on 24 Aug, 133 were seen from the Oban to Barra ferry including a single flock of 80 behind a fishing boat north of *Tiree*, and 40 were seen on 20 Sep from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry.

2007. The peak number passing Machrihanish SBO was 169 in 8 hours on 6 Aug and there were few seen in Sep. The last recorded were on 14 Sep off Gigha and a very late bird at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Dec.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (LEACH'S PETREL) *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Gobhlan-mara

0055

A scarce, but regular, autumn passage migrant off western headlands; particularly after strong westerlies. There are occasional reports in spring and summer.

May-Jun 2006. Eleven passed Machrihanish SBO on 22 Jun, and one was seen from the Oban to *Mull* ferry on 23 Jun.

2007. No records.

Jul-Dec 2006. Seventeen birds were reported: 5 from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry on 20 Sep, 2 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on the same day, 5 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Oct, 1 at Machrihanish SBO on 11 Nov, 1 found dying in a car park at Oban on 4 Dec, 1 seen from the Tarbert to Portavadie ferry *Cowal* on 4 Dec, 1 on L. Melfort *Mid Argyll* on 12 Dec, and 1 the same day at Machrihanish SBO. Such Dec records are very unusual.

2007. The first autumn record was not until 31 Aug, when 17 passed Machrihanish SBO in two hours of seawatching. There were singles reported on: 10 Sep (*Aird Tiree*), 14 Sep (*Tiree to Coll* ferry), 15 Sep (Oban to *Tiree* ferry), 16 Sep (*Aird Tiree*), 20 Sep (Oban to *Tiree* ferry), and 24

Sep (Machrihanish SBO). The last record of the year was on 7 Nov, when 23 passed Machrihanish SBO in eight hours during a NW gale.

NORTHERN GANNET (GANNET) *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire

0071

The nearest large breeding colonies to Argyll are Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). (ABRs since 1990 have incorrectly stated that Gannets nest on the Shiant; they do not). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, and often seen high up sea lochs: they are infrequently reported Nov/Dec.

Jan-Jun 2006. Birds were reported, especially around *Tiree*, from early Jan in ones and twos. Numbers increased from Mar and Apr onwards. Most records, in winter and spring, seem to be from offshore islands, with few seen in sea lochs until midsummer. However, there were 300 fishing in L. Fyne on 25 May.

2007. Seen in ones and twos around *Coll*, *Tiree* and *Islay* in Jan-Feb. The first record of the year from a sea loch was of one at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 9 Mar. Reported widely in increasing numbers in Apr and May. TIARG reported a maximum of 100, mostly in full adult plumage, seen in a day in Jun from the Treshnish Isles.

Jul-Dec 2006. Six hundred passed Machrihanish SBO in 7 hrs on 2 Jul. There were 75, including many in immature plumage; resting on L. Long *Cowal* on 20 Jul. Counts of over 100 seen in a day were common, especially from *Tiree*, throughout Jul to Sep. Numbers dropped off rapidly from early Oct. Only nine individuals were reported in Nov, with the last on 14 Nov.

2007. Reported widely throughout Jul to Sep, with largest numbers from offshore islands and frequent records of smaller numbers in the sea lochs. The highest count at Machrihanish SBO was 330 passing in four hours on 26 Jul. The highest count from *Tiree* was 1160 passing Aird in one hour on 27 Aug; with counts of around 100 per hour on most days in Aug and Sep. The only records in Nov and Dec came from *Tiree*, with the last birds of the year on 29 Dec.

GREAT CORMORANT (CORMORANT) *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh

0072

Breeds in: Cowal, Gigha, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and N. Argyll with around 230 pairs in recent years: less numerous than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.

Jan-Jun 2006. Larger counts included: 32 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 3 Jan, 10 in L. Indaal on 23 Jan, 66 on *Tiree* (whole island count) on 5 Feb, and 20 at Kellan (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 11 Apr.

2007. Larger counts were: 55 at Glas Eilean (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, 11 at Blairmore *Cowal* on 7 Apr, and 11 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 12 Apr.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 114 pairs were found breeding at four sites (colony sizes: 19, 21, 35, and 39 pairs). All were visited in Jun, when all but one had a range of development stages from eggs in some nests to large young in others (as usual in Jun). However, at the largest colony (39 pairs at Portavadie (L. Fyne) *Cowal* 32 nests still held eggs, one held medium-small young and six were empty on 11 Jun. This lateness was unusual and never encountered here before. On 10 Jul, of 39 nests here, 15 held eggs, 12 held small young, 8 were empty and only 4 held ringable large young (3,1,1,1). Thus most of those present in Jun had re-laid and were still incubating. Other birds on the island (Shags, large gulls) were all breeding normally. These two unusual observations (the lateness in Jun and the re-laying by Jul) were consistent with egg removal, presumably by humans, on two visits, one in May and one in Jun.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 149 pairs found breeding at six sites (colony sizes: 40, 33, 35, 32, 22, and 1 pairs) fledged *ca* 262 young. Two distinct waves of synchronised breeding occurred at the colony on Glas Eilean (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*. The second wave led to young fledging in September, exceptionally late for this species in this area.

Evidence from elsewhere suggests that this second wave was not double-brooding (raising of two broods in one year by the same pair) but breeding by newly-arrived birds that had failed at the nearby colony at Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) *Cowal* earlier in the year. The two distinct waves of successful breeding were separated by 2.5 to 3 months. In June, the normal fledging season, 47 young fledged from 18 nests. Then, in September, 28 young fledged from 14 nests in the same small area. A well-synchronised pulse of many young fledging together so late in the year is unusual, at least in this part of Scotland where such an occurrence seems not to have been reported before. (See Craik J. C. A. and Bregnballe T 2008. Late breeding by Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*. *Seabird* 21:93-97 for a more detailed account of this event).

Jul-Dec 2006. Largest counts were 30 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 20 Aug, and 12 in L. Indaal on 14 Oct.

2007. Largest counts were: 31 in Kildalloig Bay (Campbeltown L.) *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 16 at Tayinloan Jetty and Bay *Kintyre* on 30 Sep, 21 in L. Indaal on 12 Oct, 14 at Blairmore L. Long on 9 Nov, and 17 in L. Indaal on 17 Dec.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh-an-sgumain 0080
A very common resident, breeding on: the mainland coast, outer isles, and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland at all times.

Jan-May 2006. Widely distributed on sea coasts, especially those more exposed to open sea, but no big concentrations evident, except in the immediate vicinity of the larger breeding colonies.

2007. As in 2006.

Breeding 2006. This was an apparently a poor season throughout Argyll. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 194-202 pairs were found breeding at ten sites (colony size 1 to 51 pairs). At four of these colonies, all in the Sound of *Jura*, productivity was very low or zero. Colonies in L. Fyne bred normally but a colony in the Lynn of Lorn held lower numbers than usual. Failures such as those are unusual in this area and may have been caused by local food shortage in the Sound of *Jura*. There were 146 pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), which represents less than half of the lowest previous count since 1974. There were 24 AONs in the Pigs Paradise monitoring area (Port Ban) *Colonsay* (cf 34 in 2005) with a mean clutch size of 2.3, and 5 AONs at Urugaig *Colonsay* (cf 7 in 2005). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were only 50 AONs (cf 99 in 2005).

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 255 pairs were found breeding at nine sites (colony size 5 to 51 pairs). At 7 sites where young were counted, 197 pairs fledged a minimum of 179 young (min. 0.91 young/pair). Elsewhere, there were 149 pairs at Lunga (Treshnish Isles); only a marginal recovery from the minimum count in 2006. There was a further decrease at the monitoring area at Pigs Paradise (Port Ban) *Colonsay* to only 23 AONs, with a mean clutch of 2.3, and 5 AONs at Urugaig *Colonsay*. There were 97 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, an increase from the 2006 low numbers there. TIARG reported 800 birds in June roosting around Sgeir an Fheoir (Treshnish Isles), suggesting that considerable numbers of shags were non-breeding due to poor food supplies, and this may explain the low breeding numbers in this and the previous year, rather than increased mortality of adults.

Aug-Dec 2006. As usual, the largest flock in Argyll was to be found in Gunna Sound, *Tiree*, where there were 500 birds on 16 Aug and 25 Sep, increasing to 1027 on 19 Oct. A flock of 104 including many juveniles was seen at Carsaig (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov.

2007. Numbers in Gunna Sound *Tiree* built up from about 350 on 3 Sep to 1200 on 27 Sep. There were also large numbers reported slightly earlier in the post breeding period at Machrihanish SBO (500 from 15 to 19 Jul), at Pennycross *Mull* (200 on 22 Aug), and in the Sound of Iona *Mull* (200 on 30 Aug).

ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD* *Fregata aquila*

Vagrant. An immature bird was found exhausted at Loch a' Phuill on Tiree on 9 July 1953 and died later. This is the only record of this species in the Western Palearctic.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

EURASIAN BITTERN (BITTERN) *Botaurus stellaris* Chorra-ghràin

0095

A vagrant to Argyll with only four records since 1980: one at Dervaig (Mull) Jan-Mar 1982, one near Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre) on 4th Dec 1982, one at Dervaig (Mull) on 23rd Dec 1983, and one found dead at Appin (North Argyll) on 19th Sep 1999.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

0104

A vagrant to Argyll with only three acceptable records: two in the nineteenth century, then reports of an adult on Coll (Apr 1987), and on Tiree (Apr-Jun 1987), which was probably the same individual.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

SNOWY EGRET* *Egretta thula*

0115

A vagrant with the only record being of one found at Balvicar (Mid-Argyll) on 5th Nov 2001 which was subsequently seen at various locations in Argyll until 13th Jun 2002: no previous British records.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Corra-gheal-bheag

0119

No Argyll records prior to 1958 but several since, mostly in spring and autumn. Could perhaps be seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland?

2006. An adult with full breeding plumes was found at An Fhaodhail Tiree on 28 May. It stayed until 31 May and was seen by several observers [K. Gillon/M. Darling *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2007. One was seen and photographed at L. Gruinart on 26 and 28 Apr [C. Hartley *et al*] and one was seen at mouth of Machrihanish Water Kintyre on 1 Oct [E. J. Maguire]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* Corra-bhàn-mhòr

0121

A vagrant to Argyll with only four previous records: one at Gruinart Flats Islay in Jun 1986, one Ballachuan Loch (Seil) Mid-Argyll in Apr 1988, one at Loch Gruinart Islay in May 1998, and one on Tiree in May & Jun 2000.

2006. No records.

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghrithreach

0122

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas.

Jan-Apr 2006. An all-island coastal survey on Tiree 5-10 Feb found 30 birds, including 15 together at Miodar. The largest counts elsewhere were: 34 at Ardnave Point Islay on 21 Feb, 13

- roosting at Shellfield Farm (L. Riddon) *Cowal* on 30 Jan and 13 along the shore at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb.
- 2007.** By far the largest numbers reported were found during WeBS counts at L. Etive, with a maximum of 33 on 18 Feb. Elsewhere, the WeBS count at L. Sween peaked at 15 on 18 Feb and 12 were roosting on the 'dolphins' at Glenramskill (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 4 Jan.
- Breeding 2006.** A total of 13 pairs was found breeding on *Colonsay* including 2 pairs on Oronsay. In *North Argyll*, 10-12 occupied nests were found at a heronry at Eriska, 17 nests at Ardachy (L. Etive) and 12 at Ardtur (Appin). A pair was nesting at a heronry at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* in Apr and several other birds were present there (too inaccessible for an accurate count).
- 2007.** A total of 16 pairs was found breeding on *Colonsay* including 2 pairs on Oronsay and a newly established heronry of 6 nests was also found on *Colonsay*. In *North Argyll*: 10 occupied nests were found at a heronry at Eriska, 36 nests at Ardachy (L. Etive), and 17 at Ardtur (Appin). At the heronry at Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* 13 nests were used in 2007. On 2 Jul: 3 were empty but recently used (young had flown), 2 held 3 eggs each, and 8 held 11 large young (7 were ringed but 4 were too large). Three more large young were dead: in or below nests. The heronry at Ballachuan Loch (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* had five adults with 10 juvs on 12 Jun and a small colony was noted at L. Allan *Islay*.
- Jul-Dec 2006.** The WeBS count at L. Sween and L. Etive found more than 20 birds on at least two counts, with maxima of 28 at L. Sween on 17 Sep and 25 at L. Etive on 17 Dec. Larger numbers elsewhere included: 22 at L. Riddon *Cowal* on 24 Aug, 20 at L. Don on 3 Sep, max 17 on Oronsay during Oct, 17 at L. Gilp on 4 Nov, 16 in L. Crinan on 14 Oct, 13 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep, and 9 at Otter Ferry on 10 Nov.
- 2007.** The WeBS count peaked at 25 in L. Etive on 11 Nov, 20 at L. Sween on 7 Oct, and 13 at Holy Loch on 16 Sep. Larger numbers elsewhere included: 21 at Ballachuan Loch (Seil) on 5 Oct, 21 at Balvicar Bay (Seil) on 21 Oct, *ca* 20 in Duart Bay *Mull* on 19 Aug, and 11 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 29 Sep.
- WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia* 0134
A vagrant with only three accepted records: at Benderloch North Argyll in Apr 1971, on Islay in Apr/May 1978, and at Campbeltown Kintyre in May 1978.
2006. No records.
2007. No records.
- GLOSSY IBIS*** *Plegadis falcinellus* 0136
A vagrant with six Argyll records, 1901-1958.
2006. No records.
2007. No records.
- EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* 0144
A vagrant with seven Argyll records: the most recent of these involving four juveniles on Islay in 1998.
2006. No records.
2007. No records.
- HONEY-BUZZARD (HONEY BUZZARD)** *Pernis apivorus* 0231
A rare passage migrant with seven accepted records since 1980: the last at Ledaig Point North Argyll in 1999.
2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).
2007. No records.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

0238

Vagrant. *The only Argyll record concerns one at Vaul Tiree on 16th May 1997.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach

0239

In an attempt to re-introduce this species to Scotland, Red Kites have been released in Highland, central, and south west Scotland since 1996. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these released birds. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.

2006. Single birds were reported from: Ardbeg Islay (3 Apr), The Reef Tiree (untagged bird mobbed by Lapwings on 10 Jun), L. na Keal (10 Jun), L. Ba Mull (tagged bird from Highland Region on 14 Aug), Auchindrain Hill Road (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll* (31 Aug), Claggain Bay Islay (23 Sep), L. Frisa Mull (2 Oct), Ardmore Islay (6 Oct), Ardlistry Islay (7 & 8 Oct – presumably same as at Ardmore on 6 Oct), and Keppoch (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* (15 Oct).

2007. In contrast to 2006 only two were reported, both in *Kintyre*. One was seen near Claonaig on 19 Jul and one with purple wing tags (too far away to read the numbers/letters) flew past the Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse on 6 Oct.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolaire-mhara

0243

A very rare resident breeder in Argyll with five to ten pairs in 2004: wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur more widely. All are derived from re-establishment projects in north-west Scotland since 1975. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.

Breeding 2006. In Scotland, 36 territorial pairs were located and breeding was confirmed at 31 sites. Twenty-one successful pairs fledged 29 chicks (Sea Eagle Project Team). Of these, 10 territorial pairs were in Argyll, and 8 successfully fledged 11 young.

2006. Reports of wandering/dispersing birds continued to increase with about 100 records received in 2006. Most were sightings of single birds but 2-3 were seen together at times and on one occasion 7 immatures were seen together. A minimum of 18 non breeding individuals were identified on *Mull* and reports from other parts of Argyll included: 2 different birds on *Coll*, at least 4 on *Islay*, 5 on *Jura*, and one on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Probably, at least 8 different birds were reported from the Argyll mainland where the majority of records continue to come from the west mainland coast and lochs. These included one seen to kill an Eider at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Apr and another swooping at Eiders on the sea at L. Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Jun (ARSG per RAB).

Breeding 2007. In Scotland, 42 territorial pairs were located and breeding was confirmed at 35 sites. Twenty-four successful pairs fledged 34 chicks (Sea Eagle Project Team). Of these 12 territorial pairs were in Argyll and 10 pairs laid eggs of which 7 successful pairs fledged 10 young (including the first pair on *Jura*). As the west coast population continues to increase, reports of wandering/dispersing birds follow the same pattern – more than 100 reports were received in 2007. Most were sightings of single birds but 2-4 were seen together at times and on one occasion 9 immatures were seen together with an adult nearby (Dec on *Mull*). During the year a minimum of 25 non-breeding individuals were identified on *Mull*. Reports from the other islands included: 3 immatures in air with an adult Golden Eagle on the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb, a 3 year individual on *Coll* on 25 March, and 4 immatures seen briefly on *Tiree* on 2 May. An unprecedented influx to *Jura* and *Islay* in Nov-Dec involved at least 5-6 individuals and resulted in around 30 sightings. Reported sightings from the mainland were rather scarce but

included: an adult over L Creran *North Argyll* on 9 Jan, one at Kames Bay (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, a 2004 juv. over Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, an adult flying down Seil Sound on 25 Feb, one about 0.3 mile south of L. Gair (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, a probable adult at Achnamara (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun, another probable adult Inverinan (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* also on 7 Jun, and 2 adults flying east along southern tip of Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec (ARSG per RAB and records from database).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan-lòin 0260
A scarce, but recently, more or less annual passage migrant: records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.

2006. An unprecedented sequence of records, of what is normally a very scarce migrant in Argyll, occurred in early May. A female was seen at Dunamuck Farm (Moine Mhor) heading towards Cairnbaan on 6 May, an imm. female was reported flying over Salen Pier *Mull* on the morning of 7 May, another sub-adult female flew south over Totronald *Coll* on the evening of 8 May, a female was found at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on the evening of 9 May, and a sub-adult female was also reported at L. Gruinart *Islay* on 9 May. It is quite possible, and even likely, that two or more of these sightings involve the same individual. Later in the year a female was seen at various locations on *Tiree* on three dates from 11 Aug to 10 Oct.

2007. After all the excitement of 2006 the only record was of a male at Balinoe *Tiree* on 22 May, 14 Jun, and 16 Jun.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Brèid-air-tòin 0261
A sparse but widespread breeding species: Argyll holds around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly, away from breeding areas, on migration and in winter. Reported from all recording areas.

Breeding 2006. On *Mull*, signs of occupation were recorded at 23 breeding ranges. A further 16 known or suspected breeding areas appeared to be unoccupied. No breeding attempt was recorded in 11 areas where harriers were present early in the season. Five pairs were known to have failed entirely, with small young, and another pair failed after laying two eggs. Six successful pairs fledged at least 14 young. Of the 11 nests located, eight were on open moorland, although five of these were within areas fenced for new native woodland. Three nests were within conifer planting schemes. Another pair successfully fledged three young in a largely forested area but the nest was not located. At the 11 nests found at the incubation stage clutch sizes were highly variable with 1 of 6 eggs, 3 of 5, 6 of 4, and one of 2. Overall Hen Harriers on *Mull* in 2006 tended to occupy known sites but many did not attempt to breed or failed soon after hatching. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a combination of a wet spring and fewer voles influenced breeding behaviour in hen harriers during 2006. (Paul Haworth per Roger Broad - ARSG). Successful breeding was proved for the first time on *Colonsay*.

Table 23.1 Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2006.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid			
			Sites successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Coll		2	1	0	3	3.00
Colonsay	1	1	1	0	3	3.00
Cowal ¹		13	3	4	9	3.00
Islay		7	3	3	9	3.00

Jura		1	0 ⁴	0	0	-
Mainland (not Cowal)	14	7	4	0	8+	2.00+
Mull	39	23	6	6	14+	2.33+
Total		53	18	13	46+	2.90²

¹ The birds/sites monitored on *Cowal* include details of two nesting attempts that probably relate to the same pair whose first attempt failed.

² Relates to 11 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood were accurately known.

Breeding 2007. There are 43 known Hen Harrier sites on *Mull* of which 4 were not visited and at 18 there were no observations. There were 16 proven and 5 possible records. Seven nests with complete clutches comprised: 1 of 3 eggs, 3 of 4, and 3 of 5. All males were adults. At least 14 nests were known to have been successful and almost certainly another two (food passes were observed in July). Fourteen pairs produced 32+ chicks. Occupied sites were split evenly between forestry and moorland. The most interesting record was of two pairs, each with an adult male, laying 5 eggs, hatching 5 eggs and fledging at least 4 young each, only 450m apart. On *Islay* Buzzards predated 2, possibly 3 nests. The tabulated information for *Cowal* includes: one site where only a single adult was recorded, two sites where apparently no nests were built but pairs displayed, and one site where food passes were seen and copulation was observed. (ARSG per RAB).

Table 23.2 *Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2007.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of large young	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	1	1	0	3	3.00
Colonsay	3	3	3	1	0 ¹	5	5.00
Cowal	12	10	5	2	3	7	3.50
Islay	6	6	6	3	3	8	2.66
Mull	39	21	16	14	0 ²	32	2.28
Mainl'nd (not Cowal) ⁴	7	4	2	1	0 ³	2	2.00
Total	68	45	33	22	6	57	3.00⁵

¹ Outcome unknown at 2 sites. ² Outcome unknown at 2 sites. ³ Outcome unknown at 1 site.

⁴ Includes sites in *North Argyll* (1), *Mid Argyll* (2), and *Kintyre* (4). ⁵ For 17 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood are accurately known.

Roosts 2006/7. No systematic data was available for roost sites.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (GOSHAWK) *Accipiter gentilis* Glas-sheabhag 0267
A sporadic visitor of uncertain status: last confirmed reports were in Cowal and on Mull in 1993.

2006. A mature male was seen well in north Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar by the late Peter Kirk, an experienced falconer, not far from where a similar bird was reported in January. A detailed description was provided and accepted by ABRC May 2007.

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK (SPARROWHAWK) *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269

A widespread, resident, breeding species.

During both **2006** and **2007** birds were reported from every recording area of Argyll except *Jura* (although they were presumably present). A pair was noted roosting in a mature garden at The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* for several days in May 2006. In Mar 2006 a male swooped at a Red Squirrel on a bird feeder at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (it escaped unharmed) and in Apr 2007 a female was seen to pluck a Teal from the water at L Gilp. Other prey species recorded in Argyll during this period included: Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove (3), Blackbird, Common Starling (2) and Common Chaffinch.

Breeding 2006.

Table 24.1 Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Coll, Colonsay (2), Mid-Argyll, and Kintyre in 2006 (ARSG per RAB).

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Argyll	5	5	2	0	2	6	3.00

2007.

Table 24.2 Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Coll, Cowal, Kintyre and, Mid-Argyll in 2007 (ARSG per RAB).

Argyll	Sites checked	Sites Occup'd	Sites where eggs laid	Sites Successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Fully monitored	4	4	4	4	0	10+	2.50+
Breeding Outcome unknown	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Breeding Status unknown	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14	14	-	-	-	-	-

COMMON BUZZARD (BUZZARD) *Buteo buteo* Clamhan 0287

A resident breeding bird: common in all areas and the most abundant raptor in Argyll.

During **2006** and **2007** numerous records were received from all Argyll areas. The following casual counts give some idea of numbers present: 20 counted between on Oban and Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov 2006, 18 reported in one field near Caliburn Quarry (nr Lussa Loch) *Kintyre* on 1 Oct 2006, at least 15 seen during all-island goose count on *Tiree* 25-26 Jan 2006, and 8 in a loose flock soaring in a thermal nr Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep 2006. One was seen at Tireragan *Mull* on 25 May 2006 carrying a live snake.

Breeding 2006.

Table 25.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2006* (ARSG – co-ordinator I. Hopkins).

Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied ¹	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of young fledged ²	Young per successful territory ²
Coll	15	15	5	0	10	14	2.80
Colonsay	54	24	10	2	12	21	2.10
Cowal	5	5	5	0	0	13	2.60
Islay	10	10	5	0	5	10	2.00
Kintyre	2	2	2	0	0	4	2.00
Total	97	67	28	2	37	64	2.28

¹ Includes sites occupied by singles and pairs. ² Large young on last visit are assumed to have fledged.

Tiree: No complete survey was undertaken but at least 11 nesting/presumed nesting pairs were noted. More remote territories may have been missed (J. Bowler). A pair and one or two juvs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* suggest successful breeding (TIARG).

2007.

Table 25.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2007* (ARSG – co-ordinator I. Hopkins).

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged ¹	Young per successful site ¹
Colonsay	58	23	5	14	4	9	1.80
Cowal	22	22	7	15	0	13	1.85
Islay	9	9	1	4	4	1	1.00
Kintyre	1	1	1	0	0	2	2.00
Total	90	55	14	33	8	25	1.79

¹ Large young on last visit are assumed to have fledged.

Tiree: No complete survey, some more remote territories may have been missed, but at least 11 nesting/presumed nesting pairs noted (John Bowler).

One juv. and one or possibly two adults on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* suggests successful breeding there (TIARG).

NB In contrast to the rather poor success rate shown in the above table, 31 of 41 occupied sites on Bute were successful in 2007 and produced a minimum of 59 young (ARSG – I. Hopkins).

A chick ringed and colour ringed close to Aberfoyle, Central Region on 7 June 2005 was found weak but apparently uninjured on 16 Jan 2006 at Slockavullin, Lochgilphead and died the following day.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* Bleidir-molach

0290

A rare visitor occurring mostly in autumn: seldom recorded in recent years and most recently on Tiree in 1997.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

A scarce, but widespread, resident breeding species. Immatures tend to wander and may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.

During **2006** and **2007** birds were reported away from the breeding areas, in winter, from all the Argyll recording areas except *Tiree*. In both years 5 were seen soaring together in Glen More Mull.

Breeding 2006.

Table 26.1 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2006* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
2006	73	66	43	17	26.15%	17	1.00

On the islands there was confirmation that the population has expanded into one new area. There was evidence that one territory on Islay, which has apparently been unoccupied for years, has been reoccupied.

Immature birds in the population in **2006**: 57 pairs were adult pairs, two pairs were adult x immature, one pair was immature x immature, and one territory held a single immature.

2007.

Table 26.2 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2005, with figures from the 2003 and 1992 National Surveys for comparison* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
2007	69	63¹	41²	25 (26)	39% (37.50%)	26 (26)	1.00
2003	100	80	52	29 (30)	36.25% (37.50%)	30 (31)	1.03 (1.03)
1992	96	84	59	27	32.14%	28	1.03

() = figure includes a chick half grown at the last visit.

¹ In 2007, bird(s) were seen at 61 sites and fresh signs indicated bird(s) were present at a further 2 sites. ² Eggs were proved to have been laid at 43 territories and may have been laid at another 3 sites.

Age of territorial birds in 2007: 55 pairs were adult pairs, one pair was adult x immature, one pair comprised 2 immatures, three territories were each apparently held by a single adult, and one by a single immature. Six former territories, including some that have been annexed by the expansion of adjacent territories, were apparently vacant.

One chick was collected under licence for the Irish re-introduction scheme from a site with a brood of two on *Cowal*. No other broods of two were reported in 2007. A record of an adult with wing tags seen on *Mull* in October, not far from where a tagged bird was reported a few years previously, raises the possibility that one of the birds released in Ireland has returned to Scotland.

An adult female was picked up, seriously injured, in the spring after colliding with overhead wires on *Mull*. While in care it was found to have developed cataracts and was deemed unsuitable for return to the wild.

A small “lipstick” camera was installed at one *Cowal* nest and the excellent CCTV pictures were shown to the public at the Forestry Commission Scotland Ardgartan Visitor Centre. The pictures showed that the adults were unable to provide sufficient food for the chick which died at 13 days old (ARSG per RAB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Iolaire-iasgaich

0301

A summer migrant, breeding in small but increasing numbers: occurs more widely on passage.

Apr-Jun. 2006. The first returning bird was at Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Mar. It was followed by 2 at L. Awe (one already collecting nesting material) on 27 Mar, and one at Grasspoint *Mull* on 28 Mar. Summer records in *Cowal* included one at the head of L. Eck on 18 Jun and one flying E over the Rest and Be Thankful on 19 Jul.

2007. A recently returned pair was displaying at L. Awe on 31 Mar and a pair in the L. Sween area was rebuilding their nest on 9 Apr. One was flying N at Hogh Bay *Coll* on 24 Apr and two different individuals were seen at Seil Island and at L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr.

Breeding 2006.

Table 27.1 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2002-2006* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
2006	12	9	17¹	1.88
2005	10	5	9	1.80
2004	9	7	13	1.85
2003	7	6	9	1.50
2002	5	3	6	2.00

¹ Brood size: b/1 x 4, b/2 x 2, b/3 x 3.

The population continues to expand with breeding confirmed in all parts of the mainland except *Cowal*. Eleven pairs laid eggs in 2006 and a new pair was present at a new nest through the spring-summer but did not lay. Two pairs failed, including one new nest site that was blown out soon after the first egg was laid.

A chick ringed near L. Awe in 2006 was found sick near Toulouse, France on 12 Oct.

2007.

Table 27.2 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2007* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
2007	12	11	22¹	2.00

¹ Brood size: b/1 x 4, b/2 x 3, b/3 x 4.

The population (12 pairs) remained the same as in 2006 but the breeding success was a little higher with only one pair failing to rear young. In a similar way to 2006, when it was a new breeding site, the pair failed when the nest and eggs were blown out by strong winds. After the slow arrival of quite a lot of the adults in spring many of the Argyll pairs appeared to catch up and had laid by the beginning of May.

A male (blue ring - white XV) identified from footage taken by a nest camera and beamed to the Huntly Peregrine Watch site, Aberdeenshire, between 16-20 Apr 2007, had been ringed near Ford, *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jul 1994. By coincidence it was mating with another long-lived bird that

had been ringed on the Black Isle, Highland in July 1994. Blue ring - white XV didn't stay to breed at this site and was replaced by an un-ringed bird.

Jul-Oct 2006. Passage migrants were reported at: RSPB L. Gruinart, Ardforn *Mid-Argyll*, L. Melfort *Mid-Argyll* and L. Don *Mull* in Sep and the last, a juvenile, was at Taynuilt on 6 Oct.

2007. Passage migrants were reported at: Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 21 and 28 Aug, and at RSPB L. Gruinart on 28 Aug.

COMMON KESTREL (KESTREL) *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan-ruadh 0304
A widespread but uncommon breeding bird: population in some areas appears to fluctuate from year to year. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.

During **2006** and **2007** there were records from all recording areas. Three were seen on *Tiree* (where the species does not breed) on 10 Feb 2006. Three were found on the island of Luing *Mid-Argyll* and 3 more on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan 2007. A noticeable increase in sightings during Sep 2007 included: three on *Tiree* on 19 Sep, one at Tayinloan and one at Innellan *Cowal* on 22 Sep, one at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* (unusual here) and 3 flying S at Otter Ferry on 24 Sep, one at Islandadd Bridge (Add Estuary) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep and one at Achnafad Quarry *Kintyre* on 29 Sep. In general records were much more widespread in winter than during the breeding season, e.g. in *Cowal* where numbers of breeding pairs seem to be in decline (see Table 28.2).

Breeding 2006.

Table 28.1 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2006* (ARSG per RAB).

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
Coll		1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Colonsay ¹		4	1	0	1	4	4.00
Islay		6	0	0	5	-	-
Total		11	2	0	6	7	3.50

¹ At least 3 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and a single bird was present at another site. One was present on *Tiree* in May but breeding was not suspected (J. Bowler).

2007.

Table 28.2 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2007* (ARSG per RAB).

Area	Sites Occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of large young	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	1	0	0	4	4.00
Colonsay ¹	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cowal ²	3	3	1	0	2	6	6.00
Islay	3	3	2	0	1	5	2.50
Total	9	7	4	-	5	15	3.75

¹ Pairs were recorded at two sites on *Colonsay* and another site was unoccupied.

² Twenty-five previously known sites in *Cowal* were checked in 2007: only 3 were occupied.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

0307

Vagrant. *The only Argyll record concerns one at Macharioch (Kintyre) on 19th August 1990.*

(NB. A description was belatedly supplied for a female Red-footed Falcon seen at Tod Hill Kintyre on 12 Jul 2005 [P. Ullrich]. This was subsequently accepted by BBRC and brings the Argyll species total for 2005 to 220.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

0309

Breeds locally on open moorland and bogs: more widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.

Jan-Apr 2006. There were frequent records of up to 2 birds on: *Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree* with mainland records also from *Cowal, Kintyre, and Mid-Argyll*.

2007. Frequently recorded on *Islay* and *Tiree* and less often on *Colonsay* and *Mull*. The only mainland records were at West Parkfergus (Machrihanish) and Tayinloan *Kintyre*.

Breeding 2006.

Table 29.1 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2006* (ARSG per RAB).

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
		Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
9	5	4	0	1	10	2.50

The details of monitored sites (*Coll* 3, *Islay* 1, *Mid-Argyll* 2, and *Kintyre* 3) are shown in the table above. An additional pair presumed to be breeding was reported mobbing a Golden Eagle on *Jura* in early June. No Merlins were found in *Cowal* during the breeding season in 2006.

2007.

Table 29.2 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2007* (ARSG per RAB).

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
5	4	2	1	1	4	4.00

Very little information available. One known area was vacant. Pairs were present at 3 sites on *Coll*, one successfully fledged four chicks and breeding is presumed to have occurred at the other two sites but neither was followed up. An agitated pair was located in a new area of *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun but a later visit failed to relocate them.

Aug-Dec 2006. Frequently recorded on *Tiree*: less often on *Oronsay Colonsay, Islay, and Mull*. Also seen regularly at Machrihanish with the only other mainland records at: Lagganmore (Glen Euchar) *Mid-Argyll*, L. Arial (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll*, nr Otter Ferry, and L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll*.

2007. Frequently recorded on *Islay*, and especially on *Tiree*, where up to 6 birds were present during Oct. Single birds were recorded on *Coll, Oronsay Colonsay, and Mull*. On the mainland birds were seen regularly at Tayinloan and, on single dates, at Kilfinan *Cowal*, Moine Mhor and High Ranachan (nr Campbeltown) *Kintyre*.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

0310

A rare visitor in spring and autumn.

2006. An adult flew south over Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 Jun being mobbed by Lapwings during easterly winds with clear skies [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2007. A probable juvenile was seen at Tayinloan on 11 Sep [B. Allan/J. Dickson] and a juvenile was seen at Machrihanish on the afternoon of 8 Nov [E. J. Maguire]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

GYR FALCON* *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag-mhòr-na-seilg 0318
Vagrant. Several records prior to 1950 but only five recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2002.

2006. A large pale-morph bird was seen well at The Green *Tiree* on 8 Jun. The bird bore the remnant of brown jesses on both legs and was clearly an escaped falconer's bird: possibly a Gyr/hybrid falcon as it was all pale creamy-buff and lacking any obvious markings on the face or head. The same bird was seen again at several locations around west *Tiree* until 13 Jun [J. Bowler].

2007. No records.

PEREGRINE FALCON (PEREGRINE) *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag 0320
A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. Found throughout the year in most areas.

During **2006** and **2007** birds were reported outside the breeding season from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*, but including records from Lunga (Treshnish Isles) and Oronsay.

Captured prey included: Mallard, Eurasian Teal, Rook, and Common Starling. Peregrines were also seen pursuing: Greenshank, Common Gulls, juv. Terns and Western Jackdaw and, in turn, being mobbed by Hen Harriers and Common Ravens.

Breeding 2006.

Table 30.1 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2006 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome Unknown	Min. no. large young	Young per successful site
Misc. Islands ¹	7	6	4	2	0	9+	2.25+
Cowal	12	9	6	1	0	13	2.16
Islay	4	4	1	0	2	2	2.00
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	6	4	3	0	1	5+	1.66+
Total	29	23	14	3	3	29	2.15 ²

¹ Misc. Islands includes information from *Coll*, *Colonsay* and Oronsay, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

² For 13 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood accurately known.

2007.

Table 30.2 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2007 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occup'd	Sites with eggs laid	Succ'sful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unkn'n	Min. no. fl'd.	Young per succ'sful site
Misc. Islands ¹	8	7	6	4	0	2	9	2.25
Cowal	16	11	6	3	3	0	9	3.00
Islay	5	5	4	4	0	0	9	2.25
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	4	3	2	1	0	1	1+	1.00+
Total	33	26	18	12	3	2	28+	2.25 ²

¹ Misc. Islands include *Coll*, *Colonsay* & *Oronsay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

² For 11 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood were accurately known.

On *Coll* a brood successfully fledged 2 chicks but one later collided with overhead cables and died. On *Mull* breeding Peregrines have been scarce in recent years and the pair that successfully reared a brood of 4 chicks in 2007 was unexpected.

An additional pair was confirmed at a coastal site on *Islay* and a single bird was confirmed at a new site in *Mid-Argyll* where breeding is rumoured to have occurred in the recent past.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan-allt

0407

A secretive and under recorded resident which occurs at low density on the mainland but in larger numbers on the outer islands. Immigration is thought to occur in winter.

Jan-Apr 2006. Single birds were reported from Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*, RSPB L. Gruinart, and *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*).

2007. One was seen at the Gravel Pits in Benderloch *North Argyll* on 31 Mar and one was calling at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* on 20 Apr. Calling birds were reported regularly on *Islay* and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. During Apr- Jun an almost complete survey of the likely wetlands of *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*) was carried out using a tape lure. Responses indicated that at least 19 territories were occupied that year (D. C. Jardine). This is far more than had previously been detected and, together with a similar survey at RSPB L. Gruinart in 2003, confirms suspicions that Water Rails are much more numerous (at least on some of the islands) as breeding birds in Argyll than past records would imply. Birds called at night from at least 8 sites on *Tiree*. Most unusually for this species there were two records of confirmed breeding: one was seen with at least 2 small young on *Jura* on 5 Jul and a pair with 2 young chicks was at Cornaig Mill *Tiree* from 16 Jul. Birds were also present during the breeding season at RSPB L. Gruinart, but no count was made.

2007. Without the use of a tape lure just 5 territories were located on *Colonsay*. During Jun, at least 7 callings bird were at RSPB L. Gruinart and birds were calling at night from at least 4 sites on *Tiree*.

Aug-Dec 2006. One or two calling birds were reported from sites on: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*, and 3 were calling at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Nov. One was found dead in the grounds of the High School in Oban after a stormy night on 29/30 Nov.

2007. Calling birds were reported regularly on *Tiree*, with at least 4 at Balephuill on 6 Oct, and there were single records from *Colonsay* and *Mull*.

A rare and irregular summer visitor; also recorded as an autumn migrant in the past.

2006. One was calling continuously at night at a site on *Tiree* from late May to early Jul. A male was heard calling in the breeding season at RSPB L. Gruinart and another was calling at Uig *Coll* on 26 Apr.

2007. Up to 4 birds were calling regularly at RSPB L. Gruinart from 11 May to 27 Jun and breeding is thought to have occurred. None was recorded elsewhere in Argyll.

CORN CRAKE (CORNCRAKE) *Crex crex* Traon

0421

A localised summer visitor, now breeding mainly on: Coll, Colonsay, Iona (Mull), Islay and, Tiree. Following recent conservation activities a long term decline in numbers is being reversed.

2006. An excellent description was provided to John Bowler of one crossing the road at Crossapol *Tiree* on 1 Mar. This was presumably a bird which had over-wintered: most such records in the past involved birds with damaged wings. Otherwise, the first reports of the year were single calling birds at: RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 19 Apr, Balephuil *Tiree* on 22 Apr, and RSPB L. Gruinart on 24 Apr. Most had left by the end of Aug but the odd single birds were seen on *Tiree* in Sep with the very last being at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 2 Oct.

2007. A reliable report by several observers of one calling at night at Crossapol *Tiree* on 3 Mar would, presumably, have again involved an over-wintering bird. Otherwise, the first reports of the year were of single calling birds at: RSPB Reserve *Coll* on 9 Apr, RSPB L. Gruinart on 19 Apr, and Kiloran *Colonsay* on 20 Apr. One flew into a garden at Ruaig *Tiree* on 12 Apr. Birds were still present on Oronsay *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in Sep with the last being seen at Barrapol *Tiree* on 3 Oct.

Breeding 2006 and 2007. The table below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in both years and shows earlier years for comparison. Numbers of calling birds during the 2007 breeding season represent a record total for recent years, although numbers on Iona and Mull were slightly down on 2006.

Table 31. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2000-2007.*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<i>Coll</i>	53	62	74	90	134	159	171	180
<i>Tiree</i>	153	143	172	184	260	310	316	391
Iona	9	7	12	24	24	29	39	30
<i>Mull</i>	1	0	1	0	5	5	7	4
<i>Colonsay incl. Oronsay</i>	21	18	25	32	46	53	62	73
<i>Islay</i>	8	7	8	10	31	52	59	70
Smaller islands*	7	1+	1+	4+	9+	6	10	7
Grand Total	252	238	293	344	509	614	664	755

* includes records from Treshnish Isles, Staffa, McCormaig Islands etc.

In addition, in 2006, at least 5 calling birds were reported from the Treshnish Isles, 2 on Staffa, 2 on the McCormaig Islands *Mid-Argyll*, and one on the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll*. One was heard on at least four nights running in late May calling from suitable habitat at a site near L. Sween *Mid-Argyll*.

In 2007: 3 were heard on the Treshnish Isles, 3 on the McCormaig Islands *Mid-Argyll*, one on the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* and one calling briefly at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* in Jun.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

0424

A localised, sparsely distributed, resident breeding species: most numerous on Islay and in Mid-Argyll.

Breeding 2006. Seven breeding pairs were located at RSPB L. Gruinart and breeding was also confirmed on Oronsay and at East Loch Fada Colonsay. In *Mid-Argyll*, adults with small young were found: at a pool by Ardoran Road (2 pairs) and at Gallanachbeg (both Oban), and at Moine Mhor. A pair with at least 3 small young was found at Benderloch *North Argyll* in May and a pair raised 3 chicks on a marsh at Balephuill *Tiree*.

2007. Five breeding pairs were located at RSPB L. Gruinart and on *Tiree* a pair was noted with 5 chicks at Kilkenneth with another nesting pair at Balephuill. Elsewhere: a pair with 2 juvs was at Lerags Farm (nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 June, 2 pairs were noted at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* on 20 Apr, and a pair with a (second) brood of 5 small young were at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 9 Jun.

2006 and 2007. Outwith the breeding season birds were reported at several sites in *Cowal* and at other sites in *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. A juv. at Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* on 19 Sep was unusual.

COMMON COOT (COOT) *Fulica atra* Lach-a'-bhlàir

0429

A very scarce and irregular breeder and uncommon winter visitor: mainly found on Tiree.

2006. The only records were from L. Bhasapol *Tiree* where up to 4 were present from the beginning of Jan to 27 Mar. One was there on 18 Sep with up to 3 until the end of the year.

2007. Three were on L. Bhasapol on 10 Jan, falling to 2 on 22 Jan with a single bird remaining to 20 Mar. Two were there on 27 Sep and 5 Oct and then a single bird until the end of the year. Elsewhere, a first winter bird was on L. Luachrach (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov and one was on L. Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

0433

Vagrant. Eight accepted records 1966-2006.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brighde

0450

A widespread and common breeding species in all recording areas. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season: numbers often rise noticeably during spring and autumn passage.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* on 5-10 Feb found 889 birds (highest of 2 counts made) and 250 were at The Reef *Tiree* on 26 Feb. Other than these and the counts in Table 32.1, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: L. Gilp (at least 250 on 28 Jan), L. Riddon *Cowal* (220 on 30 Jan) and Innellan Pier *Cowal* 108 on 17 Jun. One found dead at Scarinish *Tiree* on 27 May had been ringed as a third year bird at Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris, Anglesey on 26 Oct 2003.

2007. Other than those in Table 32.2, sites with counts of 100 or more included: Otter Ferry (720 with a further 56 between Otter Ferry and Largiemore on 16 Jan - the highest ever count here), 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) (343 on 4 Jan) and *Tiree* (170 during a WeBS count on 20 Mar).

Breeding 2006. A census at The Reef *Tiree* found 128 nesting pairs, 13 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 44 pairs at Ardnave. Breeding pairs were located on all the main Treshnish Isles

but widespread failure was reported with no broods of young seen (TIARG). Similarly, virtually all nests in the Otter Ferry area lost all their eggs (cause unknown) but there was some evidence of second attempts. Three territories were found in the Common Bird Census plots at Taynish NNR and although breeding was confirmed on Oronsay and *Colonsay* no counts were made. Pairs with young were reported at several sites in the L. Striven area of *Cowal*.

2007. On *Islay*, 16 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 29 pairs at Ardnave. At least 13 breeding pairs were located on the Treshnish Isles. Breeding pairs were also reported at many sites in *Cowal*, and on *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2006. Other than those in Table 32.1, sites with 100 or more birds included: Otter Ferry area (538 on 31 Oct increasing to 601 on 8 Dec), L. Gilp (max. 455 on 16 Oct), Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* (250+ on 29 Aug), *Tiree* (90 at Heylipol and 90 at Rubha Chraiginis on 8 Jul), Ardlamont Point/Portavadie *Cowal* (180 on 15 Sep) and Ledaig Point *North Argyll* (133 on 27 Jul).

2007. Other than those in Table 32.2, sites with 100 or more birds included: ‘Stinky Hole’ (Campbeltown Loch) (max. ca630 on 28 Sep), Otter Ferry area (max.443 on 25 Aug), Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* (max. 320 on 8 Aug), Oronsay *Colonsay* (max. 113 on 15 Jul) and Ledaig Point *North Argyll* (110 on 31 Aug).

Table 32.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at L. Gruinart & L. Indaal, 2006.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	160	164	309	385	223	239	315	378	436	228	327	264
Indaal	399	427	503	525	490	471	337	400	391	352	440	460

Table 32.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at L. Gruinart, L. Indaal, & Holy Loch 2007.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	272	330	212	160	291	136	377	302	248	255	210	262
Indaal	400	415	604	510	410	442	389	378	355	333	402	450
Holy L.	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	603	405	379	656

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

0456

Vagrant. Four accepted Argyll records: Loch Seil in September 1936, Mull 1977, Kintyre 1986 and Kintyre 2002.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedienemus*

0459

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Gruinart Flats (Islay) on 23rd-24th May 1997.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

0469

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in May 1983.

2006. No records.

2007. An adult stopped briefly at Machrihanish SBO on 21 Jul before flying off to the S [E. J. Maguire]. This record, only the second record for Argyll, was accepted by ABRC.

A widespread and fairly common breeding species: present throughout the year. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage. Tiree is a site of international importance for wintering birds.

Jan-May 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 648 birds (highest of 2 counts made). Other than those in Table 33.1, the only counts of 50 or more birds were: max. 100 on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Feb, and max 62 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 14 Apr. A mixed flock of Dunlins and Ringed Plovers at Tayinloan on 27 Mar numbered approx 200 birds.

2007. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 28 May when 540 were counted at L. a' Phuill. Other than those in Table 33.2, the only counts of 50 or more birds were: 92 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, 57 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 7 Feb, and 50 at Port Lobh *Colonsay* on 24 May.

Breeding 2006. A survey at The Reef *Tiree* in Jun found 53 pairs nesting and many broods of young were seen around the island. A total of 23 breeding pairs were found on *Colonsay*, and on *Islay*, 18 pairs bred at Ardnave, and breeding was confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart but no count was made. Four pairs were found breeding on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. Breeding pairs were also reported from *Cowal* and *Mull*.

2007. First broods were noted on *Tiree* on 15 May and a survey at The Reef in Jun found 44 pairs nesting. A total of 26 breeding pairs were found on *Colonsay*, and on *Islay*, 12 pairs bred at Ardnave and breeding was confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart but no count was made. Three pairs were found on the Treshnish Isles and evidence of breeding pairs also came from: Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll*, and Ledaig *North Argyll*. A pair at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* which had failed earlier in the season had a re-placement clutch of 4 eggs on 11 Jul.

Jul-Dec 2006. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 12 Sep, when 456 were counted in Gott Bay. Other than those in Table 33.1, counts of 50 or more birds included: 250 in the bay at Machrihanish on 20 Sep, a monthly maximum of 121 on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Oct, max 112 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 4 Sep (one of several counts of over 100 there during Aug/Sep), 107 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 7 Sep, max 102 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 68 at L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct, and 51 at Otter Ferry on 18 Aug.

2007. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 1 Oct, when 340 were counted in Gott Bay and 45 at Vaul Bay. Other than those in Table 33.1, counts of 50 or more birds included: max 130 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 3 Sep, 120 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 29 Sep, ca 90 at Tayinloan on 14 Oct, 66 (incl. 25 juvs) at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 1 Aug, ca 50 at Otter Ferry on 4 Aug, 50+ at Skipness Bay *Kintyre* on 7 Sep, and 50+ at L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep.

Table 33.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plovers at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	20	4	3	17	67	5	6	8	29	97	32	53
Indaal	45	48	49	99	111	40	43	98	98	68	48	67
<i>Tiree</i> *	220	120	60	435	460	102	45	208	456	276	160	145

Table 33.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plovers at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	40	31	16	27	27	2	16	100	32	61	109	40
Indaal	51	68	37	113	106	32	35	110	89	72	36	70
<i>Tiree</i> *	452	150	70	220	540	70	55	250	210	385	105	165

* Highest total count on *Tiree* on any one day during the month.

KILLDEER* *Charadrius vociferus*

0474

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Colonsay in January 1984.

2006. One seen at the airstrip on Oronsay on the morning of 18 Oct was only the second ever recorded in Argyll [M. Sur/A. Schofield]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:710).

2007. No records.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

0482

A scarce migrant: mostly seen in late Apr and May. There are occasional breeding records in North Argyll.

2006. On *Tiree*, a female in full summer plumage was with a male in partial summer plumage along with Golden Plovers at The Reef on 28 Apr and were still there on 3 May. On 1 May 2 males and 1 female were at Totronald *Coll*. On *Islay*, a female was on a ploughed field with Golden Plovers at Kilchoman and another, possibly the same bird, was at Loch a' Gheoidh (L. Gorm) both on 8 May. The last of spring was a pair on Beinn Achaladair *North Argyll* on 14 May. There were two autumn records: a confiding juvenile at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 28 Aug, and a single bird at around 304m on Remuil Hill *Kintyre* on 24 Sep.

2007. Three birds were at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 23 and 24 Apr (a male, a female and a juv by some observers and a male with 2 females by others). At the same location there was a single bird on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, the only other record was of 2 on a hilltop 500m to the north of Paps of Jura.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

0484

A vagrant with five previous Argyll records (2001 – 2005).

2006. An adult in breeding plumage was seen at Greenhill *Tiree* from 29 Aug to 2 Sep and at Crossapol on 3 Sep [J. Bowler/K. Gillon]. Record accepted by SBRC.

2007. An adult bird moulting out of summer plumage was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 5 & 6 Oct [John Bowler/J. Wilson]. Record accepted by SBRC.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis fulva*

0484.2

Vagrant. One previous Argyll record, on Tiree in Oct 2000.

2006. A first-summer bird found at Balevullin *Tiree* on 29 Aug had moved to Hough by 31 Aug but was seen again at Balevullin on the afternoon of 2 Sep. [J. Bowler/K. Gillon] Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:711).

2007. No records.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER (GOLDEN PLOVER) *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag 0485

A moderate but probably decreasing number breed on moorland in several parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter and also during spring and autumn passage, especially on: Islay, Tiree, and Mull.

Jan-May 2006. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 18 Apr when a minimum of 7,380 were around the island including: 1,200 at Cornaig, 700 at Balemartine, and 882 at Loch a' Phuill. The highest numbers reported elsewhere were at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* with a max of 348 on 13 Apr. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 238 during Apr), RSPB L. Gruinart (max 230 on 17 Jan), Fidden *Mull* (ca200 on 11Apr), New Danna (L. Sweet) *Mid-Argyll* (ca100 on 24 Mar – an unusual record for this location), Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* (96 on 9 Apr), and Machrihanish (60 on 18 Apr).

2007. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 16-17 Jan found 3,640 birds and the same number (3,640) were found during a similar count on 22-23 Mar. Some 6,000 were present around the island on 12 Apr. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: ca1,000 on *Islay* on 22 Mar, Oronsay

Colonsay (max 565 on 16 Apr), Laggan Farm *Islay* (350+ on 22 Mar), Ballymeanach *Islay* (300 on 24 Apr), Rockside *Islay* (250+ on 16 Apr), Smaull *Islay* (200+ on 22 Mar), Kinnabus *Islay* (200+ on 22 Mar), Ardalanish *Mull* (200+ on 18 Apr), and Ardnave *Islay* (72 on 18 Feb).

Breeding 2006. Two pairs were on territory at Beinn Chapuill (L. Scammadale) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 May.

2007. No records were received of birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Jul-Dec 2006. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 21-22 Nov found 4,521 birds. An unusually large flock at Machrihanish peaked at 1,200 on 27 Nov, 770 were found during the WeBS count at L. Indaal on 16 Nov and 631 were at RSPB L. Gruinart on 22 Nov. Numbers on Oronsay *Colonsay* peaked at 181 in Nov and there were still 300 at L. Indaal on 14 Dec. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: Saligo *Islay* (max 120+ on 16 Nov), L. Beg *Mull* (80+ on 5 Sep), and L. Don *Mull* (75 on 23 Sep).

2007. All-island counts on *Tiree* found 4,325 on 12-13 Nov and 3,620 on 10-11 Dec. The highest number, elsewhere, was 1,250 during the WeBS count at L. Indaal on 12 Oct. Other sites with counts of 50 or more included: The Laggan *Kintyre* (650+ on 9 Nov), RSPB L. Gruinart (max 209 on 12 Nov), Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 155 on 18 Oct), Pennycross *Mull* (130+ on 22 Aug), L. Beg *Mull* (max 130 on 10 Oct), and Killunaig *Mull* (100 on 1 Oct).

Table 34 *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on Tiree in 2006 and 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	3090	3000	3370	7380	1000	190	2000	5000	2960	4521	3000
2007	3640	1600	3640	6000	4	380	1075	2500	2741	4325	3620

NB Many of these counts are estimates of the total island population on a given day. Counts in Jun were only in single figures.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Feadag-ghlas

0486

An uncommon passage migrant, recorded most frequently in Kintyre and on the islands: a winter visitor in small numbers, mostly on Islay and Tiree.

Jan-Jun 2006. Double figure counts were: 41 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Jan, 22 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 17 Jan, 14 at Ardnave *Islay* on 26 Jan, 26 on *Tiree* on an all island coastal survey on 5-10 Feb which included 18 between Salum and Vault on 8 Feb, and 18 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Feb. Smaller numbers, all but one of 4 or less, were almost all from *Tiree* and *Islay*. A single was at Loch Don *Mull* on 24 Apr and another at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May. A bird flying north over Ruaig *Tiree* on 19 May was the last of spring.

2007. In contrast with 2006 there was only one group in double figures, 12 at Ardnave *Islay* on 26 Feb. Singles were at: Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 18 Feb, Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Feb, and again at Loch Gilp on 10 Apr. There were: 4 at Ardnave *Islay* on 15 Jan, 3 at Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 10 Feb, 9 on the west side of Ardnave on 18 Feb, 2 on Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Feb and 14 Mar, and 4 non-breeding birds in Loch Gilp on 10 Apr.

Jul-Dec 2006. The first arrival was a single over Heylipol *Tiree* on 7 Aug. The only double figure count was of 26 found at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 9 Oct on a WeBS count. Elsewhere up to 8 were seen regularly to the end of the year with 7 records from *Islay* and 6 from *Tiree*.

2007. The first returning bird was one at An Leth-onn (Loch Beg) *Mull* on 26 Jul. Records of 10 or over were from: RSPB Loch Gruinart (10 on 8 Oct, 39 on 12 Nov, and 19 on 14 Dec), and Bridgend Merse *Islay* (10 or more on 15 Nov). Up to 7 birds, but more often far fewer, were occasionally reported each month to the end of the year with records from: *Colonsay* (3), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (6).

A localised breeder and widespread wintering species: numbers highest on Tiree and Islay.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 25-26 Jan found 2,815 birds and a count around the coast of *Tiree* on 5-10 Feb found 607 birds. The peak count at RSPB L. Gruinart was 382 on 10 Feb and 50 were at Ardnave on 10 Feb. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* the only counts of 50 or more were at Tayinloan (250 on 11 Feb) and Oronsay *Colonsay* (max. 128 in Feb).

2007. All-island counts at *Tiree* found 3,166 birds on 16-17 Jan and 2,991 on 21 & 23 Feb. The peak count on *Islay* was 668 for the WeBS count at RSPB L. Gruinart in Feb. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* the only count of 50 or more birds was at Oronsay *Colonsay* (max. 104 on 7 Mar).

Breeding 2006. A survey at The Reef *Tiree* in Jun found 315 pairs with many broods of young – a successful breeding season. A total of 207 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 77 pairs bred at Ardnave, 63 pairs on Oronsay, and 26 pairs were found on *Colonsay*. Elsewhere: 10-20 pairs bred at Saulmore (nr. Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, a pair with one chick was at Tireragan *Mull* on 25 May, displaying birds were seen in Apr/May near Tayinloan, and on the fields by Connel Airstrip *North Argyll*: in each case the outcome was unknown.

2007. No complete survey was conducted at The Reef *Tiree* but many chicks were noted around the island in May and a sample of 11 nests at The Reef on 15 May found a mean brood size of 2.7.

A total of 161 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods, 96 pairs bred at Ardnave, 91 pairs bred on Oronsay, and 28 pairs were found on *Colonsay*. Elsewhere, 5-10 pairs bred at Saulmore (nr. Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, and birds were noted in suitable habitat at several sites on *Mull* during the breeding season.

Jul-Dec. 2006. All-island counts on *Tiree* found: 3,080 on 28-29 Aug, 2,028 on 2-3 Oct, and 2,430 on 21-22 Nov. An estimated 1,000 birds were found at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 31 Oct and 27 Nov. Otherwise the only counts of 50 or more birds, away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, were at: Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 69 in Nov), Tayinloan (102 on 9 Nov), L. Crinan (62 on 17 Dec), and Westport Marsh *Kintyre* (486 on 16 Dec).

2007. All-island counts on *Tiree* found: 2,150 on 27-28 Aug, 2,250 on 12-13 Nov, and 3,870 on 10-11 Dec. The peak count on *Islay* was 376 on 29 Dec and 100 or more were at L. Gorm on 5 Oct. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* the only counts of 50 or more birds were at: West Darlochan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* (173 on 23 Dec), L. Crinan (72 on 24 Dec), and Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 69 on 26 Sep).

Table 35.1 *Monthly maximum counts of Lapwings at Gruinart Floods Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
RSPB L. Gruinart	315	382	376	262	56	414
<i>Tiree</i>	2,815	3,000	124*	56*	48*	44*

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB L. Gruinart	n/r	n/r	n/r	285	480	337
<i>Tiree</i>	260	3,080	2,500	2,028	2,430	550

Table 35.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Lapwings at Gruinart Floods Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
RSPB L. Gruinart	7	668	83	45	27	12
<i>Tiree</i>	3,166	2,991	47*	54*	45*	239*

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB L. Gruinart	4	0	13	242	636	376
<i>Tiree</i>	300	1270	2740	600	524	2270

* These are WeBS counts and exclude breeding pairs at The Reef *Tiree*.

RED KNOT (KNOT) *Calidris canutus* Luatharan-gainmhic 0496

An uncommon passage migrant: mostly in autumn, and mainly on Islay and south Kintyre. A few winter, mainly on Islay, and occasional birds occur in summer.

Jan-May 2006. Most late winter records were from *Islay* and *Tiree*. By far the largest number recorded was 194 between Port Charlotte and Bowmore *Islay* on 18 Feb. Other records of 10 or more were from: RSPB Loch Gruinart (68 on 17 Jan), (21 on 10 Feb), and (35 on 11 Apr); Loch Indaal (15 on 12 Mar), and (10 on 16 May). On *Tiree* there were 8 records of up to 8 birds with 6 in summer plumage at Loch a' Phuill on 22 May. The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* were 2 in *Mid-Argyll* of 2 birds at Loch Gilp and of a single at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween).

2007. There were far fewer records than in 2006 with only three counts of 10 or over. These were: 50 at Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 10 Feb, 26 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 16 Feb, and 12 on 22 Mar. Other records were all from *Islay* and *Tiree* with up to 9 birds on 7 occasions on *Islay* and up to 5 on *Tiree* on two or three occasions.

Summer records 2006. A single bird in partial breeding plumage was at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Jun. Other larger counts were: 8 all in full summer plumage at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Jul, 7 all breeding plumage at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 29 Jul, and 5 still with red blush at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Jul. There were four other records, all of single birds.

2007. There were only four records: a single at Loch a' Phuill on 3 Jun, 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 Jul, 5 at Oronsay Farm Reserve *Colonsay* on 13 Jul, and 6 ads, all in summer plumage, at Loch a' Phuill on 25 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2006. The highest number recorded was 150 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Sep. Elsewhere 10 or more birds were recorded at: Loch a' Phuill (15 on 19 Aug), (20 on 24 Aug), and (12 on 29 Aug); Loch Indaal (11 on 14 Aug), (13 on 17 Sep), (25 on 14 Oct), (15 on 16 Nov), and (45 on 14 Dec); and RSPB Loch Gruinart (18 on 21 Nov). Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, there was a scatter of records of up to 9 birds from: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1).

2007. There were no less than 23 records of 10 or more birds recorded: the highest number being 160 (the total for Loch Gruinart and Loch Gorm *Islay* on 14 Dec). Other counts of 20 or more were from: Loch Gilp (23 juvs in 16 Aug), Loch Indaal (20 on 16 Aug, 45 on 12 Oct and 41 on 19 Nov), Gott Bay *Tiree* (35 on 20 Aug was peak for the month), Hough Bay *Tiree* (35 on 29 Aug), RSPB Loch Gruinart (30 on 27 Sep and 42 on 12 Nov), Bridgend Merse *Islay* (26 on 27 Sep), and Bridgend Hide *Islay* (80 on 11 Nov). Mainland records were mainly from the west coast although birds were also recorded from both sides of Loch Fyne.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas 0497

A mainly passage migrant, most numerous in south Kintyre, Islay, and Tiree. Regular wintering is confined to Coll, Islay and Tiree. Tiree is a site of national importance for passage/wintering birds: a few non breeders occur on the islands in summer.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 489 birds (highest of 2 counts made) and numbers peaked on 17 May when a record count of: 1,320 was at Gott Bay, 560 at Traigh Bhaigh, and 130 at Sorobaidh Bay (2,010 birds in all). The highest count at L. Gruinart was 31 on 10 Feb. Records at Machrihanish SBO included: 45 > N on 26 Apr, a flock of 115 on 4 May, and 35 on 9 Jun. Elsewhere: 19 were at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 16 May, 9 at

Baleromindubh *Colonsay* on 17 May, 3 in L. Gilp on 30 May, *ca* 20 on Iona *Mull* on 1 Jun, and 8 at the head of L. Indaal on 7 Jun.

2007. The highest numbers on *Tiree* were on 28 May when 460 were at Balephetrish Bay while numbers at L. Gruinart peaked at only 29 on 22 Mar. Elsewhere: 24 were at Tayinloan on 20 Jan with 9 there on 9 Feb, 9 on Iona *Mull* on 21 May, 5 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 24 May, 2 on Oronsay on 20 Feb, and singles at L. Indaal, Ardanish *Mull* and Otter Ferry.

Jul-Dec 2006. The first returning migrant was one with Dunlin at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 16 Jul followed by 58 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 Jul. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 14 Aug when 250 were at Hough Bay and 216 at Gott Bay. Records at Machrihanish SBO included: 18 on 21 Jul, 95 (two thirds still in breeding plumage), and 100 in Machrihanish Bay on 20 Sep. At Ledaig Point *North Argyll*, there were: 9 on 27 Jul, 2 on 12 Aug, 1 on 29 Aug, 16 on 4 Sep and 2 juvs. on 26 Sep. The only other sites with records were: Tayinloan (max. 17 on 1 Aug), Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 10 during Sep), Gruline *Mull* (30 on 14 Sep) and single juvs at Add Estuary on 21 Aug, Otter Ferry on 20 Sep and Calgary *Mull* on 25 Sep.

2007. The first returning migrants were 6 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 9 Jul, only 3 weeks after the last 'spring' migrants departed on 18 Jun. The peak count on *Tiree* was on 18 Aug when a total of 452 included: 340 at Gott Bay, 90 at Sorobaidh Bay and 22 at Traigh Bhaigh. Maximum monthly counts at Machrihanish SBO were 60 on 18 Jul and 63 on 17 Aug. Elsewhere, 4 were at Ardanish Bay *Mull* on 24 Jul, single juvs at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 3 Sep and 1 Oct and up to 7 were at Tayinloan during Dec.

Table 36.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings at L. Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	11	31	7	17	0	0	0	10	10	7	3	39
<i>Tiree</i>	310	489	265	170	2,010	65	361	466	366	435	101	160

Table 36.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings at L. Gruinart Islay in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	0	26	29	0	0	0	0	0	5	102	108	39
<i>Tiree</i>	404	200	315	415	460	260	60	452	360	220	179	265

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER* *Calidris pusilla*

0498

Vagrant. The only *Argyll* record was of four or more birds on *Tiree* and *Islay* in Sep 1999

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag

0501

A scarce but annual passage migrant: with the majority of records in autumn.

Spring 2006. Two adults in full summer plumage were at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 17 May and two at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 6 Jun. Singles were at: Moss *Tiree* on 6 Jun, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun, Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 Jun, and Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jun.

2007. On *Tiree*: at least 4 were with a large arrival of Dunlin and Ringed Plover at Loch a' Phuill on 28 May and a single was there on 9 Jun. There were no other records.

Autumn 2006. The first arrival was one a Loch a' Phuill on 14 Aug followed by one at Battery Pool (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* (by the first tee on the golf course!) on 18 Sep, and 3 flying past Machrihanish SBO on 21 Sep. Singles were reported from: Loch Gruinart on 23 Sep, Sandaig *Tiree* on 24 Sep (juv), Gott Bay on 25 Sep (juv), and RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Sep and 4 Oct. Seven were at Machrihanish Bay on 28 Sep and 2 at Machrihanish SBO on 2 Oct

2007. The first arrival was an adult along with Dunlin at Loch a' Phuill on 7 Aug followed by 3 at Machrihanish SBO on 6 Sep. On *Mull*, one was at the head of Loch na Keal and one (juv) at An Leth-onn at the head of Loch Scridain on 12 Sep. Three were at the mouth of Machrihanish Water on 25 Sep and 1 on 2 Oct. The last of the year was 2 juvs at Loch a' Phuill from 5-10 Oct.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

0502

Rare passage migrant with only four accepted Argyll records: one at Machrihanish, Kintyre in Jul 1974, a juvenile at Fidden, Mull in Sep 1985, one at An Fhaodhail, Tiree in Aug 1992, and one at Loch Gruinart in May 2000.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

0505

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both on Islay: one at RSPB L. Gruinart in Aug 2000 and one at Traigh Ghruineart in Oct 2005.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER* *Calidris bairdii*

0506

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both on Islay: in Jun 1979 and Sep 1999.

2006. No records.

2007. A lone bird was watched well and photographed, feeding on the machair at the west edge of L. a' Phuill on the evening of 30 May. Plumage details suggest that this was a first-summer bird. It was seen again the following day [J. Bowler]. This is a first for *Tiree* and only the third record for Argyll, whilst spring records are exceptional in Scotland. Accepted BBRC (*British Birds* 101:538) as 30-31 May.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

0507

Less than annual transatlantic visitor with 19 accepted Argyll records during 1978-2004: a rare autumn migrant, with a few spring records.

2006. A juvenile was seen flying out of L. Gilp on 10 Sep [J. Dickson]. Record was accepted by ABRC (first for *Mid-Argyll*). Two juveniles were together at L. a' Phuill on the evening 14 Sep and a single juvenile was there on 18 Sep [J. Bowler]. Accepted by ABRC as two, possibly three, birds.

2007. On 30 May a lone bird was found feeding around remote blanket bog pools in the wetlands SPA inland from Scarinish *Tiree*. Plumage details suggested a 1st-summer bird [J. Bowler]. One was seen and photographed at Uisken *Mull* on 18 Jun [B. Rains]. Both records were accepted by ABRC.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom

0509

A scarce but annual passage migrant: most records in autumn.

Spring 2006. The only record was of one in the Loch Crinan/Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* area from 10-12 Jun.

2007. The first arrival was a single, mainly in winter plumage, at Traigh Ghrianal *Tiree* from 14-16 May followed by 2 (one in "red breeding dress") at Loch a' Phuill on 30-31 May. There were 2 at Uisken *Mull* on 6 Jun and on *Tiree* there were "red" birds at: Miodar (1 on 7 Jun), Loch a' Phuill (1 on 9 Jun), and 2 late birds, also at Loch a' Phuill, on 26 Jun.

Autumn 2006. The first returning bird was at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 8 Jul and the only other *Tiree* record was of one at The Green on 1 Sep. On *Coll*, a juv was present at Cliad on 16

Sep. On *Islay*, there were records from: Aros Bay (3 juvs on 10 Sep), Bowmore (1 juv on 14 Sep), Loch Gruinart (1 juv on 23 Sep), and RSPB Loch Gruinart (2 on 28 Sep) were the last of the year.

2007. The first returning bird was not seen until 29 Sep when a juv was in the estuary at Loch Gruinart and on the same day another juv arrived at The Strand *Colonsay*. On *Tiree*, a juv was at Gott Bay on 1 Oct with 2 juvs present on 3, 5, 6, and 19 Oct. The only other record was of a juv/1 winter at the Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 2 Oct.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rioghail 0510

A widely, but sparsely, distributed winter migrant along rocky coasts from Sep to May. Tiree is a site of national importance for wintering birds: scarcer on the mainland.

Jan-May 2006. A flock of 130 in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 5 Feb was part of 360 found on an all island survey from 5-10 Feb. Other counts of 20 or more were: 132 in Hough Bay on 3 Jan, 23 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 21 Feb, and 90 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 27 Apr. Elsewhere records of smaller numbers were received from various locations on *Islay* and *Tiree* and from: Rhunahaorine Point, *Kintyre*, Kilm (Dunoon) Cowal, Machrihanish SBO, Ardskenish *Colonsay*, Grasspoint *Mull*, and Port Mor, *Colonsay*.

2007. The highest count of the year was of 90 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 18 Feb followed by 75 at the same location on 24 Jan. Other double figure counts on *Tiree* were: Sorobaidh Bay (12 on 2 Jan), Balephetrish Bay (22 on 5 Jan and 22 on 2 Feb), Balemartine (33 on 14 Jan), Scarinish (W) (15 on 21 Feb), and Sorobaidh Bay (10 on 11 Mar). On *Islay* double figure counts were: Ardnave (12 on 15 Jan, 20 on 26 Feb), and Loch Indaal (12 on 22 Jan, 14 on 18 Feb, and 18 on 14 Mar). Elsewhere there were 10 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 11 at Drum Point (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 2 Mar. Up to 7 birds were noted at various other sites on *Tiree* and *Islay* and at: Asknish Bay (Arduaine) *Mid-Argyll*, Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay*, Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay*, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*, Ronachan Point *Kintyre*, West Bay (Dunoon) *Cowal*, and Staffa islets *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2006. The first returning bird was on 27 Jul at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) but elsewhere birds were very scarce over the next couple of months. Counts of 10 and over were: 47 >S at Machrihanish SBO on 6 Nov and 34>S on 11 Nov, 10 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 16 Nov, 11 at Loch Indaal on 14 Dec, 12 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec, 12 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 17 Dec, and 15 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 24 Dec. Elsewhere, up to 5 birds were noted at various other sites on *Islay*, *Tiree* and in *Mid-Argyll* at: Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura), EileanTraighe (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll*, Ormsary (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll*, and Inverneill (Ardrihaig) *Mid-Argyll* and in *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO.

2007. The first birds returned on 12 Oct when 3 were in Loch Indaal closely followed by others in the usual areas. Counts of 10 or more were: 30>S in 6 hours at Machrihanish SBO on 7 Nov, 14 in Loch Indaal on 19 Nov, 12 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Nov, and 14 in Loch Indaal on 17 Dec. Elsewhere up to 7 birds were noted at various other sites on *Islay* and *Tiree*, and in: *Cowal* at two locations near Dunoon, in *Mid-Argyll* at Bagh Achadh da Mhaolein (Ormsary), and at Ormsary, in *Kintyre* at Ronachan (Sound of Gigha) and Tayinloan, and on *Colonsay* at Druim Mor (Oronsay).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Graillig 0512

A very localised breeding species with most on Tiree. Numbers are highest on passage but large numbers winter on Islay and Tiree with smaller numbers elsewhere.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 270 birds (highest of 2 counts made) but numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 17 May when a massive flock of 2,330 was at Gott Bay. With 370 at Traigh Bhaigh and 539 over 3 other sites this gave an impressive total of

3,239 for the island. Numbers on *Islay* peaked at 655 for the WeBS count at RSPB L. Gruinart on 10 Feb. Counts of 50 or more away from *Islay* and *Tiree* included: 293 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 16 May, 96 in 3 groups at Otter Ferry on 10 Mar, 78 at L. Crinan on 14 May, 64 briefly at L. Gilp on 30 May, 62 at Baleromindubh *Colonsay* on 17 May and *ca* 50 at Tayinloan on 15 May.

2007. The highest count on *Islay* was 363 for the WeBS count at RSPB L. Gruinart on 22 Jan and 225 were counted at Ardnave on 26 Feb. On *Tiree* numbers peaked on 8 May when a total of 800 included: 100 at Kilkenneth, 150 at L. a' Phuill, 100 on a ploughed field at Ruaig, and 450 at Vaul Bay. Counts of 50 or more away from *Islay* and *Tiree* included: 80 on the two main beaches on Iona *Mull* on 21 May, and max 78 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 7 Feb with smaller numbers elsewhere on *Mull* and in *Cowal* and *Kintyre*.

Breeding 2006. A survey at The Reef *Tiree* in Jun found 57 singing males, 4 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 8 pairs at Ardnave.

2007. On *Tiree*, 43 singing males were recorded in a survey of the wetland compartments on The Reef in May (not a full survey of the reserve). A single pair bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 3 pairs bred at Ardnave.

Jul-Dec 2006. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked on 31 Jul when a total of 507 included 447 at Gott Bay and 60 at Vaul. The highest numbers on *Islay* were in Dec with 682 for the WeBS count at RSPB L. Gruinart on 15 Dec and 180 for the WeBS count at L. Indaal on 14 Dec. The only counts of 50 or more away from *Islay* and *Tiree* were 140 at Machrihanish SBO on 23 Jul and a max of 86 on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jul. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere, in *Cowal Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*.

2007. The first migrants appeared in mid-Jul when 34 were at RSPB L. Gruinart on 12 Jul and 50 at Otter Ferry on 16 Jul were mostly still in partial breeding plumage. Passage on *Tiree* was relatively light with a max. of 160 on 18 Aug. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only counts of 50 or more were at Machrihanish SBO with monthly maxima of 50 on 17 Jul and 70 on 25 Aug. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere: on Oronsay, and in *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*.

Table 37.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	629	655	133	25	72	1	2	385	285	51	175	682
Indaal	120	135	25	45	55	15	90	90	75	80	135	180
<i>Tiree</i>	260	270	70	445	3,239	55	507	106	132	23	35	215

Table 37.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	383	290	0	58	41	n/r	34	26	23	227	124	129
Indaal	160	145	28	49	114	14	62	95	60	61	131	147
<i>Tiree</i>	246	200	90	40	800	100	82	160	12	36	98	170

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER* *Limicola falcinellus*

0514

Only two Argyll records, both on Tiree: one in May 1994 and one in May/June 2005.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

0516

A rare autumn migrant with only 13 accepted Argyll records, involving 18 birds, since 1971. One was in May, two in Jun and the remainder in Sep.

2005. The following records have been accepted since the publication of ABR20. An unprecedented (at that time!) influx of juvenile birds occurred on *Tiree* in Sep 2005. Two were together at L. a' Phuill on 3 and 4 Sep [K. Gillon/J. Bowler] one was at Sandaig on 4 Sep [K. Gillon], one at Greenhill on 5 Sep [J. Bowler] and one at The Reef on 8 Sep [J. Bowler]. At least 3 (possibly up to 5) different birds were involved. Records were accepted by SBRC as 3 birds from 3 – 8 Sep.

2006. A distant bird was found at L. a' Phuill on 29 Aug [K. Gillon] and a juv/first winter was found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Sep [D. Jardine/M. Peacock *et al*]. Both records were accepted by SBRC.

2007. Once again an unprecedented influx of juvenile birds occurred on *Tiree* in Sep. Three were seen together at L. a' Phuill on 16 Sep, increasing to 4 there on 10 Sep, with three there again on 16 Sep. An amazing 6 were seen and photographed together at L. a' Phuill on 19 Sep, with a further 2 more juvs at Balevullin at the same time, making 8 birds in all on the island at this time. On 20 Sep, two birds remained at Balevullin, with 5 more at Loch a' Phuill and one was still at L. a' Phuill on 26 Sep. A late bird (or possibly one remaining from Sep) was on the machair at L. a' Phuill on 7 Oct. [J. Bowler/B. Allan/G. Todd]. All records were accepted by SBRC.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan

0517

An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.

Apr-Jun 2006. Single males were on *Tiree* on 12 and 19 Jun.

2007. A single bird was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 22/23 Apr and 2 were there on 6 May.

Breeding 2006. At two undisclosed Argyll sites single males were lekking to a female in mid-Jun but there was no further evidence of breeding.

2007. At an undisclosed Argyll site there was a single lekking male in early Jun but there was no further evidence of breeding.

Jul-Dec 2006. The first autumn migrants were singles at Crossapol *Tiree* on 1 Sep with another at Machrihanish SBO on the same day. There were three double figure counts in mid-Sep with: 16 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Sep, 20 on *Tiree* on 18 Sep, and 15 at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Sep. To early Dec there were records of up to 5 birds but mainly singles from *Tiree* (6 sites) and *Islay* (all from RSPB Loch Gruinart) with the latest 2 birds ever on *Tiree* on 6 Dec. A single bird at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* arrived on 8 Oct and was last seen on 28 Nov. A very long stay: always in company of Lapwings.

2007. The first autumn migrant was a single at L. a' Phuill on 25 Jul. From then to the last of the year on 24 Oct (when a bird was at Ardtur (N) (Loch Linnhe) *North Argyll*) all records, bar one, were from *Tiree*. The exception was at Oronsay Farm Nature Reserve *Colonsay* where a single was feeding with Golden Plovers on 26 Sep. Higher counts on *Tiree* were: 7 in a group at The Reef on 21 Aug, 9 at L. a' Phuill on 23 Aug, 10 at Kilmoluaig on 29 Aug, at least 10 around the island on 31 Aug, 7 (6 at Kilmoluaig and 1 at Sandaig) on 3 Sep, and 6 at Loch a' Phuill on 10 Sep.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* Gobhrag-bheag

0518

A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is possibly under recorded: most records from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree.

2006 Jan-Apr. On *Tiree*, a single bird was in salt marsh patches at Gott Bay on 6 Feb, as was a single at Clachan Mor on 12 Feb, and a single was flushed from the top of Balephetrish Hill on 14 and 28 Mar. On *Islay*, a single was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 Feb and another on 3 Mar.

2007. On the mainland, 3 or poss. 4 were flushed with a single Common Snipe at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Mar. Two were flushed from mires whilst gathering sheep at Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Jan and on *Tiree*, single birds were at Balephetrish Hill on 17 Feb and at Hough Bay on 18 Feb.

Sep-Dec 2006. The only mainland record was of one at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* where it was found very dead but more or less intact in a pellet (Heron or gull?). On *Islay*, one was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Oct and on *Tiree*, one was flushed at The Reef on 8 Sep, one at Heylipol on 22 Oct, and one at Kilkenneth on 21 Nov.

2007. The only mainland record was of 3 skulking in shore vegetation at Ardmaddy (Seil Sound) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec. The only other record was from RSPB Loch Gruinart with one on 19 Dec.

COMMON SNIPE (SNIPE) *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg

0519

A widespread and locally common breeding species: particularly on the outer islands. Higher numbers occur on passage and as winter visitors, mainly on the islands.

2006 Jan-Apr. Counts of 10 or more were from *Tiree* with: scattered groups of up to 10 in Jan, 175 in an all island survey (occurring in scattered groups of up to 10) on 5-10 Feb, and a group of 12 at The Reef on 20 Mar with scattered groups of up to 12 elsewhere. On Ban Eileanan Sound of *Mull* there were 10 on 21 Feb and at RSPB Loch Gruinart there were 14 on a WeBS count on 11 Apr. Elsewhere 1 or 2 birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* (7), and *Tiree* (2).

2007. Ten were flushed at An Sailean (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 18 Jan and 60 at least were at Loch Lussa *Kintyre* on 16 Feb. Elsewhere up to 4 birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (5), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (3).

Breeding 2006. Ninety-seven drumming males were recorded in a full survey of The Reef *Tiree* in May, rising to a final total of 140 males in Jun with many fledglings noted. At Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 15 Jun, 16 males were drumming in a tight group with widespread drumming elsewhere. On *Islay*, in May, 50 displaying males were noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 15 pairs bred at RSPB Ardnave. Eight birds were noted on Oronsay in July. A single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR. Elsewhere, up to 5 birds (but mainly singles) were noted at sites in *Colonsay* (8), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull*, incl Treshnish Isles (6), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1).

2007. There were 73 drumming males recorded at The Reef *Tiree* on the wetland compartments (not a full reserve survey) in May, on *Islay*, in Jun 60 pairs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 35 pairs bred at Ardnave, and 45 drumming birds were found on *Colonsay* on an island circuit by road. Elsewhere, up to 7 birds, but mainly singles, were noted at sites in *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (11), and *Tiree* (3).

Aug-Dec 2006. On *Tiree*, larger counts included: Mannal 20 on 20 Aug (including obvious migrants), Middleton 14 on 2 Sep and 22 on 28 Oct, The Reef 18 on 8 Sep, An Fhaodhail 26 on 14 Sep, Sorobaith Bay 60 on 18 Sep and 15 on 21 Oct, Loch a' Phuill 17 on 18 Sep, Balinoe 36 on 24 Sep, 25 on 3 Oct, 15 on 21 Oct, and 20 on 28 Oct, Balephuill 15 on 28 Sep, Heylipol 25 on 29 Sep, and 64 on 22 Oct, Loch Bhasapol 29 on 23 Oct, Cornaigbeg 25 on 23 Oct, Rubha Chraiginis 45 on 29 Oct, and all island groups of up to 15 were widespread on 1 Nov. Larger counts elsewhere were: 10 at Benderloch salt marsh *North Argyll* on 5 Oct, 13 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 Nov, and 15 at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* on 15 Nov. Up to 9 birds were recorded from a few sites in: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*.

2007. On *Tiree* larger flocks included: 10 at The Reef with widespread migrants elsewhere but no big groups on 16 Oct, widespread groups of up to 12 around the island on 1 Nov, and again in Dec, groups of up to 10 birds were widespread. On *Islay*, 10 were seen daily between 25 Sep and 5 Oct at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *North Argyll*, 15 were at An Sailean (Benderloch) on 13 Nov and in *Cowal* 15-20 or more were in small groups at Kilbride Bay on 25 Nov. Up to 9 birds were seen at a very few sites in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 0527

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in June 1986. There are also three acceptable records (1891-1973) of unidentified Dowitchers.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille 0529

A widespread, but probably under recorded, breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland: a small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere.

Jan-Mar 2006. Six were flushed from 1.5 miles of road at 300m between Otter Ferry and Glendaruel *Cowal* on 11 Jan, 4 were found on *Tiree* on an all island coastal count on 5-10 Feb, 6 were found at Dallens Hill (Appin) *North Argyll* on 20 Feb, and 8 were seen in the Achnacarron (Kilchrenan) *Mid-Argyll* area on 2 Mar. Elsewhere 1 or 2 birds were reported from various sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

2007. Three and 5 birds were flushed from roadsides near Otter Ferry on 31 Jan and 1 Feb with a further 3 on 10 Mar. Elsewhere, 1 or 2 birds were reported from a very few sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

Breeding 2006. Roding birds were reported from Abhainn Tir Chonnuil (W of Loch Assapol) *Mull* (1) and Colonsay House *Colonsay* (2). Birds were present elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll*, and *Islay* and 4 birds were on Garbh Eileach (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll*.

2007. A bird was roding at Killiechronan *Mull* on 19 May, a nearly fledged chick was at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jul, and 4 birds were found on a road circuit of *Colonsay* at dusk on 9 Jun with probably more present.

Sep-Dec 2006. The first on *Tiree* was at Cornaigmore on 23 Oct with further sightings of one at Heylipol on 24 Oct and 2 at Balephuill on 5 Nov. Elsewhere, single birds were reported from sites in *Cowal* (3), and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

2007. The first of autumn was on *Tiree* at Heylipol on 6 Oct followed by two other sightings by the end of the month. Three were seen from the road at Milbuie *Colonsay* on 2 Nov, 4 were flushed at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Nov, 10 were at the north end of Loch Eck *Cowal*, on 17 Dec, and 6 were flushed from 200m of road above Glendaruel *Cowal* on Christmas Eve.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Cearra-ghob 0532

An increasingly regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree, and south Kintyre with occasional winter records: scarce elsewhere.

2006. Up to 4 birds were present at RSPB L. Gruinart in Jan and one in Mar. Following this there were more or less continuous records in every month from Apr to Nov. The first spring migrants, were 2 flying past with Curlews at Tayinloan on 1 Apr followed by one at RSPB L. Gruinart on 2 Apr and 12 flying E in a tight flock at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 16 Apr. Spring passage was heavy on *Tiree* with 7 on 18 Apr quickly building to 188 at L. a' Phuill on 25 Apr. Thereafter: 42 were at L. Bhasapol on 26 Apr, 135 at L. an Eilein on 29 Apr, 212 on 1 May (95

at L. an Eilein, 115 at L. a' Phuill and 2 at Loch Bhasapol), and 47 at Heylipol on 2 May. Three at L. an Eilein on 29 Apr included 2 colour-ringed birds (one from The Wash and one from Iceland) plus a largely buff leucistic bird. By contrast very few were recorded in spring on *Islay*, the only records being 9 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 28 Apr and 5 on 7 May. Monthly maxima for Oronsay *Colonsay* were 27 during Apr and 15 during May. Apart from 15 in breeding plumage at Whitehouse on 31 Jul only small numbers were seen on *Tiree* during Jun/Jul. Records elsewhere at this time included 40 in breeding plumage at the Add Estuary on 2 Jul. Up to 3 were present: on Oronsay, at Loch na Cuilce *Mull*, Machrihanish SBO, and Tayinloan.

Records during Aug included 20 at the Add Estuary on 6 Aug, and 11 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 30 Aug. Up to 8 were at: RSPB L. Gruinart, Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll*, Benderloch Salt-marsh *North Argyll*, and L. a' Phuill.

In Sep, numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 158 at L. a' Phuill on 19 Sep while the largest counts on *Islay* were 12 at Bridgend (L. Indaal) on 16 Sep and 19 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 24 Sep. A group of 25 was reported at Killiechronan *Mull* on 6 Sep and up to 4 were at Oronsay, Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) and Kilbride Bay *Cowal*.

After a peak count of 97 at L. a' Phuill on 1 Oct numbers on *Tiree* fell steadily until the last 8 were seen on 8 Nov. An adult and 4 juvs were in the Add Estuary on 1 Oct and up to 17 were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve through Oct/Nov until the last 7 were seen on 22 Nov.

2007. There were more or less continuous records in every month from Apr to Dec. The first returning birds were 9 at L. a' Phuill on 5 Apr followed by one at RSPB L. Gruinart on 8 Apr. Numbers built up rapidly during the latter part of Apr to a peak of 349 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 22 Apr and a record 550 (including 270 at L. an Eilein, 163 at L. a' Phuill, 76 at Ruaig and 40 at L. Bhasapol) on *Tiree* on 25 Apr. Unusually high numbers were also recorded in L. Gilp including 114 on 21 Apr and 17 on 25 Apr. Peak counts elsewhere included 16 on Oronsay on 21 Apr and 24 at Ardnave on 26 Apr. During Apr, 4 different colour ringed birds were seen on *Tiree* including one at L. a' Phuill on 22 Apr that proved to have staged in Zuid-Holland, Netherlands on 9-13 April, having wintered in western France and Portugal.

A rapid departure took place at the end of Apr and no more than 4 birds were seen at any one location in both May and Jun.

Numbers began to increase again in Jul including: 40 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 9 Jul, 2 in the Add Estuary on 10 Jul, 12 at Machrihanish SBO on 21 Jul, and 24 (all adults in breeding plumage) on *Tiree* on 25 Jul. Larger numbers during Aug included: 30 at L. Gilp on 24 Aug, 12 at Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug, and 90 on *Tiree* (L. a' Phuill and Kilmoluaig) on 29 Aug. The most on *Islay* was 8 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 27 Aug and 2 at Otter Ferry on 24 Aug were unusual for this location.

In Sep, the largest numbers on *Tiree* were on 14 Sep when 124 were at L. a' Phuill and the most on *Islay* was 12 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 3 Sep. Single birds were at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 3 Sep and at L. Crinan on 26 Sep. After a peak of 30 at L. a' Phuill on 2 Oct numbers on *Tiree* fell rapidly, with the last 3 on 17 Oct. Up to 19 were seen regularly at RSPB L. Gruinart during Oct/Nov and single birds remained until 19 Dec.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuillneach

0534

A mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 46 birds (highest of 2 counts made) and 26 were in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Feb. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only sites with 10 or more birds were: L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (19 on 24 Feb) and L. Gilp (13 on 30 Jan). There were still 23 birds in L. Indaal on 17 Jun.

2007. Small flocks were seen regularly on *Tiree* at Gott Bay and Sorobaidh Bay, with a max of 37 at Gott Bay on 12 Mar. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only site with 10 or more birds was L. Don *Mull* with 20 on 24 Jan. Smaller numbers were seen regularly in L. Gilp. The last were 2 at Gott Bay on 21 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. The first returning bird was a single at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 Jul and on 26 Jul 21 were counted in L. Indaal. Apart from the two *Islay* lochs in the table below, the only locations with 10 or more birds were: *Tiree* (max 32 at Heylipol on 27 Sep), L. Don *Mull* (max 30 on 23 Sep), Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (22 on 12 Sep) and Ardnave *Islay* (10 on 30 Sep). Smaller numbers were seen regularly at: L. Gilp, Machrihanish SBO, L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll*, Add Estuary, Ganavan (Oban), and Ledaig Point *North Argyll*.

2007. The first returning bird was a single at L. Gilp on 11 Jul. Small flocks were seen regularly on *Tiree* at Gott Bay with a max of 17 on 8 Oct and 5 Nov, and groups of up to 9 were seen throughout the period at other sites on *Tiree*. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, no sites reported 10 or more birds. Smaller numbers were seen at: L. Gilp, Otter Ferry, L. Don, L. na Cille (L. Sween), Add Estuary, Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll*, Tayinloan and Machrihanish SBO.

Table 38.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2006.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	148	450	184	131	21	0	0	1	43	56	127	209
Indaal	38	67	45	20	34	23	21	14	70	30	60	60

Table 38.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2007.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	196	155	95	64	40	62	84	24	36	149	177	194
Indaal	80	66	56	17	26	27	14	16	16	31	75	70

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Eun-Bealltainn

0538

A regular passage migrant in small numbers: mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.

Mar-May 2006. There were no late winter records. The first arrival was a bird at Kennacraig Ferry Terminal *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar but the first flock was not until 23 Apr when 10 were at Bowmore Distillery *Islay* on 23 Apr. All larger counts were from *Kintyre* with: 60 at Machrihanish SBO on 27 Apr being the best flock seen flying north, 30 at least at Tayinloan on 28 Apr followed by 72 on 29 Apr, 80 on 1 May, and 50 on 5 May. On *Coll* the only flock was of 12 seen at Breachacha on 30 Apr. Double figure counts on *Islay* were: 33 at Bruichladdich on 7 May, *ca*15 at Cruach on 7 May, 23 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 16 May and 12 on 19 May, and 10 at Loch Gorm on 17 May. On *Tiree*, there were: 18 at Heylipol on 5 May, 10 (5 at Barrapol and 5 at Loch a' Phuill) on 5 May, and 32 at Hough Bay on 7 May. Elsewhere there were up to 8 birds at various locations in the areas above and at sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (1), and *Mull* (2).

2007. The first of spring were 3>N and calling at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Mar, and one the following day at Loch na Keal *Mull* with a further 2 the same day at Tayinloan. The first flock was not until 14 were at Claddach *Islay* on 24 Apr. Later double figure flocks on *Islay* were: 13 at Loch na Cachie on 27 Apr, 21 at Gortan also on 27 Apr, 15 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 14 May, and 20 at Ardnave also on 14 May. On *Kintyre* there were: 31 at Tayinloan on 24 Apr, 10 at Ballygroggan on 27 Apr, 28 at Tayinloan on 28 Apr, 33 at Tayinloan on 29 Apr, 160 the peak count (of 300 in early May) on 3 May, and 15 at Tayinloan on 6 May and 20 on 12 May. On *Tiree* there were: 24 at The Reef on 30 Apr and 37 on 5 May, 31 on 7 May (25 at L. a' Phuill, 6

at Balephetrish), 28 on 8 May (12 at Traigh Bhaigh, 10 at Crossapol and 6 at L. an Eilean), and 11 on 18 May (4 at Milton, 7 at Traigh Bhaigh).

June. 2006. Single late birds were at sites on *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (3). Five birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 13 Jun and 2 were at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 29 Jun.

2007. There were only three records of: 2 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 2 Jun, 1 (a mort) at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 3 Jun, and 1 at Seal Island (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 21 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. Double figure counts were of: 37 at Loch Don *Mull* on 16 Jul, 16 which “dropped in” at The Green *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 34 at Loch Don *Mull* on 9 Sep with 136 there on 10 Sep falling to 21 on 20 Sep but rising to 97 on 23 Sep. Elsewhere up to 8 birds were noted at sites in: *Cowal* (3), and *Kintyre* (1).

2007. Double figure counts were of: 13 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 18 Jul with 13>N at the same location on 23 Jul. Elsewhere, up to 6 birds were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (7).

EURASIAN CURLEW (CURLEW) *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach 0541

A widespread breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 493 birds (highest of 2 counts made). On 4 Jan 90 were at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 55 at The Reef. Other than this, and the counts in Table 39.1, the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Tayinloan (max 90 on 11 Feb) and Machrihanish SBO (60 flying N on 16 Apr). From 20 to 40 were counted at Loch Riddon *Cowal*, L. Scridain *Mull* and L. Sween.

2007. Other than those in Table 39.2 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Greenhill *Tiree* (190 on 10 Jan), Tayinloan (max. 150 on 15 Apr), ‘Stinky Hole’ (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* (112 on 4 Jan), Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* (60 on 23 Mar), and L. Sween (WeBS count 53 on 18 Feb).

Breeding 2006. On *Islay*, 21 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 2 pairs at Ardnave.

2007. On *Islay*, 21 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 2 pairs at Ardnave.

No breeding records were reported from anywhere in Argyll, other than *Islay*, in either year, although one at Kames *Cowal* was perched on top of a power line pole (!) and alarm/displaying calling for 20 minutes on 15 Apr 2007.

Jul-Dec 2006. Other than those in Table 39.1 good numbers were reported on *Tiree* including: 80 at Cornaigmore on 31 Jul, 230 at Sandaig on 25 Sep, 90 at Traigh nan Gilean on 1 Oct and 65 in the Traigh Bhi dunes on 23 Dec. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, the only count of more than 50 was 65 at Point Farm *Cowal* on 14 Aug and WeBS counts found 43 at L. Crinan on 11 Aug and 40 at L. Etive on 18 Nov.

2007. Other than those in Table 39.2 the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Aird *Tiree* (160 on 31 Aug), Holy Loch (max. 135 on 16 Sep), L. Don (75 on 25 Oct), ‘Stinky Hole’ (Campbeltown Loch) (max. 74 on 28 Sep), Crossapol Point *Tiree* (65 on 31 Oct), Add Estuary (max. 64 on 20 Aug) and Ballimore shore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (50 on 28 Jul).

Table 39.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2006.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	83	366	295	103	13	3	160	90	174	328	258	486
Indaal	309	310	170	55	21	20	190	445	525	424	401	453

Table 39.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2007.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	317	291	115	16	14	25	203	133	202	295	170	174
Indaal	322	265	110	66	45	28	221	438	501	378	299	409



King Eider at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Eddie Maguire



Sabine's Gull (juvenile), at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory Eddie Maguire



Sanderling, Eddie Maguire



Black Guillemot in winter plumage, Jim Dickson



Common Sandpiper, Jim Dickson



Iceland Gull, Jim Dickson



Glaucous Gull, Jim Dickson



Laughing Gull, Jim Dickson



Sedge Warbler, Jim Dickson



Little Auk, John Bowler



American Herring Gull, John Bowler



American Golden Plover, John Bowler

A scarce passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

2006. No records.

2007. Two were seen on the floods at RSPB L. Gruinart on 26 and 29 Apr and singles were present there on 5 and 8 May. A juv seen with Black-tailed Godwits at L. a' Phuill on 6 Sep was the first record on *Tiree* since 1997.

COMMON REDSHANK (REDSHANK) *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

A localised breeder, mainly on the islands: widespread passage migrant and wintering species.

Jan-Apr 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found 483 birds (highest of 2 counts made). Other than those in Table 40.1 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 55 for Apr), L. Gilp (max 39 on 28 Jan), Otter Ferry (max 22 on 19 Jan), L. Sween (max for WeBS count, 22 on 11 Feb) and L. na Keal *Mull* (20 on 10 Mar).

2007. On 21 Apr an exceptionally high count of 186 was made in L. Gilp. The only other count of 20 or more (other than those in Table 40.2) was 20 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb which included 2 birds swimming in quite deep water some distance from the shore.

Breeding 2006. A survey at The Reef *Tiree* found 50 nesting pairs in Jun. On *Islay*, 106 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 15 pairs at Ardnave. Confirmed breeding was reported for 14 pairs on Oronsay and 9 pairs bred on *Colonsay*. Three pairs were found in the Add Estuary on 14 May.

2007. A survey at The Reef *Tiree* found 24 pairs in the wetland compartments (not a full survey) and many young were noted from 15 May. On *Islay*, 95 pairs bred at RSPB Gruinart Floods and 21 pairs at Ardnave. Nine pairs were found on *Colonsay* and pairs bred on Oronsay but were not counted. At least 10 pairs in the Add Estuary were in various stages of courtship on 14 Apr and an adult and 2 downy young were found at L. a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 18 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. Other than those in Table 40.1 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: L. Gilp (87 on 22 Jul, 42 on 19 Aug, 64 on 16 Oct and 94 on 9 Nov), Machrihanish SBO (40 on 21 Jul) and Otter Ferry (max 30 on 30 Oct).

2007. Other than those in Table 40.2 the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: L. Crinan (max 89 on 9 Oct), Machrihanish SBO (30 on 21 Jul), L. Sween (max for WeBS count, 24 on 14 Nov) and Otter Ferry (max 23 on 14 Jul). A passage flock of 19 was sheltering on Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan - nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jul.

Table 40.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshank at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Crinan (Mid-Argyll), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2006.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	57	83	98	103	29	26	25	19	96	14	19	23
Indaal	13	15	22	10	10	10	12	20	16	16	12	14
Crinan	n/r	n/r	15	19	6	6	4	0	0	6	20	18
<i>Tiree</i>	41	483	59	53	6	22	8	15	41	35	16	42

Table 40.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshank at two sea-lochs on Islay, Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	65	85	102	86	16	15	2	19	34	31	178	81
Indaal	14	16	15	20	14	8	8	15	16	21	22	12
Holy L.	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	11	16	26	61
<i>Tiree</i>	42	26	24	94	13	40	12	12	29	60	12	23

A scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and there are regular winter records in some localities.

Jan-May 2006. There were a number of records with singles at: Loch Don *Mull* on 7 Jan, Kelly's Pier (Airds Bay) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 12 Feb, and 8 Mar. Kennacraig Pier *Kintyre* on 23 Jan, Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 28 Jan, Loch Indaal *Islay* on St Valentine's Day, Killiemore (Loch Scridain) *Mull* on 9 Mar, Ardnadrochit (Grass Point) *Mull* on 9 Mar, Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar, Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 29 Mar, and Loch Creran *North Argyll* feeding with Common Redshanks on 30 Mar. There were two birds at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 6 Mar. During Apr and May there were records of 1 or 2 birds from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (2).

2007. Again there were a number of records with singles at; RSPB Loch Gruinart on 26 Jan and 22 Feb, Linne Mhuirich (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan and 18 Feb, Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 10 Jan, Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, and Rubha Ghall (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll*. There were also 7 at Leth-fhonn (Loch Scridain) *Mull* on 27 Jan incl a pair displaying, 2 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, 6 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 22 Feb, 6 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Apr, 2 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 4 Apr, and 2 at Rubha na Croite (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 20 Apr.

Breeding 2006. There were records from 3 sites in *North Argyll* where breeding was suspected or confirmed on 21 May. At 2 other sites, also in *North Argyll*, on 18 Jun and 25 Jun breeding was probable. A single bird on *Jura* on 9 Jun and another at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 and 19 Jun were probably migrants/non breeders.

2007. An agitated bird at a site in *North Argyll* on 1 Jun (used last year) would indicate probable breeding. Two birds on The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Jun and singles at: Eilean Annraidh (Iona) *Mull* on 12 Jun, Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 18 Jun, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun, and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Jun were all presumably migrants/non breeders.

Jul-Dec 2006. Up to 3 birds were seen to the end of the year with sightings in: *Colonsay* (2), Cowal (1), *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (1) *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* (10). Higher counts were from: RSPB Loch Gruinart (7 on 18 Jul). Loch a' Phuill (6 on 19 Jul), Loch na Cuilce *Mull* (5 on 23 Jul), *Tiree* (6 on 21 Aug), The Strand *Colonsay* (4 on 7 Sep), Loch Beg *Mull* (5 on 14 Sep), Loch Don *Mull* (at least 30 on 15 Sep and 5 on 1 Oct), Loch Indaal (6 on 27 Sep), Oronsay *Colonsay* (4, max for Oct), and Loch Crinan (6 on 18 Oct). All records after 18 Oct were of single birds.

2007. Up to 3 birds were again seen through to the end of the year: unusually, most of the records in Nov and Dec were of 2-5 birds rather than singles. One to 3 birds were seen widely from the usual sites. Higher counts were from: RSPB Loch Gruinart (4 on 21 Jul), Loch Don *Mull* (7 on 23 Jul and 4 on Christmas eve), *Tiree* (7 on 25 Jul), Corran View *Mull* (4 on 28 Jul), Pennycross *Mull* (10 on 22 Aug), Ardnadrochit *Mull* (6 on 11 Sep), Loch Beg *Mull* (6 on 19 Sep and 4 on 10 Oct), and Loch Scridain *Mull* (5 on 13 Nov).

Vagrant. Two accepted Argyll records both on Islay: in October 1985, and May 2002.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS* *Tringa flavipes*

0551

Vagrant. Four accepted Argyll records: at Loch Creran (N Argyll) in 1951, at Ulva Lagoons (Mid-Argyll) in Oct 2000 at L. Gruinart in May 2003 and at L. Gruinart and Colonsay in Sep 2005.

2006. No records.

2007. One was present at RSPB L. Gruinart 6 – 14 May [John Armitage/ I. Brooke/James How per Jim Dickson]. Record accepted BBRC (*British Birds* 101:544).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine

0553

A scarce, but almost annual passage migrant with the majority of records in autumn: seldom in spring.

2006. There were no spring records. The only autumn records were singles at Balephetrish Tiree on 1 Sep, Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 16 Sep, and Aros House Islay on 10 Oct.

2007. The only record was of one at Tayinloan Kintyre on 28 Aug.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille

0554

A scarce passage migrant: recorded in 18 of the 26 years 1980-2005, with the majority of records in late spring.

2006. A single was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 17 Jun.

2007. A report of 3 birds at Loch Ba Mull on 10 May would be a record number. A juv was at Loch a' Phuill along with a Greenshank on 20 Aug.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan

0556

A widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.

Apr-May 2006 The first arrival was at Kellan (Loch na Keal) Mull on 11 Apr and within the next 10 days birds had been reported from more than half Argyll recording areas. The main arrival took place from the last couple of days of Apr to the end of the first week in May.

2007. The first arrival was at Strachur Cowal on 9 Apr with the main arrival was spread over the last week in Apr and the first week in May.

Breeding 2006. Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR and 35 territorial pairs were found on Colonsay. Elsewhere records of probable breeding pairs included: Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull, Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll, and E side of Loch Striven Cowal. Records of confirmed breeding included: a pair with b/4 at Pier House (Otter Ferry) Cowal, a pair with fl/4 at Port Lamont (Loch Striven) Cowal, a pair with b/1 at Mid Ardyne Cowal and a pair with at least b/1 at Toward Cowal. Perhaps the fact that Common Sandpipers are so widespread and so common in Argyll is the cause of the paucity of breeding records?

2007. One territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf 4 last year and the average since 1990 of 2 and 30 territorial pairs were on Colonsay. Elsewhere probable breeding records included: Blarcreen North Argyll, Killechronan Mull, Milton Tiree, Ardnahoe Islay, Loch Melldalloch Cowal, Loch Eck (north end) Cowal, Balemartine Tiree, and Dun Chonnail (Garvellachs) Mid-Argyll. Confirmed breeding occurred at Loch Eck (mouth of R. Cur) Cowal (fl/4) but see comment at the end of the previous paragraph.

Jul-Sep 2006. A single migrant was at Milton Tiree on 17 Jul, and some of the 16 birds at the Add Estuary on 11 Jul may also have been migrants. Through late Jul and Aug small numbers were recorded from the west coast and the islands (an exception being a single at Ardlamont Point Cowal on 14 Aug. There then were 4 records in Sep (2 from both Islay and Tiree), 3 in Nov (1 from Dunstaffnage Bay Mid-Argyll and 2 from Machrihanish SBO, including the latest ever there on 27 Nov), and one exceptionally late bird on 15 Dec was at Loch Melfort Mid-

Argyll. **2007**. A migrant was at Loch a' Phuill on the unusually early date of 7 Jul. Small numbers (apart from a tight flock of 10 at Machrihanish SBO on 27 Jul) were then noted to the end of Aug from the islands and the west coast (one exception being a bird at Otter Ferry Cowal on 4 Aug). Two Nov records were both from Dunoon Cowal on 10 Nov at Holy Loch and Kilmun.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER* *Actitis macularius* 0557

Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one at Loch Indaal (Islay) on 5th Jun 1984.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan-beag 0561

A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid summer records are not unusual. Tiree is a site of international importance for wintering birds.

Jan-Jun 2006. An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* 5-10 Feb found an impressive 1,191 birds (highest of 2 counts made). Other than those in table 41.1, the only counts of 30 or more were: 45 or more between the Coal Pier and Hunters Quay, Dunoon on 23 Feb, 43 in Oban Harbour (an unusually high count for this site) on 12 Feb and a maximum of 30 on Oronsay during May. A group of 19 roosting with Oystercatchers at high tide just S of Kames Cowal on 21 Jan were the first that the observer (S. Petty) had seen here.

2007. The highest count was on *Tiree* on 11 Mar when 190 were counted at L. a' Phuill. Other than those in table 41.2, the only counts of 30 or more were: at least 60 from West bay, Dunoon to L. Striven Cowal on 23 Feb, max 52 at Ledaig Beach *North Argyll* on 1 Feb, and 40 at Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb. On 12 Jan, 28 were at Tayinloan and 28 were in Oban Harbour on 14 Feb.

Summering birds 2006. A single bird remained at Machrihanish SBO throughout Jun, up to 5 were seen on *Tiree* during Jun and a first summer bird was at Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 28 Jun.

2007. One was on Iona on 1 Jun, 5 were at Lochbuie *Mull* on 15 Jun, one was at Ledaig *North Argyll* on 22 Jun and up to 4 were present on *Tiree* during Jun.

Jul-Dec 2006. Other than those in table 41.1, the only counts of 30 or more were at: Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* (67 on 13 Sep), Ledaig Point *North Argyll* (max 51 on 29 Aug), Oronsay *Colonsay* (max 44 during Dec) and L. Don (30 on 23 Sep).

2007. The highest count on *Tiree* was on 3 Nov, when 210 were counted between Balephetrish and Clachan. Other than those in table 41.2, the only counts of 30 or more were at: Kilm (Dunoon) Cowal (79, virtually all in non breeding plumage, on 27 Sep), Ledaig Point (max 50 on 3 Sep), Tayinloan (ca 40 on 29 Dec), Knock *Mull* (35 along the path to Killiechranon on 7 Oct), Lochan na Beithe *North Argyll* (34 during a TTV on 2 Dec), Fellonmore (L. Spelve) *Mull* (30 on 28 Oct) and Oronsay *Colonsay* (30 on 30 Dec).

Table 41.1 Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on *Tiree* and at Otter Ferry in 2006.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	61	70	40	31	0	8	0	1	7	0	10	54
Indaal	38	55	32	28	3	0	3	5	14	29	55	61
Otter F.	92	54	34	25	27	0	43	76	143	n/r	100	41
<i>Tiree</i>	100	1,191	166	60	70	3	7	88	150	85	30	40

Table 41.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree at Otter Ferry in 2007.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	48	34	33	0	0	0	0	2	4	34	112	85
Indaal	40	52	40	19	5	0	9	12	12	28	60	59
Otter F.	n/r	42	118	63	2	0	30	95	88	73	26	120+
<i>Tiree</i>	105	155	190	128	20	4	9	82	112	106	210	90

NB Otter Ferry counts include the shore from the Otter Ferry spit to Otter Ferry fish farm.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt 0564

A very rare and irregular passage migrant: formerly a very rare breeding species.

2006. No records. (One reported 450-500m out to sea at Machrihanish SBO on 29 Aug was accepted by ABRC as phalarope sp).

2007. No records.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt 0565

Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales. Rare in winter and none in Apr-May.

2006. All records were from *Coll*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO. On *Tiree*, 2 were off Miodar on 28 Aug, 3 were on the sea off Traigh Bhaigh on 9 Oct, 2 were storm-driven on L. a' Phuill on 26 Oct, singles were off Hynish on 13 Sep and off Aird on 7 Oct and 31 Oct and a very late first winter bird was in Hough Bay on 17 Dec. One was off the pier at Arinagour *Coll* on 12 Oct and singles were seen flying S at Machrihanish SBO on 1 Sep and 11 Nov.

2007. The first flew W off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep and one was feeding in a channel on the estuary at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 26 Sep. Then, in mid-Oct, three flew W past Aird *Tiree* on 16 Oct and on the following day (17 Oct) three more flew W past Aird (all landed on the sea to feed just off the point) and 2 flew past Machrihanish SBO. The last was one seen from the Kennacraig-*Islay* Ferry on 18 Nov.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair-donn 0566

A scarce but regular passage migrant: mainly seen in autumn but has been recorded in all months.

2006. A total of 13 birds reported. The first was on 9 May off Quinish Point *Mull* and there were five more off *Mull* on 16-20 May. There were then four records from Machrihanish SBO between 21 and 29 May. All these spring birds were adults. An immature passed Machrihanish SBO on 12 Jul, and two autumn migrants were seen, one off Portnahaven *Islay* on 20 Sep, and one (an immature) off Aird *Tiree* on 31 Oct. Unusually, spring numbers exceeded those in autumn.

2007. Unusually large numbers were again reported in spring, with 70 birds on dates between 15 May and 10 Jun from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. The first autumn bird was not seen until 2 Sep, with another 21 mostly in mid-Sep with late birds on 7 and 8 Nov. Most of the autumn birds were juveniles, and most were seen from *Tiree*. Again, contrary to most previous years, spring numbers exceeded those in autumn.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair 0567

This is the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies. There are small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll and passage birds are regular and widespread in spring and especially autumn.

Apr-Jun 2006. The first spring record was on 10 Apr, with two birds at Treshnish Point *Mull*, followed by a single bird off *Tiree* on 20 Apr. Small numbers were then seen on a few dates in late Apr and early May, with one or two birds then reported almost every day in the second half of May, mostly from: *Coll*, *Islay*, *Tiree*, and *Mull*. Machrihanish SBO recorded 25 on 19 May and 9 the next day.

2007. The first record was on 25 Apr between *Coll* and *Tiree*. During May, 26 birds were reported, mostly from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. There were 23 records in June, from much the same locations.

Breeding 2006. Fifteen AOTs were found on *Coll*. TIARG reported up to four seen daily off the Treshnish Isles in June but with no evidence of breeding (as also reported in 2005).

2007. There was no information on breeding status at the colonies on *Jura* and *Coll*.

Jul-Nov 2006. Numbers of autumn migrants seemed to be rather low this year, peaking in late Jul or early Aug, and dropping off rapidly in Sep. Late birds were seen on: 11, 14, and 18 Oct, off *Coll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* respectively.

2007. Machrihanish SBO had their first autumn record on 5 Jul, followed by 30 others that month, with another 15 or so in Aug. Numbers passing *Tiree* were highest in mid-Sep and 4 birds were seen in Oct, with the last being on 17 Oct.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach 0568
A scarce and irregular passage migrant. Records are both from spring and autumn: off western coasts and islands.

2006. Eleven, possibly 13, all adult birds were recorded, including an apparent influx on 22 May when: 2 were over Ruaig *Tiree*, 3 or 4 at RSPB Gruinart Floods *Islay*, and a remarkable sighting of four or five soaring over Kilmichael Forest (just north of Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll*. Highland recording area also had a series of records at this time. Singles were over Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 Jun, and over Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 8 Jun.

2007. Three, possibly 4 birds were recorded with: a juvenile off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep, an adult off Craignure, in the Sound of *Mull* on 14 Sep, and 2 adults in the Sound of *Mull* on 15 Sep.

GREAT SKUA (BONXIE) *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr 0569
An uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor. Breeds in very small numbers on Treshnish Isles and Coll: the southernmost regular breeding sites of this species.

Mar-Jun 2006. The first sightings of spring were on 2 Apr off Treshnish Point *Mull*, and on 25 Apr at Port Ellen *Islay*. Ones and twos were seen regularly throughout May off: *Coll*, *Tiree*, *Mull*, *Colonsay*, and *Islay*.

2007. First birds were not seen until 29 Apr, between *Mull* and *Coll*. Regular records were also rather late, with very few seen before mid-May.

Breeding 2006. On 30 May a pair was holding territory on Staffa *Mull*. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) breeding was confirmed for the first time since 2003, with a clutch of two eggs that hatched on 27 and 29 Jun. Two pairs held territory on Fladda (Treshnish Isles), and one of these had a clutch of two eggs on 27 Jun. One or more was present throughout Jun on *Colonsay*, attacking Kittiwakes, chasing Black-backed gulls, and scavenging behind fishing boats. However, no evidence of breeding was reported. There were also no data from breeding sites on *Coll*.

2007. Up to 4 birds were seen regularly on Lunga (Treshnish Isles). On two occasions, a lone Great Skua was seen to isolate and drown a flightless, moulting adult, Greylag Goose. There was, however, no evidence of breeding on Lunga. On Fladda (Treshnish Isles), a pair was present intermittently during Jun, but there was no evidence of breeding. One pair held territory on Staffa *Mull* and a third bird was occasionally present. Two pairs were seen displaying

together at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 1 Aug, but in view of the late date these were probably immature birds prospecting for possible breeding sites. There were no data from breeding sites on *Coll*.

Jul-Oct 2006. Birds were seen most days in Aug and Sep, with a few records in Oct. Most passage birds were reported from: *Mull*, *Coll*, *Tiree*, and *Colonsay*, with a few from Machrihanish SBO where it was reported that numbers were down *cf* recent years. Last sightings were 3 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Oct and 1 off Aird *Tiree* on 31 Oct.

2007. Autumn records followed the usual pattern, but with higher numbers than in most recent years including 31 west in 2 hours off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep. The last reports were from Port Langamull *Mull* on 24 Oct and Aird *Tiree* on 5 Nov.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

0575

A vagrant until recently but recorded much more frequently in recent years: mainly in autumn.

2006. Numbers of reports are increasing with eight or nine birds seen. This represents a considerable increase in the annual total which can, in part, be put down to more assiduous searching for this species, but clearly also indicates a continuing trend of increasing sightings. Two juveniles were found on L. Gilp in the late morning high tide roost on 21 Aug with one in slightly more advanced plumage with some grey feathers on the mantle. An adult was seen at L. Gilp on 18 Nov which was still present on 19 Nov having been joined by a 2nd winter bird. A 2nd winter bird was on L. Etive at Inion *North Argyll* on 12 Dec. An adult was at Rubh' a' Mhindhe Beag (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec. There was an adult on L. Gilp on 19 and 20 Dec. On 21 Dec it was joined by a 2nd winter bird (a different individual from that seen on 19 Nov). On 27 Dec, an adult was at fish cages in L. Fyne at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn *Mid-Argyll* [J. Dickson/W. Allan]. All records were accepted by ABRC.

2007. Birds were reported on 14 dates, but some of these were of the same individual remaining for prolonged periods, while in other cases birds that differed in plumage were seen at the same location. Estimating the total number of individuals involved is difficult but there were apparently at least 10. A 2nd winter bird was seen on L. Fyne by the fish farm two km south of Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 6, 7 and 9 Jan. On 9 Jan a 3rd winter bird was on L. Fyne at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn *Mid-Argyll*. This was apparently the same individual that had been seen there on 27 Dec 2006, and it was still there on 4 Feb. An adult was on L. Gilp on 26 Jan, and a 2nd winter was on Duncuan Island in L. Gilp on 4 Feb. A 1st winter was on L. Gilp on 15 Feb. A 2nd summer at Inverneill, *Mid-Argyll* was thought to be a new bird that had not previously been seen, and another 2nd summer was at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn *Mid-Argyll* the same day. No birds were seen between May and Aug. The next record was an adult, seen at the head of L. Gilp on 17 and 22 Sep. A different adult was at Sgeir na Eun (L. Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep. An adult at Kilmory Industrial Estate *Mid-Argyll* was present on 22 Nov and this bird was also seen in L. Gilp at Lochgilphead on 27 and 30 Nov, and 12 and 20 Dec [J. Dickson/W. Allan/ E. J. Maguire/L. Langan]. All records were accepted by ABRC.

LAUGHING GULL * *Larus atricilla*

0576

Vagrant. There have been five previous Argyll records 1974 – 2005.

2006. An adult photographed on the green near the swimming pool in Campbeltown on 10 Jan had been around for a few days and was initially identified as Franklin's Gull. It was still present until at least 9 Apr [J. Dickson *et al.*]. A second summer or adult bird was seen from the Kennacraig-Islay ferry, close to Gigha, on 15 Jun [P. Roberts]. Both records were accepted by BBRC (British Birds 100:716).

2007. No records.

- LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag 0578
An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year. Some individuals stay for prolonged periods.
2006. There were 14 records: one Feb, one Mar, one Apr, two May, two Jul, two Oct, one Nov, and three Dec. Apart from adults in Apr and Dec, the rest were of first year birds. Most records came from Machrihanish SBO, with others from *Tiree*, *Islay*, *Mull*, Rubh' a' Mhindhe Beag (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* and Inverneill *Mid-Argyll*.
2007. There were seven individuals, all immatures, seen at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 2 Jan, Machrihanish SBO on 18 Mar, and also 20 and 27 Aug, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 May and 19 Jun, and Bridgend *Islay* on 25 Oct. A flock of 13 resting on the sea was reported from Duart Point *Mull* on 11 Sep.
- SABINE'S GULL** *Larus sabini* 0579
A scarce and irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Reported more frequently recently than in 1980s.
2006. No records.
2007. Records of nine juveniles were accepted by ABRC. Two were seen from: Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep, Machrihanish SBO on 24 Sep, and L. Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 25 Sep. Singles were at: Arinagour *Coll* on 16 Oct, Aird *Tiree* on 17 Oct and Machrihanish SBO on 8 Nov [J. Bowler/E. J. Maguire/P. Massey/A. Lauder].
- BONAPARTE'S GULL*** *Larus philadelphia* 0581
Vagrant. Only two previous records: both on Islay in Jun and Sep 1975.
2006. No records.
2007. No records.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* Faoileag-a'-chinn-duibh 0582
A patchily distributed resident breeder. Reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation. Scarce in many areas in winter.
Jan-May 2006. Few reported in Jan (see examples in Table 42) but numbers build up through Feb and Mar before birds return to breeding colonies. For example, highest counts on *Tiree* were: Jan 4, Feb 18, and Mar 300.
2007. As usual, very few records in Jan, the highest count being the WeBS count of 11 at L. Indaal. Highest monthly counts on *Tiree* were: 1 in Jan, 42 in Feb, 300 in Mar, and 900 in Apr.
Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 160 pairs were found breeding at six sites (colony size 1 to 90 pairs). Productivity was known at four of these, where 145 pairs fledged 101 young (0.70 young/pair). The largest colony, with 90 pairs, was on Eilean Inshaig (L. Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*. Mink was controlled at five of the six sites. Elsewhere, breeding was confirmed on *Colonsay*, while on *Tiree* there were: 109 AONs at The Reef (where breeding success was high), 130 at L. Bhasapol, 25 at Middleton, 15 at Happy Valley, 10 at Barrapol, 9 at L. a' Phuill, and 4 at Balevullin pools. At RSPB L. Gruinart there were 9 pairs.
2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 144 pairs were found breeding at seven sites (colony size 1 to 72 pairs). A minimum of 33 young were fledged (0.23 young/pair). Despite mink control, predation still occurred at the largest colony on Eilean Inshaig (L. Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* where only 4 young fledged from 72 breeding pairs. On *Tiree*, numbers of AONs were reported as: 250 at L. Bhasapol, 68 at The Reef, 50 at L. a' Phuill, 7 at Scarinish, 6 at Barrapol, 2 at Balevullin pools, 1 at Middleton, and 1 at Happy Valley. Breeding success on *Tiree* was reported to be good.

Aug-Dec 2006. Large flocks can occur in late summer and early autumn, but numbers usually fall quickly in winter (this typical pattern is shown in Table 42). However, in contrast to this pattern, in 2006 there were at least 500 at Killail *Cowal* on 8 Nov, 570 in L. Gilp on 19 Nov, and 1200 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec with 1000 still there on 27 Dec. These high numbers in December appear to be unusual for Argyll.

2007. Most birds had left Tiree by August. Large flocks were reported from Otter Ferry *Cowal* (500 on 1 Oct), Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* (600 on 20 Nov), and L. Gilp (1050 on 22 Nov).

Table 42. *Maximum monthly counts of Black-headed Gulls at L. Gruinart, L. Indaal, L. Crinan, and L. Sween*

2006	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	n/r	23	96	11	3	13	68	76	6	152	12	4
L. Indaal	14	19	23	33	34	38	22	56	24	55	26	12
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	83	39	14	11	67	52	40	52	n/r	n/r
L. Sween	n/r	n/r	8	n/r	n/r	n/r	23	14	12	3	n/r	4
2007												
L. Indaal	11	22	35	28	30	38	25	44	27	55	19	19

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

0589

A scarce but increasingly frequent visitor from North America: mainly in late winter and spring, although there are records for every month of the year.

2006. An adult was found on 14 Jan in Oban harbour, and remained until at least 19 Apr. An adult was in Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* on 2 Feb and was still there on 6 Feb. A 2 winter was in Oban harbour on 5 Feb and was seen regularly until 5 Jun. A 2nd winter was at Bowmore *Islay* on 22 Feb. An adult, and a 3rd winter were in Oban on various dates from 16 Nov to 27 Dec [J. Dickson/N. Millington/W. Allan/J. Bowler/A. Hogg]. There were several further reports that were not submitted to SBRC or were rejected.

2007. The adult and 3rd winter birds that had been present in Dec 2006 remained in Oban throughout Jan to Mar, when the 3rd year left. The adult was seen regularly during Apr, and then presumably the same bird was present from late Aug to Dec [S. Gibson/J. Dickson *et al.*]. Several other records (mainly from *Islay*) for which no supporting details were supplied, were published on Bird Guides and elsewhere.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* Faoileag-chumanta

0590

A widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.

Jan-May 2006. Apart from counts given in Table 43, the largest numbers were: 470 on 3 Jan at Hough Bay *Tiree*, 210 on 16 Jan at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll*, 375 on 2 Feb at Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* with 250 there on 12 Feb, 390 on 8 Mar at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree*, 540 on 9 Mar at Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree*, and 300 on 24 Mar at Loch an Eilein *Tiree*.

2007. Apart from counts given in Table 43, the largest numbers were: 183 on 10 Jan on *Tiree*, 450 on 19 Jan at Crosshill Loch (Campbeltown) *Kintyre*, 230 on 19 Feb in Balephetrish Bay *Tiree*, and 280 on 11 Mar in Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 954 pairs were found breeding at 41 sites (colony size 1 to 316 pairs). Productivity was known at 37 of these sites, where 916 pairs fledged 707 young. Mink was controlled at 13 of these sites, where 608 pairs fledged 588 young (0.97 young/pair). At the 24 sites where mink were not controlled, 308 pairs fledged 119 young (0.39 young/pair). Thus mink lowered productivity by about 60% from what it might have been in they were absent. The largest colony, with 316 pairs, was in L. Etive and here productivity at 1.32 young/pair was unusually high. On *Tiree*, there were: 20 AONs at Ruaig, 75 at The Reef,

25 at Balinoe, 35 at Crossapol, 9 at Balevullin pools, 40 on Hough machair, 10 in Happy Valley, and 45 at Milton. Breeding success was good on *Tiree*. Elsewhere, there were: 23 pairs on Fladda Treshnish Isles, 5 AONs at L. Gruinart RSPB reserve, 30 pairs on Oronsay *Colonsay*, and 80 pairs at L. Striven *Cowal*.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 793 pairs were found breeding at 43 sites (colony size 1 to 216 pairs). Productivity was known at 29 of these sites, where 751 pairs fledged 250 young. Many clutches were lost at the largest colony on Kilmaronag Islands (L. Etive) *North Argyll* in a storm surge on 19 May. At 17 colonies (of more than 5 pairs) in the SAMS area (not all in Argyll) where mink were not controlled or control failed 455 pairs fledged *ca* 118 young (0.26 young/pair) but at 9 colonies with successful mink control 552 pairs fledged 258 young (0.47 young/pair). Thus mink reduced productivity by 44.5%. On *Tiree*, there were: 20 AONs at Ruaig, 38 at Balinoe, 55 at Crossapol, 23 at Balevullin pools, 40 on Hough machair, 15 at Happy Valley, 10 at Milton, 89 on The Reef, 5 at the Ringing Stone, and 10 on Scarinish moor. Breeding success was good on *Tiree*. Elsewhere, TIARG reported that there appeared to be none breeding on the Treshnish Isles in 2007.

Aug-Dec 2006. An all-white juvenile was present on *Tiree* in late Aug, and was seen again in Sep, Oct and Dec. In addition to counts in Table 43, large flocks included: 240 on 7 Aug at Ruaig *Tiree*, 260 on 21 and 355 on 28 Aug at Vaul *Tiree*, 550 on 1 Oct at Machrihanish SBO, and 240 on 17 Dec at Hough Bay *Tiree*.

2007. An all-white bird, presumably the one first seen as a juvenile in 2006, was on *Tiree* in Aug, Sep and Nov. In addition to counts in Table 43, large flocks included: 470 on 24 Oct at Calgary Bay *Mull*, 211 on 13 Nov in Machir Bay *Islay*, 850 on 20 Nov at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll*, and 288 on 6 Dec on *Tiree*.

Table 43. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Gulls at L. Gruinart, L. Indaal, L. Crinan, and L. Sween.*

2006	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	11	460	44	16	23	76	38	32	111	97	120	140
L. Indaal	202	280	210	230	160	110	110	267	250	90	102	112
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	239	30	20	23	70	20	40	20	52	70
L. Sween	11	22	64	n/r	n/r	n/r	73	64	3	5	9	1
2007												
L. Indaal	204	267	260	265	156	110	98	256	245	67	90	100
L. Sween	7	25	105	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	32	n/r	20	3

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Farspag-bheag 0591

A widespread breeding species, which is generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3235 pairs in Argyll and Bute.

Jan-May 2006. There were none reported in Jan, but birds were seen in ones and twos from mid-Feb onwards, with the main build-up of numbers in Mar and early Apr. First sightings tended to come from the outer islands such as *Tiree* and *Islay*, whereas arrival into sea lochs and inland was generally not until mid-March.

2007. One was reported at Saulmore *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan. The next birds were not seen until 19 and 21 Feb when there were individuals on *Tiree* and *Islay*. The first of the spring to be seen in *Cowal* were on 14 Mar (Otter Ferry) and 17 Mar (Blairmore). By this date there were groups of 20-30 at sites in *Tiree*, and 46 in 6 hrs seawatching from Machrihanish SBO, indicating the slow movement inshore during spring arrival. Numbers were reported to increase noticeably during late Mar and early Apr.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, *ca* 716 pairs were found breeding at 17 sites (colony size 1 to *ca*200 pairs). Six of these held more than 4 pairs and young are known to have fledged at five of these. Elsewhere, there were 5 or 6 pairs on the Treshnish Isles (though none on Fladda), and 7 pairs at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay*. On *Tiree*, counts of AONs were: 150 at L. Bhirceapol, 80 at Gott, 25 at Ceann a' Mhara, 15 at Milton, and 5 at Beinn Hough.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 185 pairs were found breeding at 17 sites (colony size 1 to *ca*100 pairs). Four of these held more than 4 pairs. On *Tiree*, counts of AONs were: 150 at L. Bhirceapol, 35 at Ceann a' Mhara, 25 at L. Aulaig, 15 at Rubha Chraiginis, 8 at Milton, 6 at Scarinish moor, and 4 at Baugh moor.

Aug-Dec 2006. Birds were widespread until Sep then dropping rapidly. The last birds were: one on 7 Oct at Otter Ferry *Cowal*, one on 19 Oct in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre*, and one on 18 Nov at Imeraval *Islay*.

2007. As usual a rapid drop in records in Sep, with few in Oct. The last reports were two on 16 Sep on Holy Loch *Cowal*, and one on 27 Nov on Loch Fyne at Newton *Cowal*.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* 0592.6

Vagrant. Since Oct 2005 the British Ornithologists' Union has treated this former subspecies of Herring Gull as a separate species. Two records in Argyll have been accepted, one on Tiree in Feb 1998, one at Gruinart, in Sep 2002 (though in this case the race/sub-species atlantis was not ruled out).

2006. No records.

2007. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

AMERICAN HERRING GULL *Larus smithsonianus*

Vagrant. Since 2007 the British Ornithologists' Union has treated this former subspecies of Herring Gull as a separate species.

2006. No records.

2007. A first winter bird, thought to be a female, was seen on 20 Mar on *Tiree* [J. Bowler] (see British Birds 101:547). This represents a new species for Argyll. What was presumably the same bird was observed on several dates up to 7 Jun. This record was accepted by BBRC. Another bird, thought to be a first year male, was on *Tiree* during the same period. The description of that bird is still under review by BBRC (see pp. 147-149)

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Faoileag-an-sgadain 0592

A widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have disappeared, and very few now breed inland.

Jan-May 2006. Apart from data in Table 44, counts in excess of 200 birds came from: Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* (220 on 3 Jan), Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* (250 on 6 Feb), Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* (360 on 9 Mar), and Milton *Tiree* (320 on 28 Mar).

2007. Apart from data in Table 44, counts in excess of 200 birds were only from *Tiree* (292 on 21 Feb). There were 200 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 12 Apr.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, *ca* 4,753 pairs were found breeding at 40 sites. Productivity was measured at 32 of these sites, where 3,944 pairs fledged 3,278 young (0.83 young/pair). Colony size varied from 1 to *ca* 800 pairs. Considering only those colonies with ten or more pairs: mink control was carried out at eight sites where 1,899 pairs fledged 2,036 young (1.07 young/pair), while at 18 sites where mink were not controlled, 2,025 pairs fledged 1,236 young (0.61 young/pair). Thus mink lowered productivity in this area by 43%. On *Tiree*, counts of AONs were: L. Bhirceapol 70, Ceann a' Mhara 20, Milton 160,

Hough 38, Gott 80, L. Caol 15, and L. Aulaig 12. On the Treshnish Isles there were an estimated 47 pairs.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 3,437-3537 pairs were found breeding at 36 colonies. Productivity was measured at 28 of these sites, where 3,332-3382 pairs fledged 2,481-2495 young (0.73-0.75 young/pair). Colony size varied from 1 to 572 pairs. On *Tiree*, counts of AONs were: L. Bhirceapol 50, Ceann a' Mhara 20, Milton 45, Hough 35, Scarinish moor 43, Rubha Chraiginis 50, and L. Aulaig 20.

Aug-Dec 2006. Counts exceeding 200 birds not included in Table 44 were: 2,000 throughout most of Oct at The Laggan *Kintyre*, 230 on 6 Nov at River Nell & Loch Nell *Mid-Argyll*, and 247 on 1 Dec at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*.

2007. Counts exceeding 200 birds not included in Table 44 were: 340 on 27 Aug roosting at Clachan *Tiree*, about 300 following a scallop boat in Sound of *Mull* off Glengorm Castle on 22 Nov, and 300 on 16 Dec at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*.

Table 44. *Maximum monthly counts of Herring Gulls at: L. Crinan, L. Indaal, L. Gruinart, and L. Sween in 2006; and at L. Indaal, and L. Sween in 2007.*

2006	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	40	74	44	22	23	158	14	38	97	107	125	126
L. Indaal	245	260	148	167	161	141	30	38	209	220	196	206
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	7	4	7	8	0	16	26	31	5	2
L. Sween	24	37	43	n/r	n/r	n/r	40	21	15	18	6	15
2007												
L. Indaal	250	262	187	176	150	140	28	28	190	233	216	221
L. Sween	24	47	49	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	20	n/r	17	18

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* Faoileag-liath 0598

A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar, with numbers varying widely from year to year. There are a few summer records.

2006. A relatively poor year for this species with only 11 recorded: 2 in Apr, 3 in Nov, and 6 in Dec. Most were 1st winter birds with two 2nd winters. Three were seen on Campbeltown L., 2 on *Islay*, and singles at: *Tiree*, *Coll*, *Colonsay*, L. Gilp, L. Nell *Mid-Argyll*, and Machrihanish SBO.

2007. An exceptional year with about 94 separate records including groups of up to four individuals. Some birds stayed for many weeks and thus were reported several times. First winter birds predominated, but there were also several older immatures and adults. The majority of records were from Jan to Jun, with peak numbers in Feb and one bird remaining at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Jul. There were: none in Aug, only one in Sep, none in Oct, two in Nov, and two in Dec. Birds were seen in many locations, but especially: *Islay*, *Tiree*, *Colonsay*, Oban, Campbeltown, and L. Gilp. This distribution probably reflects, to an extent, the distribution of birdwatchers, and also the fact that several birds became resident for some time, in locations with harbours and waterfronts, where scavenging was possible. One observer in Oban reported that an Iceland Gull, resident there for some weeks, could easily be approached to within a couple of yards, and was very partial to cocktail sausages.

A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar. More numerous than Iceland Gull in most winters.

2006. Only 6 were reported: a 1st winter bird on 23 Feb at L. Melfort *Mid-Argyll*, and another on 25 Feb on *Tiree*. There were then four birds in Dec: a 1st winter bird feeding on a dead White-sided Dolphin on 5 Dec on *Tiree*, a 3rd winter feeding on a dead seal on *Mull* on 14 Dec, a 2nd winter near the salmon farm at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec, and another 1st winter bird on *Tiree* on 20 Dec.

2007 Jan-Jun. As with Iceland Gull, unusually large numbers were present. There were at least: 37 reports in Jan, 35 in Feb, 8 in Mar, 5 in Apr, 1 in May, and 4 in Jun. None were seen in Jul-Oct. Many records came from: *Tiree*, *Coll*, *Islay*, and *Mull*. There were also good numbers at ports and coastal towns such as Tarbert, Campbeltown, and Lochgilphead. First years predominated, but there were good numbers of 2nd year, 3rd year, and adult birds. Interestingly, adults were only found on the outer islands and not in any of the towns. Almost all found in towns were 1st year birds.

2007 Nov-Dec. Only three birds were reported: an adult on *Tiree* on 4 Nov appeared to be a hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull, a 1 year on Loch Melfort at Scoul Eilean *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov, and a 1st winter bird flew past Aird *Tiree* on 7 Dec.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Farspag

0600

A common resident breeding widely on small islands along the coast.

Jan-May 2006. Counts of over 50 included: 157 on 24 Jan at Saulmore *Mid-Argyll*, 60 on 18 Feb at the head of L. Feochan, and 211 on 11 Apr also on L. Feochan.

2007. Largest counts were 47 on 18 Feb on L. Sween, and 56 on 5 Apr at L. a' Phuill *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 411-427 pairs were found breeding at 47 sites (colony size 1 to 49 pairs). Productivity was measured at 34 of these sites, where 361 to 377 pairs fledged 246 to 254 young (0.65 – 0.70 young/pair). The largest colony was 49 pairs at Sgat Mor in L. Fyne. Here, mink predated adult Eiders (1 male/3 female) found on 30 May. Only 15 young Great Black-backed Gulls fledged. These were counted on 25 Jul when the length of vegetation hindered further investigation, but it seems likely that this unusually low productivity (0.3 young/pair) was also caused by mink. On the Treshnish Isles there were about 94 pairs distributed across the islands.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 341-361 pairs were found breeding at 31 sites (Colony size 1 to 49 pairs). Productivity was measured at 27 of these sites, where 277 to 287 pairs fledged 258 to 264 young (0.90 – 0.95 young/pair). The largest colony, at Sgat Mor in Loch Fyne, held 47 breeding pairs and produced 47 fledged young. At least 91 pairs bred *Tiree*.

Aug-Dec 2006. There were 220 on 26 Oct at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, otherwise numbers tended to be small and birds widely distributed.

2007. As usual, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* provided the largest counts at this time of year with 73 on 12 Nov, 80 on 2 Dec, and 97 on 20 Dec (which included only 14 first winter birds).

ROSS'S GULL * *Rhodostethia rosea*

0601

Vagrant. The only record prior to 2006 was an immature at Frenchman's Rocks on 15 August 1976.

2006. An adult seen at Aird, *Tiree* on the evening of 9 Aug was only the second record for Argyll [John Bowler]. Amazingly, a second bird, this time a first-winter, was found near the fish farm at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec [J. Dickson *et al.*]. This bird obligingly stayed around until early in 2007 and was seen by many club members and even visitors from overseas! Both records accepted BBRC (British Birds 100:718).

2007. The first winter bird from Dec 2006 was present at Ormsary until 15 Jan. What was presumably the same bird was then seen at Portavadie *Cowal* 13-25 Feb [S. Petty *et al*] Accepted BBRC (*British Birds* 101:548).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

0602

A normally strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on Islay, Treshnish Isles, and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland.

Jan-Apr 2006. Normally, only low counts are recorded in Jan or Feb, and numbers build up in Mar, with birds starting to attend nest sites irregularly from early or mid-Apr. However, at least 600 were seen on 15 Jan flying south out of L. Fyne after gales of 13-14 Jan, suggesting that birds are offshore even in Jan but can be driven to the coast by storms. During the same gale, about 50 per hour were seen passing *Tiree*.

2007. About 250 flew S past Barmore Island in Loch Fyne on 3 Jan, but otherwise there were few records in Jan or Feb.

Breeding 2006. There were 814 AONs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 67 on the Uragaig monitoring plot on *Colonsay*, and 719 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*. A ring found on prey remains in a Peregrine nest on *Colonsay* had been put onto a Kittiwake chick at the colony there 13 years before. Breeding success on *Tiree* was extremely low.

2007. There were 790 AONs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles), 86 on the Uragaig monitoring plot on *Colonsay*, and 602 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*. At this last site, there was total breeding failure, with all chicks dying after moderate hatching success in a late breeding season.

Jul-Dec 2006. Large numbers could be seen passing seawatching sites from mid-summer to early winter. High counts include: 1,700 flying S in 7 hrs on 30 Jun at Machrihanish SBO, 2,500 flying S in 7 hrs on 2 Jul at Machrihanish SBO, 1,000 feeding in the Sound of *Mull* on 13 Sep, 450 (including only two juveniles) on 8 Oct at Carraig Fhada *Islay*, and 408 passing in 2 hrs on 31 Oct at Aird *Tiree*.

2007. Late summer and autumn movements and flocks were apparently much less evident this year than normal, with no count of over 350 birds reported.

IVORY GULL* *Pagophila eburnea*

0604

Vagrant, with only four confirmed records: on Islay in 1867, at Campbeltown in 1873, on Coll in 1969, and at Ardnave Point (Islay) on 23 and 24 Apr 2000.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

BRIDLED TERN* *Onychoprion anaethetus*

0622

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one present on Tiree in Jun/Jul 1994.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* Steàrnag-bheag

0624

A scarce summer visitor with regular breeding restricted to Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Scarce passage migrant and irregular breeder elsewhere.

Apr-May 2006. The first spring record was 3 birds on 19 Apr at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree*. Away from breeding areas, three passed Machrihanish SBO on 30 Apr and two were seen from Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* on 5 May.

2007. The first spring record was 3 birds on 18 Apr at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. The first eggs seen were on 6 May on *Tiree* but these were abandoned, and most breeding was unusually late. The only data from *Islay* reported 2 pairs at RSPB L. Gruinart

reserve. At *Tiree*, there were 49 AONs, but a total breeding failure with all pairs abandoning eggs in a late breeding season. At least 5 pairs nested on *Colonsay*, and at least 5 pairs at a site in *Kintyre* (where 28 adults were present) had 9 chicks on 14 Jul. 12 pairs nested on *Coll*, but all nests failed after poor weather in mid June.

2007. There were no data on numbers or breeding success from *Islay* or *Colonsay*. Several pairs had eggs by 30 Apr on *Tiree*. Breeding success was excellent on *Tiree*, despite the loss of 5 early clutches to heavy rain. Thirty six pairs at The Reef fledged 44 chicks. Twelve pairs at Miodar fledged 17 chicks. Another two pairs nested at a third site on *Tiree*. In *Kintyre*, about 20 adults were present at a colony, but breeding numbers and success was not reported. On *Coll*, 22 pairs were on eggs by the end of May but these failed and all birds had departed by late June.

Jul-Aug 2006. The last record was of two birds off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Aug.

2007. The last record from a breeding area was of one bird at Miodar *Tiree* on 13 Aug. An exceptionally late bird was reported from Salen Bay *Mull* on 12 Sep.

CASPIAN TERN* *Hydroprogne caspia*

0606

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns an adult seen between Ardpatrick Point Mid-Argyll and Gigha in Jun 1981.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

0626

Vagrant.

2006. No records.

2007. An adult was seen for an hour or so mid-morning on 9 Jul at ca 200m, on the rocks at the tern colony off Machrihanish village, and later in flight [E. Maguire/J. McGlynn]. Record accepted by BBRC (British Birds 101:549). This is a new species for Argyll.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh

0627

A scarce and irregular passage migrant with only 13 records 1980-2005: usually in Sep.

2006. A juvenile was seen briefly at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on the evening of 18 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2007. A juvenile was seen patrolling up and down the Sound at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 14 Sep [A. Gouldstone/D. Sexton]. Record accepted by ABRC.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

0628

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in Sep 1999.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr

0611

A regular passage migrant and a very rare and irregular breeding species.

Jan-May 2006. First arrivals were on 1 Apr with 3 at Gortinanane (Tayinloan) *Kintyre*, and 3 at Ronachan Point *Kintyre*. There were small groups (mostly 1 to 3 birds) reported from many areas of coastal Argyll throughout Apr and May, with by far the most records coming from *Kintyre*.

2007. First of the year was 1 on 15 Mar at Machrihanish SBO; then no more records until 2 on 15 Apr at Tayinloan Jetty & Bay *Kintyre*. There were very few records in Apr or May, and all came from *Kintyre* apart from a report of 3 birds at Port Ellen *Islay*.

Summering 2006. There were many reports of 1-3 birds throughout Jun, Jul and Aug, almost all at sites in *Kintyre*, *Cowal* and *Tiree*. Several of these in late Jul and in Aug reported juveniles being fed by an adult, but there was no evidence of breeding within Argyll.

2007. Very few reports in Jun, but several in Jul, and many of these with dependent juveniles being fed by adults, particularly in *Cowal*. There was no suggestion of breeding within Argyll.

Jul-Nov 2006. Largest numbers of autumn migrants were seen in late Aug, but good numbers were present throughout Sep, especially in *Cowal*. The last birds were 2 on 9 Oct at *Tiree*, and 1 on 26 Oct at Machrihanish SBO.

2007. Widespread in Aug, but rather few records by Sep, mostly from *Cowal* and *Kintyre*. The last birds of the year were 2 on 24 Sep at RSPB L. Gruinart.

FORSTER'S TERN * *Sterna forsteri*

0618

Vagrant. The only Argyll record was of one in Oban Bay and L. Feochan from 8 to 11 Jan 2003.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Steàrnag-chumanta

0615

A locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland.

Apr-May 2006. The first record was of 2 on 26 Apr at *Colonsay*, followed by birds on *Islay* and *Mull* on 1 and 3 May respectively.

2007. The first record was of one on 27 Apr at L. Feochan, followed by 2 birds at the same site on 2 May. There were 800 at the east end of the Sound of *Mull* on 18 May, which increased to 1000 there on 22 May.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 535 pairs were noted breeding at 10 sites (colony size *ca*5 to 396 pairs). Together they fledged *ca*287 young (0.54 young/pair). The largest colony was in L. Melfort. For the first time on record (since 1984), none bred at Glas Eileanan in the Sound of *Mull* nor at the adapted mussel raft at south Shian in L. Creran *North Argyll* (present since 1996).

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 954 pairs were noted breeding at 10 sites (colony size one to 515 pairs). Together they fledged 432-437 young (0.45 young/pair). Birds returned to Glas Eileanan in the Sound of *Mull* this year and although this was the largest colony, with 515 pairs, only *ca*200 young fledged. Despite the fact that mink were controlled here, a mink took 154 eggs (approx. 64 clutches) in part of colony. This was noted on 29 May and 12 Jun but then stopped, even though no mink was caught there at the time. A mink (same one?) was caught 1.2 km away on Eilean Rubha an Ridire on 1 Jul. 5 pairs successfully raised a handful of young on *Tiree* for the first time since the 1990s.

Jul-Oct 2006. Nine hundred were feeding close to Lismore Lighthouse *North Argyll* on 30 Jul. Records dropped rapidly from mid to late Aug and very few were seen in Sep. The last birds were reported on 23 Sep at L. Indaal, and 9 Oct at L. Gruinart.

2007. Last birds were on 28 Sep at Seil *Mid-Argyll* and 3 Oct at Uisken *Mull*.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Steàrnag

0616

A summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often

unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 counted 1,823 pairs in Argyll & Bute.

Apr-May 2006. The first record was on 25 Apr at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*.

2007. The first record was on 26 Apr at Machrihanish SBO.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 324 pairs were noted breeding at 11 sites (colony size one to ca 200 pairs). Together they fledged ca 67 young (0.21 young/pair). The largest colony was at Fladda (Sound of Luing) *Mid-Argyll* where ca 200 pairs laid in Jun. However, predation by mink caused the failure of all or almost all the ground-nesting birds of all species on Fladda. On *Tiree* there were ten colonies, the largest being The Reef (123 AONs) and L. Bhasapol (65 AONs). Breeding success was very low, with otter predation contributing to failure at one of the largest colonies.

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 213 pairs were noted breeding at 12 sites (colony size 1 to 92 pairs). They fledged only 18-28 young between them (0.08-0.13 young/pair). The large colony (136 pairs) at Eilean Rubha an Ridire in the Sound of *Mull* (outwith Argyll recording area) also failed completely. Very low productivity may have been due in part to shortage of food but at some sites mink predation occurred despite attempts at control. Elsewhere, on *Tiree* breeding numbers were somewhat less than in 2006, with about 280 pairs altogether. About 40 chicks fledged, but all from smaller colonies. The largest colonies failed completely, with eggs being abandoned.

Jul-Nov 2006-2007. There were many records in Jul and Aug, but few in Sep. The last record in 2006 was on 15 Oct at Connel *Mid-Argyll*. The last record in 2007 was on 4 Nov at Traigh Bhi *Tiree*. This was a very late bird but followed on from other late records in Oct from Machrihanish SBO, *Islay*, and *Tiree*.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

0614

A rare migrant which has bred in Argyll. The last accepted records were in 2001 and 2005.

2006. No records.

2007. One was seen, and heard calling, in the tern colony at Machrihanish SBO on 11 May and there were two adults present on 10 July [E. Maguire]. Records accepted by ABRC.

COMMON GUILLEMOT (GUILLEMOT) *Uria aalge* Eun-dubh-an-sgadain

0634

A highly colonial, locally abundant breeding species. Adults with small young appear on the sea far from colonies in late summer. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands and smaller numbers are regular in sea lochs in winter. The most abundant breeding seabird in Argyll with over 42,000 birds.

Jan-Apr 2006-2007. In winter, birds can be seen offshore or passing headlands, especially during rough weather. Numbers at or close to colonies build up from mid-Feb to Apr.

Breeding 2006. About 1,800 birds were on ledges and 800 on the sea at Pig's Paradise *Colonsay* on 7 May. This count is however too early in the season to give accurate breeding numbers. There were 1,930 on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, many with eggs, on 24 Jun. Breeding success there was later described as "moderate". TIARG counted 7,540 on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) in Jun. The Urugaig *Colonsay* sample cliff held 73 individuals (mean of 5 counts in Jun); there were 121 in 2005.

2007. TIARG counted 7,471 on Lunga and 72 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) in Jun: an almost identical total to that in 2006. On the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, there were 1,940 adults on 19 Jun and 2,533 adults on 29 Jun but only 200 mid-sized chicks on 12 Jul. Urugaig *Colonsay* sample cliff held 45 individuals (mean of 5 counts in Jun).

Sep-Dec 2006. Two birds at the Oyster Bar at the head of L. Fyne on 7 Sep were the first indication of a "wreck". On 8 Sep C. Trollope reported about 50 guillemots flying up Glen Fyne

Mid-Argyll to where the glen narrowed and became steep-sided some 7 to 8 km from the sea. There they turned and flew back down to L. Fyne. Two freshly dead birds were found on the floor of the glen during a walk through the area, suggesting that there may be quite large numbers lying there. On 14 Sep, Steve Petty noted 75 guillemots between Tarbert and Portavadie *Cowal* in small groups of up to seven, many looking lethargic and many juveniles hunger calling. This was the start of a wreck with hundreds, possibly more, found starving around coasts of *Kintyre*, (including Campbeltown Loch), L. Fyne and *Cowal*, especially at the head of sea lochs. Birds also appeared at inland sites and on fresh water. All examined appear to have died of starvation. This autumn mortality, which mostly affects juveniles, may be relatively frequent, but received particular attention in 2006.

2007. In Sep and Oct many corpses were found on beaches, especially in *Cowal*, several live guillemots were observed “unnaturally” close to the shore, and one bird was seen flying along the canal towards L. Gilp on 18 Sep, apparently repeating the pattern of the “wreck” in 2006.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT * *Uria lomvia*

0635

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found dead at L. Caolisport in 1969.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* Falc

0636

A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous (around 9000) and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.

Jan-Apr 2006. Very few records in Jan to Mar then increasing numbers in Apr as birds moved back to colonies.

2007. In contrast to the normal absence in Jan and Feb, Jim Dickson reported 500 moving south past Barmore Island *Mid-Argyll* in L. Fyne during 30 mins of observation on 3 Jan. There were 20 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 14 Jan. These unusually high numbers early in the year were quickly followed by two dead at Otter Ferry on 16 Jan. Ten dead birds were found at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 4 Feb, and nine more at Otter Ferry on 8 Feb. Three birds seen at Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan during a regular WeBS count were the first to be seen in that area, also suggesting that the unfolding events were unusual.

Breeding 2006. TIARG gave a total count for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) of 1,193 in Jun. There were 367 on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 24 Jun. On Urugaig *Colonsay* sample cliff the mean of 5 counts was 39 individuals *cf* 8 in 2005.

2007. TIARG counted 1,253 birds on Lunga and 4 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) in Jun. At the Urugaig sample cliff, *Colonsay* there were 28.6 individuals (mean of 5 counts). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, there were 289 birds on the cliffs on 4 Jun, 301 on 19 Jun, and 530 on 29 Jun.

Sep-Dec 2006-2007. On 19 Nov 2006 there were 1,900 flying S in 1 hr at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll*. In 2007 there was a strong passage past *Tiree*, with 600 flying W in 1 hr on 16 Oct, and 470 flying W in 1 hr on 17 Oct.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (TYSTIE) *Cephus grylle* Gearra-breac

0638

A common, but relatively scarce, resident breeding species, on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs.

Jan-May 2006. Larger counts included: 33 on 22 Mar in Oban & Harbour *Mid-Argyll*, 24 on 2 Apr in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll*, 35 on 10 Apr at Port Ban *Colonsay*, 60 on 10 Apr at Urugaig *Colonsay*, and 19 on 19 Apr at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*.

2007. There were: 14 on 21 Mar at Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, 14 on 5 Apr at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, and 36 on 24 Apr at the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding 2006. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, adults were seen during the summer at 18 sites. They were probably breeding at most or all of these but eggs or chicks were only found at 3 sites and adults were seen to fly from boulders at another 4 sites. The numbers of adults at all these sites were low, always fewer than ten, except for 12 at Eilean Aoghainn (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun. Dates of visits (May – July) were not optimal for counting this species. Elsewhere, TIARG estimated that there were 11 pairs on Lunga and 15 pairs on Fladda (Treshnish Isles).

2007. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, adults were seen during the summer at 17 sites where 102 were counted. The highest count was 18 off the limekilns on the east side of Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 19 Jul. No birds were seen at the former colonies at: Ormsa, Dubh Sgeir, and Eilean Dubh Mor in the Sound of Luing; nor at Eilean Fada in L. Caolisport. Elsewhere, there were 20 adults at Dun Chonnuill (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun, and accessible nests with chicks at two places.

Aug-Dec 2006. There were 66 on 24 Aug just north of Gunna Sound *Tiree*.

2007. There were 35 on 27 Sep just north of Gunna Sound *Tiree*, and 20 on 1 Oct in Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll*.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

0647

A scarce and irregular winter visitor, usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.

2006. A long-dead bird was found in Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 25 Feb. There were no more until autumn, when there were twelve birds reported: one on 21 Oct at Bowmore Distillery *Islay*, one on 25 Oct at L. Gruinart, a moribund bird found in a garden at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 27 Oct, one flew W off Aird *Tiree* on 31 Oct, a storm-driven bird in a garden at Milton *Tiree* was returned to the sea on 22 Nov, and another was seen off *Mull* the same day. A dead bird was found on 5 Dec at Gott Bay *Tiree*. A live bird was at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 15 Dec, and there were two at Rubh' a' Mhindhe Beag (Outer L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec. The last of the year was one at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec.

2007. One was on L. Fyne at Barmore Island *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan. There were no more until autumn, when there were 9 birds in Nov and one in Dec. Six were seen from Machrihanish SBO in 6 hrs on 7 Nov and one on 8 Nov. Birds were seen from *Tiree* on 5 Nov and 7 Dec. A dead bird was found at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* on 5 Nov.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

0654

A very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Occasionally recorded in winter.

Jan-May 2006. There were no records in Jan, one in Feb, and one in Mar, both of which were from *Tiree*. Widespread on the sea off *Mull*, *Tiree*, and *Colonsay*, but less frequent elsewhere, in Apr and May.

2007. Four dead birds were reported in Jan/Feb, on *Tiree* and *Islay*. There were no records in Mar but birds were widespread at sea in Apr and May, especially off *Mull*. Four hundred were seen off *Mull* from the Mull-Tiree ferry on 18 May.

Breeding 2006. TIARG reported an estimated 2,440 occupied burrows on Lunga and 116 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) in Jun.

2007. TIARG reported an estimated total of 2,661 AOBs on the Treshnish Isles, well above the average for the period since 1994 (1,990 AOB).

Jul-Dec 2006-2007. There were no exceptional records. As usual, hardly any were seen after Sep.

ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* Calman-creige

0665

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith breeding season. Genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons with those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.

Jan-Jun 2006. The highest counts from the islands were: 138 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 22 Jun, 64 at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 11 Jan, 45 at Ardnave *Islay* on 7 Jan, and a maximum of 44 on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Jan. Three were reported at Port Haunn *Mull* on 20 May and the only mainland record was of 6 at Bellochintuy *Kintyre* on 30 Apr.

2007. The highest counts from the islands were: 105 at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 17 Jan, 101 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Feb and 31 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 1 Feb. Small numbers were also reported from *Mull*, including Iona.

Breeding. 2006. Birds were present during the breeding season at Ardnave and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserves *Islay* and on Sanda Island *Kintyre* but no counts were made. In Jun, birds were found on three of the Treshnish Isles *Mull* (Lunga, Cairn na Burgh Beg and Cairn na Burgh More) but breeding was not confirmed.

2007. Eight birds were recorded on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in Jun as well as a nest in a sea cave. Breeding was also recorded at Ardnave and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserves *Islay* and on Sanda Island *Kintyre* but no counts were made.

Jul-Dec 2006. The highest counts from the islands were: 250 or more near Kilchoman *Islay* on 14 Nov, 220 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Nov, 166 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 8 Nov, and a maximum of 139 on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Nov. Smaller numbers were reported from *Mull*.

2007. Some reports of much higher counts than usual included: at least 600 near Kilchoman *Islay* on 13 Nov, 558 on arable field-strips at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov, and 267 feeding on arable stubble at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 15 Oct. Smaller numbers were reported from *Jura* and *Mull* (although these sometimes included birds showing characteristics of Feral Pigeon), and on the mainland, near Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre*.

Feral Pigeon 2006. Small numbers were reported from: Southend *Kintyre*, Connel *Mid-Argyll*, and Craignure Bay and L. a' Chumhainn *Mull*.

2007. Counts made during Atlas TTVs included: 52 at Connel on 2 Dec (from the colony which thrives in the girders of Connel Bridge), 58 at Lochan na Beithe *North Argyll* on 2 Dec, and 36 at Aros Moss (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 23 Dec. Smaller numbers were reported from: Scalasaig *Colonsay*, Laggan Farm *Islay*, and Rossal *Mull*.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm

0668

A very scarce and local resident: only regularly reported from Mid-Argyll in recent years (with just one confirmed breeding record). There are occasional records from: Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, and Mull.

2006. One was seen at Carnasserie Castle (nr Ford) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr. Three were seen on the Knockdow Estate (nr Toward) *Cowal* on 26 Oct (the keeper reports that a pair bred in hole in an old Lime tree this year and in 2005).

2007. One was at Slockavullin (nr Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 July, followed by a pair on 18 Jul. One seen, and photographed, at Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) on 11 and 18 Jul was the first record for *North Argyll* since 1985. One was at Inverchaolain (L. Striven) *Cowal* on 27 Jul. It would seem that July is a good month to pick up this species!

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich

A common resident, breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks may form on the mainland in winter. (Birds were reported in small numbers (<10) from all Argyll recording areas, apart from Coll and Jura during 2006-2007.)

Jan-Jun 2006. A regular flock of 50 or so birds at Otter Ferry in Apr was the only significant count reported. Single birds were found on *Tiree* on 26 Jan and 9 May.

2007. A flock of 125 was at Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan and 53 were feeding at Pheasant feeders at Otter Ferry on 29 Jan. On *Tiree*, the usual May single bird appeared on 4 May, and one was seen flying to roost with Hooded Crows on 4 Jun with possibly the same bird, on 19 Jun.

Breeding 2006. An estimated (from calling birds) 8 pairs were breeding on *Colonsay* in May. Four pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a single territory was found in the Common Bird Census plots at Taynish NNR.

2007. Breeding was confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart but no count of pairs was made and at least one pair bred at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*.

Jul-Dec 2006. The only significant counts were 45 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep, 58 at Otter Ferry on 8 Oct, 25 flying E near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 29 near Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov.

2007. Unusually large numbers were reported including: 49 at Tayinloan on 11 Sep, a spectacular roost of 312 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 6 Nov which had increased to at least 570 by the following day, approx. 150 at Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov, 65 at Otter Ferry on 14 Nov and a minimum of 300 at Ardchattan *North Argyll* on 9 Dec.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* Calman-a'-chrios

0684

A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll: usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations, but is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.

2006-2007 There were reports in small numbers (<10) from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll* but including records from Iona and Sanda Island. Two seen on Cairn na Burgh on 28 Jun 2006 were the first records from the Treshnish Isles *Mull* since 1999. The highest count was reported at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* where 33 were noted on 11 Oct 2007. Counts in double figures elsewhere included: 21 at Cairnbaan (nr Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* (more than in previous years) on 13 Oct 2006, up to 14 in the Crossapol Farm/Kenovay area of *Tiree* throughout Apr 2006, and 20 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 13 Sep 2007.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan

0687

A scarce but almost annual passage migrant: most frequently recorded during May and Jun.

2006. An exceptional number of records during the year included, unusually, several in autumn. In spring: two were at Totronald *Coll* on 4 May, one at Treshnish *Mull* on 11 May, one near Campbeltown on 2 Jun, and one at Crossapol *Tiree* on 11 Jun. An unusual summer record concerned one seen at Heylipol *Tiree* on 5 Jul. Autumn records comprised: an immature at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 & 24 Sep, one at Coullabus Plantation *Islay* on 24 Sep, one in a poorly condition at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 29 Sep, and one in a garden at Scarinish *Tiree* from 3 to 9 Oct.

2007. One was seen on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Jun and one was reported on 24 Jun as having been seen "for some days over the past week" on the road from Tobermory to Dervaig *Mull*.

COMMON CUCKOO (CUCKOO) *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag

0724

A common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland: less numerous on the outer islands.

Reports during **2006-2007** were from all Argyll recording areas and included Iona and Ulva Mull.

Apr-Jun 2006. As usual, the first arrivals were in mid-Apr with birds heard at Burg (Ardmeanach) Mull on 14 Apr, Caol Scotnish (nr Tayvallich) Mid-Argyll on 15 Apr, Whitehouse Kintyre on 17 Apr, RSPB L. Gruinart on 18 Apr, and several at the RSPB Reserve Coll on 19 Apr. The main arrival took place from 20 to 23 Apr when birds were widespread. At least 5 were calling between Largiemore and Danes Leap (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 14 May and at least 3 individuals, including a female, were calling from the forest near L. Nant on 4 Jun. Cuckoos were scarce on Tiree with just 3 records in late May/early Jun.

2007. The first arrival, at Uig Coll on 20 Apr was a little later than usual. Many appeared in the following week including a rufous morph bird at Moine Mhor. On 26 Apr, at least 4 were found in a small area near L. Nant Mid-Argyll and 3 were heard between L. Leathan and L. Ederline Mid-Argyll. A rufous morph female was seen near L. Nant on 6 Jun.

Breeding 2006. Two territories were recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR and breeding was also suspected at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave Islay and on Colonsay. Up to 2 were seen/heard on Tiree in late May and early Jun but not thereafter.

2007. Two territories were again found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR (*cf* the average of 2 since 1990) and breeding was confirmed at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave Islay. In early Jun single birds were calling on Tiree and several were heard calling on Jura.

Jul-Aug 2006. A late bird was at Treshnish Mull on 21 Jul, a juv was seen near Otter Ferry on 27 Jul and the last was a rufous morph bird, presumably juv. at this time of year, at Keills (L. Sween) Mid-Argyll on 8 Aug.

2007. A rufous morph (female?) was seen at Lagganmore (Glen Euchar) Mid-Argyll on 3 and 4 Jul and the last record was one at Kilbride Farm Cowal on 25 Jul.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

0727

Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one found dead near Southend, Kintyre in November 1950.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*

0728

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one found dead on Colonsay in November 1904 and one found dying at Barcaldine, North Argyll in September 1969.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Comhachag

0735

A scarce breeding species, but probably under recorded. It is widespread on Islay and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree. All records are requested.

2006-2007. Birds were recorded from all recording areas during 2006-2007 apart from Colonsay and Jura. One at Uig on 12 Feb 2007 was an unusual record for Coll and one (possibly the same bird) at Balephuill on 17 Feb 2007 (the first on Tiree since 2004). One was calling again at Balephuill on 3 Mar. A wild pair flew out of a garden nest box at Barcaldine North Argyll on 26 Feb 2007 (see below). Three were seen at L. Beg Mull on 20 Dec 2007.

Breeding 2006. In addition to those shown in Table 45.1, a pair consisting of a wild male and a semi-captive injured female nested in box in a garden at Barcaldine *North Argyll* and fledged four young. They hatched on 17 Jul and three survived to fledge in early Sept. A pair is thought to have bred in a crevice in a cliff at Ledaig *North Argyll* (JCAC).

Table 45.1 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2006. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
		Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	19	12	5	0	40	3.33
Islay	4	1	0	0	3	3.00
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	21	12	5	1	31+	2.58
Total	44	25	10	1	74+	2.95 ¹

¹ For 23 pairs where numbers of fledged chicks is accurately known.

On *Islay* a nest watched by a CCTV camera with pictures beamed to the Natural History Centre bred late and the last young didn't leave nest until late August, over a month later than last year.

Breeding 2007. In addition to those shown in Table 45.2: the captive injured female bred with the wild male in the nest box at Barcaldine and two young fledged in Jul. A bird was seen taking food to a nest box at L. a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 22 Jun.

Table 45.2 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2007. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Islay	4	3	2	1	0	3+	1.5+
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	20	19	16	2	1	45	2.81
Cowal	14	14	10	4	0	32	3.20
Total	38	36	28	7	1	80+	2.96 ¹

¹ For 26 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood accurately known.

On *Cowal* breeding was extended and continued well into the autumn. All late nesting attempts failed to produce any young due to low field vole numbers.

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

0739

Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one found dead at Scarinish (Tiree) on 6th Apr 1997. Very rare in Scotland, most records being from the Northern Isles.

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus*

0749

Vagrant. Two individuals were recorded in Jan 2007: one on Coll and one on Tiree. Four old records 1870-1892 are also considered acceptable.

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

A widespread and common resident breeding bird: absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.

2006/2007. Birds were reported from Cowal, Islay, Jura, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll. This is a much under recorded species e.g. there were no records from Kintyre where it is reputedly quite common. Perhaps birders think it is too common to bother with (!) but all records are welcome.

Breeding 2006.

Table 46.1 *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in Argyll in 2006.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
		Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	50	30	20	0	65	2.17

The only other information available was for one pair on *Islay* (possible breeding). (ARSG per RAB).

Breeding 2007. As well as those shown in Table 46.2, calling birds were reported during the breeding season from several localities in *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Table 46.2 *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in Argyll in 2007.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	31	30	15	15	22	1.47

The tabulated information above all comes from a long running study area where, in 2007, almost 50% of the failures were a result of predation by pine martens. All failures occurred at the egg stage and one adult female was predated on the nest while incubating. Clutch sizes were small due to low field vole numbers. Only one chick fledged from the north of this study area. The only other information concerns a pair on *Islay* which apparently made no nesting attempt. (ARSG per RAB).

A very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor: almost certainly under recorded. All records are requested.

2006. Singles were reported as follows: on the golf course at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, at Moine Mhor on 6 Nov, and at Barrananaoil (nr. Craobh Haven) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec. Three were at a roost on Aros Moss (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 12 Dec.

2007. One was seen at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul.

Breeding 2006. Three occupied sites were found on *Colonsay*: two were successful and fledged a minimum of five young.

Breeding 2007. Three occupied sites were found on *Colonsay*, all of which were successful. A minimum of 6 young were fledged. A nesting pair found at Ardfearn *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May had at least 3 young in the nest and another nesting pair located on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* in May probably fledged at least one young.

There were no records from *Mull* in either year.

A widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles *Microtus agrestis*.

2006. The relatively few records during the year came from: *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal, Islay Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*. There were no records from *Mid-Argyll*. One was seen attempting to catch a hare at The Reef *Tiree* in Mar and another hunting in the same place in Nov caught and ate a Curlew.

2007. There were records from *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll Mull and Tiree*. One which was seen at Peninver *Kintyre* on 29 Jan was the first seen in the area by the observer (D. Lord) for 20 years.

Breeding 2006. Breeding records from ARSG are given in Table 47.

Table 47 *Outcome of monitored Short-eared Owl territories in Argyll in 2006.*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
		Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Argyll	7	3	0	4	6+	2.00+

The summary table includes breeding records from *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal (2), Islay (2) and Kintyre*. On *Cowal* an additional 5-6 pairs were seen in suitable breeding habitat but no nests were located. (ARSG per RAB).

Breeding 2007. Information was received by ARSG from just 4 sites. None was reported from *Colonsay*. A pair on *Islay* is the only one reported to have attempted to breed (outcome not known). The other two sites were both on *Cowal* where one pair apparently did not attempt to breed and at the other site a single bird was seen on only one occasion. (ARSG per RAB). In addition, birds were reported at Moine Mhor and Tayinloan in Apr/May and a pair was seen near Grasspoint *Mull* in Jun.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR (NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraicheag-oidhche 0778
A very scarce and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal.

2006. One was reported as seen and heard at Balmeanach Campsite (Fishnish) *Mull* on 26 Apr. NB This is earlier than any known record for Scotland (the earliest quoted in *Birds of Scotland* is 1 May). A reliable report was received, from a group of visiting French scientists familiar with Nightjar, of one churring at Scoor *Mull* on the nights of 22 and 23 May. One was also reported as seen and heard at an un-named site in E. *Mull* on 25 and 26 May.

2007. No records.

COMMON SWIFT (SWIFT) *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr 0795
A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland. Wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

2006. Oban was the first area with two early birds on 3 May and 10 over the town on 5 May. Other early arrivals were reported from Machrihanish SBO, Heylipol *Tiree* and Port Haunn *Mull* on 6 May and 10 birds were seen over Campbeltown on 8 May. Breeding was suspected breeding at Portsonachan *Mid-Argyll* where 15 birds were screaming around the village hotel on 10 Jun. Breeding was also thought to have occurred at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* where two pairs were seen on 3 July. Other significant counts included 18 over Kirn *Cowal* on 5 Jul and 49 over Oban on 28 Jul. Counts of 40+ birds were reported to be a daily feature over Campbeltown. The last bird seen in Campbeltown was on 12 Aug with later sightings of seven birds at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug and the last report was of four birds with Barn Swallows and House Martins at Lagganmore *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug.

2007. Early arrivals were single birds at Oban on 6 May and Campbeltown on 7 May. Low numbers were reported from *Cowal* and *Mid Argyll* during the following week. Island records

included a single bird at Grasspoint *Mull* on 10 Jun, and 3 at Kilchattan Cliffs *Colonsay* on 16 Jun. Larger flocks were reported from: Oban with 33 on 15 Jul, *Kintyre* with 80 over Campbeltown on 1 Aug, and 40 over Crosshill Loch *Kintyre* on 8 Aug. A record from Innellan *Cowal* on 19 Aug was of a bird entering the eaves of a house suggesting late breeding. The only other Aug record was of 20 birds over Campbeltown on 21.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Gobhlan-monaidh 0798
Vagrant. Two Argyll records: one at Largybaan, Kintyre in April 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles in July 1994.
2006. No records.
2007. No records.

COMMON KINGFISHER (KINGFISHER) *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-crùidein 0831
Scarce but regular visitor. Most records are in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in Kintyre in 1993.

2006. In the early part of the year singles were seen at L. Don on 12 Jan and 4 Feb, at L. Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan and at the head of L. Sween on 19 Feb. One seen flying along Alt Mor burn *Coll* on 27 Jan was the first record for the island since one was shot in Jul 1903! One over the Kyles of Bute at Colintrave *Cowal* on 7 May was an unusual date for Argyll.

Later in the year, one, and sometimes two, were seen around L. Gilp on many dates from 11 Sep to 21 Dec. Other sites with records of single birds included: Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* (20 Aug and 17 Sep), Kilmun (Holy Loch) *Cowal* (23 Aug), Blarghour (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* (4 Oct), Lochhead (L. Ruel) *Cowal* (17 Oct), L. Ba *Mull* (22 Oct and 22 Nov), Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (12 Nov) and Gallachaille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (17 Dec).

2007. Early in the year singles were seen along the River Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, at Killiechranan *Mull* on 24 Jan and at L. Gilp on 4 Feb and 24 Feb). From 11 Aug onwards, one, and sometimes two, were seen regularly around L. Etive, most frequently at Connel and Taynuilt. In early Sep there were reports of single birds at Lochdon, Aros Park and, N. of Salen *Mull* and one was over the Kyles of Bute on 14 Sep. Elsewhere, Kingfishers were seen at Dubh Loch (Glenn Shira) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, at Eilean an Ruisg (L. Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct and at L. Frisa *Mull* on 14 Dec.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (BEE-EATER) *Merops apiaster* 0840
Vagrant. Only 4 or 5 records since the first in 1981.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

EUROPEAN ROLLER (ROLLER) *Coracias garrulus* 0841
Vagrant. Seven records 1887-1992, mostly in autumn.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh 0846
Scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.
2006. No records.

2007. One was seen for a minute of two in a garden at Lunga (nr Craobh Haven) *Mid-Argyll*, before flying off to the north, on the morning of 30 Apr.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Geocair 0848
Rare & irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* Snagardach 0856

Rare, but recorded regularly in Cowal in recent years as well as in Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. Breeding may have occurred in Kintyre in 1998. All records required.

2006. Calling birds were heard at the regular site at Benmore Botanic Garden Cowal on 1 Feb and 3 Apr. Outwith Cowal, one was reported at Glenure House (Glen Creran) North Argyll on 21 May and calling was heard several times at Loch Nant forest Mid-Argyll on 20 Jul.

2007. The only record was a report of a calling bird in Bridgend Woods Islay on 19 May. Although there were records on Islay in 1978 and 1979 there have been none since, and given the recent contraction in the Green Woodpecker's range in Scotland (Forrester 2007), there must be some doubt about this record.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich 0876

Resident breeder, widespread on the mainland and Mull. Occasional records on Islay.

2006/7. Birds were widely reported from: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll and, less frequently, from Kintyre. There were many reports of both adults and juvs. (sometimes whole families!) at garden bird feeders.

Breeding 2006. A record 6 territories were identified in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll.

Breeding 2007. There were 5 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll. (cf. average of three territories 1990-2007).

SKY LARK (SKYLARK) *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag 0976

Widespread breeding species, common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low lying localities.

Widely reported from all recording areas during 2006-2007.

2006. The highest counts reported were: 900 in a potato field at West Parkfergus (The Laggan) Kintyre on 3 Nov, at least 300 at Arileod Coll on 8 Mar, 160 at Killinallan Islay on 19 Feb, a maximum of 154 on the RSPB reserve at Oronsay Colonsay in Sep and 120 at Upper Killelan Islay on 7 Oct.

2007. The highest counts reported were: 157 at Aros Moss (The Laggan) Kintyre on 23 Dec, 125 feeding on arable stubbles on Oronsay on 26 Sep, 120 on stubbles at Balephetrish Tiree on 13 Oct and 103 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 19 Sep.

Breeding 2006. Six singing males were on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) in Jun and one territory was found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR

Breeding 2007. A full survey at The Reef Tiree on 14 May found 251 singing males. At least 6 singing males were on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) in Jun and one territory was found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR (cf. average of two territories 1990-2007).

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* 0976

Vagrant. Only one accepted record, of three birds on Islay in October 1976.

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich 0981

A summer visitor, localised breeding species, and passage migrant. All breeding records required.

Mar-May 2006. First arrivals were two birds at Dervaig Mull on 15 Mar. Elsewhere birds arrived on: 30 Mar at L. Indaal, 31 Mar at Port Ellen Islay, and on 1 Apr at both Ronachan Kintyre and Loch Don Mull. The main arrival was from 7 Apr to mid-May with reports from all areas apart from Colonsay and Jura. Flocks of over 20 were found on: 11 Apr at L. Ederline Mid-Argyll (50), 30 Apr at L. an Eilein Tiree (52), and 1 May at Loch a' Phuill Tiree (60+).

2007. Earliest arrivals were 3 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 3 Apr and 5 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. The main arrival took place between 8 and 28 Apr with reports from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. Larger flocks in Apr included 18 at L. Melldalloch *Cowal* on 18 Apr. Up to 60 were present at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* throughout May.

Breeding 2006. At the large colony at North Connel *North Argyll*, 216 burrows were counted: less than previous years due to sand removal. Elsewhere, on *Tiree*, 35 burrows were found in the dunes near L. a' Phuill and a colony of five pairs at Sorobaidh Bay represented a new breeding site. Occupied burrows were seen at: Eredine *Mid-Argyll*, Blairmore *Cowal*, and in small numbers at various locations in *Cowal*, *Mull*, *Tiree*, *North Argyll*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Unusually, breeding was also confirmed on *Jura* with 6 birds seen on 2 July. This is the first confirmed breeding on the island since the 1968/72 Breeding Atlas.

2007. Breeding records received included: 30-40 occupied burrows at L. a' Phuill, 60 at Millhouse *Cowal*, 51 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and 153 at North Connel sandpit *North Argyll* where old faces had been destroyed by new extraction. Elsewhere small numbers were reported breeding or apparently breeding from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Jura*.

Aug-Sep 2006. Birds were seen in Aug in *Tiree* and *Mid-Argyll* with 15 seen as late as 25 Aug at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* but there were no Sep records.

2007. Aug saw more birds than in the previous year particularly on *Mull* and *Tiree* throughout the month with a high for *Mull* of 20 at Torosay on 24 Aug and for *Tiree* of 20 at L. a' Phuill on 7 and 24 Aug. The highest count in Sep was 14 at L. a' Phuill on 5 Sep with a single late bird at the same site on 14 Sep. A very late bird was noted at Treshnish *Mull* on 23 Oct.

BARN SWALLOW (SWALLOW) *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

0992

A widespread and common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Mar-May 2006. The only March records were of single birds at Aros *Mull* on 27 Mar and Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Mar. Early April records were at *Colonsay* and Tarbert *Kintyre* (1 Apr), 4 at Luarach Loch Oban (7 Apr), and 6 feeding with Sand Martins at Muircroft Oban (9 Apr). The main influx occurred between the 14 and the 26 Apr when birds were widely reported from all areas apart from *Jura* and *Coll*. No flocks of any size were noted apart from 40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 2 May.

2007. The earliest record in recent years was of a single bird at Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar. Thereafter, arrivals were in early April with singles at: Hynish *Tiree* (9 Apr); and Treshnish *Mull*, Appin *North Argyll*, and Eredine *Mid-Argyll* (11 Apr). From 12 Apr to the end of the month birds were widely seen in all recording areas, usually in very small numbers. The only Apr records in double figures were: 30 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr, 20 at Lismore *North Argyll* on 28 Apr, and 12 at Bellochinty *Kintyre* on 30 Apr.

Breeding 2006/2007. Confirmed breeding was widely reported from all recording areas in both years.

Jul-Dec 2006. Post breeding flocks were noted at: Heylipol *Tiree* (42 on 4 Aug), L. a' Phuill (90 on 29 Aug), Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* (60 on 12 Sep), Largiemoire *Cowal* (100 on 14 Sep), Balephuill *Tiree* (50 on 23 Sep), Sandaig *Tiree* (65 on 25 Sep), and Kilfinan *Cowal* (200 on 23 Sep). Virtually all had left by 5 Oct but a single bird was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 20 Oct and a pair was at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 21 October

2007. Eight post breeding flocks, exceeding 40, were: 120 at Sandhole *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 48 at The Reef *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 90 at Kilmelford and 55 at Lochgilphead both *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 5 Sep, 100 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, and 180 over Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep. The bulk of birds had gone by the middle of Oct although late birds were seen at Salen *Mull* and Southend *Kintyre* on 30 Oct, and Killiechronan *Mull* on 13 and 20 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* Gobhlan-taighe

1001

A common summer visitor on the mainland. It is less numerous on the islands and has not been recorded breeding on Tiree.

Apr-May 2006. The first bird was reported at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Apr followed by two pairs seen repairing nests at Kames *Cowal* on 20 Apr. The main arrival was from 20 Apr onwards with records from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

2007. An early bird was reported at Lochdon *Mull* on 3 Apr but it was 18 Apr before the next sighting at Inellan *Cowal*. In Apr, 16 birds were noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (22 Apr) and single birds were recorded at: Minard *Mid-Argyll* (21 Apr); and Heanish *Tiree*, Glenbranter *Cowal* and Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* (29 Apr). There was no marked peak influx with birds appearing throughout May in all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

Breeding 2006-2007. Breeding was widely reported in both years from most recording areas apart from the islands of *Colonsay*, *Jura*, *Coll* and *Tiree*. Birds were present on *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in both years but breeding was not confirmed.

Jul-Oct 2006. Post breeding flocks of 20 or more were at: Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* (350 on 10 Sep), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (170 on 12 Sep), and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (50 on 13 Sep). The last record was of three birds at Skipness *Kintyre* on 16 Oct.

2007. Post breeding flocks of more than 20 were reported at: Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (29 on 14 Aug), Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* (45 on 14 Aug), Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll* (200 on 21 Aug), Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* (85 on 27 Aug), and Inellan *Cowal* (30 on 24 Sep). The last record of the year was later than in 2006 with a single bird reported at Eredine *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

1001

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records, both on Islay, one in September 1971 and the other in September 1973.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

1009

Summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland. Also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.

2006 Apr-May. Early arrivals were seen at Kames *Cowal* on 16 Apr and Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid Argyll* on 18 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records of singing birds from *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll* with at least three birds singing simultaneously at Tullochgorm *Mid Argyll* on 9 May.

2007. First arrivals were heard singing at Tullochgorm *Mid Argyll* on 13 Apr and seen at Taynish NNR *Mid Argyll* on 18 Apr. By mid May there had been widespread records from *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2006. 11 territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR. Confirmed breeding records also came from Tullochgorm *Mid Argyll*, Glenan *Cowal* and, unusually, possible breeding at Laggan *Islay*.

2007 Following a brief recovery in 2006 the number of territories found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish declined to 7 (*cf* long-term average 1990 – 2007 = 11 territories).

Aug-Sep. One bird was reported after July at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 14 Aug **2006** with none reported in this period in **2007**.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag

1011

Abundant breeding species. Most leave higher ground in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those remaining in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.

2006 Jan-Apr. Flocks of 30 birds or more reported during these months included: 30 at Loch Gruinart, *Islay* on 14 Feb, 30 at Coraigmore, *Tiree* on 19 Feb and 37 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 25 Apr. 40 birds in a group at Gott *Tiree* on 30 Apr were probably on migration and flocks in excess of 20 birds were regularly noted during Apr at Balvicar, Isle of Seil *Mid Argyll*.

2007 Flocks of 40 birds or more reported during these months included: 40 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 9 Feb, 40+ and at Glendaruel, *Cowal* on 20 Mar. *Tiree* received a large influx of birds during Apr with 120 at Loch a' Phuill on 1 Apr and 112 at Crossapol on 3 Apr.

Breeding 2006. 7 territories were found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR *Mid Argyll*.

2007 10 territories found in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR represented an increase over the 1990 – 2007 long term average of 7 territories. A Moorland Bird Survey near L.Nant *Mid Argyll* recorded 49 birds on 1 June and 52 on 8 July.

2006 Jul-Dec. Flocks of 70 birds or more reported included: 70 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 70 at Baugh *Tiree* on 28 Aug, 100 on Isle of Shuna *Mid Argyll* on 29 Aug, 100 at Fidden *Mull* on 6 Sep and 70 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Oct.

2007 Flocks of 70 birds or more reported included: 75 at The Reef *Tiree* on 26 July, 70 at Cruach Airdeny *Mid Argyll* on 9 Aug, 70 at Carn Gaibhre *Mid Argyll* on 21 Aug, 220 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Aug and 150 at Add Estuary *Mid Argyll* on 23 Aug. Later records included 180 birds at Ben Hynish *Tiree* on 3 September, 300 at Hynish *Tiree* on 8 September and 60 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 10 Oct.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

1012

Vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one at Tobermory, Mull in May 1975.

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* Gabhagan

1014.2

Common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn. Scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Breeding 2006. Breeding was reported to be widespread on Treshnish Isles *Mull* including 5 pairs on Cairn na Burgh More and 3 pairs on Cairn na Burgh Beg. Breeding was also recorded at Ardrishaig *Mid Argyll* and Colonsay.

2007. On Treshnish Isles, at least 6 pairs were found on Lunga and 7 pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Breeding also recorded at Loch a Chumhainn *Mull* and Dun Chonnuill, Garvellachs *Mid Argyll*.

2006. Counts of birds on *Tiree* in Feb recorded 27 at Hynish, 23 at Gott Bay, 33 at Balevullin and 24 at West Hynish. On 12 Feb the 55 birds recorded over a 100m length of seaweed at Machrihanish *Kintyre* were considered unusual. 30 birds were at Dunaverty *Kintyre* on 6 Dec.

2007. Counts of 10 or more included: 40 feeding on weed at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 January, 20 at Creag Mhor *Mull* on 31 May, 10 at Appin *North Argyll* on 18 Oct and 13 at Machrihanish on 23 December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan-buidhe

1017

Scarce but annual passage migrant. Birds of the Blue-headed race *M. f. flava* occur from time to time, and there has been at least one record of the Grey-headed race *M. f. thunbergi* (in 1985).

2006. Single birds were reported at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Jun and 7 Aug and High Barnakill *Mid Argyll* on 3 Jul. [Blue-headed Wagtail - see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149].

2007. No records.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna 1019
Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.

2006/2007. Grey Wagtails were reported from all Argyll recording areas in both 2006 and 2007. Mostly in ones and twos, but in 2006, 6 birds were seen both at Ballimore Cowal on 13 Sep and Kames Cowal on 26 Sep and in 2007, 8 birds were recorded at Torosay Mull on 19 Aug.

Breeding 2006. Young birds were seen at Balvicar, Seil, *Mid Argyll* on 13 Jun and 2 Jul and a male was seen gathering food for young at Tullochgorm *Mid Argyll* on 20 Jun.

2007. A family party of 4 birds was at Barguilean Farm *Mid Argyll* on 22 May and a juvenile was seen in a garden at Tullochgorm *Mid Argyll* on 15 Jul. Adults and juveniles were frequently seen along the shore at Otter Ferry Cowal during the September eider count.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Breac-an-t-sìl 1020
Widespread and common breeder. Absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive late Feb to early Mar; departure Aug-Oct.

Jan-Apr 2006. There were records from all areas apart from *Jura, Coll* and *North Argyll*. Flocks of 10 or more birds were: 10 at Clachan of Glendaruel Cowal on 26 Feb, 16 male birds at Sorobaigh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Mar, 30 birds, again all males, at the east end of *Tiree* on 28 Mar and 19 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 30 Apr.

2007. There were records from all areas apart from: *Colonsay, Jura, Coll*, and *North Argyll*. More than 10 birds were reported from *Islay* with a flock of 40 at Bridgend on 10 Feb, 12 at Barsloisnoch *Mid Argyll* on 2 March, 19 at Clachan of Glendaruel Cowal on 20 Mar, and 16 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 30 Apr.

Breeding 2006. Breeding was recorded on *Tiree* from mid May where many fledglings were noted at a number of sites. An adult and up to 3 juveniles were regularly seen on Lunga Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 1 Jun and breeding was confirmed in all areas other than *Coll, Colonsay, Jura* and *North Argyll*.

2007. Again the first fledglings were reported from *Tiree* around mid May and although there were many records from most areas few referred specifically to confirmed signs of breeding.

Post Breeding 2006. Moderate sized flocks were noted with: 22 at Islandadd Bridge *Mid Argyll* on 16 Aug, 21 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 16 Aug, 21 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid Argyll* on 4 Sep, 30 in the company of meadow pipits at Fidden *Mull* on 12 Sep, 45 coming to roost at Meningie *Tiree* on 14 Sep and 20 with White wagtails at North Connel *North Argyll* on 22 Sep.

2007. Similar numbers and distribution to the previous year were evident with: 19 at Add Estuary *Mid Argyll* on 26 Jul, 35 at Vaul *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 80 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 40 at Fidden *Mull* on 19 Sep, 44 at East Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 18 Dec and 26 mainly adult males at Drimvore *Mid Argyll* on 31 Dec.

WHITE WAGTAIL *M. a. alba* 1020.1
Passage migrant, usually recorded in spring. Extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties.

Spring 2006. First migrants of spring were from *Mid-Argyll, Kintyre* and *Tiree* between 30 Mar and 8 Apr. There were few reports of larger numbers later in the spring with peak counts of 28 at Sorobaigh Bay *Tiree* on 21 Apr and 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 May.

2007. The first arrivals were single birds in *Mid Argyll* noted at Machrihanish SBO on 17 Mar and Ulva Lagoons on 19 Mar. There were reports of low numbers of birds during April from

Islay, Colonsay, Tiree, Cowal, Kintyre. Larger numbers were: 23 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Apr and 12 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 29 Apr.

Breeding 2006/2007. There were no confirmed breeding reports but sightings of possible immature birds were reported from Lagganmore *Mid Argyll* on 19 Aug 2006 and Ulva Lagoons *Mid Argyll* on 12 Aug 2007.

Autumn 2006. Low numbers were noted on passage at Machrihanish SBO but larger numbers were 26 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 7 Sep, 14 at Lower Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 7 Sep and 35 at Add Estuary *Mid Argyll* on 9 Sep. Elsewhere, smaller numbers were noted, mainly during Sep, from *Cowal, Islay, Mull, and North Argyll*.

2007. In contrast to the previous year Machrihanish SBO saw the largest numbers on passage with 44 seen on 27 Aug. The only other large flock was noted at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* with at least 35 birds on 11 Sep. Elsewhere there were a few records from *Colonsay, Tiree, Kintyre, Mull, Mid Argyll and North Argyll*.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg 1048

This is an irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers but not seen every year.

2006. There were only two records with 10 birds at Pennyfuir (nr. Oban) *Mid Argyll* on 10 January and 2 at Feorlan *Kintyre* on 7 Apr.

2007. Very low numbers were again evident with single birds reported from Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 22 Jan and Taynuilt *Mid Argyll* on 3 Feb.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge 1050

A widespread resident breeder, but scarce on Islay and absent from Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.

2006. Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (3). All, apart from three records, were of single birds.

2007. Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (1). All, apart from four records were of single birds.

Breeding 2006. Birds were noted at sites in: *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). The only confirmed breeding was at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* where a pair was present at a nest.

2007. Breeding was not confirmed in any recording area. Birds were present during the breeding season at locations in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (1). Pairs were noted outside the breeding season in *Cowal*, and *Mid-Argyll*.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn 1066

A common resident breeder in all areas, although numbers often decline following hard winters.

2006. The only area where there were no records, outside the breeding season, was *Jura*. Elsewhere records were common and widespread.

2007. Outside the breeding season records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, and Jura* where birds were probably present. Elsewhere records were common and widespread

Breeding 2006. Widespread in almost all areas: probably much under-reported. There were no records from *Coll* or *Jura*. On *Tiree* on 1 May there were 14 singing birds at 7 sites. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 69 territories (cf 67 in 2005).

2007. Widespread including 11 singing birds at 6 sites on *Tiree* in May and probably much under-reported; particularly from *Coll, Colonsay, and Jura* where there were no reports within

the breeding season. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 58 territories (*cf* the average of 57 since 1990).

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn-nam-preas 1084

A widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura while only a winter visitor to Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats.

2006. Outside the breeding season rather sparse records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, Kintyre, and Jura*. Almost certainly under recorded.

2007. Outside the breeding season sparse records were received from all areas apart from *Coll and Jura*. Again, almost certainly under-recorded.

Breeding 2006. Records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll, Islay, and Jura*. There were birds present or breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Colonsay* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (43), *Mull* (15), and *North Argyll* (3). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 5 territories (*cf* 3 in 2005).

2007. Records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, and North Argyll*. Birds were present or breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (15) and *Mull* (18).. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 1 territory (*cf* the average of 4 since 1990).

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg 1099

A widespread and common resident breeder, apart from Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. A noticeable autumn passage occurs with some migrants over- wintering.

2006/2007. Prior to the breeding season there were records from all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, and Jura*. From Aug to Dec there were rather more records from all areas including *Jura, and North Argyll*. Passages of up to a hundred individuals were noted in both years. These were predominately from the west coast and from *Tiree* and *Coll* in particular.

Breeding 2006. There were records from all areas apart from *Tiree* where a pair was present but with no evidence of breeding. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 30 territories (*cf* 20 in 2005).

2007. A pair at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* fledged at least two young. This is the first breeding record from the island for many years. Elsewhere records were similar to 2006. At the Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 24 territories (*cf* the average of 23 since 1990).

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag 1104

Vagrant. Only three Argyll records: two of singing birds, one on Islay in April 1973, and the other at West Loch Tarbert in May 1989; the third was of a bird feeding at Balephuill, Tiree on 2 May 2004.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* 1106

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975, and a male of the red-spotted race svecica on Coll in 1994.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan 1121

A less than annual passage migrant. All but 2 of 22 records in Argyll during 1980-2000 were in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).

2006. A good year with three records: the first on 1 Apr, a male at RSPB Coll was only the second record for the island, the second on 20 Apr at Glen Forsa Mull, and the third on 24 Apr, was a female at Machrihanish SBO.

2007. The only record was of a female at Fionnphort Mull seen on 24 Mar and again on 25 Mar.

COMMON REDSTART (REDSTART) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann-dearg 1122

A summer visitor, locally common, in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree.

2006. First arrivals were at Taynish NNR on 19 and 24 Apr, and at Glenstockdale North Argyll on 26 Apr. A migrant female was at Carnan Mor Tiree on 9 May.

2007. First arrivals were at Inion and Ardchattan North Argyll on 3 May.

Breeding 2006. Probable or confirmed breeding was noted at: Cowal (3), Mid-Argyll (10), Mull (1) and North Argyll (1). Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll CBC plots had 10 territories (*cf* 5 in 2005).

2007. Probable or confirmed breeding was noted at: Ardchattan, Inion, and Blarcreen North Argyll, Glenbranter Forest Cowal, and at Crinan & harbour, and Glen Lonan Lake Mid-Argyll. At Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll the CBC plots had 9 territories (*cf* average of 6 since 1990).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137

A widespread, and locally common, summer visitor.

Apr-May 2006. First arrivals were a male which stopped briefly at Machrihanish SBO on 10 Apr, followed by 6 at Balvicar, Mid-Argyll on 21 Apr, and 2 at Loch Don, Mull on 22 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records from Coll (1), Cowal (2), Islay (3), Mid-Argyll (12), and Mull (4).

2007. From 24 to 29 Apr, birds were noted at: Treshnish Isles Mull, Luing Mid-Argyll, Bunessan Mull, and Islandadd Bridge, Mid-Argyll. By the end of May there were also records from: Cowal (2), Islay (2), Mid-Argyll (2), and Mull (3).

Breeding 2006. Confirmed breeding occurred at Otter Ferry Cowal where at least three males were with around 14 juveniles and females, Loch na Cille Mid-Argyll 2 juveniles on 3 Aug, and at Ulva Lagoons Mid-Argyll with 1 juvenile on 20 Aug. Elsewhere birds were noted at sites in: Cowal (2), Islay (2), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (5), Mull (3), and North Argyll (1).

2007. Confirmed breeding occurred at: Otter Ferry where good numbers of juveniles were seen on 1 Jul along the Strone road, Glen Euchar Mid-Argyll where newly fledged young were seen on 14 Jul, Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe, Mid-Argyll where an adult with a juv was seen on 16 Jul, Add Estuary Mid-Argyll where three immatures were seen on 26 Jul, Strontoiller Mid-Argyll where a juv was seen beside the road on 30 Jul, and Clachadubh (Glen Lonan) Mid-Argyll where 2 or more juveniles were present on 14 Aug.

Aug-Sep 2006. The last records were: 4 at Loch na Cille, Mid-Argyll on 22 Aug, 2 at Islandadd Bridge, Mid-Argyll also on 22 Aug, and finally 3 at Loch Don Mull on 3 Sep.

2007. Again few birds were recorded after the end of Aug. Those included: a juv/female at Ledaig Point, North Argyll on 2 Sep, a single at Ardura Mull on 12 Sep, and finally a single with Stonechats at Aros Mull on 13 Sep.

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan 1139

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

2006. Reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*; mostly in single figures. Forty-nine pairs were noted on *Colonsay* on 1 Jun (56 in 2005) and 20 or more individuals were noted around Port Ramsay (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 12 Jul.

2007. There were many more reports than usual, during the year, from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll*. This increase was due, in part at least, to records from BTO Atlas work. Ten or more birds were recorded from: *Islay* (40 on 10 Feb), *Tiree* 12 (6 pairs) on 1 Apr, rising to 20 (10 pairs) on 1 May, *Colonsay* 100 (50) pairs on 1 Jun (49 in 2006), *Jura* (12) individuals on 1 Oct, and 18 were noted around Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct.

Breeding 2006 Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (1) and, *Tiree* (2). Some of these sites had more than one pair breeding. Elsewhere, probable breeding records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Mull*.

2007. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Colonsay*, *Cowal* (5), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5). Elsewhere, records of probable breeding were received from all areas apart from *Coll*.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (WHEATEAR) *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal 1146
A common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Mar-Apr 2006. The first arrival was on 16 Mar at Machrihanish SBO with the next not until 26 Mar at Loch na Keal *Mull*. During the last four days of March records were received from: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (2). An influx of at least 20 occurred on *Tiree* on 20 Apr and 10 were at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 30 Apr.

2007. The first arrivals were on: 10 Mar at Kirkton (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*, 15 Mar at Bunessan *Mull*, and 18 Mar at Sanaigmore *Islay*. Thereafter, there were widespread records from the islands and west coast mainland but it was not until 25 April that the first bird was recorded away from these areas (a male at Killail *Cowal*).

Breeding 2006. Breeding was confirmed on *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*. Probable breeding was noted widely and included all areas.

2007. Breeding was confirmed at sites on: *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3). Probable breeding was noted widely and included all areas.

Sep-Nov 2006. Fourteen birds were noted at Connel Airfield *North Argyll* on 13 Sep. The last of the year were singles at Coire an Dothaidh *North Argyll* on 15 Oct, and West Parkfergus *Kintyre* and Sanaigmore *Islay* on 27 Oct.

2007. No groups into double figures were noted. The last of the year were one or two birds at: The Lodge *Coll* and Killail *Cowal* on 8 Oct, Fionnphort *Mull* and Fidden *Mull* on 9 Oct, Uisken *Mull* on 10 Oct and finally, Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 15 Oct.

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *O. o. leucorhoa* 1146.2
A scarce passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.

2006. There were a few spring records including 1 at Scarinish *Tiree* on 20 Apr and odd birds on *Tiree* in May. Apart from two records from *Islay*, where a few were present in the west of the island on 27 Sep and a single at Loch Gruinart on 1 Oct, all records were from *Tiree*. On *Tiree*, records were frequent during Sep and Oct with: 10 at Heylipol on 13 Sept, 35 including 25 at Balephetrish on 29 Sep, and 48 around the island on 2 Oct (but only 3 on 3 Oct) with the last on 20 Oct.

2007. The first of spring were two at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 14 Apr with another on 17 Apr, and a large, bright, Greenland type male at Creag Ruadh *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr. Around 15 "Greenland" type birds were noted on *Tiree* on 4 May and 40 were noted on the same day on *Coll*. Further spring records were all from *Tiree*.

First returning birds in Sep were on *Tiree* with 3 on Ben Hynish on 3 Sep. Thereafter, most autumn records were from *Tiree* with the last there on 25 Oct, along with two from *Kintyre* and one from *North Argyll*.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH* *Monticola solitarius* 1166
Vagrant. A first summer male present at Skerryvore in June 1985 and later found dead is the only Argyll record. It is now accepted as the first record of a genuinely wild bird in Britain.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige 1186
A summer visitor breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in number; more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.

2006. Spring migrants were recorded at Mull of *Kintyre* on 28 Mar (2), and Glenastle *Islay* on 31 Mar (1). Thereafter a single was noted at Tioran *Mull* on 10 Jun and possibly two singing birds at Beinn nan Aighenan *North Argyll* on 25 Jun. There were no autumn records.

2007. Only two records were received. A single was at Totronald *Coll* on 20 Apr and another at the north end of Gigha *Kintyre* (a male) on 28 Apr. There were no autumn records.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh 1187
A widespread, common and locally abundant resident breeding, species. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some birds remaining during winter.

Jan-Jun 2006. Birds were present and frequent in all areas apart from *Coll* (no information), *Colonsay* and *Jura*.. A gathering of around 24 at the chalet site at Largiemore *Cowal* on 3 Jan was mainly of juv males. This preponderance of juv males has become common and tends to be a feature of the Argyll winter population.

2007. Birds were again present and frequent in all areas apart from *Coll* (no information), *Colonsay* and *Jura*.. Again around 24, mainly juv males, were around the chalets at Largiemore *Cowal* on 11 Feb. Similarly, mainly males were in a group of 12 at Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 29 March. Other groups in double figures were: 10 at Baile Mor (Iona) *Mull* on 29 May, and 16 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun.

Breeding 2006. Confirmed successful breeding was noted from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. There were 5 territories in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR cf 8 in 2005.

2007. Confirmed successful breeding was noted from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. The number of territories in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR increased to 8 (cf the average of 6 since 1990).

Jul-Dec 2006. As usual there was an influx in Oct and Nov with: 7 (all imm males) at Lindsaig *Cowal* on 10 Oct, 160 present on *Coll* on 2 Nov, 15 at Hynish *Tiree* on 9 Nov (associated with Redwing influx), and 10 which arrived overnight on 9 Nov at Kames *Cowal* were mostly imm males.

2007. Once again a marked influx took place from mid-Oct to early Nov. Records included: 11 at Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Sep, 22 on freshly cut grass around chalets at Largiemore *Cowal* on 27 Oct (mainly imm males), 28 on 23 Nov at Ballimore *Cowal* (on a TTV), 19 on 29 Nov at Largiemore *Cowal* (on a TTV), 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Nov, 23 on 9 Dec at Ardfert *Mid-Argyll* (on a TTV), and 11 on 18 Dec were found at Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (on a TTV).

A passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or pass through in spring.

Jan-May 2006. Flocks of 40 and over were recorded at: Kilbride Farm *Cowal* (200) on 2 Jan, Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve (45) on 29 Jan, Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* (40) on 11 Feb, Millhouse *Cowal* (50) on 15 Feb, Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve (55) on 6 Mar, Arileod *Coll* (120) on 8 Mar, Auchagoyl Cott (Millhouse) *Cowal* (70) on 17 Mar, The Oa *Islay* (150 or more) on 20 Mar, Lossit House *Kintyre* (60) >N on 24 Mar, and Island House *Islay* (40) on 13 Apr were the last birds reported. Smaller numbers were also widespread during this period.

2007. A more normal year with far fewer birds recorded than in 2006. The only flocks to reach double figures were: 10 or more on 10 Jan at Barguilean Farm *Mid-Argyll*, 10 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 23 Jan, 45 on 12 Feb at Port Charlotte *Islay*, and 20 at Barguilean Farm *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Mar. The last birds of spring were 2 at Ulva *Mull* on 4 Apr.

Sep-Dec 2006. The first returning migrant was a single bird at Heanish *Tiree* on 2 Oct. The main arrival occurred from around 20 Oct with reports from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Significant flocks to the end of the year included: 120 flying over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct, 80 at least at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 150 at least at Clachan (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 18 Nov, and on 4 Dec there were flocks of at least 115 and 37 in the same area.

2007. The first of autumn was a single bird at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 30 Sep. In Oct birds were recorded from most areas with the first significant flock being at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct where a minimum of 106 were with a few other thrushes. Thereafter flocks of over 100 were recorded from: Southend *Kintyre* (100) on 13 Oct, Drum Cottage *Cowal* (350) on 17 Oct, Ardmarnock Bay *Cowal* (100) on 20 Oct, and Otter Ferry *Cowal* (at least 200) on 20 Oct with 350 flying south nearby on the same date. Also on the same date (20 Oct) a passage of 200 or more flew over Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* in small groups with a similar passage of 100 or more on 23 Oct. Two further flocks in Oct were of 300 mixed thrushes on 25 Oct at Tayinloan *Kintyre* and around 200 at Conie Glen *Kintyre* on 27 Oct. The largest flock, of autumn, was of 400 at least at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov and the last flock of the year was of around 220 at Benmore *Cowal* on 2 Dec.

A widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.

Jan-Mar 2006. Birds were frequent and widespread in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Fifteen at Airport Camp *Tiree* on 24 Jan were some of the brighter UK/Continental birds on the island. Elsewhere there were: 12 with Fieldfares at Lephinchapel *Cowal* on 16 Mar, 30 at Drum Farm *Cowal* on 17 Mar, 10 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 17 Mar, and 30 at least at The Oa *Islay* on 20 Mar.

2007. Birds were widespread in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. In Jan birds were widespread on *Tiree* in small loose groups, many of which were brighter UK/Continental type. Unlike last year there were no larger groups reported.

Breeding 2006. There were about 20 singing males on *Tiree* on 1 Apr. Breeding was confirmed at: *Tiree*, Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*, Iona *Mull*, *Colonsay*, Corra *Cowal*, and Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll*. Presumably breeding elsewhere was under-recorded. At Taynish NNR there were 12 territories, the same as 2005.

2007. Again there were around 20 singing males on *Tiree* at the beginning of Apr. Breeding was only confirmed on *Tiree* with ca 20 broods at the end of May. Presumably breeding took place in most areas reflecting the widespread incidence of birds. High numbers continued at Taynish

NNR with 11 territories found in the Common Bird Census plots (*cf* the average of 9 since 1990).

Aug-Dec 2006. Birds were few and far between although 12 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Oct.

Fifteen arrivals on *Tiree*, noted on 9 Nov, included some more brightly coloured than the local birds.

2007. Again records were few, although 20 were at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 17 Oct along with 20 Mistle Thrushes. Indeed only four singles were found in each of four early winter 2 hour TTVs in *Mid-Argyll* and *Cowal*.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

1201

A passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals may be recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.

Jan-May 2006. Records were of higher numbers than has been usual recently. There were 14 flocks of 50 or over recorded. These included: *Coll* (50 at least) on 1 Apr, *Cowal* (Kilbride Farm 215 with Fieldfares) on 6 Jan, *Cowal* (Otter Ferry 50 in field by spit) on 18 Jan, *Cowal* (Kilbride Farm 50) on 9 Jan, *Tiree* (Airport Camp 60) on 24 Jan, *Islay* (Ballygrant Village 140) on 15 Feb, *Cowal* (Drum Cottage 100 minimum) on 19 Feb, *North Argyll* (Kinlochaich (Appin) 100 approx) on 20 Feb, *Cowal* (Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) approx 50) on 24 Feb, *Mid-Argyll* (70 near Taycreggan) on 1 Mar, *Mid-Argyll* (60 near Achnacarron) also on 1 Mar, *Cowal* (Otter Ferry 50 preening) on 9 Mar, *Cowal* (Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) 70 With Fieldfares and Starlings) on 17 Mar, *Coll* (RSPB Reserve 50 at least) on 1 Apr, and *Islay* (Octofad 80 approx) on 10 Apr. The last noted were 3 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May.

2007. Records, with few exceptions, were from the islands. Significant flocks were: *Tiree* (150 on 16 Jan seen during goose count, up to 200 during Feb, 80 around the island 22/23 Mar, 60 at the Manse Scarinish on 6 Apr, and 60 at Balephuil, with 120 at Balemartine both on 7 Apr); *Cowal* (45 with Fieldfares at Kilfinan on 23 Jan, and 50 at Millhouse on 9 Feb); and *Islay* (50 at Bridgend Hide on 10 Feb, 80 or more in Bridgend woods on 23 Feb, and 100 at least moving through at The Oa on 22 Mar. A late bird at Heylipol *Tiree* on 15 May had a damaged wing.

Sep-Dec 2006. The first report of a returning bird was of a single at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 2 Oct. During the next ten days or so small numbers were reported from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and elsewhere on *Tiree*. Thereafter to the end of the month there were widespread flocks in excess of 200 birds reported from: *Cowal* (2 flocks), *Mid-Argyll* (3 flocks), *North Argyll* (2 flocks), and *Tiree* (5 flocks). The largest number was on west *Tiree* on 20 Oct when some 2000 birds were present. During Nov and Dec there were only five flocks noted in excess of 100 birds with: 200 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 4 Nov, 100 at least at Clachan of Glendaruel *Cowal* on 18 Nov, 300 on *Tiree* on 1 Dec, and 115 at Clachan of Glendaruel *Cowal* on 4 Dec.

2007. The last three days of Sep saw first arrivals at: *Tiree* on 28 Sep, Millhouse *Cowal* on 29 Sep, Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Sep, Benderloch *North Argyll* on 30 Sep, and *Colonsay* also on 30 Sep. Birds continued to be reported mainly in small numbers (less than 50) through to the 20 Oct. (A single higher count was of at least 100 at Strontoiller *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct). From 20 Oct to 10 Dec larger counts were of: many hundreds going south at Ardmarnock Bay *Cowal* and 150 going south with Fieldfares at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 20 Oct, 660 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct, 300 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 25 Oct, 180 at least on *Tiree* on 30 Oct, 250 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov, 1000 on *Tiree* on 12 Nov, and some 500 on *Tiree* on 10 Dec with possibly more on 18 Dec during a cold spell. From then to the end of the year there were many and widespread records in small numbers (mainly less than 50).

A widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.

Jan-Jun 2006. On 31 Jan there were 5 birds with other thrushes and Starlings at Kilfinan Cowal. Other records were mainly of 1 or 2 birds. These records were from: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (8), and *North Argyll* (4). There were no records from: *Jura*, *Kintyre*, or *Tiree*.

2007. On 13 Jan there were 12 birds in a field by the spit at Otter Ferry Cowal and on 4 Mar 10 birds were passing through Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise smaller numbers were from sites at: *Colonsay* (2), elsewhere in *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (2), elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (5), and *North Argyll* (1). There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. Pairs were noted and birds were present in the early breeding season in *Colonsay*, *Cowal* and *Mid Argyll* but there was little direct evidence of breeding reported. At least six pairs were identified on *Colonsay*. For the fifth year running there were no territories held at Taynish NNR.

2007. There were few probable or confirmed breeding records. At least two pairs at Kames Golf Course Cowal were feeding chicks, 10 pairs were territorial on *Colonsay* including one with b/4, and a juv was being fed by an adult at Kilbride Farm Cowal. A single territory was held at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 1 since 1990.

Jun-Dec 2006. Flocks of 10 or more were: *Cowal*, 20 or more landing on the tops of the tallest trees at Benmore on 2 Sep, 34 at Ardmarnock road end on 19 Sep, and 12 in a loose flock at Ardlamont Point on 30 Dec, *Islay* 22 at Foreland on 21 Sep, and *Mid-Argyll* 21 at Kilmelford on 1 Sep and 24 at Ardforn on 6 Oct.

2007. There were 16 flocks of 10 or more noted *cf* 6 in 2006. The larger of these included: *Cowal* (45 feeding on Rowans at Auchnaha (S) (Otter Ferry) on 14 Aug, 122 (an exceptional count) along with 11 Starlings on overhead wires at Auchoirk Farm (Millhouse) also on 14 Aug, and 30 at least at Glenbranter village on 27 Sep), *Kintyre* (27 at Calliburn on 30 Sep), and *Mid-Argyll* (20 at Connel on 18 Sep).

A summer visitor, breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.

Apr-May 2006. There were no exceptionally early arrivals with the first being a single on 18 Apr at Torbhlaren (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll*. Reeling birds were then reported widely from: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from either *Jura* or *Mull*.

2007. An early bird was reeling at Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll* on 14 Apr. Reeling males were then reported from: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5). There were no records from *Jura*.

Breeding 2006. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 3 territories were found in the CBC plots, the same as 2005. In June birds were reeling at: *Tiree* (3), Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (1), Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve (22), Ardnave *Islay* (1), and *Colonsay* (7).

2007. Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* an average of 2 since 1990. There were 19 singing males on *Colonsay* in June *cf* 7 in 2006. Elsewhere reeling birds were present at sites on: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (3).

Aug-Sep 2006. In Aug a bird was singing at Auchenlochan Farm (Kames) Cowal on 2 Aug from a site which was occupied in the spring. The last bird of the year was a skulking immature at Heylipol *Tiree* on 24 Sep.

2007. There were records from: *Cowal, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree*. The last of the year was a single bird flushed at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Aug.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche 1243

A summer visitor and locally common breeding species in suitable wet habitats.

Apr-May 2006. The first bird, slightly earlier than usual, was at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr. By the end of the month birds had been reported from: *Colonsay, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*. By the end of May singing birds had been reported widely from *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Tiree, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll*. There were no records from *Coll or Jura*.

2007. A typical pattern of arrivals with records from *Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, Tiree and North Argyll* by the end of Apr with the first record from Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr. In May, birds were reported from *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Tiree and Mull*. There were no records from *Coll, Colonsay or Jura*.

Breeding 2006. Nine territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* 10 in 2005.

Counts of singing males elsewhere included: 71 pairs on *Colonsay* (incl Oronsay) *cf* 61 in 2005. Birds were also widely reported from: *Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*.

2007. Ten territories were found at Taynish NNR *cf* average of 9 since 1990. Seventy singing males were noted on *Colonsay* (incl Oronsay), and 4 were at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* on 6 Jun. Elsewhere birds were widely reported from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull and Tiree*. There were no records from *Coll and North Argyll*.

Aug-Sep 2006. An adult was still carrying food for young (FF) on 3 Aug at Lagganmore (Glen Euchar) *Mid-Argyll* and the last record of the year was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 29 Sep.

2007. Many juvs were at Loch Gruinart on 10 Aug. The last records were on 6 Sep at Stinky Hole (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* and on 12 Sep at Balephuill *Tiree*

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* 1250
Vagrant.

2006. No records.

2007. On the afternoon of 8 Jun, one was heard singing its head off from bushes in the garden next to the Tiree RSPB Office at Balephuill. The song was almost entirely full of mimicry including snippets of the songs of Blue Tit, Blackbird, Nightingale, Goldfinch, plus other less familiar species and the bird was also photographed. It was still present on 9 Jun and on 10 Jun, when it had moved to another garden [John Bowler]. The record was accepted by SBRC and is a new species for the Argyll list.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1251

A rare visitor in spring and summer. There are only five accepted records from Argyll, all from the islands.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

BOOTED WARBLER* *Hippolais caligata* 1256

Vagrant. The only accepted Argyll record is of one at Balemartine Tiree on 20 Sep 1998.

2006. A bird was present at Balephetrish *Tiree* from 31 Aug to 2 Sep [K. Gillon/J. Bowler]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 100:738).

2007. No records.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

1259

Vagrant. Only 4 records the last being on Islay in 1993.**2006.** No records.**2007.** No records.**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann-dubh

1277

A scarce but increasing summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn. An increasing number winter in Argyll.

Jan-May 2006. Three (2 males and a female) were present in a garden at High Askomil (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* from 16 Jan to 4 Feb. Other probable over-wintering birds were, one at Kirm Cowal on 13 Feb and another at Taynult *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar. The first spring migrant was a single at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr. By the end of May records were received from: Cowal (2), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from *Coll*, *Colonsay* or *Jura*.

2007. There were three records of over-wintering birds: a female at Muasdale (W) *Kintyre* on 9 Jan feeding on apples, 2 at Tobermory *Mull* on 16 Jan (with others elsewhere on the island), and a single at Taynult *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar. The first spring migrant was at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. By the end of May, records had been received from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Islay*, or *Jura*.

Breeding 2006. There was a further increase to 9 territories at the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* a previous high of 8. Singing males were widely heard during the breeding season but there was very little evidence of confirmed breeding although this almost certainly occurred. Birds were noticed in July at two sites tucking into garden Raspberry crops.

2007. A new record of 11 occupied territories at the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 3 since 1990. This would certainly tend to indicate that Blackcaps are under-recorded when breeding in similar habitat elsewhere in Argyll and that the population is continuing to increase. Probable breeding, as indicated by singing males, was widespread elsewhere.

Sep-Dec 2006. There were only a handful of records in Sep, all of which were on *Tiree*. During Oct, other than two mainland records of singles at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre*, all other records were from *Tiree*, *Islay* and *Colonsay* with a peak of 11 birds on *Tiree* on 21 Oct. In Nov and Dec there were records from: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (7).

2007. There were rather fewer records than in 2006. Again, most Sep records were from *Tiree* as indeed was the case in Oct with 18 *Tiree* records totalling at least 13 different birds *cf* one record from *Mid-Argyll* of a single bird at Lagganmore (Glen Euchar) on 19 Oct. In Nov, there were five records, four of which were from *Tiree* and *Colonsay* with the fifth (a single) from Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*. There were no Dec records.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

1276

A summer visitor and scarce breeding species in woodland and scrub habitats.

Apr-May 2006. The first of spring was at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May. Thereafter there were records from: Loch a' Chnuic *Islay* (7 May), Largie Farm *Kintyre* (7 May), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (9 May), Taynish NNR (10 May), Ford *Mid-Argyll* (15 May), South Shian *North Argyll* (28 May), and Eriska (SW) *North Argyll* (29 May).

2007. The first of spring was at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May. Thereafter there were records from: Arduaine Point *Mid-Argyll* (2 on 6 May), Blarcreen *North Argyll* (3 on 10 May), and Kiloran Village *Colonsay* (27 May).

Breeding 2006. A single territory was recorded in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR as in 2005. Probable breeders were present at: *Colonsay*, Lachlan Castle & Bay *Cowal*, and NATO Fuel Depot (Loch Striven) *Cowal*.

2007. Three territories were recorded in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 2 since 1990. Probable breeders were recorded at Kilchrenan Hotel (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, Colachla *Cowal*, Kames *Cowal*, and Corran View *Mull*. Adults were seen carrying food at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* and Loch Peallach *Mull*.

Sep-Oct 2006. The first passage bird was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 9 Sep. All subsequent records were also from *Tiree*, the last being recorded at Hynish on 30 Sep.

2007. An early passage bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Aug. All subsequent records were also from *Tiree*, the last being recorded on 2 Oct at Balephuill.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

1273

Vagrant. All records have been in autumn.

2006. A record of a juvenile seen at the Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 28 Aug was accepted as a first year bird by ABRC [J. Bowler]. A juvenile seen on 3 Oct at Balephuill *Tiree* accompanied by a Lesser Whitethroat was accepted by ABRC [J. Bowler]. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. A juvenile was in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille-beag

1274

A rare passage migrant; in both spring and autumn. Most recent records have been from the islands.

2006. One was seen and heard at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May [D. Marks/W. Allan] and a juvenile accompanied by a Barred Warbler was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Oct [J. Bowler]. Both records accepted by ABRC (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. A record three birds were seen on *Tiree*: at Hynish on 23-25 Aug [N. Addey], Baugh on 1 Oct [J. Bowler], and Balephuill on 13 Oct [J. Bowler]. One was seen at Arinagour *Coll* on 11 Oct [J. Dickson/W. Allan]. All records accepted by ABRC (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

COMMON WHITETHROAT (WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia communis* Gealan-coille

1275

A summer visitor, with numbers fluctuating from year to year. Breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Apr-May 2006. The first arrival was reported from Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr with the next not until 23 Apr when a bird was at Loch Don *Mull*. There were seven birds reported from the Treshnish Isles on 7 May. The main arrival was in early May and by the end of the month birds had been recorded in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

2007. The first arrival was on 24 Apr at Uig *Coll*. The main arrival was in early May and by the end of the month records had been received from: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (1). There were no records from *Jura*.

Breeding 2006. Six territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, the same as in 2005. On *Colonsay*, 58 singing males were found: a huge increase from the 29 found in 2005. Elsewhere birds were widespread with most records from *Mid-Argyll*. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Jura*, *North Argyll*, or *Tiree*.

2007. Again, there were 6 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR, *cf* the average of 7 since 1990. On *Colonsay*, there were 49 singing males *cf* 58 in 2006. Elsewhere birds were

widespread with most records from *Mid-Argyll* (including Treshnish Isles) and *Mull*. There were no records from *Coll*.

Aug-Sep 2006. Apart from 2 at Tayinloan Jetty & Bay *Kintyre* on 5 and 13 Aug other records were of singles at: Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (2 Aug), Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (11 Aug), Balnahard *Colonsay* (8 Sep), Kellan Mill *Mull* (14 Sep), Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* (14 Sep), and finally Acha *Coll* (15 Sep).

2007. Single birds were recorded from all areas, apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*, during Aug. The last of the year was a single bird at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 1293

Vagrant. *Only two Argyll records: one trapped, later taken into care and subsequently died in Kintyre in May 1983 and one trapped at Sanda in July 1987.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe 1300

Vagrant. *Only five accepted records for Argyll, 1906-2001.*

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. In Oct there was an extraordinary influx of 4 birds, all seen in a mature garden at Balephuill *Tiree*. The first was on 2-3 Oct, with a much duller, greyer bird on 11 Oct, a very bright individual on 14-15 Oct and a later bird on 27 Oct. [all J. Bowler]. This record was accepted by ABRC as four individual birds.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER* *Phylloscopus bonelli* 1307

Vagrant. *The only previous record, a singing male on Islay in May 1976, could not be specifically assigned to either Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler.*

2006. A striking bird observed and photographed in bushes at Carnan Mor on the evening of 8 Sep was identified on call and plumage features as being of the Western species. It was gone by the following morning [J. Bowler]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 101:566)

2007. No records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille 1308

A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands.

Apr-May 2006. The earliest arrivals were of single birds at Taynish NNR (26 Apr) and Elleric (Glen Creran) *North Argyll* (28 Apr). During May birds were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll* only.

2007. The first arrivals were on 1 May at Fernoch Hill (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* and Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll*, followed by birds at: *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Mull* only.

Breeding 2006. There were 7 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* 4 in 2005. Elsewhere, probable or confirmed breeding birds were found at *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. For the first time no singing males were heard during nest box visits at Glenan (Portavadie) *Cowal*.

2007. There were only 2 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 2 since 1990. Elsewhere a few probable or confirmed breeding records were received from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*.

Jul-Aug 2006. There were 3 records in July from: Inverawe House *North Argyll*, Loch Craiglin *Mid-Argyll*, and Ardentinn *Cowal*. The only Aug record was from Arduaine Point *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug.

2007. In July there were 2 records only. Both were via Bird Track from: Cruach Ardura *Mull* on 10 Jul, and Corran View *Mull* on 30 Jul. There were no Aug records.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (CHIFFCHAFF) *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean 1311
A summer visitor and scarce breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Mar-May 2006. Unusually a single bird was present in a garden at Heylipol *Tiree* on 27 Jan. It appeared to be a very green *abietinus* type. Curiously, a similar bird was found on the same day on *Coll*. The *Tiree* bird was the first ever Jan record of this species on the island. The first spring arrivals were: 4 at *Mull* of *Kintyre* (dump) on 28 Mar, 2 at The Lodge *Coll* on 1 Apr, and a single at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr. By the end of Apr, birds had been noted in all areas apart from *Islay*, *Jura*, and *Mull*.

2007. A very late classic Siberian *tristis* type bird was at Vaul *Tiree* on 16 Jan. A bird was at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan and another very early or winter bird was at Tobermory *Mull* on 8 Mar. The last week in Mar saw first arrivals at: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Tiree*, and *Mid-Argyll*. By the end of Apr birds had been recorded from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2006. *Colonsay* had a total of 3 singing males *cf* 5 in 2005. From late April to the end of May birds were present or singing at sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5 – all passage migrants).

2007. On *Colonsay* a single singing bird was found *cf* 3 in 2006 and 5 in 2005. (A different observer, however, found 2 singing on 12 May at Colonsay House *Colonsay*). Possible /probable breeding birds were at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (5 – all passage migrants). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Islay*, or *Jura*.

Sep-Dec 2006. Most records to the end of Oct were from *Tiree* with the only exception being a single at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. All of these were thought to be nominate race birds. On 1 Nov a bird calling at The Lodge *Coll* was thought to be of the Siberian *tristis* type as were birds at: Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 3 Nov, Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov, and Whitehouse (Cornaigbeg) *Tiree* on 22 Nov. Birds showing the characteristics of the Siberian race *P. collybita tristis* were at: Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 9 and 17 Sep, Grishipoll Farm *Coll* on 23 Nov, and Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 17 Dec. There were *abietinus* type birds on *Tiree* at: Balephuill, The Manse, The Glebe, and Cornaigbeg between 5 and 17 Nov.

2007. An early nominate type bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Aug. As usual most records of nominate birds were from *Tiree*. There was 2 *tristis* type birds at Balephuill *Tiree* from 22 Oct to 25 Oct and at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 10 Dec. There were *abietinus* birds on *Tiree* at: Balephuill (25-27 Oct), Sorobaidh Bay (25 Oct), Carnan Mor (26 Oct), Traigh Bhi dunes (4 Nov), and Balephuill (7 Dec).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais 1312
A widespread and abundant summer visitor.

Mar-Apr 2006. The first arrivals were at: Tayinloan Jetty & Bay *Kintyre* (1 Apr), Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (11 Apr), and *Coll* (14 Apr). By the end of Apr birds had been reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (32), *Mull* (16), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (5). There were no records from *Jura*.

2007. A very early bird was at Kinnabus (Oa) *Islay* on 22 Mar. By the end of Apr birds had been reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (28), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from *Islay* or *Jura*.

Breeding 2006. The count of 106 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR just exceeded the record total of 105 in 2005. Elsewhere counts of ten or more were reported from eleven sites, the largest of which were: 12 at Glenshallach Road Oban on 8 May, 12 at South Shian *North Argyll* on 28 May, and 24 on *Tiree* (16 at Moss and 8 at Carnan Mor) on 1 Jun. Breeding was widely confirmed.

2007. Yet another new record total of 119 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* an average of 82 since 1990. This is in contrast with the apparent declining numbers in UK south. Indeed, elsewhere counts of ten or more were reported from 23 sites *cf* 11 in 2006. The larger of these counts included: 30 on 26 Apr along Strone Road (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, 20 on 3 May at North Ledaig *North Argyll*, 18 on 5 May at Cnoc Dhomhnuil (Luing) *Mid-Argyll*, 16 on 10 May at Blarcreen *North Argyll*, 16 on 1 Jun at Heylipol (W) *Tiree*, 26 on 1 Jul at Carnan Mor and Heylipol *Tiree*, 20 on 22 Jul at Rubha Leth Thorcail *Mull*, and 20 on 30 Jul at Corran View *Mull*. Breeding was widely confirmed.

Sep-Oct 2006 The last of the year was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 Sep and the last mainland bird was at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 11 Sep.

2007. Most of the late birds were reported from *Tiree* with the last being: 2 juveniles at Balephuill on 29 Sep, a single at Cornaigbeg on 9 Oct and finally 2 birds were at Beach *Mull* also on 9 Oct.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Crionag-bhuidhe

1314

A common resident breeding species augmented by passage migrants in spring and especially autumn. Scarce on Coll and Tiree.

Jan-Apr 2006. There were sporadic reports in small numbers from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. The first birds were noted on *Tiree* at the end of Mar but in very small numbers. Five were at Oronsay *Colonsay* in Apr and 5 were on *Tiree* on 18 Apr.

2007. Birds were reported in Jan when: 3 were feeding on rotting seaweed in the garden at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 2 Jan, 6 around Allt Osde Loch *Cowal* on 16 Jan, and the first singing male of the year was at Kames *Cowal* on 30 Jan. Seven seen at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 1 and 7 Apr were part of a continuing passage.

Breeding 2006. Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (the same as 2005). Birds were found during the breeding season at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (1 – a late migrant at Vaul). Breeding was only confirmed at Largie Farm *Kintyre* and Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* but was probably more widespread.

2007. A single territory was found at the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 2 since 1990. Breeding was confirmed at Langamull Woods *Mull* on 19 Jun and at Deer Hill (Carradale), *Kintyre* on 23 Jun. A minimum of 3 territories were found at Killiechronan *Mull* on 15 May. Elsewhere, birds were noted during the breeding season from the same areas as 2006.

Sep-Dec 2006. On *Tiree*, there was a monthly maximum of 6 on 16 Sep at Carnan Mor while 8 were part of a general increase noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct. On *Coll* there were 12 at The Lodge on 2 Nov. The only birds noted in December were 4 feeding on seaweed mulch around Blackcurrant bushes at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 30 Dec which remained over the New Year.

2007. At least 6 birds were at The Lodge *Coll* on 8 Sep with 100 there on 8 Oct. Twenty-five were at Arinagour *Coll* on 11 Oct. Surprisingly, *Tiree* had a poor passage with birds in low single figures. Elsewhere, BTO Atlas, early winter TTV data resulted in a considerable increase in records. In this case only two 10 km squares with 16 tetrads surveyed were involved: one in *Mid-Argyll* and one in *Cowal*. It does, however, highlight how records received can considerably underestimate the distribution of some species.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* Crionag

1315

Vagrant. There are only seven Argyll records, 1980 – 2005.

2006. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records pp.147-149).

2007. No records.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta

1335

A summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands: particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges.

May-Jul 2006. The first arrivals were in early May with, mainly single, birds reported from: *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* during the first fortnight. Earliest birds were at *Iona* and *Treshnish Mull* on 6 May. By the end of Jul there had been records from: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (6), and *Tiree* (6). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, or *North Argyll*.

2007. A few early arrivals were singles at two locations on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 29 and 30 Apr and another on 1 May at *Inveraray Mid-Argyll*. The next was not until more than three weeks later on 25 May at *Kiloran Village Colonsay*. By the end of July there had been records from: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from *Coll* or *Kintyre*.

Breeding 2006. Two territories were found in the CBC plots at *Taynish NNR cf 3* the previous year. Breeding was confirmed at: *Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve*, *Loch Feochan (Head) Mid-Argyll*, and *Tayinloan Jetty & Bay Kintyre*. Elsewhere, birds were present during the breeding season at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3 late passage birds).

2007. For the first time since 1990 there were no territories identified in the CBC plots at *Taynish NNR cf an average of 4* since then. Breeding was only confirmed at two sites on *Mull* at *Loch Beg* and *An Leth-onn*. Elsewhere, birds were present during the breeding season at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (9), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (2 late passage birds).

Aug-Oct 2006. The last birds, all singles, were at: *Lagganmore Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep, *Uig Coll* on 15 Sep, *Balephuill Tiree* on 23 Sep and *Ulva Ferry Mull* on 25 Sep.

2007. Birds were gone by the end of Aug with the last being singles at *Loch Gruinart (dump) Islay* on 8 Aug, *Oronsay Farm Colonsay* on 15 Aug, and finally there were five birds at *Shuna Cottage (Shuna) Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

1343

Vagrant. Only two records for Argyll; on Islay in 1974 and 1975.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

1349

A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in recent years was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers now appear to be declining.

2006. No records.

2007. Two birds were seen at *Ardchattan North Argyll* on 3 May, 3 were around *Blarcreen North Argyll* on 10 May, and a female was seen briefly at *Skipness & Bay Kintyre* on 11 Jun along the road up to the castle. There were no confirmed breeding records.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan

1437

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

2006. Larger groups found were: 14 at Otter Ferry (N) *Cowal* on 3 Jan, 15 approx at Glen Stockdale *North Argyll* on 14 Jan, 7 at Quinish Woods *Mull* on 3 May, 8 at Taynish NNR in Jun, 8 at Rubha Garbh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 6 Jun, 8 at Shuna Cottage (Shuna) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug, 6 at Kiloran Village *Colonsay* on 12 Jun, 23 in a loose flock at Linne Mhuirich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 14 at Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 29 Nov, and 19 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 12 Dec. In all birds were recorded from sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (6).

2007. Flocks were rather more numerous than in 2006 with 10 or more being recorded at: Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* (41 accompanied by Treecreepers on 4 Jun), Shuna Cottage (Shuna) *Mid-Argyll* (18 on 27 Aug), Treshnish *Mull* (13 on 28 Sep), Eredine (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* (10 on 3 Oct), Corra Farm *Cowal* (15 in several small parties on 5 Oct), Killiechronan *Mull* (10 on 30 Oct), Connel *Mid-Argyll* (15 in 3 groups on 6 Nov), Loch Bealach Ghearran *Mid-Argyll* (18 on 11 Nov), Glenbranter (SW) *Cowal* (14 on 16 Nov), Largiemore *Cowal* (11 on 29 Nov), Goirtein Croft (E) *Cowal* (15 at least in flock of 35 assorted Tits on 11 Dec), Oban & Harbour *Mid-Argyll* (14 on 14 Dec), and Lurignich (N) *North Argyll* on 20 Dec. Most of the flocks in Nov/Dec were from BTO Atlas, winter early, TTV counts. In all birds were recorded from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (14), *Islay* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (8), and *North Argyll* (5). There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Part of the increase in records since 2006 would be due to BTO Atlas TTV counts.

Breeding 2006. There were 4 territories identified in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* only one in 2005. Although birds were present elsewhere there were no confirmed breeding records.

2007. Three territories were identified in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 2 since 1990. Elsewhere, although birds were present during the breeding season, there were no confirmed breeding records.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

1462

A widespread and common resident breeder: an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

2006. Birds were present in all areas apart from *Coll* throughout the year with most records during Apr and May. A single bird was at Mannal *Tiree* around the beginning of Jan. Higher monthly garden maxima at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* were: Jan (15), Apr (8), and Dec (11). There were 22 birds foraging on a lawn at Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb.

2007. Birds were present in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Tiree* throughout the year. Higher monthly garden maxima at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* were: Jan (9), Mar (8), and Apr (8). Twenty-three were found in a 2 hour TTV at NR98G *Cowal* on 23 Nov. On 16 Dec a number of flocks of 10-20 birds were moving around Otter Ferry *Cowal* particularly along the shore. An increased level of records in Nov-Dec was due to BTO Atlas TTV early winter counts.

Breeding 2006. At Taynish NNR 32 territories were found in the CBC plots *cf* 34 in 2005.

2007. Numbers at Taynish NNR remained high with 35 territories found in the CBC plots *cf* the average of 25 since 1990.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna

1464

A widespread and common resident breeder, but only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

2006. Birds were present in all areas apart from *Tiree* and *Jura*. Unusually a single bird was present at Craigdarroch garden *Coll* on 6 Mar.

2007. A single bird was on a feeder at Mannal *Tiree* (30 Apr) with another near Heylipol Church on 8 Jun. Elsewhere, birds were widespread apart from *Coll* and *Jura* where there were no records.

Breeding 2006. Numbers at Taynish NNR fell from the record high of 24 territories in 2005 to 17 in the CBC plots. Birds were present in all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*.

2007. Numbers continued to fall in the CBC plots at Taynish with only 12 territories found; slightly below the average of 13 since 1990. Spring came early to Kames *Cowal* where a male was singing on 21 Jan. Birds were recorded in all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Jura*.

CRESTED TIT *Lophophanes cristatus* Gulpag-stuic 1454

Vagrant. *Only two Argyll records: one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in November 1991 and one at Tobermory Mull in October/November 2002.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* Smutag 1461

Widespread and abundant resident breeding bird, except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland, especially in conifers.

2006. Birds were recorded in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*. The absence of records from *Cowal* is more an indication of their abundance than scarcity (ed.).

2007. Birds were recorded in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. There were no records from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, or *Tiree*. All the *Cowal* records derived from the BTO Atlas early winter TTV counts.

Breeding 2006. Ten territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* 9 in 2005. Birds were present, in the areas indicated in 2006 above, during the breeding season.

2007. Again 10 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 10 since 1990. Birds were present, in the areas indicated in 2007 above, during the breeding season.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais 1442

Vagrant. *The only Argyll record is of one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in June 1991.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH (NUTHATCH) *Sitta europaea* 1479

Vagrant. *Three accepted records 1975 to 1999.*

2006. A bird seen in Glenbranter *Cowal* from 20-22 Apr was accepted by ABRC [P. Woods]. Curiously a Nuthatch was seen in Glenbranter in 1999 also in Apr.

2007. A bird seen on a nut feeder at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr was accepted by ABRC [M. Rea]. (Interestingly there had been an unconfirmed report of a Nuthatch at nearby Carsaig in Jun 2006).

EURASIAN TREECREEPER (TREECREEPER) *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486

A widespread and fairly common resident but rare on Tiree and Coll.

2006/2007. Birds were reported in 2006 from all recording areas except: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Tiree*. Birds were reported in 2007 from all recording areas except: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2006. There were 4 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* 5 in 2005. Elsewhere, birds were present as in 2006/2007 above.

2007. Five territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 5 since 1990. Elsewhere, birds were present as in 2006/2007 above. Around four fledged young were being fed by adults at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 14 Jun.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* 1508
Rare and irregular passage migrant, mainly in spring.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* 1515
Very rare passage migrant. Only ten accepted records for Argyll, 1954-2004.
2006. A first winter bird was photographed at Milton, Tiree on 2 Oct [J. Bowler]. This, the first documented record of the species on Tiree, was accepted by ABRC.
2007. An adult male was seen near Grasspoint, Mull on 11 Jun [Alison Borlaise]. A juv. photographed at Vaul, Tiree on 17 Sep was seen there again on 18 and 22 Sep [J. Bowler/W. Allan/A-L Dickie]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* 1519
Vagrant. Only two Argyll records; on Mull in 1974 and on Coll in 1988.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas 1520
Increasingly rare passage migrant and winter visitor.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* 1523
Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerned a juv. on Islay in Sep 1996.
2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

EURASIAN JAY (JAY) *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheap 1539
A widely distributed but scarce woodland resident on most of the mainland but rarely reported from the islands. Some immigration in autumn.
2006. Up to 5 were reported with records from: *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), and *North Argyll* (7). The only *Kintyre* record was of one, at Dalsmìrren (Glen Breackerie) on 5 Feb, screeching at a Sparrowhawk. Most other records were of singles and a party of 5 at Barr Iola (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* was the highest number seen. There were no records from the islands.
2007. A large part of the increase in records from Nov to Dec derives from BTO Atlas surveys. Again up to 5 were reported with records from: *Cowal* (19), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (30), and *North Argyll* (14). Five were seen in Saddell Woods *Kintyre* from late Jan to late Apr. One at Torosay *Mull* on 23 Nov was the only island record. Higher counts included 7 on the outskirts of Dunoon on 25 Jul, 10 at Otter Ferry on 1 Sep, 6 in Glen Euchar (near Kilninver) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep and 4 were at Port Ann *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* Pioghaid 1549
A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Has been a scarce and sporadic visitor elsewhere (mainly in spring) although in recent years appears to be becoming more widespread? All records required.
2006. Records from *Cowal* included: Lag na Driseige (Ardentinny) (2 on 18 Jan), Blairmore (1 on 18 Jan), Ardyne Point (1 on 17 Jun), Ardentinn (2 on 17 Jun), and Dunoon (NE) (11 on 18 Nov). Away from *Cowal* there were records through the year from *Mid-Argyll* with: 2 at Head

of Loch Fyne on 4 Feb and again on 4 Apr, 1 at Cairnbaan on 25 Mar, 1 at Ardrishaig on 9 Oct, 2 or possibly 3 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) on 30 Oct, 2 at Slockavullin (Kilmartin) on 1 Nov, and 2 at Lochgilphead (W) on 21 Dec. Some of these *Mid-Argyll* sightings may refer to birds seen elsewhere. Elsewhere, there was 1 was at Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 20 Mar and possibly the same bird at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 16 Apr to 10 May,

2007. Records from *Cowal* included: Blairmore (1 present all year), Otter Ferry (1 on 3 Apr), Sandbank (2 on 23 Apr), Bishop's Glen (Dunoon) (3 together on 18 Nov), Toward (1 on 14 Dec), and possibly the same bird at Innellan Pier (1 on 14 Dec). Away from *Cowal* most records were again from *Mid-Argyll* with: 1 at Slockavullin on 11 Jan to at least 22 Mar, 1 at Lochgilphead (W) on 3 Feb, 1 at Lochgilphead town present from 25 Dec 2006 to 30 Mar, 1 at Eredine on 1 Apr, 1 at Taynuilt on 30 Apr, and 1 at Isle of Danna causeway on 29 Sep with possibly the same bird at New Ulva on 14 Oct. Elsewhere, a bird was present at Gleann Seilisdeir *Mull* on 30 May and another at Garra Eallabus (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 16 Nov.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH (CHOUGH) *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach 1559
The Argyll islands hold almost the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay appreciated.

2006. On Oronsay RSPB Reserve monthly maxima varied between 4 in May to 38 in Oct. On *Islay*, at Ardnave, counts varied between 15 in Feb, 51 in Jan and 50 in Nov. Elsewhere birds were widespread on *Islay* with the highest counts at Kilchoman/Machir Bay.

2007. Larger counts on *Islay* were at: Ardnave (18 on 13 Feb), Killinallan (22 on 18 Feb), Machir Bay (52 on 23 Sep), Ardnave (18 on 27 Sep), and Kilchoman (20 at least on 13 Nov); and on *Colonsay* (including Oronsay): Druim Mor (38 feeding on kelp fly larvae on 18 Jan), Port na h-Atha (24 also feeding on kelp fly larvae on 20 Feb), Seal Cottage (26 on 17 Oct and 20 on 6 Dec feeding on cattle/sheep dung invertebrates/*tipulids*), and Druim Mor (28 on kelp fly larvae on 30 Dec).

Breeding 2006. On *Colonsay* (including Oronsay) breeding was confirmed for 13 pairs which reared at least 33 young, 4 pairs failed with a further one pair suspected to have failed. There were 13 non breeders. There was no complete census on *Islay* but at Loch Gruinart 2 pairs fledged 2 young and at Ardnave 4 pairs fledged 7 young.

2007. There were 19 occupied sites on *Colonsay* (including Oronsay), 19 pairs bred of which 13 fledged at least 32 young. One pair failed early/did not lay, 2 pairs failed and three pairs had unknown outcome. There was no census on *Islay*.

WESTERN JACKDAW (JACKDAW) *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560
A resident breeding bird, common throughout much of mainland Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on Tiree or Coll. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.

2006. There were many records throughout the year from *Islay* including 130 at Loch Gruinart on 6 Feb. The only other island records were of: 10 birds at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay* on 11 Apr, birds present on Iona in May and Jul, and a single, freshly dead, bird at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 2 Feb. The only significant flock noted on the mainland was of at least 50 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Oct.

2007. Island records other than from *Islay* were from at least seven sites across *Mull* and three on *Colonsay* (including Oronsay). Larger flocks included wintering birds at Otter Ferry *Cowal* which peaked at more than 250 on 14 Nov. This flock commutes between local hardwood woods and the large inter-tidal area where it feeds with waders; very much as Turnstones, turning over stone and weed to find prey. Elsewhere there were: 52 at Kames *Cowal* on 7 Feb,

60 at Oban in Jul, an amazing 700 or more at Coullabus Plantation *Islay* on 15 Nov, and 70 at Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 23 Dec.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* Ròcas

1563

A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on Colonsay, Coll or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.

2006. A count at the RSPB L. Gruinart rookeries found 153 nests. The only birds found on *Tiree* were two immatures found dead a few days apart around the end of Oct. A single bird was on Oronsay (*Colonsay*) during Sep. On *Mull* there was: a single bird at Fionnphort on 19 Apr, another at Treshnish (W) on 25 Nov, and birds were present on Iona on 19 Jul. Elsewhere, significant flocks counted were: 46 flying over Oban *Mid-Argyll* at dusk on 7 Mar, 32 at Ardmarnock Road End *Cowal* on 19 May, 30 at Barguilean Farm (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul, and 150 at Glendarroch (Ardrihaig) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep.

2007. No records were received from, RSPB *Islay*, nor *Coll* or *Tiree*. On the other hand, there were far more records from *Mull* than in recent years. These included: 1 at Treshnish (W) on 4 Mar, birds present at Sgriob-ruadh (Tobermory) on 27 May, 2 at Baile Mor (Iona) on 28 May, birds present at Eilean Annraidh (Iona) on 12 Jun, 20+ at Fidden on 26 Jul, 10+ at Pennycross (Pennyghael) on 22 Aug, and 9 at Aridhglas (Fionnphort) on 22 Oct with others around Fionnphort and Iona at the same time. Elsewhere, flocks of 30 and over were counted at: Luig *Mid-Argyll* (30 on 23 Jan), Ballygrant Village *Islay* (80 on 10 Feb), Tangy *Kintyre* (46 on 13 Apr), Drum Cottage (Kilfinan) *Cowal* (44 including some juvs on 13 Jun), Culindrach Farm (Skipness) *Kintyre* (40 or more with crows and gulls on 21 Sep), Ballywilline Hill (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* (150 or more on 28 Sep), West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* (ca50 on 11 Nov), Aros Moss (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* (260 on 23 Dec), and West Darlochan (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* (354 on 23 Dec).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* Feannag-dhubh

1567

A sedentary resident, mainly in east Cowal and parts of Mid-Argyll, in a variety of, mainly low ground, habitats. It hybridises readily with Hooded Crow where ranges overlap.

2006. Away from the main breeding areas in *Cowal*, birds showing *C. corone* characteristics were found occasionally and always in low numbers at: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

2007. Records, away from the main breeding areas, included birds at many locations in *Mid-Argyll*, mainly in ones and twos, although 10 were seen on Seil on 28 Dec. Elsewhere birds were present much as in 2006 apart from a remarkable 35 found feeding on kelp fly on the beach at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Apr.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

1567.3

A widespread and very common resident breeding species. It hybridises readily with Carrion Crow where ranges overlap.

2006. Birds were reported throughout the year from all recording areas. Few large flocks were recorded; apart from 140 at a communal roost in a Sitka Spruce plantation at Skeroblin Loch (Skeroblingarry) *Kintyre*.

2007. Flocks of 25 or more were reported from: Garra Eallabus (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* (30 on 1 Jan), Loch Feochan (Head) *Mid-Argyll* (33 on the mud on 14 Aug with 60 or more on 26 Sep), Loch Beg *Mull* (25 on 10 Dec), Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (45 on an early winter TTV on 18 Dec), and Ruaig *Tiree* (36 on 17 Sep).

Breeding 2006. A pair bred in the Taynish NNR CBC plots *cf* none in 2005. Single pairs appeared to have bred on both Lunga and Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, 4 pairs bred at Loch Gruinart and 2 at Ardnave, and 23 pairs were found on *Colonsay* of which 4 successful pairs were found with 9 young. There were 18 birds present on Oronsay in Jun.

2007. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* an average of 1 since 1990. On the Treshnish Isles a pair is thought to have bred on Lunga and up to 2 birds were seen over both Fladda and Cairn na Burgh. Twenty-four breeding pairs were found on *Colonsay* & Oronsay and 8 of these were known to have produced 18 chicks.

COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN) *Corvus corax* Fitheach 1572
A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands. Large flocks may occur, especially in winter, and numbers appear to be increasing.

2006. Counts of 30 or more included: a minimum of 75 at Aenvog *Islay* on 18 Feb, well over 300 at three roosts around *Mull* of *Kintyre* in Mar, over 130 during Mar at a roost at Ronachan Point *Kintyre*, 59 roosting at Skeroblin Loch (Skeroblingarry) *Kintyre* in Apr, a maximum of 69 during Apr, Jun, and Aug at Gott Tip *Tiree*, falling to 40 in Oct, and 82 roosting at Glen Kerran (Southend) *Kintyre* in early May. Elsewhere birds were thinly distributed in all areas but rarely into double figures.

2007. All counts of 30 or more were from *Tiree*, mainly at Gott Tip, where there were: 70 on 22 Mar, 125 (a record high) on 30 May, 50 on 27 Aug, and 80 throughout Sep. There were 45 at The Reef on 7 Jun and 30 on 15 Sep. Elsewhere birds were thinly distributed in all areas and rarely in double figures.

Breeding 2006. The following breeding records were received in addition to those listed in table 48.1. A used nest was found on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in Jun and up to 4 birds were seen on Fladda. A pair fledged at least 2 young at a nest near Otter Ferry and a pair at a nest near Southend *Kintyre* had 3 almost fully fledged young on 9 Jun. A recent study in the *Mull* of *Kintyre* area found 42 active nests.

2007. Breeding records in addition to those in Table 48.2 include: a pair at a nest site near L. Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr, a pair with 3 recently fledged young on Kerrera in Jun and a family party with 2 young at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* in Jun.

Table 48.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2006.*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
Colonsay	20	15	11	0	0	44+	4.00+
Cowal	40	36	17	4	0	29+	1.70+
Islay	9	9	7	0	2	26	3.70
Kintyre	3	3	3	0	0	9	3.00
Tiree	9	9	4	0	5	13	3.25
Total	81	72	42	4	7	121+	3.51 ¹

¹ Calculated for 37 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known. (ARSG per RAB).

Table 48.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2007*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful pair
Tiree	9	9	9	1	0	8	3	3.00
Colonsay	18	16	11	11	0	0	41	3.72
Islay	11	11	11	10	1	0	32	3.20
Cowal	35	30	21	21	0	0	39+	1.85+
Total	73	66	52	43	1	8	115+	3.10 ¹

¹ Calculated for 38 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known. *Tiree*: No full survey conducted but minimum of 9 nests noted (J Bowler). (ARSG per RAB).

COMMON STARLING (STARLING) *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

1582

A common resident on: Islay, Coll, Tiree, and part of Kintyre; less common on most of the mainland. Flocks containing juveniles appear in many parts in late summer and numbers are boosted by immigration in winter from north-west Europe.

2006. Reports of larger flocks were from: *Colonsay* (300 at Ardskenish on 7 Sep), *Islay*: 2000 at least roosting in sea cliff caves at Laggan Farm during Jan, 200 at Octomore Hill on 16 Sep, and 1200 or more at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile (L. Gorm) on 16 Nov. On *Tiree* flocks of over 1000 were noted in late winter at Heylipol from Jan to Mar with a peak of 3500 coming in to roost at Loch an Eilean barn on 9 Feb. Post breeding there were: 650 between Heylipol and the Reef on 14 Jul and in early winter a peak of 1600 were on the island. Elsewhere there were: *ca*50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 Apr, 23 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 16 May, flocks of up to 20 on the Treshnish Isles in Jun, 300 roosting at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jul, 55 or more at Kames *Cowal* on 21 Sep, 54 at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 50 at Southend *Kintyre* on 1 Nov, and 70 or more in a flock at Mill Park (Southend) *Kintyre* also on 1 Nov.

2007. Reports of larger flocks were from *Colonsay* with: 200 (incl. Oronsay) in early Feb, 200 post breeding at Balnahard Dunes on 13 Jun, 200 at Oronsay Farm on 21 Sep, and 200 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) on 30 Dec. From *Cowal* there were: 50 at Drum Cottage (Kilfinan) on 17 Oct, and 145 or more at Point Farm (Ardlamont) on 11 Dec. From *Islay* there were: flocks of up to 60 widespread around the island in early Feb, 80 at least (incl. many juvs) at Ballygrant on 13 Jun, 500 or more at Loch Gruinart Reserve on 5 Oct, 3200 or more from five sites on 13/14 Nov. From *Kintyre* there were: 129 at Bellochchantuy on 2 Jul, 50 or more at Culindrach Farm (Skipness) on 21 Sep, 1000 in three flocks at Tayinloan on 28 Oct, and 230 at Aros Moss (Machrihanish). From *Mid-Argyll* there were: 200 at Luing on 23 Jan, *ca*385 gorging on Rowans at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) on 16 Aug and *ca* 100 in the same area on 17 Sep, and 140 at Port a' Chreagain (Luing) on 15 Dec. From *Mull* there were: 85 at Fidden on 24 Jul, and over 500 around the Abbey on Iona on 23 Oct. *Tiree* in Jan had 1390 at three sites, in Feb 200 at two sites, a flock of 200 including many fledglings was at The Reef on 30 Jul, and thereafter to the end of the year, post breeding flocks of many hundreds were widespread around the island with the largest of these being 2500 seen at Middleton on 29 Aug.

Breeding 2006. There were no territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* 2 in 2005. Reports of breeding were widespread and birds were present in the breeding season in virtually all areas. An interesting observation, from *Tiree*, was from 19 Aug, many juveniles on the island had mainland type pale brown heads/adult bodies; whereas island birds are uniformly sooty grey.

2007. Again there were no territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* an average of 2 since 1990. Breeding was again confirmed from more or less all areas; including The Treshnish Isles.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Druid-dhearg 1584

A rare visitor in summer and autumn but with larger numbers in 2002 and 2003.

2006. A second calendar year bird, caught by a cat, on Iona *Mull* was successfully rescued and released [Anne Stevens]. This record was accepted by SBRC.

2007. No Records.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Gealbhonn 1591

A resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.

2006. There were records from all recording areas during the year including Iona and The Treshnish Isles. Reports of larger flocks included: 40, 60, and 80 on *Tiree* during Jan, and at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* there were: 20 on 30 Apr, 23 on 29 May, 25 on 26 Jun, and 32 on 10 Jul. Post breeding flocks on *Tiree* built up from the end of Jul with a peak count of 165 [Ruaig (105) and Vaul (60)] on 21 Aug. Elsewhere, 40 were at Ledaig *North Argyll* on 30 Aug and 23 at Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 7 Sep.

2007. Again there were records from all recording areas including Iona and The Treshnish Isles. Reports of larger flocks were mainly of post breeding/wintering birds from *Tiree* with: 60 at Balephetrish and 30 at Heylipol during Jan, 60 at Whitehouse on 7 Aug, 25 at Balephuill on 12 Aug, 80 at Hynish on 23 Aug, rising to 120 on 25 Aug, 165 at Whitehouse on 27 Aug, 100+ at Ruaig on 31 Aug, 40 at Balephuill and 50 at Sorobaidh Bay on 1 Oct, 50 at Milton on 24 Oct, and up to 45 at Balephuill during Nov and Dec. Elsewhere flocks were on: *Islay* (25 at Kenovay on 20 Apr, 25 or more at Bruichladdich on 15 Nov), *Kintyre* (60 at least at Stewarton on 7 Jul), *Mid-Argyll* (29 on 8 Aug, and 35 on 12 Dec at Balvicar Bay), *Mull* (20+ on 24 Jul and 30+ on 26 Jul at Fidden, and 22+ at Scoor on 21 Oct), *North Argyll* (40+ at North Ledaig on 21 Jul, and 20+ at Tralee Beach (Benderloch) on 22 Jul).

Breeding 2006. Few actual breeding records were received apart from *Tiree*, where many fledglings were noted, but it is reasonable to assume that breeding was widespread in the areas where birds were present in the pre and post breeding seasons.

2007. Similar to 2006

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh 1598

A currently very scarce migrant, last recorded on Iona in Jun 1996. All records are required.

2006. After a gap of nine years with none at all there was a quite unexpected flurry of records. On 27 Mar, a single bird at Totronald was the first record on *Coll* since about 1937. Another was photographed at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr and could well have been the same individual, which was seen at a garden bird feeder at Moss the following day. Two found at Kilchoman Schoolhouse, RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* on 9 May were unexpected, but most extraordinary of all, was a flock of 17 seen at Balnahard *Colonsay* early on the morning of 3 Jun. As David Jardine, one of the observers, put it “this will probably go down as the sighting of the year for me”. This was the first record on *Colonsay* since 1899 and must be the largest number of Tree Sparrows seen together anywhere in Argyll for many years.

2007. Two individuals were reported at garden bird feeders; one at Muasdale *Kintyre* on 11 Apr and one at the Bishop’s Palace (Iona) *Mull* on 18 Apr.

RED-EYED VIREO* *Passer montanus*

1633

Vagrant. *The only record concerns one at Arinagour (Coll) in Oct 1992.*

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

1636

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

2006. Records were received from all areas, apart from *Coll*. On *Tiree*, as in 2005, there were scattered records of up to 10 birds seen from Jan to Mar with 10 at Balephuill on 8 Jan. The first bird of autumn was at Sorobaidh Bay on 30 Sep with 8 other sightings of ones and twos to the end of the year; the last being a single at Scarinish on 5 Dec. Fewer large flocks were recorded than in 2005 with: 57 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 24 Jan, 50 at Appin *North Argyll* on 20 Feb, ca450 on 4 Mar and 400 on 24 Mar at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll*, 82 at Taynish NNR in Jun, and 400 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov.

2007. Records were received from all areas apart from *Coll*. On *Tiree* only 3 birds were seen between Jan and Apr and 12 between Sep and Dec. Elsewhere, flocks of 50 and over were recorded at: Skipness & Bay *Kintyre* (50 or more on 1 Jan), Lussa Loch *Kintyre* (300 at least on 5 Jan), Bowmore (E) *Islay* (ca50 being largest flock), Taynish NNR (70 in June), Benmore Lodge (Loch Ba) *Mull* (75 on 29 Jul), Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (95 on 10 Aug), Connel *Mid-Argyll* (50 to 100 on 18 Sep), Culindrach Farm (Skipness) *Kintyre* (50 or more on 21 Sep), High Ronachan *Kintyre* (180 feeding on Oat stubble on 30 Sep), Barcaldine Forest *North Argyll* (100 at least with Siskins on 4 Oct), Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* (150 in flocks of 50 or more on 15 Nov), Ballimore *Cowal* (148 in a 2 hour TTV on 23 Nov), Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (59 on 24 Nov rising to 100+ by mid-Dec), and Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* (350 at least along with some Bramblings on 16 Dec, falling to 200 on 31 Dec).

Breeding 2006. Widespread in all areas apart from *Tiree* and *Coll* (no information) Forty-one territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf35 in 2005.

2007. Widespread in all areas apart from *Tiree* and *Coll* (no information). The number of territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR fell to 35 but was still ahead of the average of 31 since 1990.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn

1638

An uncommon winter visitor. Numbers vary from winter to winter with fewer in recent years. There have been a few summer records.

2006. In the early part of the year there were: 4 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar in a large flock (ca350) of Chaffinches with 5 there on 24 Mar, and a single male was at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 20 Mar. In early winter the first arrival noted was of at least 1 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 25 Oct: this was followed by 2 at Arinagour *Coll* on 28 Nov, and a single at Dervaig (N) *Mull* on 14 Dec.

2007. In the early part of the year there was a single at Grainel (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 18 Jan and another at Eredine (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb. The first of autumn was a single at Kildalloig (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 13 Oct followed by: a single female at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Oct and a male on 30-31 Oct, and a minimum of 20 among at least 350 Chaffinches at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec, falling to 15 on 31 Dec, and 10 the next day.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean-daraich

1649

A locally common resident and partial migrant: with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.

2006. Reports were received from all areas, throughout the year, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Records of 30 or more birds through the year included: 47 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan, 51 on *Tiree* on 21 Jan including a flock of 45 at Crossapol Farm, 80 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb, 110 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 14 Aug, flocks at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* were 40 on 28 Aug, 54 on 3 Sep, and 40 on 14 Sep, 45 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Oct, 40 at Cluanach *Islay* on 16 Nov, and 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 6 Dec.

2007. Reports were received from all areas, throughout the year, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Flocks of 30 or more included: 30 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 29 Jun, 35 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug, 35 at Oronsay RSPB Reserve on 7 Sep increasing to 55 on 26 Sep and to 60 on 4 Oct, 30 at Peninver *Kintyre* on 23 Sep increasing to 39 on 2 Nov, and there were 65 on 11 Dec near Balnahard *Colonsay* feeding on Burdock/thistle seeds.

Breeding 2006/2007. Birds were widely present in all areas in both years, during the breeding season; apart from *Coll* (no information) and *Tiree*. There were, however, very few records of confirmed breeding although some of the post breeding flocks recorded contained juveniles.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

1653

A thinly distributed resident; but absent as a breeding species from Tiree, with recent breeding on Coll and Colonsay. Flocks occur in autumn.

2006. Reports were received from all areas; apart from *Jura*, but including *Iona*. Flocks exceeding 20 or so included: 13 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 30 Apr, ca60 at Tayinloan (jetty) *Kintyre* on 14 Aug, 30 including many juvs at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 29 Aug, 20 at Easdale *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Aug, 35 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 10 Sep, 30 including at least 10 juvs at Killail *Cowal* on 10 Sep, 20 or more mainly juvs at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 45 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 30 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 18 Sep, 115 at Keills *Islay* on 19 Sep, an astonishing flock of 250-300 at Isle of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep with 60 nearby on 5 Oct, 60 along the shore at Killail *Cowal* on 30 Oct, and the last of the year was 20 at Bad nam Beithe (Kilmichael Forest) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov.

2007. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Coll*. There were 23 post breeding flocks of 20 or more reported. Of these 16 were in Sep, 4 in Oct and a single flock in each of Aug, Nov and Dec. Most of these were from the west coast and *Kintyre*

Breeding 2006. Ten or more breeding pairs were noted on *Colonsay* cf 17 in 2005. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR held one territory cf 2 in 2005.

2007. A pair was noted as breeding on *Colonsay* in Jun. A single territory was again recorded in the woodland CBC plot at Taynish NNR cf the average of 1 since 1990.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Gealag-bhuidhe

1654

A locally common partial migrant. Present in all areas apart from Coll and Tiree where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.

2006. There were reports from all areas apart from *Jura*. The only *Tiree* record was of a male at Balephuill on 5 May: on *Coll*, the only record was of 13 at The Lodge on 2 Nov (an unprecedented number for the island). The few late winter records included a flock of 15 at Kames *Cowal* on 16 Jan. Post breeding flocks included: 20 at Shuna *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug, 14 at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 17 Sep, 90 or more in Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 24 Nov, 30 at Kilmore (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec, 60 or more in Alders at Loch Craiglin *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec, and at least 100, also feeding on Alders, at Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 27 Dec.

2007. There were reports from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Colonsay*. Birds were present on 11 Jun at Craighouse (N) *Jura*. A group of 3 including a juvenile on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 29 Jun was the first record of this species here for the TIARG. On *Tiree* an unprecedented influx started with 2 at Balephuill on 12 Oct. This was followed by many sightings throughout

the month and into Nov with the last being seen on 19 Nov also at Balephuill. Peak numbers were seen from 21-23 Oct with: 12 at Balemartine on 21 Oct, 10+ at The Manse, Scarinish also on 21 Oct, and 14 between Gott Tip (9), Kilmoluaig (2) and Sandaig (3) on 23 Oct. Late winter flocks included: 40 or more at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 4 Feb, 34 at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb, 30+ at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on garden feeders on 23 Apr, and around 40 feeding on *Rumex* seeds at Ballimore Shore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 14 Jun. Early winter/post-breeding flocks included: 25 at Treshnish *Mull* on 17 Jul, 28 at Shuna *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, 40 >S at Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse *Kintyre* on 5 Oct, ca60 at Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 50-60 at Southend *Kintyre* on 25 Oct, 30+ at Ashfield *Mid-Argyll* in a large mixed flock on 27 Oct, 30 feeding on *leylandii* fruits at Largie Farm *Kintyre* on 2 Nov, flocks of 60 around Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov, 25 in a noisy flock over Sitka Spruce at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 22 Nov, and 35 feeding on Alder seeds at Kames *Cowal* on 24 Nov.

Breeding 2006. There were no territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR as in 2005.

2007. A single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf the average of 1 since 1990.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lin

1660

A sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay, Tiree and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn and winter with most reports from Colonsay, Islay, and Kintyre.

2006. The first of the year on *Tiree* were at the beginning of Apr with numbers building up to 70 on 17 Apr. Flocks of 50 or so were noted on: *Tiree* (65 at Barrapol on 3 May, 50 at Ard Ear on 22 Aug, 70 at Balephuill on 29 Aug, 50 at Balemartine on 3 Sep, 50 at Barrapol on 16 Sep, 160 at Balinoe on 24 Sep, 60 at Baugh on 25 Sep, 90 at The Reef on 28 Sep, and 50 at Balephuill on 23 Oct); on *Colonsay* Oronsay had a max for Aug of 50, max for Sep 100, and max for Oct 40); in *Mid-Argyll* (there were 60 at Islandadd Bridge on 22 Aug, and 120 at Add Estuary on 9 Sep); on *Islay* (50 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 29 Aug, 125 on 1 Oct, 168 on 3 Oct, 205 on 28 Oct, 365 on 22 Nov, and 80 on 22 Dec); and on *Cowal* (65 were at Alt Osde Loch (Kilbride Bay) on 22 Sep).

2007. Again the first of the year on *Tiree* was at the beginning of Apr with numbers building from then with a flock of 50 at Kenovay on 20 Apr. A couple of birds were also seen in Apr in *Cowal* at Kames Golf Course and Kilfinan, and at Keills House (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll*. Flocks of 50 or so were recorded from: *Kintyre* (39 on 2 Jul at Bellochantuy, 40 at Kilchrist on 1 Aug, and 70 at Tayinloan Jetty and Bay on 11 Sep with 38 on 30 Sep); *Tiree* (80 at Balephuill on 22 Aug, 60 at Kenovay on 27 Aug, 90 at Balevullin on 28 Aug, 60 at Balephetrish on 3 Sep, 60 at Hynish on 7 Sep, 190 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor on 16 Sep, 50 at Sorobaidh Bay on 1 Oct, 70 at Balephuill on 5 Oct, 70 at Sorobaidh Bay on 6 Oct, and 75 at Balephetrish on 13 Oct); *Colonsay* (165 on Oronsay on 15 Sep and 100 on 4 Oct falling to 50 by 10 Oct); *Islay* (57 at Craigens on 15 Nov); and *Mid-Argyll* (35 at Saulmore on 21 Oct). An all white bird was at Aird *Tiree* on 15 Sep.

Breeding 2006. Four territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR cf 2 in 2005. The first singing male was heard at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* on 21 Apr. Birds were reported from all areas, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*, during the breeding season.

2007. Three territories were found in the coastal CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf the average of 3 since 1990. Again birds were reported in the breeding season from all areas, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

1662

A local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrants birds.

2006. Birds were recorded from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura* (although birds were undoubtedly present; especially on *Coll*). Twenty-seven flocks of 50 or over were reported from: *Tiree* 15, *Islay* 8, *Colonsay* 2, *Kintyre* 1, and *Mull* 1. Virtually all of these were of post breeding birds with juveniles and many may have included migrants. The largest flock of the year was 150 on Oat stubbles at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 7 Oct closely followed by 140 at The Reef *Tiree* on 25 Oct.

2007. Records were received from all areas apart from *Coll*. On *Jura* 27 were seen at Loch na Mile on 1 Oct. Thirty-three flocks of 50 or over were recorded from: *Tiree* 22, *Islay* 3, *Mid-Argyll* 3, *Colonsay* 2, *North Argyll* 2, and *Kintyre* 1. The largest of these was 320 at The Reef *Tiree* on 10 Oct.

Breeding 2006. In Jun, pairs with fledglings were widespread on *Tiree*, an estimated six breeding pairs were on the Treshnish Isles, and 21 breeding pairs were found on *Colonsay*.

2007. In Jun, pairs with fledglings were widespread on *Tiree*, a flock of 12 on the Treshnish Isles included juveniles, and 37 pairs were found on *Colonsay*.

Ringling returns. A colour ringed bird at Machrihanish SBO on 11 Sep 2006 had been ringed at Banks Marsh, The Ribble, Lancashire in Mar 2005 and another at Uragaig *Colonsay* on 13 May 2006 had been ringed at Heysham, Lancashire.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & Greenland Redpoll *C. f. rostrata*)

1663.1

Scarce passage migrant and irregular winter visitor.

2006. No accepted records. (Records of birds on *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in 2006 were submitted but none were accompanied by suitable descriptions).

2007. Single birds showing characteristics of *flammea* were recorded at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep, 29 Sep, 22 Oct and 26 Oct. An adult male and 2 female/immatures were at Balephuill from 29 Oct to 3 Nov [J. Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC, with the reservation that the uncertain race *islandica* could not be ruled out. (Records of birds on *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* in 2007 were submitted but none was accompanied by suitable descriptions).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* Dearcan-seilich

1663

A locally common partial migrant, breeding locally, with numbers fluctuating from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.

2006. There were 7 flocks of 10 or more: at least 10 at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* on 12 Mar, 12 <SW over Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Mar, 20 at least feeding on oak buds at Capull Cruaidh (Strachur) *Cowal* on 3 May, 20 or more on *Colonsay* in June, 24 at Kames *Cowal* on 27 Sep, and 15 on Birch catkins at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 2 Nov rising to around 35 on 8 Nov, and present to 25 Nov when 5 were still in the garden. Birds were present in smaller numbers in most other areas.

2007. Again there were 7 flocks of 10 or more but from different areas: 12 at Taynish NNR during Jun, 12 at Shuna Cottage (Shuna) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, 15 or more on Birch catkins at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* on 29 Aug, 11 at Ardpatrik Point *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, ca20 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep, 11 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, and ca10 with Siskins at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov. Birds were present in smaller numbers in most other areas.

Breeding 2006. Four pairs held territory in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR, the same as in 2005. Elsewhere there were sporadic reports of probable or confirmed breeding.

2007. Six pairs held territory at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 4 since 1990. Males were recorded from *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Islay*; calling, and or, displaying, from Apr to early Jul.

REDPOLL sp. *Carduelis flammea/cabaret*

Records not specifically assigned to Common or Lesser Redpoll

2006. There were no records.

2007. A flock of 10 was feeding on Alder seeds at Kames *Cowal* on 13 Nov, 17 flew over Kames *Cowal* on 14 Nov, and 10 or more were feeding on Sitka spruce near Ardlamont House *Cowal* on 11 Dec. The latter were considered to show more characteristics of Common than Lesser Redpoll (S. Petty).

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*

1664

Vagrant. There are only two accepted Argyll records; both of the race *exilipes*. One was on Islay on 22 Sep 2001 and one on Tiree on 23 Oct 2004.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-ghob

1666

An irruptive species with large numbers breeding in good cone years. Few stay when cones are scarce.

2006. Records of small numbers of birds (six or less) were received from: *Colonsay* 1, *Cowal* 7, *Kintyre* 1, *Mid-Argyll* 8, *Mull* 3, and *North Argyll* 1. The only number to exceed this was 9 seen at Loch Nant Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec.

2007. There were around twice as many records as in 2006; probably due mainly to survey work for the BTO Atlas project but possibly to a greater population. The numbers of records received were: *Cowal* 33, *Kintyre* 1, *Mid-Argyll* 14, *Mull* 5, *North Argyll* 4, and *Tiree* 1. A pair at Danes Leap *Cowal* on 23 Feb was probably combing insects from Sitka Spruce needles. The single female (the only record) from *Tiree* (Balemartine) on 13 Jun was taken by a cat but happily released unharmed. The highest numbers recorded were almost all from Nov/Dec BTO Winter Atlas work where flocks into the middle teens were seen at: Loch Bealach Ghearran *Mid-Argyll*, Creag an t-Sionnaich *Cowal*, Kames *Cowal*, Loch Glashan *Mid-Argyll*, Toll nam Broc *Cowal*, and Loch Beg *Mull*.

Breeding 2006. Juveniles present in a group of 9 at Loch Nant Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec.

2007. The only record of juvs present was from Largimore *Cowal* on 3 Jul when a party of 6 included a male, a female, and 4 juvs. They were feeding on Japanese/Hybrid Larch cones on particular trees where birds have been present over a number of years.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1679

A rare visitor, which may have bred. Eleven records 1989-2005, mostly in May and Jun.

2006. No records.

2007. A juvenile was seen at Hynish *Tiree* on 7 Sep [J. Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

1710

A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.

2006. Late winter flocks included: 14 at Cruach na Tarbh *Cowal* on 9 Jan, 14 at Loch Glashan (NE) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Feb (included at least 10 males), and 20+ at Borgadalemore Point *Kintyre* on 9 Feb. In early winter the only flock reported was of 8 (mostly males) at Tom na h-Iolair

Mid-Argyll on 22 Nov. During the remainder of the year small numbers were occasionally recorded from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

2007. There were no significant flocks reported in early winter. Five were at Port Ellen & Bay *Islay* on 18 Jan and 5 or more were at Strone (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll*; seen during a WeBS count on 25 Mar. In late winter: 9 were in a Sitka Spruce plantation at 320 meters on Cruach nan Tarbh *Cowal*, 9 were at Moine Glas (Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec (TTV), and 16 were found (also on an Atlas TTV) at Meall Reamhar (Glen Lochy) *North Argyll* on 29 Dec.

Breeding 2006. Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf 1 in 2005. A juvenile was seen in the front garden at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 12 July.

2007. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR cf the average of 2 since 1990. Juveniles or recently fledged birds were noted at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 1 Jul, Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jul, Barcaldine Village *North Argyll* on 22 Jul, Corra Farm *Cowal* on 4 Sep (killed in window strike), Glenbranter Village *Cowal* on 4 Sep, and Cnocan Corrach (Evanachan) *Cowal* on 12 Oct.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach 1717

A rare visitor. Fourteen records 1953-2005.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

AMERICAN REDSTART* *Setophaga ruticilla* 1755

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in November 1982.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* 1847

Scarce passage migrant, recorded most frequently in autumn.

2006. One was at RSPB L. Gruinart on 28 Feb. A very vocal bird was at The Reef *Tiree* on 28 Sep, another flew over Heylipol *Tiree* on 22 Oct. One at RSPB L. Gruinart on 29 Dec was an unusual mid-winter record.

2007. Two were at Greenhill *Tiree* on 20 Mar, followed by a confiding female at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 23 Mar and a smart male bird in full summer plumage at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 Apr. A pair were seen at Loch Ba *Mull* 31 Mar. Single birds were seen and heard calling in flight over Balephetrish *Tiree* on 13 Oct and at The Reef *Tiree* on 19 Oct. One was at Fidden *Mull* on 22 Oct, one was seen flying S at The Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse on 26 Oct, two were reported at Ardnave *Islay* on 28 Oct and a late bird was at the Mull of Oa *Islay* on 18 Nov.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag-an-t-sneachda 1850

Occurring annually, in varying numbers, on passage and in winter; both along the coast and in the hills. Has probably bred in North Argyll.

Jan- May 2006. Birds were recorded from all areas apart from *Cowal*, *Jura* and *Mull* largely in ones and twos. Higher numbers were: 13 feeding on spilt grain at Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, 42 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 20 Feb falling to 23 on 20 Mar, 20 or more below the dam at Cruachan reservoir *North Argyll* on 1 Mar, 30 at Airigh Challeach (NN2034) *North Argyll* on 4 Mar, 40 at Allt Mhoille (NN1131) *North Argyll* on 5 Mar, and 6 at The Lodge Coll on 23 Mar. The last spring record was of a single bird at Ardnave *Islay* on 6 May.

2007. Very few records were received in comparison to the previous year. These were: a single at Garra Eallabus (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 1 Jan, 2 in Glen More *Mull* on 24 Jan, 30 on Beinn

Chorranach (Arrochar Alps) *Cowal* on 2 Feb, and a single at Deucheran Hill (NR7543) *Kintyre* on 7 Mar.

Sep-Dec 2006. The first of autumn was a single bird among Twites at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 Oct followed by: 2 at Beinn an Dothaidh (NN3240) *North Argyll* on 15 Oct, 2 at Ardnave *Islay* on 2 and 13 Nov, 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 17 Nov, a single on 6 Dec and 2 on 14 Dec at Ardnave *Islay*, and a single at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 18 Dec.

2007. The first arrival was a single at The Strand *Colonsay* on 27 Sep. There were then records of 1-6 birds, almost all in Oct and Nov, from: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), and *Tiree* (2). The only larger flock was of 30, found on an Early Winter Atlas TTV, at East Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 30 Dec.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag-bhealaidh 1857

A localised resident which is absent from Coll and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.

2006. The majority of records were received in the early part of the year (to the end of May) and were mainly from the west coasts of *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere there were few (less than 4) records from *Cowal*, *Islay*, and *Mull*. Most records were of 3 or less birds although higher numbers occurred at: Kildalton *Islay* (6 on 20 Feb), Tayinloan Jetty and Bay *Kintyre* (4 on 5 Mar with similar, possibly the same, to 10 Apr), Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* (4 on 8 Mar), and Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* (6 on 9 Apr).

No records were received in Jun. From Jul to Nov there were 7 reports of 1 or 2 birds, all from the west coast of *Mid-Argyll*, apart from a single male on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Oct. Higher numbers included 5 in a huge flock (250-300) of Goldfinches at Island of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 9 at Smaull *Islay* on 7 Oct, 4 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 7 Oct, 6 at Aros Bay *Islay* on 7 Oct, and the last record of the year was of 10 in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov.

2007. Unlike in 2006 the vast majority of records were in the later part of the year. Most records to June were of 1 or 2 birds; almost all on: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. Unusually there were two records from inland *Mid-Argyll* with 2 on a bird feeder at Tayness (Kilmartin) on 18 Jan and 3 at Slockavullin on 22 Mar. The only flock noted was 24 at Ardtalla *Islay* on 18 Jan. No records were received from 26 Jun to 11 Sep when a single was noted at Nether Largie *Mid-Argyll*. Three days later, on 14 Sep, the largest number for 20 years was reported when ca70 were at Lerags Farm (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll*. From then to the end of the year birds were reported, mainly in small numbers, from *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre*. Elsewhere there were records from *Jura* (3 at Loch Tarbert on 1 Oct), *Islay* (2 at Bunnahabhain on 2 Oct), *Mull* (1 at Loch Don on 19 Oct), and *North Argyll* (1 at Lochan na Beithe on 2 Dec and 1 at North Connell on 8 Dec). The only other flocks noted were of around 10 at Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, on occasions, from the end of Sep to mid-Dec.

Breeding 2006/2007. Occasional pairs were seen and singing males heard but there were no reports of confirmed breeding although this may have occurred.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirius* 1858

Vagrant. A pair at St. Catherine's, Loch Fyne in June 1920 is the sole record.

2006. No records. **2007.** No records.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* 1873

Vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one on Islay in May 1980 and one on Tiree in June 1987.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

1874

Vagrant. *The only Argyll record is of a bird found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west of Tiree), in Sep 1985.*

2006. No records.

2007. A lone bird was seen and photographed at Milton Tiree on 23 Oct. It associated at times with House Sparrows feeding on grain, but was gone by the following day [J. Bowler]. This record is only the second for Argyll and the first of a live bird (accepted by SBRC).

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING* *Emberiza aureola*

1876

Vagrant. *The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in September 1981.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòn

1877

A locally distributed resident breeder. While nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season

Jan-May 2006. There were records from all areas apart from: Coll, Jura, and North Argyll. Counts of 10 or more included: 20 in small numbers around Tiree on 25 Jan, and 14 at Oban on 4 Mar.

2007. There were records from all areas apart from Coll. Counts of 10 or more included: a minimum of 10 at Loch Melldalloch Cowal on 9 Jan rising to 36 on 23 Jan, 12 at Vaul Tiree on 16 Jan, 10 at Luing Mid-Argyll on 23 Jan, 20 at Bridgend Hide Islay on 10 Feb, and ca20 at Loch Gearach Islay on 21 Feb.

Breeding 2006. Two territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* none in 2005. On Colonsay 24 pairs (the highest total ever) were on territory in Jun. Elsewhere breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

2007. Again, 2 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 1 since 1990. On Colonsay an even higher total of 29 pairs were found on territory with a further 4 on Oronsay during Jun. Elsewhere breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

Jul-Dec 2006. Counts of 10 or more included: 12 at RSPB Loch Gruinart/Ardnave on 20 Jul, 13 at Tayinloan Jetty & Bay Kintyre on 5 Aug, 10 at Balnoe Tiree on 21 Oct, 10 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 22 Oct, 24 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile (Kilchoman) Islay on 16 Nov, 12 at Cnoc Amanta (Cluanach) Islay on 16 Nov, a minimum of 17 at Loch Melldalloch Cowal on 18 Nov increasing to a minimum of 20 by 15 Dec, and 27 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 18 Nov and 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart/Ardnave on 22 Dec.

2007. Counts of 10 or more included: ca25 moulting adults with juvs at Ostel Bay lochan Cowal on 14 Aug, 12 or more at Cnoc Amanta Islay, and 12 or more at Kames Golf Course (N) Cowal on 23 Nov feeding on *Deschampsia* seeds.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING* *Emberiza melanocephala*

1881

Vagrant. *Eight previous records, all of singles, during May to Jul.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* Gealag-bhuachair

1882

Formerly resident on Tiree but recently extinct. There are occasional records of wandering birds. Last reported 2003: in Jan on Oronsay (Colonsay), and in Jan-Feb on Islay.

2006. A singing male near the New Castle (Breachacha) Coll on 7 Aug was the first record on Coll since 1984 and the first in Argyll since 2003 [Simon Wellock].

2007. No records.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD* *Molothrus ater*

1899

Vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one at Ardnave Point, Islay in April 1988.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

ESCAPES AND INTRODUCTIONS

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E (see definitions of categories on p.12). Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

Category E*. *Infrequent visitor to Argyll, often seen with Mute Swans.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Category E*. *Reported with increasing frequency.*

2006. One was seen with Greylag Geese at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul while, at the Head of L. Feochan, 2 adults were present on 31 Jul and 4 on 14 Sep.

2007. No records.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Category E*. *Widespread and probably under-recorded in Argyll.*

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Category E*. *Only previous record was at Dunoon in 2000-2001.*

2006. A male was on L. Ederline (near Ford) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 April.

2007. No records.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii*

Category E*. *Recent releases in Cowal.*

2006. Birds were seen near the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on several occasions in late Apr early May.

2007. Single males and females were reported in the Otter Ferry area and at the head of L. Striven from May to Oct. On 8 May two males were seen fighting with a Common Pheasant at the head of L. Striven, and later one Reeve's was picked up dead off the road [S. Petty/T. Callan]

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*

Category E*. *A long staying bird was frequently reported in the Arduaine area Mid-Argyll during 1989-1991.*

2006. No records.

2007. In early April the owners of a garden at Benderloch *North Argyll* were startled by the sound of breaking twigs as an Eagle Owl took flight. It apparently it belonged to a local keeper in the area.

Other Category E species with just one or two Argyll records include: Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Cinnamon Teal, Indian Peafowl, Pelican sp., Flamingo sp., Zebra Finch and White-rumped Munia.

LIST OF REJECTED RECORDS, PENDING RECORDS AND RECORDS FOR WHICH DETAILS ARE STILL AWAITED

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been rejected since the publication of ABR 19.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Bean Goose	<i>Kintyre</i>	01/02/2006	ABRC
Lesser Scaup	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	21/10/2007	BBRC
King Eider	<i>Islay</i>	08/04/2008	BBRC
Fea's/Zeno's Petrel	<i>Islay</i>	12/07/2006	BBRC
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Mull</i>	18/05/2007	SBRC
White-billed Diver	<i>Mull (Staffa)</i>	03/05/2007	BBRC
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	24/07/2006	ABRC
Great White Egret	<i>North Argyll</i>	21/09/2007	SBRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	08/01/2006	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	12/06/2007	ABRC
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Mull</i>	12/10/2007	BBRC
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Mull</i>	21/05/2007	BBRC
Red-necked Phalarope*	<i>Kintyre</i>	29/08/2006	ABRC
Sabine's Gull	<i>Mull (Iona)</i>	19/05/2007	ABRC
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Mull</i>	20/04/2006	SBRC
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	16/11/2007	ABRC
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Cowal</i>	07/03/2007	SBRC
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Kintyre</i>	17/06/2007	SBRC
Reed Warbler	<i>Colonsay</i>	21/05/2006	ABRC
Firecrest	<i>Islay</i>	30/10/2006	ABRC
Masked Shrike	<i>Mull</i>	10/06/2007	BBRC

*** accepted by ABRC as phalarope sp.**

Most records are rejected not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

The following records of species on the BBRC, SBRC or ABRC are currently in circulation around the relevant rarity committees. In some instances the decision has been delayed pending receipt of further details.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Lesser/Intermediate Canada Goose*	<i>Islay</i>	Various records 2002-2009	BBRC
Redhead	<i>Tiree</i>	14/12/2005	BBRC
North Atlantic Little Shearwater*	Machrihanish SBO	07/09/2000	BBRC
Pallid Harrier	<i>Jura</i>	01/10/2007	BBRC
American Herring Gull	<i>Tiree</i>	24/03/2007 & 07/05/2007	BBRC

* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for these species.

Details of the following claimed 2006 and 2007 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received. NB Records published by BirdGuides etc. but for which no details were submitted to the Argyll Bird Club are not included.

Species	Place	Recording area	date
European White-fronted Goose	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	14/022007
Green-winged Teal	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	23/10/2006 – 26/04/2007
Green-winged Teal	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	05/10/2007
Ring-necked Duck	Ballyhogh Loch	<i>Coll</i>	19/01/2007 – 12/02/2007
King Eider	Ulva Ferry	<i>Mull</i>	11/06/2006 & 10/07/2006
Great Shearwater	Oban-Barra ferry	<i>Coll</i>	07/09/2007
Honey-buzzard	Port Ellen	<i>Islay</i>	28/04/2006
Hobby	Machrihanish	<i>Kintyre</i>	13/09/2006
White-rumped Sandpiper	Port Ellen	<i>Islay</i>	09/10/2006
White-rumped Sandpiper	RSPB L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	26/10/2006
Sabine's Gull	Claggain Bay	<i>Islay</i>	25/10/2007
Ring-billed Gull	Gartnatra	<i>Islay</i>	07/05/2006
Ring-billed Gull	Oban Harbour	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	19/11/2006
Richard's Pipit	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	25/09/2006
Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	Port na Luing	<i>Coll</i>	16/04/2006
Common Nightingale	?	<i>Coll</i>	25/08/2006
Black-eared Wheatear	Melfort	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	12/04/2007
Barred Warbler	Uig	<i>Coll</i>	15/09/2006
Lesser Whitethroat	Ardyne Point	<i>Cowal</i>	17/06/2006
Arctic Warbler	RSPB Reserve	<i>Coll</i>	26/09/2006
Yellow-browed Warbler	Ardilistry	<i>Islay</i>	9-10/10/2006
Yellow-browed Warbler	Uig	<i>Coll</i>	12/10/2006

Firecrest	Dalmally	<i>North Argyll</i>	12/02/2006
Eurasian Nuthatch	Barcaldine	<i>N. Argyll</i>	24/04/2005

¹ several other records of Ring-billed Gulls, mainly on Islay and around Oban, were published on BirdGuides but no supporting descriptions were ever supplied.

² Photographs have been supplied but a description is still awaited. This race is still not officially accepted by BOURC.

Anyone who saw any of these birds is encouraged to send in details. The records will not be referred to again in future reports unless details have by then been forwarded to ABRC, BBRC or SBRC.

REFERENCES

- Austin, G.E. *et al.* (2008). *Waterbirds in the UK 2006/07: The Wetland Bird Survey*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB, JNCC.
- Bowler, J. *et al* (2008). Wintering wader surveys on the Isle of Tiree, Argyll. *Scottish Birds* (Vol.28 June 2008:32-41).
- Forrester, R.W. *et al* (2007). *The Birds of Scotland*. Scottish Ornithologists' Club.
- Holt, C.A. *et al.* (2009). *Waterbirds in the UK 2007/08: The Wetland Bird Survey*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB, JNCC.
- Lewis, M. *et al* (2008). *Surveillance of winter and spring aggregations of seaducks, divers and grebes in UK inshore areas: Aerial surveys and shore-based counts 2006/07*
JNCC Report No. 414. Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- Söhle, I. *et al* (2006). *Surveillance of wintering seaducks, divers and grebes in UK inshore areas: Aerial surveys and shore-based counts 2005/06*. JNCC Report No. 392. Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- Ward, R. M. (2007 and 2008). *Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group: reports for 2006 and 2007*. Expedition dates: 23 June – 1 July 2006 and 23 – 30 June 2007. (Referred to in the text as “TIARG”) Privately Published.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

This report could not have been produced without the invaluable assistance I received from Morag Rea, Tom Callan and Mary Gregory in processing the records onto the club database. Between them they dealt with the bulk of these records. Grateful thanks are also due to Jim Dickson who deals with the considerable burden of chasing up descriptions of all the rare species that have occurred in Argyll during the period and circulating them to the various rarity committees.

I am indebted to all those who submitted records. A full list of contributors appears below; with apologies to anyone whose name has been inadvertently omitted. I am particularly grateful to observers who sent me comprehensive reports or regular series of observations for specific areas, especially: Clive Craik for information on breeding seabird colonies, John Halliday for records from the Tainish and Moine Mhor National Nature Reserves (including the invaluable Common Bird Census data for Tainish NNR), Roger Broad (RSPB) for information on Raptors and Rare Breeding Species, Robin Ward of the Treshnish Isles Ringing Group, John Bowler (RSPB) for copies of his monthly report on Tiree birds, Mike Peacock (RSPB) for detailed reports of birds on Oronsay, Simon Wellock (RSPB) for information on the birds of Coll up to 2007, David Jardine for information regarding his long running surveys on Colonsay, Richard

Wesley for records for Seil Island and Margaret Morris et al at SNH for Goose count data. Special thanks are due to Eddie Maguire for information from the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, James How for data from RSPB reserves on Islay, including WeBS count forms, and Malcolm Ogilvie for providing his 2006 and 2007 Islay database. Malcolm Ogilvie's database was the source of much of the information about the birds of Islay during 2006/2007 used in this report.

I am grateful to John Bowler, Jim Dickson and Tom Callan for commenting on draft versions of the text.

Paul Daw

CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors to this report (with apologies to any whose names have been omitted):

N. Addey, J. Adcroft, J. Aitchison, W. Allan, A. Anderson, J. & H. Anderson, Anand Prasad, Argyll Raptor Study Group, J. S. Armitage, R. Baker, M. Bakes, D. & P. Batty, T. Batty, P. Blunsden, A. Borlase, I. Boston, R. Bowe, J. Bowler, D. Bows, R. A. Broad, I. & M. Brooke, A. & L. Brown, A. & P. Brown, N. Brown, T. Callan, T. Cameron, D. Campbell, G. Campbell, J. Campbell, G. Cannon, J. Cassels, G. & D. Clark, M. Cocker, A. Colling, R. J. Cook, D. Cox, J. C. A. Craik, A. Dale, A. Davidson, A. Davis, P. Daw, A-L. Dickie, J. Dickson, P. Douch, R. Douglas, L. Dow, J. & R. Duncan, W. M. Edgar, B. Eithin, D. M. Elliot, R. Else, R. Facer, V. Fairbrother, C. Farmer, J. Fiander, J. Fournier, I. Francis, K. Francis, C. Fotheringham, R. Furness, M. Gear, S. Gibson, K. Gillon, D. Goodwin, J. Gordon, A. Gray, M. Gregory, R. & M. Gulliver, J. Halliday, J. M. Harrison, R. Harvey, J. C. Hastings, D. Hatfield, J. Hemming, P. Hodgson, A. Hogg, J. Hogg, I. Hopkins, S. Housden, J. How and the staff of the RSPB Reserves on Islay, J. Hunter, R. Husthwaite A. Hutchinson, H. Insley, G. Jackson, D. C. & J. Jardine, B. & M. John, C. Johnson, R. Kennedy, D. Kent, A. Keys, the late P. Kirk, J. & S. Kirkman, A. Knight, A. Lamont, L. Langan, L. P. Langley, A. Lauder, S. Lawrence, A. E. Lewin, R. Liddell, R. Lilley, D. Lord, T. Lowe, F. Lynn, C. McAvoy, J. McAvoy, J. McCallum, S. McCullagh, C. McFarlane, P. McFarlane, M. McGinty, J. McGlynn, C. R. McKay, L. MacKay, B. McMillan, A. McNab, L. McNeill, E. J. Maguire, R. & D. Marks, P. Massey, A. Masterman, T. D. H. Merrie, I. Miller, S. Milligan, J. Mitchell, H. Moncrieff, S. Money, M. Morris, G. Newall, A. Nicol, M. A. Ogilvie, D. Payne, M. Peacock, K. Pendreigh, S. Petty, K. Pipes, A. & J. Plackett, D. Pretswell, H. Proctor, B. Rabbits, B. Rains, J. Randall, M. & N. Rea, A. J. Reid, A. W. Reid, J. Riley, A. Robinson, A. Schofield, , D. Sexton, D. Shackleton, S. Shaw, J. & A. Shutes, A. Smout, A. Spellman, J. Spencer, P. T. & M. J. Staley, R. Stokes, N. Tait, R. Tapply, I. Teesdale, J. Towill, Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group, M. Tutchner, P. Ullrich, B. Urquhart C. Urquhart, M. Wagemakers, S. Walker, D. Warden, J. Walsh, A. Webster, D. Webster, S. Welch, S. Wellock, T. Wells, R. Wesley, A. Westwood, B. White, P. Whittaker, K. Wiggins, D. Williams, J. Williams, B. Williamson, M. Williamson, D. Wood, the late P. Woods, P. Woolen, F. Younger.

And many birders who contributed records via BirdTrack – I am grateful to the BTO for supplying the BirdTrack records relating to the Argyll area.

SPECIES INDEX

Auk, Little	108	Dotterel	70
Avocet	68	Dove, Collared	110
Bea-eater, European	115	Dove, Rock	109
Bittern, American	18	Dove, Stock	109
Bittern, Eurasian	53	Dove, Turtle	110
Blackbird	125	Dowitcher, Long-billed	80
Blackcap	130	Duck, Black	33
Bluethroat	122	Duck, Ferruginous	35
Brambling	144	Duck, Harlequin	38
Bullfinch	148	Duck, Long-tailed	39
Bunting, Black-headed	151	Duck, Mandarin	29
Bunting, Cirl	150	Duck, Muscovy	152
Bunting, Corn	151	Duck, Ring-necked	31
Bunting, Lapland	149	Duck, Ruddy	43
Bunting, Little	151	Duck, Tufted	32
Bunting, Reed	151	Duck, Wood	152
Bunting, Rustic	150	Dunlin	76
Bunting, Snow	149	Duncock	122
Bunting, Yellow-breasted	151	Eagle, Golden	60
Buzzard, Common	58	Eagle, White-tailed	55
Buzzard, Honey-	54	Egret, Great White	53
Buzzard, Rough-legged	59	Egret, Little	53
Capercaillie	44	Egret, Snowy	53
Chaffinch, Common	144	Eider, Common	37
Chiffchaff, Common	133	Eider, King	38
Chiffchaff, 'Siberian'	133	Falcon, Gyr	64
Chough, Red-billed	139	Falcon, Peregrine	64
Coot, Common	67	Falcon, Red-footed	63
Cormorant, Great	51	Fieldfare	126
Cowbird, Brown-headed	152	Firecrest	135
Crake, Corn	66	Flycatcher, Pied	135
Crake, Little	18	Flycatcher, Red-breasted	135
Crake, Spotted	66	Flycatcher, Spotted	135
Crane, Common	67	Frigatebird, Ascension	53
Crossbill, Common	148	Fulmar	48
Crow, Carrion	140	Gadwall	30
Crow, Hooded	140	Gannet, Northern	51
Cuckoo, Black-billed	111	Garganey	34
Cuckoo, Common	111	Godwit, Bar-tailed	81
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	111	Godwit, Black-tailed	80
Curlew, Eurasian	83	Goldcrest	134
Curlew, Stone-	68	Goldeneye, Common	40
Dipper	121	Goldfinch	145
Diver, Black-throated	45	Goosander	42
Diver, Great Northern	46	Goose, Bar-headed	152
Diver, Red-throated	45	Goose, Barnacle	26
Diver, White-billed	46	Goose, Bean	20

Goose, Brent	27	Ibis, Glossy	54
Goose, European White-fronted	21	Jackdaw, Western	139
Goose, Greater Canada	24	Jay, Eurasian	138
Goose, Greenland White-fronted	20	Kestrel, Common	62
Goose, Greylag	22	Killdeer	70
Goose, Lesser Canada	26	Kingfisher, Common	115
Goose, Lesser White-fronted	22	Kite, Black	55
Goose, Pink-footed	20	Kite, Red	55
Goose, Red-breasted	28	Kittiwake	103
Goose, Snow	24	Knot, Red	73
Goshawk, Northern	57	Lapwing, Northern	72
Grebe, Black-necked	48	Lark, Shore	116
Grebe, Great Crested	47	Lark, Sky	116
Grebe, Little	46	Linnet	146
Grebe, Pied-billed	46	Magpie	138
Grebe, Red-necked	47	Mallard	32
Grebe, Slavonian	47	Martin, House	118
Greenfinch	144	Martin, Sand	116
Greenshank	91	Merganser, Red-breasted	41
Grouse, Black	43	Merlin	63
Grouse, Red (Willow)	43	Moorhen	67
Guillemot, Black	107	Munia, White-rumped	153
Guillemot, Brunnich's	107	Nightingale, Common	122
Guillemot, Common	106	Nightjar, European	114
Gull, American Herring	100	Nuthatch, Eurasian	137
Gull, Black-headed	97	Oriole, Golden	138
Gull, Bonaparte's	97	Osprey	61
Gull, Common	98	Ouzel, Ring	125
Gull, Glaucous	102	Owl, Barn	111
Gull, Great Black-backed	102	Owl, Eagle	152
Gull, Herring	100	Owl, Eurasian Scops	112
Gull, Iceland	101	Owl, Long-eared	113
Gull, Ivory	103	Owl, Short-eared	113
Gull, Laughing	96	Owl, Snowy	112
Gull, Lesser Black-backed	99	Owl, Tawny	113
Gull, Little	97	Oystercatcher	67
Gull, Mediterranean	96	Partridge, Grey	44
Gull, Ring-billed	98	Partridge, Red-legged	44
Gull, Ross's	102	Peafowl, Indian	153
Gull, Sabine's	97	Petrel, European Storm-	49
Gull, Yellow-legged	100	Petrel, Leach's Storm	50
Harrier, Hen	56	Phalarope, Grey	94
Harrier, Marsh	56	Phalarope, Red-necked	94
Hawfinch	148	Pheasant, Common	45
Heron, Grey	53	Pheasant, Golden	45
Heron, Night	53	Pheasant, Reeve's	152
Hobby	63	Pigeon, Feral	108
Honey-buzzard	54	Pigeon, Wood	110
Hoopoe	115	Pintail	33

Pipit, Meadow	119	Scaup, Greater	36
Pipit, Red-throated	119	Scaup, Lesser	37
Pipit, Richard's	118	Scoter, Common	39
Pipit, Rock	119	Scoter, Surf	40
Pipit, Tree	118	Scoter, Velvet	40
Plover, American Golden	70	Shag	52
Plover, European Golden	70	Shearwater, Balearic	50
Plover, Grey	71	Shearwater, Cory's	48
Plover, Little Ringed	68	Shearwater, Great	48
Plover, Pacific Golden	70	Shearwater, Manx	49
Plover, Ringed	69	Shearwater, North Atlantic Little	50
Pochard, Common	35	Shearwater, Sooty	49
Pochard, Red-crested	18	Shelduck, Common	28
Ptarmigan	43	Shoveler	34
Puffin	108	Shrike, Great Grey	138
Quail, Common	44	Shrike, Lesser Grey	138
Rail, Water	65	Shrike, Red-backed	138
Raven, Common	141	Shrike, Woodchat	138
Razorbill	107	Siskin	145
Redhead	35	Skua, Arctic	94
Redpoll, Arctic	148	Skua, Great	95
Redpoll, 'Greenland'	147	Skua, Long-tailed	95
Redpoll, Lesser	147	Skua, Pomarine	94
Redpoll, 'Mealy'	147	Skylark	116
Redshank, Common	90	Smew	41
Redshank, Spotted	90	Snipe, Common	79
Redstart, American	148	Snipe, Great	18
Redstart, Black	123	Snipe, Jack	78
Redstart, Common	123	Sora	18
Redwing	127	Sparrow, House	143
Robin	122	Sparrow, Tree	143
Roller, European	115	Sparrowhawk, Eurasian	58
Rook	140	Spoonbill, Eurasian	54
Rosefinch, Common	148	Starling, Common	142
Ruff	78	Starling, Rose-coloured	143
Sanderling	73	Stint, Little	74
Sandgrouse, Pallas's	18	Stint, Temminck's	75
Sandpiper, Baird's	75	Stonechat, Common	123
Sandpiper, Broad-billed	77	Stone-curlew	68
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	78	Stork, White	54
Sandpiper, Common	92	Storm-petrel, European	50
Sandpiper, Curlew	75	Storm-petrel, Leach's	50
Sandpiper, Green	92	Storm-petrel, White-faced	18
Sandpiper, Pectoral	75	Storm-petrel, Wilson's	18
Sandpiper, Purple	76	Swallow, Barn	117
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	74	Swan, Bewick's	19
Sandpiper, Spotted	93	Swan, Black	153
Sandpiper, White-rumped	75	Swan, Mute	18
Sandpiper, Wood	92	Swan, Whooper	19

Swift, Alpine	115	Wheatear, Northern	124
Swift, Common	114	Whimbrel	82
Teal, Blue-winged	34	Whinchat	123
Teal, Eurasian	31	Whitethroat, Common	131
Teal, Green-winged	32	Whitethroat, Lesser	131
Tern, Arctic	105	Wigeon, American	30
Tern, Black	104	Wigeon, Eurasian	29
Tern, Bridled	103	Woodcock	80
Tern, Caspian	104	Woodpecker, Great Spotted	116
Tern, Common	105	Woodpecker, Green	116
Tern, Forster's	105	Wren	121
Tern, Little	103	Wryneck	115
Tern, Roseate	106	Yellowhammer	150
Tern, Sandwich	104	Yellowlegs, Greater	91
Tern, Whiskered	104	Yellowlegs, Lesser	92
Tern, White-winged Black	104		
Thrush, Blue Rock	125		
Thrush, Mistle	128		
Thrush, Song	126		
Tit, Blue	136		
Tit, Coal	137		
Tit, Crested	137		
Tit, Great	136		
Tit, Long-tailed	136		
Tit, Willow	137		
Treecreeper, Eurasian	137		
Turnstone	93		
Twite	147		
Vireo, Red-eyed	144		
Wagtail, Blue-headed	119		
Wagtail, Grey	120		
Wagtail, Pied	120		
Wagtail, White	120		
Wagtail, Yellow	119		
Warbler, Barred	131		
Warbler, Booted	129		
Warbler, Garden	130		
Warbler, Grasshopper	128		
Warbler, Greenish	132		
Warbler, Icterine	130		
Warbler, Marsh	129		
Warbler, Reed	129		
Warbler, Sedge	129		
Warbler, Western Bonelli's	132		
Warbler, Willow	133		
Warbler, Wood	132		
Warbler, Yellow-browed	132		
Waxwing	121		
Wheatear, 'Greenland'	124		