

**The Twenty fourth
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2012**

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Systematic List by
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Argyll Bird Club
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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 activities. 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, bird sightings, field trips, articles, and shorter items by members and others.

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www.argyllbirdclub.org

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Editorial

It is a great pleasure and privilege to edit this 24th Argyll Bird Report, which marks a move back to an annually produced report. The Argyll Bird Club continues to make an enormous contribution towards collecting and organising bird record data from this region and together with BTO BirdTrack and other sources of records these now total some 26,000 each year. Such a large number of records are encouraging at a time when environmental demands have never been greater, but of course take more effort to process. To this end I am pleased to say that Malcolm Chattwood has taken on the unenviable task of managing the Argyll bird database which was developed and managed with great expertise by Paul Daw over the last 16 years. Paul stood down as bird recorder in 2013 and on behalf of the club, and Scottish bird recording as a whole, I would like to thank him for his enormous contribution over the years. His input will be missed; however he continues to organise the WeBS counts and is involved with the club's website. Also during 2013 Tom Callan decided to step down as editor of this report and again he also deserves a huge amount of thanks for the work put in over the years.

This report of course would not have been possible without the team effort involved as the workload has become too great for one person. In addition to everyone who has kindly submitted records I would like to thank the team involved behind this report: firstly Paul and Tom, who have kindly agreed to continue to write species accounts, along with Malcolm Chattwood, Bob Furness, Mike Harrison, David Jardine, Katie Pendreigh and Nigel Scriven. Additional thanks are also due to Morag Rea who works tirelessly in the background inputting vast amounts of data onto the database and to Robin Harvey and John Bowler for the painstaking task of proof reading the report. Many others are due special mention and are noted in the acknowledgements section.

The 2007-11 BTO Atlas work has now concluded and the information was published in 2013. As such, the number of records submitted in 2012 fell slightly, and we now have a chance to reflect on the survey findings. Along with data from earlier atlas work, changes in the avifauna picture across the country and our region are becoming clearer. There are some gains, but unfortunately many more losses, in a complex picture of climate change, pressures on land and fisheries use. To help draw attention to the conservation status of bird species in Argyll, 'Red' and 'Amber' List species are noted, to highlight 'our' species within a Global and European context. Please note that Nigel Scriven has taken up the role of BTO representative for Argyll Mainland, Bute and Gigha. Other current studies in Argyll are listed in the report and of course new volunteers are always welcome. Bob Furness has brought together a list of recent literature on Argyll birds and Nigel Scriven has produced a round-up of interesting ringing recoveries.

In 2012 some 234 species were recorded with four new species added to the Argyll list, which stood at 346 at the end of that year. Full accounts of these are given in the report. The winters at each end of the year were not as severe as in the previous two years and consequently it is hoped wintering birds fared better. The level of observer cover varies greatly across Argyll and as such many more records came from bird rich areas such as Islay, Tiree, Colonsay and parts of Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and Cowal. Relatively few reports were received from Coll and North Argyll and it is hoped that stronger links can be made

with observers in the bird rich Isle of Mull to give a more accurate account of records from that area.

In order to help with managing the high volume of records it is hoped that more observers will use the club's 'bird recording system' to email records to Malcom Chattwood. For more information please see the section on Bird Recording in Argyll on page 7. Malcolm will be happy to give any further advice or help required.

I hope that you enjoy the report and that it perhaps throws light on areas for more work to be carried out in our area and encourage more people to become actively involved.

Jim Dickson (February 2014)

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 we have devised 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 Malcolm Chattwood will be happy to talk you through it.

All you need to do to get your hands on this brilliant and time saving system is to e-mail Malcolm: abcrecorder@outlook.com 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 he 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 'Bird Recording'.

For those of you who do not have access to a computer or the internet we are happy to continue to receive your records on paper (record forms available from the Argyll Bird Recorder 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 only entering records 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 'a 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: meg@jdickson5.plus.com . Please use the standard form (available from Jim Dickson. 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 passed 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 a 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 marked #) and UK rarities assessed by BBRC (those marked β). 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, SBRC (# - from January 2013) and BBRC (β - as at July 2011). **NB** some of these species are not yet on the Argyll list.

Bewick’s Swan	Ring-necked Duck
Bean Goose	Ferruginous Duck#
European White-fronted Goose	Lesser Scaup β
(race <i>albifrons</i>)	King Eider β
Lesser White-fronted Goose β	Harlequin Duck β
Lesser Canada Goose β	Surf Scoter (except adult males)
Red-breasted Goose β	Smew
Egyptian Goose#	Ruddy Duck
Ruddy Shelduck β	White-billed Diver#
Wood Duck β	Black-browed Albatross β
American Wigeon	Cory’s Shearwater#
Green-winged Teal	Great Shearwater#
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Balearic Shearwater
Black Duck β	Macronesian Shearwater β
Blue-winged Teal β	Wilson’s Storm-petrel#
Red-crested Pochard	White-faced Storm-petrel β

Ascension Frigatebird β
 Eurasian Bittern (Bittern)
 American Bittern β
 Night-heron#
 Cattle Egret#
 Little Egret
 Snowy Egret β
 Great White Egret
 Purple Heron#
 White Stork
 Glossy Ibis#
 Eurasian Spoonbill (Spoonbill)
 Pied-billed Grebe β
 Red-necked Grebe
 Black-necked Grebe
 Honey-buzzard
 Black Kite#
 Montagu's Harrier#
 Pallid Harrier β
 Goshawk
 Rough-legged Buzzard
 Red-footed Falcon#
 Hobby
 Gyr Falcon β
 Spotted Crake
 Sora β
 Little Crake β
 Common Crane
 Avocet
 Stone Curlew#
 Little Ringed Plover
 Killdeer β
 Kentish Plover#
 American Golden Plover
 Pacific Golden Plover β
 Semipalmated Sandpiper β
 Temminck's Stint
 White-rumped Sandpiper#
 Baird's Sandpiper β
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Broad-billed Sandpiper β
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Great Snipe β
 Long-billed Dowitcher β
 Spotted Sandpiper β
 Spotted Redshank
 Greater Yellowlegs β
 Lesser Yellowlegs β
 Red-necked Phalarope (away from

traditional breeding areas)
 Long-tailed Skua (except adult)
 Ivory Gull β
 Sabine's Gull
 Bonaparte's Gull β
 Ross's Gull β
 Laughing Gull β
 Mediterranean Gull (except adult)
 Ring-billed Gull
 Yellow-legged Gull#
 American Herring Gull β
 Bridled Tern β
 Gull-billed Tern β
 Caspian Tern β
 Whiskered Tern β
 Black Tern
 White-winged Black Tern#
 Forster's Tern#
 Roseate Tern
 Brunnich's Guillemot β
 Pallas's Sandgrouse β
 Black-billed Cuckoo β
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo β
 Eurasian Scops Owl β
 Snowy Owl β
 Little Owl
 Nightjar
 Alpine Swift#
 European Bee-eater
 European Roller β
 Wryneck
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker#
 Red-eyed Vireo β
 Brown Shrike β
 Red-backed Shrike
 Lesser Grey Shrike β
 Great Grey Shrike
 Woodchat Shrike#
 Firecrest
 Crested Tit
 Willow Tit
 Marsh Tit
 Bearded Tit
 Short-toed Lark#
 Wood Lark#
 Shore Lark
 Red-rumped Swallow#
 Cetti's Warbler#

Long-tailed Tit (northern race *Aegithalos*
caudatus caudatus) β
 Greenish Warbler#
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
 Radde's Warbler#
 Dusky Warbler#
 Western Bonelli's Warbler β
 Barred Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat*
 Dartford Warbler#
 Subalpine Warbler#
 Booted Warbler β
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler#
 Aquatic Warbler#
 Blyth's Reed Warbler β
 Marsh Warbler#
 Reed Warbler
 Eurasian Nuthatch
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Common Nightingale
 Bluethroat
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Blue Rock Thrush β
 Tree Sparrow
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)

Citrine Wagtail β
 Richard's Pipit
 Tawny Pipit#
 Red-throated Pipit#
 Olive-backed Pipit#
 Rock Pipit (race *littoralis*)
 Water Pipit
 Buff-Bellied Pipit β
 European Serin#
 Mealy (Common) Redpoll (all races)
 Arctic Redpoll#
 Scottish Crossbill#
 Parrot Crossbill#
 Common Rosefinch
 Hawfinch
 Cirl Bunting#
 Ortolan Bunting#
 Rustic Bunting#
 Little Bunting#
 Yellow-breasted Bunting β
 Red-headed Bunting β
 Black-headed Bunting β
 Corn Bunting
 Brown-headed Cowbird β
 American Redstart β
 Northern Parula β

* Descriptions of Lesser Whitethroat are required for all records apart from those on Coll and 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.

Each species 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.

Birds of Conservation Concern. New to this report is the addition of the categories of conservation importance with Red and Amber species listed.

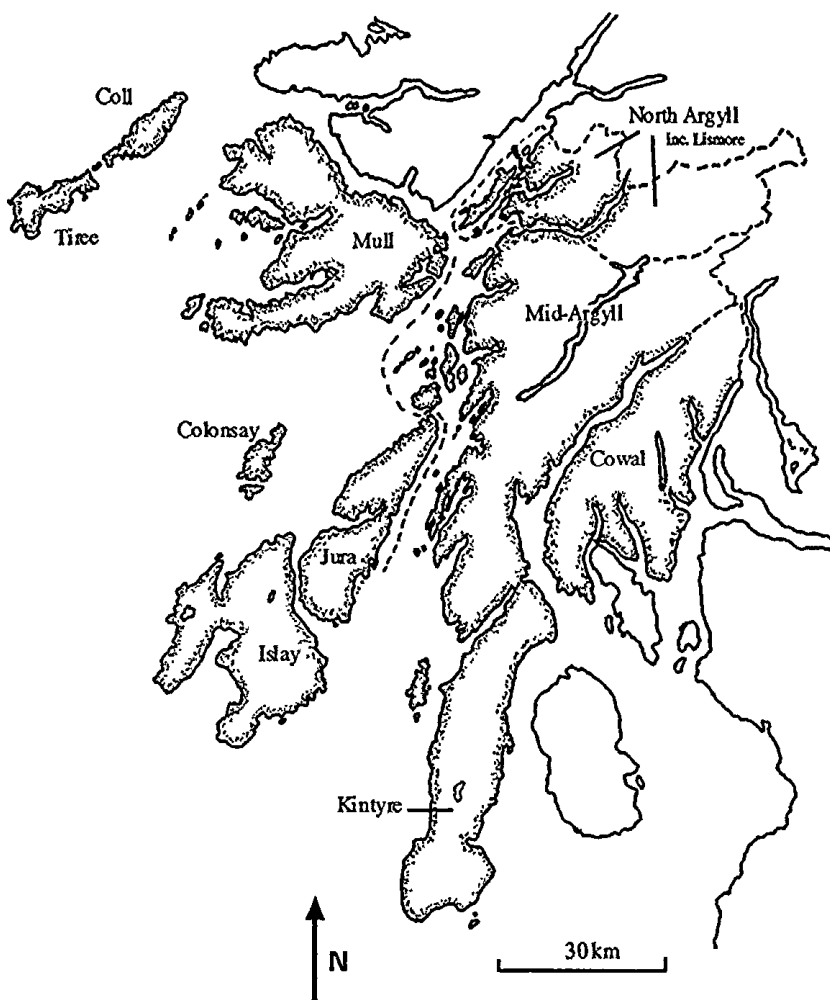
RED LIST is the highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action.

AMBER LIST is the next most critical group followed by Green (not given here) species that don't fall into the Red or Amber category. An up to date list and explanation can be downloaded from the BTO and RSPB websites.

The information regarding sites of national or international importance for wintering/passage birds is taken from Holt, C.A. *et al.* (2012). *Waterbirds in the UK 2010/11: The Wetland Bird Survey*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB, JNCC. 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 2010 and 2011 records are then listed in approximate chronological order. For scarcer species, records for 2010 or 2011 may be preceded 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 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's records are now included with those from Kintyre. Note that the boundaries of the Argyll recording area remained unchanged despite local government reorganisation in 1996. This means that places like Tarbet and Helensburgh, which are in the Argyll & Bute Council area are still covered by the Clyde Bird Club.

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 SW of Tobermory 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 term **'RSPB Loch 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*); we 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. 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 Loch	Islay	NR2873
Balephetrish Bay	Tiree	NM0047
Campbeltown Loch	Kintyre	NR7220
Dunoon	Cowal	NS1776
Frenchman's Rocks	Islay	NR1554
Gigha	Kintyre	NR6449
Gott Bay	Tiree	NM0546
Holy Loch	Cowal	NS1681
Iona	Mull	NM2625
Loch a' Phuill	Tiree	NL9541
Loch Awe	Mid-Argyll	NN0016
Loch Bhasapol	Tiree	NL9747
Loch Caolisport	Mid-Argyll	NR7475
Loch Creran	North-Argyll	NM9442
Loch Crinan (incl. Add Estuary)	Mid-Argyll	NR7994
Loch Don	Mull	NM7332
Loch an Eilein	Tiree	NL9843
Loch Feochan	Mid-Argyll	NM8623
Loch Fyne	Mid-Argyll	NR9386
Loch Gilp	Mid-Argyll	NR8685
Loch Gruinart	Islay	NR2868
Loch Indaal	Islay	NR2961

Loch na Keal	Mull	NM5038
Loch Riaghain	Tiree	NM0347
Loch Scridain	Mull	NM4525
Loch 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 Loch 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 locations are given as a place name followed by the recording area in *italics* e.g. Minard *Mid-Argyll*. Where the locality is not well known, a qualifier may be added in brackets, e.g. Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*.

Tables

Tables 2 – 7 are derived chiefly from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) goose counts.

Tables 1, 8 – 20 and 28 - 37 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) and from the RSPB *Islay* database for 2012, 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. Figures 1- 2 were supplied by David Jardine.

Tables 21 - 26 and 38 are taken from 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 Loch 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. Regrettably, no regular WeBS counts have been carried out for the important site of Loch Indaal *Islay* during the period covered by this report and for this reason figures for this site are missing from the tables.

Special studies carried out in 2012

(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 until 2012 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 were among them until 2012. Because of the detailed nature of this survey and the continuity of the work (annually since 1990) at Tainish, the data provided are particularly significant for Argyll. John Halliday no longer monitors this area and therefore a new volunteer to carry on this valuable work would be very welcome.

(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 have also been assessed.

For further details see: Craik, J. C. A. (2012). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2012. Privately Published (copies available from Dr J. C. A. Craik, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA).

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

(4) **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 2012 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.

5) **WeBS counts.**

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is the scheme which monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers

and distribution and to identify important sites for waterbirds. Counts are carried out at loch, sea lochs and estuaries at monthly intervals, principally from September to March, with fewer observations in the summer months. In Argyll, regular counts currently take place at the four main freshwater lochs on *Tiree*; Loch Gruinart *Islay*; Holy Loch, Loch Melldalloch and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal*, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*: Dunstaffnage Bay, Loch Crinan, Loch Etive and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Creran *North Argyll*. These regular counts produce valuable information for conservation purposes nationally as well as for this report. We are always keen to encourage new recruits and I'm delighted to say we have recently welcomed several new WeBS counters for Argyll who will cover such sites as Loch Craignish (some counts included in this report), Loch Ederline, Loch Gilp and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Long (Ardentinny to Strone Point) *Cowal*. Data from these sites will be included in future reports. After a period when no counts were carried out at the important site of Loch Indaal *Islay* the section from Bowmore to Gartbreck was covered in 2012 and relevant counts are included in this report.

There are still plenty of other sites in Argyll that would be worth counting and, in particular, we are currently looking for people to cover Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* and several sites on *Mull*. Please contact Paul Daw if you might be interested.

(6) Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group.

The Group have been monitoring the Treshnish Isles breeding seabirds since 1971, producing annual reports since 1996. In 2012 the expedition took place between 23 June and 30 June. They were led by Robin Ward (robin_m.ward@tiscali.co.uk). The group based themselves around the village ruins at the northern end of Lunga, with the majority of the fieldwork taking place on Lunga and Sgeir a'Chaisteil, where an annual full seabird census, and ringing of specific colonies are carried out. The Shag ringing is registered as a BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) Project. As well as studying the seabirds, the group also carried out recording of other birds and wildlife, including mammals, and Lepidoptera. Their 2012 annual report can be downloaded from their website. www.tiarg.org

(7) BTO Winter Thrush Survey

Fieldwork for this national survey began in mid-September 2012, running until mid-April 2013, and is to be repeated in the winter of 2013-2014. The survey is based around 1km squares, which can be surveyor-selected, or one of the randomly generated 'core' squares targeted for surveys during the core period between 27 Dec and 10 Jan. The coverage in Argyll during the first season has been thin, and results are not yet available.

(8) Sanda Island Bird Observatory

In 2012 ringing activities re-commenced after a year with no access during construction work on the island. Seabird ringing concentrated on the last week of June, the first week of July and the first week in August, during the course of which training was delivered to 6 visiting ringers. Passerine ringing was carried out on occasions throughout the summer.

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 Sandgrouse) 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).
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Symbols and abbreviations

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
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
<i>cf</i>	<i>confer</i> = compare
CBC	Common Birds Census
CES	Constant Effort (ringing) Site
<i>et al.</i>	et alii = and others
excl.	excluding
hr/hrs	hour/hours
imm.	immature
inc.	including
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
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
Moine Mhor NNR	Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve
n/r	not recorded (in tables of counts, where no count was made)
nr.	near
RSPB Loch Gruinart	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.
<i>Viz</i>	<i>Videlicet</i> = namely
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey

Systematic List for 2012

The following systematic list includes entries for 234 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2012 (*cf.* average 220 species during the years 1993 – 2011). Four new species were added to the Argyll list (*viz.* Subalpine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Citrine Wagtail and American Buff-bellied Pipit) which stood at 346 species seen up to Dec 2012. There were only two category E species recorded in 2012 (Bar-headed Goose and Red-breasted Goose). A further 10 additional races (sub-species) were recorded in 2012 of which Kumlien's Gull is new to Argyll and 'Northern' Eider is still under consideration by the BBRC.

All species that have occurred in Argyll are listed here other than Category B (i.e species not recorded in Argyll since 1st January 1950): Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Storm-petrel, White-faced Storm-petrel, American Bittern, Sora, Little Crake, Great Snipe, Pallas's Sandgrouse and Cirl Bunting. They are not referred to further in the following Systematic List.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Eala

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.

Winter/spring The highest count reported was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, where 54 were present from 6 – 14 Feb. Higher counts away from *Tiree*, included: 17 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb and 14 in Oban Harbour on 10 Feb.

Breeding/summer In July, pairs were found on *Tiree* with b/4 at Loch an Eilein, b/5 at An Fhaodhail, b/2 at Loch Earblaig, b/6 at Loch Bhasapol and b/3 at Loch a' Phuill. The brood at Loch Riaghain had been lost. On *Islay*, two pairs at Loch Gruinart fledged a total of 7 young and a pair at Ardnave fledged 6 young. A year of mixed fortunes for Mute Swans breeding on the mainland. Clive Craik reports that only two pairs with young were reported in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area: a pair seen in Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* in Sep with 4 medium sized young and a pair at Tarbert Harbour *Kintyre* with six young on 25 Jul. He considers that mink predation of Mute Swans could be difficult to detect because cygnets may be attacked away from the nest site soon after leaving. This might help to explain the steady decrease in swan numbers in the study area. By contrast two exceptionally large broods were reported: a pair with ten young at Innellan *Cowal* in Sep (*Dunoon Observer* 7 Sep 2012) and a pair with eight young seen in the Inveraray/Minard area of Loch Fyne during Aug. Elsewhere, a pair with 2 medium sized cygnets were at Portavadie *Cowal* on 12 Jul and a pair with 4 cygnets were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29 Jul.

Autumn/winter The WeBS Count on *Tiree* peaked at 50 on 18 Dec. Higher counts away from *Tiree* included: 39 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 31 Oct, 27 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct and 15 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

AMBER LIST A rare autumn and spring migrant: only two records since 1996. Formerly more frequent, mainly on Islay and in Kintyre.

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

AMBER LIST A *common passage migrant: 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.*

Winter/spring The highest count reported was 90: a *Tiree* total island count on 16-17 Jan (only 5 (5.6%) of these were juveniles). High counts elsewhere included: 70 flying up the Sound of Islay on 27 Mar, at least 50 at Kilbride *Islay* on 22 Mar, 47 at the Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 30 Mar, 43 sitting on the water 200m off front green Lochgilphead, calling in the mist on 25 Mar, 40 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay*, 26 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr and 20 at Easdale Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar.

Breeding/summer A pair flew SE over Loch Airigh na Creige *Mid-Argyll* (in an area where summering birds have been recorded in the past) on 16 May. Up to 3 were recorded at various sites on *Islay* and *Tiree* during Jun and Jul but with no indication of breeding.

Autumn/winter Early arrivals on 19 Sep included a total of 31 on *Tiree*, 7 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 7 in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*. Passage birds at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* peaked at 326 on 18 Oct and, on *Islay*, 195 at Sunderland Farm on 19 Oct included 17 juveniles.

Other larger counts at this time included 46 (in two flocks) at Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 5 Oct, 45 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct and 44 (incl. 9 juveniles) at Rockside *Islay* on 19 Oct. The only location holding large numbers after mid-Nov was *Tiree* (mostly at Loch a' Phuill) with an island total of 207 on 20 Nov and 149 (incl. 25 juveniles) on 11 Dec. Elsewhere the highest counts were: 45 at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) on 24 Nov, 30 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 21 Nov, 27 at Loch Gruinart on 18 Nov, 15 at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Dec and 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Nov.

Table 1. Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on *Tiree* and at Loch Gruinart in 2012.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	16	18	39	12	5	2	-	2	10	52	58	5
Tiree	90	89	81	52	6	2	3	3	50	326	207	149

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

A vagrant, recorded in only nine of the 30 years 1980-2011. Two races have occurred in Argyll: A. f. fabalis or Taiga Bean Goose from northern Europe is the more frequent, and A. f. rossicus or Tundra Bean Goose from further east which has occurred in Mar 2004 and twice (three & two birds) in Nov-Dec 2011.

‘TAIGA’ BEAN GOOSE *Anser f. fabalis*

Three, probably of the Taiga race *fabalis* were seen near Ardbeg, *Islay* on 31 Jan [Peter and Pia Roberts].

‘TUNDRA’ BEAN GOOSE *Anser f. rossicus*

Winter/spring An adult bird of the Tundra race *rossicus* was seen with Greylags at Gott, *Tiree* on 16 Jan [John Bowler]. Two of the Tundra race *rossicus* at Gallanach, *Coll* on 16 Jan [Ian Lycett] and same at Arnabost, *Coll* 13-15 Feb [Ben Jones]. One, probably of the Tundra race *rossicus* at Balvicar Farm, Seil Island, *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr [David Jardine]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Gèadh-gorm

AMBER LIST *There are variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks but relatively few over-winter.*

Winter/spring The largest group reported from Jan-Mar was a loose flock of 14 with Greylag Geese near Drumble School *Kintyre* on 11 Mar. Larger numbers were reported in Apr including: 60 flying over Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, 210 (flocks of 80 and 130, 3 hours apart) flying over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, 410 (in 3 flocks) flying NW over the W end of *Coll* on 13 Apr and 191 (counted from photo) flying over Cairnbaan also on 13 Apr. The last was a single bird at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 19 May: there were no summer records.

Autumn/winter A total of 168 (in 3 flocks flying S or SE) over *Tiree* and 59 over Calgary *Mull* on 12 Sep were the first birds of autumn. Other larger flocks at this time included: 30 flying SE over Caolas *Tiree* on 19 Sep, 17 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep, 45 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 21 Sep, 30 SSE over Caolas *Tiree* on 6 Oct and 18 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Oct. A flock of 7 were at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 10 Oct but after this only single birds were reported on *Coll*, *Islay* and *Tiree* and in *North Argyll* and *Kintyre*.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* Geadh-bhlàr

AMBER LIST *Both the nominate European and the Greenland races have occurred in Argyll. 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 and all the locations where they occur regularly are sites of international importance in the UK. The European race A. a. albifrons is a rare vagrant.*

‘GREENLAND’ WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. a. flavirostris*

Winter/spring The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 8,133 birds in Argyll [Table 2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,515), Clachan (190), Tayinloan (550), Gigha (56), and Glenbarr (95). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (74), Ulva (141), Keills (16) and Moine Mhor (6) [SNH Goose Project]. This is the lowest spring count in Argyll for many years (even allowing for the lack of figures from *Coll*) and confirms the continuing decline in numbers from a peak count of 20,192 in Mar 1999. Significant counts elsewhere included 398 at The Oa *Islay* on 24 Jan, 205 at Kilcheran Loch, Lismore *North Argyll* on 18 Mar, 175 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 21 Mar, 167 at Loch Gearach *Islay* on 11 Feb, 88 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 5 Mar and 62 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 5 Feb. The last were two at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 May.

Breeding/summer No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay*, and there were no other records of summering birds.

Autumn/winter The first two returning birds were 67 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 9 Sep and 100 at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 21 Sep. By 8 Oct there were 650 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, while 474 were at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 10 Oct, 280 near Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 20 Oct and a total of 459 on *Tiree* on 24 Oct. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 8,506 birds in Argyll [Table 3]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,600), Tayinloan (321), Clachan (176), Gigha (38), and Glenbarr (0). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (51), Ulva (156), Keills (12) and Moine Mhor (10). In *North Argyll*, 47 were at Ardnacloch, Appin on 17 Dec.

Table 2. *Number of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in spring (per Tracey Johnston SNH).*

March 2012.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,406	237	90	n/r	n/r	948	80	0	4,309	63

There were also 190 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

Table 3. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in winter (per Tracey Johnston SNH). December 2012.*

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,135	229	n/r	n/r	n/r	662	77	11	5,321*	71

*18/19 Dec - 19 Dec count rejected due to poor weather.

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

Winter Fifteen (5 adults and 10 first-winters) were at Barsloisnoch Farm, near Moine Mhor, *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb [Jim Dickson] and also nearby at Ruddell Mill on 16 Feb [Bill Allan].

Autumn One was at Fiddien, *Mull* on 18 Sep [Bryan Rains] and 29 Sep [David Jardine]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* Geadh-bhlàr-beag

A vagrant, last recorded Islay March 1986.

No records.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* Gèadh-glas

AMBER LIST 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. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as ‘British/Irish’ and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.*

Winter/spring In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 3,684 birds in Argyll, of which 2,296 (62.3%) were on *Tiree* [Table 4]. An all-island count on *Islay* on 18 Jan found 587 birds. Larger counts elsewhere included: 263 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 15 Jan, 178 at Ardlamont House *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 149 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 11 Mar, 110 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 17 Jan, 98 at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, 81 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 19 Feb and 60 at Eilean Ban, Loch na Lathaich *Mull* on 28 May.

Breeding/summer On 17 May, 49 broods totalling 200 goslings were counted on *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*). The first brood on *Tiree* was located on 7 May and by 22 Jun many young were found across the island including 39 broods at Loch a' Phuill alone. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Clive Craik found at least 15 pairs breeding at 9 sites. Two pairs with young were found at RSPB Loch Gruinart while elsewhere on *Islay* broods were reported from Eilean Nostaig, Loch Gorm and Port Charlotte. In early Jun, 10 pairs with broods totalling 29 young were found on the Isle of Luing *Mid-Argyll* and 5 broods of young were on Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull*. Broods of young were also reported from several other location in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*. The relative breeding abundance map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 indicates considerable increases in Argyll since the previous atlas in 1988-91, especially on *Mull* and *Islay*.

Autumn/winter A total of 1,541 were counted at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 20 Aug and the peak count on *Tiree* was 2,724 on 23 Oct. Larger counts elsewhere included: 360 between Gartbreck and Bowmore *Islay* on 5 Sep, 250 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 21 Sep, 206 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 23 Aug, 201 at *Oronsay Farm Colonsay* on 4 Sep, 163 at Fiddien *Mull* on 16 Oct, 146 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 18 Dec, 129 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct and 124 at Inveresragan (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 14 Oct. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 4,809 birds in Argyll, of which 2,619 (54.5%) were on *Tiree* [Table 5].

Table 4. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in spring (per Tracey Johnston SNH).*

Mar 2012.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
937	50	40	n/r	n/r	2,296	0	0	320	44

There were also 1,750 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

Table 5. *Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in winter (per Tracey Johnston SNH).*

Dec 2012.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
993	120	n/r	n/r	n/r	2,619	175	84	738	80

There were also 1,930 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* Gèadh-bàn

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.

Winter/spring The adult blue-phase bird (from October 2011) was seen with Greenland White-fronts at various locations on *Tiree*, from Jan to the end of Mar.

Breeding/summer There were no reports regarding the *Coll* feral flock during the breeding season.

Autumn/winter Two (no details of age or colour morph) found with Greylag Geese at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 19 Sep were seen at various locations on *Islay* until early Oct. There were 25 at Totronald *Coll* on 25 Oct and 20 at Arileod *Coll* on 5 Nov. A single blue-phase bird was found at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 1 Nov.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh

The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with increasingly frequent 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. See also Lesser Canada Goose below.

Winter/spring The largest flock reported at this time was 260 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 14 Apr. Other larger flocks reported included: 98 at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, 75 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 29 Jan, 70 on Luìng *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, 47 at An Dun Broch (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 18 Mar, 46 near Castlesween *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, 46 near Duntrune Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr and 40 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 11 Mar.

Breeding/summer In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Clive Craik found at least 66 nesting pairs breeding at 14 sites and 26 broods of young were noted on the sea. On Seil Island *Mid-Argyll*, 44 adults were found with 47 small goslings at Ardfad Point on 4 Jun; 6 adults and 7 large young were at Lephinmore *Cowal* on 17 Jun; 44 birds at Achnaba *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jul included at least 10 large young and 59 adults were with 26 goslings at Rubh' Aird Luìng (Luìng) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jul. Adults and young were also reported from: two sites on *Colonsay*, Loch Dochard *North Argyll*, Loch Assapol *Mull* and Shuna Sound *Mid-Argyll*. The relative breeding abundance map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 indicates considerable increases in Argyll since the previous atlas in 1988-91, especially in *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter The highest number reported at this time was 181 on 27 Nov, during the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll*. Other larger flocks reported included: 100 at Ardnaclach

(Appin) *North Argyll* on 31 Oct, 92 at Kilcheran Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 2 Dec, 88 at The Laggan (nr Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 65 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 25 Dec, 61 near the Backpacker's Lodge *Colonsay* on 2 Dec, 57 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 4 Sep and 56 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 18 Dec.

LESSER CANADA GOOSE (CAKCLING 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. To confuse matters still further, the form parvipes, which was formerly included with this group, is now considered by BOU as a race of Greater Canada Goose. Also, some sources now use the name Cackling Goose for Lesser Canada Goose. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these birds.

Winter/spring On *Islay* there were 21 reports of single birds between 4 Jan and 20 Apr with possibly more than one individual involved. Most reports assigned to race were *hutchinsii* and some assigned to *minima*. On *Tiree* one was at Balephetrish with 2 medium sized Canadas on 8-16 Jan and one again with 2 medium sized Canadas at Cornaigmore on 22-29 Mar [John Bowler].

Autumn/winter On *Islay* there were 18 reports of mainly single birds between 4 Oct and end of year. However there were 2 at Sunderland Farm and 5 at Loch Indaal on 23 Oct, and 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart RSPB on 14 Nov. One *hutchinsii* was near Campbeltown, *Kintyre* on 22 Nov and possibly one at Rhunahaorine, *Kintyre* on 1 Nov [John Nadin]. Again most reports assigned to race were of *hutchinsii*. A bird at Rhunahaorine, *Kintyre* on 21 Nov was submitted to BBRC as a Todd's *interior* race and was probably present from 13 Oct and possibly another individual *interior* was seen near Campbeltown, *Kintyre* on 22 Nov [John Nadin, Angus McNab, Angus Murray]. [All records are *still* under review by the BBRC].

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

AMBER LIST *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree 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.*

Winter/spring In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 54,453 birds in Argyll; despite the lack of figures from *Coll* the most since the record count of 62,323 in 2007. The great majority (46,412) of these were on *Islay*. The peak winter count on *Tiree* was 4,407 on 13 Feb and other large flocks, not covered by the co-ordinated goose counts, included: 1,870 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 May, 900 at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Feb, 599 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 30 Jan, 350 at The Oa *Islay* on 3 Feb, 126 on Danna Island *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 60 flying NW over Iona *Mull* on 2 Apr.

Summer Most birds had left by early May but one with an injured wing was at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 May and one or two injured birds were seen at various places on *Islay* during Jun and Jul.

Autumn/winter The first returning birds on *Islay* were 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 Sep but the main arrival was during the first week of Oct and by 7 Oct numbers there at RSPB Loch Gruinart had built up to 25,125. Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* had 300 birds on 7 Oct and on 8 Oct 440 were flying over or feeding on *Tiree* with 12 flying south past Iona *Mull*. The peak count on *Tiree* was 2,914 during the all island goose count on 19 Nov and 530 were counted near Toberonochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Dec, *Islay* had 48,343 birds which accounted for 92.3 % of the Argyll total of 52,365 birds.

Table 6. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in spring.*

Mar 2012.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	602	n/r	n/r	4,295	740	1,315	48,556	90

Table 7. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in winter.*

Dec 2012.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
25	573	n/r	n/r	3,424	669	1,829	45,670	175

Hybrid BARNACLE X CANADA GOOSE

A flock of hybrid Barnacle x Canada Geese of unknown origin has been present in southern Kintyre for some years. They are often seen at The Laggan near Campbeltown (where they have sometimes been mistaken for wild Barnacle Geese) in autumn/winter and at Lussa Loch in spring/summer.

Winter/spring A flock of 55 hybrids were at various sites around The Laggan Kintyre during Mar.

Autumn/winter A flock of 27 hybrids were at The Strath (The Laggan) Kintyre from mid Nov to early Dec.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

AMBER LIST A *passage migrant, in varying numbers: very few winter. 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.*

Winter/spring The only records during Jan were on Islay max. 60 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) on 8 Jan and Colonsay, where two were at the Strand on 15 Jan. The highest number during Feb/Mar was 29 in the Sound of Islay on 28 Mar and all the remaining records for this period were on Islay apart from one wintering with Barnacle Geese at Balephetrish Tiree and 2 early migrants at Gott Bay Tiree on 25-29 Mar. Apart from one or two birds at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre and a group of 35 at Arinagour Coll on 4 May all records during Apr and May were from Islay and Tiree, including: 121 at Gott Bay Tiree on 8 Apr, 15 at Port Ellen Islay on 17 Apr, 76 on Tiree on 4 May (including an Irish-ringed bird at Gott Bay) and 20 at Loch Indaal Islay on 16 May.

Summer A single bird was on a patch of eel grass at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre from 5-10 Jun.

Autumn/winter A large influx on Islay on 7 Sep included 912 at RSPB Loch Gruinart in the morning and 700 flying SW down Loch Indaal in the afternoon (same birds?). Thereafter, 40 were seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 11 Sep, 41 flying SE over Tiree on 11 Sep, 16 flying south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 13 Sep and 6 on Oronsay Colonsay on 13 Sep. Nearly all records for the remainder of the year were from Islay, including counts of 20 at Frenchman's Rocks on 30 Sep, 25 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) on 1 Oct, 40 at the Power Station (Bowmore) on 8 Oct, 45 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) on 14 Oct, 86 at Bridgend Merse (Loch Indaal) on 30 Oct, 70 at Bridgend Merse (Loch Indaal) on 10 Nov, 60 (in two flocks) at Gortan on 12 Dec and 54 at the head of Loch Indaal on 31 Dec. The only other record was a single bird at Rhunahaorine Kintyre on 2 Nov.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

A vagrant: an adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001, was the only Argyll record up to 2011.

Autumn/winter An adult found near Kilchoman, *Islay* on 21 Oct remained on the island until 2013 [A H J Harrop et al]. This bird was often hard to locate and appeared in various locations around Loch Gorm and Loch Gruinart. Record accepted by BBRC as relating to a wild bird. Another adult was at Ardachuple Farm, Loch Riddon, *Cowal* from 5-7 Jun at least, was judged by the BBRC not to be a wild bird. (See escapes/introductions p.118).

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Crà-ghèadh

AMBER LIST 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.*

Winter/spring Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 8, included: 60 at Ardnave *Islay* on 10 Feb, 53 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Feb, 44 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, 18 near Drumlemble School (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 13 Mar, 18 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 and 10 Apr, 14 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Apr and 12 at Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb.

Breeding/summer At least four broods, totalling 26 young, were found on *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay). At Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*, the first brood, of 8 ducklings, was reported on 19 May. Pairs were widespread on *Tiree* and included a brood of 12 young at Fadamull islet (Salum Bay) on 31 May. A pair with a fledged brood of 8 were at Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Jul and broods of young were also reported from: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Ardnave *Islay*, Eilean Nostaig *Islay* and Gartbreck *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Apart from those in Table 8 the largest counts were: 30 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 5 Aug, 10 at Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 6 Nov, 8 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 17 Jul, 8 at Eilean Ceann na Creige (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 27 Dec and 6 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul.

Table 8. Maximum monthly counts of Shelducks at Loch Gruinart, Loch Indaal and Loch Sween.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	223	284	174	102	n/r	128	0	8	0	20	95	210
Indaal*	16	15	17	15	11	18	17	3	0	0	2	7
Sween	6	15	27	32	n/r	6	0	0	0	0	1	3

* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

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.

No records were received during 2012, although birds were undoubtedly present.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* Glas-lach

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

Winter/spring Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 9, included: Ardnave Point *Islay* (120 on 10 Feb), Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* (67 on 24 Jan) and Loch Lusgunn (nr. Bellanoch) *Mid-Argyll* (52 on 4 Mar).

Breeding/summer Birds were seen regularly on *Tiree* during Jun-Aug but there were no reports of breeding. A pair were present at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jun and an adult male was seen regularly in Jun near Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* but in neither case was there any evidence of breeding. No records were received concerning the regular breeding site in *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 9, included: Bridgend Merse (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (200 on 21) Dec, Loch Gearach *Islay* (167 on 31 Dec), Ardnave Loch *Islay* (150 on 5 Nov), Head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (149 on 3 Dec), Westport Marsh *Kintyre* (130 on 4 Nov), Machir Bay *Islay* (80 on 23 Oct), The Laggan (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* (77 on floodwater on 10 Dec) and Loch Creran *North Argyll* (53 during WeBS Count on 17 Dec).

Table 9. *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at regularly monitored sites that held 50 or more birds in winter, viz.: Lochs Gruinart and Indaal, Islay, Lochs Etive and Sween, Mid-Argyll, Holy Loch, Cowal and on Tiree.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	177	192	189	94	2	2	0	2	43	65	255	351
Indaal*	270	37	56	21	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	350	323
Etive	131	124	41	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	11	70	105	n/r
Sween	72	62	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	18	83	104
Holy Loch	136	71	86	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	6	n/r	46	92
Tiree	199	233	132	80	2	17	15	35	85	180	220	254

* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

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

No records.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach-ghlas

AMBER LIST *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.*

Winter/spring Birds were reported regularly at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, where numbers peaked at 14 during Mar. The only other records were on Oronsay *Colonsay*, where two adults were present during late Apr and early May and on *Tiree* where pairs were present during Apr and May at several sites.

Breeding/summer At least 8 pairs were present on *Tiree* and a female with 3 fledged young was found at Loch a' Phuill in Aug. Pairs were also reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Apr but with no confirmation of breeding.

Autumn/winter Up to 7 were reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from Oct to Dec. The only records elsewhere were 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Aug and one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* for several days during the first half of Oct.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* Crann-lach

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

Winter/spring The only counts of 50 or more birds, at sites other than those listed in table 10, were: 325 at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 9 Jan, 166 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 7 Jan (an unusually high number for this site), 80 at Fang Dhu (The Oa) *Islay* on 5 Jan, 56 at Loch Gearach *Islay* on 11 Feb and 50 at Port nan Each (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 19 Mar.

Breeding/summer On *Islay*, 11 pairs were found at RSPB Loch Gruinart, a pair bred at RSPB Ardnave and a female was on a clutch of 10 eggs at Bruichladdich on 9 May. At least 12 pairs were at likely breeding locations on *Tiree* in May and at least one brood of young was seen late in the season. Pairs were also seen in the breeding season at The Powder Dams *Cowal*.

Autumn/winter Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 10, included: 306 on flooded fields at Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 10 Dec (a record count for this area), 220 at Loch Gearach *Islay* on 31 Dec, 218 on Loch a' Gheoidh (Sunderland) *Islay* on 31 Oct, 99 at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 Nov, 85 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Sep, 50 on Loch na Keal *Mull* on 31 Oct, 50 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Nov and 50 at Seil island (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 10 Dec.

Table 10. *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at RSPB Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay and on the Tiree freshwater lochs (i.e. all monitored sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	511	670	761	350	n/r	8	5	98	10	135	215	279
Indaal*	190	12	80	45	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	380	443
Tiree	325	150#	76#	57	n/r	n/r	11	95	178	235	160#	221

* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck. # Many more feeding around the coast.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

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

Winter/spring A male was present at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, *Islay* between 15 Mar and 24 Apr [James How, Jim Dickson et al.]. A male was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 14 Feb, another on 16 April and a third on 27 April [John Bowler]. It is likely the last bird at Loch a' Phuill was the same as the Loch Gruinart individual heading north as it showed very similar features.

Winter A male was at at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* 18-21 Nov [John Bowler] and a male at Ardnave Loch, *Islay* on 1 Dec [T.R.Cleeves, M.Kerby, D.Watson]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Winter/spring Other than those listed in Table 11, no counts exceeding 50 birds were reported.

Breeding/summer On *Islay* 73 pairs were recorded in the breeding season at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 12 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Pairs with young were also reported from several sites on *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay), Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Tayinloan *Kintyre* and several sites on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter The only counts exceeding 50, other than those listed in Table 12, were ca 100 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 9 Oct and 79 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Sep.

Table 11. *Maximum monthly counts of Mallards at RSPB Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal, Islay, Loch Creran, Loch Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs (i.e. all regularly monitored sites which held 50+ birds in the winter months).*

Numbers at most sites were noticeably lower than in the past few years.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	83	70	53	63	n/r	103	15	32	342	30	76	68

Indaal*	61	17	11	5	5	n/r	4	2	n/r	24	140	97
Creran	20	46	26	14	17	12	3	n/r	4	12	61	22
Etive	75	92	42	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	46	72	53	n/r
Holy Loch	126	89	17	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	88	n/r	39	86
Tiree	52	42	27	18	18	39	21	145	148	104#	24#	33#

* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck. # Many more were on floods and smaller pools.

BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) in Jun 2001.

No records

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Lach-stiùireach

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

Winter/spring The highest count was 80 at Loch Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 11 Feb. No more than 2 were seen on *Tiree* from Jan to Mar and the only record elsewhere was a single bird associating with a group of Mallard on Holy Loch Cowal on 14 Feb.

Breeding/summer Up to seven pairs were present on *Tiree* during the breeding season and two broods of young were noted in late Jul. The breeding distribution map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 highlights the fact that *Tiree* is one of very few places in Scotland holding breeding Pintail, the only other groups of records being on Orkney and North Uist.

Autumn/winter Numbers on *Islay* peaked at 53 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 Dec. The only records elsewhere were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, which had 3 on 17 Aug and singles on 29 Sep and 5 Oct and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, which had up to 14 in Aug and up to 3 on various dates in late Sep and early Oct.

Table 12. *Maximum monthly counts of Pintails at RSPB Loch Gruinart, Islay.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	79	80	50	12	n/r	0	0	0	0	24	38	53

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

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

Spring The only records concern a pair on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, a drake at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr and a drake with 2 Mallards at Dalintober (Loch Creran) *North Argyll* on 27 May.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

A vagrant: only two or three previous records, all adult males with: one on Tiree in May/Jun 1986, one on Tiree in May 1998, and (possibly the same) one on Islay, also in May 1998.

No records.

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

AMBER LIST *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.*

Winter/spring Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13], the only other records comprised 2 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 25 Mar and a pair on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Apr.

Breeding/summer At least 10 pairs were found nesting on *Tiree* and 16 pairs were located at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Two broods of young were noted on *Islay* and two on *Tiree*. One or two were on Oronsay *Colonsay* from Apr to Jun but with no evidence of breeding.

Autumn/winter The only record away from *Islay* and *Tiree* concerned a single bird on Oronsay *Colonsay* 12 Oct.

Table 13. *Maximum monthly counts of Shovelers at RSPB Loch Gruinart and on Tiree.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	68	50	36	25	n/r	27	2	0	0	18	95	210
Tiree	14	14	4	12	20	n/r	n/r	3	2	1	9	12

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Lach-mhàsach

AMBER LIST 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 and this is now a scarce species in Argyll*

Winter Single birds were reported from: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Jan, Culnadalloch (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 23 Jan, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Feb and Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Feb.

Autumn/winter A drake at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Sep. One at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Nov. More surprising were four pairs seen at the Powder Dams, *Cowal* on 25 Oct but not subsequently. The only mainland record concerned a drake at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Sep.

The BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 notes a long term decline in numbers and contraction in range of wintering Pochards in Britain and Ireland and the situation in Argyll certainly reflects this.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

A rare visitor from North America: The first accepted record in Argyll was in 1982, with at least 16 further records to 2011.

Summer A male first seen at Loch Ballygrant, *Islay* [Andrew Greenwood, Jane Ashall] was thought to be the same as a later sighting at Loch Finnlaggan, *Islay* 12-26 June [S. A. Halsey, Peter Roberts et al].

Autumn A female (unaged) was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 23 Oct [Rik van der Starre]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Bhasapol (Tiree) in Apr 2003.

No records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* Lach-thopach

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.

Winter/spring Other than those listed in Table 14, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Ballygrant *Islay* with 28 on 23 Feb, Loch Kinnabus *Islay* ca 20 on 26 Feb, Turraman Loch *Colonsay* 13 on 17 Jan, Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* 13 on 2 Feb, Fang Dhu (The Oa) *Islay* 12 on 5 Jan and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 29 Mar. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll* and in *Cowal* and *North Argyll*.

Breeding/summer Females with broods of young were noted at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* and Ardencaple House (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* and a male on the River Add at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* looked like a 'furtive breeder'.

Autumn/winter Other than those listed in Table 14, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Skerrols *Islay* with 26 on 31 Oct, Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* 16 on 26 Oct, Loch a' Gheoidh (Sunderland) *Islay* 13 on 31 Oct, An Lodan (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* 11 on 24 Oct and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 19 Nov. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere on *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and in *Cowal*, *Colonsay* and *North Argyll*.

Table 14. *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Ducks at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (mostly at Loch Bhasapol).*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	5	20	13	21	n/r	6	13	0	0	12	15	7
Tiree	85	108	119	102	24	10	5	1	8	72	91	117

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila* Lach-mhara

RED LIST 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 sea-watches.*

Winter/spring The only records away from *Islay* concerned one at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 23 Feb, two on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Apr and two on Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 May.

Breeding/summer Single drakes were recorded at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 23 May and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Jun.

Autumn/winter Records away from *Islay* comprised: 6 west past Aird *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 34 (in two flocks) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep, up to 2 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 to 22 Oct, 2 at The Reef *Tiree* on 22 Oct, one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov and one at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 11-26 Dec.

Table 15. *Maximum monthly counts of Scaup at Loch Indaal (Islay).*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indaal	170	70	n/r	n/r	44	0	0	n/r	25	109	130	144

NB. No regular systematic monitoring was carried out for Loch Indaal as a whole so the above are just casual and incomplete counts.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

A vagrant with only four previous records: Islay in Nov 1998, Loch Leathan (Mid-Argyll) in Dec 2005, Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) in Nov 2006, and Loch Skerrols (Islay) in Jan 2009.

No records.

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima* Lach-Lochlannach

AMBER LIST A *resident breeding bird: common on all suitable coasts, especially on the Clyde. The Firth of Clyde is a site of national importance for Eiders. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep.*

Winter/spring Away from the sites listed in Table 16, counts of over 50 included: 224 at the mussel farm at Creag Aoil (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, 143 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, 110 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jan, 87 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 May, 70 at Bowmore *Islay* on 26 Feb and 63 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 11 Mar.

Breeding/summer In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 341 nests/clutches were found at 17 sites (*cf* 366 pairs at 18 sites in 2010). By far the largest colony was at Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*, which held 238 nests (69%). No nesting birds were found at the former large colonies at Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* and Sgat Mor (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*. On 31 May, 19 adults were with a crèche of 12 very small ducklings at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* and 23 adults were with a similar crèche of 42 ducklings at Sandbank *Cowal*. Adults with young were also noted as follows: *Coll* (one site), *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) (6 sites), *Cowal* (4 sites), *Islay* (3 sites), *Kintyre* (3 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (2 sites), *Mull* (2 sites, incl. Treshnish Isles) and *Tiree* (4 sites).

The BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 notes an interesting contrast between increasing numbers in north-west Wales, Morecombe Bay, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland and the long term decline in numbers and contraction in range in western Scotland and Shetland.

Autumn/winter The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave a total of 2,249 for the Argyll part of the area, including 924 in Loch Fyne. Although this is a slight increase on 2011, the overall decline in numbers in the Firth of Clyde as a whole continues. Away from the sites listed in Table 16, counts of over 50 included: 543 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 7 Sep, 153 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Sep, 110 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 9 Aug, *ca* 100 at the fish farm in Loch Striven *Cowal* on 12 Sep, 95 at Loch Scridain *Cowal* on 26 Oct, 90 at Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Sep, 90 at the mussel farm at Brolass *Mull* on 26 Nov, 89 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 21 Sep, 60 at Bowmore *Islay* on 28 Sep, 52 at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 16 Dec and 51 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec.

Table 16. *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Holy Loch (Cowal) and Loch Creran (North Argyll) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre).*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	54	38	47	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	25	n/r	42	38
L. Creran	35	50	30	n/r	71	6	2	62	153	89	48	61
S.of Gigha	87	12	46	n/r	277	n/r	38	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	94

‘NORTHERN’ COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima borealis*

Spring A drake photographed at Traighe Bhi *Tiree* on 7 Apr [John Bowler] showed features of the Northern *borealis* race and will be the first record for Argyll if confirmed by the BBRC.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

A vagrant: at least 14 Argyll records dating back to 1889: all of single males. Several recent records could relate to returning individuals. The most recent was in Kintyre in Feb/May 2008.

No records.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in Oct 1987.

No records.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* Eun-buchainn

RED LIST *An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha (Kintyre), Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records. Now Red Listed as a 'Vulnerable' species – all records required.*

Winter/spring The largest numbers recorded were on *Tiree*, where up to 15 were counted in Hough Bay in Jan and 12 were still present on 1 Apr. Loch Indaal *Islay* had 8 at Bowmore on 15 Jan and 6 at Bridgend Merse on 6 Feb. The highest count in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* was 9 on 15 Jan. A late female was off Aird *Tiree* on 16 May.

Autumn/winter The first was a single bird at Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 20 Oct. The highest counts at regular sites were 13 on 13 Nov in Loch Indaal *Islay*, 14 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 12 Dec and 4 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Nov. Elsewhere, 3 were at Traighe Bhagh *Tiree* on 30 Nov, 2 female/immatures were seen at Ardrishaig (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct and single birds were reported quite widely, including birds at Loch Ba *Mull* on 27 Oct, Loch Scridain *Mull* on 28 Oct, Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 28 Oct, Loch a' Chnuic (E of Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 2 Nov, Machir Bay *Islay* on 3 Nov, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov and Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Nov and 10 Dec.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh

AMBER LIST *Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal (Islay) and in the Sound of Gigha (Kintyre): a scarce winter visitor elsewhere. The very small breeding population may well now be extinct.*

Winter/spring By far the highest count was 205 from Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* in flat calm conditions on Loch Indaal on 28 Mar. Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* [Table 17] larger counts included: 18 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 May, 30 or more at Bagh an Achain (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar and 19 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 4 Feb (a record island count). Smaller numbers were widely reported, especially from the ferries.

Breeding/summer Although quite large numbers were present on Loch Indaal *Islay* in Jun and smaller numbers around Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, no evidence of breeding was reported anywhere in Argyll.

Autumn/winter Small numbers flew past Machrihanish SBO in late Aug and one was off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep. Numbers built up on Loch Indaal from mid Sep and the peak count was 120 on 2 Dec (although this only covered the section from Gartbreck to Laggan). Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* [Table 17] larger counts included: 38 at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 22 off Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 16 Nov, 19 off Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec, 16 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 16 Dec and 9 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Oct. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere, from *Colonsay, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*.

Table 17. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	60	67	205	155	n/r	55	n/r	n/r	55	31	65	120
Sound of Gigha	17	16	35	32	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	18	36

NB. No regular systematic monitoring was carried out for Loch Indaal as a whole: counts are therefore casual and incomplete.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

A rare visitor: at least 14 Argyll records, mostly in spring, including a returning female on Tiree 2008-2010.

Autumn A sub-adult male seen and photographed flying past Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre on 18 Sep [Eddie Maguire]. A juvenile was seen and photographed at Bunessan, Mull on 1 Oct [Bryan Rains]. Records accepted by the ABRC.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

AMBER LIST *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. Now Red Listed as a ‘Threatened’ species – all records required.*

Spring Five flew past Blackrock (Loch Indaal) Islay on 23 Apr, and one off Calgary Mull on 3 Jun .

Autumn One was seen off The Oa Islay on 27 Sep.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* Lach-bhreac

AMBER LIST *A common winter visitor: birds are regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr with occasional summer records.*

Winter/spring By far the highest counts were at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* where 120 were found on 1 Jan and 81 on 28 Feb. Sites with counts of 10 or more elsewhere (other than those in Table 18) included: Ardnave Point *Islay* with 25 on 6 Feb, Loch Riddon *Cowal* 12 on 29 Feb and Loch na Keal *Mull* 11 on 27 Mar. Smaller numbers were reported from all recording areas except *Coll*.

Breeding/summer Birds recorded at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* with 2 on 13 May and from the Colonsay – Oban ferry 2 on 27 May, were probably late migrants and there was no evidence of breeding anywhere in Argyll.

Autumn/winter The first returning birds were 2 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Sep but there were no further records until 14 – 19 Oct, when birds were widely reported. The highest count was at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* where 80 were found on 12 Dec. Other than those in Table 18, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Ardnave Loch *Islay* with 12 on 16 Dec and Ardrishaig (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 31 Oct. Smaller numbers were reported from all recording areas except *Jura*.

Table 18. *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in: Loch Creran (North Argyll), Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll), Holy Loch (Cowal) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Creran	19	18	23	6		2	3	12
L. Indaal	14	22	6	n/r		0	1	8
L. Etive	20	21	20	n/r		0	2	n/r
L. Sween	16	22	n/r	n/r		0	13	15
Holy L.	5	9	5	n/r		0	2	1
Tiree	48	51	39	6		28	30	48

SMEW *Mergus albellus* Sìolta-bhreac

A rare winter visitor: last recorded at Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) (Mull) in May 2004.

Winter An immature ‘redhead’ was seen off Bowmore, *Islay* on 21 Dec [Tom Wells]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Sìolta-dhearg

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

Winter/spring Counts of 10 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 19, included: 20 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 6 Feb, 19 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 18 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Mar, 20 at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 18 at Poll Gorm (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 24 May, 15 at Bunessan *Mull* on 15 Mar, 14 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Apr and 10 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 9 Apr.

Breeding/summer On *Tiree*, at least 6 pairs at 3 sites were considered to be probably breeding and a female with a brood of 7 young was at Loch a’ Phuill on 22 Jun. Broods of young were also noted at: Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Port Leathan *Cowal*, Loch Riddon *Cowal*, Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Craignure *Mull* and Loch an Eilein *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Counts of 10 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 19, included: 32 in Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 27 in Skipness Bay *Kintyre* on 23 Sep, 27 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 23 Sep, 20 at Scarisdale Rocks (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 28 Nov, 17 at Balvicar Lagoons (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, 16 at Eilean Cenn na Creige (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 27 Dec, 14 off Connel Airfield *North Argyll* on 10 Sep, 13 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 16 Sep, 12 in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 13 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 10 Oct and 12 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 25 Nov.

Table 19. Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at: Lochs Gruinart and Indaal (*Islay*), Sound of Gigha (*Kintyre*), Lochs Craignish and Sween (*Mid-Argyll*) and Loch Creran (*North Argyll*).

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	12	12	13	21	2	0	0	18	9	21	0	15
Indaal	30	19	12	18	26	n/r	n/r	n/r	43	40	17	17
Craignish	13	17	17	20	10	30	17	13	45	25	32	17
Sween	21	16	14	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/t	n/r	13	16	8	10
Creran	14	12	11	12	2	0	8	9	n/r	8	16	9
S.of Gigha	16	7	26	n/r	2	n/r	320	n/r	n/r	n/r	7	17

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* Sìolta

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

Winter/spring No large counts were reported. Up to 5 were seen at various sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*.

Breeding/summer A female with 6 small ducklings at Loch Buie *Mull* on 27 May and a female with a brood of 2 riding on her back at Drum Point *Cowal* on 31 May were the only breeding records received.

Autumn/winter The largest counts reported were 10 or more at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 12 Sep, 8 female/immatures near Fincharn on Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug, 6 at Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, 6 on Loch Ba *Mull* on 1 Dec, 6 female/immatures at the head of Loch

Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec and 5 in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct. Elsewhere, up to four were reported from various sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

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

No records.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica* Coileach-fraoich

AMBER LIST A *sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.*

Winter/spring On *Islay*, birds were reported from: Bolsay, Glean Mor, Kilchiaran, Loch Gruinart and Port Charlotte. The only records elsewhere were 4 at South Airde Beinn *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan and one dead on the road near Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 11 May.

Breeding There were no reports of evidence of breeding during 2012. The breeding distribution map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 indicates a considerable contraction of range in Argyll since the earlier atlases, with probable or confirmed breeding still taking place in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre* (only in the very south), *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

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

Winter/spring The only records comprise: one on Ben Arthur *Cowal* on 18 Mar, 2 on Beinn Sgulaire *North Argyll* on 27 Mar, one on Bheinn Mhor *North Argyll* on 5 May.

Autumn/winter One on Beinn Sgulaire *North Argyll* and 5 near the summit of Ben More *Mull* on 19 Oct. These records reflect quite closely the breeding distribution in Argyll shown in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

RED LIST A *scarce, localised, resident breeder. Numbers may now be stabilising after a steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas: with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.*

Spring/summer Single males were reported from: Chiskan Water (near Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 11 Apr, Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jun and Salhouse (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 30 June and 5 males were roosting together at Feochaig (S of Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 24 Oct.

Breeding Lekking males were reported from Clachan Hill (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* and Beinn Sitheag, *Cowal*.

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille

RED LIST A *very rare resident. There have been a few records from Mid-Argyll, and they are known to have bred in Cowal in 1993. However, with no recent records in either locality, or elsewhere, it seems likely that Capercaillie is currently extinct in Argyll.*

Once again there were no records in Argyll and given the continuing massive contraction in the Capercaillie's range it seems very unlikely they will return in the near future.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* Cearc-thomain-dhearg-chasach

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. Since about 2006 records, especially on the mainland and Islay, have been more frequent presumably as a result of widespread releases.

Birds surviving from releases on *Islay* were widely reported, including records of 30 or more at RSPB Loch Gruinart during Oct. Birds were also reported from Loch Striven Cowal and Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* and some 400 were reportedly released on *Colonsay* during the autumn.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* Cearc-thomain

A very localised distribution. Introductions, which take place in several areas, do not appear to result in self-sustaining populations. All records required.

Once again there were no records in Argyll and the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 indicates their virtual absence from north and west Scotland.

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh-gort

AMBER LIST *A rare and irregular summer visitor: mainly to Kintyre and the islands.*

Spring The earliest record was of one calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Apr.

Breeding/summer A good year for Quail in Argyll with calling birds reported from five sites on *Colonsay*, four sites on *Tiree* one site on *Coll* and one at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn One was flushed from dunes at Traigh Throdhrasdail *Tiree* on 11 Aug.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* Easag

May be abundant, in those parts of Argyll, where birds are released for shooting. Reports from Jura and North Argyll are rare.

Reported from all recording areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Coll*. Breeding was confirmed in: Cowal, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Elsewhere, birds were reported from: *Jura*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll* where it is probable that breeding occurred where birds were introduced for sport shooting.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

The last positive report concerning the introduced population on Mull was in 2009.

No records.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellate* Learga-ruadh

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

Winter/spring Reported widely in small numbers: around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more sheltered areas. Particular concentrations occur in certain favoured locations, such as: 11 at Laggan Point *Islay* on 23 Jan, 14 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 10 in Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 28 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 28 Mar, 35 in West Loch Tarbert *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, 20 around *Mull* on 30 Apr (with about half of these in Loch na Keal).

Breeding/summer Birds were reported at breeding sites from about mid-Mar until late Aug. Breeding was suspected on several lochs throughout Argyll (details in database), but numbers, population trend, and breeding success are uncertain.

Autumn/winter Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas apart from innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported a total of 70 birds flying south on 15 dates in Sep, with 27 in four hours during a WNW gale on 17 Sep. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported a total of 41 on 13 dates in Oct. There were 35 birds visible from Bruichladdich pier *Islay* on 22 Sep. Other large counts included 13 around *Tiree* on 20

Oct, 12 at Achamhinish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 20 Oct, 15 at Torony *Islay* on 23 Oct, 25 at *Mull* on 31 Oct, and 24 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 5 Nov.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* Learga-dhubh

AMBER LIST *A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.*

Winter/spring Birds were widely distributed in very small numbers around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more marine areas. Larger groups included: 39 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Mar, 10 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* and 12 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, 12 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, and 4 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 27 May.

Breeding/summer No data reported from the eight or so traditional breeding sites.

Autumn/winter Single birds were seen at many sites, especially around *Islay*, *Mull* and *Kintyre*. Larger groups included: 6 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 27 Oct, and 7 around *Mull* on 31 Oct.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachail

AMBER LIST *A numerous winter and passage visitor. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded from Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May and a few individuals summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around Tiree and Coll are sites of international importance for wintering birds and: Loch na Keal Mull, Loch Indaal Islay, West Loch Tarbert Kintyre, and Lochs Beg & Scridain Mull are sites of national importance.*

Winter/spring Birds were reported from all coastal areas, especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Gigha*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Highest numbers seem to be reported in spring, although this may in part relate to better conditions for counting and more birdwatching activity. Larger numbers included: 20 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 5 Feb, 65 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Mar, 23 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Mar, 20 at *Jura* on 26 Mar, 87 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 27 Mar, 76 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Mar, 36 at Loch Scridian *Mull* on 28 Mar, 66 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 28 Mar, 100 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Mar, 29 in Loch Buie *Mull* on 29 Mar, 324 around *Mull* on 31 Mar, 26 at *Colonsay* on 13 Apr, 23 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, 61 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 22 Apr, 47 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 22 Apr, 38 on Loch Scridian *Mull* on 27 Apr, 58 on Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Apr, 68 on Loch Tuath *Mull* on 28 Apr, 277 around *Mull* on 30 Apr, and 41 around *Tiree* on 2 May.

Summer There was no indication of breeding in Argyll, but non-breeders, some in full summer plumage, were present throughout the summer at many sites. Records came especially from *Mull*, *Colonsay*, *Tiree* and *Kintyre* where groups of up to 10 birds could be seen in Jun, but with rather few sightings reported in Jul or Aug.

Autumn/winter Few were reported in Sep, but numbers began to build up in Oct, and counts of 10 to 20 birds were not uncommon from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in Oct to Dec, with smaller numbers at many other locations with fully marine coastlines. As usual, numbers in autumn and early winter were generally lower than in late winter and spring. Larger groups later in the year included: 52 off *Tiree* on 20 Oct, 37 in Loch Tuath *Mull* on 28 Oct, 26 in Loch na Keal *Mull* on 28 Oct, 20 in Loch Scridian *Mull* on 29 Oct, a total of 152 around *Mull* on 31 Oct, 31 seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 11 Nov, 25 off *Tiree* on 29 Nov, and 95 at Glas Aird *Colonsay* on 30 Nov.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii* Learga-bhlàr

A vagrant: previously reported on only nine occasions, all since 1986, most recently on Mull in 2009.

No records

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Thalassarche melanophrys*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one seen flying north past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (Kintyre) in October 2008.

No records.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom

AMBER LIST *A common but localised breeding species in all areas apart from Cowal and North Argyll. Large numbers occur on passage off western headlands.*

Winter/spring Most records came from the western fringes of Argyll, especially *Tiree*, *Islay*, and *Colonsay*. Large numbers attended nest sites somewhat erratically from Jan onwards. For example, there were 850 on sites at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 13 Jan, almost the same number of occupied sites as recorded during breeding in May. There were 200 occupied sites on the cliffs near the monument at The Oa *Islay* on 4 Mar, but 415 occupied sites there on 29 Mar. An intermediate 'blue phase' bird was on a site at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 15 Apr. A bird occupying a site at Kilchoman *Islay* was harried off by three jackdaws on 15 May. About 700 birds were following a trawler north of *Tiree* on 24 May.

Breeding On 23 May there were 853 occupied sites at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, with most birds then incubating eggs. Numbers of occupied sites declined to 724 on 19 Jun (when most had small chicks), declined further to 547 on 11 Jul, and to only 289 on 19 Jul (when most had medium sized chicks). This suggests fairly poor breeding success at that colony. Fulmars bred at Glentrosdale Bay *Jura*, an area from which there have been few reports. There were 80 occupied sites at Laggan Point *Islay* on 20 May. On *Colonsay*, there were 239 occupied sites at Urugaig on 14 Jun, and there was one blue phase bird on a site there on 16 Jun. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) reported that the long term trend in fulmar numbers on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* from 1994 to 2012 was a decline of 3.5% per annum. However, the number of occupied sites in 2012 was 464 which is higher than counts made since 2002. There were also at least 2 occupied sites on Fladda, 5 on Cairn na Burgh Beg, and 24 on Cairn na Burg More (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Autumn passage included observations of 208 birds per hour passing Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Sep and 222 passing per hour on 6 Sep, but these were the only records of noticeable passage numbers. There were 600 adults back on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 31 Oct, and 800 there on 21 Nov. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded a small passage of 41 fulmars in 2 hours on 6 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

A rare passage migrant: nine accepted records before 2010, involving eleven birds, mostly in Aug or Sep.

No records.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr

A rare passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

No records.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh

A passage migrant: almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes seen in large numbers from: western headlands, islands, and on ferry crossings during Aug-Sep.

Autumn Apart from one seen from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry, records came only from *Tiree* and from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The first was seen on 1 Sep and the last on 30 Sep, with peak counts of 60 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hours on 4 Sep, and 22 passing Aird *Tiree* in 1 hour on 14 Sep.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh-bàn

AMBER LIST *Breeding colonies have been confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers are seen on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.*

Spring The first records in spring were of one bird passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and four birds off *Coll* on 25 Mar. Only small numbers were seen in Apr, the largest group being 30 birds between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 16 Apr. Larger numbers were present in May, with 500 between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 15 May and tens to hundreds off *Colonsay*, *Jura*, *Mull*, *Coll* and *Tiree*.

Breeding/summer Higher numbers were seen in Jun than in May, with 5000 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 7 hours on 22 Jun. Given that breeding numbers in Argyll are not large enough to explain these high totals passing by, it seems probable that birds from the huge colony on Rum must commute into or through Argyll waters while breeding. There were high numbers passing in Jul and Aug (a time when this species has chicks in the nest), with 1900 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 4 hours on 9 Jul, and 2000 in 5 hours on 23 Jul. Birds were also reported feeding: 800 were feeding with dolphins in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 2 Jul, 1400 were feeding in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 15 Jul, 10 were feeding in a tidal rip off Lady's Rock *Mull* on 18 Jul, and 45 in a tidal rip off Eilean Musdile *North Argyll* on 30 Jul. TIARG reported that presumed breeding birds were seen and heard at night on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, but no survey was carried out. There were no data on breeding at Sanda Islands *Kintyre*.

Autumn Many hundreds were seen passing well-known seawatching sites in early Sep (Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* and Aird *Tiree*). However, these numbers were lower than the thousands per day reported from those sites in 2010 and 2011. Few were reported after mid-Sep. There was only one record in Oct, of 6 birds seen from the Tarbert to Portavadie ferry *Cowal* on 16 Oct. A very late bird was seen on 8 Nov passing Aird *Tiree*.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

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

No records.

MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus baroli*

A vagrant: the only accepted record is one seen at Frenchman's Rocks (Islay) on 30 Jun 1974. A record from 2000 is still under consideration by BBRC.

No records.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Pàraig

AMBER LIST *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.*

Spring The first spring record was of one bird off Eilean Beag *Jura* on 17 May. The next appeared on 19 May between Oban and *Tiree*. There were 8 halfway between *Tiree* and *Barra* on 24 May, but the highest count came from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where 67 were seen in 7 hours during a NW gale on 22 Jun.

Breeding TIARG reported that many birds were heard churring in burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. However, mist netting at the Village and Boulder Beach colonies on Lunga resulted in smaller catches than had been typical in the 1990s, and TIARG noted the presence of a higher proportion of birds without fully developed brood patches. This was thought to indicate a probable reduction in breeding numbers. TIARG reported that, although there was no evidence of any rats on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, there are house mice on Lunga. Their impact, if any, on storm petrels there is unknown.

Autumn There were 20 or more foraging offshore from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jul, and 15 between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 26 Jul. Rather unusually, there were very few reported after that, whereas in most years numbers are highest in Aug. The last records were one off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 14 Sep and 4 off Staffa *Mull* on 29 Sep.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Gobhlan-mara
AMBER LIST *A scarce, but regular, autumn passage migrant off western headlands; particularly after strong westerlies. There are occasional reports in spring and summer.*

Autumn All records were during Sep, from 5 to 29 Sep. Aird *Tiree* provided records of 24 birds, with 16 passing in 2½ hours on 11 Sep. One was seen off Quinish Point *Mull* on 14 Sep. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported 18 birds flying south in a WNW gale in 9 hours on 14 Sep. One was seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 17 Sep. The last record of the autumn was of one passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep.

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire

AMBER LIST *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). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, and often seen high up sea lochs. They are also reported in small numbers Nov/Mar.*

Winter/spring There was only three records in Jan, of singles off Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 3 and 5 Jan, and 1 off Traigh Ghrianaidh on 5 Jan. A few were seen in Feb off *Islay* and off *Tiree*. Numbers increased in Mar with records from *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal*, *Tiree*, and *Mull*, though of small numbers of birds. Much larger numbers were reported during Apr, with 200 birds feeding off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Apr, and 110 feeding off Manna *Tiree* on 27 Apr.

Summer Birds were reported from all marine areas of Argyll in early Jun but mostly in small numbers, with few flocks exceeding 30 birds. There appear to be no sites in Argyll being prospected by gannets as future colony sites, despite the moderate numbers regularly present in Argyll waters in summer. However, in late Jun the numbers reported increased dramatically, suggesting that birds from large colonies such as Ailsa Craig were making longer feeding trips so passing through Argyll. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported 4700 birds flying past on 22 Jun, and feeding flocks of 450 on 4 Jul and 600 on 7 Jul. About 3500 passed Mull of Kintyre lighthouse in 3 hours on 10 Jul, mostly heading towards Ailsa Craig. On 8 Aug, a date when breeding gannets would mostly have large chicks in the nest, an amazing 12,000 flew past Mull of Kintyre lighthouse in three hours, again with the majority heading towards Ailsa Craig.

Autumn/winter Hundreds per hour, predominantly adults so possibly still chick-rearing birds, flew past seabird hotspots such as Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, Aird *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on various dates in early Sep. The first juvenile of the year at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* passed on 2 Sep. Numbers of gannets reported then declined rapidly at most sites in late

Sep, although hundreds were still passing *Tiree* until Nov. Very few were reported from anywhere other than *Tiree* in Nov or Dec, and numbers even off *Tiree* were then down to one or two birds per day.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh

AMBER LIST *Breeds in: Cowal, Jura, Kintyre (including Gigha), Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll, with around 230 pairs in recent years. Less numerous than Shag, but numbers have increased recently. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.*

Winter/spring There were small numbers (mostly 1-5 birds) at many estuarine (predominantly sea loch) sites across Argyll. Larger numbers were: 19 on outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, 17 there on 12 Feb and 19 on 11 Mar, 17 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 1 Feb, 15 at Barcaldine Castle *North Argyll* on 18 Mar, and 13 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 25 Mar.

Breeding There were at least 27 adults at a colony on Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, and that colony held 35 occupied nests on 27 May. A colony at Craro Island (Gigha) *Kintyre* held 23 nests on 29 Apr. At Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 16 pairs fledged many young; although this island had mink present, the cormorants nest on an apparently mink-free cliff.

Autumn/winter Birds were fairly well dispersed throughout the sea lochs and sheltered coasts of Argyll throughout autumn and winter. The largest recorded groups were: 12 at Ban Rubha (Scarba) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 11 on Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 15 Sep, 16 at Rubha Beag (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 23 Sep, 10 at Loch nam Breac *Jura* on 10 Oct, 13 at Bowmore *Islay* on 18 Nov, and 35 at Arinagour *Coll* on 6 Dec.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh-an-sgumain

AMBER LIST *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.*

Winter/spring As usual, birds were widely distributed on sea coasts in the early part of the year, with no major aggregations reported. The largest groups were 62 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Jan, 55 at Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 12 Feb, and 50 at Bowmore *Islay* on 26 Feb.

Breeding/summer John Bowler reported that many birds on *Tiree* were on nests by 7 Apr. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 103 AONs on 23 May, decreasing to 58 on 10 Jul by which time many chicks had fledged. It appeared to be a productive breeding season at that colony with a mean brood size at fledging of 1.78 chicks. TIARG reported that shag numbers seem to have declined considerably on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. There were 178 pairs on Lunga and 13 pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil in 2012, well below numbers present before 2005. TIARG have been carrying out a colour ringing study of this population to assess survival rates as part of the BTO 'RAS' programme, but survival rates have not yet been estimated. Brood sizes in 2012 were considered to be small, with most nests containing only two or three young. Although breeding numbers appear to have declined, a flock of 360 shags was seen offshore from the Treshnish Isles on 30 June, suggesting that many of the birds may have chosen not to breed but remained in the population. There were 6 AONs at Dun Tealtaig (Urugaig) *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Although west coast shags tend not to migrate extensively, there can be large aggregations in autumn and some large local movements. There were 540 birds in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 25 Jun. A flock of 172 were feeding close to Arranman's Barrels *Kintyre* on 14 Jul. There were 250 at Macharioch *Kintyre* on 16 Jul and 123 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 17 Jul. At Hynish *Tiree* between 40 and 60 shags per hour flew SW most days from 27 Aug to 9 Sep. There were 150 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 2 Oct. On 24 Oct, 450 were feeding together with porpoises in Balephuill Bay *Tiree*. There were 350 group-feeding in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 29 Nov.

ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata aquila*

A vagrant: an immature bird was found exhausted at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) on 9 July 1953 and died later. This is the only record of this species in the Western Palearctic.

No records.

EURASIAN BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* Chorra-ghràin

RED LIST A *vagrant to Argyll with only five records of single birds since 1980: at Dervaig (Mull) Jan-Mar 1982, near Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre) on 4 Dec 1982, at Dervaig (Mull) on 23 Dec 1983, one found dead at Appin (North Argyll) on 19 Sep 1999 and near Craobh Haven (Mid-Argyll) Dec 2009-Feb 2010.*

No records.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

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.

No records.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

A vagrant: Two recent records. One on Islay in Oct 2009 and one on Mull on 27 Oct 2011 and the same bird on Tiree on 17-25 Nov 2011.

No records.

SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula*

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

No records.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Corra-gheal-bheag

AMBER LIST *No Argyll records prior to 1958 but several since, mostly in spring and autumn. It has been seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.*

2010. A late submission. One was seen at Loch an Eilein, Tiree on 8 May [Simon Pinder, Tim Cleaves]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

Summer An adult in summer 'non-nuptial' plumage was at Kennacraig, Kintyre on 11 Jun [Steven Black, Jim Dickson] and 12 Jun [Roger Broad]. Record accepted by the ABRC. This or possibly other birds claimed but not submitted from Lochgilphead on 2 Jun, Skipness on 9 Jun and the Add Estuary on 13-14 Jun.

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

A vagrant to Argyll with only six 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, one on Tiree in May & Jun 2000, one on Tiree in May and Jun 2002 and one Inveraray, Mid-Argyll May 2011.

2009. A late submission. One was seen flying over Feolin Ferry, Jura on 16 Oct 2009. [Simon Pinder]. Record accepted by the SBRC.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghrithreach

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring WeBS counts in Jan-Mar mostly gave totals between 10 and 30 individuals on: Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, birds were widely distributed in smaller numbers, although there were 15 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 1 Mar.

Breeding The heronry at Eriska *North Argyll* was abandoned. Several former sites on *Colonsay* were also abandoned, but 15 pairs nested at Cuirn Mhora *Colonsay*. Numbers at other sites included: 19 nests at Ballachuan Hazel Wood *Mid-Argyll*, 20 nests at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*, 25 nests at Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll*, and 5 nests at Tarbert Bay *Jura*. In many areas of Argyll herons nest as individual pairs or groups of two or three nests rather than in large heronries.

Autumn/winter WeBS counts in Aug-Dec mostly gave totals between 10 and 30 individuals on each of Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, there were: 16 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 19 Aug, 13 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 6 Oct, 12 at Loch nam Breac *Jura* on 10 Oct, and 15 at Beinn Oransay *Colonsay* on 25 Oct.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

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.

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

A vagrant with seven records since 1901: the most recent being at Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) in Sep 2009.

No records.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

A vagrant with eight records: the most recent of these involving four juveniles on Islay in 1998 and two on Mull in Jun 2010.

No records.

PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

A vagrant: Two records. One found at Loch Peallach (Mull) in Jun 1998 and one at Salen Bay, Mull in Mar 2011.

No records.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spàg-ri-tòn

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).

Winter/spring There were records from *North Argyll*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Cowal*. Most were of one or two birds, with largest numbers: 17 on Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, and 22 there on 12 Feb, and 12 on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb.

Breeding Breeding was reported at Powder Dam *Cowal*, Loch nan Druimnean *Mid-Argyll*, Turraman Loch *Colonsay*, Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll*, Ardmarnock Farm *Cowal*, and Achafolla (Luig) *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter There were records from *North Argyll, Mid-Argyll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre* and *Cowal*. Most were of one or two birds, with largest numbers: 13 on Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 14 Oct, and 27 there on 18 Nov, 21 on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct, and 15 there on 24 Nov, 10 on Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 27 Nov, and 18 there on 17 Dec.

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

Winter/spring Regularly seen from Jan to Mar at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal*, with peak counts of 12 birds on 1 Feb and again on 23 Feb. No other winter/spring records from elsewhere in Argyll.

Autumn/winter Two birds at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* were the only records in Sep. There were up to 4 there in Oct, and singles at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, Inverneill *Mid-Argyll*, and Otter Ferry *Cowal*. Numbers at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* peaked at 8 birds in Nov but only 3 were seen in Dec. One bird was at Ballimore *Cowal* on 10 Dec.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan-mara
AMBER LIST A regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. The Sound of Gigha, Loch na Keal, Mull and Loch Indaal, Islay are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

Winter/spring Records from Jan to late Apr, mostly from *Mull, Islay*, and *Kintyre*. Apart from counts at the best known sites (Table 20), other records were predominantly of just one or two birds and mostly at sites near these strongholds. Six at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 14 Jan was the only record of note away from the main areas.

Autumn/winter The first autumn record was of a single bird at Connel *North Argyll* on 10 Sep. Numbers peaked in Oct (as also indicated in Table 20), and a few birds were seen in autumn in *Cowal* and *Colonsay* in addition to the regular sites.

Table 20. *Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2012 at the three main sites for this species in Argyll (n/r = no data).*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Indaal	8+	14+	41	1	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	2	25	17	4
L. na Keal	n/r	n/r	31	1	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	32	5	n/r
S. of Gigha	7	2	6	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	4

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Gobhlachan-dubh
A rare passage migrant and winter visitor.
No records.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*
AMBER LIST A rare passage migrant with nine accepted records since 1980: the last near Carradale (Kintyre) in 2009.
No records.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*
A vagrant: Two records. One at Vaul (Tiree) on 16th May 1997 and one near Dalmally, North Argyll May 2011.

No records.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach

AMBER LIST *A re-introduction programme in Scotland since 1996 has involved releases in Highland, central, and south west Scotland. 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.*

Spring/summer Single birds were reported flying over Spion Kop (near Kennacraig) *Kintyre* on 16 Apr, north of Tarbert *Kintyre* on 5 May. A tagged bird photographed at Treshnish *Mull* on 26 May had been released at Grizedale, Lake District on 8 Aug 2011. One at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 24 Jul.

Autumn One at Balemartine *Tiree* on 24 Oct.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolaire-mhara

RED LIST *A very rare but increasing resident breeder in Argyll: wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur widely. All are derived from re-establishment projects in north-west Scotland since 1975. Birds from similar projects in Ireland and the east coast of Scotland have also appeared in Argyll recently. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.*

Birds are now regularly reported from most areas of Argyll throughout the year. Total sightings reported for the year by recording area were: *Coll* (one record), *Colonsay* (2 records), *Cowal* (4 records), *Islay* (over 50 records, some of two birds together), *Jura* (8 Records), *Mid-Argyll* (17 records including one of 4 birds circling over Seil Island), *Mull* (48 records including two from the Treshnish Isles) and *North Argyll* (11 records). None were reported from *Kintyre* or *Tiree*.

Please continue to send in all sightings, which will be particularly useful as birds expand their range into new areas on the mainland and the islands.

Breeding In Argyll, 20 breeding pairs with nests included 3 new pairs. Several additional ‘pairs’ have been recognised but for these, either no nests have yet been built or found. Some of these young ‘pairs’ continue to travel widely. 18 pairs were confirmed to have laid eggs and 16 successful pairs fledged 24 young. Accessible chicks in 2012 continued to be fitted with oxidised aluminium colour rings on the left leg (D Sexton, RSPB Scotland per R. Broad).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan-lòin

AMBER LIST *A scarce, but recently, more or less annual passage migrant: records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.*

Spring The only individual reported was a female seen flying east at Kenovay *Tiree* on 17 May and again on 26 May. This species remains annual in spring on *Tiree* and could be a potential breeder.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Brèid-air-tòin

RED LIST *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 with reports from all recording areas.*

A single immature/female “ringtail” bird was seen daily from 23-30 Jun hunting over Lunga. It was seen on several occasions flying to/from the direction of Fladda. These sightings represent the first record by TIARG of the species on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. (TIARG)

Breeding

Table 21. Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll. NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Coll	4	4						
Mull	44	29	22	10	0	12	26	2.60
Colonsay	6	4	4	3	0	1	11	3.66
Islay/Jura	11	6	5	4	0	1	10	2.50
Mainland*	8	4	4	3	1	0	8	2.66
Cowal	13	3	1	0	1	0	0	
Bute	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
Total	87	51	37	20	3	14	55	2.62**

* Mainland includes sites in Mid Argyll (2) and Kintyre & Knapdale (6).

** Calculated for 16 broods from all areas where fledged brood size accurately known.

Tiree: Breeding not suspected. At least 4 ringtails and 1 male present Jan-Apr with 2 different females hanging on until the end of May. Male birds regularly seen hunting in East Tiree in May-Jul, presumably from nests on Coll. First female back on 4 Jul with up to 6 different birds to mid Sep including at least one adult male, a juvenile male, 2 juvenile females and 2 adult females (J Bowler).

Mull: Voles were very abundant but not quite at the levels seen in 2008. There were plenty of harriers on the go but unfortunately work interrupted surveying in Jun. The sample is obviously biased towards successful nests and some of the probable and proven sites will have failed. In total 17 areas were not checked at all. Of the 44 known Hen Harrier sites surveyed in 2012 there were 15 apparently unoccupied, 22 proven breeding, 4 probable breeding and three possible breeding attempts. Of the 22 proven breeding attempts the outcome at 12 was unknown. Ten successful monitored nests produced 26 fledged young. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Roosts Numbers recorded at the monitored roost at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve Islay during the year were as follows: Jan: 3, Feb: 3, Mar: 1, Nov: 3, Dec: 3. A male was seen dispersing from a roost at Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll on 27 Sep and an adult male appeared at roost at Aros Moss Kintyre on 21 Nov.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

A vagrant: Only two records, both in 2011. One on Mull on 20 and 24 Sept and one in Kintyre on 22 Sept.

No records.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* Glas-sheabhag

A sporadic visitor of uncertain status: last confirmed record was at Glen Creran, North Argyll in Jan 2010.

No accepted records. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Speireag

A widespread, resident, breeding species.

During 2012 birds were reported from every Argyll recording area. Prey species noted included: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Collared Dove, Barn Swallow, Blackbird and Northern Wheatear.

Breeding Tiree: breeding not suspected. At least 3 birds were noted Jan–Apr and again from 25 Aug (J Bowler).

Elsewhere, eleven sites (*Colonsay* 4, *Cowal* 7) were checked in 2012. Ten sites showed signs of occupation (birds present or recent signs). Eggs were known to have been laid at 10 sites and 4 of these had large young at the last visit and one additional pair fledged 4 chicks. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

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

During 2012 numerous records were received from all Argyll areas. The following counts give some idea of the numbers present: 16 seen on *Islay* during the day on 16 Oct and 11 seen on *Jura* during the day on 18 Oct; 7 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 22 Apr and 6 over Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* during WeBS Count on 14 Oct.

Regular sightings suggested the presence of two adults on *Lunga* (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* that were seen commuting to other Treshnish Isles to the north. A third bird, a non-moulting individual, was seen on 25 Jun with this or another such individual seen flying to *Mull* from *Lunga*. (TIARG)

Breeding

Table 22. *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2012 (ARSG – coordinator I. Hopkins). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

			Sites where breeding proven				
Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites failed	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min no. fledged *	Young per success-ful site **
Tiree	12	12	0	2	10	3	1.50
Colonsay	58	18***	0	8		15	2.16
Islay	9	8	0	5	1	7	1.50
Mid Argyll	1	1	0	1	0	2	2.00
Kintyre	5	5		4	1	9	2.25
Cowal	29	28			28		
Bute	41	23	1	12	8	26	2.40
TOTAL	155	95	1	32	48	62	1.96

* large young on last visit are assumed to have fledged.

** calculated for pairs where fledged brood size accurately known; the total is based on 27 pairs where brood size known.

*** includes 6 sites with single birds.

Bute: many pairs appeared not to be breeding, possibly due to very low rabbit numbers. However, the ones that did breed had a more productive season than last year (I Hopkins).

Colonsay: the breeding population continued to decline, with further evidence of interaction with the eagles, which had a good breeding season. However, the Buzzards did much better this

year, with 8 out of 12 pairs producing large young/fledging. A better result than some recent years, despite the lower population. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* Bleidir-molach

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

No records.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire

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

Away from breeding sites, birds were reported during 2012 from all Argyll recording areas except Coll. Six were seen around Aros Castle Mull on 16 Oct. Two immatures were seen feeding with Ravens on sheep carcase at Balnabraid Glen Kintyre on 25 Nov.

Breeding

Table 23.1 Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll 2012.

	Ts checked	Ts Occupied	Ts where eggs laid	Ts known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ts that fledged young	Min no. of large young	Young per successful pair
N Argyll	0						
S Argyll	25	22	14	5 (7)	22.72 (31.81)	5 (7)	1.00
Mull	32	31	15	9	29.03	9	1.00
Other Islands	8	8	7	4 (5)	50.00 (62.50)	5 (6)	1.25 (1.20)
Total	65	61	36	18 (21)	29.50% (34.42%)	19 (22)	1.05 (1.04)

Table 23.2 Golden Eagle Summary Information 2003-2012. (Data from National Surveys is included in bold).

Year	Ts checked	Ts occupied	Ts where eggs laid	Ts known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ts that fledged young	Min number of large young	Number of young per successful pair
2012	65	61	36	18 (21)	29.50% (34.42%)	19 (22)	1.05 (1.04)
2011	60	54	25	17	31.48	17	1.0
2010	65	61	37	20 (25)	32.78% (40.98%)	28	1.10 (1.12)
2009	66	59	40	16	27.11%	18	1.12
2008	73	64	42	33 (35)	51.5% (54.68%)	36 (38)	1.09
2007	69	63	41	25 (26)	39.6% (41.2%)	25 (26)	1.00
2006	73	66	43	17	26.15%	17	1.00

2005	65	59	40	17 (18)	28.8%	19 (20)	1.11
2004	61	56	38	28 (29)	50%	32 (33)	1.14 (1.13)
2003	100	80	52	29 (30)	36.25% (37.50%)	30 (31)	1.03 (1.03)

() = figures in brackets include sites with large young in nest at last visit.

Tiree: an adult bird was seen at Moss on 14 April.

A satellite-tagged chick from Beinn an Tuirc (Carradale) in 2010 was later found poisoned at Loch Morar, Highland Region (D Walker). On 7 Sep 2012 Tom McKellar, Farm Manager Auch Estate pled guilty and was fined £1200 for possession of the banned pesticide carbofuran. This followed the discovery of a dead golden eagle on Beinn Udlaidh, nr Bridge of Orchy on 7 Jun 2009 by a group of hill-walkers. Subsequent follow up investigations recovered a quantity of carbofuran, a poisoned fox and a sheep carcass laced with carbofuran on the open hill. Two handguns were also located and McKellar was convicted of their possession and was sentenced to 300 hours community service at the Glasgow High Court in December 2010. Note that no prosecution was brought in respect of the dead golden eagle. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Iolair-iasgaich

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

Spring An early arrival was at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* nest site on 14 Mar. None were seen here until later in the season so this may just have been a passing migrant. Other early records include singles at: Ardnahoe Loch *Islay* on 23 Mar, one flying past Beinn Mhic-Mhonaidh (Glen Strae) *North Argyll* on 27 Mar and one at Blarghour (Loch Awe) on 27 Mar.

Breeding

Table 24. *Summary Information 2003-2012.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. large young	Young per successful site
2012	19	14	39**	2.78
2011	16	6	13	2.16
2010	20	13	30	2.30
2009	15	12	28	2.33
2008	15	11	22*	2.00
2007	12	11	22	2.00
2006	12	9	17	1.88
2005	10	5	9	1.80
2004	9	7	13	1.85
2003	7	6	9	1.50

** brood size: b/1 x 0, b/2 x 2, b/3 x 11.

* excludes breeding information for one pair where outcome unknown.

19 pairs were located but two of these were prospecting/establishing pairs at new sites where eggs were not laid in 2012: 17 pairs laid eggs and 14 pairs were successful. 39 young reached ringing age or were seen as larger young. If all the chicks survived to fledging then productivity (2.78 young/successful pair; 2.29 young/breeding pair) would be the highest recorded in Argyll. This level of productivity is in sharp contrast to that in Central Region where breeding success was depressed as a result of a prolonged wet spring-summer. The productivity of their 16

successful pairs was 1.88 young/successful breeding pair and 1.36 young/breeding pair. In Argyll, three pairs failed and these included two established pairs (unknown causes) and a new pair that laid eggs in a new nest built in a flimsy tree. The latter failed when the nest and contents fell out after incubation had begun. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Autumn Migrant birds were widely reported in late Aug, including birds at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug, Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 24 Aug, Machrihanish Seabird Observatory *Kintyre* on 25 Aug, Islandadd Bridge (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug, Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 25 Aug and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 27 Aug. The last record was at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 8 Sep.

A chick ringed nr. Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* in 2012 was found dead (railway casualty) on 2 Sep 2012 at Great Ayton, North Yorkshire. Another from the same brood (colour ringed blue ND left leg) was regularly seen and photographed between 1 Sep – 3 Oct 2012 in Somerset, where it divided its time between Hawridge Reservoir and Ashford Reservoir. On 31 Jan 2013 it was photographed again near Janjanbureh Camp, GAMBIA (13° 32'N, 14° 46'W).

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan-ruadh

AMBER LIST A *widespread, but uncommon, breeding bird. The breeding population in some areas appears to be on the decline. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.*

During 2012 there were records from all Argyll recording areas. As usual sightings increased noticeably, in most recording areas, from Sep onwards.

Breeding

Table 25. Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2012. NB: includes data from Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number large young	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	1	0	0	2	
Islay	2	2	1	0	1	3	
Colonsay	2	2	1	0	1	2+	
Kintyre	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Cowal	1	1	0	0	1	4	
Bute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	7	6	3	0	3	11+	3.67

Tiree: breeding not suspected. Up to 3 birds present Jan-Apr with 2 remaining late in the Balephuill/Carnan Mor area until 17 May. None until 12 Aug with up to 2 thereafter.

Mull: breeding kestrels appeared to be widespread. (ARSG per Roger Broad). In addition to the above, an adult with recently fledged young was seen at Ardcastle Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jul. The breeding distribution map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 shown some slight range contraction in Argyll, which conceals a larger population decline in Britain as a whole.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

A vagrant: Only three records: one at Machariorch (Kintyre) on 19 August 1990, one at Todd Hill (Kintyre) on 12 July 2005 and one near Port Charlotte, Islay on 2 May 2010.

No records.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

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

Winter/spring On *Tiree*, up to 5 birds noted Jan-Apr with a late bird to 29 May.

Breeding Successful breeding was confirmed at a site on *Cowal* where a brood of 4 large chicks was found and at a site on *Islay* where at least one fledged chick was seen. Breeding was not suspected on *Tiree*. The breeding distribution map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 shows some range contraction in Argyll, especially in *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn The first bird back on *Tiree* was on 29 Jul with up to 6 thereafter. Three were seen during a visit to *Jura* on 26 Mar.

Single (or occasionally two) birds were reported regularly through the year on *Colonsay* and *Islay* with relatively few records from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

A rare visitor, mostly in spring and autumn.

Summer An adult was seen and photographed flying past Uisead Point, Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 26 Jun [Eddie Maguire]. An adult Gleann Mor, Port Charlotte, *Islay* on 16 Jul [Bob Davison]. Both records accepted by the ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag-mhòr-na-seilg

A vagrant: several records prior to 1950 but only eight recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2011.

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag

AMBER LIST *A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. There have been indications of a decline in numbers breeding away from coastal areas. Found throughout the year in most areas.*

During 2012 birds were reported from all recording areas apart from *Coll*. The most frequent records were from *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*), *Islay* and *Tiree*. *Mid-Argyll* records included one on the Garvellachs on 30 Nov. An immature (1st summer) female was seen on several dates in Jun around Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. One bird was also seen hunting over Fladda as the expedition passed by on arriving at the Treshnish Isles on 23 Jun. (TIARG)

Prey recorded included: European Storm-petrel, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Common Gull, Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon and Common Starling.

Breeding

Table 26. Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2012. (ARSG per Roger Broad). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Misc. Islands ¹	11	10	6	4	2	0	7+	1.75

Mainland (exc Cowal)	5	3	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Cowal	12	8	4	3	1	0	6	2.00
Bute	3	2	2	2	0	0	3	1.50
Total	31	23	13	10	3	0	19+	2.25**

¹ Misc. Islands include Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay (incl. Oronsay), Islay.

** calculated for 8 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

The breeding distribution map in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-2011 indicates a significant range contraction in Argyll; in common with much of north and west Scotland.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan-allt

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

Winter/spring There were no reports from mainland Argyll. Single birds were reported from: Colonsay, Islay, Luing, Seil and Tiree. Groups of 2 birds were reported from Colonsay and Tiree, and 3 from Lismore North Argyll and Tiree in Mar.

Summer/breeding The first record of possible breeding was of calls heard throughout Apr in suitable habitat on Tiree. In May and Jun singing birds were recorded in at least 7 permanent territories whilst squealing birds were calling in Jul and Aug. On Colonsay in May, a pair with 1 young and a further single bird were recorded. From Islay, 5 birds were recorded at RSPB Loch Gruinart in May, and 2 at the end of Jun.

Autumn/winter On Colonsay, 2 birds responded to tape in Sep, and 6 birds were calling at the end of Nov and early Dec. A single bird was recorded from Islay in Oct and Nov. Other singles were reported from Lismore North Argyll in Dec and Mull in Sep. Records from Tiree show groups of at least 3 birds squealing at Balephuill from Sep through Dec. Groups of at least 2 birds were squealing at Loch Bhasapol and Sorobaidh Bay in Oct and a single bird was seen at Barrapoll in Sep.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Traon-breac

AMBER LIST *A rare and irregular summer visitor: also recorded as an autumn migrant in the past.*

Spring One heard at calling Coullabus, Islay on 3 May was the only report.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* Traon

RED LIST *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.*

Spring/summer The first calling bird was heard near Colonsay House Colonsay on 13 Apr and first arrivals on Islay, Tiree and Coll were on 15-18 Apr. The first report from Iona Mull was on 26 Apr. The only mainland record was of one persistently calling on the golf course at Southend Kintyre on 12 May. A female with a brood of 8 chicks was found at Kenovay Tiree on 10 Jun and a live chick brought in by a cat at Crossapol Tiree on 9 Aug.

Autumn Most had left by mid-Sep but an adult was at Oronsay Farm Colonsay on 20 Sep and an injured bird was seen at Balephuill Tiree on 20-21 Oct.

Breeding The table below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in 2012 and shows earlier years for comparison. The reduction in the Argyll totals since 2007 is due in part to a re-assessment of the numbers on *Coll*.

Table 27. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2003-2012.*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Coll	90	134	159	171	180	118	122	116	121	103
Tiree	184	260	310	316	391	413	392	391	385	371
Iona	24	24	29	39	30	50	46	34	24	31
Mull	0	5	5	7	4	8	2	7	6	2
Colonsay incl. Oronsay	32	46	53	62	73	67	61	72	58	71
Islay	10	31	52	59	70	82	84	81	85	86
Smaller islands*	4+	9+	6	10	7	n/r	2	2	12+**	2
Mainland				1			5	3+	<i>see above</i>	
Grand Total	344	509	614	664	755	738	714	706	691	666

* includes records from McCormaig Islands, Gigha, Lismore, Staffa, Treshnish Isles etc. NB At least one calling bird recorded on the Treshnish Isles in every year except 2008 and 2010.

** includes 8 or 9 on mainland and smaller islands plus 4 on the Treshnish Isles.

Two calling males were noted on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* during the week 23–30 Jun. One was in residence to the north and east of the Village. A second bird was also heard in the vicinity of the Village 23 Jun. A single male was seen in flight moving between bracken/nettle patches east of the Village on 27 Jun. (TIARG).

The bird calling at Southend *Kintyre* on 12 May was not heard subsequently and was probably a migrant.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

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

Winter/spring This year again, *Islay* reported the most birds in Argyll: Three singles at Bruachladdich in Jan, 2 at Octomore Hill in Feb, 2 at Port Charlotte and a single at Gruinart Flats in Mar, and 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods in Apr. Elsewhere, singles were recorded from *Tiree* in Feb, from *North Argyll* at Benderloch, Appin and Lismore in Mar, and 2 birds at Lochan Luig *Kintyre* in Apr.

Summer/breeding One bird was reported on *Mull* in May, one at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* in Jul, 1 adult with 2 young at Benderloch *North Argyll* in Jun, two young and a single and a pair with 1 immature on Lismore *North Argyll* in Sep. All other reports came from *Islay*: 3 at Aoradh and 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods in Jun, 3 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods and 3 at Oitir nam Bo (Loch Gruinart) in Aug.

Autumn/winter Four records of singles came from outwith *Islay*: from Seil *Mid-Argyll*, Lismore, *North Argyll* in Sep, and two from *Tiree* in October. There were also four records from *Islay*: Loch Gruinart Old Hide in Oct, Traigh Ghruineart and Loch Gruinart Old Hide in Nov and two birds at RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods in Dec.

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

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

Winter/spring Records of singles from Kilcheran Loch (Lismore), *North Argyll* in Mar, and from Gruline Mausoleum *Mull* in May. One Loch an Eilein, *Tiree* on 10-17 Apr.

Winter Singles at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Oct and Nov, and at An Fhaodhail in Dec.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

AMBER LIST A *vagrant: nine accepted records 1966-2010.*

Spring Two were in flight over Uig, *Coll* 13 Apr [Peter Isaacson, Pat Graham]. Three were in flight from Eascairt Point, near Skipness, *Kintyre* on 21 Apr [Ali and Kenny Little]. One was in flight over Luib Cottages, Kilmartin, *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May [Norman McDonald] and a further 2 were in flight over Drimsynie, Lochgoilhead, *Cowal* on 17 May [Keith Hoey].

Autumn One was in flight over Octofad, *Islay* on 21 Sep [Bob Davison]. All records accepted by the ABRC. An exceptional number of records for *Argyll* in one year with 9 birds however it is just possible some of the spring records relate to the same birds.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brighde

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

Winter/spring Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and somewhat smaller numbers at the regularly counted Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Creran *North Argyll* (see WeBS counts in Table 28). Elsewhere notable sightings included 222 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 12 Jan, 49 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Jan, 61 Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 441 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 20 Jan and 40 were noted on *Jura* on 28 Jan. 70 were counted at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 12 Mar, 153 on *Tiree* on 21 Mar and there was a record one from the under-reported *Scarba* on 21 Mar. 112 were at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Mar, while numbers on *Tiree* had risen to 199 on 10 Apr, and numbers at Otter Ferry *Cowal* had declined to 138 on 30 Apr. 35 were reported from various sites on *Jura* during 5-10 May.

Breeding/summer Proven breeding was reported at Bruichladdich *Islay*, *Tiree*, Tayinloan *Kintyre*, Langamull *Mull*, and at a number of sites on *Cowal*: Killail (3 pairs on second clutches on 14 June,) Largimore, Gortain Croft and Otter Ferry. Probable breeding was reported on Eilean an Eoin and Eilean Ghoideamal (both Oronsay) *Colonsay* and possible breeding from Keillmore *Mid-Argyll*. Non-breeding flocks were noted at The Strand *Colonsay*, 41 on 18 May; 60 at Eilean Nostaig *Islay* on 3 Jun and 100 Bowmore *Islay* on 10 Jun.

Autumn/winter Counts from regularly surveyed sites are presented in Table 28. Autumn passage was noted from mid-Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where 135 moved south in 5 hrs on 18 Jul and 238 in 7 hours on 28 Jul. 310 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Aug, increasing to 658 on 13 Sep, then declining to 250 on 12 Oct when 5-10% were noted as first winter birds. Elsewhere 208 were at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 26 Aug, 115 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Sep, 11 on Staffa *Mull* on 29 Sep, 170 at the Glenramskill jetty *Kintyre* high tide roost on 6 Oct, 85 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 31 Oct, 86 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 27 Nov, 96 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 1 Dec and 220 at Brackley, Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec.

Table 28. *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at Lochs Gruinart, Indaal, Creran, Craignish & Holy Loch 2012.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	103	233	174	237	Nd	232	295	257	184	160	188	159

Indaal	160	185	160	70	58	50	76	36	70	159	98	26
Creran	66	101	75	45	33	36	53	61	65	99	86	99
Craignish	31	43	48	41	21	25	28	17	5	6	16	14
Holy L.	511	394	197	nd	Nd	nd	nd	nd	272	nd	372	345

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

AMBER LIST A *vagrant: four accepted Argyll records: Loch Seil (Mid-Argyll) in Sep 1936, Mull 1977, Kintyre 1986, and Kintyre 2002.*

No records.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedichenus*

RED LIST A *vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Gruinart Flats (Islay) on 23-24 May 1997.*

No records.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern singles on Islay in May 1983 and at Machrihanish SBO (Kintyre) in Jul 2007 and Jul 2009.

No records.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan-tràghad

AMBER LIST A *widespread and fairly common breeding species: present throughout the year. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage.*

Winter/Spring *Tiree* remains by far the most important site throughout year (see Table 29 for maximum counts). Other winter counts include: 16 Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 35 Ardnave *Islay* on 12 Jan, 45 Traigh an Luig *Islay* on 14 Jan, 9 Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, 81 Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Jan and 12 *Jura* on 28 Jan. 42 were at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Feb, while numbers on Oronsay *Colonsay* had increased to 98 on 2 Feb and 17 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Feb, increasing to 30 on 8 Mar. Elsewhere 52 were noted at Bowmore *Islay* on 11 Mar and 6 were at Fennachrochan Lismore *North Argyll* on 18 Mar. Clear evidence of spring passage was noted with 132 at Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Apr, and a total of 960 were found on *Tiree* on 7 May. 50 were at Saligo *Islay* on 11 May, 99 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 19 May when there were also 51 at The Strand *Colonsay* on the same date. Finally 31 were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 2 June.

Breeding An early nest (c/4) was found on 9 Apr at Leth Uilt *Kintyre* and fledged broods were noted on *Tiree* from 1 Jun, where a 'good season' was reported. Other confirmed breeding was noted at Tayinloan *Kintyre*, Killail *Cowal* and Langamull *Mull*. Probable breeding was noted from *Colonsay* where 7 territories were found on Eilean Ghaoidemal and one on Eilean an Eoin (both Oronsay) *Colonsay*, and also from Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre*. Two juvs were at Ardchatten (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 9 Jun.

Autumn/winter Away from *Tiree* (see table 29) there were a number of interesting counts during autumn: 50 were at Bowmore *Islay* on 21 Jul, 52 at Killail *Cowal* on 1 Aug, 27 at Ardminish Bay *Gigha* on 5 Aug, at least 30 at Fidden *Mull* on 17 Aug, 60+ at Camas Cuil an t-Saimh, Iona *Mull* on 20 Aug, 30 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 21 Aug, 163 were at Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug and numbers peaked at 78 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 27 Aug. The following month larger flocks noted (for the location) were 80 at Bridgend *Islay* on 1 Sep, 118 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 9 Sep and 13 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Sep. During Oct, 33 were reported

at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 62 were at The Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Oct and 20 were at Cullipool (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct while 24 were at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on the same date. 60 were again noted at Camas Cuil an t-Saimh (Iona) *Mull* on 24 Nov.

Table 29. *Maximum monthly day-counts of Ringed Plovers on Tiree, and Tayinloan WEBS counts in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	390	120	n/d	540	960	85	65	325	190	160	120	215
Tayinloan	33	35	19	13	15	n/d	74	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d

NB Many of these counts are estimates of the total *Tiree* population on a given day.

KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern single birds on Colonsay in Jan 1984, Oronsay (Colonsay) in Oct 2006 and Islay in Jan 2011.

No records.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

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

Spring An early bird was seen briefly at The Reef *Tiree* on 18 Apr. Two were found at The Oa *Islay* on 11 May, followed by a ‘trip’ of 10 in a ploughed field at Saligo *Islay* on 17 May, two of which remained until the following day. One was found feeding near the summit of Ben More *Mull* on 27 May, but there was no suggestion of breeding. Finally, a single was found at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Jun.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare visitor: 14 previous Argyll records (2001 – 2009). The recent increase in records may well be due to improved awareness of identification criteria.

Autumn A juvenile bird was found at Barrapol *Tiree* on 1 Oct [Jim Dickson], and was later seen at Sandaig *Tiree* on 4 and 9 October [Jim Dickson, John Bowler]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

A vagrant: four previous Argyll records, all on Tiree, in Oct 2000, Aug/Sep 2006, Oct 2008 and Aug/Sep 2009.

No records.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag

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.

Winter/Spring A large proportion of the wintering population was on *Tiree* (see Table 30), with smaller numbers elsewhere: 210 were at Bowmore *Islay* on 15 Jan, 250 at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb and numbers on Oronsay *Colonsay* peaked at 250 on 2 Mar. 27 were near the Sunipol road *Mull* on 19 Feb and 50 were noted over the uplands at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, while 200 were at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 27 Mar. Smaller groups were reported away from the usual areas during spring passage eg 9 on *Jura* on 26 Mar, 20 at Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, 12

at Lochdon *Mull* on 27 Apr and a single at Kilbride (Seil) *Mid Argyll* on 28 Apr. 200 at Traigh an Tobar Fuar *Colonsay* on 27 Apr were also presumably migrants.

Breeding/Summer There were no reports from birds in breeding habitat. During Jun there were reports of 1-3 birds from scattered localities on *Tiree* and *Islay*.

Autumn/Winter Flock size and the distribution of records increased through Aug. Largest counts in Aug-Dec were from *Tiree* (see Table 30), elsewhere wandering birds disconnected from flocks were found at; 1 on Iona *Mull* on 1 Oct and 4 at Keillbeg *Mid Argyll* on 15 Oct. Larger groups were also reported: 200 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 22 Oct, 71 at Breac Achadh *Mull* on 24 Oct, 520 at Bridgend *Islay* on 4 Nov and 700 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 4 Nov. Numbers on Oronsay *Colonsay* peaked at 133 on 23 Nov, while on *Islay* numbers increased at the year end with 560 at Gruinart on 17 Dec rising to 670 on 31 Dec.

Table 30. *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on Tiree in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	4010	2360	2500	4910	250	1	33	1010	1200	4700	5390	4130

NB Many of these counts are estimates of the total island population on a given day.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Feadag-ghlas

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

Winter/spring There were good numbers on *Islay* at the start of the year with 21 at Ardnave on 12 Jan; elsewhere singles were reported at Loch Sween/New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 15-17 Jan and Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 23 Jan on 6 Feb. There were still 18 at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Feb and 4 were at Bowmore *Islay* on 19 Feb. The switch on *Islay* from Loch Gruinart to Loch Indaal continued in Mar with 12 reported at Bowmore on 11 Mar, while only 9 remained at the Gruinart hide on 24 Mar. On spring passage one was found at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr and another single was at Miodar *Tiree* on 19 May. The last bird in spring was one at Gruinart *Islay* on 23 May.

Autumn/winter The first returning individual was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Aug, followed by one at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Sep and one was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Sep. However, the first migrant at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was not until 23 Sep. Small numbers were reported from then until the end of Sep from *Tiree* and *Islay*, with a maximum of 3 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 27 Sep. In Oct, singles were reported from Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct and Loch Laich *North-Argyll* on 31 Oct. Towards the year numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay* increased with 5 reported on 1 Nov and 9 on 17 Dec.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Curracag

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

Winter/spring Regular counts were made at Gruinart *Islay* and *Tiree* where the largest populations were found throughout the year (see table 31). Away from these sites 21 were at Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* on 16 Jan increasing to 50 on 10 Feb. 168 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Jan, with 165 still present on 28 Feb. 33 were at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb while 60 were noted at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29 Feb.

Breeding Display was first noted on 26 Feb at The Oa *Islay*, but soon became more widespread from around 10-11 Mar when it was also reported at Machir Bay, Bowmore, and Kilchoman (all *Islay*). Nest with eggs were found from mid-March on *Tiree*, with first chicks seen there on 19 Apr. 69 pairs bred on the RSPB Reserve *Coll*. Breeding was proved at the following sites on *Islay*: Gruinart Farm, Gartbeck, Ardnave, Coull (3 pairs with young) and Balinaby (pair with 3

young). On *Mull* birds were reported from Aridhglas, Iona and Kintra during the breeding season. Long- term trends of breeding numbers on *Colonsay* (25 prs) and *Oronsay* (78 pairs) are shown in figure 1. On *Oronsay* productivity increased with 1.55 chicks fledged per pair (cf 1.05 in 2011). Four at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Jun were a ‘rare sight’ at this location and may have been dispersing breeders.

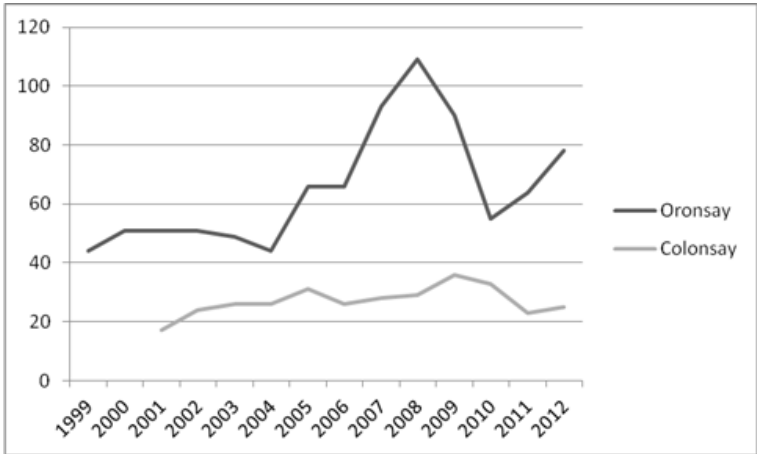


Figure 1. Trend in breeding pairs of Northern Lapwings on Colonsay and Oronsay, 1999-2012

Autumn/winter Away from the regular wintering sites (see table 31), the first migrants noted were 3 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Aug. Other flocks found include: 84 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, 180 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* 10-19 Oct, with 300 there on 4 Nov. 65 were at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay* on 13 Nov and other small flocks reported away from the main areas were 4 at Fidden *Mull* on 23 Nov, 5 at Toboronochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, 25 at Rubha Gaimhich *Mull* on 1 Dec and 12 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Dec.

Table 31. Monthly *Maximum counts of Lapwings at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and on Tiree in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	650	566	55	66	-	50	-	10	125	229	655	800
Tiree	3450	2810	-	-	-	-	-	1665	920	2765	3380	3640

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* Luatharan-gainmhich

AMBER LIST *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.*

Winter/spring During winter the only birds reported were on *Islay* where 50 were found at Loch Gruinart on 24 Jan and 32 were in Bridgend Bay on 12 Feb. 200 at Nave Island *Islay* on 6 Apr, were possibly the first spring migrants which were followed by a single at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Apr. Other singles were found at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 18 May and also at Hough Bay *Tiree* on the same day. Thereafter numbers on *Tiree* increased to 11 on 28 May, with the last two spring migrants at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Jun.

Autumn/winter The first returning birds were 3 noted flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Jul and 4 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 8 Jul. One, still in breeding plumage, was found at Killail *Cowal* on 23 Jul. Passage increased during Aug when 246 were noted moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*; one was found Aird Luing (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug and on 13 Aug there was an arrival of 46 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and 16 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*. 10 were found at Killail *Cowal* on 15 Aug and 105 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* 19 Aug, increasing to 140 on 22 Aug. Singles were reported on *Mull* at Ardalanish on 22-23 Aug and on Iona on 22 Aug. During Sep numbers of passage birds declined, with only 59 recorded moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and 9 were noted at Calgary *Mull* on 6 Sep. Few were reported during winter with one flock moving across Loch Fyne probably responsible for most of the records eg. 39 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 18 Dec and 37 Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 December. Elsewhere 2 were found at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Dec, 7 were at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Dec and 1 was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Dec with 2 there on 21 Dec.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas

A mainly passage migrant, most numerous in: Islay, south Kintyre, and Tiree. Regular wintering is confined to: Coll, Islay, and Tiree. A few non breeders occur on the islands in summer.

Winter Wintering birds were reported from *Tiree* (see Table 32), *Islay* and *Colonsay*, with 85 at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 Jan, 60 at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb, 18 at the Strand *Colonsay* on the same date and 24 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 Mar.

Spring Were reported from 1 Apr when 2 passed Machrihanish *Kintyre*, followed by 7 there on 12 Apr. Other migrants were noted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, with 4 there on 13 May and 16 were at Rubha Dubh *Colonsay* on 18 May. Around this time small numbers were noted on *Islay* and large numbers were seen on *Tiree* where counts peaked on 12 May at 1973. At Machrihanish *Kintyre* numbers peaked in the late May with 60 moving north noted on 29 May; 140 on 30 May; 70 on 31 May and 230 on 6 Jun.

Autumn Away from *Tiree*, 110 were reported moving south at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on during Jul and birds were on Iona *Mull* by 14 Jul. 3 were at Saulmore *Mid Argyll* on 6 Aug and single was found at Killail *Cowal* on 13 Aug. Later at least 100 were found at the 'Bay at the back of the Ocean' Iona *Mull* on 20 Aug and 26 at Ardalanish *Mull* the following day, when there were also 5 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* – a record count for this well-watched site.

On 22 August 35 flew south past Machrihanish *Kintyre*; 96 were counted at Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Aug and 34 were on The Strand *Colonsay* on 9 Sep.

Winter Other than *Tiree* where large numbers were noted throughout the winter (see Table 32) 85 were at Traigh Baile Aonghais *Islay* on 20 Oct, 106 at Corsapol *Islay* on 1 Nov and 126 at Guinart *Islay* on 19 Nov, 27 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 29 Nov, 30 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 4 Dec and 35 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 Dec.

Table 32. Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings on *Tiree* in 2012. Counts from *Tiree* are not always of the whole island.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	180	225	130	206	1973	590	165	411	491	320	310	380

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

A vagrant: the only Argyll records were of four or more birds on Tiree and Islay in Sep 1999.

Autumn A juvenile was found at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 2 Sep and remained until 7 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler et al.]. Record accepted by the BBRC. This was the third record for Argyll and at least the fifth individual.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag

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

Spring Unusually, the majority of the records in 2012 were during spring migration. The first was a single at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Apr followed by two at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 May. There were three on *Tiree* on 3 Jun (single at Gott Bay and two at Vaul), the latter two lingering until 6 Jun, and finally one was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9-12 Jun.

Autumn Only three singles were recorded; one at Fiddon *Mull* on 17 Aug, another at Ardnave *Islay* on 4 Sep and a juvenile at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 26 Sep.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

RED LIST *A rare passage migrant with only four accepted Argyll records: one at Machrihanish (Kintyre) in Jul 1974, a juvenile at Fiddon (Mull) in Sep 1985, one at An Fhaodhail (Tiree) in Aug 1992, and one at Loch Gruinart (Islay) in May 2000.*

No records.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

A vagrant: only four Argyll records, two on Islay: one at RSPB Loch Gruinart in Aug 2000 and one at Traigh Ghrùineart in Oct 2005, and two on Tiree: adults in Aug 2011 and Sept 2011.

Autumn An adult was seen at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Aug [John Bowler] and was also seen the next day [Keith Gillon]. This is the fifth record in Argyll and the third for *Tiree*. Record accepted by the SBRC.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

A vagrant: only eight Argyll records: four on Islay (in Jun 1979, Sep 1999, Sep 2005 and Sep 2011), three on Tiree (in May/Jun 2007, Sep 2009 and Sep 2011) and one at the Add Estuary (Mid-Argyll) in Sep 2008.

No records.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce but increasingly frequent transatlantic visitor with about 44 accepted Argyll records during 1978-2011: a rare autumn migrant, with a few spring records.

Spring One (probably aged 'second calander year' (2CY)) was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26-27 Apr [James How, Jim Dickson] and one (probably 2CY) was near Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 14 May [John Bowler] and 16 May [Stuart Crutchfield].

Summer A 2CY was found at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 29 Jun [John Bowler].

Autumn There was a small influx in early September with three juveniles found at Kirkapol, *Tiree* on 2 Sep [Keith Gillon], probably the same three juveniles which were at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 8 Sep [Keith Gillon]. Elsewhere a juvenile was found near Killinallan (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 6 Sep [John Hampshire] and another juvenile was found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on the same date [Steve Glue, Mike Peacock]. This latter bird was possibly the same juvenile which was seen at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 8 Sep [David Jardine]. Finally, another juvenile was identified at The Reef *Tiree* on 20 Sep [John Bowler]. All above records accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom

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

Spring Unusually, in 2012 all records were in spring. The first was one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12-14 May. This was followed by one at Duart Bay *Mull* on 18 May. Later, two, including a red male were at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 25 May, with the duller bird lingering until 27 May. The last birds were four at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3-6 Jun.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rìoghail

AMBER LIST *A widely, but sparsely, distributed winter migrant along rocky coasts from Sep to May.*

Winter/spring Good numbers were reported early in the year, with 126 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jan, increasing to 160 there and 35 at Heanish *Tiree* the following day. 13 were at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and there were 29 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 15 Jan. Few were reported in Feb, with 13 on *Tiree* on 6 Feb and 8 at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Feb being the peak counts. Numbers remained low in Mar, with only 8 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 9 Mar, which remained into Apr; notably one was found at Ardfad Point (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar and 5 were at Portfield *Mull* on 16 Mar. Spring passage was light with a maximum of 20 found at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Apr, and elsewhere 3 at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, and 4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Apr. Later numbers declined with only 13 at Traigh Baigh *Tiree* on 27 Apr with the last 2 there at Hynish on 18 May. The last was one seen going north at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Jun.

Autumn/winter The first returning birds in autumn were 9 at Aird *Tiree* on 29 Sep. Other counts on *Tiree* later in the year include, 21 on 2 Nov, 34 on 15 Nov, peaking at 40 at Balephetrish Bay on 17 Dec. At Machrihanish *Kintyre* 22 were noted on 30 Oct and 5 on 4 Dec. Numbers reported from *Islay* were low: 4 were at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 1 Nov and 5 at Bruichladdich on 13 Nov. There were no reports from the Clyde coast and most reports were of single birds such as one at Sgeiran Dubha, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov; an island from which there are few records.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Graillig

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

Winter/spring Regular counts were received from three locations on *Islay* and *Tiree* where most birds were seen (see Table 33). Other notable counts were 33 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 24 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* the following day, 130 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 2 Feb, with 73 still there on 28 Feb. 40 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Mar. A 'slow return' was noted at *Tiree*, where 160 were at Loch a' Phuill on 28 Apr. Large numbers were noted migrating through *Tiree* during May, with 450 at Balephetrish Bay and 350 at Hough Bay on 7 May. A total of 12 were found at three sites on *Jura* during 6-8 May, 50 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 8 May, 42 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 May, at 172 Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 19 May and 52 on The Strand *Colonsay* the same date. 35 'late birds' were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun.

Breeding/summer A final total of just 27 singing males was found at The Reef *Tiree* on 1 Jun, where 2 late fledglings were noted on 25 Jul, whilst birds sang at six other sites on the island. There were no other breeding reports.

Autumn/winter The first of the autumn at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were noted on 3 Jul, with a total of 35 noted moving south at this site during the month and 220 during Aug, with 40 noted on 22 Aug. 18 were at Killail *Cowal* on 25 Jul and 30 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 26 Jul; 8 were at Ardminish *Gigha* on 5 Aug, 24 at Fidden *Mull* on 17 Aug, over 60 at Camas Cuil an t-Saimh (Iona) *Mull* on 20 Aug, 22 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 1 Oct and 20 at Loch Don *Mull* on 23 Oct. Towards the end of the year 110 were found at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 29 Nov, 32 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Dec and 43 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec.

Table 33. *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	nd	280	70	29	25	-	26	150	84	5	42	412
Indaal	95	160	34	-	200	6	48	60	140	-	59	224
Tiree	120	140	-	275	1125	330	46	188	71	15	96	110

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

Only two Argyll records, both on Tiree: one in May 1994 and one in May/June 2005.

No records.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

Formerly a rare autumn migrant with only 13 accepted Argyll records, involving 18 birds, between 1971 and 2004. Since then they have appeared annually, with influxes of up to 6 or more in some years. Most have been on Tiree with four records from Colonsay and Oronsay and one from Islay.

Autumn A quieter year than recently, with juveniles reported only from *Tiree*; one at Sandaig on 10-12 Sep and another at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Sep [John Bowler, Graham Todd et al.].

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan

RED LIST *An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.*

Winter/spring One was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* 31 Mar, followed by two at RSPB Gruinart on 3 Apr. There was male at Ardnave *Islay* 4 May, followed by a female at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 3 Jun.

Breeding No birds were reported from previous possible breeding locations.

Autumn/winter Good numbers were recorded on *Tiree* from mid Aug; the first were three at Heylipol on 11 Aug. The following day one was at Sandaig. Up to five birds were around Balevulin between 12 -30 Aug, while at Loch a' Phuill between 12-29 Aug, a maximum of 15 was noted on 14 Aug, and 10 were present on 15 & 17 Aug. One was at Loch an Eilein from 13-15 Aug and five were seen in flight at Balemartine on 15 Aug. At least 11 were still present on *Tiree* on 28 Aug. Elsewhere eight were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, increasing to 15 between 21-22 Aug and one was at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 22 & 24 Aug. Numbers diminished during early Sep with reports of single birds at various locations on *Tiree* and also at Druim Mor *Oronsay* and Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Two were at the Strand *Colonsay* on 9 Sep. The last record on *Tiree* was a single at Middleton on 2 Oct, while the final record was of one at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15-16 Oct.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtes minimus* Gobhrag-bheag

A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is possibly under recorded: most records are from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree.

Winter/spring There were 6 records of singles early in the year; at The Oa *Islay* on 6 Jan and 18 Feb, at The Reef *Tiree* on 26 Jan and at Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Feb, 1 (possibly 2) at Caliach Marsh *Mull* on 18 Feb, followed by a late individual at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Apr.

Winter There were five records; singles were at the Canal Loch *Coll* on 17 Oct and near the Lodge Arinagour *Coll* on 21 Nov. Two were at Caliach *Mull* on 24 Oct and singles were at The Oa *Islay* on 4 Dec and at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Dec.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg

AMBER LIST 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.*

Winter/spring Only small numbers (up to 4 birds) were noted from *Islay* (3 sites) in the early months of the year. Seven were found on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 6 Feb and two were noted on *Outer Loch Etive Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb during a WEBS count. 30 were at *The Reef Tiree* on 26 Mar.

Breeding/summer Breeding was undoubtedly under-reported; with a dead chick at *Salen Mull* on 12 Jun and an adult feeding 2 fledged young in a garden at *Balephuill Tiree* on 14-19 Aug were the only reports of confirmed breeding. 63 territories were found on *The Reef Tiree* (68 in 2011) and 16 on the RSPB reserve *Coll* (34 in 2011); the first displaying birds were noted from mid-Mar. Drumming birds were also reported (no counts) from RSPB *Loch Gruinart Islay, Colonsay* and *Lochan Sidheannach, Eredine Forest Mid-Argyll*. Probable breeding was also reported from the *Add Estuary Mid-Argyll* and *Portnahaven Islay*. Possible breeding was noted at *Lunga Treshnish and Lochbuie Mull* and at *Glengarrisdale Bay Jura*.

Autumn/winter This period was also under reported, with records only received from *Islay, Tiree, Colonsay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Numbers in autumn were generally lower than previous years, with 9 at RSPB *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 24 Aug, 15 at *The Reef Tiree* on 20 Aug, 15 at *Gott Bay Tiree* on 10 Sep, 10 at RSPB *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 15-16 Sep and 25 at *Greenhill machair Tiree* on 9 Oct the largest post-breeding / migrating groups reported. Towards the year end all reports were of 1-2 birds, except four at *Loch Cuin Mull* on 15 Nov and three at *Loch a' Chumhainn Mull* on 15 Dec.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern singles on Islay in June 1986 and Apr 2009. There are also three acceptable records (1891-1973) of unidentified Dowitchers.

No records.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille

AMBER LIST 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.*

Winter/spring The first report of the year was of two birds at *Corra Farm Cowal* on 3 Jan. The remainder of the early records were of single birds, perhaps reflecting the milder winter than those recently; on *Islay* birds were reported from *Bruichladdich* on 7 Jan, *Grainel* on 14 Jan, where three were found on 4 Feb, and *Sunderland Farm* on 19 Feb. One was reported from *Langamull Mull* on 8 Jan and there was also one at *The Reef Tiree* on 26 Jan, while in *Cowal*, singles were found at *Otter Ferry* on 10 Feb and 4 Mar. The remaining records were from *Mid-Argyll*, where singles were found at *Castle Sween* on 13 Jan, *Lochgilphead Meadows* on 28 Jan and *Gartnagrenach, Kintyre* on 1 Feb.

Breeding/summer Roding birds were reported from *Pennyghael Mull*; *Bridgend, Sunderland farm* and *Ballimony Islay* and *Scalasaig* and around *Colonsay House Colonsay*. One was flushed from a probable nest at *Glennan Cowal* on 9 May.

Autumn/winter There were no reports in July. Three were seen on the *Dervaig-Achnadrish road Mull* on 2 Aug and one was at *Strone road-end Cowal* on 7 Aug. Again in Sep there were no records of this under-reported species, but from mid Oct records increased from *Islay* (perhaps reflecting the first return of wintering birds), where two were at *Ballimony* on 15 Oct and there were singles at *Ballygrant woods* on 17 Oct, and at RSPB *Loch Gruinart* on 28 and 30 Oct. Records increased further in November with singles reported on *Oronsay* (2) *Colonsay*, from

Kintyre (2), *Islay* (2) and *Rhudle Mid-Argyll*, but it was not until Dec that the full extent of wintering was reported when there were 17 records of 1-3 birds from *Cowal* (6 reports – some were possibly the same birds), *Islay* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa islandica* Cearra-ghob

RED LIST A regular passage migrant, especially on *Islay*, *Tiree*, and south *Kintyre* with occasional winter records: scarce elsewhere. Most *Argyll* records have been presumed to relate to the Icelandic race *L.l.islandica* but at least one individual of the nominate race *L.l.limosa* has been identified (a bird leg flagged as a chick in *The Netherlands* and seen on *Tiree* in 2009).

Winter The only record of a wintering bird was of a single seen at *Bowmore Islay* on 12 Jan.

Spring A few early migrants started to appear in Mar, when up to 4 were seen at *Gruinart Islay* and 3 were on *Tiree* on 21-22 Mar, but from Apr larger numbers started to appear, mainly on *Tiree* where the bulk of the records originate eg. 25 at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 10 Apr and then 101 there on 22 Apr. Elsewhere 10 were at *Gruinart Islay* on 12 Apr, and the first mainland bird was at the *Add Estuary Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr. Most of the remaining counts until mid-May were in single figures except 12 at *Portnahaven Islay* on 24 Apr and 27 were found at *Loch Don Mull* on 30 Apr.

Summer No evidence of breeding was reported, but singles in summer plumage were seen in early Jun at various sites on *Islay*, at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre*, *Iona Mull* and *Tiree*.

Autumn Evidence of return passage was noted from late Jun when 4 in non-breeding plumage were noted at *Otter Ferry Cowal* on 19-20 Jun, 2 were seen moving south at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 23 Jun and 35 were on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 24 Jun. Numbers of these birds, which were possibly failed breeders, continued to increase with 57 noted at *Gruinart Islay* on 27 Jun and 142 at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* the following day. Numbers noted during Jul declined, although 5 were found at *Killiechronan Mull* on 22 Jul, with further movements during Aug and Sep when 14 were found at *Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll* on 17 Aug, 53 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 22 Aug and on *Mull* there were 4 at *Fidden* and 2 at *Ardalanish Bay* on the same date, with 62 noted on *Tiree* on 29-30 Aug and 1 juvenile at *Ardencaple (Seil) Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug. The following month 54 juveniles were at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 8 Sep and good numbers continued to be found on *Islay* where there were 49 at *Gruinart* on 13 Sep and 60 there on 23 Sept. The last 8 on *Tiree* were at *Loch a' Phuill* on 22 Oct.

Winter Thereafter all records were from the *Gruinart* area on *Islay*, where 49 were counted on 17 Dec.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuilbneach

AMBER LIST 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.

Winter/spring *Islay* remained the most important area in *Argyll*, where regular counts were undertaken (see table 34). The highest count there was 600 at *Ardnave Point* on 10 Feb. Elsewhere the more notable sightings during winter were 12 at *Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 8 at *Sorobaidh Bay Tiree* on 8 Jan, 3 at *Loch Laich North Argyll* on 21 Jan, 21 at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan, 3 at the *Holy Loch Cowal* on 14 Feb, 16 at *Cottage (Oronsay) Colonsay* on 25 Feb, 24 at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, 20 at *The Strand Colonsay* on 16 Mar and 14 Apr, and 6 at *North Dallans North Argyll* on 18 Mar. Away from *Islay* reports during spring included 6 at *Sorobaidh Bay Tiree* on 2 Apr, 8 at *Loch Laich North Argyll* on 9 Apr, 10 at *Loch Don Mull* on 30 Apr, 12 at *Gott Bay Tiree* on 14 May; 1 at *Escart Kintyre* on 22 May, with signs of a small passage in late May when 28 were at *Cottage (Oronsay) Colonsay* on 27 May and 31 at *Gott Bay Tiree* on 28 May.

Summer Other than on *Islay* (see table 34), 19 were noted at Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Jun increasing to 46 there on 6 Jun with 7 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Jun, 9 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Jun and 14 at Hynish *Tiree* on 18 Jul.

Autumn/winter Large numbers returned to *Islay* from 21 Sep when 311 were at Bridgend (see table 34 for other *Islay* counts). Elsewhere 22 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* from 13-23 Aug and 9 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug. During September, six were noted moving south on three dates at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, 9 were at The Strand *Colonsay* on 9 Sept, 10 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 10 Sep and 26 at Torosay *Mull* on 28 Sep. One was found at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 15 Oct, while six were at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 21 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, one at Ardlamey *Gigha* on 20 Oct, 9 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 17 Dec, 10 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 Dec and 36 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

Table 34. *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay in 2012.*

<i>Lochs</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	218	600	250	20	65	-	-	15	72	141	385	226
Indaal	280	185	180	1	6	46	-	54	311	86	3	135

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Eun-Bealltainn

RED LIST A regular passage migrant: usually in small numbers and 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.

Spring There were no early records, the first migrants reported were a single at Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Apr and 4 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on the same date; 2 were noted on Oronsay *Colonsay* the following day. Numbers and records increased rapidly with 23 on *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 7 at Keillbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr and 37 at Craigfad *Islay* on 27 Apr. More were noted the following day on *Mull*, where 7 were noted at Fiddien, 7 at Uisken and 11 at Ardalanish Bay with 4 at Knock on 29 Apr, when 40 were noted moving north at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. 28 were at Gortan *Islay* 28-30 Apr and one was noted at Balvicar Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. Passage peaked in early May: 18 were at Port na Ba *Mull* on 2 May, 96 were on *Tiree* on 3 May; 18 at Ardnave *Islay* on 4 May and 37 at Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on the same date. On 6 May the following groups were noted on *Islay*: 62 at Saligo, 63 at Braibruich, 79 at Bruichladdich and 90 at Bowmore. 171 were on *Tiree* the following day and 9 were also noted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. The largest passage of the spring was noted on 8 May when there were 323 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* and there were 160 on *Tiree* on 9 May. Two at Ormidale *Cowal* on 11 May were the only birds reported in this area. 19 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 May and the following day, 21 were reported from Oronsay *Colonsay* and 66 on *Tiree*. Following 60 at Rockside *Islay* on 15 May, 30+ at Fiddien *Mull*, 22 on Iona *Mull* and 116 on *Tiree* on 16 May, numbers diminished, with 12 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 May, 33 on *Tiree* on 18 May, 21 at Duart Castle *Mull* on the same date and 26 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 May, the only sizeable flocks reported.

Summer Small numbers were reported from island locations during Jun and July: 2 at Bowmore *Islay* on 13 Jun, 7 on *Tiree* on 25 Jun, and 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Jun.

Autumn Autumn passage was first noted when a fresh juvenile flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Jul, followed by two more there on 22 Jul. Numbers of autumn migrants reported were, as usual, small (fewer than 5 birds) with 14 moving south at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 2 Sep the highest count, when there were also 5 at Langanmull *Mull*. The last birds noted were 2 at Port Lobh *Colonsay* on 9 Sep, 1 at Vaul *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 2 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep and finally a single at Ardlamey *Gigha* on 15 Sep.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

AMBER LIST A *widespread breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter.*

Winter/spring Details of regular counts at four sites are given in Table 35. Other notable counts were 100 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 12 Jan, 65 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Jan, 125 on *Tiree* on 17 Jan and 63 on *Colonsay* on the same date. 47 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* 27 Jan, 85 at The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 250 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 6 Feb, 60 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 16 Feb, 20 An Dorlinn (Eriska) *North Argyll* on 25 Mar, 75 at Gortinane *Kintyre* on 4 Apr and 58 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 9 Apr.

Breeding/summer There were no reports of confirmed breeding; probable breeding was only reported from *Cowal* where display was noted at Kames on 24 Apr, agitated birds were noted at Millhouse on 24 May and birds were noted in suitable habitat at Ormidale and Drum Point all *Cowal*. A pair was seen inland on *Colonsay* on 18 May, but there was no other evidence that this led to a breeding attempt.

Autumn/winter Details of regular counts at four sites are given in Table 35. Autumn passage was noted early at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 240 moving south on 23 Jun and another 100 on 25 Jun. 64 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Jul and 45 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on the same date increasing to 69 on 26 Jul. 50 were at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 29 Jul, 107 on *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 70 at Westport *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, 86 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 26 Sep. During Sep birds were reported on *Mull*, but no counts were received. 80 were on *Tiree* on 10 Oct and 27 at Ardlamey *Gigha* on 20 Oct, and 32 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 31 Oct. Towards the year end 190 were at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 4 Nov, 47 in Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Nov, 130 on *Tiree* on 21 Nov, 200 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 9 Dec, 47 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Dec, 47 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 17 Dec, 70 at Aird *Tiree* on 18 Dec, 49 at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Dec and 76 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec.

Table 35. *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay, and WEBS counts from Loch Creran and the Holy Loch in 2012.*

<i>Loch</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	169	120	69	35	4	130	74	231	258	191	112	113
Indaal	209	100	86	22	11	35	90	58	80	126	117	90
Creran	23	21	18	5	3	8	21	34	31	31	31	47
Holy Loch	174	111	44	nd	Nd	nd	nd	nd	181	nd	64	131

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan

A widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.

Spring The first returning bird was seen on 13 Apr at Loch na Keal *Mull*, followed by one at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 15 Apr. Two were at Kilchiaran *Islay* the following day and one was at the Add Estuary *Mid Argyll* on 18 Apr. The first noted in *Cowal* was at Otter Ferry on 20 Apr, while the first in other areas were: singles at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 21 Apr and North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 28 Apr. None were noted on *Tiree* until a single at Milton on 14 May. During early May, numbers increased with 17 at The Oa *Islay* on 2 May, 8 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and 6 at Glen Garrisale Bay *Jura* on 6 May.

Breeding/summer 26 territories were found on *Colonsay* (28 in 2011) and 15 were found at Croggan Loch Spelve *Mull* on 8 Jun. Breeding was proven at Baugh and Milton *Tiree*, The Oa

Islay, Powder Dam and Port Leathan (both *Cowal*). Elsewhere on *Cowal* probable breeding was noted at Otter Ferry, Drum Point, Ballimore, Beinn Chorrnach, Toward and Kilfinan Bay, and possible breeding at Goirtein Croft, and Creag na Croiche, with other possible breeding noted in *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Airigh na Creige and Keillmore.

Autumn As normal southward passage started in early Jul with 6 noted flying S in 5 hrs at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Jul, followed by 12 heading S in 7 hrs the following day and 9 more in 4 hrs on 4 Jul. Other counts at this site included 16 in 2 hours on 10 Jul and 10 in 3 hrs on 16 Jul and 18 on 19 Jul. One heard over Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* at dawn on 15 Jul was presumably a migrant while the last recorded on *Islay* was seen at Bruichladdich on 29 Jul and 8 were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* the following day. During Aug 49 were noted moving south on 12 dates at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*; elsewhere relatively few were recorded, with 4 at Ardminish Bay *Gigha* on 4 Aug the highest count and the last bird was noted was one Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 20 Aug.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius*

A vagrant: the only Argyll records are of singles at Loch Indaal (Islay) on 5th Jun 1984 and Heylipol (Tiree) on 31 Aug 2009.

No records.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine

AMBER LIST A scarce, but almost annual passage migrant with the majority of records in autumn: seldom in spring.

Winter One found at Kilchoman *Islay* on 23 Mar is only the second record during Mar in Argyll. The only other record of a wintering bird was also found on *Islay*.

Spring The only spring record was of one flushed from a ditch at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr.

Autumn Singles were found at the Roadside Lochs *Coll* on 6 Aug, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Aug, Fionnphort *Mull* on 17 Aug and at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh-breac

AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

Autumn A juvenile was present in a flooded field by Machrihanish village *Kintyre* on 20-21 August [Eddie Maguire, David Millward]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca*

A vagrant: two accepted Argyll records, both on Islay, in Oct 1985, and May 2002.

No records.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Deoch-bhuidhe

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.

Winter Nine wintering birds were noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Jan, with a single reported at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan; 8 were found on the same date at the Strand *Colonsay* and 4 were at Loch a'Chumhainn *Mull* on 17 Jan.

Spring passage The first evidence of migration was 2 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 18 Mar, followed by 3 at Bun-an-uillt *Islay* on 21 Mar. Other returning birds were 1 at Kintallen Mill *North Argyll* on 22 Mar, and 1 at Linne Mhuirich *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar. This was possibly a

wintering bird and had been joined by another on 9 Apr. Also in *Mid-Argyll* were 2 at Loch Gilp on 3 Apr and 4 at the Add Estuary on 12 Apr followed by 1 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 7 May.

Breeding/summer There was only one record of a calling bird at a potential breeding site; in *North Argyll* on 20 May.

Autumn/winter The first evidence of post breeding dispersal occurred on *Tiree* on 4 Jun, with 2 noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jun. In July, 2 were at Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 2 Jul, 5 were found on The Strand *Colonsay* on 26 Jul and 3 were noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Jul; 6 were still at The Strand *Colonsay* on 4 Aug. Evidence of passage on *Tiree* peaked in late Aug, 8 found at Loch an Eilein on 13 Aug, 4 at The Reef on 9 Aug and 16-20 Aug, while 6 were present at Loch a' Phuill on 20 Aug. In total at least 16 were present on the island on 20 Aug. Five singles were noted passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* between 20-25 Aug, and numbers peaked at 4 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Aug. Thereafter during the autumn and winter most reports were 1-2 birds at a range of sites throughout Argyll. The more notable records were 4 at Ardencaple Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 6 at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 6 Oct, 3 at Killinallan dunes *Islay* on 20 Oct, 4 at Loch Don *Mull* on 23 Oct and 4 at Breac Achadh *Mull* the following day.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

A vagrant: seven accepted Argyll records at: Loch Creran (North Argyll) in 1951, Ulva Lagoons (Mid-Argyll) in Oct 2000, Loch Gruinart (Islay) in May 2003, Loch Gruinart and Colonsay in Sep 2005, Loch Gruinart in May 2007, Loch Gruinart in Apr 2009 and Tiree in Oct 2011.

No records.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille

AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant: recorded in 22 of the 30 years 1980-2009, with the majority of records in late spring.

Spring One was at Lochdon *Mull* on 3 May and two were found the following day at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay*.

Autumn Autumn migration started in early Jul when singles were found at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 4 and 10 Jul. An adult was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Jul; later there were two juveniles at this site on 13-14 Aug, with a single remaining on 15-16 Aug. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* singles were reported on 2, 15 and 16 Aug. The only other sighting was of one at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

AMBER LIST A localised breeder, mainly on the islands: widespread passage migrant and wintering species.

Winter/spring Apart from regular counts at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Holy Loch Cowal, and *Tiree* (see Table 36), typical sightings were 12 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 14 Jan, 4 on Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, 3 on *Jura* on 28 Jan and 7 at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 25 Feb. In late March numbers started to build up and 41 were noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Mar and 176 migrants were found 'grounded' during rain at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr.

Breeding/Summer Breeding records were restricted to *Islay*, where a brood of 3 was noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 24 May; *Tiree*, where 42 territories were found on The Reef (35 terr. in 2011), *Coll* where 36 pairs bred on the RSPB reserve and *Colonsay* and Oronsay, where 5 and 19 pairs were found respectively. (See Figure 2- for trend in breeding pairs on Colonsay and

Oronsay). Productivity on Oronsay declined to 1.89 chicks per pair (2.19 in 2011). 6 were at Loch a'Chumhain *Mull* on 10 Jun.

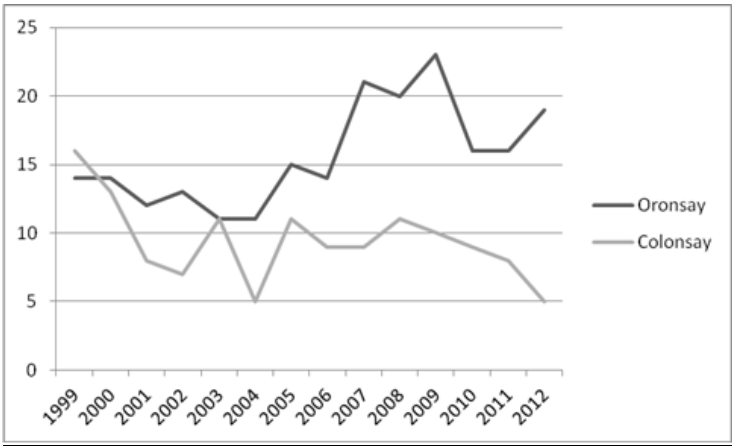


Figure 2. Trend in breeding pairs of Common Redshank on Colonsay and Oronsay, 1999-2012

Autumn/winter The first returning bird of the autumn migration was one at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Jul, numbers increased with 60 moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Jul. During Aug numbers increased with 373 noted at this site during the month, including 65 on 4 and 25 Aug. Elsewhere there was a notable influx towards the month end, with 34 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 154 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug and 10 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 27 Aug. Regular counts during the winter were conducted at a number of sites (Table 36). There were widespread reports of small numbers eg 1 at Iona *Mull* on 1 October, 5 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 31 Oct and 17 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov.

Table 36. *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at Loch Gruinart (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	36	62	82	330	nd	37	-	153	21	52	8	44
Holy L.	28	46	3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	8	nd	27	16
Tiree	28	-	16	51	28	43	12	32	9	10	41	21

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan-beag

AMBER LIST A *common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid summer records are not unusual.*

Winter/spring Regular counts were undertaken at a series of sites (see Table 37); away from these sites 58 were at Largiemore *Cowal* on 7 Jan; 30 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 21 Feb; 42 at Killail *Cowal* on 29 Feb. In Mar, 21 were found on *Jura* on 26 Mar, while on the same date 25 were at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* and 12 were on Seal Island (Oronsay) *Colonsay*. 60 were at The Strand *Islay* on 3 Apr and at 23 Gortinane *Kintyre* the following day. 8 were at Lochbuie *Mull* on 23 Apr was the highest count reported from the island. During May numbers diminished away from *Islay* and *Tiree* with 9 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 19 May the largest group recorded.

Summer Two found at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Jun were noted as a ‘scarce summer record’; small numbers were also reported from *Islay* and *Tiree* records during Jun.

Autumn/winter The first returning bird was noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Jul. Regular passage was noted at this site during Aug with 101 noted moving south on 5 dates (maximum 43 on 22 Aug). 38 at Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, were perhaps the same birds as 41 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Aug. Elsewhere in *Cowal*, 30 were noted at Inellan on 26 Aug. Regular counts were undertaken at a series of sites (see Table 37); away from these sites 12 were noted at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 9 Sep and 8 in Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* the following day. Two were at Achamhinish *Gigha* on 15 Sep. The following month, 75 were at Kirn (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 15 Oct and 5 were found at Cullipool (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. Later in the year 60 were reported on Iona *Mull* on 24 Nov, 8 on Eilean nan Chaorainn (Loch Lhinne) *North Argyll* on 2 Dec, 45 on Seal Island (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 10 Dec and 29 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec. A colour-ringed bird at Milton *Tiree* had been ringed at Ellsmere Island Canada on 2 Jun 2008.

Table 37. *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at Gruinart and Loch Indaal (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), Otter Ferry (Cowal) and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2012.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	24	86	41	-	nd	-	-	1	48	19	46	5
Indaal	40	2	31	-	-	-	-	1	26	12	24	65
Holy L.	18	-	19	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	-	nd	31	34
Otter F.	94	80	87	50	-	-	-	100	73	60	131	106
Tiree	190	80	60	190	110	20	8	27	135	161	60	140

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt

RED LIST A *very rare and irregular passage migrant; formerly a very rare breeding species.*

Breeding A female was first seen with Dunlin at the same (confidential) site as 2010-11 on 2 Jun where it was joined on 12 Jun by two males and territorial behaviour was noted. These were noted until 6 Jul; no broods were found although much habitat was not searched.

Autumn An adult female was found at sea between *Coll* and *Mull* on 9 Jul [Ewan Miles, Danny Naisbitt] and one juvenile was found in Loch Scridain *Mull* on 28 Aug [Graeme and Kate Webb]. Records accepted by the ABRC.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt

Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and none in Apr-May.

Winter One was found sheltering from strong W-NW winds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Jan.

Autumn All records were between 5-29 Sep; the first were three going west past Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr. on 5 Sep. On 9 Sep one went SW west past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr. and on 11 Sep one went west past Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr. Three were seen from the *Islay-Colonsay* ferry on 12 Sep. Singles were reported from Frenchman’s Rocks *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (in a NWN gale) and Rubha na Gall *Mull* on 14 Sep. Later, two flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Sep. Finally one was noted flying west past Aird *Tiree* in 1.5 hrs. on 29 Sep.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair-donn

A scarce but regular passage migrant: mainly seen in autumn but has been recorded in all months.

Spring Six birds were seen in spring; three at Scaranish Pier *Tiree* on 3 May, 2 from the *Colonsay* to Oban ferry on 17 May, and one at Scarinish *Tiree* on 14 Jun.

Autumn/winter Seven birds were seen in autumn/early winter. Two adults passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, two were seen between *Mull* and *Coll* on 18 Sep, one was at Coul Point *Islay* on 15 Oct, and there were two immatures at Aird *Tiree* on 8 Nov.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

RED LIST *This is the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies. The small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll have been in serious decline in recent years. Passage birds are regular and widespread in spring and especially autumn.*

Spring First of the spring was a dark phase bird at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 25 Apr. Very small numbers were seen during May-Jul off *Colonsay*, *Tiree*, *Kintyre*, and *Islay*.

Breeding Three pairs were found breeding at the main site on *Coll* on 6 Jul. No data available from *Jura*. Small numbers were seen daily by TIARG in Jun-Jul around the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, and were presumed by TIARG to be birds from the colony on *Coll*, although they may also have included non-breeders from more northern populations summering in Argyll.

Autumn Very small numbers were seen off *Colonsay*, *Tiree*, *Kintyre*, *Islay*, and *Mull* in Aug-Sep. Elsewhere, the only record was of one bird at Eilean Musdile *North Argyll* on 31 Aug. The last record of the autumn was of two birds seen from the *Islay* to Kennacraig ferry on 20 Oct.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach

A scarce and irregular passage migrant: records, off western coasts and islands are from both spring and autumn.

Spring An adult flew north at Balevullin, *Tiree* on 19 May [Rik van der Starre].

Autumn A juvenile was at Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 29 Sep [Eddie Maguire]. Records accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr

AMBER LIST *An uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing breeding species which now breeds in very small numbers on: Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, and Staffa.*

Winter/spring The earliest record was a bird at Staffa *Mull* on 24 Apr. A few birds were reported from the areas where they now breed, but there were also one or two sightings away from breeding areas, including a bird at The Oa *Islay* on 2 May, one passing Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 24 May, and one at Eilean Musdile *North Argyll* on 4 Jun.

Breeding One territory was held on *Tiree*, with a pair breeding successfully for the first time on the island, while another pair held territory on the nearby islet of Gunna. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, TIARG reported that at least three territories were occupied on Lunga, with breeding confirmed in two of these. At least one pair held territory on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Birds were holding territory and displaying on *Colonsay*, where one of the individuals was a bird that had been colour ringed as a chick four years earlier on *Canna*. No data on breeding numbers at *Coll* or Staffa *Mull*.

Autumn/winter The first autumn records from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were on 1 and 7 Jul. Small numbers were seen on passage in Aug-early Nov from a variety of coastal sites but especially *Tiree* and *Islay*. The peak counts were 12 birds passing Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr. on 11 Sep, 14 in 1 hr. on 14 Sep, 13 in 1 hr. on 19 Sep. The last record of the year was also at Aird *Tiree*, on 8 Nov.

IVORY GULL *Pagophila eburnea*

A vagrant: with only four confirmed records: on Islay in 1867, at Campbeltown (Kintyre) in 1873, between Coll and Mull in 1969, and at Ardnave Point (Islay) on 23 and 24 Apr 2000.

No records.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant: mainly in autumn. More frequently reported recently, than in the 1980s.

Autumn An adult in summer plumage was off Uisead Point, Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre on 27 Jul [Eddie Maguire]. A Juvenile was off Aird, Tiree on 12 Sep [John Bowler]. A juvenile was at sea 5 miles off NE Coll on 20 Sep [David Bryant]. Records accepted by the ABRC.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

AMBER LIST *Normally a 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.*

Winter/spring One or two birds were reported from Tiree in Jan and Feb, but the first report from elsewhere in Argyll was one at Ardnave Point Islay on 21 Mar, and two in the Sound of Jura on 22 Mar. However, by 7 Apr there were already 250 birds on nest sites at the cliffs of Ceann a' Mhara Tiree. There were 100 in Glengarrisdale Bay Jura on 6 May, 200 at Eilean Beag Jura on 17 May, and 800 feeding in the Gulf of Corrievechan Jura on 17 May.

Breeding On the Treshnish Isles Mull, TIARG reported 392 AONs on Lunga, a 27% increase in numbers from 2011 although the long term trend from 2008 to 2012 has been a decline of 21% per annum. At Ceann a' Mhara Tiree, about 120 birds were incubating eggs, and another 80 adults were sitting around on 23 May; the number of active nests (with eggs or chicks) increased to 182 on 19 Jun. Numbers then fell to 115 active nests holding 118 mid- to large-sized chicks on 10 Jul, and by 19 Jul many chicks had begun to fly. This colony had a relatively successful breeding season. At Dun Tealtaig cliff (Urugaig) Colonsay, there were 25 occupied nests on 8 Jun.

Autumn/winter A flock of 40 birds was seen feeding with dolphins at Gunna Sound Tiree on 2 Jul. Over 400 were feeding off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 15 Jul, including many birds in first summer plumage (an age class that rarely attends colonies). There were 200 feeding in a tidal rip at Lady's Rock Mull on 18 Jul. Numbers flying past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre were: 450 in 5 hrs. on 18 Jul, 560 in 8 hours on 27 Jul, 440 in 6 hrs. on 5 Sep (18% of these in juvenile plumage) and 320 in 7 hrs. on 11 Sep (16% juveniles). At Hough Bay Tiree, 270 flew SW in 1 hr. on 7 Oct. There were 370 at Fionnport Jetty Mull on 14 Aug, 450 off the SW tip of Lismore Mid-Argyll on 18 Sep, 800 at Eilean Musdile North Argyll on 28 Sep, and 220 seen off Glengorm Mull on 6 Dec. However, John Bowler noted that around Tiree there were only a few individuals to be seen during late Dec.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphia*

A vagrant with only three previous records: Islay in Jun and Sep 1975 and Tiree Apr 2010.

Autumn An adult in summer plumage was at the Add Estuary and Loch Crinan, Mid-Argyll 1-12 Aug [Jim Dickson, David Jardine et al]. Record accepted by the BBRC.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Faoileag-a'-chinn-duibh

AMBER LIST *A patchily distributed resident breeder: reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation and scarce in many areas in winter.*

Winter/spring As usual, numbers on the outer islands of Argyll were low in Jan and Feb. However, there were 130 at Achadh (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, and 180 at Airds Bay House *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb. Most reports of smaller numbers also tended to come from *Mid-Argyll*, but there were some small flocks reported in *North Argyll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Cowal*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Numbers increased on the outer isles in Apr. There were 251 on *Tiree* on 10 Apr.

Breeding On *Tiree*, there were: 150 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 40 pairs at Happy Valley, 20 pairs at Greenhill, 12 pairs at The Reef, and 10 pairs at Barrapol. Productivity was high on *Tiree* with large numbers of fledged young by early Jul. At Gartbreck *Islay* there were 84 adults at a colony which held at least 35 occupied nests. At Tucker's Islet (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* 12 pairs nested but fledged either 0 or 1 young. At this colony, a peregrine was seen eating an adult gull on 28 May.

Autumn/winter Widely distributed in autumn and winter, though mostly in small numbers and apparently decreased numbers present in winter. However, at Loch Gruinart *Islay* there were 159 on 21 Sep and 110 on 15 Oct, and at least 500 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 and 17 Dec where they were seen to be feeding on 'small crustaceans'.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag

An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year. Some individuals stay for prolonged periods.

Winter/spring/summer Only one record; a first-summer bird flew across The Reef *Tiree* on 7 Jun.

Autumn/winter There were three sightings in autumn/winter; a juvenile flew past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Aug, a bird in first-winter plumage was seen between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 18 Sep, and a bird in first-winter plumage was seen at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov.

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*

A vagrant: the only records have been an immature at Frenchman's Rocks (Islay) on 15 August 1976, an adult at Aird (Tiree) on 9 August 2006, a first-winter bird at Ormsary (Mid-Argyll) from 14 Dec 2006 to 15 Jan 2007 and later at Portavadie (Cowal) from 13-25 Feb 2007 and a first-winter past Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre on 12 Nov 2010.

No records.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

A vagrant: there have been nine previous Argyll records 1974 – 2011.

No records.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

AMBER LIST A vagrant until recently: recorded much more frequently in recent years: mainly in autumn and winter.

Winter An adult was at Ardrishaig, *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan [David Jardine]. An adult was at Craobh Haven, *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb [per Birdguides]. Two adults were at Killail, *Cowal* on 3 Mar with one to 10 Mar and an adult nearby at Otter Ferry, *Cowal* on 6-8 Mar [Tom Callan]. An adult at the head of Loch Gilp, *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar [per Birdguides].

Autumn An adult was at Machrihanish SBO, *Kintyre* on 21 Jul, a juvenile was there on 1,3 and 7 Aug, an adult on 10 Aug, two juveniles on 17 Aug and one juvenile nearby at Machrihanish Links, *Kintyre* on 26 Aug [Eddie Maguire] and at Machrihanish Water on the same day [David Jardine]. An adult was near Inverneill, *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug [Rory Whytock]. A juvenile was at Balephuill, *Tiree* and at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Sep then at Sorobaidh Bay on 10 Sep [John

Bowler, Keith Gillon]. An adult was Brentfield, *Mid-Argyll* (same as 28 Aug?) on 25 Sep [Rory Whytock]. An adult Killail, *Cowal* on 14 Oct [Tom Callan]. A first-winter bird was at Machair Bay, *Islay* on 22 Oct [Andrew Harrop].

Winter An adult was at head of Loch Gilp, *Mid-Argyll* on 1-2 Dec [Bill Allan, Jim Dickson]. All immature plumaged birds submitted that require descriptions were accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* Faoileag-chumanta

AMBER LIST *A widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.*

Winter/spring Large numbers were present on *Tiree*: 635 on 5 Jan, 540 on 17 Jan, 850 on 27 Jan, 1000 on 3 Mar and 660 on 7 Apr. Other large counts include: 1000 at Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* on 10 Jan, 200 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 6 Feb, 170 at Ballimore *Cowal* on 15 Feb, 200 at Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* on 9 Mar. Smaller numbers were reported from all areas of Argyll.

Breeding Widely distributed, mostly in small numbers. On *Tiree*, there were: 185 pairs at Loch a' Phuill, 103 pairs at The Reef, 80 pairs at Crossapol, 45 pairs at Balevullin Pools, 15 pairs at Milton, 10 pairs at Balinoe, 10 pairs at Heylipol Church, 10 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 9 pairs at Hynish, 8 pairs at Moss, 7 pairs at Happy Valley, 5 pairs at Hough dunes, and 2 pairs at Traigh nan Gilean. Productivity on *Tiree* was good, with large numbers of fledglings from early Jul. Counts at other breeding sites include: 102 pairs (which fledged 90 young) at Eilean Munde *North Argyll*, 50 pairs (which fledged 0 young) at Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 5 pairs at Easdale Lagoon *Mid-Argyll*, 10 pairs at Eilean Ghaoideamal, 20 pairs at Seal Island and 8 pairs at Caolas Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay*, 9 pairs at Scallastle Castle *Mull*, 3 pairs at Criog *Mull*, and 5 pairs at Loch Arail (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll*. At Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 210 pairs fledged about 170 young; the adjacent mainland is kept free and mink are controlled so these islands appear to be mink-free. At Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* 20 pairs fledged 23 young. At Eilean Inshaig (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* 18 pairs fledged 37 young.

Autumn/winter Widely distributed, but often in small numbers. Large counts include: 300 at Loch Gruinar *Islay* on 27 Jul and 450 on 20 Aug, 1400 at Ballygrogan *Kintyre* on 30 Jul, 200 on the shore at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Aug, 350 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 20 Aug, 360 at Oitir nam Bo (Loch Gruinar) *Islay* on 20 Aug, 225 at Aoradh *Islay* on 20 Aug, 325 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 29 Sep, 200 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 Oct, 500 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 and 17 Dec, and 240 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 Dec.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

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.

Winter/spring The presumed long returning adult at Oban Bay, *Mid-Argyll*, first seen in Apr 2005 as a first-winter was seen between 12 Jan and 8 May at Oban Bay, Ganavan and Dunbeg [Bill Allan, Jim Dickson, David Jardine et al]. A first-winter bird at The Reef *Tiree* on 21-24 Jan was thought to be the same as one at Loch an Eilein on 16 Nov 2011 [John Bowler]. A second-winter bird at head of Loch Gilp, *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar stayed until 23 Apr [Dan Brown, Jim Dickson et al]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Farspag-bheag

AMBER LIST *A widespread breeding species: generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3,235 pairs in Argyll and Bute.*

Winter/spring Only 8 birds were reported in Jan, 7 on *Islay* and one at Largimore *Cowal*. Numbers increased in Feb, with several people reporting their first sighting of the year that month. A steady influx was noted on *Tiree* from 14 Feb onwards. There were 50, the first report of double figures, at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb. Numbers continued to increase in Mar, with 150 at Milton *Tiree* on 21 Mar and reports (mostly of small numbers) from all areas of Argyll. There were 148 at Loch Bhirceapol *Tiree* on 24 Apr.

Breeding TIARG reported that two pairs nested on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. On *Tiree*, there were: 95 pairs at Loch Bhirceapol, 45 pairs at Milton, 10 at Loch Bhasapol, 8 at Ceann a' Mhara, 6 at Rubha Chraiginis, 3 at The Ringing Stone, 2 at Cornaigbeg, 1 at Hough dunes, 1 at The Reef, 1 at Balinoe, and 1 at Ballevullin. Good numbers of fledglings were present on *Tiree* in late Jul. On *Colonsay*, there were 3 pairs at Poll Gorm (Oronsay), 2 at Oronsay Farm, 1 at Caolas Mor (Oronsay) and 1 at Eilean Ghaoideamal (Oronsay).

Autumn/winter No particularly large numbers were reported in autumn, and numbers declined during winter with only 1 bird reported during Dec, from Port Ellen *Islay* on 27 Dec.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Faoileag-an-sgadain

RED LIST A widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have been abandoned, and very few now breed inland.

Winter/spring Widespread across Argyll, especially on sheltered coasts, at harbours, and on pasture land near the coast. There were 141 on *Tiree* on 5 Jan, 282 at Bowmore *Islay* on 15 Jan, 100 on *Jura* on 28 Jan, 120 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 14 Feb, 350 at Bowmore *Islay* on 18 and 19 Feb, 162 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 118 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Mar, 150 at Milton *Tiree* on 21 Mar, and 210 at Traigh Bhi dunes *Tiree* on 7 Apr.

Breeding On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Lunga (estimated 10 pairs) and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (estimated 5 pairs). Breeding was also suggested by the presence of paired adults on territory on Fladda (1 pair), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (1 pair), Sgeirean na Guisaich (1 pair) and Cairn na Burgh More (estimated 3 pairs). No birds were holding territory on Sgeir na H-lolaire or Sgeir an Fheòir. The average rate of change on Lunga between 1994 and 2012, is calculated at -12% per annum (TIARG). On *Tiree*, numbers of breeding pairs were: 35 at Milton, 25 at Loch Bhirceapol, 25 at The Ringing Stone, 20 at Rubha Chraiginis, 19 at Hough dunes, 10 at Cornaigbeg, 9 at Ceann a' Mhara, 7 at Salum and 4 at Balinoe. Good numbers of fledglings were about by early Jul at the colonies on *Tiree*. At least 20 pairs nested on Oronsay *Colonsay*. On Sligneach Mor *North Argyll* where mink were trapped nearby, 171 pairs of herring gulls fledged 'many' young. On Eilean Choinneich (Loch Leven) *North Argyll* 113 pairs fledged 12 young, with evidence of mink presence on the island. On Inn Island (near Lismore) *North Argyll*, where successful mink control was carried out, about 150 pairs fledged at least 189 young. At Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* 63 pairs fledged only 1 chick, and mink were thought to be present. At Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 60 pairs fledged 63 young; the adjacent mainland is kept free and mink are controlled so these islands appear to be mink-free. At Abbot's Isles (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 103 pairs fledged about 40 young. At Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *North Argyll* about 200 pairs fledged no young, the colony being affected by a fox living on the island. Remarkably, on the closely adjacent island Eilean Beag, which is separated from Eilean Mor by only about 70 m of sea at low tide, 190 pairs fledged 250 young, so evidently the fox did not swim between these two colonies.

Autumn/winter Widespread, with highest counts: 212 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Aug, 148 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19 Aug, 206 at Aoradh *Islay* on 20 Aug, 249 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Aug, 102 on Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Sep, 350 at Gigha Bay (*Gigha Kintyre*) on 20 Oct, 200 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 Oct, 148 on *Tiree* on 21 Nov, 190 on Holy

Loch Cowal on 23 Nov, 600 following a fishing boat off Glengorm Mull on 6 Dec, 150 at West Coast Salmon (Leth Uillt mouth) Kintyre on 16 Dec, 163 in Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 16 Dec, and 200 at Holy Loch Cowal on 19 Dec. A bird seen in Tarbert Harbour Kintyre on 31 Jul had been ringed at Troon Harbour Ayrshire on 15 July 2012. It was still at Tarbert Harbour on 28 Sep but then had an injured wing.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

A vagrant: a SBRC review, May 2011, reviewed all Scottish records from the first in 1989 up to 2009. This led to a number of records being considered un-proven with 16 records of 17 birds removed. This left 18 records of 20 birds up to the end of 2010. Our only Argyll record to date is the bird at Loch Gruinart (Islay) 1-7 Sep 2002 (though in this case the race/sub-species atlantis was not ruled out). The record from Tiree in Feb 1998 has been judged to lack sufficient detail to accept it.

No records.

AMERICAN HERRING GULL *Larus smithsonianus*

A vagrant: since 2007 the British Ornithologists' Union has treated this former subspecies of Herring Gull as a separate species. The only records in Argyll were in 2007 with a first winter bird seen on Tiree, with another still under review.

No records.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides glaucoides* Faoileag-liath

A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar, with numbers varying widely from year to year. There are a few summer records.

Winter/spring There were unprecedented numbers of Iceland gulls in Argyll from 1 Jan to 13 Jul, with over 430 records in the database. Although some are duplicates and some probably involve re-sightings of the same bird, many were of groups of birds, with up to 26 individuals together. It is believed at least 130 individuals were involved. These numbers eclipse the previous 'exceptional' winter of 2004-05 when there were at least 33 different individuals recorded in Argyll, which itself was approximately 50% higher than the previous peak year. Birds were reported from all areas of Argyll, but especially from Tiree, Islay and the coast of Mid-Argyll. Numbers were highest in Jan and Feb, slightly lower in Mar, and much reduced in Apr. There were good numbers of all age classes. In May and Jun most records were of individual birds rather than groups, and most of these late birds were first- or second- year plumage birds. Highest counts were 15 on Tiree on 5 Jan, 17 in Mid-Argyll on 5 Jan, 26 on Islay on 15 Jan (with an estimated total of at least 45 birds having been seen in Islay during the first three weeks of Jan). There were 12 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 28 Jan, 8 at Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 12 Feb, 9 there on 28 Feb, and 8 at Brochoy Mid-Argyll on 2 Mar.

Autumn/winter Remarkably, in view of the huge numbers present in spring, there was only one autumn/winter record: an adult was at Bunnahabhainn Islay on 13 Nov. Clearly, none of the birds that had been present in late spring remained in Argyll over the summer, and all, or almost all of those wintering in Argyll in 2011-12 did not return to the same area in late 2012.

KUMLIEN'S GULL *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*

A sub-species of Iceland Gull, from arctic NE Canada, with no previous Argyll records.

Winter The Thayer's or Thayers x Kumlien's intergrade gull first seen at Dunstaffnage Bay Mid-Argyll from 13 to 22 Nov 2011 was seen there again on 17 Jan (Bill Allan). Up to 11 Kumlien's type gulls were recorded: the first being a first-winter at Kintraw (Loch Craignish)

Mid-Argyll on 8 Jan. Up to 3 (2 first-winter and 1 second-winter) were recorded there until late Jan. A first-winter was at Moss *Tiree* on 17-21 Jan and a second-winter there on 27 Jan. An adult found near Dunadd Hill, *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan remained in the Moine Mhor area until last seen nearby at Barsloisnoch on 2 Apr and a first-winter nearby at Killinochonoch from 17 Jan until late Jan. Up to 3 (first, second and a third winter) were seen between Benderloch and Taynuilt Pier *North-Argyll* on several dates from late Jan into Feb. A new adult bird was at Kames Bay, near Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* from 16 to 20 Feb.

This is a remarkable series of records associated with record numbers of Iceland Gulls and high numbers were also recorded in the Western and Northern Isles of Scotland, Ireland and the Faeroe Isles.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir

A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar.

Winter/spring Although there were more records than in most recent years, there were less than half as many records as there were of Iceland gulls with 40+ individuals involved. The majority of records came from *Islay* and *Tiree*, with up to four birds together, and a range of age classes represented but especially first- and second-winter birds. On *Islay* as a whole a minimum of 17 and maximum of 23 birds were involved whilst at least 9 different birds were on *Tiree* in Jan. Numbers of records were highest in Jan and Feb, declining slightly in Mar and Apr. In May there were about ten records, with one of these, a bird on Mull, remaining through much of Jun.

Autumn/winter There were few autumn/winter records: One bird (a first summer) was seen on Iona Mull on 19 Jul. An adult was on Iona Mull on 20 Aug, a second-winter bird was off the east coast of Iona Mull on 22 Oct, a 1st winter bird was in Machir Bay *Islay* on 3 and 7 Nov, and individuals were seen at The Oa *Islay* on 19 Nov, Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 7 Dec, Balevullin *Tiree* on 26 Dec, and The Reef *Tiree* on 27 Dec.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Farspag

A common resident: breeding widely on small islands along the coast.

Winter/spring Records were mostly of small numbers, from all coastal areas of Argyll but particularly on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Largest groups were: 47 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Jan, 20 at Mackenzie Islands *Islay* on 22 Jan, 20 on *Jura* on 28 Jan, 22 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 105 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Apr, and 22 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 15 Apr.

Breeding On the Treshnish Isles Mull, breeding was confirmed on Lunga (28 pairs), Sgeir a' Chaisteil (1 pair with 2 chicks) and Cairn na Burgh Beg (5 pairs with 2 chicks). Breeding was also suggested by the presence of paired adults on territory on Cairn na Burgh More (1 pair), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (estimated 3 pairs) and Sgeirean na Guisaich (3 pairs). Following a period of fluctuation in the breeding population of Lunga (1994-2004; 34-67 pairs), a decline occurred during the first decade of this century that has since stabilized at a lower level (16-28 pairs) (TIARG). On *Tiree*, numbers of pairs were: 7 at Milton, 6 at Loch Bhirceapol, 5 at The Ringing Stone, 4 at Ceann a' Mhara, 2 at Hough dunes, 1 at Hough and 1 at Salum Bay, 1 at Rubha Chraiginis. On *Colonsay*, there were 5 pairs at Eilean an Eoin, 5 at Caolas Mor, 4 at Eilean Ghaoideamal, 3 at Oronsay Farm, and 2 at Seal Island (all Oronsay). On Sligneach Mor *North Argyll* where mink were trapped nearby, 13 pairs of great black-backed gulls fledged 'several' young.

Autumn/winter Widely distributed on coasts of Argyll in small numbers. Larger groups included: 33 at Bowmore *Islay* on 5 Sep, 32 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Sep, 25 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, 75 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Dec, and 15 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Dec.

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one present on Tiree in Jun/Jul 1994.

No records.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* Steàrnag-bheag

AMBER LIST *A scarce summer visitor with regular breeding restricted to: Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Scarce passage migrant and irregular breeder elsewhere.*

Spring The first of the spring was on 17 Apr at Gott Bay Tiree. Other spring records came only from Islay, Tiree, Colonsay and Machrihanish SBO Kintyre. Almost all spring records were of only 1 to 4 birds.

Breeding On Tiree, there were 52 pairs in total, spread across several sites. Breeding success was high, with mean productivity well above a chick per pair. No data from breeding sites in Islay, Coll and Kintyre. On Colonsay, birds were seen courtship feeding in late May, and were present in Jun, but no further data were obtained.

Autumn The species was only reported from Tiree. The last autumn records were on 6 Aug when seven birds, including three juveniles, were in Gott Bay Tiree, and on 9 Aug, when one bird was seen there.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A vagrant: Two previous records, concerns a second summer bird seen on Tiree in Sep 2008 and an adult on Tiree in Apr 2010.

No records.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns an adult seen between Ardpatrik Point (Mid-Argyll) and Gigha (Kintyre) in Jun 1981.

No records.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns an adult at Machrihanish (Kintyre) on 9 Jul 2007.

No records.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh

A scarce and irregular passage migrant with only 20 records (c.24 birds) 1980-2011, usually in Sep.

No records.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in Sep 1999.

No records.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr

AMBER LIST *A regular passage migrant but very rare, and irregular, breeding species.*

Winter/spring The first record of spring was on 25 Mar, when one was seen at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre. Another was seen on 26 Mar at Ardnave Islay. Records were frequent but involving small numbers (mostly 1, 2 or 3 birds) in Apr, from most coastal areas of Argyll but especially Kintyre and Islay. In May, numbers peaked at 40 on 3 May and 33 on 8 May at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre.

Breeding/summer In Jun and Jul, there were plenty of records from *Kintyre, Cowal, Islay, Coll Tìree* and *Colonsay*, with numbers in groups generally small but ranging up to 42 birds. However, there was no evidence of breeding occurring in Argyll, although a few juveniles were seen from mid-Jul onwards. A small number of first summer birds were also reported.

Autumn/winter Most autumn records were during Aug and from *Kintyre*. There were 17 at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 15 Sep. The last records were at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* and at Uamh an Da' Dhoruis *Islay* on 26 Sep.

FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one in Oban Bay and Loch Feochan (Mid-Argyll) from 8 to 11 Jan 2003.

No records.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Steàrnag-chumanta

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.

Spring One was seen offshore from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Apr, but that was the only record in Apr. The species was seen regularly from 3 May onwards, in many coastal areas of Argyll. Most spring records were of small numbers, with flocks of more than 6 birds being unusual.

Breeding/summer There were about 100 at Glas Eileanan *Mull* on 19 Jul. A few pairs nested on Oronsay *Colonsay*. A few pairs nested at Otter Ferry *Cowal*. Purpose-made mink-proof tern rafts in Loch Creran *North Argyll* managed by Clive Craik held 600 pairs that fledged about 500 young, making it one of the largest and most productive common tern colonies in the British Isles. Breeding numbers on these rafts (which have been upgraded) were double the numbers there in 2011. In 2011, JNCC tracked terns from the Loch Creran colony and found that most were feeding at the south end of the Sound of Mull, a 34 km round trip. This unusually long foraging trip for common terns suggests that the richest feeding grounds for the species are in the Sound of Mull (where there used to be a very large colony at Glas Eileanan that was extirpated by mink). Birds presumably commute this long distance because of the benefit of nesting in the mink-free conditions provided by rafts that are unavailable at natural sites in most of Argyll. On Eilean a'Chuilinn *North Argyll* about 200 pairs fledged about 200 young (at this site four mink had been trapped before the tern breeding season and none were present when the terns nested).

Autumn Birds were reported in good numbers from many coastal areas in Aug, but most had gone by the end of the month. Late records were: a juvenile at Gott Bay *Tìree* on 3 Sep, three birds including two juveniles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Sep, a bird at Corrynachenchy *Mull* on 18 Sep, and an exceptionally late bird at Eilean Annraidh (Iona) *Mull* on 1 Oct.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Steàrnag

AMBER LIST A summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tìree. 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.

Spring There were no records in Apr, and the first birds reported were 7 off *Tìree* on 2 May. Spring records came mostly from *Tìree, Islay, Colonsay, Mull*, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

There were 50 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 18 May and 60 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 19 May. There were 88 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jun.

Breeding On *Tiree*, there were 208 pairs nesting at 15 sites by the end of May. Breeding success at that colony was 'excellent'. By early July there were up to 200 birds feeding regularly in Gunna Sound *Tiree*, including small numbers of birds in first summer plumage. On Oronsay *Colonsay* about 50 pairs nested at two sites. TIARG reported a colony of about 250 adults on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Apparently these were all, or almost all, Arctic terns rather than common terns. At Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan) *North-Argyll* 65 pairs fledged about 70 young.

Autumn Birds were widely distributed in more marine areas of Argyll in Aug. Numbers reported decreased strongly in early Sep. The last record was of a juvenile off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Oct.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

RED LIST A rare migrant: prior to 1980 it occasionally bred in Argyll. The most recent records were in: 2005, 2007, and 2009.

Summer One was seen and photographed at Big Scone Island, Machrihanish, *Kintyre* on 30 Jun [Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* Eun-dubh-an-sgadain

AMBER LIST A highly colonial, and 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.

Winter/spring There were very few reports in Jan-Feb, with just a few birds seen offshore. Larger numbers were reported from Mar onwards. There were about 2000 back on nesting ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr.

Breeding/summer On *Tiree* breeding ledges, about 90% were on eggs by 23 May. There were 2163 adults on ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 19 Jun, about 30% of these birds attending small to medium sized chicks. Most of the chicks fledged between 10 and 19 Jul, with breeding success considered to be good. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed only on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil, with the main concentration as usual within the vicinity of Harp Rock where 7,239 adults were counted. The total for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil combined was 7,605 adults, a similar number to the mean for the last 20 years (TIARG). Very large numbers of auks (predominantly common guillemots but also including razorbills) were passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in late Jun and early Jul, suggesting that breeding adults were commuting past this site between colonies and foraging hot spots. There were over 7000 birds passing in 7 hours on 22 Jun. There were 600 auks, mostly common guillemots, feeding with dolphins in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 2 Jul. About 900 auks of which 65% were common guillemots were foraging in the area in front of Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jul. Large numbers of adults with chicks were on the sea between Kennacraig and *Islay* on 19 Jul.

Autumn/winter There was only a suggestion of high mortality of juveniles in the autumn, despite the apparently good productivity of fledglings this year. Although most autumn records came from more open marine areas, some autumn records came from the Clyde and sea lochs. These included reports of disoriented birds ashore and up river valleys at heads of sea lochs. Some reports also mentioned numbers of dead birds on shorelines such as on Loch Fyne *Cowal*. However, these fell far short of a 'wreck' and suggest relatively good post-fledging survival. Large numbers (40 to 300 per hour) passed Aird *Tiree* on numerous dates in Sep and on a few

days in Oct. As usual, there were very few reports in Nov and Dec, indicating that birds have generally moved out of inshore Argyll by early winter.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT *Uria lomvia*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found dead at Loch Caolisport (Mid-Argyll) in 1969.

No records.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* Falc

AMBER LIST A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous 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.

Winter/spring As usual, very few were seen in Jan or Feb. Numbers increased in Mar, and included a spectacular 1800 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in about 12 hours over a three day period in late Mar. By 7 Apr there were 300 birds back on breeding sites at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree.

Breeding At Ceann a' Mhara Tìree there were about 300 birds from Apr to late Jun. These were mostly attending eggs in late May, with small chicks appearing from mid-Jun. About half of the chicks had fledged by 10 Jul, but some birds were still incubating on that date, possibly some of these on replacement eggs. Overall, the breeding season appeared to be fairly successful at the Tìree colony. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The main concentration was in the vicinity of Harp Rock with 234 adults. A total of 566 birds was counted on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Although the numbers of individuals counted continues to increase from a low point in 2009 and 2010, a doubling in numbers would be required to reach the levels recorded during the earlier period of stability at around 950-1250 birds in 1999-2008 (TIARG). Very large numbers of auks (predominantly common guillemots but also including razorbills) were passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in late Jun and early Jul, suggesting that breeding adults were commuting past this site between colonies and foraging hot spots. There were over 7000 birds passing in 7 hours on 22 Jun. About 900 auks of which 35% were razorbills were foraging in the area in front of Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports were mostly of small numbers and there were very few records in Oct-Dec. Most reports in Oct-Dec were from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Kintyre*.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (TYSTIE) *Cephus grylle* Gearra-breac

AMBER LIST A widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs.

Winter/spring Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Large counts included: 10 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 28 Jan, 12 at Otter Ferry Fish Farm *Cowal* on 5 Mar, 29 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, 12 at *Jura* on 26 Mar, 13 at The Oa *Islay* on 29 Mar, 12 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 6 Apr, 13 at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 7 Apr, 21 at Port Ban *Colonsay* on 15 Apr, 14 at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 17 Apr, 26 in the Sound of *Islay Islay* on 22 Apr, 47 at Craro Island (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and 24 at Liath Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun.

Breeding Widely distributed along Argyll coasts where nesting habitat is available, but no data available on breeding numbers or productivity.

Autumn/winter Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Large counts included: 10 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 17 Jul, 18 around Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul, 12 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 9 Oct, and 16 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

A scarce and irregular winter visitor: usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.

Winter Only two reports both from *Tiree*. Three headed west off Balevullin on 2 Nov and one seen off West Hynish on 31 Dec.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

AMBER LIST *A very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles: occasionally recorded in winter.*

Winter/spring There were no reports until 24 Apr, when puffins were recorded as present at Staffa Mull and Treshnish Isles Mull. Small numbers were seen during May off *Colonsay*, Treshnish Isles Mull, Coll, Islay, and Staffa Mull, all areas where the species is regular in spring/summer. Less usual were puffins in Loch Fyne at Rubha Bhadan *Kintyre* on 24 May and at Otter Ferry Cowal on 27 May.

Breeding On the Treshnish Isles Mull, breeding adults occupied burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. The estimated breeding population on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was 3037 apparently occupied burrows (AOBs), an 89% increase from 2011. This year's count suggests a marked recovery from the comparatively low estimates of the previous two years to that approaching the counts in 2004-2009. One "white-winged" puffin was seen visiting the breeding colony. This individual exhibited normal summer plumage other than extensive white feathering on the wings (TIARG). No data were available from Sanda Islands *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Only seen in very small numbers in autumn, mostly off *Tiree*. The last record was of three birds passing Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 18 Sep.

ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* Calman-creige

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith the breeding season. Genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons: 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.

Winter/spring The highest counts from the islands were: 162 at RSPB Gruinart Islay on 12 Jan, 100 at Loch a'Chumhain Mull on 17 Jan, 85 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on the same day, 75 at The Oa Islay on 12 Feb, 22 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 15 April, and 70 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 12 Jun. Only three reports were received from the mainland; two from *Mid-Argyll* and one from *North Argyll*, but none of these reports included the number of birds.

Breeding/Summer Birds were present during the breeding season on: *Colonsay*, Islay, Jura, *Mid-Argyll*, Mull, and *Kintyre*. An unusual report from Ardtun Mull was of Rock Doves stripping Rowan berries on 22 Aug. A flock of 60 was at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 28 Aug.

Autumn/winter The largest count reported was 125 at Caol Ila Islay on 2 Nov. Other large counts were 67 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 18 Sep, 80 at Cluanach Islay on 22 Sep, 90 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 30 Nov, and 108 at Sanaigmore House Islay on 26 Dec.

FERAL PIGEON No reports regarding Feral Pigeons were received.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm

AMBER LIST *A very scarce and local resident: only regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll in recent years. There are occasional records from: Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull and North Argyll. All records required please.*

Autumn The only records were of single birds at Bridgend and Lower Ballitarsin Islay on 30 Sep.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich

A common resident, breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks which form on the mainland in winter may include immigrants.

Winter/spring Higher counts were: 68 at Knockdon *Islay* on 3 Feb, 37 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 15 Feb, 35 at Abhainn Mhor (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, and 20 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 23 Apr and 14 May. A single bird at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 22 Mar was followed by one or two birds on nine occasions during Apr and May. Three birds were together at Carnon Mor *Tiree* on 24 May followed by a record four there on 27 May.

Breeding/summer Breeding was confirmed only at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* and The Lodge Plantation *Coll* with 11 birds there in Jul. Summer records included 20 at Ballimore *Cowal* on 20 Jun and 10 at Ballimenach Hill *Kintyre* on 17 Jul.

Autumn/winter The highest count was at least 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Sep. Eleven were at Ballarulin *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, 30 were at Benmore Lodge (Loch Ba) *Mull* on 2 Oct, 2 were at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on the same day, and 12 were at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec. One at Coille *Islay* on 16 Oct was with Hooded Crows mobbing a Sparrowhawk.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* Calman-a'-chrios

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.

Winter/spring Higher counts were: 8 at Lochdon *Mull* on 28 Jan, 11 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 29 Jan, and up to 10 at five sites on *Tiree*. Smaller numbers were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Five birds at Baleromindubh *Colonsay* on 27 May were thought to be migrants.

Breeding/summer A fledged brood of 4 was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Jun. No other breeding records were received. Flocks of up to 10 were seen regularly on *Tiree* during Jul and Aug. Thirteen were at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 20 Aug.

Autumn/winter Birds were reported from all areas except *Colonsay*. There were 16 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct and 15 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct. Groups of up to 8 were seen regularly on *Tiree* and 9 were at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 25 Dec.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan

RED LIST A *scarce but almost annual passage migrant: most frequently recorded during May and Jun.*

Spring Three records of single birds were received: Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 12 May, Ceann a'Mhara *Tiree* on 29 May, and Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 3 Jul. Unfortunately, this last bird died on 4 Jul.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag

RED LIST A *common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland: less numerous on the outer islands.*

Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll*. Birds were undoubtedly present on *Coll* but the lack of reports simply reflects the overall paucity of records from the island.

Spring First arrival was at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr. Widespread arrival soon followed with birds reported from: *Colonsay* on 13 Apr, *Mull* on 14 Apr, *Islay* on 18 Apr, and *Cowal* on 19 Apr.

Breeding/summer A total of 26 territories were found on Oronsay and *Colonsay*. Seven birds were present on *Tiree* during May and 10 were on the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun. Numbers were thought to be higher than usual on *Islay*. A bird setting off northwards over the sea from the point at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Jun was an unusual record. More reports of juveniles were received than in recent years with birds at Ardtalla *Islay* on 1 Jul, Dalvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul, Kilchoman *Islay* on 17 Jul, and Grainel *Islay* on 19 Jul. Four juveniles were at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 16 Aug and the final record was of a bird at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 21 Aug.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found dead near Southend (Kintyre) in November 1950.

No records.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*

A vagrant with only two Argyll records: one found dead on Colonsay in November 1904 and one found dying at Barcaldine (North Argyll) in September 1969.

No records.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Comhachag

AMBER LIST A *patchily distributed breeding species: probably most numerous in Kintyre. It is widespread on: Cowal, Islay, and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree. All records are requested.*

Birds were reported from all areas except *Coll* and *Tiree*. Records were most frequent in: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. One record from *North-Argyll*, a pair at Benderloch with chicks heard hissing on 1 Aug. A bird was at Glengarrisdale Bay *Jura* on 6 May and a feather was found in a barn at Balerominmore *Colonsay* on 2 Dec. One bird was heard calling c400m from the centre of Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 16 Oct, one was roosting in Carnasserie Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Nov, and one was roosting in a barn with 200 Starlings at Grainel *Islay* on 29 Dec.

Table 38. Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2012. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Mull	3	3	3	0	0	3+	1.00+
Islay	4	4	4	0	0	5+	1.25+
Kintyre/ Knapdale	36	25	7	8	10	20+	2.85+
Cowal	4	2	0	0	2	0	
Total	47	34	14	8	12	28+	3.16**

** calculated for the 6 nesting attempts (all in Kintyre/Knapdale) where fledged brood size accurately known.

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found dead at Scarinish (Tiree) on 6 Apr 1997. No records.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus*

A vagrant: two individuals were recorded in Jan 2007, one on Coll and one on Tiree. Four old records 1870-1892 are also considered acceptable.

No records.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* Comhachag-dhonn

A widespread and common resident breeding bird: absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.

Birds were reported from: Cowal, Islay, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, North-Argyll and Mull. This is still a much under recorded species and all records are welcome.

Breeding Breeding was confirmed at Ballimore Cowal, at one site in Kintyre (ARSG per R Broad), and at Quinish Mull. Birds were also reported during the breeding season at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) Cowal and Port Charlotte Islay. There were no breeding attempts at RSPB Gruinart ARSG per R Broad).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Comhachag-adharcaiche

A very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor: almost certainly under recorded. All records are requested.

Spring/summer One was at Achamore House (Gigha) Kintyre on 28 Apr. A pair was displaying for several weeks at a new site in Kintyre. No breeding territories were occupied on Colonsay,

Autumn One bird was at Milbuie Colonsay on 20 Sep.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Comhachag-chluasach

AMBER LIST 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*).

Birds were present during the year in: Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree, with the most records by far being from Islay. Most records were of 1 or 2 birds but at least 3 were on Jura on 27 Mar, 7 were at Coir'an Uillt Mholaich Mull on 8 May, and 'several' were at The Rhinns Islay on 1 Jul.

Breeding Tiree: one was "singing" at night at Moss on 5 April and one was seen at Heylipol on 7 April. At Carnan Mor one was "singing" on several nights from 22 Apr, where a pair was then seen regularly throughout May including wing-clapping display flights at dusk. This pair appeared to be breeding but there were no further sightings in June/July. Mull: about 10 pairs were observed in the south of Mull. They appeared to be similarly widespread elsewhere on the island and included 2 pairs carrying prey in Glen More, another at the north end of Loch Frisa and fledged young were seen at Torloisk.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraicheag-oidhche

RED LIST A very scarce and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal.

No records.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* Gobhlan-monaidh

A vagrant with two Argyll records: one at Largybaan (Kintyre) in April 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles (Mull) in July 1994.

No records.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr

A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

Breeding/summer The first arrivals were both on 14 May with 2 birds at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and a single bird at Campbeltown *Kintyre*. During the next two weeks low numbers of birds were noted at: Brackley (Lochgilphead) and Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll*, Oronsay Farm *Colonsay*, The Oa *Islay* and Carnan Mor *Tiree*. Counts of 10 or more birds included: Campbeltown *Kintyre* with 11 on 27 May and 25 on 20 Jul, Connel *Mid-Argyll* with 20 on 8 Jul and 28 on 3 Aug and 10 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul. The last mainland record was from the Mull of *Kintyre* on 15 Aug and late records were both from *Islay* with single birds at Kilchoman on 23 and 28 Aug.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-crùidein

AMBER LIST *A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in Kintyre in 1993.*

Winter/spring The only record was of a single bird being at Ardkinglas *Cowal* on 12 Jan.

Autumn/winter At Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* there were a number of sightings between 1 Sep and 3 Oct and then from 2 to 12 Dec. At Holy Loch *Cowal* there were sightings on 17 Sep and 7 Oct.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

A vagrant: with only 5 or 6 records since the first in 1981. Last record of two birds on Mull in Apr 2010.

No records.

EUROPEAN ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

A vagrant: with seven records 1887-2011. Last record on Mull on 16 Jun 2011.

No records.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

Spring There was a single bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Mar.

Autumn A single bird was seen and photographed at The Green *Tiree* on 8-10 Sep.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Geocair

RED LIST *A rare and irregular passage migrant: in spring and autumn with ten records since 1969.*

No records.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* Snagardach

AMBER LIST *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.*

Autumn/winter The only record was of a single bird at Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich

A resident breeder: widespread on the mainland and Mull, with occasional records on Islay.

Winter/spring Birds were regularly reported from the head of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* and more sporadically from sites in all mainland areas and *Mull*. A single bird was seen at Port Askaig *Islay* on 15 Feb.

Breeding/summer Most breeding season records were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*. Sightings of juveniles were reported from Otter Ferry *Cowal* and West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre*.
Autumn/winter Sightings were regularly reported from *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* with single records from Balliveolan, Lismore and Castle Stalker *North Argyll* and a female bird at Totronal *Coll* on 10 Oct.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*

A vagrant: *Two records concern singles on Coll in Oct 1992 and on Tiree in Oct 2008.*

No records.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

RED LIST A *rare and irregular passage migrant; mainly in spring.*

Spring A female bird was seen at The Oa *Islay* on 25 May and an immature bird was photographed at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 28 May and again nearby at Balephuill on 30 May.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*

A vagrant: *One record of a first-winter at Balephuill, Tiree from 22 Oct to 20 Nov 2011.*

No records.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

RED LIST A *rare passage migrant: Only fourteen accepted records, 1954-2011.*

Spring A female was at Treshnish, *Mull* on 26 May [Anand Prasad]. Record accepted by the ABRC. This bird turned up when there were quite a few of this species on the east coast of Britain.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

A vagrant with only three records: *on Mull in 1974, Coll in 1988, and Tiree in Aug 2008.*

No records.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas

An increasingly rare passage migrant and winter visitor. Most recent records: *one on Tiree in Nov 2008 and one at Slockavullinn, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2009.*

No records.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

A vagrant: *the only Argyll record concerned a juvenile on Islay in Sep 1996.*

No records.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach

AMBER LIST *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 are appreciated.*

Winter/spring There were no winter records from *Colonsay* but counts regularly produced 40 or more on *Islay* including: 53 at Aoradh on 4 Jan and monthly maxima at Ardnave of 50 in Jan, 60 in Feb and 40 in Mar.

Breeding/summer On *Colonsay* 13 territories were occupied and breeding was confirmed with 8 pairs rearing 21 young. On *Islay* at Ardnave a flock of 30 on 19 Jun was noted to contain

some juveniles. The highest summer counts were at Ardnave *Islay* with 72 on 6 Jul, 50 on 19 Aug and 60 on 28 Aug.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* Ardnave provided the largest flocks with: 64 on 25 Sep, 77 on 12 Oct and 57 on 2 Dec. Machir Bay returned 10+ records including: 19 on 21 Sep, 16 on 23 Oct and 7 Nov. The most interesting and exciting records came from *Mull* where single birds were seen at Gribun Cliffs (Balnahard) on 25 Oct and Rubh' an t-Suibhain (Treshnish) on 5 Dec.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheap

A widely distributed (but scarce) woodland resident on most of the mainland: rarely reported from the islands. There is some immigration in autumn.

Winter/spring Whilst there were widespread sightings from *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll* a single bird was also reported from Quinish House (Dervaig) *Mull* on 5 Jan.

Breeding/summer Sightings were generally of fewer than 5 birds although there were 14 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 1 Aug and 7 on 19 Sep. There were records of birds in *Kintyre* with a single at Dalbuie (Southend) on 14 Jun and 3 above High Lossit on 30 Aug. The only island record was of a single bird at Lochnameal Farm (Tobermory) *Mull* on 18 Jul.

Autumn/winter Other than the mainland the only island records were from *Mull* with a bird at Quinish House on 8 Oct.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* Pioghaid

A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Elsewhere, has been a scarce and sporadic visitor (mainly in spring): in recent years appearing to be becoming more widespread. All records required.

Winter/spring The only record outwith *Cowal* was an unusual one of a single bird at Ardbeg, *Islay* on 28 Feb.

Breeding/summer Records from *Cowal* occurred in most months mainly as single birds but with 4 seen at Dunoos Hospital on 25 Apr. In *Kintyre* sightings were scarce but a single bird was noted in Campbeltown from 17 to 20 Mar and 1 Apr whilst a pair was noted in the same area on 23 Mar. Further records in *Kintyre* were single birds at: Skipness on 19 Mar and Feorlan (Mull of Kintyre) on 25 Jul. Elsewhere there were mainland records of single birds at: Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 18 March, Easdale *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr and Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul.

Autumn/winter Single birds were reported from Campbeltown on 3 Nov and Stewarton *Kintyre* on 21 and 23 Nov with the sightings being of the same bird a distinct possibility. The only island record was another from *Islay* with a single bird at Bowmore on 13 Sep.

WESTERN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* Cathag

A resident breeder, common throughout much of mainland Argyll: scarce on Mull and does not breed on Coll or Tiree. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.

Winter/spring There were a number of large flocks recorded including: 50 at Laggan Point *Islay* on 23 Jan, 68 on 2 Feb and also 77 on 11 Mar at Otter Ferry *Cowal*, 60 at Kilchoman *Islay*, 55 at Barsloisnoch (Kilmartin) *Mid-Argyll* and 90 at Balliemore, Kerrera, *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr. Single birds were reported from *Mull* at: Loch na Keal on 23 Mar and Iona on 29 Mar and 26 Apr. Singles at Heylipol on 5 Jan and Balinoe on 26 Mar were the only records from *Tiree*.

Breeding/summer At Kilchoman *Islay* on 15 May a trio of birds were seen to drive a Fulmar off its nest. Large flocks were noted at: Macharioch (Southend) *Kintyre* with 120 on 16 Jul and 72 feeding with rooks on a freshly mown field at Bridgend (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on the same day.

Autumn/Winter The largest flocks were reported from *Islay* including: 350 near Bridgend on 24 Sep, 250 at Loch Gruinart on 25 Sep and 120 at Ardbeg on 9 Oct. On *Tiree* 21 at Balephuill on 22 Oct and 19 at Kirkapol on 23 Oct were unusually high counts.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* Ròcas

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.

Winter/spring On *Islay* the largest flock recorded was 100 at Ardnave on 21 Feb. Other large flocks included: 60 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 16 Jan and 90 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Feb.

Breeding/summer A survey of nests on Lismore *North Argyll* revealed 26 at Clachan and 11 at Achuaran on 18 March whilst on Iona *Mull* 15 nests were counted on 2 Apr and a rookery at Toberonochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* held 10 nests on 7 July. Large late summer flocks were reported from Macharioch (Southend) *Kintyre* with 200 on 16 Jul and Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 150 on 27 Aug.

Autumn/winter On *Islay*, the largest flocks were at Bridgend with 125 on 26 Sep and 100 on 26 Dec. On *Mull* 15 birds were counted at Calgary on 13 Aug and 22 birds on Iona on 30 Sep. Of the mainland records, unusually, there were no large flocks recorded in *Kintyre*. Two with Jackdaws at Balephuill on 22 Oct was the only *Tiree* record. There were no records from: *Coll, Colonsay or Jura*.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* Feannag-dhubh

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.

Winter/spring Outside the main breeding area in *Cowal*, there were widespread records of ones and twos from *Mid-Argyll* including Luing. Small numbers were recorded on *Islay* including: 4 at Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan and 4 at Port Ellen on 5 Jan.

Breeding/summer Single birds were seen on *Mull* including Aros Castle on 3 May and Iona on 28 Jul.

Autumn/winter At The Oa *Islay*, single birds were reported on 10 and 18 Oct.

HYBRID CROW *Corvus corone x cornix*

Hybrids between Carrion and Hooded Crow are most prevalent where the ranges of the two species overlap. Any records are welcome as they will help to document the change in position of the hybrid zone, which is known to have moved north westwards in the past.

Winter/spring Outside the main hybrid zone in *Cowal*, there were records from Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* of a single bird on 4 Mar and one of 6 birds amongst a flock of true hooded and carrion crows on 1 Apr at Loch Crinan.

Autum/winter A minimum of 8 birds were counted in a mixed flock of 55 in Glendaruel *Cowal* on 31 Oct.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.

Winter/spring Widely reported from all mainland areas, mostly in single figures, but with the only flocks exceeding 10 birds being reported from *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll* with 18 birds at The Oa on 5 Jan, 23 birds at Ardnave on 1 Feb and 23 birds at Ardrishaig on 27 Mar.

Breeding/summer Widely reported from all mainland areas except *North Argyll*, mostly in single figures. On *Colonsay* (including Oronsay) there were 42 territories, with at least 40 chicks fledged from 15 nests and 41 non breeders. 35 non breeding birds were counted heading to their

roost on Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Apr. Island records included *Islay, Jura, Mull* and *Luing Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Widely reported from all mainland areas, mainly in single figures, with records of larger flocks from the islands including: 26 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 19 Sep, 20 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Sep, 25 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 9 Oct, and 25 at Loch nam Breac *Jura* on 10 Oct.

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax* Fitheach

A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter. Numbers appear to be increasing.

Winter/spring There were records from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Counts of 20 or more included: 40 on *Islay* at both Bridgend on 8 Feb and Ardnave on 10 Feb and 26 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 18 May

Breeding/summer

Table 39. Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2012. NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. young fledged	Young per successful site
Tiree	12	12	12	3	1	8	11+	3.66+
Mull	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	4.00
Colonsay	20	12	8	8	0	0	23+	2.87+
Islay/Jura	2	2	2	2	0	0	6	3.00
MidArgyll	3	3	2	1	0	1	3	3.00
Kintyre	3	3	2	2	0	0	5	2.50
Bute	26	17	15	12	0	3	25+	2.08+
Total	67	50	42	29	1	12	77+	3.00**

** calculated for 21 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

Autumn/winter There were records from all recording areas except *Colonsay, Jura* and *Tiree*. Numbers were generally in single figures but 65 birds were seen at Ardnave *Islay* on 5 Dec.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Crìonag-bhuidhe

AMBER LIST A common resident breeding species: augmented by passage migrants in spring and especially autumn but scarce on Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Records (30), to end of May were from all areas apart from: *Coll, Jura, Kintyre*, and *North Argyll*. These were almost entirely of single birds.

Summer/breeding Birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (6), and *Mid-Argyll* (3) with breeding confirmed at one site on *Islay* and two in *Cowal*.

Autumn/winter Birds were recorded from: one site on *Coll* with 2 at Loch Airigh Meall Bhreide on 20 Sep, 3 sites in *Cowal* with a maximum of 5 at Inver Cottage on 20 Nov, 21 sites on *Islay* with a maximum of 20 at Lower Ballitarsin on 21 Sep and 20 at Loch Skerrols on 28 Sep, one site on *Jura* with 2 at Craighouse on 23 Oct, two sites in *Kintyre* with a maximum of 20 at least at Balnamoil (Mull of Kintyre) on 30 Oct, four sites in *Mid-Argyll* with a maximum of 7 at Daill Loch (Knappdale Forest) on 8 Oct, four sites on *Mull* with a maximum of 3 at Grasspoint on 3 Oct, and eleven sites on *Tiree* with a maximum count of 21 at Carnan Mor/ Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Oct.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* Crìonag

AMBER LIST A *vagrant: there are only eight Argyll records, 1980 – 2011.*

Autumn A male was at Gortanaoid, Killinallan *Islay* on 14 Oct [Peter Roberts, Pia Haley]. This bird was found in an isolated piece of native scrub woodland in the NW of *Islay* along with a Yellow-browed Warbler. Record accepted by the ABRC.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

A widespread and common resident breeder: an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Probably much under recorded with records received from locations in: *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (4). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*. Higher counts were: 8 at Glenegedale *Islay* on 2 Jan, 6 at Bridgend *Islay* on 6 Jan, and 8 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 4 Mar.

Breeding Records were received from sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (8), and *North Argyll* (2). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*. Only a handful of records made mention of breeding but it can be assumed that breeding occurred widely.

Autumn/winter Records were received from locations in: *Coll* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (16), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (7), and *North Argyll* (1). Higher counts were: 13 at Cluanach (Mulindry) *Islay* on 22 Sep, 12 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 12 Oct, 6 at Glenegedale *Islay* on 25 Nov, 6 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 25 Dec, and 7 at Lower Ballinarsin (Bridgend) *Islay* on 26 Dec.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna

A widespread and common resident breeder: only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Records were received from locations in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (5), and *Tiree* (1). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, or *Jura*. Higher counts were: 7 at Glenegedale *Islay* on 2 Jan, 8 at Bridgend Hide *Islay* on 6 Jan, 19 on Lismore *North Argyll* on 29 Jan, 7 at Ardnòe Point (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, and 6 at Dubhchladach (West Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar.

Breeding Records were received from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (14), and *North Argyll* (2). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*. Only a handful of records made mention of breeding but it can be assumed that breeding occurred widely. Numbers ranged from 1-6.

Autumn/winter Records were received from sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (23), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Mull* (9). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *North Argyll*, or *Tiree*. Numbers were mainly 1-4.

CRESTED TIT *Lophophanes cristatus* Gulpag-stuic

A vagrant with only two Argyll records: one near Water of Tulla (North Argyll) in November 1991 and one at Tobermory (Mull) in October/November 2002.

No records.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* Smutag

A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially conifers.

Winter/spring Records were received from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (3). There were no records from *Coll*, *Colonsay*,

Jura, or *Tiree*. Counts were mainly of 1 or 2 but 10 were in a garden at Glenegedale *Islay* on 2 Jan and 4 in a garden at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Jan.

Breeding Records were received from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (7), and *North Argyll* (1). There were no records from: *Jura*, or *Tiree*. A bird at the Mull of *Kintyre* Lighthouse on 5 Jul was a surprise for observers as was a bird at the RSPB reserve on The Oa, *Islay* which was only the second record ever for this site. Elsewhere, little mention was made of breeding which presumably occurred where birds were present in suitable habitat.

Autumn/winter Records were received from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (22), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1). Numbers in double figures included: 10 at Cluanach *Islay* on 22 Sep, 10 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Sep, 15 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 29 Sep, 10 at Aoradh *Islay* on 30 Oct, and in a garden at West Tarbert *Kintyre* weekly maximums of 10 or more were present for six weeks from 11 Nov.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais

RED LIST *A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one near Water of Tulla (North Argyll) in Jun 1991.*

No records.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A vagrant: Three records; one on Tiree in Aug 2008 another Tiree in Oct 2010 and one on Oronsay in Oct 2011.

No records.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag

RED LIST *A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

Winter/Spring Records were received from sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (6), and *Tiree* (2). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, or *North Argyll*. On *Tiree*, in Feb to Apr, singing birds were widespread on brighter days. Elsewhere, singing/displaying was noted at most of the sites listed above.

Breeding Records were received from sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5), and *Mull* (4). Most if not all of these sites held breeding birds. At two sites, Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* and Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* adults with juveniles were noted. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *North Argyll* or *Tiree*.

Autumn/Winter Records were received from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Islay* (15), *Kintyre* (2), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (9). Larger counts included: many scattered groups of 12 or so on *Tiree* on 7 Sep, 15 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 19 Sep, 35 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 19 Sep, 25 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 19 Sep, 15 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Sep, 25 at Lower Ballitarsin *Tiree* on 21 Sep, 15 at Traigh Bhi Dunes *Islay* on 22 Sep, 120 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 100 per hour from first light to 17.30. passing over Port Charlotte *Islay* on 29 Sep, 70 on 29 Sep was the largest passage flock for the previous few days over Port Charlotte *Islay*, 25 was the largest flock with many of 12 or so on *Tiree* on 22 Oct, 30 at Corrary *Islay* on 2 Nov, 80 at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 17 Dec, and the last of the year were 50 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on New Year's Eve.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

A vagrant with only one accepted record of: three birds, on Islay in October 1976.

No records.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

Spring First arrival was at Ardnave *Islay* on 26 Mar followed by 10 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar and 6 at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 30 Mar. By 17 Apr birds had also reached: *Kintyre, Mull, North Argyll, and Tiree.*

Breeding/summer Breeding numbers appeared to be well down on 2011. More than 50 pairs nested at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* with a further 27 pairs at five other sites on *Tiree*. The colonies at Colachla and Ormidale *Cowal* held no more than 40 and 20 apparently occupied burrows respectively (*cf* 64 and 60 in 2011). However, breeding continued late in the season with 10 burrows still active at Millhouse *Cowal* on 2 Sep.

Autumn Up to 45 were seen at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* during Aug, 18 were at Calgary *Mull* in 13 Aug, and 20 were at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 30 Aug. Numbers declined in Sep with: 10 at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Sep, 6 at The Puddle (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* also on 2 Sep, 3 at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, and 1 at Balvicar Lagoons (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep. The final report was of 7 birds at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

AMBER LIST A *widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.*

Spring Although the first arrival was at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Mar, the second was not until 25 Mar on *Islay*. Single birds followed at The Oa *Islay* on 27 Mar and Balinoe *Tiree* on 31 Mar, before 2 were seen at Southend *Kintyre* on 1 Apr. Despite the early start it was late Apr before records were widespread and good numbers of birds were seen. A flock of 20 was at Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, 26 were at Lag na h-Easgaidh Duibhe *Jura* on 29 Apr, 30 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 18 May and 36 at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 21 May.

Breeding/summer Breeding was confirmed from *Cowal, Islay* and *Tiree* with the first fledglings noted at Kilchoman *Islay* on 2 Jul. Recently-fledged young were being fed on 30 Aug at Craig Cottage (Loch Riddon) *Cowal*.

Autumn Post-breeding flocks started to build in early Aug with 64 noted at Kilchoman *Islay* on 4 Aug, 90 at The Reef *Tiree* on 13 Aug, and 40 at Duart Point *Mull* on 16 Aug. A flock of at least 100 was at Kilbride Bay *Cowal* on 2 Sep before flocks started to decline. 45 were at The Reef *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 12 at Craighouse *Jura* on 11 Sep, 20 at Duart Castle *Mull* on 20 Sep, and 15 were at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 23 Sep. Thereafter only single figure records were received, from: *Colonsay, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*, the final record being of a single bird at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 24 Oct.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* Gobhlan-taighe

AMBER LIST A *common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only one recently recorded breeding attempt on Tiree.*

Spring First arrival was at The Oa *Islay* on 29 Mar. As with the Swallows, there was then a long gap until the next 4 birds appeared at Dunans (Knappdale Forest) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. Further records followed with singles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Apr and RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Apr, followed by 2 at Clachan Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May and 4 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 May. No large flocks were reported; 6 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and 7 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 27 May being the largest.

Breeding/summer The only breeding record was of a pair feeding juveniles in the nest at Colintrave *Cowal* on 12 Sep. Otherwise, reports seem to indicate that fewer birds than usual were present. Flocks of 14 at Machariorch *Kintyre* on 16 Jul and 10 at Ballimenach Hill *Kintyre* on 17 Jul were the only reports in double figures.

Autumn Approximately 10 birds were with over 100 Swallows at Kilbride Bay *Cowal* on 2 Sep and 35, including many juveniles, were seen on passage with Sand Martins and Swallows at Corra Farm *Cowal* on the same date. Good numbers were still present on *Islay* on 21 Sep with 10 each at Port Charlotte and Bridgend Merse and 8 at Lower Ballitarsin. After 4 were at Kames river mouth *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep the last record was of 2 birds at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 30 Sep.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica*

A vagrant: Only one record. A bird seen at Loch Tuath, Mull on 5 Jul 2011.

No records.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Cìochan

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Records were received from sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (1). Most were of 1 or two birds apart from 10 at Blairanboich (Toward) *Cowal* on 15 Jan and 6 at Ardnòe Point (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan.

Breeding There were reports from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). Most were of one or two birds but fledglings were seen with adults at Cnocan Corrach (Evanachan) *Cowal* on 29 May and at Creag na Croiche (Lephinmore) *Cowal* on 5 Jun. Elsewhere, 12 were at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May, 12 at Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 4 Jun, 18 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun, 13 at Connel (S) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun, and 20 at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 29 Jul.

Autumn/winter There were rather more birds recorded than in the previous two years. Birds were recorded post breeding at sites in: *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (12), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* (3). Sites with flocks of 14 or more were: 20 moving through a garden on 2 Aug at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, ca 30 on 7 Sep at Lily Loch *Islay*, ca 20 moving through a garden on 13 Sep at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, 14 moving along hedgerow on 18 Sep at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal*, 14 on 21 Sep at Crispie (Ardmarnock) *Cowal*, 18 on 30 Sep with other Tits at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, 16 on 13 Oct were part of a large tit flock moving through a garden at Cairnbaan (*Mid-Argyll*), 38 on *Tiree* on 14 Oct was an unprecedented number for the island, 22 on 14 Oct at Duntrune Castle *Mid-Argyll*, 14 on 15 Oct at Kilmory Bay *Mid-Argyll*, 14 on 15 Oct at Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll*, 14 on 16 Oct at Loch Crinan (NE) *Mid-Argyll*, 16 on 17 Oct at Loch Skerrols *Islay*, 22 at Arinagour *Coll* on 20 Oct, 20 at Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 29 Oct, and 17 on 29 Oct at Gartcharran (Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

A vagrant: the only two records concern one trapped, later taken into care and which subsequently died in Kintyre in May 1983 and one trapped at Sanda (Kintyre) in July 1987.

No records.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe

A rare passage migrant with only eighteen or so accepted records, 1954-2011.

Autumn One was at Balephuill and Carnan Mor, *Tiree* 3-6 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson, Janet Hunter]. A different bird was at Balephuill on 13-17 Oct [John Bowler, Simon Wellock] and presumed same nearby was at Meningie on 19 Oct [Rik van der Starre]. One was at Gortanaoid, Killinallan in NW *Islay* on 14 Oct [Peter Roberts, Pia Haley]. All these records were accepted by the ABRC. A further three reports later in Oct and early Nov from *Islay* were unfortunately not submitted. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.119).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

A vagrant: of two previous records the first, a singing male on Islay in May 1976, could not be specifically assigned to either Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler. The second, of the Western spp. was found at Carnan Mor (Tiree) on 8 Sep 2006.

No records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille

RED LIST *A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.*

Spring/breeding First arrivals were noted at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* when 3 singing males were present on 1 May. These were followed by: 1 by the office at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 May, 1 at Barnluasgan (near the Beaver Interpretation Centre) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, 1 at Abbot's Isle (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May, 7 at Craig na Croiche (Lepinmore) *Cowal* on 23 May, 1 at Benderloch, *North Argyll* on 24 May, 1 on the Bird Club trip at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May, 1 at Goirtein Croft (N of Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 28 May, 1 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 29 May, 1 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May, 1 at Dunlossit *Islay* on 2 Jun, and the last record for the year was of 5 still singing at Craig na Croiche (Lepinmore) *Cowal* on 5 Jun.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean

A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Spring/breeding The first arrival was at Kilchoman *Islay* on 22 Mar. Further records (almost all of singing males) to the end of Mar were from: *Coll* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1). From Apr to the end of Jul, singing males and territorial birds were widely reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (5). There were no reports from *Coll*. The last singing bird of the year was at Ardpatrik House (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports, mainly of passage birds, peaked during Oct with the last record of the year on 1 Dec at the RSPB reserve on The Oa *Islay*. Records were from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (9). Reports of 'Scandinavian' race *abietinus* birds were of 1-6 birds seen at 3 sites on *Tiree* between 9 Oct and 29 Nov and a single bird at Baile Mor (Iona) *Mull* on 9 Oct.

'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

An eastern race of Chiffchaff, still regarded as a sub-species of Common Chiffchaff, rather than a distinct separate species. Rare in Argyll, although small numbers of this race occur during late autumn in Scotland.

Reports of 'Siberian' race *tristis* birds were of singles, on a number of occasions, between 15 Oct and 5 Nov at Balephul *Tiree* and at The Lodge Plantation *Coll* on 18-19 Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

AMBER LIST *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

Spring/breeding The first arrivals were a bird seen singing at Ormsary *Kintyre* on 27 Mar and a number of birds singing at The Lussa River *Jura* on the following day. To the end of Apr singing birds were reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (4). Some high densities were found in suitable habitat. These included: 13 at Linne Mhuirich (head) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, 20 in a large patch of

Gorse/Willow scrub at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 19 Apr, 20 in *ca* 4 acres of weedy, early thicket stage, conifer restock at Otter Ferry (N) *Cowal*, and 30 along 1.8 miles of farm track to Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread and numerous from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (17), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (12), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (11), and *Tiree* (6).

Autumn/winter Reports from Sep onwards were all from the outer islands and mainly juveniles, most of which were assumed to be passage birds. There were 16 reports from *Tiree* and 2 from *Coll* where the last of the year was at Arinagour on 21 Oct.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann-dubh

A scarce but increasing summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.

Spring/breeding Unlike the two previous years there were no over-wintering records. The first arrival was a male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 April. This was followed by 3 singing males at Clachan Bridge (Clachan Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, 9 territorial birds on *Colonsay* (without Oronsay) also on 13 Apr, 3 singing at Linne Mhuirich (Taynish) *Mid-Argyll*, and one singing at nearby Duntrune Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr. Thereafter, during Apr birds were reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (4). During May and Jun, birds (mainly singing males) were reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (4), although none bred on the latter island.

Post Breeding There were only 5 records in Jul from: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), and *North Argyll* (1). There were no Aug records.

Autumn During Sep and Oct, presumably passage birds in ones and twos, were from sites in *Islay* (3), *Coll* (2) and *Tiree* (6). The last of the year were single males on three occasions on *Tiree* in Nov, a single on *Jura* on 4 Nov and finally a male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Dec.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.

Spring/breeding The first arrival was a singing male at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr. This compares with first arrivals of: 18 Apr at Port Charlotte *Islay* in 2011, 2 Apr at Clachan Bridge (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* in 2010, 28 Apr at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* in 2009 (the earliest ever at this location), and 3 May at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* in 2008. Singing males were then recorded at: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May, Barnluasgan (SW of Bellanoch) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 20 May and again on 14 Jun, Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 May, Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 25 May, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on the ABC field trip on 26 May, Carnan Mor and Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 May, and at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun and 6 Jul.

Autumn Single birds were noted at: Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 9 Sep and Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Sep and 13 Oct, with the last of the year being 2 birds, also at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

A rare passage migrant: Ten previous records, all have been in autumn.

Autumn One first-winter was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 16 Nov [John Bowler, Janet Hunter]. This exceptionally late bird turned up with a Lesser Whitethroat and is the latest ever recorded in Argyll. Record accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille Beag

A rare passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.

Spring One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 May [John Bowler].

Autumn One was at Balephuill and Carnan Mor, *Tiree* on 8-9 Sep with possibly a different bird 12-13 Sep. A distinct new bird was at Balephuill on 19 Sep. One was at Balephuill on 13-14 Oct with a new bird there on 16 Oct. A further bird at Balephuill on 16 Nov was the latest ever record in Argyll. [All records John Bowler]. Records accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Gealan-coille

A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Spring/breeding The first arrivals (all singing males) were noted at: Crinan Canal (Oakfield) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May, Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 4 May, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May, Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 6 May, and Glengarrisdale *Jura* on 6 May. These were rather later than the previous two years. Birds, again almost all singing males, were then widely recorded through to early Jul from sites in: *Colonsay* (excluding *Oronsay*) (57 territories found on 13 May), *Cowal* (18), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *North-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (5), although none bred on the latter island. There were no records from: *Coll* or *Jura*.

Autumn Reports of up to 8 birds (adults and juveniles) were from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (3). There were no reports from: *Coll*, *Jura*, *North Argyll*, or *Tiree*. The last were singles at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 8 Sep and Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 21 Sep (similar dates to the previous two years).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

No previous Argyll records.

‘Eastern’ Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albigristata*

Spring One male was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 28 May [John Bowler]. The first record for Argyll. This bird turned up during an obvious arrival of spring migrants which also included a Marsh Warbler and a Golden Oriole. Record accepted by the BBRC. (See photo on inside front cover and account on p.120).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche-leumnach

RED LIST *A summer visitor: breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.*

Spring/breeding On 13 Apr 13 territorial males were found on *Colonsay*. Other early arrivals (somewhat later than the previous two years) were singles at: Totronald *Coll* on 23 Apr, Craigglas *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr, Barr na Circe *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr, Strone Road End *Cowal* on 27 Apr, Ardminish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, and Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Apr. These were followed by single, mainly singing, birds at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (2). Sites with more than one bird were: 3 at Barr Laggan *Cowal* on 1 May, 2 at Strone Road End *Cowal* on 1 May (and again on 26 Jun), 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 May, 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* from 5 May rising to 3 throughout Jun, and 6 at Ardmarnock Farm *Cowal* on 20 Jun.

Autumn Late birds were singles at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Aug and Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 8 Sep.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*

A vagrant: the only accepted Argyll records are of one at Balemartine (Tiree) on 20 Sep 1998 and one at Balephetrish (Tiree) on 31 Aug – 2 Sep 2006.

No records.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

A vagrant: only 4 records; the last on Islay in 1993.

No records.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*

No previous Argyll records.

Spring One was singing in the RSPB Totronald garden, *Coll* on 8 Jun [Ian Lycett, Ben Jones]. Ian heard an unfamiliar bird singing in the garden. The bird was rather skulking but with patience was identified as the first Argyll record of this species. Record accepted by the SBRC. (See account on p.121).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche

A locally common summer visitor: breeding in suitable habitats.

Spring/breeding First arrivals were singing males at: Rockside *Islay* on 24 Apr, Ardminish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 May, and Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 2 May. In both 2010 and 2011 arrivals were earlier, more numerous, and more widespread. During May singing males were widespread at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *North-Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (4). There were no records from *Coll* or *Mull*. Through Jun and Jul birds were widely noted carrying food or with young at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* where successful breeding was widespread. There were no reports from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, or *North Argyll*.

Autumn The only later records were from: East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 8 Sep and *Tiree* where up to 5 birds were present throughout Aug and up to 4 from 1-9 Sep with singles at Balephuill and Baugh on 10 Sep. The last of the year was a single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Sep. The dates for later birds are similar to those in the previous two years.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

A vagrant: Two records concerns one at Carnan Mor (Tiree) on 3 June 2008 and one at Balephuill, Tiree in Sept 2011.

No records.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

RED LIST A *vagrant: the only previously accepted record is of one at Balephuill (Tiree) on 8-10 Jun 2007.*

Spring One was singing at Carnan Mor, Balephuill, *Tiree* on 28 May [John Bowler]. The second record for this location and Argyll which turned up during an influx of spring migrants. Record accepted by the SBRC.

EUROPEAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A rare visitor in spring and summer: there are only six accepted Argyll records, all from the islands.

Autumn One was trapped and ringed at Aros Moss, near Campbeltown, *Kintyre* on 23 Aug [Neil Brown, Rab Morton]. This is the first mainland Argyll record. Record accepted by the ABRC.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulosa* Canarach-dearg

An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.

Winter First arrivals were noted over the last 4 days of Oct, with singles at: Balephuill and Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 28 Oct, Cornaigmore and Baugh *Tiree* on 29 Oct, in a garden at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 30 Oct, and at Arinagour *Coll*, Connel *Mid-Argyll*, and The Reef *Tiree*, all on 31 Oct. From then to the end of the year, reports were received from sites in: *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (6). Of these, reports of 10 or more birds were from: Connel *Mid-Argyll* (40 on 31 Oct), *Tiree* (a total of 11 at 3 sites on 2 Nov), Craignure *Mull* (16 on 4 Nov), Loch na Cuilce (Dervaig) *Mull* (14 on 5 Nov), Beinn nan Gabhar (NE of Ben More) *Mull* (20 on 5 Nov), Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* (42 on 6 Nov), Loch Don *Mull* (20 on 6 Nov), Salen Bay *Mull* (12 on 8 Nov), Lochgilphead Town *Mid-Argyll* (up to 105 on 9 -11 Nov), Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* (32 on 10 Nov), Dunoon Hospital *Cowal* (18 on 10 Nov), Oban *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 11 Nov), Castle Stalker *North Argyll* (16 on 18 Nov), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (120 on 19 Nov rising to at least 200 on 20 Nov), Fionnphort *Mull* (30 on 24 Nov), and Cnoc Mor (Loch Scridain) *Mull* (35 on 25 Nov).

EURASIAN NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north in Scotland.

Winter/spring One, or sometimes two, birds were regularly reported at Ardkinglas *Cowal* from Jan to May [Glyn Topliss *et al*]. Breeding was confirmed at this site in 2011 but no confirmed evidence this year. This is now treated by ABRC as a returning/resident species at that locality. One at Glenbarr Nursery, *Kintyre* 14-15 Apr [Peter Sinclair *et al*] is the first accepted record for *Kintyre*.

Summer One, probably two birds were at Corra Farm, near Otter Ferry, *Cowal* 30 Jun regularly to 23 Jul [Tom Callan]. One, occasionally two birds were nearby at Ballimore 6 Aug, 6 Sep and 10 Oct [Mike Barritt per Tom Callan].

Autumn One was at Bonawe House, near Taynult, *North Argyll* on 8 Oct [Simon Pinder]. All records accepted by the ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc records on p.119).

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear

A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.

Spring/breeding The first record of the year was on 7 Feb when 2 were noted at Loch Skerrols *Islay*. To the end of Apr mainly single birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (2). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *North Argyll* or *Tiree*. From May to Sep it could be presumed that birds were breeding in suitable habitat although this was only confirmed at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 21 Jun where a nest in a cleft of a Scots Pine contained unfeathered young and at Duntrune Castle (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul where a family party was present in the gardens. Elsewhere, birds were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1).

Autumn/winter There were no records from: *Jura*, or *Tiree*. From Oct to the end of the year records of 1-2 birds were from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (1), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (2). There were no records from: *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, or *Tiree*.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn

A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters.

Birds were widespread and numerous in all recording areas apart from *Coll* where birds were no doubt present, as on *Tiree*, but not recorded.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

RED LIST A common resident on: Coll, Islay, part of Kintyre, and Tiree: 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.

Winter Larger flocks in late winter (70 or over) were recorded at: Aros (Laggan) *Kintyre* on 12 Jan (600 or more), Bruichladdich *Islay* on 16 Jan (85), The Reef *Tiree* on 23 Jan (280), The Oa *Islay* on 24 Jan (229), Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Jan (600), The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Feb (300), Kirkapoll *Tiree* on 13 Feb (600), Cornaig *Tiree* on 13 Feb (600), Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 1 Mar (80), and Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 27 Mar (1200). There were no records from *Coll*.

Breeding From Apr to Sep breeding birds were widely reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (36), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (15), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (10). Mass fledging on *Tiree* began at the end of May and by the end of Jun, there were scattered flocks of hundreds around the island. Flocks of adults and fledglings of 400 and over were: 400 at Meningie *Tiree* on 16 Jun, 650 (400 Traigh Bhi dunes and 250 The Reef) *Tiree* on 10 Jul, 600 around Hough *Tiree* on 12 Aug, 1500 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 20 Aug, 500 around Loch Gorm *Islay* on 23 Aug, 800 at Barrapol (N) *Tiree* on 26 Aug, 900 at least around the point at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* all Sep, 1070 in a pre-roost flock at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, 600 at The Reef *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 550 at Aoradh *Islay* on 19 Sep, 400 at Lower Ballinarsin *Islay* on 24 Sep, and 900 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 26 Sep.

Autumn/winter Larger flocks in early winter (70 or over) were recorded at: Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Oct (450 rising to 700 on 7 Oct), Eilean Mhic Coinnich (Portnahaven) *Islay* on 8 Oct (350), Crossapol Farm *Tiree* on 9 Oct (750), Ardbeg *Islay* on 9 Oct (650), Loch nam Breac *Jura* on 10 Oct (120), Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 17 Oct (700), Traigh Bhi dunes *Tiree* on 20 Oct (800), Kirkapoll *Tiree* on 23 Oct (600), Loch Gorm *Islay* on 23 Oct (200), Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Nov (500), Caolas *Tiree* on 17 Nov (600), Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 20 Nov (100), Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 2 Dec (200), Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 2 Dec (150), Port Lobh *Colonsay* on 2 Dec (70), Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 14 Dec (100), Saligo Bay *Islay* on 23 Dec (80), and Grainel (W) *Tiree* on 29 Dec (strangely, 200 were roosting in a barn along with a Barn Owl). The numbers show some reduction from the previous two years, particularly on *Tiree*, where there were 5 flocks of over 1000 in 2010 and 7 in 2011. There were no records from *Coll*.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Druid-dhearg

A rare summer and autumn visitor: has occurred more frequently in recent years.

No records.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge

A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.

Winter/spring To the end of Mar, single birds were reported at: Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 7 Jan, Otter House (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 10 Jan. Kilchiaran *Islay* on 15 Feb, Bealachandrain Farm (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 14 Mar, and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 17 Mar.

Breeding Birds present in suitable habitat, in pairs, or with young were noted at: Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*, Woollen Mill *Islay*, Bridgend Woods *Islay*, The Oa *Islay*, Eas Daimh (Glen Lochy) *North Argyll*, Loch na Keal *Mull*, Loch Leacann *Mid-Argyll*, Bowmore *Islay*, Clashgour *North Argyll*, and Machrimore (Southend) *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter From Aug to the end of the year single birds were reported at: Loch an Torr (Dervaig) *Mull* on 13 Aug, Cairndow *Cowal* on 14 Sep and 17 Oct, Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 21 Sep, Tobermory *Mull* on 24 Sep, River Sorn (Bridgend Woods) *Islay* on 17 Oct, Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 25 Oct, Craig Cottage (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 31 Oct, and Lossit *Islay* on 9 Nov. Two birds were found at: Claggain River *Islay* on 9 Sep, Woollen Mill *Islay* on 19 Oct, and Inverchapel (Loch Eck) *Cowal* on 29 Oct.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige

RED LIST A *summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.*

Autumn The only reports were of autumn passage birds. A male with 2 juveniles along with an influx of other thrushes at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 13 Oct, a single at The Oa *Islay* on 24 Oct, and another at Bowmore *Islay* on 28 Oct.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh

A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.

Winter/spring In late winter, birds were widely reported in ones and twos from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Groups of 10 or more were: 18 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 12 and 13 Jan, 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Jan, 15 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 15 Jan, 20 (mainly immature males) at least at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 20 Jan and again on 6 Feb, 10 at Laggan Point *Islay* on 13 Jan, and 12 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 24 Apr.

Breeding Birds were noted and breeding could be reasonably assumed at sites in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (18), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (15), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (2). There were no reports from *Coll*.

Autumn/winter In early winter, birds were widely reported in ones and twos from all areas apart from *Coll*. Groups of 10 or more were: around 20 on garden Rowans at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 12 Sep, 25 at Cluanach *Islay* on 20 Sep, 10 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 21 Sep, 20 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 9 Oct, 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Oct, 25 at Loch an Torr (Dervaig) *Mull* on 26 Oct, 30 at Loch Caignish *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct, 20 at Ardacheranmor (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 31 Oct, 10 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 1 Dec, 10 at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 14 Dec, 20 (mainly immature males at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 19 Dec, 15 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Dec, 27 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 21 Dec, 10 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 21 Dec, 10 at Cluanach *Islay* on 25 Dec, and 30 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 26 Dec.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Liath-thruisg

RED LIST A *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or pass through in spring*

Winter/spring Unlike 2011, when only one flock exceeded 50, there were many such flocks. Flocks exceeding 50 were at: Alt an Airgid (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll* (55 on 6 Jan), Baugh (S) *Tiree* (80 on 15 Jan), *Tiree* (270 around the island on 16 Jan including 70 at Gott Tip and 60 at Hough (Balephuill), Port Charlotte *Islay* (60 on 1 Feb), The Reef *Tiree* (100 on 3 Feb), Balephuill *Tiree* (60 on 3-5 Feb), Raslie Burn (Slockavullin) *Mid-Argyll* (75 on 12 Feb), *Tiree* (375 around the island on 13 Feb including 140 at Cornaigbeg and 160 near Heylipol Church), Gearach *Islay* (81 on 1 Mar), Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (50 on 24 Mar), Kildalton *Islay* (50 on

27 Mar), and Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* (59 on 30 Mar). The last of spring were 16 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr and 10 at Drimfern (Glen Aray) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr. Elsewhere there were 29 reports of smaller flocks.

Autumn/winter An unusually early bird was at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 13 Sep. This was followed by a single at Gearach *Islay* on 22 Sep and 38 at Erasaide *Islay* on 27 Sep. Thereafter small numbers were noted, mainly from the islands, to around 21 Oct when large numbers began to arrive over the next four weeks. Flocks of 50 and over were noted at: Cuan Sound *Mid-Argyll* (80 >S on 21 Oct), Craighouse (N) *Jura* (160 on 22 Oct), Catnish (Glen Orchy) *North Argyll* (200 >S on 23 Oct), Ardtalla *Islay* (100 with some Redwings on 23 Oct), Dalsmireen (Glen Breackerie) *Kintyre* (70 on 23 Oct), Lealt *Jura* (700 on 24 Oct), Bunessan *Mull* (300 on 25 Oct), Cluanach *Islay* (300 on 25 Oct), Ardmarnock Road End *Cowal* (70 on 25 Oct), Tom Dubh (Cairndow) *Cowal* (100 on 27 Oct), Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* (150 on 27 Oct), Lephinchapel *Cowal* (100 on 27 Oct), Leanach (Strachur) *Cowal* (50 on 27 Oct), Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* (100 on 29 Oct), Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* (280 on 29 Oct), An Creachan (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* (100 on 29 Oct), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (800 on 29 Oct), Maiden Island (Kerrara) *Mid-Argyll* (150 on 30 Oct), Loch an t-Sailein *Islay* (100 on 30 Oct), Shellfield (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* (100 on 31 Oct), Cluanach *Islay* (50 on 1 Nov), Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (650 on 1 Nov), Crispie (Ardmarnock) *Cowal* (more than 500 on 2 Nov), Auchoirk Farm (Millhouse) *Cowal* (100 on 2 Nov), Kilbride Farm *Cowal* (100 on 2 Nov), Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* (100 on 15 Nov), Tangy *Kintyre* (160 on 18 Nov), and The Oa *Islay* (60 on 12 Dec). Many of the above flocks included smaller numbers of Redwings and were passing south.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Smeòrach

RED LIST 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.*

Winter Birds in late winter were reported, mainly in ones and twos, from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (1).

Breeding The first record of a singing male was at Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 29 Mar. Thereafter birds were noted with evidence of, or presumption of, breeding at sites in: *Coll* (2), *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (21), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (13), and *Tiree* (5). There were no records from *Colonsay* or *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter In early winter there were reports of 1-4 birds from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (9), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (2). These include larger numbers at: Eilean Mhic Coinnich *Islay* (8 on 8 Oct), Ardbeg *Islay* (8 on 9 Oct), Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* (10 on 29 Oct), Hynish *Tiree* (8 on 4 Dec), and Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* (19 on 26 Dec).

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

RED LIST A *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

Winter/spring Records were regular through Jan to Apr with a few remaining into May. Flocks of 30 or more were noted from sites in: Scarinish *Tiree* (30 on 1 Jan and 23 Jan), Allt an Airgid (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll* (30 on 6 Jan), Balephuill *Tiree* (70 on 8 Jan and 60 on 11 Jan), Balinoe *Tiree* (60 on 13 Jan), Cornaigmore *Tiree* (30 on 13 Jan), The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* (40 on 16 Jan), between Balinoe and Hynish *Tiree* (140 on 17 Jan), Hynish *Tiree* (80 on 22 Jan), Meningie *Tiree* (70 on 22 Jan including one in sub-song), Balemartine *Tiree* (50 on 26 Jan), St.

Moluag's Cathedral (Lismore) *North Argyll* (50 on 29 Jan), Knockdon *Islay* (30 along with 45 Fieldfares on 3 Feb), Meningie *Tiree* (110 on 11 Feb including some in sub-song), Raslie Burn (Slockavullin) *Mid-Argyll* (30 on 12 Feb), *Tiree* (400 around island on 13 Feb), Ballimore *Cowal* (40 on 11 Mar), Balephuill *Tiree* (80 on 13 Apr), and The Manse *Tiree* (60 on 13 Apr) with these last two being considered an influx. The last birds of spring were 2 on *Tiree* on 9 May, and singles at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 11 May, and *Jura* on 16 May.

Autumn/winter The first arrival was a single at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 30 Sep followed by 10 or less at 5 sites in: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree* with 40 at Strone Glen *Kintyre*. From 13 to 19 Oct there were 4 flocks of: 140, 180, 265, and 230 on *Tiree* and a flock of 500, including some Fieldfares, flew east past Connel *Mid-Argyll*. These were followed to the year end by reports of around 100 or more from: *Tiree* (92 on 23 Oct), Ardtalla *Islay* (100 on 23 Oct), Tom Dubh (Cairndow) *Cowal* (100 on 27 Oct), Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* (150 on 27 Oct), Lephinchapel *Cowal* (100 on 27 Oct), Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* (1350 in a continuous movement on 19 Oct), Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* (500 on 29 Oct), Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* (300 on 29 Oct), An Creachan (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* (500 on 29 Oct), Barran (Kilmore) *Mid-Argyll* (250 on 29 Oct), Barsloichnoch *Mid-Argyll* (350 on 29 Oct), Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (230 on 29 Oct), Barr Mor (Kilmartin) *Mid-Argyll* (300 on 29 Oct), Loch an t-Sailein *Islay* (100 on 30 Oct), Shellfield (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* (100 on 31 Oct), Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* (250 on 1 Nov), *Tiree* (95 on 5 Nov), Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* (100 on 20 Nov), and *Tiree* (180 on 21 Nov). There were then six flocks of between 45 and 80 to the end of the year. It should be noted that many of these flocks above included some Fieldfares.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Smeòrach-mhòr

AMBER LIST A *widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.*

Winter/spring There were reports of 1 or 2 birds at sites in: *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (1). Reports of higher numbers were at: Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (4 on 2 Jan), Allt an Airgid (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll* (8 on 6 Jan), Lephinmore *Cowal* (5 on 11 Jan), Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* (7 on 16 Jan), and Old Hide (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* (3 on 22 Jan).

Breeding The first report of a singing male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Jan! Pairs were noted and territories held from late Mar at sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). From May to end Jul, presumed breeding birds were noted at sites in: *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (2); a similar pattern to recent years.

Autumn/winter From early Aug flocks into double figures of adults with juveniles were reported from: Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (max 25 on 9 Aug and again on 28 Aug), Foreland *Islay* (11 on 25 Aug and 10 on 7 Sep), Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (20 on Rowans in the garden on 7 Sep), Corra Farm *Cowal* (around 50 flew past the house on 17 Sep), Strone Farm *Cowal* (29 on 30 Sep), Ardmarnock Road End *Cowal* (12 on 11 Oct), and Kilfinan *Cowal* (15 on 17 Nov). Elsewhere smaller numbers were reported from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (8), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), and *North Argyll* (2).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta

RED LIST A *summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges.*

Spring First arrivals noted were at Bridgend Woods *Islay* (11 May), Kilchoman *Islay* (18 May), and Carnan More *Tiree*, Vault *Tiree*, Cornaigbeg *Tiree*, Abbot's Isle (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* (all on 19 May).

Breeding Possible, probable or confirmed breeding birds were recorded from 20 May onwards from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (11), although none bred on the island. There were no records from *Coll* or *Mull*.

Autumn A bird photographed on *Tiree* at Balinoe on 24 and 25 Oct was the latest ever Argyll record. Elsewhere, the last sightings were on 15 Aug at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and 24 Aug at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg

A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. A noticeable autumn passage occurs with some migrants over-wintering.

Winter/spring In late winter, birds were widespread in all areas; although noted as scarce on *Tiree* to the beginning of May.

Breeding Records of possible to confirmed breeding were from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (41), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (18), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (2).

Autumn/winter In early winter there was a similar picture although some counts of 10 or more made on *Islay* and *Tiree* were probably passage birds.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag

AMBER LIST A vagrant with only four records: One on *Islay* in April 1973; one at West Loch Tarbert in May 1989; one at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 2 May 2004 and one at Vaul, *Tiree* on 8 Sep 2011.

No records.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

A vagrant with only five records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975, and males of the red-spotted race svecica on Coll in 1994, on Colonsay in 2009, on Tiree in 2009 and a first-winter on Tiree in Oct 2010.

No records.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

A vagrant: Four records in Argyll; on Islay in 1974 and 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010.

Autumn A first-winter bird was at Balephuill, *Tiree* on 13 Oct [John Bowler, Janet Hunter, Nick Hunter]. This is the first record for *Tiree*. Another first-winter at Balinoe, *Tiree* on 20 Oct [Rik van der Starre] was a different individual as it bore a metal ring on its right leg, unlike the Balephuill bird. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

AMBER LIST 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; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes.

Spring The only records were from *Tiree*. A smart male at Balephuill on 9 May (with probably the same bird at Carnan Mor on 11-12 May).

Autumn Again all records were from *Tiree*. A single at Balephuill on 24 Aug, a different bird at Carnan Mor on 26 Aug, and the last of the year at Balephuill on 21 Sep.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan

AMBER LIST A *less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).*

No records.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann-dearg

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree.*

Spring First arrivals were a fortnight later than in the previous two years. There were: 2 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and 3 on 4 May (by different observers). These were followed by: a female at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 May, a singing male at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, a male in shore side shrubs at Cnocan Corrach (Evanachan) *Cowal* on 8 May, a female at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 19 May and a male there briefly on 27 May.

Breeding Birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Jura* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3), with successful breeding confirmed at two sites in *Cowal* and two in *Mid-Argyll*.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*

A *vagrant: a first summer male present at Skerryvore (Tiree) 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.*

No records.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan

A *sparse but widespread, summer visitor*

Spring Arrival dates were similar to the past two years with first arrivals noted at: *Colonsay* (13 Apr), *Iona Mull* (24 Apr), *Crinan Ferry Mid-Argyll* (1 May), *Balephuill Tiree* (2 May), *Bar Laggan (Otter Ferry) Cowal* (2 May), *RSPB Gruinart Islay* (3 May), *Dalvore (Moine Mhor) Mid-Argyll* (3 May) and *Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) Cowal* (3 May). Elsewhere, by the end of May, records had also been received from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (6), and *Mull* (6). Confirmed breeding was recorded at: *Barr Laggan Cowal* on 17 Jun, *Rockside Islay* on 18 Jun, *Kilfinan Cowal* on 25 Jun, *Lag an Daimh (Kilfinan) Cowal* on 25 Jun, *Bolsay Islay* on 26 Jun, *Dunadd Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun, *The Oa Islay* on 9 Jul, *Barr Iola (Otter Ferry) Cowal* on 9 Jul, *Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) Cowal* on 9 Jul, *Loch Leathan Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul, *Crinan Ferry Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul, *Barsloichnoch Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jul, *Add Estuary Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jul, *Port Charlotte Islay* on 10 Aug, and *Braigh (Knocknafenaig, Bunessan) Mull* on 17 Aug.

Autumn Single birds at *Ardnave Islay* on 21 Oct and *Machrie Hotel Islay* on 23 Oct were the last of the year (both extremely late).

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan

AMBER LIST A *widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.*

Winter/spring To the end of Mar, single birds and pairs were noted at sites in: *Islay* (9), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (4). There were no records from: *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal, Mull or North Argyll.*

Breeding Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (23), *Jura* (4), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (9), and *Tiree* (2) and was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (11), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (5).

Autumn/winter From Oct to Dec mainly single birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (28), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (scattered singles and pairs around the island).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal

A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

Spring First arrivals were at similar dates to the previous two years with birds noted to the end of Apr at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (27), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (13), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (4). Higher counts were: 8 found on 27 Mar between Ulva Lagoons and Keills chapel *Mid-Argyll*, 17 on an early cliff survey at The Oa *Islay* on 29 Mar, 12 at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Mar, 12 at Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Apr, 7 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 4 Apr, 6 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 6 Apr, 6 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Apr, and 7 at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 21 Apr.

Breeding Confusion does arise where some birds will have started breeding while others are still on migration. From May to end Aug records of possible/probable breeders were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (18), *Jura* (6), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (17), *North Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* where successful breeding was widespread with the first brood noted on 19 Jun. Probable passage birds included 20 in a field at Strone Farm *Cowal*, first seen on 6 May and again on 18 May but with no evidence of breeding in the area on subsequent visits.

Autumn Only small numbers (5 or less) were seen at sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (16), *Kintyre* (1), *Mull* (3), and *Tiree* (1). The last of the year was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 5 Nov.

‘GREENLAND’ WHEATEAR *O. o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.

Spring The first of spring was a male at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Apr with a single at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on the same date. These were followed by singles at: Creag a’ Chromain (Carnasserie) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 May, Barrapol (N) *Tiree* on 9 May, and Hough *Tiree* on 15 May.

Autumn The first returning (all on *Tiree*) were singles at Ben Hynish on 13 Aug, Caolas on 15 Aug, Hough on 26 Aug, The Reef on 28 Aug, and 6 around West *Tiree* on 29 Aug. Later birds (apart from singles at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 18 Sep and Argdaddan Barr *Cowal* on 23 Sep) were on *Tiree* and described as “Icelandic/Greenland” type being “large, dark, with many orangey tones”. There was an influx in Sep when: 10 were at Balevullin pools on 2 Sep, 25 at The Reef on 4 Sep, and 47 around the island on 10 Sep dropping to 15 on 24 Sep. Later reports of 1-3 birds continued into Oct with the last being singles at Milton on 14 Oct and Hynish on 26 Oct.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Gealbhoonn-nam-preas

AMBER LIST A *widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and does not breed on Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.*

Winter To the end of Mar 1-3 birds were reported from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Unusually, there were 7 birds feeding together in a garden at Dunoon (SE) *Cowal* on 27 Feb. From Oct to the end of the year 1-3 birds were reported from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Birds were regular throughout on *Tiree* with some 13

birds around the island during Dec. On Iona *Mull*, 25 birds on 8 Oct were all noted close to habitations. Almost certainly birds were under recorded.

Breeding Birds were recorded from Apr to Sep from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (17), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* including The Treshnish Isles (10), and *Tiree* (4), although none bred on the latter island.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Gealbhonn

RED LIST *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.*

Winter/spring There were reports from all recording areas throughout the year. Larger flocks included: 38 in a garden at Glenegedale *Islay* on 2 Jan, up to 30 at Balephuill and 50 at Kenovay *Tiree* during Jan, up to 25 at Balephuill *Tiree* and 40 at Kenovay *Tiree* during Feb, 20 at least at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 10 Feb and 20 on visitor centre feeders at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Feb,

Summer/Breeding Up to 28 at Balephuill *Tiree* during May, 40 at Easdale lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May, 28 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Jun, 20 at Aoradh *Islay* on 10 Jun, 45 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Jun, 100 at Machariorch (Southend) *Kintyre* on 17 Jul. 60 at least at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 Jul, 55 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Jul. Birds were widespread during the breeding season on the islands and the west coast of the mainland. Occupied nests were first noted at Cuan Sound *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and Easdale Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May. The first fledglings noted were on 7 May at Balephuill *Tiree* with 3 being fed in a garden at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on the same date.

Autumn/winter There were 96 at Baile Mor (Iona) *Mull* on 14 Aug and 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Aug with 50 on 5 Sep, 230 at Whitehouse *Tiree* and 60 at Kenovay *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 20 at Aoradh *Islay* on 19 Sep, 60 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Sep, 35 at Baile Mor (Iona) *Mull*, up to 45 at Balephuill *Tiree* during Oct, 25 at Eilean Mhic Coinnich (Portnahaven) *Islay* on 8 Oct, 26 at Aoradh *Islay* on 25 Oct, 20 at both Rockmountain and Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 Nov, 26 at Aoradh *Islay* on 5 Nov, 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11-15 Nov, 30 at Glenegedale *Islay* on 25 Nov, up to 45 during Dec at Balephuill *Tiree*, and 20 at Baligrundle (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 2 Dec.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh

RED LIST *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding took place on Islay in 2009. All records are required.*

Autumn/winter A single bird was found at Vaul, *Tiree* on 10 Sep [Paul and Sean Jacques]. Another single, possibly the same bird was at Hynish, *Tiree* on 24 Oct, 18 Nov and 4 Dec [John Bowler, Janet Hunter, Nick Hunter]. Records accepted by the ABRC. No records reported from The Oa, *Islay* this year.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan-buidhe

RED LIST *A scarce but annual passage migrant: birds of the Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi (in 1985 and 2005).*

Spring A female was near St Mary's Abbey, Iona, *Mull* on 20 May [Steve Hack]. A male was at Garamony, near Craignure, *Mull* on 29 May [K & M Reeves, I Cooper]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*

No previous Argyll records.

Autumn A first-winter bird was at Loch a' Phuill, *Tiree* on 27-29 Sep [Natalie Welden, Jim Dickson, John Bowler]. The first record for Argyll. Record accepted by the BBRC. (See photographs on front cover and account on p.122).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna

AMBER LIST *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

Winter/spring Only 1 record each in Jan and Feb followed by 8 in Mar, all singles except 2 birds at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 28 Mar.

Breeding/summer Pairs were noted at the woollen mill on the River Sorn *Islay* on 24 Apr and at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 11 May. Fledged young were seen at Creag na Croiche *Cowal* on 5 Jun.

Autumn/winter Single birds were reported from various sites in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Breac-an-t-sil

A widespread and common breeder: absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive in late Feb to early Mar and depart Aug-Oct.

Winter/spring Present throughout in all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Eighteen were at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 6 Jan, 20 at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* on 22 Jan, 12 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 3 Mar and 30 roosting in a reedbed at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Mar.

Breeding/summer Recorded in all areas except *Coll*, with breeding confirmed in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Notable gatherings included 26 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, 60 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr, 10 at the Post Office (Loch Buie) *Mull* on 25 Apr, and 20 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 May.

Autumn/winter Recorded in all areas except *Colonsay*. There were some large passage gatherings from Aug through to Oct: 34 at Calgary *Mull* on 13 Aug, 25 at Aoradh *Islay* on 24 Aug, 35 at Lagavulin *Islay* on 10 Sep, 60 at Loch a'Chumhainn *Mull* on 20 Sep, 26 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Sep, 40 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 27 Sep, and 15 coming to roost at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Oct. Subsequent single figure records were from *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

'WHITE' WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring: extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.

Winter/spring First arrival was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Mar and birds had reached Hynish *Tiree* by 2 Apr. Daily passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was noted from 7 Apr and increased through 50 on 18 Apr to 120 on 30 Apr before tailing off to a single bird on 30 May. Notable flocks elsewhere included: 19 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, 27 at Ardnave Loch among large numbers generally on *Islay* on 24 Apr, 30 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 27 Apr and 33 on *Tiree* on 9 May. Small numbers were also reported from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Autumn/winter A juvenile at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Aug was followed by an adult on 14 Aug. After 3 were seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Aug regular passage was noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 29 Aug. Five were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 30 Aug and 15 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 8 Sep. Five were at Aoradh *Islay* on 10 Sep and 2 at Killail *Cowal* on 23 Sep. The last bird seen was at Port Uisken *Mull* on 30 Sep.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

A vagrant: the only two Argyll records were both on Islay, in Sep 1971 and 1973.

No records.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

RED LIST *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

Spring First arrivals were 2 birds at Cnoc nam Broighleag (Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr and 6 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 28 Apr. Ten were counted at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and by the end of May there had been widespread records of singing birds from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

Breeding/summer Although, as noted above, there were widespread reports of singing birds, there were no confirmed breeding records.

Autumn Only 4 single birds were reported after 5 Jun, the last being at Claonaig *Kintyre* on 18 Aug.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag

AMBER LIST *An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

Winter/spring Flocks of 20 or more included: 22 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 9 Feb, 21 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 26 Feb, 20 on Sanda *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, 38 at Scodaig *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, 250 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr, 50 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 22 Apr, 100 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 26 Apr, and 180 at Loch a'Phuill together with 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Apr.

Breeding/Summer Birds were reported during the breeding season from all areas except *Coll*. Breeding was confirmed from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Flocks were noted from early Jul onwards with: 30 at Barr Iola *Cowal* on 9 Jul, 19 at Achamhinish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 18 Jul, and 25 at The Reef *Tiree* on 25 Jul. Flocks continued to build with: 90 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* and at Sandaig *Tiree* on 3 Aug, 50 at Sgeir na Sgarbh *Islay* on 19 Aug, 120 at Eilean Meall na Suiridhe *Colonsay* on 9 Sep, and 140 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 19 Sep. Flock sizes declined thereafter although 85 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Nov. A flock of 50 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec was considered to be unusually large for the time of year.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one at Tobermory (Mull) in May 1975.

No records.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus petrosus* Gabhagan

A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Winter/spring A flock of 120 was reported from Laggan Point *Islay* on 23 Jan and 10 were at Bruichladdich Pier on 6 Feb. Single figure reports came from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

Breeding/summer Breeding was confirmed from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. A flock of 18 was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Jun and at least 20 adults and juveniles were at Port Uisken *Mull* on 18 Aug.

Autumn/winter A flock of 25 was at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 19 Sep, 25 were at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 29 Sep, 12 were at Eilean Annraidh (Iona) *Mull* on 21 Oct, and 11 were present along the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* during a WeBS count on 18 Nov. A bird at the top of Bienn Hough *Tiree* (110m asl.) on 1 Nov was unusual.

‘SCANDINAVIAN’ ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

A Rock Pipit sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll unclear. Only one accepted record, from Mull in May 2011.

There were three claims of this sub-species with two from Mull and one from Kintyre. None of these appeared to show the full suite of plumage characteristics of a spring plumaged *littoralis* however it should be noted that some birds of this race can be very difficult to clearly separate from some British’ Rock Pipits. It is likely that any future claims will need to clearly rule out greyer examples of ‘British’ Rock Pipit and be backed up by good quality photographs.

AMERICAN BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens rubescens*

No previous Argyll records of this North American pipit.

Autumn One, first-winter near Ruaig, *Tiree* on 27 Sep (Jim Dickson, John Bowler, Natalie Weldon). The first record for Argyll. Record accepted by the BBRC. (See account on p.124).

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except *Cowal* and *Coll*. The only counts of 50 or more were 55 at West Tarbert *Kintyre*, 50 at Imeraval *Islay* on 9 Feb, and 53 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Feb.

Breeding Presence widespread, and probably breeding in all areas including *Coll* but not *Tiree*. Confirmed breeding (fledged young) only reported from Corra Farm *Cowal* on 19 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports were widespread, and from all areas. Those of 50 or more include: from *Cowal* 60 at Killail on 28 Aug and 50 at Corra Farm on 10 Sept, and from *Mull* 50 at Benmore Lodge, Loch Ba on 2 Oct. *Islay* consistently produced large flocks: 50 at Mulindry on 20 Sep, 50 at Cluanach on 20 Sep, 55 at Portnahaven on 8 Oct, 50 at Mulindry on 4 Nov, 100 at Bridgend Woods on 5 Nov, and 100 at Port Charlotte on 8 Nov. The biggest flock of the year was found in *Kintyre* at High Ballivain, near Westport, with 230+ on 2 Dec. It seems no coincidence that these flocks are in the main barley-growing parts of Argyll, and their numbers likely to be supplemented by immigrants. The autumn birds on *Coll* and *Colonsay* are also likely to be passing migrants, as they breed there only in small numbers.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn

An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.

Winter/spring After good numbers in autumn of 2011, there were only 2 reports for early 2012: singles at Drimfern *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, and at Aoradh *Islay* on 20 March.

Autumn/winter First of the autumn was a single at Vaul *Tiree* on 3 Oct. The next were 9 at The Lodge Plantation *Coll* on 13 Oct and 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct. Thereafter there were 1-3 at several sites on *Tiree* and *Coll* finishing with 1 at Balephuill on 2 Dec. Elsewhere the bulk of records were on *Islay*, beginning with 1 at Gortanoid on 14 Oct, followed by singles at several sites on the island, peaking with 8 at Coille on 30 Oct, tailing off to the last single at Port Charlotte on 30 Nov. On the mainland, 3 were found at Tigh an Droighinn, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct, while one arrived the same day at Ballochroy *Kintyre*. Also in *Mid-Argyll* a

single was at Bardrishaig, Luing on 21 Oct, Seil had 1 at Balvicar Lagoons on 24 Nov, and 4 were at Dalmally Bridge on 4 Nov, and 2 at Ardrishaig on 27 Nov. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* enticed one to stay for 3 days at the feeding station from 25 Oct, while the year's best was 20 at High Ballevain in *Kintyre*.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean-daraich

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.

Winter/spring Early year records were generally single figure numbers from all areas except *Jura* and *Coll*. A few groups of 10 or more were seen: 16 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 10 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 9 Mar, and on *Islay* 11 at Glenegedale on 2 Jan 10 at Bruichladdich on 8 Jan and 16 at Kilchoman on 29 Jan. *Tiree* also had its share: 13 at Balephuill on 1 Jan, 15 at Balinoe on 13 Jan, 23 at Balephuill on 17 Jan, 12 at Sorobaidh Bay on 4 Feb, and 10 at Mannal on 7 Mar.

Breeding Reported in all areas except *Jura*, where probably breeding although confirmed breeding (fledged young) only from *Cowal* (Killail and Kilfinan), *Islay* (Kilchoman), *Tiree* (Scarinish) and *Mull* (Iona).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except *Jura* and *Colonsay* mostly in small numbers. Groups of 10 or more were: 15 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 2 Aug, 20 at Eilean Mhic Coinich *Islay* and 15 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 29 Oct.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

A widely distributed resident but absent as a breeding species on Tiree with recent breeding on Coll and Colonsay. Flocks occur in autumn.

Winter/Spring Thinly reported in single figures from *Mid-Argyll*, *Kintyre*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree* only.

Breeding Numbers of reports increased from mid-Apr, from all areas including *Coll*, but only in single figures except for 10 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 10 Apr. Breeding was confirmed at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul and *Islay*: Port Charlotte on 18 Jun and Kilchoman on 17 Jul. Successful breeding was recorded for the first time from *Tiree*, with a brood of 4 fledging at Balephuill at the end of July. A late brood of fledglings was observed in the Hotel Garden *Colonsay* on 9 Sep.

Autumn/winter Post-breeding flocks were recorded in all areas except *Coll*. More substantial flocks included 40 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 18 Aug, 35 at Ballarulin *Colonsay* on 8 Sep, and 50 on Eilean Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 22 Sep. In west *Cowal* there were 30 at Otter Ferry on 28 Aug, 30 at Carry Farm and 30 at Rubha Mor Corrachra on 18 Sep, and 35 at Barr Iola on 21 Sep. *Islay* is regular for its flocks of Goldfinches across the island, although not reaching the peaks of 2010: 45 at Loch Gruinart on 4 Sep, 75 at Mulindry on 20 Sep, 75 at Cluanach on 20 Sep, 30 at Ballitarsin on 21 Sep and again on 27 Sep, and 50 still at Cluanach on 29 Sep. There were records from all areas except *Coll* from October to the end of the year, but flock sizes were diminished except on *Tiree*, where there were still 35 at Balephuill on 10 Nov, with 7 still there on 31 Dec.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Gealag-bhuidhe

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.

Winter/spring A few reports in small numbers until the end of Mar, and only from *Mid-Argyll*, *Kintyre*, *Islay* and *Mull*. Reports picked up in mid-Apr, extending to *North-Argyll*, *Cowal* and *Tiree*, the largest flock being 25 at Barr Laggan *Cowal* on 13 Apr.

Breeding/summer Reported present in all areas except *Colonsay* and *Coll*. Fledglings reported only from *Islay*: Port Charlotte on 18 Jun and Claddach on 23 Jun. Post-breeding numbers and reports increased throughout, although not recorded from *Colonsay*, *Coll* or *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Highest number of reports and biggest flocks in Sep, with 35 at Craig Ghlas Burn *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug, 50 at Toba *Mull* on 17 Aug, 35 at Barr Iola *Cowal* on 21 Sept, and 85 at Mingary Burn, Glen Gorm *Mull* also on 21 Sep. Thereafter numbers and reports diminished but included a late bird flying south over Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 15 Oct, and 30 at Auchamore House, Gigha *Kintyre* on 3 Dec.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lìn

RED LIST 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.*

Winter/spring No reports in Jan or Feb. Thereafter, Mar reports from Tayinloan *Kintyre*, The Oa *Islay*, and Balephuill and the Reef *Tiree*. Apr reports also included North Ledaig *North Argyll*, Scarba & Easdale *Mid-Argyll* and several sites on *Mull* and *Iona*.

Breeding Recorded as present from *Kintyre*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mull*, *Tiree* and *Coll*, but fledged young only reported from *Tiree* and *Islay*, the first seen at Balephuill *Tiree* was on 30 May.

Autumn/winter Post-breeding flocks from August onwards were reported from Lismore *North Argyll*, *Tiree*, *Islay*, *Colonsay* and *Mull*. Flocks over 50 on *Tiree* included 90 at Baugh on 9 Aug and 140 there on 20 Aug, 230 at Kilkenneth on 26 Aug, 70 at Barrapol on 29 Aug, 60 at Vaul on 10 Sep, 80 at Crossapol on 26 Oct and 70 at Hynish on 26 Oct. Flocks over 50 on *Islay* included 80 at Ballinaby on 17 Aug, 60 at Lower Ballintarsin on 24 Sep and 150 at Kindrochid on 28 Oct. Other notable sightings included 70 at Eilean Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 22 Sep, 35 at Cnoc Corr *Colonsay* on 9 Sep and 18 at Calgary *Mull* on 13 Aug.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

RED LIST A *local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrants birds.*

Winter/spring No records from *North Argyll*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* or *Coll*. Best numbers during the period were found across *Islay*, especially on the The Oa and at Ardnave, with respective peaks of 60 on 12 Feb, and 125 on 3 Feb. Elsewhere, numbers peaked on *Tiree* with 55 at Meningie on 11 Feb, and single figure numbers found at several sites in *Kintyre* and on *Mull*.

Breeding No reports from *North Argyll* or *Colonsay*. Reported as present but without breeding evidence from sites in *Jura*. Probable breeding in *Cowal* at Otter Ferry. Confirmed breeding reported from Keillmore, Keillbeg and Crinan Ferry in *Mid-Argyll*, and from Arranman's Barrels and Gigha in *Kintyre*, from the The Oa on *Islay*, from Traig nam Barc *Colonsay* and from *Tiree* at Carnan Mor.

Autumn/winter Reported in bigger numbers from all areas. On *Coll* present at Loch Airigh Meall Bhreide, Arinagour on 20 Sept. In *North Argyll* 8 were found at Fennachrochan, Lismore on 22 Sep, in *Mid-Argyll* 45 were at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport on 6 Nov and in *Cowal* there were 8 at Otter Ferry on 19 Sep. On *Colonsay* reported at Balnahard Bay on 9 Sep, and at Port na h-Atha, Oronsay on 2 Dec. In *Mull*, there were 15 on Staffa on 4 Oct, 52 at A'Mhachair, Iona, on 8 Oct, and 3 at Knocknafenaig, by Buessan, on 27 Nov. On *Tiree* sizable flocks were found across the island to the end of Dec, with the highest counts in hundreds: 220 at Caolas on 9 Sep, and 180 at Balemartine on 1 Oct. Widespread and numerous on *Islay* where the biggest counts were 100 on The Oa on 9 Oct, 100 at Loch Gruinart on 18 Oct, 180 at Ballinby on 23 Oct, 200 on the The Oa on 31 Oct and 330 there on 19 Nov.

Table 40. **MSBO Twite Study.** Since 2010 Twite have been caught and colour-ringed during autumn passage. In Sep & Oct 2012 251 birds were caught. Resightings (via E Maguire & BTO) of some of these birds and of the other 665 during 2012 include:

Ring No.	Date ringed at MSBO	Place seen	Date	Distance km	Time elapsed
L999092	20 Sep 2011	Heysham, Lancs	09 Nov 2011	239	0y 1m 20d
		Heysham, Lancs	03 Feb 2012	0	0y 4m 14d
L999067	20 Sep 2011	Heysham, Lancs	25 Feb 2012	239	0y 5m 5d
		Heysham, Lancs	15 Nov 2012	0	1y 1m 26d
L999038	16 Apr 2011	Askam, Cumbria	11 Nov 2011	213	0y 6m 26d
		Askam, Cumbria	28 Nov 2012		1y 7m 12d
L999175	21 Sep 2012	Heysham, Lancs	27 Nov 2012	239	0y 2m 6d
-	25 Oct 2012	The Wig, D&G	30 Nov 2012	-	-
-	22 Sep 2012	Tayinloan, A&B	9 Feb 2013	-	-
-	21 Sep 2012	Silloth, Cumbria	24 Feb 2013	-	-
-	25 Oct 2012	Carnan Mor, Tiree	25 May – 16 June 2013	-	-

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* Dearcan-seilich

RED LIST A *locally common partial migrant, breeding locally: numbers fluctuate from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.*

Winter/spring A few reports of single figures from *Islay* in Jan and *Tiree* in Mar.

Breeding Number of reports increased rapidly in mid-Apr across *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, *Tiree* and *Islay*, with single records from *Jura* and *Mull*, but none from *North Argyll* or *Coll*. The only reports of fledged young were from *Kilfinan* and *Otter Ferry Cowal*, and *Knochnafenaig* (*Ardalanish*) *Mull*, although the size of flocks elsewhere suggested reasonable breeding success.

Autumn/winter More sizable post-breeding flocks on *Islay* included: 40 at Port Charlotte on 10 Aug, 70 at Mulindry on 20 Sep, and 55 at Lower Ballitarsin on 21 Sep. Elsewhere there were 45 at Gallochoille, *Gigha Kintyre* on 15 Sep, and 70 at Eilean Ramsay, *Lismore North Argyll* on 22 Sep. Smaller numbers were recorded from *Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & **Greenland Redpoll** *C. f. rostrata* (latter now sometimes known as *North-western Redpoll*, which includes *islandica*). A scarce passage migrant: and irregular winter visitor.

Spring/summer Four adult birds followed by 6 juveniles at Balephuill and Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 19 May-6 Oct [John Bowler et al]. A single bird was at Treshnish *Mull* on 23 May [Anand Prasad]. These birds were of the race *C. f. flammea* and were accepted by the ABRC.

Autumn Up to 30 birds of the NW race *C. f. rostrata* were on *Tiree* on 29 Sep-13 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson et al].

A single NW type bird was at *Iona Mull* on 10 Oct [Graeme Garner] and a single bird was at Ballinaby *Islay* on 22 Oct [Andrew Harrop]. Up to 7 birds of the race *C. f. flammea* at Balephuill were at *Tiree* on 18 Oct and 2 to 4 Dec [John Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*

A vagrant: there are only two accepted Argyll records; both of the race *exilipes*. One was on Islay on 22 Sep 2001 and the other on Tiree on 23 Oct 2004.

Spring A bird of the race *hornemanni* was at Sanaigmore beach, Islay on 10 Apr [Hilary and Guy Mackenzie]. This bird was later identified to species and race from photographs taken by Hilary. This becomes the first of this race/sub-species in Argyll. Record accepted by the BBRC.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-ghob

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years but few stay when cones are scarce.

Winter/spring A few reports, consisting of single figure numbers from *Mid-Argyll, Cowal, Islay* and *Jura*.

Breeding Reports mostly of single figure numbers and without breeding evidence from *North Argyll, Mid-Argyll, Cowal, Kintyre and Colonsay*, and including 4 at the Scarba landing stage *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr. Reports including juveniles came from *Balevulin, Gleann Seilisdeir, Mull* on 3 May, and in a flock of 25 from *Clashgour North Argyll* on 19 Jun. A flock of 35+ seen at *Bothan Dubh, Cowal* on 5 Jun, whilst 11 flew NE over *Arinagour Coll* on 12 Jun.

Autumn/winter Single figure reports were from *North Argyll, Mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Coll* and *Tiree*.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A rare visitor which may have bred: sixteen records 1989-2011, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.

Autumn An adult or second calander year bird at *Hynish Tiree* on 5 Sep [Keith Gillon], was followed by a juvenile at *Balephuill Tiree* on 7 Sep with 2 juveniles there the next day [John Bowler]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

AMBER LIST A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.

Winter/spring Early year records from *North Argyll, Mid-Argyll, Cowal, Islay* and *Jura* all in single figure numbers, the highest being 8 at *Loch Corr Islay* on 13 Jan.

Breeding Confirmed breeding recorded from 2 sites in *Cowal*. Presence also recorded from *Mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Mull, Islay* and *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Post-breeding records came from *North Argyll, Mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Mull* and *Islay*, all in single figure numbers, with the highest being 6 at *Loch an Torr Mull* on 26 Oct. 1 at the *Lodge Plantation Coll* on 16 Sep was unusual.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

RED LIST A rare visitor: seventeen records 1953-2011.

Spring A female was at *Arinagour Coll* on 13 and 15 Apr [Pauline White, Julian Senior]. This bird was photographed on 13 Apr and fed with House Sparrows and Chaffinches as close as 3 metres. Record accepted by the ABRC.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag-an-t-sneachda

RED LIST Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter): along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.

Winter/spring There were 15 early year records, the first being 3 at Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Jan. No more were seen on *Tiree* until a single at Baugh on 10-12 Apr, and a summer plumaged male at West Hynish on 29 Apr. *Islay* had one on 9 Jan at The Oa, 2 at Aoradh on 12 Jan, and one seen at Ardnave on several occasions from 1 to 17 Feb. There was one at Claddach on 26 Feb, one seen again on 10 Mar. There were 2 at Ardnave on 19 Mar, and 1 at The Oa on 29 Mar. A single was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Mar.

Autumn/winter First of the autumn was 1 at Braigh, Knocknafenaig *Mull* on 21 Aug then 1 on *Tiree* at Loch an Eilein on 19 Sep, 1 on *Coll* at Loch Airigh Meall Bhreide on 20 Sep followed by a male at Crossapol *Coll* on 7 Nov. The first in October was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 6 Oct, with 4 at Balephuill on 13 Oct and one at Traigh Thodhrasdail on 31 Oct, whilst late *Tiree* records were 1 at Whitehouse on 17 Dec and 1 at Sandaig on 27-30 Dec. The first reports on *Islay* were 4 at Coul Point on 15 Oct, still present on 19 Oct. Highest count for the year was 20 at Killinallan dunes on 20 Oct. A single sighting at Saligo Bay on 25 Oct and 2 Nov. On 3 Nov a single was at Bruichladdich, and 5 were at Ardnave on 4 Nov. *Islay's* last of the year was a single at The Oa on 5 Dec. The 2 mainland records were 13 at Portsonachan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Nov, and 4 at Chapull-cloiche in north *Kintyre* on 3 Dec.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.

Winter/spring Six early year records: the first 2 birds on The Reef *Tiree* in the company of Starlings on 23 Jan. Next was a single at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 4 Mar amongst Skylark, Reed Buntings and Meadow Pipits. Another 2 on *Tiree* were at Gott Tip on 5 Apr. A mainland record was of 2 at Saulmore (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr. The last of the spring passage were of 2 singles on *Islay* on 29 Apr at Coull Farm and at Druim na h-Eresaid.

Autumn/winter As usual autumn passage was more numerous, beginning on *Tiree* with 3 at Clachan and 1 at Sandaig on 23 Sep, followed by 1 at Baugh next day, then 1 on The Reef on 26 Sep. A single seen at Balephuill and Loch a'Phuill on 27 Sep might have been the same bird. The first Oct sightings were a single at Whitehouse on 1 Oct and flocks of 5 and 15 on The Reef on the same day and 1 at Hynish on 31 Oct. Passage on *Islay* began on 7 Oct with 4 at Claddach, and also seen nearby the next day. A flock of 11 were at Ballinaby on 22 Oct and also at the south of Loch Gorm the same day. The mainland contribution was a single at Portsonachan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Nov. The year concluded with 2 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 31 Dec.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag-bhealaidh

RED LIST 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.

Winter/spring There were a few early year reports from sites scattered across *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Kintyre* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1) and *Mull* (1). The only report in double figures was of 10 at Carsaig Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr.

Breeding No evidence of confirmed breeding reported, but singing males and territory holding reported from *Mid-Argyll* (4 sites including Seil and Scarba), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (2) and *Mull* (3).

Autumn/winter There were late summer and autumn reports from more widespread sites across *North Argyll* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (9) and *Mull* (2). There were small flocks in places, such as 22 on Danna *Mid Argyll* on 15 Oct, and 11 at Kildalton/Ardmore House *Islay* on 26 Dec.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

A vagrant: the only record concerns one on Mull in May 2009.

No records.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

A vagrant with only two records: one on Islay in May 1980 and the other on Tiree in June 1987.

No records.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

A vagrant: the only records are of a bird found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west of Tiree), in Sep 1985 and a single bird on Tiree in Oct 2007.

No records.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*

A vagrant: the only record concerns one on Tiree in Sep 1981.

No records.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòin

AMBER LIST A *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Most early year reports were of single figures and confined to *Mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Cowal, Islay* and *Tiree*. The exception was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, where numbers increased during Feb to peak at 37 on 21 Feb.

Breeding The only evidence of successful breeding (fledged young) was reported from *Islay* (Rockside and Loch Finlaggan), but was probable in *Mid-Argyll* (4 sites), *Kintyre* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (8), *Jura* (1), *Mull* (3), *Tiree*, and *Colonsay*. On *Oronsay Colonsay* in April there were 3 territories counted, plus 35 on *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Post-breeding reports came from all areas except *Kintyre* and *Mull*, and were mostly in single figures. Double figure counts occurred on *Tiree* (15 at Balephuill on 22 Oct), and on *Islay*: 12 Loch Gorm on 23 Oct, 20 Port Charlotte on 10 Nov and 35 at RSPB Aoradh on 10 Dec.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

A vagrant with eight records: all of singles, during May to Jul, the last record being on Colonsay in Jun 2005.

No records.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* Gealag-bhuachair

A former resident on Tiree and Coll but has recently become extinct. There are occasional records of wandering birds: last reported in Aug 2006 on Coll.

No records.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD *Molothrus ater*

A vagrant: the only record concerns one at Ardnave Point (Islay) in Apr 1988 and was the first British record.

No records.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*

A vagrant: the only record concerns one on Islay in Nov 1982 and remains the only Scottish record to date.

No records.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana*

A vagrant: One record of a first-winter on Tiree 25-29 Sept 2010 was also the first for Scotland.

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.17). 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.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Category E* *Reported with increasing frequency.*

One adult was seen and photographed at Barsloisnoch near Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Anser ruficollis*

Category E* *No previous reports of escapes in Argyll. One previous record was judged to have come from a wild population.*

An adult bird was seen and photographed at Ardencaple Farm, Loch Riddon, *Cowal* on 5-7 Jun was judged by the BBRC to be an escaped/introduced bird.

Other Category E species recorded in Argyll include: Black Swan, Swan Goose, Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Muscovy Duck, Pelican sp., Flamingo sp., Harris Hawk, Indian Peafowl, Green Pheasant, Reeves Pheasant, Eagle Owl, Ring-necked Parakeet, 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 22.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Bewick's Swan	<i>Islay</i>	09/05/2012	ABRC
White Stork	<i>Kintyre</i>	05/08/2012	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Kintyre</i>	04/04/2012	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Islay</i>	08/10/2012	ABRC
Hobby	<i>Islay</i>	06/07/2012	ABRC
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	27/08/2012	ABRC
Nuthatch	<i>Mull</i>	22/05/2012	ABRC

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 Canada (Cackling) Goose*	<i>Islay and Tiree</i>	Various records 2002-2012	BBRC
Gyr Falcon	<i>Tiree</i>	May/Jun 2009	BBRC

* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for this species.

Details of the following claimed 2012 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
Pectoral Sandpiper	Loch Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	22/09/2012
Yellow-browed Warbler	Port Charlotte	<i>Islay</i>	20/10/2012
Yellow-browed Warbler	Erasaid	<i>Islay</i>	31/10/2012

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.

ARTICLES

‘Eastern’ Subalpine Warbler at Tiree on 28th May 2012: the first Argyll record

John Bowler

28 May 2012 was a warm spring day on Tiree, with clear blue skies and a very light easterly breeze. After a busy morning of fieldwork and meetings, I arrived back to our house at Balephuill at around 2.55 pm for a late lunch and noticed a couple of Spotted Flycatchers in the willows along the southern edge of our garden. These were newly arrived, so I took my bins upstairs to get a better view from the office window. There was no sign of the flycatchers but a warbler flew into the corner willow and I checked to see what it was. Its blue-grey back was facing me and having initially expected a Willow Warbler from its size, I was momentarily unsure of the species. It then turned round to face me and my heart jumped! It had a brick-red throat, broad white moustachial stripes and a bold red eye-ring set in a blue-grey face – it was a male Subalpine Warbler!

I grabbed my digital camera and digi-binned the bird, obtaining one blurred shot in my excitement before it flew to land on a small wicker fence closer to my position. Here it perched for a few minutes turning about several times and allowed time for a few shots although the strong sunlight made photography difficult through the closed window. I watched the bird for several minutes taking in the details of its structure and plumage, including the limited extent of brick-red colour on the throat and upper chest, the rather cold whitish flanks, belly and vent, the rather broad white moustachial stripes, the really blue-grey mantle and nape with browner wings, the white edges to the outer tail feathers and the pale fleshy-pink legs. The key features including the limited extent of red below, the breadth of the moustachial stripes and the colour of the upperparts and flanks, suggested to me that this was a male of the Eastern *albigistriata* race, a form I am familiar with from trips to Lesbos and Turkey.

The bird then flew over our hedge and into our neighbour’s garden where I quickly relocated it from a different upstairs window as it fed in a dense hawthorn bush in their back hedge. I watched it for several more minutes here as it fed mostly partly obscured. I carefully opened the window and managed to take a few more shots of the bird whenever it came out more into the open. After about 12 minutes in total, the bird flew low towards our neighbour’s front hedge. I looked for it here for ca. 20 minutes but it did not re-appear, so I sketched the bird in my notebook and downloaded my pics before putting the news out on Birdline Scotland. Despite much checking of the gardens and neighbouring bushes, the bird was never seen again, although whilst trying to relocate it later that day, I found a singing Marsh Warbler and an immature male Golden Oriole (also singing) nearby at Carnan Mor in amongst an obvious arrival of Spotted Flycatchers, Whitethroats and Blackcaps – easily my best ever spring day’s birding on Tiree!

DESCRIPTION

Shape and size: The bird reminded me of a shorter-tailed Dartford Warbler in shape, clearly smaller than a nearby Whitethroat and slightly larger than nearby Willow Warblers. It could appear rather front-heavy at times with quite a large head and a bulging breast with a slimmer

back-end and tail, although generally it just looked rather slim overall. The forehead was quite steep and came to a peak behind the eye. The bill was small and slim, whilst the dark eye looked quite large as it was accentuated by the broad red eye-ring. The closed wings were moderately long with quite long primary projection. The tail was quite long but not overly so as on Dartford Warbler, although it was often held cocked upwards at a slight angle above the horizontal, making it appear longer than it really was. The fleshy-pink legs were rather prominent because of their bright colour. The bird perched quite happily in the open although it appeared rather restless and spent much time changing position. It could disappear completely when foraging in a hawthorn bush and was generally rather unobtrusive. It was not heard to call or sing at any time, although the window was closed for some of the observation.

Plumage: The head, nape, mantle and rump were a rather concolorous blue-grey. In strong light, this could appear to be rather paler but in duller light could appear quite dark and less obviously uniform. This blue-grey contrasted with the darker and browner flight feathers and the darker greyer central tail feathers. There were fairly prominent white edges to the closed tail, whilst there were some paler edgings to the flight feathers. The alula was blacker and had a more prominently white edge. There were bold and rather broad white moustachial stripes running from the bill base to below the ear coverts. The eye was rather dark – it appeared brownish with a large back pupil and was surrounded by a complete broad red eye-ring. The throat and upper chest were a deep and rather dark brick-red colour but this was not very extensive with the lower breast and belly being a dirty grey-buff washed whitish colour. The flanks were paler and colder toned than the belly, whilst the vent and under-tail coverts were also a cleaner whitish colour. The fine bill had a paler grey-pink base and a blacker tip. The legs were a rather bright pale fleshy pink.

Record accepted by the British Birds Rare Bird Committee as 'albistriata' race of Subalpine Warbler and becomes the first record for Argyll. (See photograph on the inside front cover).

Melodious Warbler at Isle of Coll on 8 June 2012: first record for Argyll

Ian Lycett

At approximately 13:30 on the 8th June I heard a bird singing in the Fuchsia hedge at Totronald garden. I knew straight away that it was a species song that I had not heard before. The song reminded me of a more fluid sounding Whitethroat but with more prolonged phrases. The bird was singing in the opposite side of the hedge and as I walked around to try and view it I fully expected a rare *Sylvia* warbler.

The bird was clearly a warbler and was slightly larger than the resident Sedge Warblers. It was in full view on dead tips at the edge of the Fuchsia with its back to me but head positioned to the side as it was singing. The bill was stout with an obvious pale pink lower mandible contrasting well with a dark upper mandible. The bird had pale yellow lores and supercilium which was faint and short ending diffusely just behind the eye. The eye ring was also pale yellow. These

observations confirmed to me that this was a *Hippolais* warbler. The upperparts were brown with more of a brown/green tone higher up on the mantle and nape. There was no sign of a distinct wing panel along the secondaries and tertials with only slight abrasion visible on a few tertials. The primary projection was short and roughly extended from the secondaries about half the length of the tertials. The tail was brown as in the upperparts and was distinctively square ended.

The bird showed well on and off, singing at the top of young Willows and this allowed me to attain good side and front views. From the front I noted that as well as having a heavy bill it had a broad base. The chin, throat and breast were a rich yellow colour which contrasted well with the brown upperparts. The rich yellow suffused out to paler yellow on the lower breast and belly. Then behind the legs on the vent it was creamy brown in colour. Also noted were the dull brown coloured legs.

Initially, the bird showed well with 30-60 second views in the open singing, but as the afternoon wore on it became increasingly skulking showing only brief glimpses. Unfortunately it was at this stage that we were attempting photograph the individual and sadly we were out of luck. By the early evening there was no sign of the bird and, unsurprisingly with a calm night, the bird was not present the following day despite our best efforts at relocating it.

Extracted from Ian Lycett's description to the Scottish Birds Records Committee and accepted by them. This becomes the first record of Melodious Warbler in Argyll.

Citrine Wagtail at Tiree 27-29 September 2012: first record for Argyll

Jim Dickson

On 27th Sept I was at Vaul Bay on Tiree when I was approached by Natalie Welden as she could see I was a birdwatcher. She was keen to tell me that she thought she had seen a Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* earlier that morning at Loch a' Phuill and would like me to see her photos of it to see what I thought of them. She was a bit tentative about her identification of the bird as she had never seen one before but was sure it was not an *alba* wagtail. I looked at the images she had taken which were now on her laptop and I was able to confirm the bird was indeed a first-winter plumaged Citrine....a first record for Tiree and Argyll, if of course accepted by the BBRC!

We were both excited by this find and Natalie was glad she had found someone to verify her sighting. Loch a' Phuill was at least 10 miles from Vaul so meantime I phoned John Bowler (resident birder and RSPB conservation officer on Tiree) to tell him the good news and in the hope that he could get there more quickly before the bird vanished. Natalie and I then set off to look for the bird arriving at Loch a' Phuill around mid-day. We met up with John and searched for the bird along the course of a small burn, carefully checking from the bird hide area where it

was last seen by Natalie, down to the shore of the loch. Unfortunately after much intense searching it could not be re-located and we feared it had moved on.

After continuing to birdwatch elsewhere I went back later in the afternoon to the bird hide area at Loch a' Phuill walking down to the shore where the burn joins the loch. With no sighting of the bird I had given up hope of finding it and started to turn back. I then caught a glimpse of a wagtail flying from the shore of the loch and back up the burn. I could hear it call as it flew past me and was clearly a Citrine with a distinct high pitched 'shreep' although not as loud as some birds can be. Fortunately I had my camera ready and initially 'fired off' a few record shots before gradually getting closer to the bird. Satisfied that this was indeed a Citrine Wagtail I then phoned John once again to give him the good news and he managed to see it later on. The bird was then present for the next two days although quite mobile at times up and down the burn.

Notes and Description:

A wagtail superficially similar to a juvenile *alba* (Pied/White Wagtail) but appearing smaller and a bit shorter tailed and more like a *flava* (Yellow Wagtail) in build and tail length. It most closely resembled some washed out variant *flava* or eastern Yellow Wagtail but the main clincher for identification as a first-winter Citrine Wagtail was the pale supercilium that wrapped around the ear coverts.

The bill was all black which was also good for a Citrine and there was no evidence of a juvenile type 'gorget' that can be seen on some juvenile *favas* or dark lores or any yellow wash to the under-tail that are usually present on first-winter *flavas*.

Natalie had noted a yellow tinge to the forehead but that really was not very prominent...only really a slight tinge to the fore supercilium and just above the bill. A short dark line was apparent immediately above the supercilium.

The crown, nape and upperparts were pale grey and the closed wing feathers black, broadly edged white to give two well-marked wing bars and lower white edges to the tertials. The black tail had pure white outer feathers.

The underparts were whitish and there was a small dark smudge mark at the side of the throat. The ear coverts were grey with some whitish flecks and the legs were black.

The call was not as loud as some birds I've heard but unlike both *alba* and *flava* it was a distinct high pitched sharp 'shreep'. The bird was aged as first-winter on account of lacking any yellow tones to face/throat and not assigned to race.

This record was accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee and becomes the first record of Citrine Wagtail for Argyll.

American Buff-bellied Pipit at Tiree on 27 September 2012: a new species for Argyll

Jim Dickson

I was on a two week birding trip to the Isle of Tiree. The previous five days had been hard going with very few birds of note seen. A North West (Greenland) type redpoll the previous day had been the highlight so far and was the first indication of anything new happening. Earlier in the day a Citrine Wagtail had been found and photographed by Natalie Welden and it now looked that things were improving.

After catching up with the Citrine Wagtail I drove to the east side of the island and passed a large flat short grass field (improved pasture) at Ruaig and decided to check out the pipits and wagtails (*alba*) present as the numbers were well up on previous days.

A quick scan using binoculars indicated there were about 50-70 Meadow Pipits and about 20 Pied Wagtails in the large field. After a minute or so of scanning I noticed a dark looking pipit about 170 metres away on its own. Thinking it looked a bit unusual I got my telescope onto it and noted that it was very dark above and paler below with a fair amount of streaking on the underparts. The upperparts however did not appear streaked. At this point a Meadow Pipit came into the same view and looked completely different...paler, smaller in build and heavily streaked light and dark on the upperparts. At this point I had watched the bird for about 10-15 seconds before it flew and I lost sight of it. I went into 'panic mode' as a quick search in the immediate area failed to relocate it and I had the distinct feeling that it could be a Buff-bellied Pipit (American Pipit) *Anthus rubecens*, but without closer views and longer study I would be struggling to make an acceptable positive identification.

I continued to search the field for the next 20 minutes or so checking out each Meadow Pipit present. Almost on the point of giving up I relocated what appeared to be the same bird at the opposite end of the field, going by its dark appearance. I got the telescope back onto it and zoomed up and could now see for certain it was indeed a Buff-bellied Pipit! I took some distant record photos at about 150 metres which just about showed some of the interesting features. I then decided to get out my car and walk down the road and try to get closer. More photos were taken at c 50 metres and then I entered the field (trying to avoid the cattle) and got to within about 25 metres at which point the bird flew and called...not dissimilar to a drawn out Meadow Pipit call and not much like a Rock Pipit. I decided not to chase it around the field but instead go back to the car and inform John Bowler (resident birder and RSPB conservation officer for Tiree) and Natalie Welden the only other birder on the island at this time, of the good news!

I relocated the bird again, this time at the back left hand corner of the field, about 180 metres away. Taking mental notes of its plumage, build etc, I tried not to let the bird out of my sight so that it would still be in view when John and Natalie arrived. Within 10-15 minutes both of them were on site and I was able to show them the bird and we all watched it move through the grass and occasionally watched it fly short distances at the back of the field. We watched it for at least another 30 minutes or so before it flew away into the next field (further away) and we lost sight of it. I checked for it daily over the next few days but the number of pipits had greatly diminished and it could not be relocated.

Notes and Description: (Found at c 14.30 and last seen c 15.50)

A pipit in build and structure that seemed to show a mix of Meadow Pipit and Rock Pipit features....superficially appearing to have a Rock Pipit's upperparts and a Meadow Pipits underparts!

It appeared to be slightly larger and a bit stockier than the nearby Meadow Pipits and I would say it did not appear as large as a Rock or Water Pipit although there were no Rock Pipits in the field for a direct comparison.

The bird stood out from the other (Meadow) pipits as appearing several shades darker on the upperparts with no discernible lines of streaks found on the Meadow Pipits but appearing plain dark olive brown (with only very fine darker streaking when viewed closely). The streaked underparts were more like Meadow than Rock but with narrower streaking on breast, chest and flanks but on a buff-brown background 'wash'. This meant that the streaking stood out less than on the Meadow Pipits where the background colour was much paler.

The bird had whitish or whitish-buff tips to the lesser and greater coverts which gave a two wing-barred appearance. This was probably more pronounced due to the rest of these feathers being dark brown and also contrasting with the dark upperparts and wing feathers. A couple of feathers on its left side/wing were noted as being out of place/loose.

The head appeared dark-olive brown and had an obvious and distinct pale 'eye-ring' which really stood out. It had a pale creamy brown supercilium which looked to start just above the eye and go back only a short distance, not even to the rear of the ear coverts. The ear coverts were again plain olive brown. On very close inspection there was a less obvious (narrower) continuation of the supercilium in front of the eye and reaching the bill.

The throat was off-white or pale buff and unmarked. Dark brown, almost blackish streaking was most marked at the sides of the throat, recalling Red-throated or Pechora Pipit and fine lines of streaking noted extending across the chest, breast and onto the flanks. The belly was un-streaked and washed buff.

The closed wing and tail feathers appeared dark brown (outer tail feathers whitish) and noticeably darker than the mantle. The long tertials, which covered the primary tips and extended to the tail base, were also dark brown but with fairly broad paler creamy brown lower edges.

The bill was short and pointed, not appearing as long and strong as on Rock Pipit. It was black but with a paler base extending a bit more onto the lower mandible. The legs appeared dark olive-brown but not black. The flight call, heard several (3-4) times was very similar to a Meadow Pipit but perhaps more drawn out.

Record accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee and becomes the first record of American Buff-bellied Pipit for Argyll.

Argyll Ringing Recoveries: Selected Highlights

Nigel Scriven

There are many people and groups that are involved in ringing birds in Argyll, but there is no single Argyll Ringing Group to co-ordinate and collate ringing activities and the data generated. The information below is gleaned from the BTO on-line ringing report for 2012, which in itself is a tiny selection from the vast quantity of information held on the national ringing database <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>

Details for Argyll are found listed under the 'county' of Strathclyde. It is from these that birds either ringed, or later found in Argyll are selected. Criteria for selection include foreign recoveries, interesting movements within the British Isles, and age of bird. Distances are those from point of original ringing, not from where previously seen, if there are multiple sightings.

Species/ Ring No.	Age Finding Details	Date ringed Date found	Location /distance/direction/ time difference
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WHOOPER SWAN

Breeds in Iceland, winters in UK

ZY0738	First-year Female	10-02-2011	Martin Mere, Lancashire
	Long dead (hit wires)	01-01-2012	Loch Assapol, Bunessan, Isle of Mull 366km NW 0y 10m 22d

GREYLAG GOOSE

Some breed in UK, some breed Iceland & winter in UK

ZY0738	First-year Female	10-02-2011	Martin Mere, Lancashire (winters there)
	Long dead (hit wires)	01-01-2012	Loch Assapol, Bunessan, Isle of Mull 366km NW 0y 10m 22d
5226902	Adult Female	08-07-2002	Loch An Eilein, Tiree (breeds there)
	Freshly dead (shot)	16-01-2012	Balinoe, Tiree: 2km 9y 6m 8d
5227827	Adult	19-07-2005	Sanda Island, Kintyre (breeds there)
	Freshly dead (shot)	18-01-2012	Wigtown, Dumfries & Galloway 85km ESE 6y 5m 30d
5258557	Second-year Male	04-07-2009	Loch An Eilean, Tiree (breeds there)
	Alive (neck collar seen)	21-07-2010	Lady Bridge Farm, North Yorkshire 422km SE 1y 0m 17d

BARNACLE GOOSE

Breeds Greenland, winters UK -16 year old bird

1098080	First-year Male	05-11-1996	Gruinart Farm, Loch Gruinart, Islay
	Freshly dead (shot)	27-09-2012	Svinafell, Oraefi, Austur-Skaftafells, Iceland 1,077km NNW 15y 10m 22d

FULMAR

24 year old bird

FA26342	Nestling	04-08-1987	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Long dead	19-07-2012	Culzean Country Park, Ayrshire 51km E 24y 11m 15d

MANX SHEARWATER

14 year old bird

FR44077	Adult	29-07-1998	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Long dead	03-11-2012	Kilkeel Harbour, Co Down

STORM PETREL *Long-lived breeding birds, site fidelity & between colony movements*

2452782	Full-grown	05-08-1995	Tullagh Point, Donegal
	Caught by ringer	25-07-1996	Sanda Island, Kintyre 121km E 0y 11m 20d
	Caught by ringer	26-07-1996	Calf of Man, Isle of Man 221km SE 0y 11m 21d
	Caught by ringer	07-08-2001	Sanda Island, Kintyre: 6y 0m 2d
	Caught by ringer	26-06-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre: 16y 10m 21d
2483247	Adult	01-08-1997	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	26-06-2012	Treshnish Isles 146km NNW 14y 10m 25d
2543405	Adult	14-07-2002	Calf of Man, Isle of Man
	Caught by ringer	28-06-2012	Treshnish Isles, 290km NNW 9y 11m 14d
2521978	Adult	05-08-2003	Brough of Birsay, Brough Head: Orkney
	Caught by ringer	05-07-2006	Sanda Island, Kintyre: 451km SSW 2y 11m 0d
	Caught by ringer	31-07-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre: 8y 11m 26d
2556161	Adult	26-07-2004	Sanda Island, Kintyre:
	Caught by ringer	21-08-2012	Sanday, Orkney 482km NNE 8y 0m 26d
2556161	Adult	26-07-2004	Sanda Island, Kintyre:
	Caught by ringer	21-08-2012	Sanday: Orkney 482km NNE 8y 0m 26d
2521978	Adult	05-08-2003	Brough of Birsay, Brough Head: Orkney
	Caught by ringer	05-07-2006	Sanda Island, Kintyre 451km SSW 2y 11m 0d
	Caught by ringer	31-07-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre 8y 11m 26d
2647509	Adult	21-08-2011	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	Caught by ringer	24-06-2012	Treshnish Isles: 428km NNW 0y 10m 3d
2649503	Adult	11-08-2010	Porth Ysgaden, near Tudweiliog: Gwynedd
	Caught by ringer	25-06-2012	Treshnish Isles, 414km NNW 1y 10m 14d
2659359	Adult	02-08-2011	Eilean Nan Ron, Highland Region
	Caught by ringer	04-08-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre: 373km SSW 1y 0m 2d
2624653	Adult	28-06-2011	Treshnish Isles:
	Caught by ringer	30-07-2012	Nolsoy, Torshavn: Faeroes 614km N 1y 1m 2d

GANNET*Breeds on Skelligs -25 year old bird*

1245266	Nestling	26-07-1987	Little Skellig: Kerry
	Freshly dead	17-09-2012	Salum, Tiree 583km NNE 25y 1m 22d
1410185	Nestling	08-07-2005	Ailsa Craig, Ayrshire
	Freshly dead	22-05-2012	Saligo Bay, Islay 105km NW 6y 10m 14d

CORMORANT*Interesting young bird movement*

5248863	Nestling	03-07-2011	Glas Eilean, Port Ann, Loch Fyne, Mid-Argyll
	Freshly dead	03-03-2012	Sandgreen Beach, Dumfries & Galloway 150 km SSE 0y 8m 0d

SHAG*Long-lived birds and an interesting young bird movement*

1272311	Nestling	18-07-1989	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Unknown - ring only	02-08-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre 3km 23y 0m 15d
1334610	Nestling	28-06-1995	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Dead - leg only	12-08-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre 0km 17y 1m 15d
1350617	Nestling	24-06-1997	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Freshly dead	04-07-2012	St Ciaran's Cave, Campbeltown:

			14km NNE 15y 0m 10d
1356115	Nestling	02-07-1998	Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura:
	Freshly dead	05-06-2012	Eilean Na Cille Steep Islet, Sound of Jura
			5km 13y 11m 3d
1455780	Nestling	05-07-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Long dead	16-10-2012	Carsaig, Mull 120km NNW 0y 3m 11d
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BUZZARD		<i>Interesting local movements</i>	
GH67787	Nestling	09-06-1997	Loch Fada, Colonsay
	Unknown - ring only	29-03-2010	near Tarbert, Jura 27km ESE 12y 9m 20d
GN43283	Nestling	18-06-2011	Oronsay Farm, Oronsay
	Sick (disease)	29-02-2012	Crail, Fife 227km E 0y 8m 11d
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OSPREY		<i>Interesting movements</i>	
1421529	Nestling	10-07-2012	Site Confidential, near Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll
	Alive - colour rings	01-09-2012	Hawridge Reservoir, Somerset 597km SSE 0y 1m 22d
1421531	Nestling	10-07-2012	Site Confidential, near Loch Awe, Mid-Argyll
	Freshly dead-hit train	02-09-2012	Great Ayton, Yorkshire 329km SE 0y 1m 23d
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PEREGRINE		<i>Interesting movements</i>	
GC66280	Nestling Male	17-06-2010	An Criap, Glendaruel Forest, Strachur, Cowal
	Long dead	12-03-2012	Pencaitland, Lothian 145km E 1y 8m 24d
GR35024	Nestling	17-06-2012	An Criap, Glendaruel Forest, Strachur, Cowal
	Freshly dead	25-07-2012	Stewarton, Ayrshire 55km SE 0y 1m 8d
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OYSTERCATCHER		<i>Interesting movement</i>	
FH45336	Adult	16-10-2011	Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris, Anglesey
	Dead	14-07-2012	Barnacarry Bay, Kilninver 351km NW 0y 8m 28d
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RINGED PLOVER		<i>Interesting foreign movement</i>	
ISR	Adult Female	28-05-2008	Dyrafjordur, Vestur-Isafjardar, Iceland
894848	Dead	24-04-2012	Uiskentuie Strand, Islay 1,442km SE 3y 10m 27d
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GOLDEN PLOVER		<i>Interesting foreign movement</i>	
NLA	First-year	22-10-2011	Workum, Friesland, Netherlands
1553440	Freshly dead (shot)	28-09-2012	Heylipol, Tiree 881km WNW 0y 11m 6d
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SANDERLING		<i>Interesting movement</i>	
NT46238	Adult	03-10-2011	Eastoke, Hayling Bay, Hampshire
	Alive - colour rings	14-05-2012	Hough Bay, Tiree 749km NNW 0y 7m 11d
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DUNLIN		<i>Good foreign movements</i>	
POL	Adult	30-04-2010	Vasa Sacos, Santarem, Ribatejo Portugal
D38058	Alive - colour rings	20-05-2010	Ardskinish, Colonsay 1,922km N 0y 0m 20d
POL	Adult	30-01-2010	Vasa Sacos, Santarem, Ribatejo Portugal
D40178	Alive - colour rings	15-06-2012	Traigh Nam Tobar Fuar, Machrins,

GREAT SKUA*Potential colonising breeder?*

HT75180	Nestling	03-08-2008	Isle of Canna, Highland
	Alive - colour rings	12-06-2012	Rubha Breac, Oronsay 117km S 3y 10m 9d

BLACK-HEADED GULL*22 year old bird*

ER27004	Nestling	08-06-1990	Hellipol Bog, Tiree
	Unknown (ring only)	29-02-2012	Hough, Tiree 6km NE 21y 8m 21d

COMMON GULL*17 year old bird*

ES59347	Nestling	28-06-1995	Tuckers Islet, Lismore, North Argyll
	Freshly dead	22-06-2012	Eilean Inshaig, Loch Craignish, Mid-Argyll 34km S 16y 11m 25d

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*A good age & a foreign movement*

GN00155	Adult	23-07-1998	Oban Harbour, Mid-Argyll
	Sick (disease)	22-05-2012	Oban, Mid-Argyll 2km 13y 9m 29d
GA38370	Nestling	05-07-2002	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Alive -ring read	27-12-2012	Portimao, Algarve Portugal 2,027k S 10y 5m 22d

HERRING GULL*2 long lived birds*

GG90147	Nestling	16-06-1994	Eilean Beag, Dunstaffnage, North Argyll
	Freshly dead	20-07-2012	Abbot's Isle, Loch Etive 7km E 18y 1m 4d
GF60876	Nestling	05-07-1997	Eilean Nan Caorach, Lismore, North Argyll
	Alive - ring read	29-06-2012	Port Appin, North Argyll 2km 14y 11m 24d

GUILLEMOT*Interesting movements from Sanda-bred birds*

R08134	Nestling	29-06-2002	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Dead	12-07-2012	Troon, Ayrshire 66km ENE 10y 0m 13d
R79217	Nestling	03-07-2010	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Dead (in net or cage)	30-03-2012	Hastings, Sussex 640km SE 1y 8m 27d
R61662	Nestling	26-06-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Long dead	27-10-2012	Fairbourne, Gwynedd 303km SSE 0y 4m 1d
Y02593	Nestling	18-06-2011	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	Long dead	24-03-2012	Girvan, Ayrshire 225km NNW 0y 9m 6d
R61347	Nestling	26-06-2012	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Sick	20-09-2012	Kirkton Farm, Tyndrum, 139km NNE 0y 2m 25d

RAZORBILL*Interesting movements to colonise elsewhere*

M91348	Nestling	23-06-1998	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	11-06-2009	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 285km S 10y 11m 19d
	Caught by ringer	11-06-2011	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 285km S 12y 11m 19d
M95747	Nestling	21-06-1999	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	23-06-2007	Puffin Island, Anglesey 239km SSE 8y 0m 2d

	Caught by ringer	02-06-2012	Puffin Island, Anglesey 239km SSE 12y 11m 12d
M92856	Nestling Male	01-07-1999	Faraid Head, Highland
	Alive - ring read	10-05-2012	Treshnish Isles, Mull 255km SSW 12y 10m 9d
M90721	Nestling	06-07-2001	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Freshly dead	28-03-2012	Fethard-on-Sea, Wexford 353km SSW 10y 8m 22d
M43303	Nestling	26-06-1990	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	01-06-1999	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 285km S 8y 11m 6d
M91348	Nestling	23-06-1998	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	11-06-2009	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 285km S 10y 11m 19d
	Caught by ringer	11-06-2011	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 285km S 12y 11m 19d
M92856	Nestling Male	01-07-1999	Faraid Head, Highland Region
	Alive - ring read	10-05-2012	Treshnish Isles, Mull 255km SSW 12y 10m 9d
M95747	Nestling	21-06-1999	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	23-06-2007	Puffin Island, Anglesey 239km SSE 8y 0m 2d
	Caught by ringer	02-06-2012	Puffin Island, Anglesey 239km SSE 12y 11m 12d

BARN OWL

A 5 year old bird & an interesting movement

GN36389	Nestling	15-06-2007	near Kilberry, Knapdale
	Freshly dead	17-06-2012	Ormsary, Knapdale 10km N 5y 0m 2d
GC66295	Nestling	30-06-2010	An Criap, Glendaruel Forest, Strachur, Cowal
	Long dead (hit car)	28-01-2012	Broomhouse Fm, N'umberland 207k E 1y 6m 29d

TAWNY OWL

2 car casualties

GC89188	Nestling	25-05-2011	Glenbranter Forest, Strachur, Cowal
	Freshly dead (hit car)	13-12-2012	Loch Eck, between Coylet and Allt Na Blathaich, Cowal 9km SSE 1y 6m 18d
GR43246	Nestling	29-05-2012	Campbeltown, Kintyre
	Freshly dead (hit car)	26-09-2012	Campbeltown, Kintyre 0km 0y 3m 28d

WILLOW WARBLER

Interesting foreign movement and recapture

ESI	Full-grown Male	29-03-2010	Isla Grosa, San Javier, Murcia Spain
KG0257	Caught by ringer	23-04-2011	Lagganbeg, Kilninver, Mid-Argyll 2,085km N 1y 0m 25d
	Caught by ringer	09-05-2012	Euchar, Mid-Argyll 2,085km N 2y 1m 10d

SEDGE WARBLER

Interesting foreign movements

L877241	Full-grown Male	08-06-2012	Scalasaig, Isle of Colonsay:
	Caught by ringer	07-08-2012	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique France 1,013km SSE 0y 1m 30d
FRP 6492374	Adult	02-08-2011	Mars-Ouest, Saint-Philbert-De-Grand-Lieu, Loire-Atlantique) France
	Freshly dead hit glass	10-05-2012	Kilmaluag Cottage, Glenbar, Kintyre

FRP 6787183	First-year Male	17-08-2011	989km NNW 0y 9m 8d Tour Aux Moutons, Donges, Loire- Atlantique France
	Caught by ringer	05-06-2012	Aros Moss, Kintyre 936km NNW 0y 9m 19d
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PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL		<i>Interesting passage movements</i>	
X455941	First-year	28-09-2009	Slapton Ley, Devon
	Alive - colour rings	12-04-2011	Tiree, 723km NNW 1y 6m 15d
X455681	First-year	18-11-2008	Slapton Ley, Devon
	Alive - colour rings	27-05-2009	Colintraive, Cowal 634km N 0y 6m 9d
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CHAFFINCH		<i>Interesting movement</i>	
Y362698	Adult Female	05-11-2011	Calf of Man, Isle of Man
	Freshly dead	09-05-2012	Dunoon, Cowal 212km N 0y 6m 4d
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GOLDFINCH		<i>Interesting movements and a foreign movement</i>	
Y484091	Juvenile Female	31-08-2012	Lagganbeg, Kilninver, Mid-Argyll
	Caught by ringer	30-11-2012	Frampton, Lincs 519km SE 0y 2m 30d
Y484068	Juvenile	21-08-2012	Lagganbeg, Kilninver, Mid-Argyll
	Caught by ringer	05-11-2012	Heysham, Lancashire 302km SSE 0y 2m 15d
FRP 6126977	First-year Female	07-03-2009	la Neuville: 50°29'N 3°2'E (Nord) France
	Freshly dead	23-05-2010	Kilberry, Knapdale 824km NW 1y 2m 16d
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TWITE		<i>Interesting movements and site fidelity</i>	
V782667	First-year	06-12-2009	Raghly Peninsula, Sligo
	Alive - colour rings	21-02-2010	Raghly Harbour, Sligo 5km 0y 2m 15d
	Alive - colour rings	17-04-2010	Tottronal, Coll 282km NNE 0y 4m 11d
L999067	First-year Male	20-09-2011	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	28-10-2011	Heysham, Lancashire 239km SE 0y 1m 8d
	Caught by ringer	25-02-2012	Heysham, Lancashire 239km SE 0y 5m 5d
	Caught by ringer	15-11-2012	Heysham, Lancashire 239km SE 1y 1m 26d
L999092	First-year Female	20-09-2011	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	09-11-2011	Heysham, Lancashire 239km SE 0y 1m 20d
	Caught by ringer	03-02-2012	Heysham, Lancashire 239km SE 0y 4m 14d
L999038	Full-grown Male	16-04-2011	Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre
	Caught by ringer	11-11-2011	Askam Pier, Cumbria 213km SE 0y 6m 26d
	Caught by ringer	28-11-2012	Askam, Cumbria 213km SE 1y 7m 12d
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LESSER REDPOLL		<i>Interesting movements and a foreign movement</i>	
Y828190	Adult Male	20-06-2012	Aros Moss, Machrihanish
	Caught by ringer	27-10-2012	Pett Level, Sussex 657km SE 0y 4m 7d
X351980	Juvenile	01-07-2012	Sanda Island
	Caught by ringer	25-10-2012	Pett Level, Sussex 640km SE 0y 3m 24d
BLB 12386615	First-year	05-11-2011	Wibrin, Luxembourg, Belgium
	Caught by ringer	27-05-2012	Aros Moss, Machrihanish 962km NW 0y 6m 22d

Recent Literature on Argyll birds

Bob Furness

Here we present a brief bibliography in alphabetical order by author name, of recent publications that relate to birds in Argyll, with a short description where considered appropriate. Papers, books and reports published within the last few years are listed, with emphasis on the most recent publications. Where reports are produced annually, only the most recent in the series is referenced. Web pages where 'grey' literature (informally published written material) can be accessed are listed where possible. The list includes publications up to the end of 2013.

Anderson, H.B., Evans, P.G.H., Potts, J.M., Harris, M.P. and Wanless, S. 2013. The diet of Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) chicks at colonies in the UK, 2006-2011: evidence for changing prey communities in the North Sea. Ibis doi: 10.1111/ibi.12099.

Includes data on Guillemot prey composition from the Treshnish Isles and Colonsay, where in recent years the main chick diet has been sandeels.

Balmer, D.E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B.J., Swann, R.L., Downie, I.S. and Fuller, R.J. 2013. Bird Atlas 2007-11: the breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland. BTO Books, Theftford. Includes data mapping bird distributions and abundance in Argyll within the context of Britain & Ireland.

Bowler, J.M. 2011. Northern Parula, the Isle of Tiree, Argyll, 25-29 September 2010 – the first Scottish record. Scottish Birds 31: 86-90.

Bowler, J.M. 2012. Brown Shrike, Tiree, October-November 2011 – the first Argyll record. Scottish Birds 32: 78-81.

Bowler, J. 2012. Snipe feeding young. Scottish Birds 32: 327-328.

Bowler, J. 2013. Record black-tailed godwit influx on Tiree in April 2013. Scottish Birds 33: 257-258. *Persistent NW winds in April stopped black-tailed godwit migration and over 1,500 gathered on Tiree in late April (about three times the highest number ever previously recorded there) before weather conditions allowed them to continue to Iceland. About 30 of these birds were colour ringed, 8 at breeding grounds in Iceland and 22 from wintering areas from Portugal, France, Belgium, Netherlands, England and Ireland. There were also 11,320 golden plovers held back at the same time.*

Craik, J.C.A. 2012. Results of the mink-seabird project in 2012. Report to Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunstaffnage. 23pp. *This report lists results of mink control and monitoring of seabirds breeding on various islands between Mallaig and West Loch Tarbert. The 2012 season is the 18th successive year of this project. Mink control measures at 26 sites boosted seabird productivity at 16 of these sites; six failures were due to mink despite control measures and four were due to other predators. The report lists numbers of breeding seabirds and breeding success at each of the 26 sites. Particular emphasis is given to the successful deployment of mink-proof rafts in Loch Creran where in 2012 about 600 pairs of*

common terns nested and raised about 500 fledglings, making this one of the most productive common tern colonies in Britain. This is the latest in a series of Annual Reports.

Dickson, J.M. 2013. Ascension frigatebird, Bowmore, Islay, 5 July 2013 – second Scottish and Western Palearctic record. *Scottish Birds* 33: 352-355.

There have only been three records of Ascension Frigatebird more than a few hundred miles from Ascension Island: one off West Africa, and two in Argyll. The first Argyll record was a juvenile in Tiree in 1953, and this second record was also a juvenile. Both arrived during weather conditions favouring movement up the Atlantic, and records in summer of unidentified frigatebirds in European waters suggest that such seasonal movement may be more frequent than previously expected, and contrast with records of magnificent frigatebirds which tend to occur in Europe in early winter.

Dickson, J. and Allan, B. 2012. The Dunbeg ‘High Arctic gull’; is it a Thayer’s? *Scottish Birds* 32: 178-185. Probably, but identification of birds in juvenile plumage is very difficult.

Etheridge, B., Riley, H., Wernham, C., Holling, M. and Stevenson, A. 2013. Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Report 2011.

Pdf available from www.scottishraptorstudygroup.org/SRMS_Report11.pdf Summary reports are presented for each breeding raptor species with Argyll as one of the defined regions. Numerous tables of data are presented for individual species. This is the latest in a series of Annual Reports.

Evans, R.J., Pearce-Higgins, J., Whitfield, D.P., Grant, J.R., MacLennan, A. and Reid, R. 2010. Comparative nest habitat characteristics of sympatric white-tailed *Haliaeetus albicilla* and golden eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in western Scotland. *Bird Study* 57: 473-482. *White-tailed eagles nested at lower altitudes, in more wooded habitat with more open water nearby. Golden eagles showed no change in territory occupancy when close to white-tailed eagle territories.*

Evans, R.J., O’Toole, L. and Whitfield, D.P. 2012. The history of eagles in Britain and Ireland: an ecological review of place name and documentary evidence from the last 1500 years. *Bird Study* 59: 335-349. Includes consideration of Argyll sites and place names.

Fox, A.D. and Walsh, A. 2012. Warming winter effects, fat store accumulation and timing of spring departure of Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* from their winter quarters. *Hydrobiologia* 697: 95-102.

Greenland white-fronted goose spring migration from Ireland and from Argyll is starting earlier than it used to. This appears to be due to birds being able to store fat faster in spring (which may be a consequence of climate warming) rather than being a direct response of bird behaviour to warming climate.

Gilbert, G. 2012. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* breeding habitat in Britain. *Bird Study* 59: 303-314. Includes data from Islay, Tiree and Mainland Argyll.

Grant, J.R., Reid, R. and Whitfield, D.P. 2011. Clearing nests of food remains does not influence subsequent nest choice in white-tailed eagles. *Scottish Birds* 31: 308-310. Study carried out mainly in Argyll; results explained in the title.

Gregory, M. 2010. Wind farms and golden eagles: the Argyll experience – an update. Scottish Birds 30: 129-130. *Evidence is presented that two golden eagle home ranges in Argyll have been adversely affected by construction of wind farms and that mitigation measures were ineffective.*

Jardine, D.C., Clarke, J. and Clarke, P.M. 2010. A long-term breeding study of grey herons on Colonsay and Oronsay, Argyll. Scottish Birds 30: 14-20.

Between 1982 and 2009 about 10-20 pairs of herons nested. In each year there was one main heronry and a few satellite sites. Ten different main sites were used over the study period, nine on Colonsay and one on Oronsay.

Jardine, D.C, Peacock, M.A., McGowan, R.Y. and Maw, C. 2011. Natural predation of golden eagles. Scottish Birds 31: 226-228. *Details of a young golden eagle killed by another raptor on Oronsay.*

Jeanes, C., Vaughn-Higgins, R., Green, R.E., Sainsbury, A.W., Marshall, R.N. and Blake, D.P. 2013. Two new Eimeria species parasitic in corncrakes (Crex crex) (Gruiformes: Rallidae) in the United Kingdom. Journal of Parasitology 99: 634-638. *Two new species of parasite were described from faecal samples collected from corncrakes and were found to be widespread in corncrakes in Coll, Argyll.*

Kim, M., Furness, R.W. and Nager, R.G. 2010. Hatching asynchrony is constrained by parental nest attendance during laying. Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology 64: 1087-1097. *Herring gulls nesting on Sanda Island were studied during egg laying and incubation in one year. Diet varied between pairs. Several pairs fed predominantly on grain scavenged from livestock feeding troughs. Pairs with a more marine diet had lower nest attendance. Low nest attendance was associated with smaller clutch size in this colony in the study year.*

Lemke, H.W., Bowler, J. and Reneerkens, J. 2012. Establishing the right period to estimate juvenile proportions of wintering sanderlings via telescope scans in western Scotland. Wader Study Group Bulletin 119: The proportion of juveniles in flocks of sanderling on Tiree was consistent from mid-September to late October (after migration but before ageing from plumage became difficult due to moult). In September-October 2009, 2010 and 2011 about 6-9% of sanderlings on Tiree were juveniles.

Medeiros, R.J., King, R.A., Symondson, W.O.C., Cadiou, B., Zonfrillo, B., Bolton, M., Morton, R., Howell, S., Clinton, A., Felgueiras, M. and Thomas, R.J. 2012. Molecular evidence for gender differences in the migratory behaviour of a small seabird. PLoS ONE 7(9): e46330. *This paper shows that European storm petrels caught using tape lure on the coast of Portugal are mostly females. However, the sex ratios of samples caught by using the same tape lure at Sanda Island Argyll and at Ailsa Craig were close to 50:50. The results indicate that female storm petrels differ in migrations from males, with apparently very few male storm petrels visiting the coast of Portugal.*

Mitchell, C. et al 2011. The status and distribution of summering Greylag Anser anser in Scotland. Bird Study 58:338-348. *Includes Argyll data.*

Musdale wind farm Environmental Statement Volume 1 (of 5): NTS July 2013
http://www.infinis.com/assets/downloads/development_documents/Musdale/Musdale%20NTS.p

df Includes assessment of likely impacts on bird populations including eagles and red-throated divers.

Ofield, B. 2011. Pied-billed Grebe, Salen Bay, Isle of Mull, March 2011 – second record for Argyll. Scottish Birds 31: 185-187.

Reid, J.M., Bignal, E., Bignal, S., McCracken, D.I., Bogdanova, M.I. and Monaghan, P. 2010. Parent age, lifespan and offspring survival: structured variation in life-history in a wild population. Journal of Animal Ecology 79: 851-862. Survival rate of young choughs on Islay decreased with parental age and lifespan.

Reid, J.M., Bignal, E., Bignal, S., Bogdanova, M.I., Monaghan, P. and McCracken, D.I. 2011. Diagnosing the timing of demographic bottlenecks: sub-adult survival in red-billed choughs. Journal of Applied Ecology 48: 797-805. Chough population growth on Islay mainly depends on first-year survival rate. This was exceptionally low in 2007-10. Most mortality occurred in July-December, when young birds disperse, and probably reflects conditions on key grassland foraging areas.

Reynolds, T.J., Harris, M.P., King, R., Swann, R.L., Jardine, D.C., Frederiksen, M. and Wanless, S. 2011. Among-colony synchrony in the survival of the common guillemot *Uria aalge* reflects joint wintering areas. Ibis 153: 818-831. Contains data on guillemot survival from Colonsay. Survival rates correlated with those at other colonies, suggesting that variations were due to wintering conditions rather than events at individual colonies during the breeding season.

SAC Consulting 2012. Proposed wind energy project and associated ancillary development at Ascog Farm, Bute. Environmental Statement. 302pp.

www.ascogfarm.com/wind_energy/2012-09-28_Ascog_Env_Statement.pdf Includes assessment of likely impacts on bird populations.

Shackleton, D. 2012. Night rafting behaviour in great northern divers *Gavia immer* and its potential use in monitoring wintering numbers. Seabird 25: 39-46. Night roosts of great northern divers were studied around Mull. Locations of roosts remained constant between months and years. Evening counts at roosts provide a cost-effective way to monitor numbers. In late winter/early spring, Loch na Keal roost held 60-70 birds, Loch Tuath 70-110, Loch Buie 20-30, inner Loch Scridian 30-40.

SPR Sound of Islay Tidal Array

www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sound_of_islay.asp Includes summarised assessment of possible impacts on bird populations.

SSE Renewables 2013. Tangy III Wind Farm Environmental Scoping Report, Jacobs, June 2013

http://www.sse.com/uploadedFiles/SSE_Microsites/Tangy_III/Controls/Lists/Resources/ScopingReport.pdf Includes summarised assessment of possible impacts on bird populations, especially Greenland white-fronted geese at Tangy Loch SSSI and Kintyre Goose Roosts SPA immediately adjacent to the site, but also to merlin, hen harrier and short-eared owl populations.

Ward, R.M. 2012. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group Report for 2012. 38 pp. http://www.tiarg.org/annual_reports/2012.pdf *Reports on the annual activities of Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. In 2012, the group held its 34th expedition, with nine people on the islands from 23 to 30 June. The report includes maps, weather notes, systematic lists of birds, mammals, and Lepidoptera, counts of breeding seabirds, bird ringing records, a summary of expeditions 1971-2012, and two short reports: on shag ringing and retrapping to estimate adult survival, and on small rodents on Lunga. The latter reported the presence of house mice (but no rats) on the island and suggests that the mice might adversely affect the breeding colonies of storm petrels which appear to be declining. This is the latest in a series of Annual Reports.*

Wenzel, M.A., Webster, L.M.I., Blanco, G., Burgess, M.D., Kerbiriou, C., Segelbacher, G., Piertney, S.B. and Reid, J.M. 2012. Pronounced genetic structure and low genetic diversity in European red-billed chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) populations. Conservation Genetics 13: 1213-1230. *Genetic diversity in chough populations, including that on Islay, is low, but there are differences among populations. British populations are genetically similar and are derived from the continental population, but show particularly low genetic variation and little evidence of any recent immigration of continental genotypes.*

West Islay Tidal Energy Park Environmental Statement: Non-Technical Summary. 44pp. www.westislaytidal.com/ *Includes summarised assessment of possible impacts on bird populations.*

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