

**The Twenty second
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the years
2008/2009**

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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 features. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations. Throughout the year there are field trips to local and more distant sites of interest.

Publications

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

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www.argyllbirdclub.org

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Annual subscription (please tick):

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PREFACE

Once again there is quite a delay between the dates of the observations which go to make up this report and its publication. As always we have to wait for the records to be submitted before we can start. And then the writing of the species accounts and editing of the text is a very time consuming job (as those of you who have tried it will know) and has to be fitted in between other demands on our time. We intend to involve more club members in the work of compiling species accounts for future reports to try to spread the work load. If you think you might be able to help with this please contact the Paul Daw or Tom Callan.

Most of the key people concerned with producing the report have also been heavily involved with field work for the BTO 2007-11 Bird Atlas project. Records arising from Atlas work have already made a large contribution to the following species accounts. It will be fascinating to see the final picture of current distribution and population density of birds in Argyll when the Atlas is finally published.

One of the elements of atlas work has been the focus on the breeding status of our birds. This is something that has sometimes been lacking in records sent in by members in the past. If we want to continue to monitor the health of our bird populations we need this information. Can I encourage everyone to include as much breeding information as possible in the records they send in. This is important even the common species like House Sparrow and Song Thrush and ideally comprises records of confirmed breeding such as nests, eggs, recently fledged young and adults feeding young etc. The breeding codes are available from BTO and are included in the Argyll Bird Club automated record system available from the Recorder (see page 6). As always you are strongly encouraged to use this method for submitting all your bird records. The status and welfare of our birds is a constantly changing picture due to climate change and other environmental pressures. A current example is the spread of Nuthatches to Argyll as a breeding species. The more information we have at grass roots level the readier we and the conservation organisations will be take whatever measures we can to help our birds to prosper. The Argyll Bird Club has recently been taking practical measures to encourage local birds by purchasing and installing nest boxes and helping with finance for tern nesting rafts. Anyone who wishes to help with this work should contact the Chairman or other member of the ABC Committee listed on page 3.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all those concerned with the writing of this publication, to our editor who has spent many hours maintaining the high standard we aim for in this report and to all those who send us their observations and records. What follows is the fruit of all your efforts.

Paul Daw
February 2012.

Argyll Bird Report 22

Systematic list for 2008-2009

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INTRODUCTION

The following systematic list includes entries for 223 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2008 and 235 such species recorded in 2009 (*cf.* average 216 species during the years 1993 – 2007). The number of species recorded in 2009 is by far the highest annual total since the Argyll Bird Report began in 1980. I suggest that this is, at least in part, due to the enthusiasm with which a small band of local birders look out (and write descriptions of!) rare birds, especially on islands such as Islay and Tiree.

Six new species were added to the Argyll list (*viz.* Black-browed Albatross, Cattle Egret, Gull-billed Tern, Short-toed Lark, Blythe's Reed Warbler and Ortolan Bunting), which stood at 337 species seen up to Dec 2009. Records for 8 category E species in 2008 and one in 2009 are also listed, as are 5 additional races* in 2008 and 6* in 2009.

* Including Feral Pigeon.

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

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

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

Advice to contributors sending in records on paper.

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

- **Your name and address.**
- **Species name.** The commonly used English name is usually sufficient (British Birds – List of English Names), but scientific (Latin) name is helpful if reporting sub-species.
- **Date.** Please give exact date whenever possible (rather than ‘June’ or ‘Spring’) as this makes the record much more valuable and enables us to relate it to other records received. There are two boxes for dates. If you are 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 ‘few’, which are too subjective to have much value.
- **Breeding Status.** If you have any evidence of breeding, even for very common species, please enter it here. Please use the 2007-11 Atlas breeding codes if you know them (see BTO website www.bto.org/birdatlas/index.htm under Taking Part - Breeding Evidence).
- **Sex and age if known.** This is especially useful for ‘white winged’ gulls e.g. 1st winter Iceland Gull
- **Comments.** Other interesting comments are always welcome e.g. indications of breeding, behaviour, food, interactions with other birds/animals etc. Individual anecdotes add value to what can otherwise be rather a ‘dry’ report.

Rare birds

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

The list below details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description (see Jim Dickson's helpful guide in 'The Eider' for March 2009 pages 8 & 9 - also available on the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERPRETATION OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

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

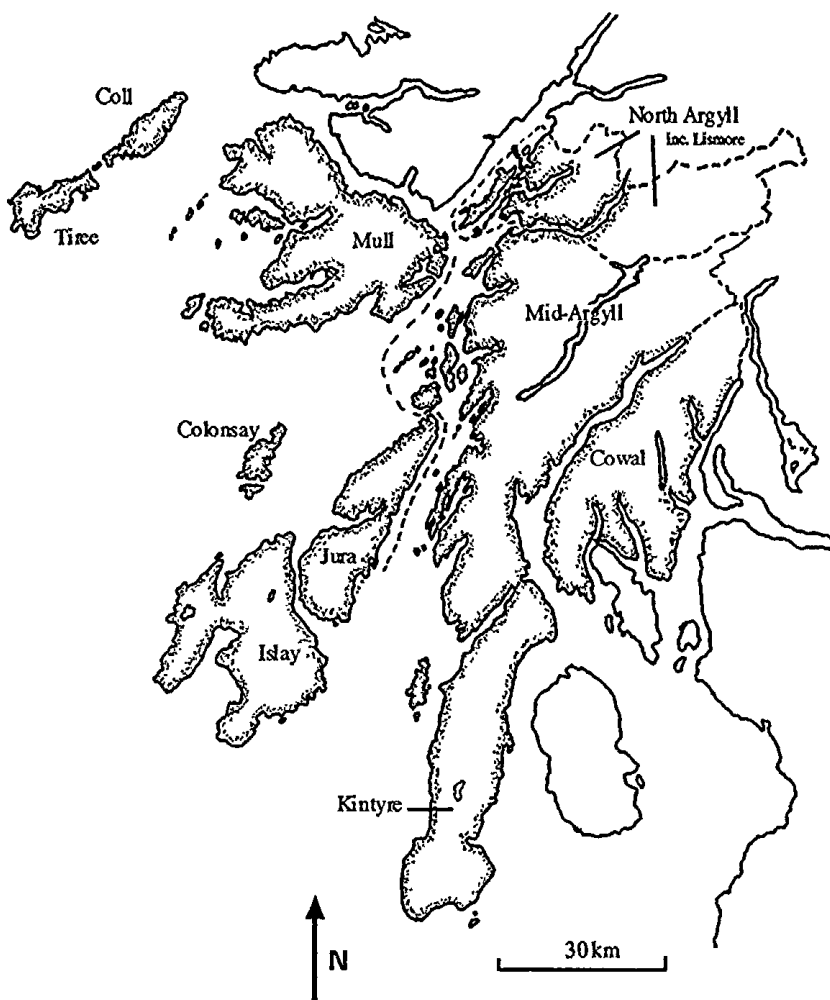
Each species heading in the report contains the following information:

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

Each heading is followed by a summary of the bird's known status and distribution within Argyll (*see* species status categories – below), together with any other relevant information. The information regarding sites of national or international importance for wintering/passage birds is taken from Musgrove, A. J. *et al.* (2007) *Waterbirds in the UK 2005/06: The Wetland Bird Survey*. The qualifying threshold for identification as such a site is generally that they hold, at some time during the qualifying period, at least 1% of the national (Great Britain) or international population of the species. The minimum qualifying count is normally 50 birds, although a lower figure has sometimes been chosen where the British population is very small. Significant 2008 and 2009 records are then listed in approximate chronological order. For scarcer species, records for 2008 or 2009 may be followed by late records or recent acceptances from earlier years.

For the purposes of this report, Argyll is divided into 10 areas, which are named on the accompanying sketch map. Because very few records have been received from Lismore in recent years, it is no longer considered a separate area but has been merged with North Argyll. For similar reasons Gigha is no longer considered as a separate area and records are included with those from Kintyre. Note that, for the moment at least, boundaries of the Argyll recording area remain unchanged despite local government reorganisation in 1996. 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 abbreviation '**RSPB L. Gruinart**' is used throughout. 'Loch Gruinart Floods' refers to the area of flooded fields to the south of Loch Gruinart. The same applies to the use of the terms 'Moine Mhor' and 'Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve (NNR)' (*Mid-Argyll*); I have used the former term to cover an area extending west to the landward edge of Loch Crinan and north to Barsloisnoch.

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

Add Estuary	Mid-Argyll	NR8093
Ardnave 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 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 other locations are given as a place name followed by the recording area in *italics* e.g. Minard *Mid-Argyll*. Occasionally, where the locality is not well known, a qualifier may be added in brackets, e.g. Kintallan (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*.

Tables

Tables 2 – 3 and 5 - 8 are derived chiefly from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) goose counts. Tables 1, 9 - 21 and 31- 42 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) and from the RSPB *Islay* database for 2008 and 2009, although higher counts have been included where available. Some tables include ‘monthly maximum day-counts’ on *Tiree*. These may be at one site but often represent the total number of birds seen at two or more sites on the island on a given day.

Tables 22 - 29 and 43 - 45 and are based on the Argyll Raptor Study Group monitoring summaries produced by R. A. Broad.

Figures in these tables for ‘Loch Gruinart’ represent the total for the whole of RSPB Loch Gruinart including the area known as Gruinart Floods (the area of flooded fields to the south of 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. In September 2007, WeBS counts were resumed (by George Newall) for the important site of Holy Loch *Cowal*. Significant counts are included in the tables for the relevant species.

Special studies carried out in 2008 and/or 2009

(1) BTO Atlas 2007-2011. The distribution of breeding birds in Britain and Ireland at a 10km square level was first mapped in 1968-72 and then again in 1988-1991. A similar survey of wintering birds was carried out over the winters from 1981/82 to 1983/84.

Survey work on a new Atlas that would cover both breeding and wintering birds began in the winter of 2007-2008 and finished with the 2011 breeding season. Casual records (Roving Reports), timed visits to tetrads i.e. 2km x 2km squares (TTVs) and results from other surveys will be used to compile the atlas. For full details see the BTO website www.bto.org (click on Bird Atlas). Thanks to a relatively small core of dedicated volunteer surveyors and the use of contract surveyors for remoter areas, excellent coverage was achieved for Argyll. Some early records were available for the period covered by this report and have been incorporated where appropriate.

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

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

For further details see: Craik, J. C. A. (2008 and 2009). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2008 and Results of the mink-seabird project in 2009. Privately Published (copies available from Dr J. C. A. Craik, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA.).

(4) Systematic sea-watching at Machrihanish SBO (*Kintyre*) [E. J. Maguire]. Movements of seabirds, wildfowl and waders past this site are monitored regularly during certain months of the year. With a few exceptions, all individual birds flying past when the hide was manned are identified and logged. In the systematic list below, E. J. Maguire has provided all records relating to Machrihanish SBO.

(5) Breeding Birds Survey (BBS).

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) started in 1994. Its objective is to extend and improve the monitoring of population changes of common breeding birds. It now counts

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

6) 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 and Loch Indaal* *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 as well as for this report and we are always keen to encourage new recruits. In particular, we are currently looking for someone to cover Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. Please contact Paul Daw if you might be interested.

* NB No counts were carried out at Loch Indaal during October to December 2009.

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) *Columba livia*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species status, categories: definitions

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

Symbols and abbreviations

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

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

ARGYLL BIRD RECORDS 2008/9

Geographical coverage. Very few records were received from Coll for either year and this should be kept in mind when reading the species accounts below. We would be grateful for any reports from birders visiting Coll in the future.

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

NB The following species are on the Argyll list but have not been recorded since 1st January 1950 (Category B): **Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Storm-petrel, White-faced Storm-petrel*, American Bittern*, Sora*, Little Crake*, Great Snipe*, and Pallas's Sandgrouse***. Except for **Red-crested Pochard** (see Escapes and Introductions p.152) they are not referred to further in the following Systematic List.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Eala

0152

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

Jan-May 2008. The highest count reported was 40 during the WeBS count on *Tiree* on 11 Jan. The only other count in double figures was of 11 (incl. 6 first years) at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr.

2009. The peak WeBS count on *Tiree* was 43 on 19 Jan. The highest count elsewhere was 15 in L. Etive on 22 Feb and 11 were counted during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 21 Jan. No other site had a count in double figures. Apart from *Tiree*, where number have been fairly constant, numbers reported outwith the breeding season have declined in the past decade. Whether this is because birds are disbursed in smaller groups (e.g. Oban Harbour had up to 60 in winter when birds were regularly fed there) or the total population has declined, is hard to say.

Breeding 2008. Nesting was confirmed at 10 sites in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, young were reared at 2 or 3 sites, four sites failed and the outcome was unknown at 3 sites. On *Islay* a pair reared 5 cygnets at L. Gruinart and pairs with small young were seen at 5 other sites in June. Pairs with small young were also reported at 2 sites on *Jura* in June. At least 11 nesting pairs were noted on *Tiree* in May and 6 broods of young were seen in Jun/Jul. By Aug only three broods, totalling 9 young, remained and none survived from the 3-4 nests in the L. a' Phuill area. Elsewhere single pairs were noted at: L. Striven *Cowal* (one young in May still surviving in Sep), Tayinloan (2 cygnets in Jul) and Kennacraig *Kintyre* (3 small cygnets in Jun).

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, pairs with young or on eggs were seen at 13 sites. Of these six pairs failed at the egg stage, six pairs fledged at least 12 young and the outcome was unknown at one site. From 11 nesting pairs noted on *Tiree* in May, six broods totalling 20 young survived until at least the end of Aug. On *Islay*: 3 pairs at L. Gruinart produced 13 young, a pair at Ardnave fledged 5 young and a pair with 5 small young were at Carnain (L. Indaal) on 27 May. Elsewhere single pairs were noted at: L. Striven (one medium sized young 13 Jun), Ardchattan (L. Etive) *North Argyll* (4 young on 30 Jun) and Tayinloan (2 cygnets in Aug).

Jul-Dec 2008. The highest WeBS count was 42 on *Tiree* on 21 Jul and again on 24 Nov. Other counts in double figures included 16 on L. Etive (at the mouth of the River Awe) on 16 Aug, 10

at Ardnave on 17 Sep, 24 during the WeBS count on L. Etive on 14 Sep, 14 during the WeBS count on L. Sween on 16 Nov and 10 on the Loch Gruinart floods on 18 Dec.

2009. The peak WeBS count on *Tiree*, was 48 on 12 Oct and at L. Sween, the peak WeBS count total was 24, on 26 Sep and again on 20 Nov. Elsewhere, 10 were at Tayinloan on 14 Sep, 13 at Loch Gruinart on 12 Oct, 17 on L. Etive on 11 Oct and 30 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

0153

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

0154

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

Jan-Apr 2008. A total island count of 135 on *Tiree* 14-15 Jan included 35 (26%) cygnets. The highest winter count elsewhere was 50, on L. Etive on 10 Feb. Migrants were noted moving N from 8 Mar when 17 were seen flying N in 'V' formation at The Powder Dams *Cowal*. By 17 Mar at least 80 migrants were counted on *Tiree* and 112 at L. Gruinart. Later in the month 50 flew N offshore at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 27 Mar, 33 flew N over Kames *Cowal* on 27 Mar and 208 were counted around the west of *Tiree* on 28 Mar. Passage continued through early Apr with 16 at L. na Cachie *Islay* on 5 Apr, 41 at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 7 Apr and 25 in the Add Estuary on 11 Apr. Three late birds were at L. Fidden *Mull* on 28 Jun.

2009. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 137 on 11 Feb: the highest winter count elsewhere was 37 at 37 at L. Skerrols *Islay* on 18 Feb. Counts of migrants moving N included: 78 (in two groups, of 38 and 40+) over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, 11 at L. Scridain *Mull* on and 24 at L. Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, 16 on L. Fyne at Minard on 21 Mar, 47 at L. Bhirceapol *Tiree* on 26 Mar, 19 over Ardnave Loch *Islay* and 38 at L. Crinan on 28 Mar and 23 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 11 Apr. A single bird was at L. Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* for a few days in late May.

Summering birds 2008. Up to 7 birds were present on *Tiree* throughout Jul and Aug but there was no evidence of breeding.

2009. A single bird was on L. Baile Mhic Chailein *North Argyll* on 29 Jun and 1 Aug. Up to three were present throughout the summer at various lochs on *Tiree*.

Sep-Dec 2008. The first returning birds at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory were 6 on 20 Sep and birds were moving through continuously from 28 Sep to the end of Nov. A flock of 176 on L. Nigheadaireachd *Islay* was one of the largest single flocks ever counted on the island. Other larger counts included: 38 at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Oct, 26 at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 4 Oct, 72 at L. a' Phuill on 7 Oct, 74 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 16 Oct, 30 (in 4 groups) at Port Langamull *Mull* on 21 Oct, 14 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 31 at L. Gorm *Islay* on 23 Oct, 50 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct, 86 on *Tiree* on 28 Oct, 66 at Rockside (L. Indaal) *Islay* on 31 Oct, 139 on *Tiree* on 12 Nov, at least 50 flying over Campbeltown on 20 Nov and 103 on L. a' Phuill on 30 Nov. An all island count on *Tiree* on 16 Dec found 138 birds of which 23 (16%) were cygnets.

Co-incidentally two Whooper Swans with yellow Darvic rings were seen in Argyll on 26 Oct. One, seen at L. Gorm *Islay*, had been ringed in Iceland in Aug 1999 and after overwintering in its first year at Martin Mere (Lancs.) had spent subsequent winters in Co. Monaghan, Ireland.

The other found at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) and ringed in Iceland in Aug 1995 had spent most winters in Co. Donegal and Co. Monaghan. This was its first sighting in Scotland.

2009. The peak count on *Tiree*, of 252 on 21 Oct, included 41 cygnets. Counts elsewhere included: 24 at Rockside *Islay* on 30 Sep, 59 at Gruinart Flats *Islay* on 21 Oct, 54 (incl. 6 juvs.) at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 84 over Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 Nov, 10 at Connel Airfield *North Argyll* on 5 Nov, 41 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 8 Nov and 16 at Ardnave *Islay* on 26 Nov.

Table 1.1. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at L. Gruinart in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	2	8	112	0	3	-	-	-	-	122	-	12
Tiree	135	123	208	41	16	3	6	7	15	92	139	138

Table 1.2. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at L. Gruinart in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	3	1	6	23	1	-	-	-	43	59	104	13
Tiree	121	137	47	7	14	3	3	3	49	252	136	138

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

0157

Vagrant, recorded in only eight of the 28 years 1980-2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Gèadh-gorm

0158

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

Jan-May 2008. Individuals or small groups (up to 4 birds) were reported in winter from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Two late birds were at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 May.

2009. A group of 5 was present on *Tiree* from 13 Jan to at least 18 Feb and 5 were seen during the Sound of Gigha Field Trip at High Dunashry (nr. Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 4 April. Otherwise 1-3 birds were reported from: *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Summering birds 2008. One was with Canada and Greylag Geese at Inveresragan (L. Etive) *North Argyll* on 3 Jun.

2009. One was at West Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 9 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2008. On 4 Oct, at least 150, in groups of 20-50, were noted flying low SE over *Tiree* in rain and poor visibility and 8 were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve. Other than this, there were reports of only 1-4 birds, from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree* to the year end.

2009. Approx. 50 flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 15 Sep and 106 headed SSE over *Tiree* on 29 Sep. Thereafter, 14 were on *Tiree* on 30 Sep, 39 flew s past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 2 Oct, 20 flew over Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Oct and 30 flew SE over Aird *Tiree* on 8 Oct. Apart from 13 at Rockside *Islay* on 4 Nov none of the remaining records (from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*) for Oct – Dec involved more than 2 birds

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* Gèadh-bhlàr

0159.2

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

Jan-May 2008. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 10,841 birds in Argyll [Table 2.1]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,451), Clachan (181), Tayinloan (852), and Gigha (153). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (109), Keills (112), and Moine Mhor (1) [SNH Goose Project]. A group of 30 were at Loch Pottie *Mull* on 18 Feb. The last birds left *Tiree* on 15 April, although a few lingered on *Islay* until then end of the month. Late individuals were at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, at Ulva lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May and at Loch Gruinart throughout May.

2009. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 10,656 birds in Argyll [Table 2.2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,364), Tayinloan (879), Clachan (170), and Gigha (125) and in *Mid-Argyll* at: Danna (46), Ulva (162), and Moine Mhor (19). A flock of 91 were at Ardnacloch (Appin) *North Argyll* on 24 Jan and the peak WeBS count at L. Creran *North Argyll* was 95 on 16 Mar. The main departure on *Colonsay* was on 12 April and at least 50 flew N over Auchindrain *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. A calling flock of at least 100 flew N in V formation high over Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr.

Breeding 2008/2009. No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay*, but a lone bird was at Loch Gruinart during Jun in both years.

Sep-Dec 2008. A very early bird was on *Tiree* on 17 Sep, and the first arrivals on *Islay* were 9 at L. Gorm on 24 Sep. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 10,523 birds in Argyll [Table 3.1]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,477), Tayinloan (630), Clachan (79), and Gigha (268) and Glenbarr (61). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (107), Keills (51), Ulva (81), and Moine Mhor (18). Elsewhere, 270 flew over Port Langamull *Mull* on 21 Oct, 32 were at Fidden *Mull* on 1 Nov, 85 at Ardnacloch (Appin) *North Argyll* on 11 Dec and 83 during the WeBS count on L. Creran *North Argyll* on 16 Dec.

2009. Returning birds were later than usual. The first on *Islay* were 5 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 29 Sep followed by 6 at L. Riaghain *Tiree* on 7 Oct. At Tayinloan, 42 flew S on 17 Oct, 719 were counted at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 23 Oct and 25 were at Fidden *Mull* on 1 Nov. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 11,359 birds in Argyll [Table 3.2]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,319), Tayinloan (761), Clachan (100) and Gigha (520) while in *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (107), Keills (115), Ulva (18), and Moine Mhor (18). In *North Argyll*, 7 were at Ardnacloch on 20 Nov, a total of 201 were at 4 sites on Lismore on 21 Nov, 82 were found during the WeBS count on L. Creran on 22 Nov and 16 were at Inverfolla on 31 Dec.

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

2.1 – Mar 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,690	239	n/r	n/r	445	803	98	0	6586	0

2.2 – Mar 2009

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2592	227	90	64	275	979	0	0	6429	n/r

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

3.1 – Dec 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2515	257	n/r	n/r	207	674	51	36	6783	n/r

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2700	258	n/r	28	392	769	108	25	7079	n/r

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

0159.1

2008. No records.

2009. An individual of this race, present on *Tiree* from 9 Apr to end Dec, was apparently paired with a Greylag Goose [John Bowler/Ross Ahmed/ Jim Dickson]. The record was accepted by ABRC with the caveat that it was of unknown provenance might not have been a genuinely wild bird.

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

0160

*Vagrant last recorded Islay March 1986.***2008.** No records.**2009.** No records.**GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* Gèadh-glas

0161

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

Jan-Apr 2008. In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 4,912 birds in Argyll, of which 69.8% were on *Tiree* [Table 5.1]. For some reason counts for Oronsay and Colonsay do not appear in the tables received from SNH viz. a total of 315 on *Colonsay* on 5 Mar and 28 on Oronsay and 227 on *Colonsay* on 18 Mar. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 11-12 Feb found 3,509 birds. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 65 at Kildavaig *Cowal* on 6 Feb, 132 on the Add flood plain nr. Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb, 44 at Lochan na Beithe *North Argyll* on 19 Feb, 78 during the WeBS count on Outer L. Etive on 19 Mar, 260 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 5 Apr and 120 on East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 18 Apr.

2009. An all-island count on *Tiree* found a total of 3,620 birds on 12 and 13 Feb and a total of 221 were found on *Colonsay* on 9 Apr. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded a total of 5,461 birds in Argyll, of which 62% were on *Tiree* [Table 5.2]. Larger counts elsewhere included: 163 at L. Etive during a WeBS count on 22 Feb, 152 between Eorsa and the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 15 Feb, 115 at Dunamuck (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar, 80 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 4 Apr and 59 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 22 Feb.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area Clive Craik reports that pairs bred at 13 – 16 sites although no overall total of pairs and fledged young was available. An all island count on *Tiree* on 26-27 Aug found a total of 3,370 birds. Of 2,491 that were aged, 1,005 (40.3%) were juveniles with a mean brood size of 2.81 (N = 358 broods). On *Colonsay*, 49 broods totalling 183 young were found in Jun and 10 pairs with a total of 31 young were found on Oronsay on 24 May. In the bay near Stonefield *Mid-Argyll* 27 adults with 45 downy young were present on 22 May and 16 adults with ca 12 downy young were at the Black Lochs *Mid-Argyll* on 31 May. A moulting flock on Oronsay on 8 Jul included 325 adults and 37 young. There was evidence of local breeding on both Lunga and Fladda on the Treshnish Isles and the late summer moulting flock numbered at least 80 in late Jun. Single pairs bred at Ardnave and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserves.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area pairs bred at 16 or more sites, although no overall total of pairs and fledged young was available.

Table 4 *Breeding Greylag Geese in the SAMS study area in 2009 – summary.*

Area	No of nesting islands or sites	Min. pairs nesting (some estimated)	Largest flock seen in area
Burnt Islands	2	3	
Airds			80
Abbot Isles	1	3	103
Inveresragan, L. Etive			80
Kilmaronag	1	1	40
Saulmore	1	?	11
Sound of Jura	2	1	
Loch Feochan	1	1	19
Ormsa, Sd. of Luìng		*	49
Sound of Mull	4	min. 5	97
Loch Nell			ca100
Loch Melfort	2	4	55
Craignish area			39
Loch Fyne	2	2	3
Totals	16	min 20	

* ca 10 broods were seen at sea between Ormsa & Eilean Dubh Mor on 29 Jun.

A count on *Tiree* on 24-25 Aug found a total of 2,848 birds. Of 1,921 aged, 700 (36.4%) were juveniles with a mean brood size of 2.51 (N= 279broods). On *Colonsay*, 37 broods totalling 156 young were found in Jun and 15 fledged broods were found on Oronsay. Evidence of breeding on the Treshnish Isles included a well grown but flightless gosling on Fladda and the late summer moult flock around the islands numbered at least 225 on 27 Jun. One moulting adult Greylag Goose was seen to be predated by a Great Skua. Six pairs were apparently nesting on Heather Island, Sound of Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr.

Jul-Dec 2008. By 17 Aug there were 1,048 birds at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and the all-island count on *Tiree* on 28 Aug found 3,370 birds. The WeBS count at L. Etive on 19 Oct totalled 157 birds and approx. 300 were present between Eorsa and the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Oct. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 4,999 for Argyll [Table 5.1]. Elsewhere, 130 were at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 106 were at Bridgend (nr. Lochgilphead) on 2 Dec and 105 were at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 14 Dec.

2009. A total of 169 birds were caught and colour-ringed at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 2 Jul. After a flock of 48 appeared at Ballinaby *Islay* on 28 Jul, numbers increased rapidly with 920 at Loch Gruinart on 4 Aug. The all-island count on *Tiree* on 24 Aug found 2,848 birds. A total of 73 were at Callachally *Mull* on 10 Sep, 218 during the WeBS count at L. Etive on 11 Oct, 156 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 17 Oct, 80 or more in a field by Loch Assapol *Mull* on 19 Oct and at least 200 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 9,951 for Argyll [Table 5.2].

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

5.1 – Mar 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
479	179	n/r	660	3,430	0	0	164	n/r

5.2 – Mar 2009

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
796	218	n/r	647	3,363	0	30	362	n/r

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

6.1 – Dec 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
590	383	n/r	305	3,046	184	142	349	n/r

6.2 – Dec 2009.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
707	199	0	425	3,460	141	28	641	n/r

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* Gèadh-bàn

0163

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

Jan-Jun 2008. A count at Breachacha Coll on 3 Mar found 24 birds. The regular white morph bird (of unknown provenance) was seen with Greylag Geese in the Craobh Haven area of *Mid-Argyll* during Jan, Feb and Apr. An adult white morph bird seen from the boat to Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 21 Jun may have been from the introduced flock on *Coll*.

2009. The regular white morph bird was seen with Greylag Geese at the head of Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* and in the Craobh Haven area during Jan, Feb and Mar.

Breeding 2008/2009. There were 4 juveniles among the *Coll* flock at Arileod on 5 Aug 2009.

Sep-Dec 2008. The regular white morph bird with Greylag Geese was reported in the Craobh Haven and Seil Island areas of *Mid-Argyll* from mid-Sep to late Nov. The *Coll* flock numbered 27 birds at Breachacha on 15 Dec.

2009. The highest count on *Coll* was 25 (including two juveniles), at Breachacha on 1 Aug.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh

0166

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

Jan-May 2008. Larger flocks reported included: 72 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb, 52 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 27 Feb, 50 at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, and 25 at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan.

2009. Larger flocks included: 59 at Appin *North Argyll* on 13 Apr, 45 at the N end of L. Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan and 42 during the WeBS count at L. Cieran *North Argyll* on 15 Mar.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area pairs were recorded at 17 – 21 sites with at least 45 pairs breeding or attempting to breed. During Atlas work in *Mid-Argyll*, a pair with 3 goslings were found at Minard, 5 smallish young were with a flock of 58 at L. Glashan, two pairs at Clach Garbh, Loch Fyne had a minimum of 4 young, 5 adults were with 4 downy young at Stonefield, 2 adults had 6 downy young at Kilvaree. Pairs were also recorded at 3 locations in *Cowal* and six broods totalling 11 young were found on *Colonsay* in Jun.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area pairs were recorded at a minimum of 15 sites with at least 57 pairs breeding or attempting to breed. Elsewhere, six adults and 5 tiny goslings were on the Island of Dana *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May and one was on a nest at Insh Island (off Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May.

Aug-Dec 2008. The highest count was at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*, where 157 were counted on 10 Aug. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 120 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 11 Dec, 77 at Bridgend (nr. Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug, 30 or more flying

over Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug and 30 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 21 Nov.

2009. The highest count was at L. Creran, where 329 were recorded during the WeBS count on 22 Nov. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 60 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 20 Nov, 48 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 45 at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 10 Aug.

There were at least 12 records on *Islay* and *Tiree* claimed to be of birds belonging to the race *parvipes* (see Lesser Canada Goose below).

[LESSER CANADA GOOSE/CACKLING 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.

2008. There were at least 20 records of birds on *Islay* claimed to be of the race *hutchinsii*, ('Richardson's') and one of *minima*.

2009. There were at least 17 records of birds on *Islay*, *Tiree* and *Mull* claimed to be of the race *hutchinsii*. There were 5 together Loch Pottie *Mull* 18 Dec

[All records are still under review by BBRC.]

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

0167

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

Jan-Apr 2008. The SNH co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 47,953 birds (cf 54,126 in 2006 and 62,323 in 2007. The latter being a record count for Argyll). The great majority (42,461 or 88.5 %) were on *Islay* [Table 7.1]. The peak winter count on *Tiree* was 3,439 on 14 Jan. A leg-ringed bird at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 6 Feb had been ringed at Caerlaverock, Dumfries as a first-winter bird in February 2004 and is thus likely to be from the Svalbard population.

2009. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 51,903 birds. Again the great majority (44,896 or 86.5 %) were on *Islay* [Table 7.2]. Oronsay had 1,130 birds on 9 Apr and on *Mull*, ca200 were at Inch Kenneth on 10 Jan and 200 at Fidden on 25 Mar.

Summering birds. 2008. Four were at Ardnave *Islay* on 17 Jun.

2009. Of two birds ashore at Reisa mhic Phaidean, Sound of Jura on 6 Aug one was flying, one was unable to fly but swimming. One seen at Blackrock (L. Indaal) *Islay* on 17 Aug was possibly the same individual seen in various locations on the island over the summer. It did not appear to be injured.

Sep-Dec 2008. The first returning birds on *Islay* were 10 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 25 Sep, with 18 flying S at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory and 27 flying S over Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Oct. The highest count reported on *Mull* was 140 at Fidden on 28 Oct and the peak count on *Tiree* was 2,907 on 13 Dec. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Dec, *Islay* had 41,613 birds which accounted for 88.5 % of the Argyll total of 47,012 [SNH Goose Project, Table 8.1].

2009. The first returning birds on *Islay* were 17 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 27 Sep, with 4 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 50 flying S at Fidden *Mull* on 30 Sep and 4 at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 2 Oct. The Dec co-ordinated goose count total for Argyll was 47,391, with 41,098 (or 86.7 %) of these on *Islay* [Table 8.2]. Other significant counts not covered by the co-ordinated goose count included: 800 at Soa Island *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 250 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 Oct and 100 at Inch Kenneth *Mull* on 19 Oct.

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

7.1 - Mar 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
33	711	0*	167	3,393	0	828	42,461	0*

7.2 – Mar 2009

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
20	420	0	968	3,725	0	1,874	44,896	0*

Table 8. *Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas in winter.*

8.1 – Dec 2008.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
33	711	0*	167	2,427	87	1,245	45,721	0*

8.2 – Dec 2009.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
43	582	0	876	3,438	0	1,354	41,098	0*

* no counts submitted.

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.

2008/2009. A count of 66 was made at Lussa Loch on 15 Mar 2008 and 64 were at Drumlemble (The Laggan) on 31 Oct 2009.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

0168

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

Jan-May 2008. On *Islay*, 19 were at Bruichladdich on 1 Jan, 34 at Blackrock (L. Indaal) on 10 Feb, 22 at Blackrock on 6 Mar, 23 at Traigh an Luig (L. Indaal) on 7 Apr and 31 at Gortan (L. Indaal) on 12 May. Two were at Ruaig *Tiree* on 17 Mar and spring passage on *Tiree* peaked on 28 Apr when a flock of 76 (including two colour ringed birds) flew off northwards at Sorobaidh Bay on 28 Apr. The only records elsewhere were 2 on Oronsay on 2 May and one at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 15 May.

2009. A flock of 54 were at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Jan, 61 were on L. Indaal on 2 Apr and ca 100 were at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 May. Up to 20 were present on *Tiree* on various dates from Feb to mid-Apr and 80 were at Fidden *Mull* on 15 Apr. An influx on *Tiree* on 20 Apr included 375 at Sorobaidh Bay, 21 at Gott Bay and 45 at Balephetrish Bay. Among them were

8 birds with coloured rings: six ringed in Iceland, one in County Down, N. Ireland and one at Axel Heiberg Island, Canada. A flock of 43 were seen at Craighouse *Jura* on 25 Apr and 48 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 29 May.

Aug-Dec 2008. Nine birds flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 27 Aug, 2 were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 1 Sep, 4 were at L. Scridain *Mull* on 2 Sep and 4 were at Tayinloan on 8 Sep. On 27 Sep, 120 flew in-off the sea at Cornaig *Tiree* with 29 at The Green and 34 off Balephetrish. Numbers at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve built up to 38 on 20 Sep and 6 were on Oronsay on 30 Sep. An adult with yellow rings black 'X' on right leg and '2' on left leg, at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 21 Sep had been ringed in SW Iceland in May 2007. During Oct numbers at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve peaked at 54 on 13th and birds were seen regularly in small numbers on *Mull* with 10 at Fiddon on 17th and 9 at Uisken on 28th. Five were on Oronsay on 21 Oct and a single bird at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) from 2 – 8 Nov was unusual. A flock of *ca*50 flying N at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 16 Nov was also unusual and 35 were found at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 Nov.

2009. One flew SW off Scarinish Harbour *Tiree* on 29 Aug and 9 flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 15 Sep. Approx. 150 flew S over *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 185 were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 30 Sep and 56 counted flying S in 5 hrs at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 30 Sep included a flock of 25. The monthly maximum at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve during Oct was 172 and 51 were at Gartnatra (L. Indaal) *Islay* on 8 Nov. Up to 5 birds were recorded at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory and on *Tiree* on various dates from Oct to Dec.

Two **dark-bellied Brent Geese** (*B. b. bernicla*) that arrived at Loch Gruinart on 31 Aug 2008 were joined, on 5 Sep, by a colour ringed bird. It had been ringed as a juvenile at De La Beche Bay, SW Bathurst Island, Canada on 8 August 2007 and was present at Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland during winter 2007-2008. Interestingly another Brent Goose, marked with a yellow collar at Bathurst Island on 20 Jul 1975, was seen in Loch Gruinart on 14 May 1979. It had also spent a winter (1975/76) in Ireland (per MAO).

RED-BREASTED GOOSE* *Branta ruficollis*

0169

A vagrant. An adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001, is the only Argyll record.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

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

0173

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Counts at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve found 51 birds on 14 Jan, 106 on 11 Feb, 105 on 11 Mar, 177 on 7 Apr and 84 on 22 May. On 9 Apr, 64 were at Bridgend Merse (L. Indaal). The largest counts elsewhere were: 35 at Miodar *Tiree* on 9 Feb, a record 33 at Westport Marsh (nr. Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 16 May and 29 during the WeBS count at Loch Sween on 13 Feb.

2009. Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 9.2, included: 14 at Ormsary *Kintyre* on 1 Mar, 35 at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 23 Mar, 78 at Bridgend Flats *Islay* on 8 Apr, 45 on *Tiree* on 28 Apr, 33 at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 30 Apr and 26 on *Colonsay* on 30 Jun.

Breeding 2008. On *Islay*: 6 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a pair with 7 young were seen at Kilchoman. Four broods totalling 20 young were found on *Colonsay*, two pairs with broods of 6 and 3 were on Iona on 28 May and pairs were widespread on *Tiree* in Apr/May. Elsewhere: pairs with young were found at Machrihanish, Tayinloan, Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) and two

sites in *Cowal*. Two pairs were on the Treshnish Isles in June and six pairs were located during BTO Atlas work on Gigha.

2009. On *Islay*, six pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart, and two pairs at RSPB Ardnave. A total of 26 pairs were found on *Colonsay* and 9 broods totalling 61 young were seen on *Colonsay* and *Oronsay*. A good season in the Machrihanish area produced at least 10 broods totalling 58 young. Breeding pairs were widespread on *Tiree*, with at least six broods of young noted. A brood of 4 from a nest on top of cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara were later seen on the sea below: presumably having jumped down a sheer 80m cliff to get there! Elsewhere pairs with young were seen at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (2 pairs), Tayinloan, Treshnish Isles and Glas Eilean, (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*. Pairs were also noted in the breeding season at Appin *North Argyll*, Kintra *Mull* (2 pairs) and *Cowal* (4 sites).

Aug-Dec 2008. Away from *Islay* there were no counts of more than 10 birds.

2009. Other than those listed in Table 9.2, the only counts of more than 10 birds were 39 at Carnain (L. Indaal) on 2 Dec and 13 at Machrihanish SBO on 1 Aug.

Table 9.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2008.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	51	106	105	177	77	40	14	2	2	2	29	55
Indaal	35	43	39	64	90	33	17	11	0	6	14	42
Sween	7	29	23	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	0	5

Table 9.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shelduck at two sea-lochs on Islay & L. Sween in 2009.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	89	88	160	40	94	24	65	n/r	0	0	25	104
Indaal	45	44	45	49	56	25	19	10	0	0	13	39
Sween	6	38	17	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	0	9

MANDARIN DUCK (MANDARIN) *Aix galericulata*

0178

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

2008. At least 4 were reported regularly along the River Cur at the N end of L. Eck *Cowal* and on 29 May a female with 6 small ducklings was seen there. For such a striking bird Mandarin Ducks are surprisingly elusive and this is the first confirmed breeding record received since 2001.

2009. Up to 7 were reported regularly along the River Cur at the N end of L. Eck *Cowal* and two pairs were noted there on 14 Apr. Elsewhere, one was on the River Orchy near Dalmally *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec and a pair flew north up the River Massan near Benmore Botanic Gardens *Cowal* on 23 Dec.

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

0179

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Other than those listed in Table 10.1, the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Ardlamont Point *Cowal* (approx. 100 on 26 Feb), L. Sween (max.98 on 11 Jan), Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (max. 93 on 12 Jan), Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (max. 67 on 2 Jan) and Ardnave *Islay* (max. 63 on 14 Jan).

2009. Other than those listed in Table 10.2, the only sites with counts of 50 or more were: Holy Loch (max.115 on 19 Jan), Ardlamont Point *Cowal* (66 on 26 Feb), Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-*

Argyll (max. 65 on 28 Feb), *Ardnave Islay* (max. 64 on 19 Jan), *L. Riddon Cowal* (54 on 27 Mar) and *L. Creran North Argyll* (max. 52 on 13 Jan).

Breeding 2008. A pair with a brood of at least 5 young at a loch on *Tiree* on 15 Jun represents the first proven breeding record for the island. Two pairs were present at *L. Gruinart* one pair of which attempted breeding. A pair and a male were present at the traditional site at *L. Tulla North Argyll* on 7 May but with no further evidence of breeding.

2009. A pair was at *L. Tulla North Argyll* on 26 Apr and 8 were flushed from a pool there on 28 Jun and odd birds were present on *Tiree* in May but with no confirmed evidence of breeding in either case.

Aug-Dec 2008. Other than those listed in Table 10.1, the only sites reporting counts of 50 or more were, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* (max. 255 on 8 Oct) and *L. Sween* (max 98 on 26 Oct),

2009. Other than those listed in Table 10.2, the only sites reporting counts of 100 or more were: *L. Crinan* (max. 231 on 10 Oct), *Gartnatra (L. Indaal) Islay* (166 on 8 Nov), *L. Sween* (max. 129 on 17 Oct), and *L. Gilp* (102 on 4 Oct).

Table 10.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at two sites on Islay, L. Etive and on Tiree in 2008 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	320	381	206	321	2	2	0	0	156	181	257	145
Indaal	100	119	100	17	2	0	0	0	543	388	390	302
Etive	107	95	110	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	32	74	101	72
Tiree	323	405	230	93	3	8	15	14	n/r	86	269	121

Table 10.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at two sites on Islay, L. Etive and on Tiree in 2009 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	208	288	233	39	0	0	0	0	4	278	322	209
Indaal	105	102	134	15	0	0	0	0	362	n/r	n/r	n/r
Etive	107	111	134	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	53	53	128	79
Tiree	248	270	210	16	1	1	9	18	29	70	123	239

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

0180

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach-ghlas

0182

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

2008. On *Islay*, up to 7 birds were reported at *L. Gruinart* during Mar-Jun and Oct-Dec and numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 12 on 19 May when 2 pairs were at *L. a' Phuill*, 2 pairs and 3 males at *L. Bhasapol* and one male at *L. an Eilein*. Elsewhere, a male was at *Bunessan Mull* on 27 Apr and 18 Oct, a pair were at *Westport Marsh (The Laggan) Kintyre* on 30 Apr and one was *Loch na Lathaich Mull* on 27 Oct.

2009. Birds were present on *Tiree* throughout the year with a maximum count of 8 at *L. a' Phuill* on 30 Sep. On *Islay*, up to 6 birds were reported at *L. Gruinart* during Jan-Jun and Oct-

Dec. In *Kintyre*, a pair were at Tayinloan on 18 Apr, a pair were at Westport Marsh on 9 May and one was at Glenbarr Water mouth on 3 Jun. A drake was present at Bunessan *Mull* during Feb and a male was with Wigeon in the Add Estuary on 7 Oct.

Breeding 2008. At least two pairs bred at a site on *Tiree* with broods of young observed in Jun and Aug. At least one pair was present at L. Gruinart during the breeding season – outcome unknown.

2009. Two females were seen at a site on *Tiree* on 9 Jun, with broods of 6 and 7 young. A pair present at L. Gruinart on 9 May was not seen thereafter.

EURASIAN TEAL (TEAL) *Anas crecca* Crann-lach

0184

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11.1, included: 190 or more at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 13 Jan, 79 at L. Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 120 on Oronsay on 27 Jan, 54 at Holy Loch on 12 Feb, 83 at L. Sween on 13 Feb and *ca* 100 on Oronsay on 3 Mar.

2009. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11.2, included: 52 at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 Jan, 85 at Holy Loch on 19 Jan, *ca* 60 at Tayinloan on 1 Feb, 51 at Holy Loch on 16 Feb and 173 at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 9 Feb.

Breeding 2008. On *Islay*, 11 pairs were found at RSPB L. Gruinart and pairs also bred at Ardnave. An incomplete survey on *Tiree* in May located at least 15 pairs at 9 likely breeding sites with an estimated island total of 20 – 30 pairs. At least 3 pairs with young were found on *Colonsay*.

2009. On *Tiree*, at least 15 pairs were breeding at 7 or more sites. Nine pairs were breeding at L. Gruinart and young were seen in Jun.

Aug-Dec 2008. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11.1, included: 62 at Otter Ferry on 3 Dec, 217 at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 11 Dec and 93 at Holy Loch on 15 Dec and 49 were at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Dec.

2009. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11.2, included: 73 at Tayinloan on 25 Aug, 114 at L. Crinan on 10 Oct, 67 at Ardnave *Islay* on 23 Nov and 58 at Port Leathan (nr. Melldalloch) *Cowal* on 11 Dec.

Table 11.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at two sites on Islay and on the Tiree freshwater lochs in 2008 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart*	1,373	1,168	643	196	9	13
Indaal	80	60	77	33	1	0
Tiree	280	207	156	95	n/r	n/r

Lochs	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	42	64	226	802	1,421	964
Indaal	0	14	35	135	150	119
Tiree	8	41	n/r	243	391	136

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

Table 11.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at two sites on Islay and on the Tiree freshwater lochs in 2009 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gruinart*	994	938	1,063	118	19	4

Indaal	72	55	89	22	0	0
Tiree	200	127	56	8	30	3

Lochs	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	9	n/r	46	1,316	1,360	675
Indaal	0	12	44	56	n/r	n/r
Tiree	25	70	90	115	310	241

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

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* 0184.2

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

2008. No records (*but see* list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. A male was seen at RSPB L. Gruinart on several dates in Apr-May [J. M. Harrison *et al*] and one was seen at the head of L. Nell *Mid-Argyll* 10 – 14 May [Bob Grove/Bill Allan/J. M. Harrison]. The latter is the first record for mainland Argyll. Both records accepted by ABRC.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach 0186

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Jan-Jun 2008. Other than those listed in Table 12.1, no counts exceeding 50 birds were reported. The highest counts were 29 at L. Sween on 11 Jan and 26 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 12 Jan.

2009. Other than those listed in Table 12.2, the only count exceeding 50 were 56 at the head of L. Riddon *Cowal* on 24 Jan and 81 at L. Striven *Cowal* on 9 Feb.. The WeBS count at L/ Creran North Argyll found 44 birds on 22 Feb.

Breeding 2008. On *Islay*, 61 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 3 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. At least 5 broods of young were recoded during Atlas work on Gigha in Jun, 6 or more broods were seen on *Tiree* and broods were noted at Otter Ferry and Loch Melldalloch *Cowal*.

2009. On *Islay*, 55 pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and 3 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Six or more broods were seen on *Tiree* and broods were also noted in *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

Aug-Dec 2008. Other than those listed in Table 12.1, counts of 50 or more included: 87 at L. Striven *Cowal* on 11 Dec, 79 at L. Riddon *Cowal* on 11 Dec, *ca* 60 at Castle Lachlan (L. Fyne) on 9 Dec, *ca* 50 at Tayinloan on 4 Oct and *ca* 50 at the head of Loch na Keal on 22 Oct.

2009. Counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 12.1, included: 77 at L. Striven *Cowal* on 10 Jun, 50 during the WeBS count at L. Sween on 26 Sep, 60 at Langa Quarry (nr. Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 16 Oct and 70 on the R. Orchy nr Dalmally *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec.

Aug-Dec 2006. Other than those listed in Table 12.1, counts exceeding 50 included: 266 at The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Nov, 130 in Oban Harbour on 24 Aug, 119 in the Add Estuary on 5 Aug, at least 100 at Ulva Lagoons (L. Sween) on 23 Sep, 86 in Outer L. Etive on 8 Oct, 77 in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, 72 in L. Fyne off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug and 66 at the head of L. Striven *Cowal* on 27 Dec.

2007. Other than those listed in Table 12.2, the only counts exceeding 50 came from: Loch Garradh na Capull *Tiree* (72 on 15 Jul), Tayinloan (53 on 4 Nov), Killiechranan *Mull* (50 on 5 Oct) and the head of L. Striven *Cowal* (at least 50 on 25 Dec).

Table 12.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at two sites on Islay L. Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs, in 2008 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 50+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	84	75	39	11	75	42	10	5	66	58	62	56
Indaal	87	103	40	14	14	43	21	21	39	52	82	160
Etive	115	39	52	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	87	77	93	96
Holy L.	81	81	30	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	112	46	171	139
Tiree	35	80	35	12	57	44	117	175	n/r	22	44	22

Table 12.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallard at two sites on Islay Loch Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs, in 2009 (i.e. all sites which regularly held 50+ birds in the winter months).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	85	33	20	51	36	68	11	n/r	20	84	90	57
Indaal	101	111	38	14	11	28	22	26	54	n/r	n/r	n/r
Etive	94	60	37	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	64	62	118	136
Holy L.	103	103	72	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	77	72	11	n/r
Tiree	41	120	48	50	26	57	70	94	25	27	52	59

BLACK DUCK* *Anas rubripes*

0187

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Lach-stiùireach

0189

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

Jan-Jun 2008. The highest count was 54 at L. Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 11 Feb. Only small numbers were seen on *Tiree* during the winter months with 4 at L. Riaghain on 11 Feb. Two females at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 19 Feb were unexpected and a single female was at Machrihanish on 24 Apr.

2009. The peak count at RSPB L. Gruinart was 54 on 23 Feb and on *Tiree*, 6 at L. Riaghain on 1 Feb was the highest winter count. None were recorded away from *Islay* & *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. At least three pairs were present on *Tiree* during the breeding season and on 2 July a female was seen with 4 young (possibly 2 broods of 2). There was no indication of breeding on *Islay*.

2009. Four or five pairs were apparently on territory on *Tiree* in Apr and broods of 6 and 9 were seen in Jun. Once again there was no indication of breeding on *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Numbers at RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* peaked at 58 in Oct. Unusual numbers were recorded at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory in autumn. Four flew past on 16 Aug and on 27 Aug a loose flock of 38 flying S was the highest ever count here. Ten flew S on 1 Oct and 6 on 2 Oct. On *Mull*, 8 were found at L. Poit na h-I (Loch Pottie) with 2 there on 12 Nov.

2009. Numbers at RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* peaked at 59 on 22 Dec. On *Tiree*, 13 were at L. a' Phuill on 13 Jul, with smaller numbers there into early Oct. Up to 6 were at L. Riaghain in Dec. The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* were at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory where single birds were recorded Jul – Oct with 2 on 3 Aug and 2 and 12 Nov.

Table 13.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	46	54	50	4	0	0	0	0	0	58	28	54

L. Indaal	12	20	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	18	27	35
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Table 13.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Pintail at two sites on Islay in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	43	54	51	7	0	0	0	0	0	11	40	59
L. Indaal	12	21	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r	n/r	n/r

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

0191

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

2008. Males were seen at Arinagour Coll on 29 Mar, at L. a' Phuill on 23 Apr and at RSPB L. Gruinart from 15 – 25 May. On 29 May 2 males were at L. an Eilein and a male was seen later at L. a' Phuill. A male at L. Bhasapol on 30 May was probably one of the birds from the previous day.

2009. The only records were of a male at RSPB L. Gruinart on 15 May and a female on a pool at Balinoe Tiree on 30 May.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL* *Anas discors*

0192

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

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

0194

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Away from Islay and Tiree [Table 14.1], 5 were on Oronsay on 14 Jan, 2 were at Dun Cholla Colonsay on 8 Feb and a male was at Westport Marsh (The Laggan) Kintyre on 1 Apr.

2009. Away from Islay and Tiree [Table 14.2], males were at Machrihanish 22 Mar and Tayinloan on 6 Apr. Two male and 2 female were at Machrihanish on 15 Apr and a male was at the former breeding site of Westport Marsh Kintyre on 24 Apr.

Breeding 2008. An incomplete survey on Tiree, found a minimum of 14 pairs at 7 sites in May and at least 4 broods of young were found later. Two pairs bred on Oronsay and a brood of 6 young were seen on 16 Jun. Nine pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart and a nest with 11 eggs was found on 9 May. A female with 2 young was reported at Ballachuan Loch, (Seil) Mid-Argyll on 10 Aug.

2009. On Tiree, a minimum of 16 pairs were found at 9 sites in May and at least 7 broods of young were found later. Ten pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart but the outcome was unknown. A pair first seen near Tayinloan on 30 Apr had 7 young on 17 Jul: the first breeding record in Kintyre since the early 1990s.

Aug-Dec 2008. The only records away from Islay and Tiree [Table 14.1] were of single males; at Machrihanish Bay on 18 Sep, Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 1 Oct and on Oronsay on 4 Dec.

2009. Away from RSPB L. Gruinart Islay and Tiree [Table 14.2], the only records concerned 3 at Ardnave Islay on 18 Jun, at least 3 at the breeding site near Tayinloan on 9 Aug and one at L. Crinan on 20 Sep.

Table 14.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at RSPB L. Gruinart and on Tiree in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	59	47	57	3	5	4	0	5	19	42	53	47
Tiree	12	39	15	22	28	4	4	4	n/r	2	23	21

Table 14.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Shoveler at RSPB L. Gruinart and on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	58	72	67	12	6	20	0	0	0	29	92	69
Tiree	28	8	9	24	32	22	7	4	2	7	19	22

COMMON POCHARD (POCHARD) *Aythya ferina* Lach-mhàsach 0198
A scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant, in small numbers, particularly to: Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. There has been no confirmed breeding in recent years.

2008. On *Islay*, 4 (2m/2f) were at L. Gorm on 18 Feb and Ardnave L. had a single male on 16 Oct, 6 birds on 12 Nov and 2 on 17 Nov. *Tiree* had a male and female at L. a' Phuill in Jan and Feb and 4 at L. Bhasapol on 14 Nov and one at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 7 Jan had increased to 2 on 14 Jan. The highest numbers (although still not that many) were recorded in *Mid-Argyll* where there were 3 near Kilchurn Castle (L. Awe) on 22 Jan, 6 at Cuan (Seil) on 15 Feb, one at Loch nan Drumnean (nr. Kilmelford) on 1 Nov, 4 at the head of L. Nell on 3 Nov, and 9 (incl. 7 males) at the N end of L. Awe on 14 Dec.

2009. A lone drake at Loch Riaghain on 16 Feb was the sole record for *Tiree* and *Islay* scarcely fared better, with one at RSPB L. Gruinart in Apr and up to 3 at Ardnave in Oct. The only other records were in *Mid-Argyll*, where there were 7 on L. Nell on 3 Jan and nine at the N end of L. Awe on 15 Dec with 5 there on 30 Dec.

From the 1970s to the mid-1990s, 100 or more Common Pochards were seen regularly in winter on *Islay*. In recent years Argyll seems to have experienced a continuing decline in numbers.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* 0200
A vagrant. The first accepted record in Argyll was in 1982, with 11 further records to 2011.

2008. An adult male on *Tiree*, found at L. Bhasapol on 14 Nov was seen there regularly until the year end, with occasional visits to L. an Eilein [J. Bowler *et al.*]. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. The adult male on *Tiree* from 2008 remained into Jan and was seen again at both L. Bhasapol and L. an Eilein. After a gap in late Jan/early Feb it was seen regularly at one of the two lochs from 19 Feb to 9 Apr. On 19 Jan, two first winter males arrived at L. Riaghain after a westerly gale. A second less well marked (first winter?) individual appeared at L. an Eilein on 6 Apr and remained until 20 Apr [J. Bowler *et al.*]. A juvenile male was at Loch Bhasapol and Loch a' Phuill 22-29 Sep [John Bowler, Jim Dickson. Ross Ahmed]. All *Tiree* records accepted by ABRC as one juvenile, one adult and two, or possibly three, first winter birds

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* 0202
A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Bhasapol (Tiree) in Apr 2003.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* Lach-thopach 0203
A widespread winter visitor: most numerous on Islay and Tiree. Breeds in small numbers on: Colonsay, Islay, Mull and Tiree with scattered pairs found throughout mainland Argyll.

Jan-Jun 2008. Other than those listed in Table 15.1 the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Ballimore (nr. Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (10 on 6 Feb) and L. Leathan (nr. Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* (11 on 6 Apr). Smaller numbers were reported from scattered sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

2009. Other than those listed in Table 15.2 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were: L. Nell (nr. Oban) *Mid-Argyll* (17 on 3 Jan), L. Skerrols *Islay* (21 on 22 Jan), L. Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* (18 on 5 Feb), Lochan Dubh (nr. Oban) *Mid-Argyll* (13 on 7 Feb) and L. Leathan (nr. Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 21 Feb). Smaller numbers were reported from scattered sites in *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding 2008. On *Tiree* in May, 21 pairs were found at 5 sites including 9 pairs at L. Bhasapol. Three pairs bred at Ardnave L. *Islay*.

2009. On *Tiree* in May, 20 pairs were found at 6 sites and 6 pairs were found at Ardnave L. *Islay*. A pair present on L. Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May might have indicated a breeding attempt.

Jul-Dec 2008. Other than those listed in Table 15.1 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were: L. Gorm *Islay* (max. 126 on 12 Oct), L. Nell (nr. Oban) *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 3 Nov), L. Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* (12 on 12 Nov), L. Assapol *Mull* (10 on 12 Nov) and Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* (16 on 24 Nov). Smaller numbers were reported from scattered sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

2009. Other than those listed in Table 15.2 the only sites with counts of 10 or more birds were: Dubh Loch (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 9 Dec) and Toad of Lorn (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (10 on 12 Dec). Smaller numbers were reported from scattered sites in *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

Table 15.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapol) in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	3	8	8	8	7	3	14	2	4	8	21	11
Tiree	150	104	121	107	27	10	12	2	n/r	54	91	68

Table 15.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Duck at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (most at L Bhasapol) in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	12	11	14	2	5	7	11	0	11	12	13	n/r
Tiree	124	76	110	71	44	9	4	3	48	76	55	111

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

Jan-May 2008. The only records away from L. Indaal [Table 16] were a male and female at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* from Jan – mid-Mar, 2 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 13 Apr, a single at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 24 May and one at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 31 May.

2009. The only records away from L. Indaal [Table 16] were 7 on L. Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Jan, an imm. male on L. a' Phuill *Tiree* 6-8 Feb and a male on L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 20 Apr.

Summering Birds 2008/2009. No summering birds were reported in 2008 and apart from 2 males on L. Bhasapol on 3 Jun there were no summering birds in 2009.

Jul-Dec 2008. At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory: 54 flew S on 1 Oct and 183 flew S (incl. flock of ca80) on 4 Oct. The only other record was a male at L. Scridain *Mull* on 25 Oct.

2009. At Machrihanish Seabird Observatory: 51 flew S on 28 Sep, 7 on 29 Sep and 18 on 30 Sep followed by singles on 3 Oct, 10 Oct, 11 Oct, 31 Oct and 5 Nov. The only other records away from L. Indaal [Table 16] concerned an imm. male at L. a' Phuill 26-30 Sep, 3 on L. Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* on 1 Oct, 33 on L. Scridain on 3 Oct, an imm male on East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 17 Oct and a female on L. a' Phuill 22 and 28 Oct.

Table 16 *Maximum monthly counts of Scaup at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2008 and 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	800	444	202	200	0	0	0	15	134	150	545	610
2009	650	343	210	197	45	0	0	11	87	n/r	280	485

LESSER SCAUP* *Aythya affinis*

0205

A vagrant. Three previous records: Islay in Nov 1998, L. Leathan Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005 and L. a' Phuill Tiree in Nov 2006.

2008. No records.

2009. A first winter female was at L. Skerrols *Islay* 9-24 Jan [Jim Dickson *et al*]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:569)

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

0206

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Away from Holy Loch and L. Indaal [Table 17.1] counts of over 100 included: 311 at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 6 Jun, 330 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 16 Jun and ca200 at Otter Ferry on 29 Jun.

2009. Away from Holy Loch and L. Indaal [Table 17.2] counts of over 100 included: 580 roosting at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 6 Feb, ca360 in Sound of Gigha off Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 10 Mar, 297 (66% drakes) from Dunoon Pier to head of Holy Loch. *Cowal* on 12 Mar, 185 moulting drakes at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 28 Jun, ca120 moulting birds (incl.79 drakes) at Machrihanish on 15 Jun, 111 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 17 Mar and 105 at Colintraive *Cowal* on 13 Mar.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 476 nests were found at 18 sites. Increasing numbers of birds at inland breeding sites on *Tiree* in May included up to 7 pairs at Loch a' Phuill, a pair at Barrapol, and 20-30 nests north of Loch Riaghain. Early broods included: a female with b/5 about 7 days old at Otter Ferry on 15 May and the first ducklings at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 13 May. On *Colonsay* 30 females with 11 broods totalling 30 young were found in Jun. Broods of young were also recorded at many other sites in: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* (inc. Treshnish Isles).

2009. Eider numbers seem to be in a slow and steady decline in Argyll. In 2009 breeding numbers were lower than usual at most sites. The total of 364 (for whole of SAMS study area) at 16 sites was down from 481 at 22 sites in 2008. Some important sites are now empty or almost so, usually after mink predation of nesting females (per Clive Craik). Breeding pairs noted on *Tiree* in May included: 5 pairs at L. a' Phuill, one at Heylipol Church and one at L. Bhasapol and a nest was found at the top of the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara on 12 Jun. Seven females with 19 downy young were seen at the mouth of L. Etive on 2 Jun. By 22 Jun 61 young had been counted at Machrihanish although the survival rate was not known. Broods of young were also recorded at many other sites in: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* (inc. Treshnish Isles).

Autumn Eider Survey 2008. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave a total of 2,815 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long,

some of which will belong with the Clyde area). This compares with: 2,690 in 2006, 3,326 in 2005, 4,183 in 2004, 3,393 in 2003, 3,409 in 2002 and 4,677 in 2001. (C. Waltho).

2009. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave a total of 3,549 for the Argyll part of the area (N.B. this includes all those counted in L Long, some of which will belong with the Clyde area); *cf* 1999-2009 mean of 3,706. Although this is an increase on the 2008 total for Argyll the overall decline in numbers in the Firth of Clyde as a whole continues. The 2009 Firth of Clyde total was 7,573, *cf* 9,271 in 2008 and a peak count of 19,393 in 1997. "The declines have been recorded from across the whole firth. With different pressures and influences operating in different parts of the firth, there is probably not one single cause for this decline." Chris Waltho, *Eider News* No.9 August 2010.

Jul-Dec. 2008. Away from Holy Loch and L. Indaal [Table 17.1] counts of over 100 included: 818 (max. for 2008) at Otter Ferry on 12 Nov, 702 (max. for 2008) at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 2 Aug, 500 or more in Sound of Gigha on 2 Aug, 350 or more at Inverfolla *North Argyll* on 22 Oct, 250 or more at L. Striven *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 225 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 4 Aug, *ca*200 at L. Scridain *Mull* on 2 Sep, 120 on L. Creran *North Argyll* on 16 Nov, 110 in Campbeltown Loch on 27 Oct and 108 off Furnace (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct.

2009. Away from Holy Loch and L. Indaal [Table 17.2] counts of over 100 included: 442 at L. Creran river mouth (N of Sea Life Centre) *North Argyll* on 20 Sep, 427 (max. for 2009) at Blairmore (L. Long) *Cowal* on 30 Jul, 385 at Otter Ferry on 14 Aug, 240 at Traigh Bhi dunes *Tiree* on 15 Jul, 190 east of Balevullin *Tiree* on 13 Dec, 166 (*ca*14 female-type, rest male) on L. Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Sep, 109 at the WeBS count on L. Creran on 23 Aug and *ca*100 moulting birds at West Coast Salmon, *Kintyre* on 6 Jul.

Table 17.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Holy Loch (Cowal) and Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	140	143	76	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	77	86	102	235
Indaal	66	134	133	180	99	167	154	223	200	144	136	165

Table 17.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Loch Indaal (Islay) and Holy Loch (Cowal) in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	278	197	91	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	93	56	226	n/r
Indaal	121	132	118	164	123	148	176	197	211	n/r	n/r	n/r

KING EIDER* *Somateria spectabilis*

0207

A vagrant. At least 13 Argyll records dating back to 1889: all of single males. Several recent records could relate to returning individuals. The most recent was in Kintyre Apr/Jul 2007.

2008. An adult drake seen at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 28 Feb and 5 Mar and Sound of Gigha 1 May was presumably the same individual as that seen in *Kintyre* in 2007 [John McGlynn/Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by BBRC as 28 Feb and 5 Mar, presumed same as Machrihanish 2007 (*British Birds* 102:534) (*See also* list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. No records.

HARLEQUIN DUCK* *Histrionicus histrionicus*

0211

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha, Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.

Jan-Jun 2008. The highest counts recorded were at Hough Bay *Tiree* where numbers peaked at 26 on 16 Feb. The highest count in L. Indaal was 11 on 18 Feb and up to 6 were seen in the Sound of Gigha from Feb to Apr. The only record elsewhere concerned 2 in Machrihanish Bay on 22 Feb.

2009. Numbers at Hough Bay *Tiree* peaked at 15 on 21 Jan and 13 were counted on L. Indaal on 18 Feb. Six males were seen off Rubha Glas (Oa) *Islay* on 28 Apr. No more than 4 (on 4 Apr) were reported from the Sound of Gigha and single birds were seen at Machrihanish and Ardnave *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2008. The highest counts recorded were again at Hough Bay *Tiree* and numbers peaked at 15 on 29 Nov. Smaller numbers present regularly on L. Indaal peaked at 6 on 13 Nov and the highest count in the Sound of Gigha was 5 on 25 Nov. A female was again seen in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll*, on 15 Jul. Elsewhere, single birds were at Laggan Bay *Mull* on 29 Oct, at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave *Islay* in Nov & Dec. Two were at RSPB L. Gruinart on 16 Dec.

2009. Curiously a single bird was again seen at exactly the same location in Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll*, on 14 Jul. By far the highest count was 16, in the Sound of Gigha off Ronachan Point on 15 Oct. At Hough Bay 9 were counted on 28 Nov and 8 were in L. Indaal on 11 Nov. Elsewhere, one flew past Urvaig *Tiree* on 29 Sep, two flew S past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 2 Oct, 3 flew W past Aird *Tiree* on 3 Oct and singles were at Ardpatrik Point *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov and at L. a' Chinn Ghairbh *Jura* on 16 Dec.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh

0213

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Away from L. Indaal (Table 18.1) counts included: ca50 in the Sound of Gigha off Tayinloan on 27 Apr, ca30 off West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 27 Apr, 24 from the Islay ferry in the Sound of *Jura* on 11 Apr and 14 from the Gigha Ferry *Kintyre* on 10 Mar. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere in *Kintyre* and on *Mull*

2009. Away from L. Indaal (Table 18.2) counts included: ca40 from the Gigha Ferry on 18 Feb and 15 off West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 10 Mar. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere, in *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and on *Mull*.

Breeding 2008. No evidence of breeding was reported anywhere in Argyll.

2009. Once again, no evidence of breeding was reported anywhere in Argyll.

Jul-Dec 2008. By far the highest count was 214 in the Sound of Gigha on 4 Aug. Other counts, away from L. Indaal (Table 18.1), included: 70 in the Sound of Gigha on 2 Nov and 21 drakes flying W off The Ringing Stone *Tiree* on 14 Jul. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere in *Kintyre* and on *Mull* and *Tiree*.

2009. Away from L. Indaal (Table 18.2) counts included: 80 or more off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 26 (incl. 24 males) flying S at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 1 Jul and 10 off Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 15 Nov. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere in *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and on *Tiree*.

Table 18.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	24	52	45	42	28	34	29	45	34	44	43	36

NB Sound of Gigha not counted in 2008.

Table 18.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre) in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indaal	30	58	35	36	33	29	30	36	37	n/r	59	n/r
S.o.Gigha	1	26	42	21	19	14	0	3	16	n/r	1	26

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

0214

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

2008. A first winter female found in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 Jan was seen there regularly until at least 23 Mar. A second winter female at the same location on 16 Nov was presumed to be the same individual. It was seen there regularly until 30 Dec [J. Bowler *et al*].

2009. The second winter female from 2008 remained at Hough Bay until 28 Mar. Once again, what was presumed to be the same bird, re-appeared at the same location on 23 Nov and remained until the year's end. [John Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC as referring to one individual.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

0215

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

2008. Three were in the Sound of Gigha on 5 Feb, a male was with Common Scoters off Blackrock (L. Indaal) *Islay* on 1 Mar, 7 (incl. 4 drakes) were in the Sound of Gigha on 2 Nov and a drake was at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 11 Nov.

2009. Eight (incl. 3 adult males) off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 15 Oct was the only record received.

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

0218

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

Jan-Apr 2008. The highest count was 220 off Furnace (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan. Other than those in Table 19.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: L. Skerrols *Islay* (max. 51 on 25 Feb), head of Loch na Keal (36 on 5 Mar), L. Gair *Mid-Argyll* (24 on 17 Mar), head of L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* (23 on 19 Mar), L. Gilp (max. 22 on 31 Jan), River Ruel *Cowal* (15 on 14 Mar and Tayinloan (13 on 19 Feb).

2009. The highest counts were 196 off Furnace (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* and 162 in L. Caolisport off Ormsary, both on 1 Feb. Other than those in Table 19.2, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: L. Skerrols *Islay* (max. 74 on 22 Jan), Machir Bay *Islay* (42 on 25 Apr), head of Loch na Keal (27 on 24 Feb), Tayinloan (25 on 10 Mar), Dunoon (22 on 12 Mar), Ardnave *Islay* (12 on 27 Jan) and Balvicar Bay (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (10 on 10 Feb).

Summering birds 2008. None were recorded between the end of Apr and early Oct..

2009. None were recorded between the end of Apr and early Oct..

Oct-Dec 2008. The first of winter was an imm. female at L. a' Phuill on 7 Oct and the highest count was 145 off Furnace (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec. Other than those in Table 19.1, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: L. Caolisport off Ormsary (72 on 14 Nov), L. Riddon (22 on 15 Nov), head of Loch na Keal (15 on 15 Dec) and L. Creran *North Argyll* (13 on 16 Dec).

2009. The first returning bird was an imm. male at L. a' Phuill on 7 Oct and the highest count was 145 off Furnace (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec. Other than those in Table 19.2, the only

sites with counts of 10 or more were: Dunoon (15 on 4 Nov), Ronachan Point *Kintyre* (11 on 15 Oct) and Ardnave *Islay* (10 on 10 Nov).

Table 19.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in: Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll), Holy Loch (Cowal) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	3	15	17	n/r		0	8	6
L. Sween	22	27	46	n/r		1	11	17
Holy L.	12	14	8	n/r		2	7	15
L. Indaal	12	16	5	11		8	12	9
Tiree	32	55	39	15		2	45	25

Table 19.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Goldeneye in: Loch Indaal (Islay), Outer Loch Etive (N Argyll), Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll), Holy Loch (Cowal) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	9	20	20	n/r		0	9	9
L. Sween	19	29	32	n/r		2	4	26
Holy L.	18	8	10	n/r		0	0	0
L. Indaal	14	10	5	4		n/r	n/r	n/r
Tiree	45	49	49	6		9	27	45

SMEW *Mergus albellus* Siolta-bhreac

0220

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Siolta-dhearg

0221

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

Jan-Jun 2008. The only counts of 20 or more, away from the sites listed in Table 20.1, were at: Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (32 on 10 Feb), Taynish Point (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (30 on 14 Apr), Tayinloan (30 on 15 May), Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* (28 on 19 May) and Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (20 on 7 Mar).

2009. The only counts of 20 or more, away from the sites listed in Table 20.2, were at: head of Loch na Keal (37 on 15 Feb), Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* (32 on 11 Jun), Linne Mhuirich (L. Sween) (30 on 2 Apr) and Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* (23 on 21 Jun).

Breeding 2008. On *Tiree*, 14 pairs were noted at 6 likely breeding sites in Apr/May and at least three broods of young were noted later. Three pairs were noted at L. Crinan in May, a nest with 5 eggs was found on Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul and a female with one chick was at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 3 Jul. Pairs were noted at many other likely breeding sites in *Cowal*, Gigha (*Kintyre*), *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

2009. On *Tiree*, 15 pairs were found at 8 likely breeding sites in Apr/May and a crèche of 25 young was seen at L. a' Phuill on 20 Jul. A female with 5 small young was at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 2 Jul and a female with 5 well grown young was at L. Gair *Mid-Argyll*. Pairs were noted at many other likely breeding sites in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Away from the sites listed in Table 21.1, the only counts of 20 or more were at: West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* (200+ on 5 Aug), L. Riddon *Cowal* (156 on 3 Sep), Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (140 on 4 Aug), Bridgend bay *Islay* (59 on 12 Nov), L. na Lathaich (Bunessan) *Mull* (52 on 27 Oct), L. Scridain *Mull* (50 on 27 Oct), Ardnave *Islay* (max. 37 on 7 Aug), head of Loch na Keal (28 on 12 Sep), Otter Ferry (max. 27 on 3 Nov) and Skipness *Kintyre* (20 on 10 Dec).

2009. Away from the sites listed in Table 20.2, the only counts of 20 or more were at: West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* (80+ on 6 Sep), Gartnatra (L. Indaal) *Islay* (max. 55 on 8 Nov), Ronachan Point *Kintyre* (39 on 15 Oct), Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* (36 on 9 Nov), Otter Ferry (30 on 4 Oct), Oronsay *Colonsay* (28 on 18 Oct), head of Loch na Keal (max. 27 on 7 Sep), Isle of Danna (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (27 on 20 Sep), L. a' Phuill (25 on 20 Jul) and Skipness *Kintyre* (20 on 17 Oct).

Table 20.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	14	10	11	12	0	3	6	2	41	55	26	15
L. Indaal	45	40	44	46	31	39	80	165	134	77	56	56
L. Sween	21	9	40	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/t	n/r	n/r	13	45	38

NB Sound of Gigha not counted in 2008.

Table 20.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at two sea-lochs on Islay, Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll) and in Sound of Gigha (Kintyre) 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	10	15	15	16	13	2	0	n/r	0	30	9	12
L. Indaal	29	26	34	34	31	39	76	134	111	n/r	n/r	n/r
L. Sween	27	18	26	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	33	20	30	22
S.o.Gigha	2	10	13	14	8	12	120	178	25	n/r	0	31

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* Siolta

0223

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

Jan-May 2008. Up to 4 were seen: in *Cowal* at Asgog Bay, Cambusdhu (L. Eck), Craigendive (L. Striven), Holy Loch, Kilfinan Bay, Killail (Otter Ferry), L. Goil, L. Melldalloch and L. Restil; on *Islay* at L. Kinnabus; in *Kintyre* at L. Kinnabus, Lussa Loch and Skipness; in *Mid-Argyll* at Add Estuary, Balvicar Bay, Carsaig, L. Awe, L. Glashan and L. Scammadale; on *Mull* at L. Beg and in *North Argyll* at L. Etive and L. Tulla.

2009. Up to 7 were seen: in *Cowal* at Kilfinan Bay, Killail (Otter Ferry), L. Eck, L. Melldalloch, L. Restil and River Ruel; in *Mid-Argyll* at Achnamara (L. Sween), Add Estuary, Inveraray (L. Fyne), L. an Losgann Mor (nr. Kilmelford), L. Awe, L. Nell and in Glen Lonan; on *Mull* at L. Ba, L. Beg, L. na Keal, L. Sguabain (Glen More) and Mishnish Lochs and in *North Argyll* at L. Creran, L. Etive and L. Tulla.

Breeding 2008. Pairs were found at several suitable sites during the breeding season but the only reported indication of breeding was at Eredine (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* where a pair were displaying on 25 May.

2009. Pairs were found at several suitable sites during the breeding season but the only reported confirmed breeding was a female with 8 small ducklings at the N end of L. Awer on 11 Jul.

Jul-Dec 2008. Up to 7 were seen: in *Cowal* at Holy Loch, Kilfinan Bay, Killail (Otter Ferry), L. Melldalloch, and L. Riddon; in *Kintyre* at Otter Ferry, Machrihanish and Skipness; in *Mid-*

Argyll at Add Estuary, L. Awe, L. Etive, L. Feochan and head of L. Fyne; on *Mull* at L. Beg, L. Don and L. Scridain and in *North Argyll* at L. Creran and L. Tulla.

2009. A flock of 19 (moulting?) birds at L. Riddon *Cowal* on 21 Aug had increased to 61 by the following day. This is the second highest count of Goosanders recorded in Argyll (*cf* 65 at the head of L. Fyne on 14 Sep 1997). Elsewhere, up to 7 were seen in *Cowal* (5 sites), *Islay* (L. Indaal), *Kintyre* (Machrihanish), *Mid-Argyll* (7 sites), *Mull* (2 sites) and *North Argyll* (2 sites).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

0225

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

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

0329

A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.

2008. Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from: Cruach Kilfinan, Glen Kinglas and Lochan Chuilceachan (Glendaruel) *Cowal*, Port Askaig *Islay*, the Paps of *Jura* and L. Tulla *North Argyll*

2009. Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from: Loch a' Chinn Ghairbh and Loch na Craoibhe-Caorainn *Jura*, Allt na Beiste (Mull of Kintyre), Borgadale Glen, Killypole Loch and Meall Mor (Glenramskill) *Kintyre*, Cam Loch, (Eredine), Clachadow (Glen Lonan) and Creag an Fhithich (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll* and Beinn Lora *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2008. On *Islay*, pairs were present at RSPB L. Gruinart during the breeding season but no counts were made. Other locations with birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season included: An Griasaich (nr. Colintrave), Creag an Fhithich (nr. Millhouse) and Lochan Chuilceachan (Glendaruel) *Cowal* and Beinn Lora *North Argyll*.

2009. Approx. 30 calling birds were recorded in the breeding season during a survey in the vicinity of An Suidhe (nr. Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll*. On *Islay*, pairs were present at RSPB L. Gruinart and at Ardnave during the breeding season but no counts were made. Other locations with breeding season pairs included Beinn Bheigier *SE Islay* and Meal Meadhon (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll*.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

0330

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

2008. All records were from *North Argyll*. On 26 Jan one was on Stob Diamh (Beinn Cruachan) and one was at Allt Doite (Water of Tulla) on 6 Nov. On Beinn Odhar, 6 (incl. 2 males in winter plumage) were seen at ca800m on 5 Feb and 3 were present on 20 Nov.

2009. The only records were of a single bird on the W slopes of Beinn Eunaich *North Argyll* on 28 Nov with two more birds to the NE of Beinn Eunaich on the same day.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

0332

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

2008. In *Cowal* a lekking male was seen with a female on a hill above Glendaruel on 26 Mar and a copulating pair were seen here on 28 Apr. Bubbling calls were heard from a site near Birdfield (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan and again on 27Apr, indicating probable breeding in the area. Also in *Mid-Argyll*, a male was seen near L. Fuar an Bheinne (Knapdale) on 14 May. In *North Argyll*, two males were seen on two dates in Jan at Ardnacloch (Appin) coming to grain

hoppers provided for pheasants and up to three birds were seen at three sites in the L. Tulla area in Feb. A single male was flushed near Saddle *Kintyre* on 27 Apr.

2009. In *Kintyre*, a male was seen at the unexpected location of Rhunahaorine Point on 16 May and two were seen from the B8001 (Kennacraig to Claonaig road) on 26 Sep. One or more males were lekking near Loch Fuar an Bheinne (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and a male was flushed nearby on 9 Jun. A female was flushed near Water of Tulla *North Argyll* on 2 May and a total of six birds were seen in the L. Tulla *North Argyll* area on 4 Dec.

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille 0335

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 are currently extinct in Argyll.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* Cearc-thomain-dhearg-chasach 0358

Birds (some hybrids with Chukar A. chukar) have been introduced to several areas. Although this species is in Category C of the British list, populations in Argyll do not appear to be self-sustaining. Since about 2006 records, especially on the mainland and Islay, have been more frequent presumably as a result widespread releases.

2008. In *Kintyre*, large numbers are reported to have been released during the year on the estates at Largie, Killeen and Torrisdale. At least 20 were seen below a bird table at Tayinloan during Nov. Apparently most of the Torrisdale birds just vanished and very few were shot (Duncan Semple per Eddie Maguire). Some birds survived from releases on *Islay* in previous years and birds were reported regularly at L. Gruinart and various other locations on the island. Birds were also reported from Ardlamont and Kames *Cowal* and Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll*.

2009. Small numbers were reported from various locations on *Islay*. A covey of 16 flew across the road at Ballure (N of Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 4 were seen at Craiguadh (S of Tayinloan) on 10 Oct. In *Cowal* birds were reported from Blairmore (L. Long) and around L. Striven and at Seil Island *Mid-Argyll*.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* Cearc-thomain 0367

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

2008. Four were reported at Braids (nr. Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 21 Jul.

2009. No records.

COMMON QUAIL (QUAIL) *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh-gort 0370

A rare and irregular summer visitor; mainly to Kintyre and the islands.

2008. Calling birds were reported at RSPB L. Gruinart on 20 Jun and at Barrapol *Tiree* on 16 Jul.

2009. A calling bird (or birds?) was heard in the Treshnish/Haunn/Ensay area of N *Mull* on several dates from 31 May to 1 Jul. There are no proven breeding records of Common Quail in Argyll and this record may be the nearest we've had so far. However, it might just have been calling so persistently because it hadn't found a mate! Calling birds were also heard during May/June at: The Roundhouse *Coll*, Fang Dhu (Oa) *Islay*, Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll*, and Barrapol *Tiree*.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii* (see Category E species p.152).

COMMON PHEASANT (PHEASANT) *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394
Abundant in those parts of Argyll where they are released for shooting. Reports are rare from Jura and North Argyll.

2008. Reported from all recording areas, except *Coll* and *Colonsay*, with breeding confirmed (eggs/newly hatched chicks) in *Cowal*, *Tiree* and *Kintyre*. The largest numbers reported were: 80 around Otter Ferry on 14 Sep, 48 at Barr Gamhaim (nr. Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 6 May, 32 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 27 Dec and 22 nr. Killean *Kintyre* on 22 Feb.

2009. Again reported from all recording areas, except *Coll* and *Colonsay*, with breeding confirmed (eggs/newly hatched chicks) on *Islay* and *Tiree*. The largest numbers reported were: 50 at Bridgend *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, 39 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 1 Oct, 27 at Creag an Daimh (head of L. Striven) *Cowal* on 12 May and 22 at Braids *Kintyre* on 22 Feb.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

The last positive report concerning the introduced population on Mull was in 1997.

2008. No records.

2009. After a gap of more than ten years one was reported at Gruline *Mull* in May. It seems likely that this was a result of a more recent (re-)introduction.

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

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

Jan-Apr 2008. Reported widely in small numbers around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. As usual there were concentrations in favoured locations such as West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* (35 on 13 Feb) and L. Indaal (31 on 18 Feb).

2009. Seen widely around coasts as usual, but with few large aggregations. The biggest group reported was 19 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 21 Mar.

Breeding 2008. Birds were reported at breeding sites from about mid-Mar until late Aug. Breeding was confirmed on several lochs distributed throughout Argyll (details in database). There was one pair on *Colonsay*. A pair nested on the RSPB reserve at L. Gruinart *Islay*. Groups of birds formed at several sites away from breeding areas during Jul-Aug, with 12 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 24 Jul, and 5 at Cruachan Dam visitor centre L. Awe *North Argyll* feeding at the fish ring.

2009. Birds were late onto breeding lochs. In May, more sightings were reported from the coast than from nesting lochs. Confirmed breeding was reported from several lochs throughout Argyll. Several pairs produced chicks. There were also several reports during Jun of birds on lochs where breeding does not occur, such as L. Restil (Rest and be Thankful) *Cowal*.

Sep-Dec 2008. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported 66 birds flying south on 17 dates during Sep, 7 on 1 Oct, and 10 on 4 Oct. Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas of Argyll except innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter.

2009. Machrihanish SBO reported southward movement reaching a peak in late Sep, with 44 flying S in 5 hours on 23 Sep, and 58 flying S on 29 Sep. Good numbers were still passing during Oct.

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

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

Jan-Apr 2008. Birds were widely distributed around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more marine areas. Larger groups included: 16 at Skipness *Kintyre*

on 7 Jan, 11 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 12 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 18 at Ardpatrik Point (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr, 14 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, and 40 off *Kintyre* on 10 May.

2009. Larger groups included 14 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 27 Feb, 26 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, and 35 near Ardpatrik Point *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr.

Breeding 2008. Nine sites were fully monitored and 1-2 birds summered at 6 of these lochs. Young were hatched at 4 sites, all with nesting rafts, producing a total of 5 chicks. Three pairs were successful and each fledged a single chick. At one of these sites the chick moved to an adjacent loch before it was capable of flight. An additional bird was present on one occasion at one of the breeding locations and a small number of others were seen on other lochs during the summer. The largest number together was 5 at L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 14 May [R. A. Broad, RSPB].

2009. Eight sites were fully monitored and breeding was proved at 5 (3 clutches laid on rafts and 2 at natural sites); 5 chicks were known to have hatched at 3 and 2 each fledged a single chick. No adults were found at 3 lochs which have been used until quite recently in each breeding season.

Sep-Dec 2008. Single birds were seen at many sites, especially around *Mull*, and an unusually large group of 19 was in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Nov.

2009. Single birds were at various sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Unusually large counts included 17 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 10 Oct, and 23 at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 15 Oct.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachail

0004

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

Jan-May 2008. Birds were reported from all coastal areas, especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Gigha*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Larger numbers included: 45 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 14 in L. Scridain *Mull* on 5 Feb and 17 on 18 Feb, 29 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 13 Feb, 13 at Kintra *Islay* on 17 Feb, 27 in L. na Keal *Mull* on 18 Feb with 26 on 9 Apr, 68 in L. Indaal *Islay* on 18 Feb and 20 on 8 Apr, 19 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 29 Mar, 28 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 23 off NE *Colonsay* on 18 Apr and 20 on 16 May, and 40 off *Kintyre* on 10 May with 28 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 11 May.

2009. Widely distributed as usual, with larger counts including 15 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 11 Feb, 25 in L. Scridain *Mull* on 15 Feb and 20 on 10 Mar, 29 in L. na Keal *Mull* on 15 Feb, 32 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 27 Feb, 60 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, and 26 on 5 Apr, 66 off *Tiree* on 28 Apr and 31 on 10 May, 19 off *Colonsay* on 1 May, and 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 May.

Jun-Aug 2008. There were 9 records, each involving 1 to 3 birds, from: *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. These involved a mix of birds in immature plumage and full adult plumage.

2009. As usual, there were a few birds throughout Jun to Sep, with 5 (including two full adults) off *Tiree* on 22 Jun.

Sep-Dec 2008. Numbers began to build up in Sep, and counts of up to 20 birds were not uncommon from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in Oct to Dec. Unusually large numbers included 53 off *Tiree* on 1 Nov, and 217 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Nov.

2009. As usual, numbers in autumn and early winter were generally lower than in late winter and spring. However, larger groups included 67 off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 23 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, and 42 at Ardpatrik Point *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER* *Gavia adamsii* Learga-bhlàr 0005
A vagrant previously reported on only eight occasions, all since 1986, most recently in Loch Fyne in 2005.

2008. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. A bird in adult winter plumage was seen in Laggan Bay *Mull* on 1 Mar [Andy Carroll, Caroline Stevenson]. Description accepted by SBRC. The bird was reported to be there again on 15 and 19 May but no description was provided to support this.

PIED-BILLED GREBE* *Podilymbus podiceps* 0006
A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Peallach (Mull) in Jun 1998.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spàg-ri-tòn 0007
A local breeder in small numbers: widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter with concentrations at Loch Etive (North Argyll) and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll).

During both **2008** and **2009** there were records from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*.

Jan-Apr 2008. Numbers on L. Etive *North Argyll* peaked at 20 on 13 Jan and the peak count at L. Sween *Mid-Argyll* was 18 on 11 Jan. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were: 12 on Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan and 5 on L. Gair *Mid-Argyll*, also on 12 Jan.

2009. Numbers on L. Etive peaked at 19 on 18 Jan. The highest numbers seen elsewhere were: 10 during the WeBS count at L. Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 9 on Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Jan, 5 on L. nan Gad (Clachan) *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, and 5 on L. Creran *North Argyll* on 22 Feb.

Breeding 2008. Four pairs were present on the *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) lochs and at least two pairs on the Black Lochs (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* during the breeding season. A pair was nest building at a small lochan near L. Melldalloch *Cowal* on 15 Apr and a pair with recently fledged young was at Auchnaskeioch (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 13 June. Elsewhere pairs were recorded in suitable habitat during the breeding season at: Skeroblin Loch and Mill Loch (Gigha) *Kintyre*, L. Seil, L. Nell, L. Glashan and Loch Bealach Ghearran (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll*, and Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*.

2009. At least three pairs were seen on the *Colonsay* lochs during the breeding season. Pairs with recently fledged young were found at Benderloch gravel pit *North Argyll* and at Lochan nan Ceardach (Armdaddy) *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere pairs were recorded in suitable habitat during the breeding season at: Lochan Druim an Rathaid (Ardfern), L. Nell and Lochan Tainish *Mid-Argyll*, and Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*.

Sep-Dec 2008. The highest winter numbers were recorded during WeBS counts when 32 were found on L. Etive on 16 Nov, 14 at L. Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec, and 11 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 26 Nov. The highest numbers elsewhere were 6 on L. Gair *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep, and 5 at Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 20 Dec.

2009. Peak numbers during WeBS counts were: 23 on L. Etive on 20 Dec, 18 at L. Sween *Mid-Argyll* (including 14 at Linne Mhuirich) on 20 Nov, and 8 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Dec. Elsewhere: 11 were at Linne Mhuirich during the WeBS count on 18 Dec, 7 at the Oude Dam Loch (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 6 in the harbour at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 18 Dec, 5 in the harbour at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov, and 5 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 4 Nov.

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

2008. Birds were seen at three locations. There was 1 on L. Long at Blairmore Cowal on: 26 Jan, 10 Feb, 1 and 3 Mar, and 15 Apr, and 2 on 21 Nov. There were 2 at Holy Loch Cowal on 17 Feb and 1 on Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 8 Oct.

2009. Singles were seen at: Inveraray Mid-Argyll on 28 Jan and 10 Mar, Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 24 Oct, and Gartnatra Islay on 11 Nov.

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

2008. One in Gott Bay Tìree on 4 Sep [Keith Gillon].

2009. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

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

2008. Birds were most regular at L. Indaal Islay, L. na Keal Mull, and Sound of Gigha Kintyre (Table 21) but there were also records of one or two birds from: L. Long and Otter Ferry Cowal, North Connel Mid-Argyll, Ardmucknish Bay North Argyll, Sound of Shuna North Argyll, and various sites around Mull.

Table 21 Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2008 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	n/r	23	n/r	12	0	0	0	4	n/r	n/r	23	n/r
L. na Keal	n/r	40	18	2	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	25	n/r	12
S. of Gigha	n/r	2	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	2	n/r	n/r	89	n/r

2009. There were counts of: 20 at L. na Keal Mull on 15 Feb, 19 in the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 4 Mar, 63 at Ronachan Point Kintyre on 15 Oct, 11 at Leth Uillt mouth (W. Coast Salmon) Kintyre on 18 Oct, 21 at Rhunahaorine Point Kintyre on 9 Nov, and 13 at Gartnatra Islay on 11 Nov. Elsewhere, singles were seen at: Kilfinan Bay Cowal on 21 Jan, Tìree from 30 Sep to 4 Oct, and Otter Ferry Cowal on 10 Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Gobhlachan-dubh 0012
A rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS * *Thalassarche melanophrys*
Previously un-recorded in Argyll. There were 4 accepted records of this species in Scotland up to 2004, one involving a bird that was seen many times between 1967 and 1995 in Lothian and Fife then Shetland and Orkney, and three records of individuals in 2001 (off Rockall), and 2002 (off St Kilda and off East Lothian).

2008. One in adult plumage was seen flying N about 500 m from the Machrihanish SBO Kintyre hide on 27 Oct [Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by BBRC. An albatross, not identified

to species, was reported from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 10 Nov [A.W. Reid] and may have been the same bird.

2009. No records.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom

0020

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

Jan-Apr 2008. As usual, large numbers attended nest sites on *Tiree* from Jan, with at least 1600 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 27 Jan.

2009. Birds were attending nest sites in large numbers from Jan onwards.

Breeding 2008. There were 1105 AOS at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 5 Jun. This site produced 316 medium sized chicks by 17 Jul but only 70 large chicks on 28 Jul, suggesting fairly poor breeding success. TIARG reported 339 breeding pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 21 Jun.

2009. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were only 311 AONs on 13 May, increasing to 874 on 12 Jun (mostly with eggs). The numbers declined to 699 AONs on 28 Jun, 653 on 9 Jul (mostly with small chicks), 385 AONs on 23 Jul (mostly with medium sized chicks) and 162 AONs on 4 Aug (mostly with large chicks). These counts indicate another year with poor breeding success, and lower numbers than previously. TIARG reported 316 breeding pairs on Lunga Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 27 Jun, suggesting a continued decline at that colony.

Jul-Dec 2008. There were counts of tens to 200 birds per hour passing south in Aug at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and Hynish *Tiree*. Few records were received in Oct-Dec; except from *Tiree* where passage, or perhaps local foraging movement, was evident through to Nov.

2009. Birds were irregularly attending nesting sites on *Tiree* from early Nov, with over 1000 present on 5 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

0036

Rare passage migrant. Nine accepted records before 2008, involving eleven birds, mostly in Aug or Sep.

2008. No records.

2009. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr

0040

Rare passage migrant, mostly in autumn.

2008. No records.

2009. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh

0043

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

2008. Only 11 birds were seen between 27 Jul and 27 Aug from: *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*.

2009. Thirteen birds were reported on dates between 31 Jul and 3 Oct, all from *Tiree* apart from two at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and one from Craignure Bay *Mull*.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh-bàn

0046

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

Mar-May 2008. The first record was unusually early (12 Mar at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*) with the next not until 4 Apr (when there were 40 between Oban and *Tiree*). Large numbers appeared from around 20 Apr. Over 1000 were rafting on the sea between *Islay* and *Colonsay* on 15 May, and there were 600 between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 27 May.

2009. The first record was of 11 birds on 25 Mar (*Tiree*). Numbers increased in May with 425 in rafts off the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May.

Breeding 2008. There were no data on breeding numbers or breeding success.

2009. There were no data on breeding numbers or breeding success, although 11,000 birds were counted in rafts off Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 27 Jun.

Jul-Sep 2008. As has often been the case, there were some spectacularly large numbers passing Argyll sea-watching sites in late summer with: 5,080 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hrs on 27 Jul and 7,740 in 7 hrs on 6 Aug, and 10,000 passing the Oa *Islay* in 5 hrs on 24 Aug. Numbers were very much smaller in early Sep, declining to virtually none in the second half of Sep, with the last birds seen on 1 Oct.

2009. Numbers in late summer at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were considerably lower than normal, with peak counts of “only” about 500 per hour on 12 and 16 Aug. For a species that is generally pelagic in habits and distribution, rather more than normal appeared in L. Fyne, with hundreds feeding off Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 to 23 Aug and about 3000 on 23 Aug off L. Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. Numbers throughout Argyll decreased rapidly through Sep. There were 9 records of birds on passage in early Oct, with the last reports of singles on 11 Oct from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and from Aird *Tiree*.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

0046.3

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

2008. Seven birds were reported. The RAFOS bird survey team claimed two birds past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on the unusually early date of 9 Jun. Singles were reported on: 1 and 9 Aug at Machrihanish SBO, 25 Aug at L. Scridain *Mull*, 27 Aug at Aird *Tiree*, and 29 Sep at Machrihanish SBO.

2009. There were 8 records, all from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, between 12 and 16 Aug, with 4 on 16 Aug. All were flying south in company with large numbers of Manx Shearwaters.

NORTH ATLANTIC LITTLE SHEARWATER (MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER)*

Puffinus baroli

0048

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

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

0052

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

May 2008. There were no records in May, with the first sightings on 5 Jun off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

2009. There were no records in May, with the first sightings at sea on 3 Jun off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

Breeding 2008. TIARG reported 173 birds caught in 2 mist nets on one date in late Jun in 2.5 hours at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and inferred that reduced catches at the Village site implied a marked fall in local breeding numbers (see below). One bird caught here had been ringed on 23 Jul 1985 at Sanda Island *Kintyre*.

2009. TIARG caught 285 birds in 2.5 hours on 27 Jun at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. They caught 85 in “one hour in wind and rain” on Fladda on 30 Jun, 24 on Lunga on 1 Jul, 28 on Lunga on 2 Jul and 74 on Lunga on 3 Jul. The high variability in numbers caught per night suggests that these figures provide little or no evidence of breeding numbers, or trends, at the colony. Most likely the variation relates to weather conditions and numbers of non-breeders visiting the site from night to night.

Jul-Oct 2008. Small numbers were reported throughout Jul, Aug and Sep from locations across the western areas of Argyll, especially off: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Peak numbers were in Jul and Aug, with about ten per hour passing sea-watching sites. An unusually large number (182) passed Manna *Tiree* in 6 hrs on 23 Aug. Last records were of: 1 on 3 Sep at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and 4 on 18 Sep off *Coll*. A storm-petrel seen briefly on 14 Nov in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* was probably of this species.

2009. Only small numbers were seen in autumn, with no reports in double figures after 18 Aug. The last birds were 1 on 3 Oct off Aird *Tiree* and 2 off Hynish *Tiree* on 9 Oct.

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

Gobhlan-mara

0055

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

May-Jun 2008. No records.

2009. No records.

Jul-Dec 2008. Five individuals were reported on: 16 Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, 30 Aug at sea off *Coll*, 1 Oct at Machrihanish SBO, 25 Oct at Seil *Mid-Argyll*, and 11 Nov at Machrihanish SBO.

2009. A total of 27 birds were reported. There were: 2 on 29 Aug off *Coll*, 3 on 25 Sep and 3 on 29 Sep off *Tiree*, 10 flying S past Machrihanish SBO on 29 Sep, 1 off *Tiree* on 3 Oct, 6 past Machrihanish SBO on 3 Oct, 1 flying inland over pasture at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 3 Oct, and one off *Tiree* on 18 Oct.

NORTHERN GANNET (GANNET) *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire

0071

The nearest large breeding colonies to Argyll are Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, and often seen high up sea lochs: they are infrequently reported Nov/Dec.

Jan-Jun 2008. There were only a few records in Jan, mostly off the outer islands of Argyll. Numbers increased progressively until May and the distribution also spread into the sea lochs and all inshore coastal areas. By May and Jun there were large numbers feeding throughout the coastal and offshore waters of Argyll, and regular numbers passing by. These included some birds in immature plumages. However, the high proportion of adults indicates that breeding birds, probably from Ailsa Craig, regularly travel into Argyll waters to feed. On 27 May about 60 were feeding in small groups between *Coll* and *Tiree*. On 29 Jun there were some 200 birds feeding off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

2009. There was much the same pattern as seen in 2008. On 22 Mar about 180 headed W past Aird *Tiree* in one hour. On 16 Jun about 270 flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in one hour.

Jul-Dec 2008. Peak numbers were seen in late Jul and early Aug, with 1,715 flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 5 hours on 30 Jul. Large numbers regularly passed *Tiree*, with 50-100 per hour in early and mid Aug, and a peak of nearly 500 in one hour on 23 Aug. Much smaller numbers were seen in Sep, tailing off to a few individuals in Oct and Nov. This represents an unusually early autumn departure of Gannets from Argyll waters. The last birds of the year were 2 on 23 Nov and 1 on 29 Nov off *Tiree*.

2009. As usual there were high numbers all around the coasts of Argyll in Jul and Aug, but also as usual, especially large counts came from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and *Tiree*. More than 600 flew S past Machrihanish SBO in 2 hours on 12 Aug, while 376 flew SW past *Tiree* in 1 hour on 31 Jul. Unusually high numbers remained in Argyll waters throughout Sep and Oct, with 367 passing W off Aird *Tiree* in 2 hours on 3 Oct, 115 feeding in the Sound of Mull on 8 Sep, 205 flying SW past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 27 Oct, and 141 flying SW past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 29 Oct. Although there were 94 flying W off Aird *Tiree* in 1 hour on 2 Nov, only 5 birds were seen after that date; the last being an adult on 19 Dec off *Tiree*. The contrast between the early departure of Gannets from Argyll in 2008 and their late stay in Argyll in 2009 is striking, and perhaps relates to differences between the two years in seasonal movements of prey fish such as mackerel or herring.

GREAT CORMORANT (CORMORANT) *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh 0072
Breeds in: *Cowal, Gigha, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and N. Argyll with around 230 pairs in recent years: less numerous than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.*

Jan-Jun 2008. There were no large aggregations except at breeding colonies, where birds were present from early Mar onwards.

2009. There were 37 at the mouth of L. Etive *North Argyll* on 23 Feb. Birds were back at colonies by early Apr.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a minimum of 149 pairs fledged 247-248 young. The colony sizes were 46 pairs on Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, 40 pairs on Glas Eilean (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, 37 pairs on Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, and 26 pairs at Corr Eilean (McCormaig Isles) *Mid-Argyll*. Outside this study area there was a colony at Port a' Gharaidh *Gigha* with 11 pairs.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a total of 110 pairs were recorded nesting at four sites. At three of these where chicks were ringed, 97 pairs had 102 large young in Jun most of which would have fledged.

Jul-Dec 2008. Away from nesting colonies birds were fairly dispersed throughout the sea lochs and sheltered coasts of Argyll, the largest recorded groups being, 14 birds on Rubha Beag (L. Fyne) *Cowal* on 17 Sep, and 11 in outer L. Etive on 16 Nov.

2009. As usual, most records away from breeding sites came from sea lochs and sheltered coasts, but there was an exceptional count of 59 together with Shags just off Arinagour *Coll* on 19 Nov with 30 remaining on 22 Dec.

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

Jan-May 2008. Widely distributed on sea coasts, especially those more exposed to the open sea, but no big concentrations evident, except in the immediate vicinity of the larger breeding colonies. Some birds were sitting on nests by late Mar.

2009. As usual, birds were widely distributed on sea coasts. In addition there were two unusually large aggregations reported. A flock of 160 birds was feeding socially by driving fish

towards the shore at Hynish *Tiree* on 25 Jan, and there were 430 roosting together at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 31 Jan.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a total of 264 pairs nested at 9 sites. On *Tiree* there were 129 pairs nesting at Ceann a' Mhara which produced a mean of 1.74 large chicks per nest. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* TIARG recorded 159 pairs on Lunga and 19 pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. They also recorded about 500 nonbreeding adults around the islands in addition to the breeding groups.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a total of 135 pairs nested at 7 sites. On *Tiree* there were 112 pairs nesting at Ceann a' Mhara which produced a mean of 1.7 large chicks per nest. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* TIARG recorded 97 pairs on Lunga, 19 pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and a few pairs on each of 4 other islands. They also recorded about 400 nonbreeding adults around the islands in addition to the breeding groups. At one colony in Argyll it was reported that a visit to count nests had to be cut short because a Hooded Crow took the opportunity to quickly eat lots of eggs when birds were displaced from nests.

Aug-Dec 2008. Large groups included 140 roosting on rocks at Balmeanach *Mull* on 12 Sep, 124 in L. Scridian *Mull* on 27 Oct, and 450 group-feeding in Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 13 Dec.

2009. There were 220 flying SW past Hynish *Tiree* in one hour on 27 Oct. Large groups included 110 group-feeding off Arinagour *Coll* on 19 Nov and 240 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 10 Dec. Gunna Sound *Tiree* also held the largest aggregations of this species in late 2006 and 2007, so appears to be an exceptionally good area for Shags in winter.

ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD* *Fregata aquila*

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

EURASIAN BITTERN (BITTERN) *Botaurus stellaris* Chorra-ghràin 0095

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

2008. No records (but see list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. On 8 Dec, during freezing weather conditions, one was seen at the roadside on the A816 at Garraron (near Craobh Haven) *Mid-Argyll* and photographed on a mobile phone. [Helen & John Anderson]. It was photographed there the following day [Jim Dickson/Bill Allan]. All records accepted by ABRC. It was seen there again in mid-Dec by a local resident [Kitty Robertson]. On 9 Feb 2010 it was found nearby in an emaciated condition and taken into care. Sadly it was too far gone and died on 11 Feb [Wendy Bramley/John Anderson *et al*].

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 0104

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* 0111

No previous Argyll records.

2008. No records.

2009. On 23 Oct one was reported at Lyrabus *Islay* by a visiting birder. It was subsequently seen by many observers both there and in the Ballmartin area, sometimes in the company of a Little Egret, and many photographs were obtained. The last record was on 6 Nov. [Stewart Anderson/Chris & Tony Johnson/Margaret Brooke/Jim Dickson *et al*]. Record accepted by SBRC. **A new species for Argyll.**

SNOWY EGRET* *Egretta thula*

0115

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* Corra-gheal-bheag

0119

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.

2008. One was feeding on the N shore of L. Tulla North Argyll on 23 May [Roger Broad]. On the morning of 24 Aug a report was received of 3 birds at the head of West Loch Tarbert Kintyre [Julie & David Goodlet-Rowley per Eddie Maguire]. When Jim Dickson visited later in the day he found and photographed four birds in non-breeding plumage. One was seen the following day [Eddie Maguire]. All records accepted by ABRC. This equals the largest flock ever reported in Argyll (and Scotland): 4 at L. Don head Mull Oct-Nov 1969.

2009. One was found in a drainage ditch near Baddens Nursery (Lochgilphead) Mid-Argyll on 1 Jan. It was subsequently seen and photographed in this area by many observers, the last sighting being on 7 Jan [Jim Dickson/Malcolm Chattwood/Morag Rea *et al*]. One found at RSPB L. Gruinart on 11 Jun was seen there and at L. Indaal until 15 Jun [James How *et al*]. Single birds were present at Loch Eatharna Coll 8 – 13 Oct [Simon Wellock] and on Oronsay Colonsay 12 - 16 Oct [Mike Peacock]. Two birds were present on *Islay* from 24 Oct to the year's end and into 2010. They were seen at various locations but mainly at L. Gruinart and L. Indaal [James How *et al*]. One was found at Loch na Cille (L. Sween) Mid-Argyll on 29 Oct and one, or possibly two, were in the Add Estuary on the same day. Following this Little Egrets were seen at various locations (including Add Estuary, Ardfarn, L. Gilp and again at Loch na Cille) until 17 Dec. Two were seen together in the Add Estuary on 13 Nov and from plumage details it is clear that at least 3 individuals were involved altogether [Tom Callan/David Warden/Jim Dickson/Lynsey Gibson *et al*]. All records accepted by ABRC (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153). A remarkable year for this species in Argyll: might this presage a breeding attempt?

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

0121

A vagrant to Argyll with only five 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 and one on Tiree in May and Jun 2002.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghrithreach

0122

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas.

Jan-Apr 2008. The largest counts were: max. 31 at L. Etive on 10 Feb and 18 at Carsaig (nr. Tayvallich) Mid-Argyll on 16 Jan.

2009. The largest counts were: max. 17 at L. Creran *North Argyll* on 22 Feb, 16 on Eilean Mor (Burnt Islands) *Cowal* on 14 Jan, max. 14 at L. Etive on 15 Mar and 11 at L. Striven *Cowal* on 9 Feb.

Breeding 2008. On 18 Mar a bird was carrying nesting material to the heronry near Islandadd Bridge (Add Estuary) *Mid-Argyll* and an adult with 2 young was seen here on 18 Jun. On 18 Apr in *North Argyll*, 50 nests were counted at the heronry at Ardachy (L. Etive), 14 nests at Ardtur (Appin) and 8 at Eriska. A total of 13 nesting pairs were found at 3 heronries on *Colonsay* and three pairs on Oronsay on 17 May had broods of 2, 4 and 4. The heronry at Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* had 19 nests (6 nests with eggs or small young and 13 nests with 29 large young, of which 27 were caught & ringed) on 8 Jun. Nests with young were found at Highfield (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 13 Jun.

2008. In *North Argyll*, 38 nests were counted at the heronry at Ardachy (L. Etive), 20 nests at Ardtur (Appin) and 7 at Eriska. A total of 15 nesting pairs were found at 3 heronries on *Colonsay* and two pairs at a heronry on Oronsay. On 17 Apr, 12 – 15 nests were counted at a heronry at Kilmun *Cowal* and broken eggshells were noted below. At least 3 nests were noted at Rockmountain *Islay* on 26 Apr and the heronry at Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* had 22 nests on 7 Jun (7 clutches, 2 with dead half-grown young, 3 broods with 6 young ringed, 4 empty nests used in 2009 and 6 nests no sign of use).

Jul-Dec 2008. The largest counts were: max. 30 at L. Etive on 14 Sep, max. 25 at L. Creran *North Argyll* on 16 Nov, 22 at L. Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 16 at L. Scridain *Mull* on 27 Oct and 14 at L. Riddon *Cowal* on 27 Oct.

2009. The highest count was 32 at L. Etive on 20 Dec and other larger counts included: 30 at Appin *North Argyll* on 28 Jul, 25 at L. Creran *North Argyll* on 20 Sep, 24 at L. Sween on 17 Oct, 16 at L. Indaal on 12 Sep, 16 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Sep, 14 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 12 Oct and 10 at Eilean Dubh a' Chumhainn Mhoir *Jura* on 15 Dec.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

0134

A vagrant with only three accepted records: at Benderloch North Argyll in Apr 1971, on Islay in Apr/May 1978, and at Campbeltown Kintyre in May 1978.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

GLOSSY IBIS* *Plegadis falcinellus*

0136

A vagrant with six Argyll records, 1901-1958.

2008. No records.

2009. On 26 Sep an unusual bird seen by Paul Daw in a field at Barrahormid (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll* turned out (much to his surprise) to be a Glossy Ibis. Following a telephone call Morag and Norman Rea arrived from nearby Tayvallich and obtained some excellent photographs. They had heard that one had been seen near the caravan park in Tayvallich on the previous day but it had gone by the time they arrived. Despite alerting other birders it was not seen subsequently. Record accepted by BBRC as an immature bird 25-26 Sep (*British Birds* 103:574) [Paul Daw/Morag Rea/John MacCallum]. This is the first accepted Argyll record since one on Tiree in Oct 1958. See *Scottish Birds* Vol.30 (4):370-374 for a full account (with photographs) of this and other Scottish Glossy Ibis records during the autumn 2009 influx to Britain (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

0144

A vagrant with seven Argyll records: the most recent of these involving four juveniles on Islay in 1998.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

HONEY-BUZZARD (HONEY BUZZARD) *Pernis apivorus*

0231

A rare passage migrant with seven accepted records since 1980: the last at Ledaig Point North Argyll in 1999.

2008. A dark morph bird was seen coming in to roost at Carnan Mor Tìree on 6 Sep, mobbed by Buzzards [Janet Hunter]. This is the first record for Tìree. Record accepted by ABRC/SBRC.

2009. One was seen soaring over Moineuadh Wood, near Carradale Kintyre on 1 May before drifting off to the E [Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by ABRC.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

0238

A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one at Vaul Tìree on 16th May 1997.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach

0239

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

2008. Single birds were reported from: Dalmally Mid-Argyll (2 Jan), Loch Gorm Islay (17 Apr – stayed for almost a week), Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve Islay (21 Apr), Torastan Coll (28 Apr), Tulla Cottage North Argyll (8 May), Hell's Glen Cowal (during August), The Oa Islay (25 Sep), Drimfern (Glen Aray) Mid-Argyll (20 Oct), Mull of Kintyre (28 Oct), Glen More Mull (1 Nov), and Furnace and Auchindrain Mid-Argyll (presumably the same bird) on 9 Dec. Two birds, one with a blue wing tag, were seen from The Broad-billed Sandpiper Islay on 2 Nov.

2009. In contrast to 2008 only two were reported, one at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll on 17 Oct and one at Glenbranter Cowal on 19 Oct.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolair-mhara

0243

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

Breeding 2008. In Scotland, 44 territorial pairs were located and breeding was confirmed at 35 sites. Twenty successful pairs fledged 28 chicks (Sea Eagle Project Team). Of these, 12 territorial pairs were in Argyll: ten pairs laid eggs and 8 successful pairs fledged 9 young. The use of coloured patagial tags on chicks from the West Coast population, which has proved so useful in identifying individual birds, was discontinued in 2008 (a patagial tag is a permanent tag held onto the wing by a rivet punched through the patagium - the fold of skin extending from the humerus to the carpal joint). All accessible 2008 chicks were ringed BTO rings and colour ringed with individually engraved coloured metal rings.

For the first time, satellite tags were fitted to two chicks that fledged at the public viewing site at Loch Frisa Mull.

2008. Reports of wandering/dispersing birds continue to increase. Most were sightings of single birds but 2-3 were seen together at times and on one occasion 6 were seen together. Reports away from Mull included: at least 3 sightings on Islay, 1 on Jura, 2 in Kintyre (including one on the S coast), at least 6 in Mid-Argyll and 2 on North Argyll. (ARSG per RAB and records from Argyll database).

Breeding 2009. In Argyll, 12 territorial pairs (10 *Mull*, 2 elsewhere) were found, of which 10 pairs laid eggs and 8 successful pairs fledged 11 young. In Scotland as a whole, 46 territorial pairs were located; breeding was confirmed at 39 sites and 24 successful pairs reared 36 young.

2009. In addition to the breeding birds there were almost 100 reports of other white-tailed eagles received in 2009. Most sighting involved immatures, some of multiple sightings with the largest groups of up to 9 together reported on *Mull* where in addition to breeding pairs, 29 non-breeding birds (including chicks fledged during the year) were identified during the year. There have been reports from most of the major Argyll islands including: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura*, and *Tiree* and along much of the west Argyll mainland coast. West coast chicks fledging from 2008 and onwards have not been wing tagged and this has inevitably led to a decrease in the number of birds that can be individually identified.

Away from known breeding areas, sightings of 1-2 adults or sub-adults have increased suggesting that further population expansion might be anticipated. Most reports of these maturing birds have come from *Islay-Jura*, the west mainland Argyll coast (*Mid-Argyll* including Knapdale), and associated inland areas, for example Loch Awe. As part of the study into immature sea eagle dispersal, satellite tags were fitted to two chicks on *Mull* in 2009 to supplement the data from the two that were similarly tagged there in 2008. Progress of these birds can be followed on the website: (www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/tracking/mulleagles) and there is growing evidence of the complexity and extent of movements of these individuals. Recently, for example, one of the 2009 tagged chicks was on *Islay* on 24-29 Dec and moved to *Jura* on 30-31 Dec before making its way via Arran and south *Kintyre* to West Loch Tarbert on 1 Jan 2010. It then returned to *Islay* via Northern Ireland!

During the year, visiting birds from the release site in East Scotland and from the release site in Ireland have been noted in Argyll. After leaving its release site in Co Kerry, Ireland a radio tagged juvenile male made a particularly extended trip and crossed from Co Antrim on 21 May to the Mull of Kintyre. After roosting at Cnoc Moy (south of Machrihanish) *Kintyre* overnight it was tracked flying north over *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May. At 12:00 hrs it was just S of Kilchenzie (near Campbeltown) *Kintyre*, at 13:00 it was just S of Loch Garrasdale, *Kintyre*, by 14:00 it was SW of Ardrishaig, *Mid-Argyll* and the final *Argyll* report was at Loch Scammadale (S of Oban) *Mid-Argyll* at 15:00. It kept heading north and eventually made it to Westray, Orkney before turning back south to the Kyle of Tongue. Many thanks to Allan Mee for all this information. (Dr. Allan Mee - www.goldeneagle.ie).

The potential for future interaction with breeding ospreys was highlighted by two incidents in 2009. In the first, a wandering immature white-tailed eagle was seen perched on an unoccupied osprey nest on 26 May. In the second, on 30 Jun, a white-tailed eagle swooped down low over an osprey nest containing large young. In the initial panic the attendant adult osprey seemed to fall off the edge of the nest before recovering to mob the intruder as it left the scene. (ARSG per RAB and records from Argyll database).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan-lòin

0260

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

2008. A female was hunting over reed beds at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 7 May. Two females were reported there on 10 May and thereafter at least one was present until 27 May. On 12 and 16 May one was observed carrying nesting material but there was no further evidence of breeding. A female was at Portnahaven *Islay* on 10 May.

2009. A male was at Tayinloan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr and a female was seen at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile *Islay* on 25 Apr. On *Tiree*, a male and female were reported at various locations 17 - 26

May but with no evidence of breeding. A female was present at Tayinloan *Mid-Argyll* 21 – 23 Oct.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Brèid-air-tòin 0261

A sparse but widespread breeding species: Argyll holds around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly, away from breeding areas, on migration and in winter. Reported from all recording areas.

Breeding 2008. On *Mull*, general observations suggested that voles were more abundant than at any time in the past 10+ years. Kestrels and Buzzards appeared to have particularly successful breeding seasons and Short-eared Owls were more numerous and widespread than for many years; with birds observed in fifteen locations across the island.

On *Mull* there were 30 proven, two probable, and nine possible nesting attempts by Hen Harriers. Of 14 other known sites, no harriers were observed at nine and five were not visited. Of 21 known clutch sizes there were 16 of 5 eggs and five of 6 eggs. Twenty nine nests were located and monitored. Fourteen nests plus one other proven breeding were associated with conifer forests. Nests were: under trees up to 5m tall, in unplanted areas, or areas where trees had failed. Eleven nests were associated with the establishment of new native woodlands, three were on an area of moorland being slowly colonised by trees and scrub, and one was on a small marine island. Of the eleven probable or possible breeding attempts: four were on open moorland, five in conifer forests, and two in new native woodland areas. The first nest was monitored on 15 May and contained 3 eggs and 2 small young. It is assumed that egg laying began about the 12 Apr; the earliest recorded on *Mull*. Two successful nests were only 300m apart.

Overall 24 nests were successful on *Mull* fledging 72 young (2.4 per nesting attempt or 3.0 per successful nest). Three nests failed on eggs and three failed with small chicks. Within conifer forests, 13 out of 15 nesting attempts were successful producing 39 young. Within new native woodland and areas of regeneration, 10 out of 14 nesting attempts were successful producing 31 young. Two additional young fledged from a small marine island. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the 2008 breeding season on *Mull* was that at all proven, probable and possible sites there were 19 adult males (AMs) and 22 first year males (FYMs). At the 30 proven sites there were 13 AMs and 17 FYMs. Fifteen of the 17 nests with FYMs were successful and produced 43 young (2.5 per nest: 2.9 per successful pair). Nine of the 13 nests with AMs were successful and produced 29 young (2.2 per nest; 3.2 per successful nest) (Paul Haworth per Roger Broad - ARSG). Successful breeding was proved again on *Colonsay*.

Table 22.1 Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2008.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid			
			Sites successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of young fledged	Young per successful site
Coll	1	1	0	0	0	0.00
Colonsay	3	3	2	0	8	4.00
Cowal	10	8	2	2	8	4.00
Islay	7	4	3	0	9	3.00
Mainland ¹ (not Cowal)	6	3	0	1	0	0.00
Mull	50	41	24	6	72+	3.00
Total	77	60	31	9	97+	3.11²

¹ Mainland includes sites in *Mid Argyll* (2) and *Kintyre* (4).

² Calculated for 30 broods (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

2009. On *Mull*, general observations suggested that the vole population had crashed during the winter. Short-eared owls were very scarce and no breeding pairs were observed during the harrier surveys. Two new nesting areas for harriers were recorded on *Mull* in 2009. Of the 57 known sites 40 were visited early in the year and pairs of harriers observed at 22 of these. Unlike 2008, all male harriers recorded were adults. There were 12 proven and two probable nesting attempts by Hen Harriers. The harriers observed at the other 8 sites were not recorded after early May and probably did not attempt to breed. Of the 12 proven breeding attempts one failed on chicks and 11 successful nests produced a minimum of 24 fledged young (Paul Haworth).

Included in the table below, under *Cowal*, is one pair that nested unsuccessfully having apparently made a short-lived earlier nesting attempt. Details of this first nesting attempt are not included in the figures in the table.

Bute (outwith Argyll recording area): For the first time in many years no evidence of breeding Hen Harriers was found on the island (I Hopkins). (ARSG per RAB).

Table 22.2 *Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll 2009.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Min. no. of large young	Young per successful site
Coll	3	3				0 ¹	
Colonsay	3	3	2	2	0	9	4.50
Cowal	12	10	6	3	3	8	2.66
Islay	6	4	4	1	3	3	3.00
Mull	38	22	12	11	0 ²	24	2.18
Mainl'nd (not Cowal) ³	5	1	1	1	0	1+	1.00+
Total	67	43	25	18	6	45+	2.53⁴

¹ birds recorded in 3 areas on *Coll*, no nesting attempts located, no young fledged ² and outcome unknown at one site. ³ Mainland includes sites in *Mid- Argyll* (2) and *Kintyre* (4).

⁴ calculated for 15 broods (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

Roosts 2008/9. No systematic data was available for roost sites.

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

2008. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. One was seen at Coullabus Plantation *Islay* on 16 Oct [Robert Davidson]. Record accepted ABRC.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK (SPARROWHAWK) *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269
A widespread, resident, breeding species.

During both **2008** and **2009** birds were reported from every recording area of Argyll except *Coll* and *Jura* (although they were presumably present in both areas).

On *Tiree* an immature male caught in a lobster pot at Baugh in Apr 2009 was later released. Does this mean that crustaceans might be on the Sparrowhawk's menu? More conventional prey species included: Dunlin, Sky Lark, Blue Tit, Common Starling, Common Chaffinch, and Twite. A juvenile male was seen eating a road kill Common Pheasant at L. Striven *Cowal*.

Breeding 2008.

Table 23.1 *Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Colonsay (3), and Cowal in 2008 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Argyll	4	4	2	0	2	?	n/a

2009.

Table 23.2 *Outcome of monitored Sparrowhawk territories in Colonsay, Cowal, and Mid-Argyll in 2009 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Argyll	15	15	6	?	?	?	n/a

COMMON BUZZARD (BUZZARD) *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

0287

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

During **2008** and **2009** numerous records were received from all Argyll areas. The following counts give some idea of the numbers present: 11 seen in the air at once at Loch Gruinart on 8 Apr 2008, 11 recorded at Ballygrogan *Kintyre* on 16 Sep 2009, and 25 noted around the island during the *Tiree* goose count on 27 - 28 Nov 2009. A Buzzard was involved in predation at the Common Tern colony at Eilean an Ruisg (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding 2008.

Table 24.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2008 (ARSG – coordinator I. Hopkins).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of young fledged ²	Young per successful territory ²
Coll	3	3			3		
Colonsay	58	25	10	11	0	18+	2.00 ¹
Cowal	19	19	4	0	15	6	1.50 ¹
Islay	4	4	2	2	0	3	1.50 ¹
<i>Tiree</i>	12	12					
Total	96	63	16	13	18	27+	1.67¹

¹Calculated for pairs where fledged brood size accurately known. ² Large young on last visit are assumed to have fledged. *Tiree*: No complete survey was undertaken.

Observations on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* suggest at least one pair were unsuccessful (TIARG).

2009.

Table 24.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2009* (ARSG – co-ordinator I. Hopkins).

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
			Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged ¹	Young per successful site ¹
Colonsay	58	25	9	2	0	19+	2.11
Cowal	11	11	7	15	0	13	1.86
Islay	19	19	5	1	0	11	2.20
Tiree	12	12					
Total	100	67	21	18	0	43+	2.06

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

Tiree: No complete survey was undertaken. The pair on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* was probably unsuccessful (TIARG).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* Bleidir-molach

0290

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolair

0296

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 **2008** and **2009** from all the Argyll recording areas. On 4 Mar 2008, seven were seen in the air together (5 adults and 2 sub-adults) over Ardmeanach *Mull*. A second year bird in East *Tiree* on 17 – 26 Oct 2009 was only the second record for the island.

Breeding 2008.

Table 25.1 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2008* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
2008	73	64	42	33 (35)	26.15% (56.68%)	36 (38)	1.09

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

An exceptionally productive year for Argyll's Golden Eagles. Mike Gregory commented at the end of May 2008 “so far every pair that laid eggs has hatched out which is unheard of presumably because of the fantastic weather in May”. Mike wrote from Spain where “in contrast they had a very wet May and all the local Golden Eagles had failed”. This great start to the Golden Eagle breeding season in Argyll continued and resulted in the highest number of large chicks/fledged chicks in more than 10 years. Three pairs reared twins and a chick (not included in the table below) from a fourth site with twins was collected on *Mull* for the Irish reintroduction. The Carradale *Kintyre* eagles were among the pairs that produced twins in 2008

and these were the first young reared here since the Beinn an Tuirc *Kintyre* wind farm was built in their territory. Both chicks were fitted with back pack tracking devices before they fledged. A Golden Eagle found dead on *Mull* in May 2008 had been ringed near Loch Rannoch, Tayside as a chick in 2005. It had been fitted with a satellite back pack at ringing but this had come off soon after fledging. (ARSG per RAB).

2009.

Table 25.2 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll in 2009, with figures from the 2003 and 1992 National Surveys for comparison (ARSG per RAB).*

Year	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min. number of young fledged	Young per successful pair
2009	66	59	40	16	27.11%	18	1.12
2003	100	80	52	29 (30)	36.25% (37.50%)	30 (31)	1.03 (1.03)
1992	96	84	59	27	32.14%	28	1.03

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

Breeding information shows that 2009 was a far less successful season than in 2008, with half the number of chicks fledged. Unusually, one large chick that was close to fledging was found dead in the nest. Surprisingly, two pairs (*Mull* and *Islay*) fledged twins. Confirmation of the re-occupation of a former home range was obtained during Apr 2009 when a pair was seen visiting an eyrie on mainland South Argyll. This pair is thought to have laid but failed. The home range is not known to have been occupied since before the 1970s, although there have been reports of birds being seen in this area since 2002-03 and rumours of a nest in 2004.

A bird ringed as a chick on *Mull* in 1987 was found dead (*ca* 6 weeks) on North *Jura* in April 2009 and this has been confirmed as the oldest ringed Golden Eagle reported in Scotland to date. Another chick ringed on *Colonsay* was found dead when about 18 months old on the neighbouring island of Oronsay and all the evidence suggests that this bird was killed as a result of an injury sustained from another bird of prey - probably another eagle, and possibly the parents.

What is presumed to be an unusual prey item was identified from a colour ring found very close to a coastal golden eagle nest on *Mull* in Jun 2008. The colour ring came from a Great Skua chick ringed in Jul 2001 on Eilean nan Ron, Kyle of Tongue, Highland.

A poisoned adult golden eagle was found by a hill walker on 7 Jun on Beinn Udlaidh, near Glen Orchy *North Argyll*. It was reported by the Police that "extensive searches were carried out and a positive line of enquiry was being pursued (Const Stevie McAleer)". (ARSG per RAB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Iolaire-iasgaich

0301

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

Apr-Jun 2008. The first returning birds were 2 at a nest site at L. Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr. Away from known breeding sites, birds were recorded from: Arinagour *Coll*, L. Gruinart and L. Gorm *Islay*, Add Estuary, Black Lochs (Connel) and L. Glashan *Mid-Argyll*, and Balephuill *Tiree*.

2009. The first returning bird was at West Loch Tarbert *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar and one was on a nest platform at L. Awe on 5 Apr. From 14 May to 24 Jun there were a series of records of one, or occasionally two, birds in the L. Riddon/Colintraive area of *Cowal*; indicating potential

prospecting breeders. Elsewhere, away from known breeding sites, birds were recorded from: Uig *Coll*, L. Melldalloch *Cowal* and Add Estuary and L Gilp *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding 2008.

Table 26.1 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2002-2008* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
2008	15	11¹	22^{1,2}	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
2002	5	3	6	2.00

¹ excludes breeding information for one pair where outcome unknown.

² Brood sizes: b/1 x 3, b/2 x 5, b/3 x 3.

Four new pairs were located in 2008 in Argyll, which included a pair that attempted to nest on a telecommunication mast and a pair that successfully reared a brood from a nest built on the wall of an ancient castle. After trying and failing for a couple of years, successful breeding occurred for the first time in *North Argyll*. The number of successful breeding pairs and the number of young fledged was almost identical to 2007. However, the breeding outcome is not known for an additional site that contained a small downy chick on the last visit. There were two complete breeding failures which included a pair that was harassed and predated by a small flock of non-breeding Ravens. A pair of Ravens commandeered a 'traditional' nest and while tending their well grown chicks they denied access to the Ospreys when they returned in spring. These Ospreys then moved to an available platform and bred successfully. (ARSG per RAB).

2009.

Table 26.2 *Outcome of monitored Osprey territories in Argyll in 2009* (ARSG per RAB).

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. fledged	Young per successful site
2009	15	12	28¹	2.33

¹ Brood sizes: b/1 x 3, b/2 x 3, b/3 x 5, b/4 x 1.

No new pairs were established in 2009 but the 12 successful nesting attempts raised the largest number of young so far. Successful pairs included one that nested on a telecommunication mast and a pair that again successfully reared a brood from a nest built on the wall of an ancient castle. A wandering White-tailed Eagle caused panic at one Osprey nest containing large young on 30 June and an immature White-tailed Eagle was seen perched on an unoccupied osprey nest in on 26 May. A chick ringed near Loch Awe, *Mid-Argyll* in 2007, was seen on the estuary of the Ria de Villaviciosa, northern Spain on 27 May 2009 and just 8 days later, on 4 June 2009, was found entangled in netting at a fish farm near Aspartia, Cumberland.

With the help of some photos of the rings on the Ospreys nesting at a site near Ford taken by Jim Dickson, both birds were identified by Roy Dennis. The female was ringed by Roy Dennis at a nest near Nethybridge, Speyside on 2 Jul 1994 and the male was originally ringed by Mick Canham at a Forestry Commission nest platform near L. Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 12 July 1994. The latter was one of a brood of three chicks (per Roger Broad).

Jul-Oct 2008. Presumed passage migrants were reported at: L. Indaal and L. Gruinart *Islay*, Oude Dam Loch, L. Feochan, the Add Estuary and, L. Melfort *Mid-Argyll*, and L. Frisa *Mull*. The last records were at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep and the Add Estuary on 16 Sep.

2009. Passage migrants were reported at: L. Caolisport, Balvicar (Seil), L. Feochan, Add Estuary, Dunstaffnage and L. na Cille (L. Sween) *Mid-Argyll*, Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll*, and L. Skerrols and L. Gruinart *Islay*. The last record was at L. Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Sep.

COMMON KESTREL (KESTREL) *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan-ruadh 0304
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 **2008** and **2009** there were records from all recording areas except *Coll*. As usual there was a noticeable increase in sightings, in both years, from Sep onwards. Records included: six in the Glen More area of *Mull* on 10 Sep 2008 and three to five around *Tiree* on 18 Sep 2008. During BTO Atlas Surveys in *Kintyre* in Nov 2009, Alan Salter found Kestrels in no less than 12 tetrads (nearly 25% of those visited), all in the south of the peninsula.

Breeding 2008.

Table 27.1 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2008 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs were proven to be laid				
		Successful sites	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
Colonsay ¹	3	1	0	0	5	5.00
Cowal	1	1	0	0	1+	1.00+
Islay	2	2	0	0	5	2.50
Total	6	4	0	0	11+	2.75+²

¹ occupied sites on *Colonsay* included one nest in an old chough nest with b/5.

² calculated for 4 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

On *Mull*, general observations suggested that voles were more abundant than at any time in the past 10+ years and Kestrels appeared to have had a particularly successful breeding season. (Paul Haworth).

One was present on *Tiree* in May but breeding was not suspected (J. Bowler).

2009.

Table 27.2 *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2009 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites Occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. of large young	Young per succ'ful site
Colonsay	4	2	?	0	2	2+	-
Cowal	7 ¹	2	1	1	0	1+	1.00+
Islay	9	4	3	0	1	4+	-
Total	20	8	4	1	3	7+	-

¹ includes 5 sites where only a single adult was recorded.

Little monitoring information is available but general observations indicate that Kestrels were absent or present only in very low numbers through much of mainland Argyll during the breeding season. The situation in *Cowal* in 2009, where systematic monitoring has been carried out over a long period, typifies the decline: 16 sites were vacant, 7 were occupied but pairs were only proved present at two of these sites.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

0307

A vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one at Machariorch (Kintyre) on 19th August 1990 and one at Todd Hill (Kintyre) on 12 July 2005.

NB. A description of a female Red-footed Falcon seen at Tod Hill Kintyre on 12 Jul 2005 [P. Ullrich] was supplied belatedly and therefore not published in ABR 20. This was subsequently accepted by BBRC and brings the Argyll species total for 2005 to 220.

2008. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. No records.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

0309

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

2008 and 2009. There were frequent records of up to 3 birds throughout the year on *Tiree* and up to 2 on *Islay* and *Mull*. Singles were reported regularly from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, and *Kintyre* and a few records came from: *Jura*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*.

Birds were seen chasing, and at least in one case, catching and eating Twite and one was seen eating a Snow Bunting. In two cases they were seen pursuing smaller waders.

Breeding 2008.

Table 28.1 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2008* (ARSG per RAB).

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
5	3	1	1	0	4	4.00

One or two were recorded from 3 known areas in 2008; two additional known sites were apparently unoccupied. Nesting was confirmed at only one of the sites (*Cowal*) where 4 chicks were reared.

2009.

Table 28.2 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2009* (ARSG per RAB).

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Successful sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
6	3	2	2	0	5+	2.50+

A single adult was displaying over a former nesting site in *North Argyll* in April. Two former sites in *Kintyre* were unoccupied in 2009. Successful breeding was confirmed at two sites with a fledged brood found on *Islay* and 4 fledged young at a site on the *Cowal*.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

0310

A rare visitor, mostly in spring and autumn.

2008. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. An adult was seen and photographed at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 28 Jun [M. Johnson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

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

0318

A vagrant. Several records prior to 1950 but only six recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2006.

2008. No records.

2009. An adult white-morph bird was seen and photographed by several observers at Kilchoman/ L. Gorm *Islay* on 21 Mar [Ian Brooke et al]. There were other unconfirmed reports

of it until 1 April. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:578). A record of a white-morph 1st-winter bird on *Tiree* in Mar/Apr was still in circulation with BBRC at the time of writing.

PEREGRINE FALCON (PEREGRINE) *Falco peregrinus* Seabag 0320
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 **2008** and **2009** birds were reported from all recording areas except *North Argyll*, and included records from *Lunga* (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and *Oronsay Colonsay*

Captured prey recorded included: duck spp, Common Gull, Western Jackdaw, Common Starling (2) and, rather impressively, a Barnacle Goose on *Oronsay Colonsay*. Peregrines were also seen pursuing: Red Knot, Rock Dove, Mistle Thrush, and, in turn, being mobbed by: Common Buzzard, Common Tern, Barn Swallows, and Hooded Crows.

Breeding 2008.

Table 29.1 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2008 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occ.	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome not known	Min. no. large young	Young per succ'sful site
Misc. Islands ¹	11	8	7	4	1	2	9	2.25
Cowal	12	6	6	4	1	1	9	2.25
Islay	5	3	2	1	0	1	3	3.00
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	5	4	2	2	0	0	2+	1.00+
Total	33	21	17	11	2	4	23+	2.40²

¹ Misc. Islands includes information from *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Oronsay*, *Lismore (North Argyll)*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* (where, for the first time, two pairs nested successfully).

² For 10 pairs where numbers of large chicks in brood accurately known.

2009.

Table 29.2 *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2009 (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occ.	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome not known	Min. no. large young	Young per succ'sful site
Misc. Islands ¹	8	8	5	3	1	1	5+	1.66+
Cowal	12	10	6	5	0	1	9+	1.80+
Islay	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	3	3	2	1	1	0	1+	1.00+
Total	25	23	14	10	2	2	18+	2.33²

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

² Calculated for 6 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan-allt 0407

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

Jan-Apr 2008. Calling birds were reported from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree*, with 3 or more calling at Balephuill *Tiree*. One was seen at Mutiara (Oban Seil) *Mid-Argyll* during early Apr coming to bird feeders in the garden.

2009. One was seen one crossing the road at Balemartine *Tiree* on 18 Feb and at least 3 were heard squealing regularly at Balephuill *Tiree*. The only other records were from RSPB L. Gruinart.

Breeding 2008. Eight territories were located on *Colonsay* (no tape lure used) including one new site with no previous records. At least 6 calling bird were at RSPB L. Gruinart and at least 3 sites on *Tiree* had birds calling at night during Jun.

2009. On *Colonsay*, 17 territories were located in Apr, and one on *Oronsay*. At least 9 calling bird were noted at RSPB L. Gruinart and at least 5 sites on *Tiree* had birds calling at night during Jun with a fledged juvenile noted at Balephuill on 16 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2008. The only records were from RSPB L. Gruinart and Gruinart Floods *Islay* and Balephuill, Hynish and L. Bhasapol *Tiree*.

2009. Two were recorded at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 14 Oct, one was at Achnacroish, (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 21 Nov and one was found dead at Cnoc Beag (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov, during bad weather. The remaining records were all from RSPB L. Gruinart and *Tiree*, where birds were seen during hard weather feeding in gardens at Mannal and Balephetrish.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Traon-breac 0408

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

2008. One was heard at RSPB Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 24 Apr and from then on up to 2 were heard in the L. Gruinart area until 19 Jun. There were no records elsewhere.

2009. One was calling near Bridgend *Islay* during May. On 20 May a calling bird was recorded at Port Ann (nr. Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll*, a new site for this species. It was heard there on and off until 1 Jun and an adult male was seen briefly on 27 May [Karen Judd/John Taylor/ Jim Dickson *et al*] Accepted by ABRC.. One was heard at Machir Bay *Islay* on 22 May, one was present at RSPB L. Gruinart from Jun until early Sep and one called at a site on *Tiree* from 3 – 11 Jun.

CORN CRAKE (CORNCRAKE) *Crex crex* Traon 0421

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

2008. The first report of a calling bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Apr. The first records on *Islay* and *Colonsay* were on 25 Apr and 27 Apr respectively. The last records in autumn were on 12 Sep at Cornaig *Tiree* and at *Oronsay Colonsay* on 17 Sep,

2009. An early bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Apr but the main arrival was around 20 Apr when birds were first heard on *Islay*. There was an unusual report of an exhausted bird at Sandbank (nr. Dunoon) *Cowal* on 29 Apr. Two separate birds were calling at a mainland location in the L. Sween area on 31 May and one was seen and heard on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun.

The last birds on *Islay* were in late Aug and a late bird was seen at Aird *Tiree* on 25 Sep.

Breeding 2008 and 2009. The table below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in both years and shows earlier years for comparison. The reduction in the Argyll totals since 2007 is largely due to a re-assessment of the numbers on *Coll*.

2008. For the first time since 1997, none were recorded on the *Treshnish Isles*. There was a report from a local boatman of 6-7 calling all summer from the McCormaig Islands (not included in table above).

2009. Two were calling on Lunga Treshnish Isles on 29 Jun.

Table 30. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2000-2009.*

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Coll</i>	53	62	74	90	134	159	171	180	118	122
<i>Tiree</i>	153	143	172	184	260	310	316	391	413	392
<i>Iona</i>	9	7	12	24	24	29	39	30	50	46
<i>Mull</i>	1	0	1	0	5	5	7	4	8	2
<i>Colonsay</i> <i>incl.</i> <i>Oronsay</i>	21	18	25	32	46	53	62	73	67	61
<i>Islay</i>	8	7	8	10	31	52	59	70	82	84
Smaller islands*	7	1+	1+	4+	9+	6	10	7	0#	2
Mainland							1			5
Grand Total	252	238	293	344	509	614	664	755	738	714

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

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

0424

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

Breeding 2008. Five breeding pairs were located at RSPB L. Gruinart and pairs with young were seen at Knockdow *Cowal*, Balephuill *Tiree* and in *Kintyre* at Crosshill Loch (nr. Campbeltown) and on Gigha. Pairs were also seen in suitable habitat during the breeding season at four sites in *Cowal*.

2009. Six breeding pairs were located at RSPB L. Gruinart and one at Ardnave *Islay*. Pairs with young were seen at two sites on *Tiree*, at L. Crinan *Mid-Argyll*, Crosshill Loch *Kintyre* and at Gortinanane (nr. Tayinloan) *Kintyre*.

2008 and 2009. Outwith the breeding season birds were reported at 10 or more sites in *Mid-Argyll*, three sites in *Kintyre* and on *Colonsay* and *Mull*.

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

0429

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

2008. Up to two birds were present at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* in Jan, Feb, Apr Oct and Nov. The only other record was of one on a pond at Gallanach *Coll* on 28 Apr.

2009. Up to three birds were present at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* in Jan and from Aug to Dec. Single birds were also reported from Luachrach Loch (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, Westport Marsh (nr. Machrihanish) *Kintyre* on 24 May and on Harrison's Loch (NM4119) Scoor *Mid-Argyll* on 18 and 28 Oct.

A vagrant. Eight accepted records 1966-2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brighde

0450

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, and Holy Loch *Cowal* (see WeBS counts in Table 31.1). Elsewhere, counts exceeding 100 birds included: 223 at Ballimore *Cowal* on 6 Feb, 170 in Machir Bay *Islay* on 7 Feb, 210 on *Tiree* on 7 Mar, 196 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 24 Mar, and 130 at Bullwood (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 24 May.

2009. Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: RSPB Loch Gruinart, Loch Indaal, and Holy Loch (see WeBS counts in Table 31.2). Elsewhere, counts exceeding 100 birds included: 105 in Traigh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Feb, 165 on *Tiree* on 2 Mar, 142 at Hunter's Quay *Cowal* on 12 Mar, 130 at Loch a' Phuill on 14 Mar, 103 at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 Mar and 146 there on 25 Mar, and 117 in Traigh Bay *Tiree* on 8 Apr.

Breeding 2008. Atlas fieldwork recorded breeding across most of Argyll. There were 15 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 6 pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, with 11 pairs elsewhere on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* away from Lunga.

2009. There were: 119 pairs at The Reef *Tiree*, 15 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 16 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, and 8 pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Other than those in Table 31.1, sites with 100 or more birds included: 290 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jul with 330 there on 7 Aug, 125 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 6 Sep, 480 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Oct, and 231 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 27 Oct.

2009. Other than those in Table 31.2, sites with 100 or more birds included: 360 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Jul, 360 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Jul, and at the same site: 130 on 25 Jul, 170 on 4 Aug, 130 on 5 Aug, 110 on 8 Aug, 360 on 13 Aug, and 170 on 17 Aug. There were: 200 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 27 Jul, 383 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 28 Jul, and 300 at Kildalloig Bay *Kintyre* on 6 Nov.

Table 31.1 Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at *L. Gruinart*, *L. Indaal*, & *Holy Loch 2008*.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	255	184	158	214	207	313	175	478	324	230	289	304
Indaal	445	468	567	552	491	447	451	388	444	350	444	447
Holy L.	579	537	315	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	548	654	581	656

Table 31.2 Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at *L. Gruinart*, *L. Indaal*, & *Holy Loch 2009*.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	219	265	232	480	202	268	311	n/r	179	283	137	185
Indaal	367	400	589	498	445	414	400	401	338	n/r	n/r	n/r
Holy L.	447	624	385	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	442	616	471	n/r

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

0456

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oediconemus*

0459

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

0469

A vagrant. The only Argyll records concern one on Islay in May 1983, and one at Machrihanish SBO on 21 July 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. One bird calling while flying past Machrihanish SBO on 17 Jul [Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by ABRC.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan-tràghad

0470

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

Jan-May 2008. Widely distributed on Argyll coasts, but with large counts (apart from those in Table 32.1) of: 85 at RSPB Ardnave Islay on 7 Jan, 215 on Tiree on 11 Jan, 85 at Tayvallich Mid-Argyll on 15 Jan, 112 at Oronsay Farm Colonsay on 5 Feb, 170 in Balephetrish Bay Tiree on 6 Feb, 60 Otter Ferry Cowal on 6 Mar, 1100 on Tiree on 25 Apr (including two birds originally colour ringed in Iceland (one from Bolungarvik W Iceland and one from Stokkseyri S Iceland), 920 on Tiree on 22 May, and 320 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 2 Jun. This heavy spring passage through Tiree in late Apr to early Jun occurs while Scottish Ringed Plovers are already breeding, so clearly involves birds from high latitude breeding areas.

2009. Widely distributed on Argyll coasts, but with counts exceeding 100 birds (apart from those in Table 32.2) all originating this year from Tiree with: 155 on 4 Jan, 275 on 15 Jan, 310 on 26 Jan, 160 on 2 Feb, 125 on 16 Feb, 485 on 14 Apr, 460 (Gott Bay alone) on 20 Apr, 180 (Loch a' Phuill alone) on 28 Apr, 158 on 1 May, and 400 (Gott Bay alone) on 12 May. A bird wintering on Tiree had been colour ringed at a nesting site at Blairbuie, Wester Ross, in May 2006.

Breeding 2008. From Atlas fieldwork, breeding was confirmed on shores and river shingle across much of coastal Argyll.

2009. There were 49 pairs nesting at The Reef Tiree. A female nesting at The Reef Tiree had originally been ringed as a chick at Tiree Airport in 2000. There were: 2 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay, 6 pairs at RSPB Ardnave Islay, 2 pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull, 4 pairs on Machir Bay Islay, at least 5 pairs on Oronsay Colonsay, at least 19 pairs on Colonsay (excluding Oronsay), and 3 pairs at Otter Ferry Cowal.

Jul-Dec 2008. Other than those in Table 32.1, counts of 100 or more included: 210 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 7 Aug, 150 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 17 Aug, 690 on Tiree on 18 Aug, 300 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 27 Sep, 900 at Bridgend Merse Islay on 12 Nov, 120 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 11 Dec, and 310 on Tiree on 16 Dec.

2009. Other than those in Table 32.2, counts of 100 or more included: 110 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Aug, and *ca* 100 at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct. *Tiree* monthly counts were: 286 on 24 Aug, 243 on 14 Sep, 180 on 10 Oct, 318 on 4 Nov (including a bird colour ringed at Coigach, Wester Ross, in May 2006), and 185 on 4 Dec (including a bird colour ringed in Sutherland).

Table 32.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plovers at two sea-lochs on Islay and at Loch a' Phuill on Tiree in 2008.*

	Ja n	Fe b	M ar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	35	80	2	7	11	25	8	187	97	53	60	20
Indaal	47	47	26	111	97	42	33	98	67	68	35	70
L a' Phuill	0	46	4	35	318	4	6	0	n/r	0	0	0

Table 32.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Ringed Plovers at two sea-lochs on Islay and at Loch a' Phuill on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	16	9	11	102	22	12	7	n/r	64	77	74	46
Indaal	23	47	30	131	111	41	29	102	90	n/r	n/r	n/r
L a' Phuill	0	45	19	2	63	3	9	1	0	0	0	0

KILLDEER* *Charadrius vociferus*

0474

A vagrant. The only Argyll records concern one on Colonsay in January 1984, and one on Oronsay in October 2006.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

0482

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

2008. One with Golden Plovers in a ploughed field near Ballinaby *Islay* on 24 Apr, and four (1 male, 3 females) on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 30 Apr to 2 May.

2009. Two were seen in a field by the RSPB car park on the Oa *Islay* on 16 Apr. There were 4 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 24 Apr, and 4 at The Green *Tiree* on 6 and 7 May.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

0484

A vagrant with seven previous Argyll records (2001 – 2007).

2008. There were four records accepted by SBRC: An adult on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul [Jim Dickson], one adult at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 5 Sep and seen elsewhere on *Tiree* on 5 and 17 Sep, one juvenile at Balevullin *Tiree* on 6 Oct and until 10 Oct, and another brighter coloured juvenile at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Oct [Bill Allan/Jim Dickson/Keith Gillon].

2009. An adult at Barrapol *Tiree* on 14 Sep was then seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Sep, before taking up residence at Sandaig *Tiree* from 21 Sep to 14 Oct. A second adult joined it at Sandaig *Tiree* from 1 to 14 Oct. A third adult was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 and 2 Oct. [Ross Ahmed/John Bowler/Dan Brown/Jim Dickson] All three records were accepted by SBRC.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis fulva*

0484.2

*A vagrant. Two previous Argyll records, on Tiree in Oct 2000, and in Aug 2006.***2008.** One in juvenile plumage at Barrapol *Tiree* was seen by Jim Dickson on 8 Oct [Bill Allan/Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 102:552).**2009.** An adult was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 30 Aug and at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Sep [John Bowler/Keith Gillon] Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:585).**EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER (GOLDEN PLOVER)** *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag 0485*A moderate but probably decreasing number breed on moorland in several parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter and also during spring and autumn passage, especially on: Islay, Tiree, and Mull.***Jan-May 2008.** Highest numbers were on *Tiree* (see Table 33), with other large flocks mostly on *Islay*. There were 250 at Coull Farm *Islay* on 3 Jan, 200 at Duich Lots *Islay* on 7 Feb, and ca 150 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 18 Mar and several dates during Apr.**2009.** Highest numbers were on *Tiree* (see Table 33), with other large flocks mostly on *Islay*. There were 530 at Coull Farm *Islay* on 22 Jan, 330 at Machrihanish SBO on 17 Mar, 240 at Rockside *Islay* on 22 Mar, and 100 at Fidden *Mull* on 22 Apr.**Breeding 2008.** Surprisingly, despite BTO Atlas fieldwork, there were no confirmed records of breeding. Small numbers were seen in June on *Colonsay Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.**2009.** Again, a surprising shortage of breeding evidence, although birds were reported holding territory on Beinn Donachain *North Argyll*.**Jul-Dec 2008.** Several flocks of 20-50 birds were reported from Loch Beg *Mull*, *Islay* and *Tiree* in late July with the largest count being 150 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 25 Jul. Numbers in flocks, and the distribution of records, increased through Aug. Largest counts in Aug-Dec came from *Tiree* (see Table 33). Elsewhere, there were: 189 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Oct, 267 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Oct, 200 at Saligo Bay *Islay* on 29 Oct, 324 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* in late Oct, 260 at Langa *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 250 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Nov, 1170 at Langa *Kintyre* on 15 Nov, 157 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 16 Nov, 152 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 5 Dec, 190 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 22 Dec, and a peak count of 172 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* in Dec.**2009.** Few reported in Jul, with the largest count being 30 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 16 Jul. Largest counts in Aug-Dec came from *Tiree* (see Table 33). Elsewhere, there were 180 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 27 Sep, 350 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Sep, 419 at Clochkeil (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 2 Oct, 1100 at Langa Quarry *Kintyre* on 15 Oct with 1200 there on 16 Oct, 166 at Saligo Bay *Islay* on 20 Oct, 800 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 1295 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (max count there in Nov), 600 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 8 Nov, 650 at Rubha Luidhneis *Islay* on 11 Nov, and 275 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (Dec max count).Table 33 Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on *Tiree* in 2008 and 2009.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	4180	4000	3000	5500	80	6	38	1200	1500	2150	3540	3415
2009	3120	2960	3620	5125	58	2	4	1200	3055	3700	5105	4300

NB Many of these counts are estimates of the total island population on a given day.**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* Feadag-ghlas

0486

*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.***Jan-Jun 2008.** There were 27 records, of which 12 came from *Islay*. Most records off *Islay* were of single birds from: Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jan, Tayinloan jetty *Kintyre* on 12 Jan, Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, Tayinloan jetty *Kintyre* on 22 Jan, Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 8

Feb, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb, Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb, Tayinloan jetty *Kintyre* on 2 Mar, Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Mar, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Apr, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, The Strand *Colonsay* on 19 May, and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 May. There were 3 birds on *Tiree* on 12 Jan. On *Islay*, numbers were often higher, with 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 14 Jan, and 21 there on 19 Feb, 20 at RSPB Ardnave on 20 Feb, 9 on Gruinart Flats on 14 Mar, and 4 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 1 May.

2009. There were 15 records, of which (unusually) only 3 came from *Islay*. Most were of individuals from sites in *Kintyre*, with the largest counts being 8 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jan, and 10 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 Mar.

Jul-Dec 2008. Smaller numbers were present autumn/winter than in spring with: 15 records, 8 from *Islay*, but mostly of single birds. The first autumn record was from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* of one bird on 11 Sep. There were 4 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Oct and 5 there on 13 Nov. Dec records were of 3 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Dec, and singles at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 1 and 17 Dec.

2009. There were Just 8 records, mostly of singles on: *Islay*, *Tiree*, and *Kintyre* but with 3 birds at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Nov and Dec.

NORTHERN LAPWING (LAPWING) *Vanellus vanellus* Curracag 0493

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Largest numbers tended to be on *Tiree* (Table 34.1). Other high counts included: 100 at Coull Farm *Islay* on 3 Jan, 104 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 14 Jan, 113 there on 8 Feb, 100 on 13 Feb, 100 on 15 Feb, and 200 on 2 Mar, 230 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Jan, 175 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 7 Feb, 150 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 7 Feb, and 200 at Duich Lots *Islay* on 7 Feb.

2009. Largest numbers tended to be on *Tiree* (Table 34.2). Other high counts included: 150 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 12 Jan with 100 there on 13 Feb, 120 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 19 Feb, 200 at Cnoc an t-Suidhe *Mull* on 27 Feb, and 200 at Fiddin *Mull* on 25 Mar.

Breeding 2008. There were 164 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 43 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, 29 pairs on *Colonsay*, 2 pairs on Oronsay *Colonsay*, 3 pairs at Westport Marsh *Kintyre*, and 3 pairs at Tayinloan *Kintyre* (breeding numbers in *Kintyre* overall are low so these small numbers were considered worth mention).

2009. There were: 325 pairs at The Reef *Tiree*, 170 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 37 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, and 5 pairs at Westport Marsh *Kintyre*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Largest numbers were on *Tiree* (Table 34.1). Other large counts were: 225 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Oct, with 387 there on 25 Oct, 1170 at Langa Quarry *Kintyre* on 15 Nov, 107 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 30 Nov, and 100 at Rockside *Islay* on 21 Dec.

2009. Largest numbers were on *Tiree* (Table 34.2). Other large counts were: 220 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 10 Oct, 160 at Langa Quarry *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 520 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (peak Nov count).

Table 34.1 Monthly maximum counts of Lapwings at Gruinart Floods *Islay* and monthly maximum day-counts on *Tiree* in 2008.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	754	578	173	65	37	14	0	0	0	55	0	23
<i>Tiree</i>	4405	4000	n/r	n/r	n/r	333	730	3500	n/r	n/r	2680	4435

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs

Table 34.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Lapwings at Gruinart Floods Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart Floods	75	727	83	91	70	39	0	n/r	10	46	1	3
Tiree	2980	4910	400+	n/r	n/r	300	650	3000	3000	n/r	4190	3805

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs

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

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

Jan-May 2008. Apart from occasional singles on: *Islay, Tiree, Oronsay Colonsay*, and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*; Loch Indaal *Islay* held: 13 on 14 Jan, 11 on 9 Mar, 25 on 7 Apr, and 11 on 17 May. There were 19 on *Tiree* on 22 May.

2009. There were few in winter: 2 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 8 Feb, 2 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb, 14 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Mar, 9 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Mar. There were increasing numbers in May with spring passage of: 15 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 May, 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 May, and on *Tiree*: 19 on 14 May, 33 on 15 May, and 64 on 16 May.

Summer records 2008. There was none in Jun, but there were: 2 red adults at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 12 Jul, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Jul, 4 on *Tiree* on 22 Jul and 5 on 24 Jul, 20 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 29 Jul, 72 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jul, and 9 on Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

2009. There were 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Jun, and 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Jun; these being the only Jun records. Far more were seen in Jul, as autumn passage began, with singles on 13 Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Jul, 6 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Jul, singles on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul and at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul, 2 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 23 Jul, and 120 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2008. Most records were from *Islay, Tiree*, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, with good numbers in Aug during passage but smaller numbers in winter. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded 380 birds over 23 dates in Aug, with 180 on 7 Aug, but only 13 in Sep. There were 118 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Aug (their peak count of the autumn), but only 16 on 16 Dec (the peak count that month). There were 50 on *Tiree* on 18 Aug and 27 on 25 Aug. WeBS counts at Loch Indaal *Islay* recorded: 34 on 16 Aug, 12 on 16 Sep, 45 on 20 Oct, 12 on 13 Nov, and 23 on 22 Dec.

2009. As usual, most records came from *Islay, Tiree*, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, with good numbers in Aug during passage but small numbers in winter. In Aug, highest counts were: 82 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug, 30 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Aug, and 10 on *Tiree* on 26 Aug. In Sep, highest counts were: 74 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 47 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep, 26 on *Tiree* on 3 Sep, and 15 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 11 Sep. There were 14 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Oct. None was recorded anywhere in Argyll in Nov, but there was 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Dec.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas 0497

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Largest numbers occurred on *Tiree*. Elsewhere there were few large flocks, except occasionally at Loch Gruinart (Table 35.1). Highest counts away from *Tiree* and Loch Gruinart *Islay* were: 30 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Jan, 33 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 28 Feb, 50 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* (Apr max count), 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Apr with 52 there on 9 May, 40 at West Trodighal *Kintyre* on 10 May, 44 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 17 May, 80 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 24 May, 60 at Southend *Kintyre* on 28 May, and 67 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 May. Several leg-flagged birds were seen on *Tiree*. One present in Jan was ringed in SW Iceland in June 2007, two present throughout Feb were ringed in SW Iceland in Jun 2007, and one of these remained through most of Mar. One present in May was ringed at Esiamia, Ghana, in Aug 2007. One present in May was ringed at Zackenberg, NE Greenland, in July 2007.

2009. Largest numbers occurred on *Tiree*, with a flock of 1,700 at Gott bay on 16 May being the highest count there to date. Elsewhere there were few large flocks, except occasionally at Loch Gruinart *Islay* (Table 35.2). Highest counts away from *Tiree* and Loch Gruinart *Islay* were: 37 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Apr and 14 Apr, 60 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 25 May, 18 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 May, 22 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 6 Jun, 12 in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 6 Jun, 20 at Eilean Ghaoidemal Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Jun, 20 in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 8 and 11 Jun, and 18 there on 14 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2008. Apart from the high numbers on *Tiree* (Table 35.1) large counts elsewhere included the following counts at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*: 74 on 28 Jul, 240 on 31 Jul, 760 on 7 Aug, and 274 on 16 Aug. Counts at Tayinloan *Kintyre* included: 150 on 30 Jul, 100 on 31 Jul, 50 on 17 Aug, and 300 on 27 Sep. There were 50 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 17 Aug and 161 at Traigh Ghrùineart *Islay* on 12 Nov. A bird that had been colour ringed in Iceland and was known to winter in N Ireland was present on *Tiree* in Aug, and one that had been colour ringed in Iceland in spring 2007 was on *Tiree* during Nov.

2009. Apart from the high numbers on *Tiree* and at Loch Gruinart *Islay* (Table 35.2) large counts elsewhere included many observations at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where there were: 115 on 14 Jul, 45 on 15 Jul, 60 on 24 Jul, 110 on 26 Jul, 28 on 28 Jul, 50 on 3 Aug, 58 on 4 Aug, 28 on 6 Aug, 30 on 12 Aug, 40 on 13 Aug, 20 on 21 Aug, 25 on 22 Aug, 17 on 24 Sep, 10 on 26 Sep, 40 on 28 Sep, 14 on 19 Oct, 16 on 22 Oct, 12 on 24 Oct, 4 on 2 Nov, and 15 on 11 Nov. There were 58 at Traigh Nostaig *Islay* on 15 Oct.

Table 35.1 Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings at L. Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on *Tiree* in 2008. Counts from *Tiree* are not always of the whole island.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	97	35	23	50	0	0	0	12	17	12	32	27
<i>Tiree</i>	300	240	188	795	180	35	777	1060	n/r	120	120	240

Table 35.2 Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings at L. Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on *Tiree* in 2009. Counts from *Tiree* are not always of the whole island.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	60	12	5	8	0	0	0	n/r	326	56	28	51
<i>Tiree</i>	200	125	360	440	1700	97	109	457	418	170	372	216

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER* *Calidris pusilla*

0498

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag 0501

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

Spring 2008. Recorded only from *Tiree*, with one at Loch a' Phuill on 17 May and another at Sorobaidh Bay on 22 May. Later, there were two at Loch a' Phuill on 28 May and one there on 29 May.

2009. No records.

Autumn 2008. Records were from: *Islay*, *Tiree*, and *Kintyre*. There were: 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Aug, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Aug with 3 there on 26 Aug, one at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Aug, one at Barrapol *Tiree* on 17 Sep, one at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 30 Sep, and again on 16 Dec (when it was photographed with Dunlins). This last record is apparently the first winter record of this species in Argyll.

2009. No records.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 0502

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* 0505

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER* *Calidris bairdii* 0506

A vagrant. Only three Argyll records, two on Islay (in Jun 1979 and Sep 1999) and one on Tiree (in May 2007).

2005. A belated submission of juvenile at Loch Gruinart, Islay 22 & 26 Sep [Clive MacKay]. Record accepted by BBRC. This (and the Red-footed Falcon) bring the species total for 2005 to 221.

2008. A juvenile was seen by Jim Dickson on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep: the fifth record for Argyll. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 102:554).

2009. A juvenile was seen at Gott Bay *Tiree* and also at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 26 to 28 Sep [Jim Dickson/Ross Ahmed/John Bowler]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:586).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* 0507

A less than annual transatlantic visitor with 24 or 25 accepted Argyll records during 1978-2007: a rare autumn migrant, with a few spring records.

2008. There were two records, both of juveniles, one at Middleton *Tiree* on 5 Oct and the other (a bird in slightly different plumage) at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 8 Oct [Jim Dickson, Bill Allan]. Both records were accepted by ABRC.

2009. A juvenile was seen and photographed on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Sep [Mike Peacock]. On *Tiree*, there were 3 at Barrapol and 1 juvenile at Sandaig, also on 26 Sep. Juveniles were seen at Barrapol on 29 Sep, Sandaig on 1 Oct and Cornaigmore on 1 Oct, and at Barrapol on 8 Oct. Clearly there were at least 2, possibly 5, birds on *Tiree* over this period [Ross Ahmed/John Bowler/Jim Dickson]. All records accepted by ABRC.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom

0509

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

Spring 2008. Adults were seen on: 28-31 May at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, 4 Jun at Miodar *Tiree*, and 2 Jul at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll*.

2009. Two were with Sanderlings in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 15 May in almost full summer plumage.

Autumn 2008. There were 3 juveniles on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* from 15 to 19 Sep.

2009. Up to 4 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Aug, and 1 in Sep (no dates specified). A juvenile was in Vault Bay *Tiree* on 14 Sep.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rìoghail

0510

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

Jan-May 2008. Counts of more than 20 included: 28 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 1 Feb, 23 at Scarinish Pier *Tiree* on 6 Feb, 35 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Feb, 24 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Feb, 28 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Mar, 32 in Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 7 Mar, and 29 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Apr. Most smaller counts came from *Tiree* and *Islay*, with a few from *Cowal* and *Kintyre*. By May there were just odd birds remaining, mainly on *Tiree*, and there were no Jun records.

2009. Counts of more than 20 included: 27 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Jan, 60 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 4 Jan, 55 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 35 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 26 Jan, 120 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 2 Feb, 23 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 3 Feb, 35 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Feb, 44 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 53 at Salum *Tiree* on 14 Feb, 38 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 28 Feb, 25 at Heanish *Tiree* on 14 Mar, 26 at Balephetrish Bay *Islay* on 27 Mar, and 29 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 17 Apr. The largest group in May was 6 birds at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 2 May, and the last May record was of 3 on *Tiree* on 13 May.

Jul-Dec 2008. No birds were seen from Jul to Sep, and the first autumn record was not until the surprisingly late date of 20 Oct, when one was seen at Loch Indaal *Islay*. The largest autumn and winter counts came from *Tiree*, where there were 120 birds between Rubha Chraiginis and Hough Bay on 16 Nov and 85 at Hough Bay on 30 Dec. Away from *Tiree* there were few large flocks. There were 29 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 17 Dec and 43 at Dunoon *Cowal* near the crazy golf course on 29 Dec. Small numbers (fewer than 20) were reported from several sites on: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*.

2009. An exceptionally early bird was seen on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 2 Jul. The next of the autumn was on 16 Aug on *Tiree*. The first autumn record from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was on 22 Sep, and the first in Dunoon *Cowal* was on 14 Oct. Birds were reported regularly throughout Nov and Dec, with highest counts being: 114 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Nov, and 60 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 20 Nov.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Graillig

0512

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.

Jan-Jun 2008. Largest numbers tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay* or on *Tiree* (Table 36.1). Other large counts included: 48 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 46 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 Mar, 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Mar, 53 at Druim Mor Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 May, 62 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May, 60 at West Trodighal *Kintyre* on 10 May, and 58 at Seal Cottage Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 May.

2009. Largest numbers tended to be at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, and *Tiree* (Table 36.2). Other large counts included: 100 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 9 Feb, 50 at Blairmore,

(Loch Long) *Cowal* on 10 May, 84 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 16 May, and 100 at Plaide Mhor *Colonsay* on 21 May.

Breeding 2008. There were 44 pairs on the wetland area of The Reef *Tiree*, and large numbers elsewhere on *Tiree*. At least one pair nested on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

2009. There were 61 singing males at The Reef *Tiree*. One pair nested at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 3 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Largest numbers tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay* and on *Tiree* (Table 36.1). There were good numbers during peak migration at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with: 185 on 30 Jul, 210 on 31 Jul, and 920 on 7 Aug. Around the same time good numbers appeared at Tayinloan *Kintyre* with: 150 on 30 Jul, 100 on 7 Aug and 17 Aug, and 300 on 27 Sep. There were 96 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug.

2009. Largest numbers tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay* and on *Tiree* (Table 36.2). Other large counts came only from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where there were: 160 on 3 Aug, 140 on 7 Aug, 135 on 12 Aug, 70 on 22 Aug, 230 on 25 Aug, 110 on 26 Aug, with very few thereafter.

Table 36.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	368	316	111	12	330	10	150	2660	368	105	241	361
Indaal	55	145	15	65	67	11	60	147	67	68	156	178
<i>Tiree</i>	110	106	10	1400	1520	440	330	355	5	12	30	61

Table 36.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	363	256	38	138	40	5	0	1740	965	372	670	445
Indaal	111	120	34	49	56	18	66	132	48	n/r	n/r	n/r
<i>Tiree</i>	65	80	40	190	2000	61	150	180	18	20	87	193

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER* *Limicola falcinellus*

0514

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

0516

A rare autumn migrant with only 13 accepted Argyll records, involving 18 birds, between 1971 and 2004. One was in May, two in June and the remainder in Sep. Then influxes occurred in 2004, 2005 and 2006 involving at least 13 birds, all but two in Sep and all but one on Tiree.

2008. All records came from *Tiree*, where there were at least 4, possibly 6 birds on 26 Aug, with one or two seen until 17 Sep. There was one (a different bird from those present previously) on 4 Oct and there were 4 on 5 Oct but none seen after that date (all juveniles) [Nick Addey/John Bowler/Jim Dickson]. All records accepted by ABRC.

2009. On *Tiree*, there were 3, possibly 4, juveniles at Sandaig or Loch a' Phuill between 9 and 29 Sep [John Bowler/Jim Dickson/Ross Ahmed]. A juvenile was at Machrins *Colonsay* on 17 Sep [Alan Davis]. All records accepted by ABRC.

An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.

Apr-Jun 2008. Two females were at a confidential location on 28 May.

2009. One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Apr and one in Jun again at RSPB Loch Gruinart.

Breeding 2008. There were no confirmed records, but see Apr-Jun note above.

2009. A male was present at a confidential site in early May near to where a female was observed later in the month behaving as if it had a nest nearby.

Jul-Dec 2008. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported: 1 on 31 Jul, 1 on 4 Aug, and 6 on 11 Aug. There was 1 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug. On *Tiree* there were: 2 on 27 Aug, 2 on 3 Sep, 1 on 5 Sep, 2 on 6 Sep, and 9 on 17 Sep. The last of the year was 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Oct.

2009. There were: 12 records in Aug, 9 in Sep, and 1 in Oct. Most were of single birds, but there were 6 on *Tiree* on 31 Aug, and 7 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Sep. All autumn records came from: *Islay*, Machrihanish *Kintyre*, or *Tiree*.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* Gobhrag-bheag

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

Jan-May 2008. Three were together at Eilean Tornal (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb, singles on *Tiree* on 9 and 12 Apr and one at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 May.

2009. Two were at Port Ban *Tiree* on 3 Jan and one at Balemartine *Tiree* on 3 Apr.

Sep-Dec 2008. One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Oct and one at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Nov.

2009. One was at The Reef *Tiree* on 2 Nov and 4 at Gortinanane (W) *Kintyre* on 8 Nov.

COMMON SNIPE (SNIPE) *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg

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.

Jan-Apr 2008. Widely reported in small numbers, but WeBS and Winter Atlas fieldwork provided some higher numbers, including: 16 at Nant Marshes (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 16 at Balure (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 16 in Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 13 Jan, 13 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb, and 23 at West Darlochan *Kintyre* on 22 Feb.

2009. Widely distributed as usual, especially in western Argyll, but there were no counts exceeding ten birds (the largest reported count was 9 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Apr).

Breeding 2008. There were 63 drumming birds in The Reef wetlands *Tiree* on 1 May. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* there were 76 drumming birds in early Jun. RSPB Ardnave *Islay* had 21 drumming birds in early Jun. A circuit of roads on *Colonsay* located 9 drumming birds in early Jun. There were 13 birds on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun, and a minimum of 13 pairs nesting on Lunga, (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Elsewhere, the species was widely reported in ones and twos from suitable wet habitats throughout Argyll.

2009. Counts of drumming birds in early Jun included: 134 at The Reef *Tiree*, 61 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 18 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, and 19 on *Colonsay*. There were at least 10 pairs nesting on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Aug-Dec 2008. Widely distributed in ones and twos in wet habitat throughout Argyll, with particularly high numbers on *Tiree*. An influx was noted on *Tiree* in early Sep with *ca* 100 present on 18 Sep. "Several hundred" were present on *Tiree* from 4-11 Oct. There were 60 in Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 4 Nov. Elsewhere; the only records of more than ten birds together were

from: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* where there were 12 on 3 Oct, and 13 on 2 Nov; and from Loch Beg *Mull*, where there were 12 on 20 Dec.

2009. As usual, widely distributed in ones and twos in wet habitat throughout Argyll, with particularly high numbers on *Tiree*. Counts on *Tiree* included: 200 at Sandaig on 30 Aug, >150 on *Tiree* on 29 Sep, and 91 on *Tiree* on 5 Nov. Elsewhere, there was: an unusual count of 60 on floodwater at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 21 Aug, 93 at Loch Lussa *Kintyre* on 21 Oct, 17 at Airds Bay, Taynuilt, *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec, and 17 on Outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 20 Dec.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 0527
A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in June 1986. There are also three acceptable records (1891-1973) of unidentified Dowitchers.

2008. No records.

2009. One at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Apr was found (together with a Lesser Yellowlegs) by numerous members of Argyll Bird Club, and photographed, during a field trip [J. R. How *et al*]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:587). One reported at Loch Gruinart, *Islay* 28 Dec has now been submitted and is in circulation with BBRC.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille 0529
A widespread, but probably under recorded, breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland: a small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere.

Jan-Mar 2008. One or two birds were reported from all areas of Argyll apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Several records in Feb were of birds displaced by snow into gardens and roadside verges.

2009. One or two birds were reported from many sites across Argyll apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. There were several records of birds displaced by snow, and seen on roadside ditches and verges. Several birds were reported from rural gardens. Five were flushed from the roadside between Glendaruel and Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 13 Jan, 4 from 3 km of forest track NW of Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* at dusk on 26 Jan, and 3 at Knock Woods *Mull* on 15 Feb.

Breeding 2008. Birds were reported roding from late Mar onwards from sites in *Colonsay*, *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*. The database, however, lacks detailed information on the breeding distribution and numbers of this species.

2009. The only report of roding birds was of three on *Colonsay* in Apr, but the species is widespread across Argyll in suitable habitat. However there were no records of this species reported from Jun to Aug.

Sep-Dec 2008. There was an unusually early autumn record on *Tiree* of 1 on 9 Aug, with no more there until 30 Oct. From then onwards, records were almost daily and from across all of Argyll except *Kintyre*, (mostly of single birds). The only larger group was 10 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 2 Nov which appeared to represent early autumn migration into Argyll.

2009. There were no records in Sep or early Oct. Regular records were from 24 Oct onwards from many parts of Argyll, but mostly of single birds. Early winter snow caused the species to become more conspicuous at a wider range of sites than just the normal breeding woods. Unusually large counts include 30 flushed from the C11 road from Otter Ferry *Cowal* to Glendaruel *Cowal* at dusk on 28 Nov and 30 again on the same road on 8 Dec. Particularly during Dec there were many reports of this species on roadside verges and ditches seeking food under unusually cold and snowy conditions. Indeed, during the snow in Dec, several birds were reported feeding in gardens even during daylight, including at Corra Farm *Cowal*, Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll*, Inverawe House *North Argyll*, Bruichladdich *Islay*, and Kintallen and Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*.

An increasingly regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree, and south Kintyre with occasional winter records: scarce elsewhere. All Argyll records have been presumed to relate to the Icelandic race L.lislandica.

2008. Although this species may overwinter, there were no records in 2008 until 4 Apr, when 6 arrived at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (the site which held the largest numbers of this species in Argyll during most months in 2008). The number present there increased to 51 on 23 Apr, dropping to 27 on 27 Apr, 23 on 1 May, 10 on 25 Jun, and 7 on 30 Jun, but then increased to 18 on 31 Jul. So, although birds moved off to breeding areas during May and Jun, a few remained throughout the summer at this site. RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* had 21 on 7 Aug, 10 on 20 Aug, 15 on 31 Aug, and about this number through to mid-Sep. After that, numbers fell to 6 on 17 Sep, 3 on 28 Sep, and then 3 or 4 birds were present until the end of Dec. Elsewhere, most records were during spring migration. There were 11 on *Tiree* on 17 Apr, 1 at Fiddien *Mull* on 18 Apr, 1 at Frith Sgeirean (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 19 Apr, 2 at Druim Mor Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr, 16 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 1 carrying colour rings was at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Apr, 4 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Apr (including one with colour rings) on 27 Apr, 6 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 28 Apr, 42 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 30 Apr, 2 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 1 May (continually being mobbed by Lapwings), 1 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 2, 6, and 8 May, 1 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 3 and 5 May, 1 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 10 May, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 and 15 Jun, 25 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Jun, 4 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 1 Jul, 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 1 to 3 Jul, 6 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 2 Jul. Autumn migration through Argyll appears to have started in late Jul, which is consistent with changes in numbers at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. There were 2 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 25 Jul, 20 on *Tiree* on 26 Jul, 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul, 1 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 30 Jul, 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jul and 15 on 1 Aug, 24 at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 2 Aug, 5 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* (including a colour ringed bird from The Wash) on 4 Aug, 23 at The Ringing Stone *Tiree* on 5 Aug, 2 in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 7 Aug, 18 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and 9 at Heylpol *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Aug, 6 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Aug, 35 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Aug, 4 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Aug, 2 at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 31 Aug and 1 Sep, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Sep, 11 on *Tiree* on 4 and 5 Sep, 2 on *Tiree* on 30 Sep. The last to be reported anywhere away from *Islay* were 4 on *Tiree* on 10 Oct.

One bird was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* through Jan and Feb. Numbers there increased in Apr to a peak of 143 (exact date not specified), but there were no more than 10 during May. None was reported in Jun or Jul, but there were 83 on 4 Aug, declining to a maximum of 23 during Sep, a max of 20 in Oct, and a max of 9 in Dec. In contrast to 2008, in 2009 numbers were higher on *Tiree* than on *Islay*. There were 23 on *Tiree* on 12 Apr, 90 on 20 Apr (including one Portuguese leg-flagged bird), and 285 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 21 Apr (including leg-flagged birds from Portugal, Ireland (2) and The Wash). There were 91 on *Tiree* on 28 Apr and 21 on 6 May. There were 35 on *Tiree* on 10 May, and one or two through to the end of May. Two late birds were present on 15 Jun. The first autumn migrants on *Tiree* were 9 birds on 12 Jul. There were 27 on 27 Jul, 118 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Aug (including one bird colour ringed in Iceland in summer 2009) and 149 on 4 Aug, 85 on 19 Aug, 81 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 21 Aug, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* there were: 148 on 22 Aug, 165 on 24 Aug, 125 on 26 Aug, and 26 on 29 Aug, 118 on 2 Sep, 56 on 3 Sep, declining to 8 on 25 Sep. Then only single birds were seen on *Tiree* on: 26 Sep, 28 Sep, 1 Oct, 17, 22, 26, 28 Oct, and the last of the year on 8 Nov. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* there were spring records from Uisken *Mull* (1 on 21 Apr), Otter Ferry *Cowal* (1 on 21 Apr), Westport Marsh *Kintyre* (4 on 23 Apr, 5 on 24 Apr, and 6 on 25 Apr), and Fiddien *Mull* (28 on 24 Apr). Autumn records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* included: 1 at

Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Jul followed by 8 there on 26 Jul, and 4 on 28 Jul, then a record count of 133 on 4 Aug, 16 on 7 Aug and 7 on 10 Aug, 9 on 16 Aug, 9 on 19 Aug, 1 on 22 Aug, 22 on 26 Aug, 4 on 27 Aug, 1 on 1 Sep, and 2 on 8 Sep. There was 1 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 1 at Strath (Laggan) *Kintyre* on 23 and 24 Aug, and 9 at Gortinanane, *Kintyre* on 25 Aug. Two on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 26 and 27 Aug were the last mainland Argyll records of the year, despite high numbers remaining on *Islay* and *Tiree* through early Sep and a few staying on the islands into winter.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (nominate race) *Limosa limosa limosa*

A leg-flagged bird “C28” seen by John Bowler on 6 and 7 May at Loch at Eilein *Tiree* and Heylipol *Tiree*, had been ringed on 19 May 2008 as a chick at Koudum, SW *Friesland*, Netherlands, and thus was of the nominate *limosa* subspecies. This represents the first confirmed record of this subspecies from Scotland; (see discussion in Forrester et al. (2007) ‘Birds of Scotland’ regarding the belief that almost all Black-tailed Godwits in Scotland, including those that breed in Scotland, are of Icelandic origin and hence the subspecies *islandica*).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuillbneach 0534

A mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.

Jan-Jun 2008. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 37.1). The only other records reaching double figures were 11 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Jan and 12 there on 17 Mar.

2009. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 37.2). There were 15 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 13 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 24 on *Tiree* on 15 Jan, 15 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 Feb, 19 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, 13 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 13 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 10 Mar, 56 on the Laggan Estuary *Islay* on 27 Apr, 36 at Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 27 Apr, and 13 on *Tiree* on 10 May.

Jul-Dec 2008. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 37.1). There were 10 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 7 Aug, 15 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 18 Aug, 14 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 18 Aug, 19 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Aug, 18 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 11 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 10 Oct, 9 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Oct, 10 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Nov, 180 at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* on 12 Nov, and 10 on *Tiree* on 31 Dec.

2009. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 37.2). There were: 23 at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 25 Aug, 11 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Aug, 12 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 26 Sep, with 18 there on 8 Oct and 12 on 4 Nov, and 75 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 8 Nov.

Table 37.1 Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on *Islay* in 2008.

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	258	234	33	39	41	75	0	34	89	121	173	210
Indaal	115	62	45	25	40	12	12	11	15	28	60	49

Table 37.2 Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at two sea-lochs on *Islay* in 2009.

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	314	218	18	37	119	74	11	n/r	122	228	332	309
Indaal	56	49	49	19	19	12	17	23	15	n/r	n/r	n/r

A regular passage migrant in small numbers: mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.

Mar-May 2008. There was an unusually early record of one at *Islay* on 13 Mar. The next record was from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, followed by another at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 7 Apr. There were 7 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 16 Apr and records were almost daily from then until later May with spring passage records throughout Argyll, but especially from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Largest flocks were: 30 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 19, 24 and 28 Apr, 45 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Apr, 24 at Fidden *Mull* on 28 Apr, 37 at Gortan *Islay* on 29 Apr, 61 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 May, 24 on *Tiree* on 2 May, 30 at Wester Ellister *Islay* on 3 May, 26 on *Tiree* on 5 May, 30 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 7 May, and 32 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 May. After 8 May, most records were of single birds or very small groups, as spring passage finished.

2009. Again, an unusually early bird was reported from Bruichladdich *Islay*, on 14 Mar. The first seen elsewhere was on 17 Apr at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The next was also at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, on 20 Apr, and then records were daily through spring passage. Largest flocks were: 50 at Braibruich *Islay* on 26 Apr, 55 at Coultorsay *Islay* on 26 Apr, 40 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 29 Apr, 30 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 1 and 11 May, 110 on *Tiree* on 10 May, 75 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 May. After mid-May, most records were of very small groups, or single birds.

June 2008. There were only 7 records in Jun, mostly of single birds, at sites in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2009. There were only three Jun records: 1 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 2 Jun, 3 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 15 Jun, and 1 at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 30 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2008. There were slightly fewer reports for autumn than for spring, and much smaller numbers of birds. Six records in late Jul seem to indicate the start of autumn passage as there was only one record from the first half of Jul. The main autumn passage was during Aug, with peak counts all coming from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*: 5 on 7 Aug, 11 on 27 Aug, and 4 on 26 Aug. Surprisingly, only one or two birds were reported in autumn from *Tiree* and *Islay*.

2009. As usual, there were very few records during early Jul, but birds began to appear from late Jul and throughout Aug, especially in *Kintyre*, although this year there were unusually large autumn numbers on *Tiree* (contrast with autumn passage data for 2008 given above). Peak counts were: 38 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 29 on *Tiree* on 24 Aug, 14 at Gortinane *Kintyre* on 25 Aug, 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, 24 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug, with 13 there on 2 Sep. The last autumn records were of single birds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 and 29 Sep.

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

Jan-Jun 2008. Apart from counts at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal *Islay* (Table 38.1) high counts included: 56 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 65 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 15 Jan, 52 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Feb, 151 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 76 at West Darlochan *Kintyre* on 22 Feb, 168 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Mar, and 71 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Jun.

2009. Apart from counts at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal *Islay* (Table 38.2) high counts included: 60 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, 55 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jan, 91 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Jan, 107 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Jan, 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 27 Jan with 122 there on 31 Jan and 100 on 1 Feb, 75 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 70 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 6 Feb, 51 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Feb, 152 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 16 Feb with 85 there

on 17 Mar, 51 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 27 Mar, and 70 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Jun.

Breeding 2008. On *Islay*, 17 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 2 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Atlas surveys reported breeding in *Cowal* and *Kintyre*.

2009. There were 17 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 2 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* and 2 pairs at Pottie *Mull*. Atlas surveys reported breeding in *Cowal* and *Kintyre*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Apart from counts at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal *Islay* (Table 38.1) high counts included: 73 at Kenovay *Tiree* on 15 Jul, 88 at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 30 Jul, 55 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Aug, 85 at Aird *Tiree* on 26 Aug, 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Aug, 55 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Sep, 64 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep, 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 21 Sep, 85 at Aird *Tiree* on 26 Sep, 58 at Middleton *Tiree* on 8 Oct, 79 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 27 Oct, 102 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 27 Oct, 55 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Nov, 162 at Langa *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 85 at Aird *Tiree* on 26 Nov, 67 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 26 Nov, 101 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Dec, and 57 on *Tiree* on 16 Dec.

2009. Apart from counts at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal *Islay* (Table 38.2) high counts included: 52 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 27 Jul, 120 at Ardachuple Farm (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 21 Aug, 50 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 23 Aug, 54 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Aug and 75 there on 2 Sep, 102 at Ardachuple Farm (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 3 Sep, 202 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Sep with 152 there on 12 Oct, 63 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct, 165 at Langa Quarry *Kintyre* on 16 Oct, 100 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 70 at Kildalloig Bay, (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 6 Nov, 82 at Gortinanane *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, 60 at Auchnasavil Farm *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 54 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Nov, and 75 on *Tiree* on 12 Dec.

Table 38.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2008.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	98	124	122	56	16	11	53	230	242	214	195	220
Indaal	300	256	157	77	22	40	232	357	477	388	377	400

Table 38.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at two sea-lochs on Islay in 2009.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	134	209	37	95	22	37	163	n/r	120	330	161	161
Indaal	399	222	167	67	28	38	219	388	511	n/r	n/r	n/r

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh-breac

0545

A scarce passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

2008. No records.

2009. A fine adult, just starting to moult out of summer plumage was seen at Loch a' Phuill on 12 July [John Bowler]. A juvenile was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Sep [James How *et al*]. Records accepted by ABRC.

COMMON REDSHANK (REDSHANK) *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

0546

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

Jan-Apr 2008. Apart from counts at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal* and *Tiree* (Table 39.1), larger counts included: 22 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 1 Mar, and 20 at Uisken *Mull* on 23 Apr.

2009. Apart from counts at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and *Tiree* (Table 39.2), larger counts included: 32 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, and 20 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Apr.

Breeding 2008. There were 106 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 19 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, 38 pairs in The Reef wetlands *Tiree*, 11 pairs on *Colonsay*, and 1 pair on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

2009. There were 92 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 19 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, and 58 pairs at The Reef *Tiree*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported counts as follows: 40 on 10 Jul, 25 on 30 Jul, 190 on 31 Jul, 60 on 1 Aug, 63 on 7 Aug, and 80 on 1 Sep. Other than those in Table 39.1 and counts at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: 20 at Killail *Cowal* on 18 Jul, 52 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 30 Jul, 25 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug, 25 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug, 94 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, 50 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 19 Aug, 21 at Cornaig *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 45 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 40 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 16 Nov, 21 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 31 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, and 30 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Dec.

2009. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported counts as follows: 42 on 5 Jul, 35 on 5 Jul, 18 on 6 Jul, 80 on 7 Jul, 20 on 12 Jul, 50 on 13 Jul, 15 on 22 Jul, 40 on 23 Jul, 30 on 24 Jul, 20 on 25 Jul, 80 on 4 Aug, 30 on 7 Aug, 18 on 9 Aug, 60 on 10 Aug, 35 on 11 Aug, 34 on 23 Aug, 85 on 25 Aug, 40 on 26 Aug, 15 on 27 Aug, 11 on 2 Sep, 6 on 4 Sep, 1 on 5 Sep, 8 on 7 Sep, 40 on 8 Sep, 50 on 9 Sep, 3 on 30 Sep, 5 on 22 Oct, 9 on 24 Oct, 23 on 4 Nov, and 17 on 12 Nov. Other than those in Table 39.2 and counts at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: 24 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, 24 at Strath (Laggan) *Kintyre* on 23 Aug, and 31 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov.

Table 39.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at two sea-lochs on Islay, Holy Loch, and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	78	11	51	70	3	13	0	58	23	25	84	105
Indaal	21	21	30	12	8	10	11	12	10	14	12	10
Holy L.	14	19	25	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	2	8	10	18
<i>Tiree</i>	36	50	38	45	68	76	n/r	38	21	n/r	40	30

Table 39.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at two sea-lochs on Islay, Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	56	17	20	25	1	4	7	n/r	55	49	40	32
Indaal	11	16	18	15	8	8	12	13	12	n/r	n/r	n/r
Holy L.	12	21	11	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	24	30	5	n/r
<i>Tiree</i>	42	17	60	n/r	119	45	55	55	58	11	55	57

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Deoch-bhuidhe 0548
A scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and there are regular winter records in some localities.

Jan-May 2008. Overwintering records included: 4 birds at Loch Beg *Mull* on 11 Jan with 2 there on 8 Feb and 3 on 14 Feb, 1 at Ceann an t-Sailein *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jan, 2 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 and 27 Jan, with 1 on 11 Feb, 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Jan and 11 Feb, 1 on Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Jan and 10 Feb, 1 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Jan, and 1 at Linne Mhuirich *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb. There were many records through late Feb, Mar and Apr, mostly of one or two birds, particularly from *Islay* but also from *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Mid-*

Argyll. Numbers of records hardly altered in May, suggesting rather little passage adding to the overwintering population.

2009. Overwintering records included 1 to 3 birds at: Loch Beg *Mull*, Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull*, Loch Ba *Mull*, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and Loch Indaal *Islay*. Only very small numbers of birds were reported in Mar-May, but records from *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree* in these months probably represent migrants rather than overwintering birds.

Breeding 2008. Although there were records throughout Jun and Jul (particularly from *Islay*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*), none of these were of confirmed breeding, and most were probably migrants, or non-breeders summering in the area.

2009. There were Jun records from: *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* but these may all have been migrants or non-breeders. At a site in *North Argyll* two birds were seen showing agitated behaviour suggesting that they were almost certainly breeding (R.A. Broad).

Jul-Dec 2008. Peak numbers were in late Jul and in Aug, but most records were of just 1 or 2 birds, the largest counts being from Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* (9 on 21 Jul, 8 on 22 Jul) and from Lochdon *Mull* (6 on 8 Aug). Most autumn records came from *Islay*, *Mull* or *Tiree*. One or two birds were present at sites in *Islay*, *Mull* and *Kintyre* during Nov and Dec.

2009. Autumn migrants were reported almost daily throughout Jul and Aug, but mostly in ones and twos. Records came from throughout Argyll, but especially from *Kintyre*. There were 8 records in Sep, 6 in Oct, 3 in Nov and 4 in Dec. Nov and Dec records all came from *Islay* or Seil *Mid-Argyll*.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS* *Tringa melanoleuca*

0550

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS* *Tringa flavipes*

0551

A vagrant. Five accepted Argyll records: at Loch Creran (N Argyll) in 1951, at Ulva Lagoons (Mid-Argyll) in Oct 2000 at L. Gruinart in May 2003, at L. Gruinart and Colonsay in Sep 2005, and at L. Gruinart in May 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. One at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Apr was found (together with a Long-billed Dowitcher) by numerous members of Argyll Bird Club, and photographed, during a field trip [James How *et al*]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:591).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine

0553

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

2008. Singles were at: Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 Apr, Tayinloan jetty *Kintyre* on 7 Jul, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Aug, and *Islay* on 4 Sep (on a freshwater pool near Bruichladdich).

2009. Singles were at: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Jun, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug and at Baugh *Tiree* on 7 Sep.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille

0554

A scarce passage migrant: recorded in 20 of the 28 years 1980-2007, with the majority of records in late spring.

2008. Two were at: Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 8 May with 3 there on 10 May, and one bird stayed until 26 May. One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 3 to 7 Jun. One was at

Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and another at Lossit House *Kintyre* on 8 Aug. Two were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Sep.

2009. One was at Middleton *Tiree* on 30 May and a juvenile was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Aug.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556
A widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.

Apr-May 2008. There were two exceptionally early birds: one at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, and another at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 5 Mar. Probably these were overwintering birds, as spring migrants started to arrive on 11 Apr (1 on *Colonsay*, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*) with records almost daily from then onwards and throughout Argyll. Most spring records were of 1 or 2 birds, but there were 10 at Bragleenbeg House (Loch Scammadale) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr.

2009. There were no early records that suggested overwintering. The first spring migrants were reported on 5 Apr from Loch Indaal *Islay*, 13 Apr from *Colonsay*, and 15 Apr from Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. From then, records were almost daily from throughout Argyll, though particularly from *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding 2008. Evidence of breeding was obtained from many locations across Argyll as part of the Atlas survey, especially from *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. On *Colonsay*, 30 territories were located. There were 2 pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

2009. On *Colonsay* 28 pairs held territory. Breeding was confirmed at many locations across Argyll as a result of Atlas fieldwork. Seven birds were seen on 6 sites on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* and at least 6 pairs nested successfully at Otter Ferry *Cowal*.

Jul-Sep 2008. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported that southward passage began slightly before the start of Jul and continuing throughout Jul. There, and elsewhere, there were very few records in Aug. Most Aug records came from *Cowal* or *Kintyre*. Only one was seen in Sep; a single bird flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Sep.

2009. Autumn passage occurred mostly in Jul, with far fewer records in Aug, and was particularly noted in *Kintyre*. There were only 3 records in Sept, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep, and a bird at Loch Beg *Mull* on 10 and 15 Sep.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER* *Actitis macularius* 0557
A vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one at Loch Indaal (Islay) on 5th Jun 1984.

2008. No records.

2009. A juvenile was feeding along the road at Heylipol *Tiree* on 31 Aug (Keith Gillon/John Bowler). Only the second record for Argyll. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:591).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan-beag 0561
A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid summer records are not unusual. Tiree is a site of international importance for wintering birds.

Jan-Jun 2008. Seasonal changes in numbers at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Otter Ferry *Cowal*, and *Tiree* are shown in Table 40.1. Other large counts include: 52 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 Jan, 78 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 25 Jan.

2009. Seasonal changes in numbers at Loch Gruinart, Loch Indaal, Otter Ferry and *Tiree* are shown in Table 40.2. The only other large count was of 50 at Kirm Pier (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 24 Feb.

Summering birds 2008. A few were present on *Tiree* throughout Jun and Jul: there were 25 on 17 Jun, 5 on 20 Jun, 2 on 23 Jun, 1 on 27 Jun, 8 on 7 Jul, 3 on 11 Jul and 6 on 14 Jul. Similarly, there was one or two at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on several dates through Jun and Jul.

2009. One or two birds summered on *Tiree*.

Jul-Dec 2008. Seasonal changes in numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and *Tiree* are shown in Table 40.1. Other large counts include: 150 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 30 Jul, 75 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jul with 90 there on 7 Aug, and 65 there on 8 Sep, and 300 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 27 Sep.

2009. Seasonal changes in numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and *Tiree* are shown in Table 40.2.

Table 40.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree and at Otter Ferry in 2008.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	36	3	36	7	0	0	0	0	0	58	33	29
Indaal	38	70	32	21	4	0	9	11	15	35	44	55
Otter F.	60	111	56	45	0	0	37	58	65	64	n/r	n/r
<i>Tiree</i>	280	140	190	95	15	25	8	65	25	185	130	155

Table 40.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at two sea-lochs on Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree at Otter Ferry in 2009.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	91	12	8	10	0	0	0	n/r	0	55	99	31
Indaal	49	56	41	27	5	0	13	11	11	n/r	n/r	n/r
Otter F.	130	4	62	34	6	0	16	40	100	100	98	29
<i>Tiree</i>	160	310	200	115	30	5	18	15	45	40	120	70

NB Otter Ferry counts include the shore from the Otter Ferry spit to Otter Ferry fish farm.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt 0564

A very rare and irregular passage migrant: formerly a very rare breeding species.

2008. No records. (But see list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

2009. A female was in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 18 May [John Bowler]. A female was seen on a confidential site on 13 Jun, but not subsequently, so was presumably a late spring migrant. Records accepted by ABRC.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt 0565

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

2008. There were 26 birds reported, in Oct-Nov: 1 on 23 Oct on the sea off Oronsay *Colonsay* during a storm, 1 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 24 Oct, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, 1 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Oct, 2 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 28 Oct, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct, 1 in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 30 Oct, 1 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 30 Oct, 2 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 4 Nov, 14 off Aird *Tiree* in 150 minutes of seawatching during a NW gale on 11 Nov, and one at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 19 Nov.

2009. There were 12 birds reported, in Aug-Nov: 1 on 29 Aug in the Sound of *Mull*, 1 on 3 Sep north of *Tiree*, 1 on 22 Sep between *Tiree* and *Coll*, 1 on 29 Sep at Aird *Tiree*, 2 on 3 Oct at Aird *Tiree*, 1 on 3 Oct at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, 1 on 12 Oct at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 3 on 16 Oct off *Tiree*, and 1 on 2 Nov at Aird *Tiree*.

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

2008. Only 4 birds recorded: an adult at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Jul, and a group of three birds at Irish Otter Reef *ca* 4 km from the Oa *Islay* on 27 Jul.

2009. There was a total of 15 birds. The first was a very early record of one off Arinagour *Coll* on 1 Apr. Two were seen half way between Kennacraig *Kintyre* and *Islay* on 26 May, and 3 were off Gott Bay *Tiree* on 28 May. The first of the autumn was recorded on 12 Aug at Machrihanish SBO, followed by one in Craignure Bay *Mull* on 9 Sep, 4 adults off Aird *Tiree* on 29 Sep, and one dark bird off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep. The only juveniles seen were 2 watched from the Kennacraig *Kintyre* to *Islay* ferry on 8 Nov.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

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

Apr-Jun 2008. The first record was of one bird off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Apr. There were small numbers seen from 10 May onwards at many locations, especially: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Treshnish Isles *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Indeed, this was an unusual year, with good numbers of birds seen regularly throughout Jun and Jul at all of these locations, though without any suggestion that birds were taking up nesting territories. Apparently these were simply nonbreeding adults just hanging around these areas. Eddie Maguire reported an immaculate pale adult regularly mugging local terns carrying sandeels to the village island colony at Machrihanish *Kintyre* during Jun, while TIARG reported three adults regularly stealing fish from seabirds around the Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

2009. The first record of the year was not until 7 May, when one was seen from Caolas *Tiree*. A dark-phase bird was photographed killing and eating an adult Little Tern at The Reef *Tiree* on 14 May. While Arctic Skuas clearly can kill other birds, it is unusual behaviour when fish are available, and in most areas it is extremely unusual for Arctic Skuas to kill birds much larger than pipits. Combined with evidence that Arctic Skuas are failing to breed and are declining at Argyll colonies (see below) this would strongly suggest that the birds are very short of food. One light and two dark adults were recorded almost daily by TIARG on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in Jun.

Breeding 2008. There was no data for this year on breeding status on *Coll* or *Jura*.

2009. A survey of the colony on *Coll* by RSPB staff located only one pair holding territory in a half-hearted way and not breeding. This is a dramatic decline from the 15 pairs that were present in 2006. There was no data for this year from *Jura*.

Jul-Nov 2008. Small numbers were seen throughout Jul and Aug, mainly from inter-island ferries, and from: *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Machrihanish SBO recorded a total of 29 individuals flying S on 17 dates in Aug, with 21 dark adults, 6 pale adults, and 2 juveniles. There were only 3 seen in Sep and 4 in Oct, with the latest bird of the year recorded on 21 Oct off Caliach Point *Mull*.

2009. Numbers seen on autumn passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were lower than normal, and this seems to be true of records from other seawatching sites such as *Islay* and *Tiree*. The reduced level of sightings continued in Aug and Sep. Six birds were seen in Oct, all from *Tiree*, and there was an unusually late record of a juvenile seen on 8 Nov from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry. This late date may possibly raise doubts as to whether it might have been a Pomarine Skua as that species tends to linger later into winter in Scottish waters.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach 0568
A scarce and irregular passage migrant. Records are both from spring and autumn: off western coasts and islands.

2008. No records.

2009. An adult with partly broken tail streamers was seen off Hynish Tìree on 9 Oct [John Bowler] Accepted by ABRC. (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.153).

GREAT SKUA (BONXIE) *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr 0569
An uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor. Breeds in very small numbers on Treshnish Isles and Coll: the southernmost regular breeding sites of this species. Birds have also attempted to breed on Tìree recently and have been reported holding territory on Staffa.

Mar-Jun 2008. The first record was of a freshly dead adult on the shore at Hough Bay Tìree on 13 Feb. This is an unusually early date for the species to be as far north as Scotland, and the fact that the bird died may indicate why such records in winter are exceptional! The next was seen on 1 Apr at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre. Numbers then increased through Apr and May.

2009. The first record of the year was from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Apr, with increasing numbers up to Jun.

Breeding 2008. There were no data from the Coll nesting area. Three pairs held territory on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) Mull, and reared at least one chick. One pair nested on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull and raised one chick. Two AOTs were occupied on Tìree and one pair laid eggs but no chicks survived. One bird was seen inland on Colonsay over suitable nesting habitat on 12 Jun but was not holding territory.

2009. There were no data from the Coll nesting area. On the Treshnish Isles Mull, one pair nested on Lunga and had at least 1 chick, and 3 AOTs were occupied on Fladda, with at least 3 chicks reared. On Tìree, 2 AOTs were occupied but birds did not breed.

Jul-Oct 2008. Birds were seen on most days in Jul to Sep. The last of the year (2 birds) were seen in the Sound of Mull on 20 Oct.

2009. Birds were seen on most days in Jul to Sep. The last birds of the year were seen from Aird Tìree on 11 Oct.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* 0575
A vagrant until recently but recorded much more frequently in recent years; mainly in autumn.

2008. There were at least eight different birds recorded, but it is difficult to assess how many were present as several stayed for some time. An adult in Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 7 Jan was probably the same bird that had been there in Nov and Dec 2007. A juvenile was at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre from 9 to 14 Aug, and another juvenile was there on 16 Aug and elsewhere in the Machrihanish area for the next few days. An adult was at Inverneill Mid-Argyll on 13 Aug. There was a juvenile on Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 18 Aug and an adult there on 22 Aug. A juvenile passed Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 12 Sep. Adults were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 14 Nov (a different bird from the previous adult there) and at Inverneill Mid-Argyll on 19 Nov. Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll had: a 1 year bird on 19 Nov, an adult on 23 Nov, 2 adults on 5 Dec, and a 1 year on 5 Dec. There was an adult at Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 20 Dec. The above records of juveniles/immatures were accepted by ABRC.[Jim Dickson/Eddie Maguire et al] Some further records of juveniles/immatures were not supported by descriptions (see pp.153-155).

2009. There were 4 birds recorded: an adult was at the head of Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 5 Feb, an adult passed Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 7 Jul, a 2 winter bird was at Machrihanish SBO

from 20 to 24 Aug, and a 1 winter bird was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Aug. All records were accepted by ABRC.[Jim Dickson/Eddie Maguire *et al*]

LAUGHING GULL * *Larus atricilla*

0576

A vagrant. There have been seven previous Argyll records 1974 – 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. A 2 summer bird was found in Sorisdale Bay *Coll* on 2 Jun [Simon Wellock *et al.*]. A 2 summer bird was then seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Jun and was presumed to be the same individual [Andy Robinson, John Bowler, Martin Scott]. All records were accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:593).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag

0578

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

2008. There were 7 records: a 2 winter bird at Stronchullin (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 11 Jan, a 1 summer bird seen from the *Islay* to *Colonsay* ferry on 15 May, a juvenile in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 14 Aug, a juvenile at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Aug, and three different 1 winter birds flying W off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Nov.

2009. Only one recorded; a 2 winter bird flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Aug.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

0579

A scarce and irregular passage migrant; mainly in autumn. More frequent reports recently than in 1980s.

2008. A juvenile was off Lady's Rock *Mull* on 28 Aug [Angus Hogg]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2009. A juvenile was at Carraig Mhor *Jura* on 7 Sep [Mark Fanshawe]. Record accepted by ABRC.

BONAPARTE'S GULL* *Larus philadelphia*

0581

A vagrant. Only two previous records: both on Islay in Jun and Sep 1975.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

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

0582

A patchily distributed resident breeder. Reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation. Scarce in many areas in winter.

Jan-May 2008. WeBS and other counts in Jan and Feb show only small numbers present in Argyll at the start of the year. For example, only a single bird was seen on *Tiree* on 9 Jan. The largest flocks were 100 at Fishnish *Mull* on 23 Jan and 149 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 12 Feb. By mid-Mar some birds were back at breeding colonies and there were much higher numbers evident. For example, on *Tiree* there were 300 on 17 Mar, though only about one quarter of the birds was present at the colony on L. Bhasapol. By late Apr colonies were strongly occupied, with 320 nesting pairs (the full complement) present at L. Bhasapol.

2009. As usual, numbers on the outer islands of Argyll were low in Jan and Feb. However, there were 1000 birds at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 Jan, which is an exceptionally large number for this time of year. The next largest count was of 75 in L. Striven *Cowal* on 9 Feb. Numbers on *Tiree* began to build up in Mar with 29 on 2 Mar, and 500 on 19 Mar. While some birds were on colony sites in Mar, most nest sites were occupied by mid to late Apr.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Black-headed Gulls nested at 5 sites, where mink were controlled. Overall, 109 pairs raised *ca* 30 fledglings (0.36 per pair). All of these were from two colonies while the other three failed despite mink control efforts. One was affected by mink that avoided being trapped, one by a specialist Herring Gull that ate chicks, and one by a Peregrine. On Oronsay *Colonsay* several pairs nested and fledged 5 young. The large colonies on *Tiree* were fairly productive. There were 300 pairs on L. Bhasapol which fledged at least 80 young, 60 pairs on L. a' Phuill which fledged at least 15 young, 35 pairs on The Reef, 6 pairs at Barrapol, several pairs on L. an Eilein which fledged at least 6 young, and 1 pair at Balevullin. Fledglings began to fly on 22 Jun.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 86 pairs nested at 4 sites where mink were controlled, and fledged at least 35 young (0.41 per pair). A further 6 sites traditionally used by this species have been abandoned. On *Tiree* there were: 200 pairs at L. Bhasapol which fledged at least 60 young, 61 pairs at The Reef, 48 pairs at L. a' Phuill fledging at least 15 young, 25 pairs at Kilkenneth, 3 pairs at Fadamull, 2 pairs at L. an Eilein fledging 2 young, and 2 pairs at L. Riaghain.

Aug-Dec 2008. Large flocks can occur in late summer and early autumn. However, this year there were large flocks well into November, feeding on aggregations of pelagic crustaceans and possibly other marine animals at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (200 on 1 Oct, 250 on 28 Nov), Killail *Cowal* (700 on 12 Nov) and L. Fyne (1500 on 20 Nov).

2009. The only large flocks recorded were in late December: 300 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 29 Dec, and 315 at Killail *Cowal* on 30 Dec (probably the same birds).

Table 40. *Maximum monthly counts of Black-headed Gulls at L. Gruinart, L. Crinan, and Holy Loch.*

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	1	7	31	39	4	3	40	43	209	52	12	6
Holy Loch	43	33	24	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	29	3	7	17
2009												
L. Gruinart	n/r	16	n/r	23	4	6	61	n/r	23	5	3	3
L. Crinan	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	12	n/r	n/r	74	10	35	20	n/r
Holy Loch	40	35	3	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	34	n/r	10	1

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

0589

A scarce but increasingly frequent visitor from North America: mainly in late winter and spring, although there are records for every month of the year.

2008. An adult which had been in Oban *Mid-Argyll* most of 2007 was seen in the same location during 2008 in Jan to Apr and Aug to Dec.[Bill Allan, Jim Dickson *et al*] Several records, for which no supporting details were supplied, were published on Bird Guides and elsewhere.

2009. The returning adult was seen at Dunstaffnage Bay in Jan. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* Faoileag-chumanta

0590

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

Jan-May 2008. Apart from counts given in Table 41 the largest numbers were: 210 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, 204 at Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 22 Feb, 900 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 6 Mar, and 733 on *Tiree* on 17 Mar. An all-white bird, present on *Tiree* on 7 Apr and on various dates through the summer, was presumably the bird first seen as a juvenile on *Tiree* in 2006, and during 2007.

2009. Apart from counts given in Table 41 the largest numbers were: 1000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 Jan, 1700 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 31 Jan, 870 on *Tiree* on 6 Feb, 700 at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 18 Feb, 302 at Eilean Glas (L. Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, and 870 on *Tiree* on 10 Mar. The all-white bird first seen on *Tiree* in 2006 was present again in 2009.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 607-611 pairs fledged 96-206 young, possibly as many as 300 young (the largest colony in the area had over 100 large chicks on one visit but appears possibly to have lost all of these before fledging). Many colonies suffered mink predation; where mink were controlled some colonies did well but some lost chicks to other predators including raptors and Herring Gulls. On *Tiree*, numbers of breeding pairs (AOTs) were: Crossapol 105, The Reef 81, Balinoe 35, Balevulin 30, L. a' Phuill 30, Fadamull 25, Milton 15, Hough Bay 15, Hynish 8, and Hough 5. In other areas colony sizes were reported as 30 pairs at Kilmarnock (L. Striven) *Cowal*, 17 pairs at Inverchaolain *Cowal*, and 14 pairs at Old Schoolhouse (L. Striven) *Cowal*.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 701-703 pairs fledged 153-159 young (0.22-0.23 young/pair). Mink control failed at a large number of colonies in 2009, where mink are believed to have been responsible for total failure of all or most species. Among 13 adults found eaten by Peregrine at the Kilmarnock Islands (L. Etive) *North Argyll*, nine were ringed. Eight had been ringed locally as chicks during 1993-2003. One had been ringed as a chick at E Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jun 1989. On *Tiree* numbers of pairs (AOTs) included 100 at Crossapol, 95 at The Reef, 40 at Kilkenneth, 35 at Balevullin, 30 at Balinoe, 20 at Salum Bay, 20 at Heylipol, 18 at Hynish, 15 at Milton, 12 at The Ringing Stone, 10 at L. a' Phuill, and 10 at Hough Bay. Large numbers of chicks were present at most colonies by late Jun.

Aug-Dec 2008. Large numbers remained on *Tiree* to the end of the year, with 150 in Hough Bay on 30 Dec. Elsewhere, birds were widely distributed across Argyll at this time of year.

2009. Widely distributed across Argyll in autumn. There were 476 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 9 Nov.

Table 41. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Gulls at: L. Gruinart, L. Creran, L. Sween, and Holy Loch.*

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	140	158	39	71	24	32	1	123	172	43	261	79
Holy Loch	56	35	49	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	21	2	24	53
2009												
L Gruinart	59	58	66	105	6	3	7	n/r	140	47	50	84
L. Creran	n/r	26	46	43	46	64	57	19	42	3	5	1
L. Sween	n/r	77	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	20	14	6	11
Holy Loch	26	76	14	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	53	86	13	1

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Farspag-bheag 0591

A widespread breeding species, which is generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3235 pairs in Argyll and Bute.

Jan-May 2008. The first of the year was seen on 8 Feb at Balephuill *Tiree*. Birds were seen in ones and twos from mid-Feb onwards, with the main build-up of numbers in Mar and early Apr. First sightings tended to come from the outer islands such as *Tiree* and *Islay*, whereas arrival into sea lochs and inland was generally not until Apr. There were 220 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 11 Apr and 120 flew N past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 6 hours on 21 Apr.

2009. First of the year was a 3 winter bird thought to be of the *intermedius* race at Bagh Tigh-an-Droighinn (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb. There were 190 at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 5 Apr.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area a total of 515 pairs bred at 9 sites. At 8 sites with known productivity, 506 pairs fledged 333 young (0.66 young/pair). Several sites were affected by mink despite efforts at control. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 11 pairs on Fladda with only 3 chicks, 1 pair on Lunga and 1 pair on Cairn na Burgh More. On *Tiree*, numbers of pairs were: 70 at L. Bhirceapol, 20 at The Ringing Stone, 20 at Milton, 20 at Ceann a' Mhara, 8 at Rubha Chraiginis, and 8 at Hough. Breeding success was good with many chicks fledging in early Jul.

2009. On Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* about 100 pairs bred very successfully. There were at least 36 pairs on the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*. On *Tiree* numbers of pairs were: 120 at L. Bhirceapol, 41 at Ceann a' Mhara, 30 at Milton, 25 at Hough, 20 at The Ringing Stone, 5 at Rubha Chraiginis, and 1 at Balinoe. Breeding success on *Tiree* was good. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were: 26 pairs on Fladda, 2 on Lunga, 2 on Cairn na Burgh More, 1 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and 1 on Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

Aug-Dec 2008. Birds were widespread until Sep then records dropped rapidly. The last birds were an adult *intermedius* at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, and a 3 winter, described as "a very small *graellsii* type," at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov.

2009. As usual there was a rapid drop in records in Sep, with few in Oct. The last report was of a 1 winter bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Oct.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

0592.6

A vagrant. SBCR have recently reviewed past records of the species and the record on Tiree in Feb 1998 is no longer considered proven. The sole accepted Argyll record is now one at Gruinart, Islay in Sep 2002 (though in this case the race/sub-species atlantis was not ruled out. A SBRC review, May 2011, reviewed all Scottish records from the first in 1989 up to 2009. This led to a number of records now 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 September 2002. The record from Tiree, February 1998 has been judged to lack sufficient detail to accept it.).

2008. No accepted records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. 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 came in 2007 with a first winter bird seen on Tiree, with another there still under review.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Faoileag-an-sgadain

0592

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

Jan-May 2008. Apart from data in Table 42, counts in excess of 200 birds came from *Tiree* (335 on 11 Feb) and Macringan's Point (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* (500 on 24 Mar).

2009. Apart from data in Table 42, counts in excess of 200 birds came from: Gallochoille (Gigha) *Kintyre* (291 on 13 Jan), Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* (430 on 31 Jan and 280 on 6 Feb), and on *Tiree* (470 on 16 Feb).

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, a total of 4,230 pairs bred at 40 sites. At 30 sites with known productivity, 3892 pairs fledged 2874 young (0.74 young/pair). On

Tiree numbers of breeding pairs were: 80 at L. Bhirceapol, 70 at Milton, 38 at Ceann a' Mhara, 28 at Hough, 20 at Rubha Chraiginis, and 12 at The Ringing Stone. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 100 pairs distributed over 7 islands.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, where suitable counts were possible (i.e. excluding Liath Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* and Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, where counts were late and circumstances were very unusual) 1,654 pairs were found breeding at 18 sites. At 12 of these where productivity was recorded 1,273 pairs fledged 1,237 young (0.97 young/pair). On 7 June, eggs of most Herring Gulls, (*a Red Listed race of Conservation Concern* ed.) on Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* were found to have been pierced by human(s) and left in nests. Some clutches were missed by the person involved, and a few live young were seen and may have fledged. Some of the shells have been kept - each with a perfect circular hole of diameter 2 - 3 mm, usually at the blunt end. The same egg piercing had been done on Liath Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* where about half of the clutches had been damaged in this way. Numbers of pairs nesting at sites on *Tiree* included: 60 at L. Bhirceapol, 45 at Milton, 36 at Hough, 34 at Ceann a' Mhara, 15 at The Ringing Stone, 8 at Balinoe, 5 at Rubha Chraiginis, and 2 at The Reef.

Aug-Dec 2008. The only count of 200 or more not included in Table 43 was 200 feeding in Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 4 Nov.

2009. The only counts exceeding 200 birds not included in Table 43 were at The Laggan *Kintyre* (3000 on 23 Sep, 5000 on 30 Sep and 2500 on 10 Oct) and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (530 on 17 Oct).

Table 42. *Maximum monthly counts of Herring Gulls at: L. Gruinart, L. Creran, L. Sween and Holy Loch*

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	20	147	58	82	27	62	30	221	204	38	49	96
L. Sween	18	23	62	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	11	25	22
Holy Loch	160	205	168	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	107	118	157	98
2009												
L. Gruinart	110	85	104	154	117	60	48	n/r	58	56	6	19
L. Creran	1	5	17	22	13	33	24	71	54	19	30	35
L. Sween	2	49	31	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	11	17	16	23
Holy Loch	419	278	235	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	246	293	161	n/r

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* Faoileag-liath 0598

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

2008. There were 58 records in the database for 2008, representing a “better” year than 2006, but many fewer than reported in 2007. Of the total, 52 reports were from Jan to Jun, and only 6 from Jul to Dec. So the majority of the observations in 2008 might be thought to be from birds visiting during winter 2007-08 lingering into 2008. However, the 2007 records also came mainly from Jan-Mar in that year, with few in Jul to Dec, so the high numbers in Jan-Mar 2008 seem not to be related directly to the influx of the previous year. It might be suggested that birds may return in successive winters to places they have visited before. However, in 2008 most birds reported in Jan-Mar were in 1 winter plumage so were clearly visiting Argyll for the first time. Only three records were of birds in adult plumage. High numbers in Jan-Mar fits the recognised pattern with birds tending to visit Argyll mainly in the early part of the year. Records came from many locations, especially from the islands (particularly *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*) and from

harbours, with Tarbert harbour *Kintyre* being particularly productive, though perhaps also well watched. A 2nd year bird at Loch a' Phuill on 17 Jul was a very rare Scottish record for this month.

2009. There were 33 records in the database for 2009. As usual, the majority were seen early in the year, with the largest numbers in Feb and Mar, four records in May, and only one during the second half of the year. Again, most birds reported were in 1 winter plumage. Again, Tarbert harbour *Kintyre* was a frequent site for this species, as were Campbeltown *Kintyre* and Tobermory *Mull*, representing a rather different distribution to that seen for species such as Mediterranean Gull and Ring-billed Gull.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir 0599
A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar. More numerous than Iceland Gull in most winters.

2008. There were only 31 records of this species; fewer than for Iceland Gull in the same year. Most were of single birds in 1 winter plumage. As usual, most were from early in the year with: 20 in Jan-Mar, 3 in Apr, 1 in May, a dead bird in Jul, and 6 records from Nov-Dec. Only a very few involved two rather than a lone individual. Geographic distribution of records was similar to that for Iceland Gull, with most from: *Islay* and *Tiree*, and a few from *Mull* and Tarbert *Kintyre*.

2009. There were 56 records, representing a more typical situation of larger numbers than for the Iceland Gull. As usual, most were in Jan-Mar (46) with: Apr (4), May (2), Jun (1), Nov (1), and Dec (2). Again, many records were from the islands, especially *Tiree*, which saw a record influx of some 20 different birds in Jan-Feb. While many birds were in 1 winter plumage, there were also several in older immature plumages and several full adults. In contrast to 2008, several of the records were of groups rather than individual birds, the largest groups being 16 on *Tiree* on 6 Feb, and 7 at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 15 Feb.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Farspag 0600
A common resident breeding widely on small islands along the coast.

Jan-May 2008. Counts of over 50 included: 71 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Feb, and 88 on 8 Apr. Although not involving large numbers, there were several sightings of Great Black-backed Gulls eating dead auks in L. Fyne in Jan and Feb, and a flock of 25 was feeding on a dead stranded whale on *Tiree* on 27 Mar.

2009. Largest counts were 240 roosting at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 31 Jan and 120 on 6 Feb, and 73 at Holy Loch on 19 Jan and 39 on 16 Feb.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, a minimum of 382 pairs bred at 31 sites. At 22 sites where the outcome was known a minimum of 292 pairs fledged at least 343 young (1.17 young/pair). On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 54 pairs across 5 sites. On *Tiree* an incomplete nesting survey found: 32 pairs at Baugh, 20 at The Ringing Stone, 6 at L. Bhirceapol, 5 at Milton, 5 at Rubha Chraiginis, 4 at Ceann a' Mhara, and 2 at Hough.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Liath Eilean and Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* were excluded as counts were late and circumstances were similar to that experienced with Herring Gulls above. Elsewhere 60 pairs were found breeding at 14 sites. At 7 of these where productivity was recorded, 35 pairs fledged 42 young (1.2 young/pair). On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 56 pairs across 7 islands. On *Tiree* counts of pairs (AONs) were: 26 at Gott Bay, 20 at The Ringing Stone, 19 at Baugh, 5 at L. Bhirceapol, 3 at Rubha Chraiginis, 2 at Hough Bay, 2 at Milton, and 1 at Ceann a' Mhara.

Aug-Dec 2008. Large counts came only from *Tiree*, with 305 at Loch a' Phuill on 7 Nov and 260 at Rubha Chraiginis on 17 Dec.

2009. There were no counts over 50, the largest groups reported being 43 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Nov, and counts on *Tiree* of 44 at L. a' Phuill on 20 Oct, and 48 at Traigh Bhi Dunes on 15 Dec.

ROSS'S GULL * *Rhodostethia rosea*

0601

A vagrant. The only records have been an immature at Frenchman's Rocks on 15 August 1976, an adult at Tiree on 9 August 2006, and a first-winter bird at Ormsary Mid-Argyll from 14 Dec 2006 to 15 Jan 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

0602

A normally strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on: Islay, Treshnish Isles, and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland.

Jan-Apr 2008. There were very few records in Jan-Feb, though 68 were off Tarbert *Kintyre* on 7 Jan. One found freshly dead at Killail *Cowal* on 30 Jan weighed only 320g, which would suggest that it died of starvation. Large numbers appeared in Apr, with 140 >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Apr and 500 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 9 Apr.

2009. As usual, there were very few records in Jan-Feb, but increasing numbers from early Mar. There were: 180 in 1 hour >W past Aird *Tiree* on 22 Mar, 40 >N in 5 hours at Machrihanish SBO, 50 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 4 Apr, and 60 feeding in Glenan Bay *Cowal* on 4 Apr. By 9 Apr there were 500 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, many occupying nest sites on the cliffs.

Breeding 2008. A very late, and very unsuccessful, breeding season. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were 900 AONs in late Jun but very few clutches had hatched by the end of the month. It was evident that many pairs had already failed. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were only 130 AONs on 8 May, which increased to 374 on 5 Jun and 396 on 23 Jun. Some birds were incubating on 23 Jun, but there were as yet no chicks. On 17 Jul although 249 nests were still occupied, only 1 live chick was found and by 28 Jul the colony had been abandoned. At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were 58 occupied nests on the cliff area which held 86 in 2007. There was a mean clutch size, in nests that could be viewed, of only 1.33 eggs per nest; an unusually small mean clutch size for this species in Scotland.

2009. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 37 occupied nests on 13 May which increased to: 245 on 29 May, 384 on 12 Jun, and then declined to 357 on 28 Jun (with *ca* 250 holding incubating adults and a very few with small chicks). On 23 Jul 110 nests were still occupied and had an average of 1.2 chicks per occupied nest. A total of 80 chicks fledged from 61 nests in early Aug, giving a rather low overall productivity. At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were only 46 nests on the monitoring area. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, TIARG counted only 621 AONs in late Jun, one of the lowest counts there since 1994.

Jul-Dec 2008. On 24 Jul some 700 birds >S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 4 hours, but the first juvenile was not seen there until 3 Aug. On 25 Aug some 550 birds, including 19 juveniles, >S past Machrihanish SBO in 6 hours. On 13 Sep about 525 birds flew past Rubha na Sroine (Craignure Bay) *Mull* in 30 minutes in the early morning. Peak passage at Machrihanish SBO occurred on 21 Sep, with more than 500 (of which 28% were juveniles) >S in 3 hours. But the most intensive movement recorded in this autumn was of 1150 birds passing Aird *Tiree* in 150 minutes on 11 Nov. Very few birds were reported in Dec.

2009. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded the first significant autumn movement on 12 Jul, when 100 first summer birds with much worn plumage arrived. The first juvenile passed the observatory on 10 Aug. There was heavy passage at several sites in Aug-Oct, including 2800 in

1 hour past Druim Buidhe (Keills) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug, 620 (38% of which were juveniles) past Machrihanish SBO in 5 hours on 9 Sep, 800 west off Whitehouse *Tiree* in 1 hour on 8 Oct, 756 west past Aird *Tiree* in 1 hour on 11 Oct, and 421 south past Machrihanish SBO in 8 hours on 25 Oct. Very few were reported in Dec.

IVORY GULL* *Pagophila eburnea*

0604

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BRIDLED TERN* *Onychoprion anaethetus*

0622

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* Steàrnag-bheag

0624

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

Apr-May 2008. The first record of the spring was from Gott Bay *Tiree* on 15 Apr. Very few were seen away from known breeding sites, but two birds were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 May.

2009. The first record was from Gott Bay *Tiree* on 14 Apr. No birds were reported from sites away from breeding areas.

Breeding 2008. There were 41 pairs breeding on *Tiree*, spread between several sites. Breeding success was good, with at least 34 fledglings. At Ardnave *Islay* there were 8 pairs. One bird was seen at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Jun but there was no evidence of breeding. At least 7 pairs were thought to have nested at a site in *Kintyre* where birds were seen on dates in late May and Jun but disturbance was kept to a minimum so there were no accurate data on breeding activity.

2009. There were *ca* 51 pairs breeding on *Tiree*. These fledged at least 42 chicks. About 10 pairs nested at Ardnave *Islay*. At least 15 birds were present at a breeding site in *Kintyre* in mid-May. An adult Little Tern at The Reef *Tiree* was killed and eaten by an Arctic Skua on 14 May.

Jul-Aug 2008. The last record of the year was of a juvenile at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Aug.

2009. The last sightings on *Tiree* were on 3 Aug, and the last record in Argyll was of one bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug.

GULL-BILLED TERN* *Gelochelidon nilotica*

No previous records from Argyll.

2008. A Gull-billed Tern, identified as a 2 summer bird, was found in the Crossapol area of *Tiree* on 29 Sep [Mike McKee/C. Turner/T. Warwick]. It was later seen and photographed [Jim Dickson and Simon Wellock] and remained in the Crossapol - Loch an Eilein area until 3 Oct. This record was accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 103:564) and is thus a new species for Argyll.

2009. No records.

CASPIAN TERN* *Hydroprogne caspia*

0606

A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns an adult seen between Ardpatrik Point Mid-Argyll and Gigha in Jun 1981.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

0626

A vagrant. The only Argyll record was of an adult at Machrihanish on 9 Jul 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh

0627

A scarce and irregular passage migrant with only 15 records 1980-2007: usually in Sep.

2008. No accepted records.

2009. A juvenile was seen on 6 Sep at Craigens (Gruinart) Islay [Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

0628

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr

0611

A regular passage migrant and a very rare and irregular breeding species.

Jan-May 2008. The first record of spring was on 2 Mar at Tayinloan Bay Kintyre. There were many records from then until summer, with the largest numbers of sightings from Kintyre, but also many records from: Cowal, Islay, and Tiree. The largest numbers were seen from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, where there were up to 40 per day on many dates in May, with a peak count of 53 on 20 May.

2009. The first record was at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) Kintyre on 4 Apr. As usual there were many records through spring, with most from Kintyre but also from: Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, and Tiree. Machrihanish SBO Kintyre reported: 30 on 21 May, an unprecedented 80 on 24 May, and 40 on 25 May.

Summering 2008. Records were widely distributed in Jun, with the largest number from Kintyre. Machrihanish SBO Kintyre reported up to 30 per day on many dates in Jun, and the first recently fledged juveniles appeared from 12 Jul onwards. There was no evidence of breeding within Argyll.

2009. During Jun, most records were from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, where there were 26 on 30 Jun, including 6 birds in immature/winter plumage. Despite presence throughout the summer there was no evidence of breeding within Argyll. The first sighting of recently fledged juveniles was on 20 Jul at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre.

Jul-Nov 2008. Most autumn records were during Aug and from Kintyre apart from 10 at Colintrave Cowal on 18 Aug. The last record of the year was at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 2 Oct.

2009. Most autumn records were during Aug and from Kintyre. The last record was at Gott Bay Tiree on 8 Oct.

FORSTER'S TERN * *Sterna forsteri*

0618

A vagrant. The only Argyll record was of one in Oban Bay and L. Feochan from 8 to 11 Jan 2003.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

A locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland.

Apr-May 2008. The first bird was an exceptionally early record on 16 Apr at Loch a' Phuill Tìree, followed by another on 28 Apr, also on Tìree. Reports were then daily and more widespread. There were 50 at Fionnphort Mull on 10 May.

2009. The first record was on 1 May at Eilean an Ruisg (Loch Feochan) Mid-Argyll, with the next on 9 May in the same area, and thereafter daily.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 197 pairs fledged 23-39 young (0.12-0.20 young/pair). This relatively low productivity was attributed to a variety of predators and probable food shortage. At Glas Eileanan (Sound of Mull) there were 400 adults present on 27 May, but none bred there this year. At Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve 13 pairs nested. At Campbeltown Loch *ca* 15 pairs nested in a colony on a concrete dolphin by the NATO jetty. On the Treshnish Isles (Mull), there were 141 pairs on Sgeir na Guisaich and 9 pairs on Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area 782-785 pairs bred at 11 sites. At 8 sites where productivity was known 748 pairs fledged 147-162 young (0.20-0.22 young/pair). Low productivity was attributed to a variety of predators and possibly food shortage. At Sgeir Caillich (Loch Creran) North Argyll, three mink were removed from the immediate area and 107 pairs of Common Terns nested on the tern rafts and fledged *ca* 140 young, making this by far the most productive colony. Overflow by laying terns necessitated construction of a second raft at this mussel farm on 5 July. Both were successful. In contrast, at Sgeir na Caillich, (Loch Melfort) Mid-Argyll, 234 pairs fledged no young (clutches on 12 Jun were: 3x4, 98x3, 111x2, 22x1). Two mink were removed from the area, and gulls on same small islet raised young despite heavy predation by raptors (probably Peregrine). This may have caused the terns to desert, but food shortage for the terns may have played a part. There were 55 pairs on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) Mull.

Jul-Oct 2008. There were 87 at Otter Ferry Spit Cowal on 23 and 24 Jul. The last records of the year were of 4 at L. Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 14 Sep, and 2 at Bruichladdich Islay on 13 Oct.

2009. There were 38, including 9 juveniles, at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 26 Aug. The last records were of 5 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 9 Sep and 3 in L. Creran North Argyll on 20 Sep.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Steàrnag

0616

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.

Apr-May 2008. The first record was on 15 Apr from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, and the second on 28 Apr from Sorobaiddh Bay Tìree. Thereafter birds were seen daily, with most records being from: Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tìree.

2009. The first of the year was seen on 6 Apr at Tayinloan Village Kintyre but the first on Tìree did not arrive until 25 Apr. Thereafter records were daily, with most records from Tìree.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 114-119 pairs fledged *ca* 26 young at 5 sites, an average of 0.23 young/pair. Several colonies were affected by predators, including mink at some colonies despite efforts at mink control. On Tìree, there were 305 AONs at 15 sites and good numbers of chicks towards the end of Jun. However, in early Jul almost all chicks

died, with only about 10 fledging. On 17 Jun about 5-8 first-year plumage birds were present around colonies on *Tiree*. There were 20 pairs nesting at Machrihanish *Kintyre*. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were about 6 pairs alongside the Common Terns.

2009. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, there were 260-261 pairs at 11 sites. At 9 sites where outcome was known, 255 pairs fledged a minimum of 80 young, an average of 0.31 young per pair. On *Tiree* there were 450 AONs at 12 sites, with many small to mid-sized chicks by the end of Jun and at least 87 chicks fledged by late Jul. There were: 30 pairs at Ardnave RSPB reserve *Islay*, 15-18 pairs nesting in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre*, and on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 33 pairs nesting.

Jul-Nov 2008. There were: 150 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Jul, 140 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Jul, 100 feeding off Balemartine *Tiree* on 27 Jul, but only very small numbers in Aug-Oct. There were two very late records, one on 23 Oct at L. Gruinart *Islay* and one on 11 Nov at Aird *Tiree*.

2009. There were 170 in Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 22 Jul and 80 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug. The only reports in double figures during Sep were of 21 in the Sound of Mull on 7 Sep and 18 on 8 Sep. The last records were of two at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 2 off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Oct and two at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Oct.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach 0614

A rare migrant which has bred in Argyll. The last accepted records were in 2005 and 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. An adult was seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 and 24 Aug [Eddie Maguire]. Record accepted by ABRC.

COMMON GUILLEMOT (GUILLEMOT) *Uria aalge* Eun-dubh-an-sgadain 0634

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. The most abundant breeding seabird in Argyll with over 42,000 birds.

Jan-Apr 2008. There were few reports in Jan-Feb but some hundreds of auks, including both Common Guillemots and Razorbills, were feeding off Glas Eilean (L. Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, and at Ardcastle Point *Mid-Argyll* in late Jan, and there were 130 off Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 12 Feb. Birds usually start to return to nesting sites in Mar, and some 1900 birds were counted on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 9 Apr.

2009. As usual, mostly reported in ones and twos in Jan-Feb from a wide range of coastal sites, especially outer isles and exposed headlands. Larger numbers were reported in Mar, and 2500 were on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 12 Apr.

Breeding 2008. Counts in Jun at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* recorded about 2000 birds on the cliffs, but in early Jul numbers fell to 1500 with only 145 chicks, suggesting a relatively poor breeding season. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were 7093 adults in late Jun, but TIARG reported that it was a very poor breeding season with few birds brooding eggs or chicks. At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were only 36.6 birds (mean of 5 counts) on the monitoring plot that held a mean of 44.6 in 2007. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 1000 flew south in 5 hours on 17 Jul.

2009. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* counts in Jun gave about 2200 birds on average, with about 70% of the birds apparently incubating. Observations in Jul indicated large numbers of chicks and high fledging success though many chicks were still on ledges as late as 23 Jul. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 7712 adults (the vast majority on Lunga). At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were 69.4 birds (mean of 5 counts) on the monitoring plot. All three sites appear to have held more adults than in 2008, suggesting better breeding conditions.

Sep-Dec 2008. A bird, originally ringed on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 29/06/1985 was found dead at West Kilbride, Strathclyde on 24/10/2008. In contrast to the wrecks reported in autumn 2006 and 2007 (see Argyll Bird Report Volume 21), there were no reports of large scale mortality of Guillemots in sea lochs in autumn 2008. Possibly this may in part relate to the fact that few young fledged this year so there may only have been small numbers of inexperienced juveniles in the area.

2009. A few starving birds were found in Loch Fyne in autumn, but in much smaller numbers than had been seen in 2006 and 2007.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT * *Uria lomvia*

0635

A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one found dead at L. Caolisport in 1969.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* Falc

0636

A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous (around 9000) and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.

Jan-Apr 2008. Given that there are normally only small numbers seen in Jan-Feb, there was a remarkable record of 870 flying south past Tarbert harbour *Kintyre* in just 30 minutes on 7 Jan. There were also unusually large numbers elsewhere; 60 flying S off Brenfield Point (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* in 3 minutes on 8 Jan, 60 seen from the Tarbert-Portavadie Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Jan, and 100 per minute on 24 Jan arriving to feed off Glas Eilean, L. Fyne, *Mid-Argyll* forming a party of probably over 1000 altogether in Otter Ferry narrows. There were still unusually large numbers present off *Cowal* in late Feb and early Mar. By 9 Apr there were 300 on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* and very few being reported from L. Fyne.

2009. Counts of *ca* 100 near Otter Ferry on 18 and 26 Jan, but otherwise very small numbers reported in Jan-Mar. By 12 Apr there were 400 on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. It was reported to be a poor breeding season for this species on *Tiree*. Laying was late and a peak count of 454 birds on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara on 23 Jun revealed only small numbers on eggs and no chicks yet hatched with very few present on 17 Jul. At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were 1169 adults in late Jun.

2009. At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* TIARG counted only 343 birds on cliffs, dramatically fewer than were present in 2008. In contrast, on *Tiree* it was considered to be a better season with good numbers of chicks produced, although the highest count of adults (418 on 12 Jun) was slightly lower than the peak count in 2008. On 23 Jul there were still about 75 large chicks present although many had already fledged. On the monitoring plot at Urugaig *Colonsay* the average of 5 counts was 39.4 birds, slightly higher than the 24 counted there in 2008.

Sep-Dec 2008. On 11 Nov there were 148 auks, mostly Razorbills, passing west off Aird *Tiree*.

2009. On 11 Oct 452 birds flew west past Aird *Tiree* in one hour. Otherwise reports were mostly of small numbers and there were very few records in Dec.

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

0638

A common, but relatively scarce, resident breeding species, on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs.

Jan-May 2008. Widely distributed off the shores of Argyll. Large counts included: 20 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 4 Mar, 30 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 9 Apr, and 19 between Port Askaig and MacArthur's Head (Sound of Islay) *Islay*.

2009. Larger counts included: 24 at Carnan Eoin *Colonsay* on 9 Apr, 21 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 12 Apr, 25 at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 13 May, and 18 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 May.

Breeding 2008. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, adults were seen during the summer at 16 sites. The highest count was 18 off Eileanan Glasa (Sound of Mull) on 1 Jun. Seventeen nests were found at 4 sites. Elsewhere, TIARG estimated that there were 11 pairs on Lunga and 15 pairs on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and counted 78 birds on the sea around the islands. About 5 to 10 pairs were seen entering storm drain nest sites in Oban Bay and Harbour on 13 May. There were 45 birds in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 15 Jun, sitting on, and feeding around a large marker buoy.

2009. Ten nest boxes built by Rob Lightfoot were installed at the following sites: 5 on Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, 2 on Sgeir na Tom (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll*, 2 on tern raft South Shian *North Argyll*, and one on Eilean Gainimh (L. Linnhe) *North Argyll*. At one site where one of these boxes was in use, about 15-20 fishes (mostly Butterfish), in varying stages of decomposition, were lying under the box entrance in a crevice too deep for the chicks to retrieve them. These probably fell there when being fed to a chick. This may reflect a defect in the design of these boxes, as they do not have a landing stage or a natural landing area outside the entrance hole. The adult may need a landing stage/area to be able to pass the fish to the chick. This will be rectified in future boxes. It seems likely that boxes could increase breeding numbers, since at many of these sites every summer there are many more adult Black Guillemots on the sea just by the island than could be accommodated by natural nest sites on the island. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, adults were seen during the summer at 16 sites where 75 were counted. The highest count was 14 off Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 23 Jul. Thirteen nests were found at 5 sites. At least 4 pairs nested under the pier at Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*. There were 30 birds on the sea around the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in late Jun, and some birds were carrying fish to nest sites.

Aug-Dec 2008. Large counts included: 28 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug, 30 there on 6 Aug, and 14 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 17 Sep.

2009. There were 78 between Ronachan Point and Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 15 Oct.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

0647

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

2008. There were four records: one flew in from the sea by Machrie Hotel *Islay* on 20 Jan; the remains of an adult, dead for a few weeks, were found at Glas Eilean (Dearg Sgear, Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* on 12 Jun, and single birds were seen off *Aird Tiree* on 11 Nov and 15 Nov.

2009. Again there were four records: one in the sea a few yards out from the mouth of the burn at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, one at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 9 Nov, one in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 10 Nov, and one seen from the ferry between *Mull* and *Coll* on 19 Nov.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

0654

A very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Occasionally recorded in winter.

Jan-May 2008. A freshly dead bird was found on *Tiree* on 13 Jan, and there were 4 live birds off *Coll* on 29 Jan. Another fairly freshly dead bird was found on *Tiree* on 9 Feb. No records during Mar then small numbers were reported during Apr off *Colonsay*, *Mull*, *Tiree*, and Otter Ferry *Cowal*.

2009. The only record in Jan-Mar was of a freshly dead bird found on *Tiree* on 19 Feb. There were four birds flying SW off *Coll* on 1 Apr, then records of small numbers during the second half of Apr from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Treshnish Isles *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. TIARG reported 2456 AOBs on Lunga, and 313 AOBs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

2009. TIARG reported 2680 "breeding birds" on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2008. There were 45 birds heading SW off Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 1 Jul. The last record of the year was 2 birds off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Nov.

2009. 57 flew SW off Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 31 Jul. The last record was of 3 birds off *Coll* on 19 Nov.

ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* Calman-creige 0665

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith breeding season. Genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons with those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.

Jan-Jun 2008. The highest counts from the islands were: ca150 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Feb, max 130 at RSPB L. Gruinart during Feb, 64 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 12 Jun, 26 at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 18 May and 12 on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 28 Jun. On the mainland, 15 considered to be largely pure Rock Dove type were seen at Killean *Kintyre* on 27 Feb.

2009. The largest count reported was 101 at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 19 Jan. Other larger counts included: 80 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile *Islay* on 6 Apr, 60 on Oronsay on 9 Apr and 45 at Killinallan *Islay* on 24 Jan.

Breeding 2008. Birds were present during the breeding season on Gigha (5 on 10 Jun) and *Jura* (5 on 6 Jun), on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and on *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree*.

2009. Birds were present during the breeding season at L. Striven *Cowal*, Ardnave and RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay*, High Margmonagach (nr. Glenbarr) *Kintyre*, Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and on *Tiree*.

Jul-Dec 2008. On 1 Sep, 320 were counted at Whitehouse *Tiree*, 317 were in one stubble field at Kilchoman *Islay* on 11 Nov and 132 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Oct. A flock of 172 reported at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 12 Sep were said to be Rock Doves but may have included some or all Feral Pigeons. None were reported on the mainland.

2009. The largest count reported was 270 at L. Clach a' Bhuaile (nr. L. Gorm) *Islay* on 10 Nov. Other larger counts included: 195 at L. an Eilein *Tiree* on 28 Nov and 50 or more at Kilchoman *Islay* on 10 Dec.

Feral Pigeon 2008. On 18 Feb, 29 were counted near the colony which thrives in the girders of Connel Bridge *Mid-Argyll*. At Inveraray *Mid-Argyll*, a flock of 30 or more on 27 Sep included 3 white 'tumbler' type birds. Smaller numbers were reported from Oban *Mid-Argyll* and Bellochantuy and Tayinloan *Kintyre*.

2009. A large flock, of 130 was seen at Langa Quarry (nr. Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 16 Oct and 49 were counted at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun. Smaller numbers were reported at various other locations in *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* and on *Mull*.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm 0668

A very scarce and local resident: only regularly reported from Mid-Argyll in recent years (with just one confirmed breeding record). There are occasional records from: Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, and Mull.

2008. The only records during the breeding season were from the Moine Mhor area of *Mid-Argyll* where four (a male and 3 females) were seen well feeding on a newly seeded field on 2 Jun. Three days later, on Jun 5, five were seen together at the same location [Bill Allan/Jim

Dickson]. Amazingly this is the most Stock Doves recorded in one place in Argyll since records began in 1980! Later in the year one was seen flying into Benmore Botanic Gardens Cowal from adjacent fields, on 23 Dec.

2009. The only record was from the area to the N of Moine Mhor. On 6 Aug, four were seen flying towards Slockavullin from near Rowanfield Cottage (NR8296).

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich

A common resident, breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks may form on the mainland in winter. (Birds were reported in small numbers (<10) from all Argyll recording areas, apart from Coll and Jura during 2006-2007.)

Jan-Jun 2008. A minimum of 60 birds were seen at Killail (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 23 Feb. Other larger counts included 40 at Moine Mhor on 15 Jan and 35 at Colonsay House Colonsay on 26 Jan. Twelve were at Gruline House Mull on 3 Feb. Single birds were found on Tiree on three dates in May and 2 were at Carnan Mor on 9 May.

2009. The highest count was 100 or more at Otter Ferry on 15 Feb: no more than 30 were reported elsewhere. On Tiree, one or two were at Balephuill from 30 Apr to 2 Jun, 2 were at Scarinish on 18 May and single birds were seen at other locations 4 Jun to 10 Jul.

Breeding 2008. Two pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart but no territories were found in the Common Bird Census plots at Taynish NNR. In the course of Atlas work, pairs were noted during the breeding season at 7 sites in Cowal, 2 in Mid-Argyll and 2 on Gigha Kintyre.

2009. Three pairs bred at RSPB L. Gruinart but again, no territories were found in the Common Bird Census plots at Taynish NNR. In the course of Atlas work, pairs were noted during the breeding season at 7 sites in Cowal and 3 in Mid-Argyll

Jul-Dec 2008. The highest count was 110 at Cladich (nr. Dalmally) Mid-Argyll on 15 Nov. Other larger counts included 75 at Fearnoch (nr. Kilfinan) Cowal on 22 Oct, 52 flushed by a pheasant shoot at Otter Ferry on 31 Dec, 38 at Blarghour (L. Awe) Mid-Argyll on 15 Nov and 32 at Achnacloich (L. Etive) Mid-Argyll on 21 Oct. The only record on Tiree was of one at Carnan Mor on 27 Jul.

2009. Flocks of at least 50 birds were noted at two sites in the Otter Ferry area on 6 Dec and 40 were seen at Benderloch North Argyll on the same day. One at The Reef on 10 Jul was the only record from Tiree and, unusually, three were seen at Beinn Sgaillinish Jura, on 12 Dec.

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

0684

A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll: usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations, but is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.

2008-2009. There were reports in small numbers (<10) from all Argyll recording areas apart from Coll and Jura, including records from Gigha, Iona, Lismore and Treshnish Isles. The highest count reported was 27 at Balvicar (Seil) Mid-Argyll on 27 Jan 2008. Counts in double figures elsewhere included: 20 at Macharioch (nr. Southend) on 10 Nov 2009, 16 at Aros Moss (nr. Campbeltown) Kintyre on 22 Feb 2008 and 13 at Kenovay Tiree on 9 Mar 2008.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan

0687

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

2008. A good sequence of records with singles at: Scarinish Tiree on 7 May, Barrapol Tiree on 16 May, Mill Wood Colonsay on 17 May, Kenovay Tiree on 24 May, one of Oronsay Colonsay on 27 May, at Southend Kintyre on 28 May and at The Green Tiree on 26 Sep.

2009. All records were from Tiree, where one was at Ruaig on 25 May and two at Moss on 28 Jun (one remained until 2 Jul).

COMMON CUCKOO (CUCKOO) *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag 0724

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

Reported during **2008-2009** from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll*. Cuckoos were undoubtedly present on *Coll* but the lack of reports simply reflects the overall paucity of records from the island.

Apr-Jun 2008. Arrival was slightly later than usual and the only records prior to 20 Apr were at L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 15 Apr and at Glen Euchar (nr Oban) on 18 Apr. There were records in *Mid-Argyll* from 20-23 Apr but the main arrival took place (again later than usual) from 27 to 30 Apr when birds were widely recorded on *Islay* and *Mull* and in *Cowal* and *North Argyll*. Five were seen together at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 15 May.

2009. The first arrivals were slightly earlier than usual with birds at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* and Ballygrant Wood *Islay* on 12 Apr. The main arrival took place from 17 to 22 Apr when birds were reported from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. One at Carnan Mor on 17 Apr was the earliest recorded arrival on *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. Territories were noted at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave *Islay*, on Oronsay *Colonsay*, nr Otter Ferry *Cowal* and at L. Glashan and L. Leacann *Mid-Argyll*. On 6 Jul, a juvenile was seen being fed by two Meadow Pipits at Kilchoman *Islay*. No territories were recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR.

2009. On *Colonsay*, 7 – 8 breeding territories were identified in the first week of May and fledged chicks were noted at Milbuie on 10 Jun and at Kiloran (where the host was a Chaffinch) on 20 Jun. One territory was recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR and territories were also established at RSPB L. Gruinart and Ardnave *Islay* and at Achnagoul (nr Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll*. A recently fledged was seen at Sron Mhor (Ederline) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jun.

Jul-Aug 2008. One was seen at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul and one on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Jul. A very late sub adult was seen at Kilchoman *Islay* on 21 Sep.

2009. The only records after early Jul concerned one calling at Coalfin (nr Skipness) *Kintyre* on 23 Jul and a juvenile at Barranrioch (nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* 0727

A vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one found dead near Southend, Kintyre in November 1950.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus* 0728

A vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one found dead on Colonsay in November 1904 and one found dying at Barcaldine, North Argyll in September 1969.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Comhachag 0735

A scarce breeding species, but probably under recorded. It is widespread on Islay and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree. All records are requested.

2008-2009. Birds were reported from all recording areas during 2008-2009 apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Records were most frequent in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* with only single records for *Coll* in Feb 2008 and *Tiree* in Nov 2008. Four were seen in Glen More *Mull* on 8 Jan 2009.

Breeding 2008. In addition to those shown in Table 43.1, the pair consisting of a wild male and a semi-captive injured female again nested in a box in a garden at Barcaldine *North Argyll* and fledged two young (JCAC). Also in *North Argyll*, birds or recent signs were found during BTO Atlas work at 3 separate sites at Blackmount and Auch Estates in NE Argyll.

Table 43.1 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2008. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	22	13	12	2	0	23	2.09
Islay	5	3	2	0	1	2+	1.00+
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	19	15	13	2	0	33	2.53
Total	46	31	27	4	1	58+	2.28¹

¹ Calculated for 25 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

2009. In addition to those shown in Table 43.2: a wild pair at Barcaldine *North Argyll* reared 5 young to flying stage.

Table 43.2 *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2009. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	21	17	12	5	0	33	2.75
Islay	6	3	2	0	1	4+	2.00+
Kintyre/ Knapdale (FCS)	14	14	11	0	1	29	2.63
Total	41	34	25	5	2	66+	2.96¹

¹ Calculated for 24 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.

Cowal: Vole numbers were still low in 2009. Pine marten predation is still a problem for some pairs and is probably being under recorded (D Anderson).

Islay: A pair reared 3 young on the Rinns in a nest box fitted with a webcam. At least 10 additional pairs (not included in the table) were reported in what was described as “a great year for owls” (A. Schofield).

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

0739

A vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one found dead at Scarinish (Tiree) on 6th Apr 1997. Very rare in Scotland, most records being from the Northern Isles.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus*

0749

A vagrant. Two individuals were recorded in Jan 2005: one on Coll and one on Tiree. Four old records 1870-1892 are also considered acceptable.

2008. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. No records.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* Comhachag-dhonn

0761

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

2008/2009. Birds were reported from *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll*. This is a still a much under recorded species and all records are welcome.

Breeding 2008.Table 44.1 *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in Argyll in 2008. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	13	13	7	6	0	10	1.43

All 6 failures in the *Cowal* Tawny Owl study area were attributed to predation by pine martens at the egg stage (Dave Anderson).

Breeding 2009. As well as those shown in Table 46.2, calling birds were reported during the breeding season from several localities in *Cowal, Mid-Argyll and Mull*.

Table 44.2 *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in Argyll in 2009. (ARSG per RAB).*

Area	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Min. no. fledged	Young per successful site
Kintyre/Knapdale	2	2	2	0	2	1.00
Cowal	31	31	22	9	32	1.45

Cowal: Vole numbers were still low in 2009. Pine Marten predation continued to be a problem for some pairs and it was found to be the reason for 7 out of the 9 failures in the *Cowal* Tawny Owl study area (D Anderson) (ARSG per RAB).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Comhachag-adharcaiche

0767

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

2008. The only records away from breeding sites were of singles at: Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb, Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 22 Feb, Glean Seilisdeir *Mull* on 30 Oct, and one, probably of this species, at Moine Mhor on 13 Dec.

2009. Records during the year, from Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, where the species has bred in the past, included: singles on 14 May, 30 Jun, 1 Jul and 1 Aug. There were BTO Atlas records of single birds on *Mull* near Dervaig on 27 Apr, and near Pennygown on 10 May.

Breeding 2008. Two occupied sites were found on *Colonsay*; one was successful and fledged three young. An adult with two juveniles was seen at Loch Beg *Mull* on 19 Jun. They were reported as breeding in the wood next to the nearby Kinloch Hotel.

Breeding 2009. Three sites were checked on *Colonsay*, but no birds were located.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Comhachag-chluasach

0768

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).

2008. Reports of up to 2 birds during the year came from: Oronsay (*Colonsay*), *Cowal, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*. Good numbers were reported from *Jura* where 9 were counted at various locations 10 Dec. There were no records from *Cowal* or *Mid-Argyll*.

2009. The largest gathering, reported for some time, was at Gruline *Mull* on 2 Jan, when 14 were flushed from heather just above the tree-line (Fiona Harmer). Elsewhere, 5 were seen at Craighouse *Jura* on 8 Apr and 4 were at L. Don *Mull* on 28 Jul. There were also records from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. There were no records on *Colonsay* and no sightings during the breeding season in *Cowal* (A. French). Of two pairs located on *Islay*, one was known to be successful and fledged at least one chick (J. How/A Keys). Pairs were reported as more numerous on *Mull* than for many years with birds observed at 15 locations but there was no specific evidence of breeding (P. Howarth) (ARSG per RAB). A pair was seen at a known nesting area on *Jura* on 23 Apr and a pair was displaying at Carsaig *Mull* on 24 Apr.

2009. A good year for this species on *Islay*, with 2 pairs breeding on the RSPB Oa Reserve (A. Schofield), and a pair nested on the RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve (J. How). It was possible that 10-11 pairs bred on the Rinns (M. Ogilvie). General observations however on *Mull* suggested that the vole population had crashed during the winter. During the breeding season birds were very scarce and no breeding pairs were observed during a Hen Harriers survey (P. Howarth). A pair was present at a site on *Coll* in Jun but no young were seen (B. Jones). No birds were seen at the previous nesting area on *Colonsay* (D. Jardine). A single bird, seen twice in Jun on *Tiree*, suggested a possible summering bird (J. Bowler). No nests were found in *Cowal* but 2 fledged young were seen at one location (A. French) (ARSG per RAB).

In addition, a pair was reported at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* in Jul/Aug.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR (NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraiacheag-oidhche 0778
A very scarce and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal.

2008. No records apart from some unconfirmed BTO Atlas reports from *Mull*.

2009. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

COMMON SWIFT (SWIFT) *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr 0795
A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland. Wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

2008. The first arrivals were two birds at Craigglass *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May with further early single birds at: Balephetrish *Tiree* and Ardnave Point *Islay* on 3 May, and small numbers at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 5 and 8 May. Significant counts in Jul included: 25 at Beach *Mull* on 3 Jul, 20 at Connel on 23 Jul, and 20 over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jul. The only counts of 10+ birds in Aug were: 50 over Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 4 Aug, 10 over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug, and 37 over Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 12 Aug. Late birds included: pairs at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Aug, and the last records of the year were from the islands with 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Sep and 2 at Bunessan *Mull* on 15 Sep.

2009. Early arrivals were a single bird at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and 9 at Campbeltown *Kintyre*, both on 10 May. Low numbers were reported from *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll* during the following 10 days. Island records included a single bird at Fidden *Mull* on 10 May, and 6 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 18 May. Larger flocks were reported from: Campbeltown *Kintyre* with 25 on 2 Jun and 21 over Black Lochs *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun. Reports of large flocks over Campbeltown continued into Aug with 40 on 2 Aug and 60 on 9 Aug although numbers had dwindled to 14 by 12 Aug. Fifty two birds were observed from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* flying in from the sea on 4 Aug. The last record was of 3 birds at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Sep.

- ALPINE SWIFT** *Apus melba* Gobhlan-monaidh 0798
A vagrant with two Argyll records: one at Largybaan, Kintyre in April 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles Mull in July 1994.
2008. No records.
2009. No records.
- COMMON KINGFISHER (KINGFISHER)** *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-crùidein 0831
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.
2008. On 12 and 22 Jan a single bird was reported from Aird's Bay *Mid-Argyll* whilst later in the year, a single bird was at Bridgend *Islay* on 28 Jul and 14 Aug. Other sites with records of single birds included: Lochgair *Mid-Argyll* (4 Sep), Dalchenna Point (Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll* (17 Sep), a traffic casualty at Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* (20 Oct), Connel *Mid-Argyll* (22 Oct and 31 Dec) and Ormidale (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* (27 Oct and 5 Nov).
2009. The year started in fine fashion on *Tiree* with the first record for the island of a bird at Ard Ear on 1 Jan, with further sightings over the following two days. Other early sightings were all at Connel (9 and 22 Jan and six sightings between 6 and 22 Feb). In the latter half of the year single birds were reported at: Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 5 Jul, Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep and 30 Nov, and Bridgend *Islay* on 2 Nov.
- EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (BEE-EATER)** *Merops apiaster* 0840
A vagrant with only 4 or 5 records since the first in 1981.
2008. No records.
2009. No records.
- EUROPEAN ROLLER (ROLLER)** *Coracias garrulus* 0841
A vagrant with seven records 1887-1992, mostly in autumn.
2008. No records.
2009. No records.
- HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh 0846
A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.
2008. Records from Caol Ila *Islay* on 29 Apr and nearby Keills on 13 Aug raise the possibility that the same bird may have spent the summer in the area.
2009. One was seen in a garden at North Connel *North-Argyll* on the morning of 7 Oct.
- WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* Geocair 0848
A rare & irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn.
2008. No records (see list of rejected, pending etc records p. 153).
2009. No records.
- GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis* Snagardach 0856
Rare, but recorded regularly in Cowal in recent years as well as in Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. Breeding may have occurred in Kintyre in 1998. All records required.
2008. No records
2009. There were two records in *Mid-Argyll* at Kilmichael Glen on 12 May and Ballymeanoch on 27 May.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich 0876

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

2008. Birds were widely reported from: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, and North Argyll and, less frequently, from Mull and Kintyre. Unusually there were two sightings of a single bird at Kilchoman Islay on 24 Nov and 13 Dec.

2009. Again birds were widely reported from: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, and North Argyll with a few from Kintyre but none from Mull. A bird at Kilchoman Islay was recorded drumming on 8 Feb and was seen for the first time on a garden feeder at the site on 28 Mar.

Breeding 2008. Apart from a single Kintyre record, all breeding season records were from Cowal and Mid-Argyll. There were 3 territories identified in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll cf 5 in 2007.

Breeding 2009. Apart from: 2 locations in Kintyre, 1 on Mull and 1 in North Argyll, all breeding season records were from Cowal and Mid-Argyll. There were 2 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll cf an average of 2.6 since 1990.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* 0968

A vagrant. There have been no previous records in Argyll.

2008. A bird, a new species for Argyll, was first sighted at The Reef Tiree on 12 Aug and remained in the area until at least 29Aug [John Bowler/Duncan Orr-Ewing/Jim Dickson]. The record has been accepted by SBRC.

2009. No records.

SKY LARK (SKYLARK) *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag 0976

A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low lying localities.

2008. Widely reported from all recording areas with the highest counts being: 150 at Killinallan Islay and 250 at Sunderland Farm Islay on 15 Feb, 470 on 6 Mar at Loch Gruinart Islay with 106 on 24 Sep, and 425 at Crossapol Tiree on 7 Oct.

2009. Widely reported from all recording areas with the highest counts being: 33 at Balevullin Tiree on 18 Feb, 35 in a passage flock at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Connel) Mid-Argyll on 6 Mar, 58 at Balephuill Tiree on 30 Sep, 66 at Balevullin on 5 Nov, and 70 at Kilchoman Islay on 10 Nov.

Breeding 2008. Eight singing males were on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull in Jun including one new territory. Two territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll cf 1 in 2007.

Breeding 2009. At least 6 singing males were on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull in Jun and one territory was found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR cf an average of 1.9 since 1990.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* 0976

A vagrant with only one accepted record, of three birds, on Islay in October 1976.

2008. No records.

2009. No records (see list of rejected, pending etc records p. 153).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich 0981

A summer visitor, localised breeding species, and passage migrant. All breeding records required.

Mar-May 2008. Earliest arrivals were one at Port Ellen Islay on 22 Mar, 2 at Carnain (L. Indaal) Islay on 27 Mar, four at Loch Lussa Kintyre on 28 Mar and 12 at the head of L. Feochan (nr Oban) Mid-Argyll and 31 Mar. A flock of 65 were over L. Ederline (nr Ford) Mid-Argyll on

6 Apr and the main arrival was from 9 to 19 Apr by which time records had been received from most recording areas.

2009. The first birds were at L. Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar, Carnain L. Indaal *Islay* on 22 Mar and at L. Bhasapol *Tiree* on 26 Mar. The main arrival was during the first week of Apr and by 7 Apr the birds were widespread.

Breeding 2008. At the large colony at North Connel *North Argyll*, 142 burrows were counted: less than previous years as part of colony had been destroyed by sand extraction. On *Tiree*, 30-40 pairs were nesting in dunes near L. a' Phuill and there were 10 nests in Balevullin/Green area and 5 nests at Traigh Ghrianaidh. Three pairs nesting in sand dunes on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun represent the first known breeding record for the island. Other active colonies were reported at Auchadalvorie, Kilfinan Bay, Millhouse, Ormidale and Stronchullin (nr Ardentinn) *Cowal*, Ardnave, Kilchoman and Kintra *Islay*, Connel and Eredine (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll* and Iona (2 colonies) and Kilvecuen *Mull*. During a survey of the Mull of *Kintyre* in Jun, 19 active colonies were found.

2009. At the large colony at North Connel *North Argyll*, 262 burrows were counted on 7 Jul but not all were active. Colonies not listed above (for 2008) were found at Creag an Daimh, head of L. Eck and head of L. Riddon *Cowal*, Kilchiaran, Laggan Bridge and Machir Bay *Islay*, Allt nan Calltuinn and High Margmonagach *Kintyre* and Tervine (L. Awe) *Mid-Argyll*.

Aug-Sep 2008. Although there was still activity at the colony at Millhouse *Cowal* on 27 Aug the last record was at L. a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Sep.

2009. Most had gone by the end of the first week in Sep but at least two were seen flying rapidly S with Barn Swallows at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 23 Sep and three were with Swallows at Hynish *Tiree* on 30 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW (SWALLOW) *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

0992

A widespread and common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Mar-May 2008. None were seen in Mar: the first records were of single birds at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, Kilchoman *Islay* on 3 Apr and Southend *Kintyre* on 3 Apr. One at Rhugarbh (Appin) on 13 Apr was the first for *North Argyll* but the main arrival was not until 17 – 23 Apr after which records were widespread.

2009. The earliest records were on *Islay* where singles were at RSPB L. Gruinart on 23 Mar and Easter Ellister on 28 Mar. One was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 31 Mar. Small numbers were reported from many areas from 3 to 16 Apr but the main arrival was not until 18 – 26 Apr after which birds were numerous and widespread. A flock of 60 at L. Tulla *North Argyll* on 26 Apr feeding low over the water in cold, overcast weather were unusual at this location..

Breeding 2008/2009. Confirmed breeding was widely reported from all recording areas in both years with even more records than usual thanks to Atlas surveys. The first fledglings in 2008 were noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Jun and in 2009 the first juveniles were seen being fed at Otter Ferry on 1 Jul.

Jul-Dec 2008. Post breeding flocks were noted at E *Tiree* (ca500 on 18 Aug), Kilfinan *Cowal* (300 on 5 Sep) and 'thousands' were flying S at Tayinloan on 19 Sep. Departure seemed more prolonged than usual with regular records until mid-Oct. The very last birds were two at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 28 Oct, one at Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 1 Nov and one in the early morning of 2 Nov at L. Beg *Mull*.

2009. Approx. 600 were around on *Tiree* on 4 Sep. Once again birds were being reported in ones and two until late Oct. The very last were at Tayinloan on 31 Oct, Bruichladdich *Islay* on 11 Nov, Craighouse *Jura* on 12 Nov and a juvenile at Baileouchdarach, (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 22 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* Gobhlan-taighe

1001

A common summer visitor on the mainland. It is less numerous on the islands and has not been recorded breeding on Tiree.

Apr-May 2008. Early arrivals on *Islay* were at Corsapol on 10 Apr Bridgend on 11 Apr and Kilchoman on 17 Apr. The first record on the mainland was not until 24 Apr when one was at Bridgend (nr Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr and the first on *Mull* was at L. Beg on 26 Apr. Flocks in double figures were not reported until the first week in May: 20 at Islandadd Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May.

2009. Early arrivals included singles at RSPB L. Gruinart on 6 Apr, Hynish *Tiree* on 7 Apr and Machrihanish Seabird Observatory on 7 Apr. The first in *Cowal* was at Dunoon on 14 Apr and in *Mid-Argyll* at Balvicar (Seil) on 20 Apr.

Breeding 2008-2009. Breeding was widely reported in both years from most recording areas apart from the islands of *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Coll* although birds were seen regularly on *Colonsay* in May. Two nest-building at Island House, Loch an Eilein on 30 Jun 2009 represented the first proven breeding attempt for *Tiree*. They completed the nest during Jul but apparently failed and abandoned the nest in early Aug. On 16 Jul three pairs were still nest building in various stages at Sron Port na Moralachd (Lismore) *North Argyll*.

Jul-Oct 2008. Post breeding flocks of more than 20 were reported at: Loch Melldalloch (*ca*30 on 25 Aug) and RSPB L. Gruinart (32 on 1 Sep). The last records were singles at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 1 Oct and at RSPB L. Gruinart on 5 Oct.

2009. Departure was apparently early this year as the last records were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep, Ardnave *Islay* on 11 Sep and Tayinloan on 13 Sep.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

1001

A vagrant. There are only two Argyll records, both on Islay, in Sep 1971 and 1973.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

1009

Summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland. Also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.

2008 Apr-May. Early arrivals were at: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, Birdfield (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*, and Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records of singing birds from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*, with eight singing birds found in a single BTO Atlas tetrad at Moine Ghlas (Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May.

2009. First arrivals were seen at Taynish NNR *Mid Argyll* on 14 Apr and in Glendaruel *Cowal* on 16 Apr. A notable record was of a bird singing at Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 27 Apr. By mid-May there had been widespread records from *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Breeding 2008. A record low of 4 territories was found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* 7 in 2007. Confirmed breeding records were from three locations in *Mid-Argyll* and two in *Cowal*.

2009. The number of territories found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish recovered slightly to 5 *cf* the average of 11.32 since 1990. Elsewhere, breeding was confirmed at Conchra (Glendaruel) and Ardachuple Lodge *Cowal*, and Cnocan Donnaich Dhuibh (Furnace) *Mid-Argyll*. A family group was seen at Stronmilchan (Dalmally) *North Argyll* on 10 Jul.

2008 Aug-Sep. One bird was reported from Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* and another at Fidden *Mull* during the week beginning 24 Aug.

2009. A juvenile was found dead near windows at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag 1011
Abundant breeding species. Most leave higher ground in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.

2008 Jan-Apr. Flocks of 30 or more included: 38 on 8 Jan and 57 on 12 Mar at Kilfinan Cowal, a fall of 117 at Rockmountain *Islay* on 26 Mar, 45 at Clachan of Glendaruel Cowal also on 26 Mar, 40 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 31 Mar, 150 around Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr, and 300 at Inveronich (Lochgoilhead) Cowal on 11 Apr. Eighty birds in a group at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Apr probably included passage birds.

2009. Flocks of 30 or more included: 50 at Drum Farm (Kilfinan) Cowal on 9 Feb, 35 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, 60 at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) Cowal on 26 Feb, and 100+ near Ormidale Cowal on 27 Mar.

Breeding 2008. Nine territories were found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 10 in 2007. A BTO Atlas tetrad survey at Lochan Chuilceachan Cowal recorded 77 birds on 26 May.

2009. Six territories were found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 6.75 since 1990.

2008 Jul-Dec. By 8 Jul the population at Lochan Chuilceachan Cowal had risen to 178 birds. Flocks of 30 or more included: 60 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 17 Aug, 110 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 18 Aug, 130 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 26 Aug, 40 at Kilfinan Cowal on 8 Sep, and 32 at Creag an Daimh Cowal on 20 Dec.

2009. Flocks of 50 or more included: 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 16 Aug, 60 at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 60 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 26 Sep, with groups of 50 widespread on *Tiree* throughout Sep and Oct. A movement of 550 birds in 3 hours was noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Sep (birds arrived from the south and left heading north or north east). Later records included: 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 50 at Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) Cowal on 2 Dec, and up to 81 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Dec.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* 1012
A vagrant. The only Argyll record is of one at Tobermory, Mull in May 1975.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* Gabhagan 1014.2
Common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn. Scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Breeding 2008. Breeding was reported to be widespread on Treshnish Isles *Mull* and was also reported from: Eilean Fada (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll*, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and Ardmore RSPB Reserve *Islay*. Elsewhere, singing birds were reported from Cowal and Jura.

2009. Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and at Ardnave RSPB Reserve *Islay*.

2008. Fifteen at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 6 Jan was the highest count of the year. Elsewhere: 9 were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Jan, 10 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 16 Mar, 10 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 29 Nov, and 9 at Dunbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec.

2009. Counts of 20 or more included: 20 foraging on seaweed on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* at the end of Jun, 30 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 30 Oct, 20 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 20 at Kildalloig Bay (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 6 Nov, and 20 at Arda Reidh (Knapdale) *Mid-*

Argyll on 1 Dec. Unusually, 10 were noted feeding along inland tracks at Hynish and Sandaig Tìree on 28 Nov.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan-buidhe 1017
Scarce but annual passage migrant. Birds of the Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi (in 1985 and 2005).

2008. A single juvenile was at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 27 Jul. (see also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 153).

2009. A single Blue-headed bird was reported from Iona Mull on 17 May [Bob Bailey]. Record accepted ABRC

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna 1019
Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tìree and Coll; some emigration in winter.

Jan–Mar 2008. Ones and twos were reported throughout from all mainland areas and Mull.

2009. Ones and twos were reported throughout from all mainland areas and Islay.

Breeding 2008. Pairs were present in all mainland areas except North Argyll and on: Islay, Jura, and Mull. Fledged young and juveniles were reported from: Tayinloan Kintyre and: Eredine, Tullochgorm, and Tayvallich Mid-Argyll.

2009. Pairs were reported from: Colonsay, Cowa, and Mid-Argyll. Fledged young and juveniles were reported at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre and Colonsay House Colonsay. Parents carrying food or faecal sac were seen at Conchra (Glendaruel) Cowal and Dalchenna (Inveraray) Mid-Argyll.

Aug-Dec 2008. Ones and twos were reported from all mainland areas apart from North Argyll and from: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tìree.

2009. Ones and twos were reported through to Dec from all mainland areas and: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tìree. There were: 3 at Gortinanane (W), Kintyre on 25 Aug including 2 juvs, 5 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 15 Sep including 3 juvs, and 3 at Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) Cowal on 4 Oct.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Breac-an-t-sil 1020
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.

Jan-Mar 2008. Present throughout in single figures in all mainland areas and on: Islay, Mull, and Tìree. Fifty were noted on Tìree on 17 Mar, and 20 at Traigh nan Gilean Tìree on 27 Mar.

2009. Recorded in all mainland areas apart from North Argyll, and also from Islay and Tìree. Notable early gatherings included: 17 on 18 Feb at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) Cowal, 250 on 18 Mar on Tìree, 30 on 21 Mar at Brunerican Bay (Southend) Kintyre, and 30 on 27 Mar at Loch Riddon Cowal.

Breeding 2008. Recorded in all mainland areas, apart from North Argyll and from: Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tìree. Breeding was confirmed at: Gigha and Tayinloan Kintyre, Tayvallich and Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll, Treshnish Islands Mull, and from several sites in: Cowal, Islay, and Tìree. Notable gatherings included 21 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 30 Jun, and 22 at Bellochantuy Kintyre on 8 Jul.

2009. Recorded in all mainland areas apart from North Argyll, and on: Mull, Tìree, and Islay. Confirmed breeding was recorded in all mainland areas apart from North Argyll.

Aug-Dec 2008. Recorded in all mainland areas, apart from North Argyll, and from: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tìree. Notable gatherings of passage birds were noted from Aug through to Oct

with: 30 at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 14 Aug, 15 and 20 at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre*, on 31 Aug and 2 Sept respectively, 18 at Grulinmore *Islay* on 2 Sep, 20 and 32 at L Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 21 Sep and 4 Oct respectively, and 26 at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Sep. Subsequent records in single figures were widespread to the end of Dec.

2009. Recorded in all mainland areas, and *Islay* and *Tiree*. There were some large passage gatherings, especially in *Kintyre*, with: 28 on 28 Aug at Gortinane (Tayinloan), 85 on 2 Sep at Machrihanish SBO, 20 on 30 Sep at Skipness, 40 on 31 Oct at Tayinloan Jetty, 40 on 6 Nov at Kildalloig Bay (Campbeltown Loch), and 20 on 8 Nov at Gortinane (Tayinloan). Other significant numbers included: 27 on 23 Aug at Keills *Mid-Argyll*, 20 on 29 Sep at Gott Bay *Tiree*, and on *Cowal*: 25 on 17 Aug with 20 on 16 Sep at Corra Farm, and 50 on 5 Oct at Otter Ferry. Subsequent records, all in single figures, were widespread to the end of Dec.

WHITE WAGTAIL *M. a. alba*

1020.1

Passage migrant, usually recorded in spring. Extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties.

Spring 2008. First arrivals of the year were: 3 on 23 Mar at Upper Killeyan (The Oa) *Islay*, followed by 3 on 27 Mar at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree*, and 2 the same day on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Small numbers of birds continued to trickle through *Islay*, *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, in early Apr rising to peaks of 25 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (present from 15 to 30 Apr), and 25 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Apr. In May: single figures continued to pass through *Tiree*, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, with 1 on 2 May at Bunessan *Mull*, 2 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 16 May, and 3 at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* on 18 Jun.

2009. An early first arrival was 2 on 1 Jan at Ardnave *Islay* followed by a single on 8 Jan and two on 22 Jan. The first on *Tiree* was on 23 Mar, and the first at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Mar. *Islay* numbers peaked at 16 on 1 Apr at L Gruinart RSPB. Three passed through Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 9 Apr and numbers climbed on *Tiree* through Apr to peak at 40 on 28Apr, while Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* peaked at 10 on 15 May.

Autumn 2008. A single at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul heralded autumn passage, though the next was not until 20 Aug. Ones and twos followed at Tayinloan *Kintyre*, and on *Tiree*. Seventy-two arrived at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Sep, with 2 at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre*, and 3 at Uisken *Mull*, both on 2 Sep. Two were on the Add *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, and a peak of 20 was at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 20 Sep. Thereafter single figures passed through *Islay* and *Tiree*, with the last 2 recorded at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Oct.

2009. The first returning bird was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Aug rising to 5 on 23 Aug, and a single was at Druim Buidhe (Keills) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug, increasing to 4 on 26 Aug. There were 15 at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* on 31 Oct. Single figures trickled through Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and *Islay* through the autumn until the last of the year was on 23 Nov at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg

1048

This is an irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year.

2008. Consistent with the low numbers in the autumn of 2007, the early months of 2008 were quiet, with a single bird photographed in an Eredine Garden *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr. The autumn was a different story with the first irruption since 2004. This started with 3 in Connel *Mid-Argyll*, and 1 in Port Charlotte *Islay*, both on 29 Oct. *Mull* was next with 15 in Dervaig and 12 in Craignure on 1 Nov; then *Tiree* with 2 at Carnan Mor on 2 Nov, and 2 on *Coll* on 3 Nov. The first in *Cowal* was 11 at Kilfinan on 5 Nov. Numbers started to rise from 6 Nov with: 28 at Salen *Mull*, 40 in Oban *Mid-Argyll*, and 15 at Largiemore *Cowal*; followed by 30 at Barcaldine *N Argyll* on 8 Nov and 105 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov. Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll*, had its

first 2 on 9 Nov, then 190 on 16 Nov peaking at 200 on 19 Nov. Numbers then declined as berries depleted and birds moved on. A notable 30 were in Strachur *Cowal* and 10 at Torinturk *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, and on 24 Nov a flock of 30 was at Kilmore *Mid-Argyll*. Single figure numbers were then reported across the county until the end of the year from: *Islay*, *Cowal*, *Mull*, *Mid-*, and *North Argyll*. Curiously, there were no reports from *Kintyre*.

2009. Only 2 reports were made in the second part of the winter: a single At Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll* on 16 Feb and 4 over Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb. There was a single autumn report of 8 on 15 Oct near Gleann Salach road summit, between Bacaldine and Bonawe *North Argyll*.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge 1050

A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and absent from: Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.

2008. Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (6). Most were of single birds but there were nine records of 2-4 individuals.

2009. Outside the breeding season there were records throughout the year from: *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (1), and *North-Argyll* (2). All, apart from five records of 2-3 birds, were of singles.

Breeding 2008. Birds were only recorded at sites in *Islay* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (4). Successful breeding was only confirmed at Leacan Water *Mid-Argyll* but presumably occurred widely elsewhere.

2009. Birds were present during the breeding season at locations in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), and *Mid-Argyll* (4). Breeding was not confirmed at any of these but presumably occurred widely.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn 1066

A common resident breeder in all areas although numbers often decline following hard winters.

2008. Outside the breeding season birds were widespread in all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll* from where there were no records.

2009. Outside the breeding season birds were widespread in all areas apart from *Coll*. Unlike in previous years birds were found to be widespread on *Jura* where records were obtained from BTO Atlas surveys, indicating previous under-recording.

Breeding 2008. Widespread in all areas (apart from *Coll*) although probably much under-reported. Frequent counts of over 20 singing males were recorded during BTO Atlas TTVs. The highest number recorded was 36 at Craigans *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 77 territories cf 58 in 2007.

2009. Widespread in all areas apart from: *Jura*, *Coll* and *Colonsay* although probably much under-reported. The highest BTO TTV count was of 41 at Ardachuple Lodge (E) *Cowal* on 14 Jun. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had only 32 territories (cf 77 in 2008 and an average of 57 since 1990); one of the lowest counts ever, despite **not** following a severe winter. The lowest previous count was 28 in 1996 following the extreme winter of 1995/6.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn-nam-preas 1084

A widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll, Jura, and Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats.

2008. Outside the breeding season rather sparse records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. Almost certainly under recorded.

2009. Outside the breeding season sparse records were received from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. Again, almost certainly under-recorded.

Breeding 2008. Records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. There were birds present or breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Mull* (2) (including confirmed breeding on the Treshnish Isles), and *Tiree* (1). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held an unusually high total of 9 territories *cf* 1 in 2007.

2009. Records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Mull*. Birds were present or breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held 4 territories *cf* an average of 4 since 1990.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg 1099

A widespread and common resident breeder, but rare on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. A noticeable autumn passage occurs with some migrants over-wintering.

2008/2009. Prior to the breeding season there were records from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. From Aug to Dec there were records from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Passages were noted in both years predominately from the west coast and from *Tiree* in particular.

Breeding 2008. There were records from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. On *Tiree*, a few birds were noted but there was no evidence of breeding. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held 26 territories *cf* 24 in 2007.

2009. There were records from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Mull*. Although birds were again present, there was no evidence of breeding on *Tiree*. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots had 21 territories *cf* the average of 23 since 1990.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag 1104

A vagrant. Only three Argyll records: two of singing birds, one on Islay in April 1973, and the other at West Loch Tarbert in May 1989; the third was of a bird feeding at Balephuill, Tiree on 2 May 2004.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* 1106

A vagrant. Only two Argyll records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975, and a male of the red-spotted race svecica on Coll in 1994.

2008. No records.

2009. A male of the red-spotted race was found on 19 May at Kiloran Village *Colonsay* [Mike Harris/Sarah Wanless] and a similar bird was found on 1 Jun at Kilkenneth *Tiree* [Elaine Harper/John Bowler/Janet Hunter]: thus doubling the Argyll records of this species. Both records accepted ABRC. (see also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 153).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan 1121

A less than annual passage migrant. All but 2 of 22 records in Argyll during 1980-2000 were in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).

2008. A good year with three records: the first at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 1 Jan was an immature female, the second at Scarinish Pier *Tiree* on 2-6 Feb and 3 Mar was a male, and the third at Vaul *Tiree* on 18 Aug was a female/immature

2009. Single birds seen on adjacent early winter BTO Atlas TTVs at Tangy and High Cattadale (N) *Kintyre* on 1 Nov and 10 Nov respectively may have been the same or two individuals.

COMMON REDSTART (REDSTART) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann-dearg 1122
A summer visitor, locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree.

2008. First arrivals were at: Torosay *Mull*, a male on 26 Apr and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr. A single female was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 1 Jun and two individuals were noted on *Tiree*, also at Carnan Mor, in late Aug.

2009. First arrivals were at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr and at Saddell and West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 1 May. A late juvenile was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 6 Oct.

Breeding 2008. Possible or probable breeding was noted at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Crinan, Kintallen (Tayvallich) and Taynish *Mid-Argyll*, and Inveroran (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll*. Breeding was confirmed at Brainport Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun when a male was seen with recently fledged young. Only 3 territories (a record low) were noted in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 9 in 2007.

2009. Possible or probable breeding was noted at: Creag na Croiche *Cowal*, Port Ascaig *Islay*, Carnasserie Castle, Killiechoinich, Kilchurn Castle, Inistrynich (Loch Awe), and Loch Nell *Mid-Argyll*, Inion, Bonawe, Tom Mhargaidh (Stronmilchan), and Loch Awe village *North Argyll*. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 6 territories cf an average of 6 since 1990.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137
A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.

Apr-May 2008. First arrivals were singles at: Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 26 Apr, Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, and Glen Euchar *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May. By the end of May, records had been received from locations in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (where a single seen on 21 and 29 May was the first spring record for several years).

2009. First arrivals were on 23 Apr with birds at Barr Laggan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* and Bunnahabhainn *Islay*. By the end of May birds had been noted at single locations in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. Confirmed breeding was noted at: Barr Laggan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, Cnoc Camqhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal*, Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* and Beach (Ross of Mull) *Mull*. Probable breeding was noted at one location on: *Colonsay* and *North Argyll*, and at two locations in *Kintyre*. Other records of birds present were from locations in *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), and *Mull* (1).

2009. Breeding was confirmed at: Barr Laggan, Stiallaig Bheag, and Clachan of Glendaruel *Cowal*, Lagganbeg *Mid-Argyll*, and on Lismore *North Argyll* where breeding pairs were frequent. Probable breeding was noted at Ardachuple Lodge *Cowal* and at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* where 12 pairs were observed but outcome was unknown.

Aug-Sep 2008. Birds were also noted (other than at locations above) at two locations on *Tiree*; a single on 4 Sep at Cornaigbeg with another on 4 Oct at Balephuill being the last of the year.

2009. Again few birds were recorded after the end of Aug at locations other than those above. Singles were at: Beach and Grasspoint *Mull* on 9 Oct, Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Oct, and Calliburn Quarry *Kintyre* on 21 Oct (the last of the year).

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

2008. Widely reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura* where there was a single record of 2 males at *Jura House*. Birds were reported widely from all parts of *Islay* with 30 pairs noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jun, 54 pairs on *Colonsay* (cf 50 in 2007) also in Jun, 7 pairs on *Tiree* in May, and 6 pairs on the Mull of Kintyre (dump) *Kintyre*. Birds were recorded from more or less all areas to the end of the year.

2009. Similar numbers of reports cf 2008 were received from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll*. The few records on *Jura* were all from contract BTO Atlas work. On *Colonsay* only 36 pairs were noted in Apr and only 21 pairs were found at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jun; a large reduction in both cases from 2008 above. On *Tiree* 11 pairs were noted by May. Birds were recorded from more or less all areas to the end of the year.

Breeding 2008. Breeding was confirmed widely at sites in: *Colonsay* including *Oronsay* (2), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* including *Gigha* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (4). Some of these areas had multiple pairs breeding. At *Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll* a pair bred successfully, the first record since 1990. Elsewhere it is probable that breeding occurred although evidence was not noted.

Breeding 2009. Breeding was confirmed widely at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Kintyre* (3) *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (4). Some of these areas had multiple pairs breeding. At *Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll* a pair again bred, the second since 1990. Elsewhere it is probable that breeding occurred although evidence was not noted.

A common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Mar-Apr 2008. The first of the year was a male at *Ardtalla Islay* on 13 Mar. By the end of Mar records were received from single locations in: *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*, and at two locations in *Mid-Argyll*. The main arrival was around 9-12 Apr with almost all records from the islands and the west coast of the mainland. With one exception there were no records from *Cowal*, eastern *Mid-Argyll* or *North Argyll* until the last week of Apr.

2009. The first arrivals were over the period 18-21 Mar. On 18 Mar: 5 males were at *Beinn Hough Tiree*, singles at *Ardnave* and *Ardnahoe Islay*, and at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre*. On 19 Mar, a single was at *Saligo Bay Islay* and two males were at *Auchalick Bay (Loch Fyne) Cowal*. On 21 Mar birds were at *New Danna*, *Keillbeg* and *New Ulva Mid-Argyll*. To the end of Apr all records (with very few exceptions) were from the islands or the west coast of the mainland.

Breeding 2008. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Colonsay* (1) *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mull* including *Treshnish Isles* (5), and *Tiree* (3). Some of these areas had multiple pairs breeding. Breeding was widely probable or birds were present in all areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll*.

2009. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* including all *Treshnish Isles* (2) *Lismore North Argyll* (widespread), and *Tiree* (widespread). Breeding was widely probable or birds were present in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. A territory was held in the CBC plots at *Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll* (the first since 2000).

Sep-Nov 2008. Almost all records were from the islands and west coast of the mainland. A slightly earlier departure than recently with the last records, all of single birds, from: *Carnduncan Islay* on 30 Sep, *Vaul Tiree* on 1 and 4 Oct, and *Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve Islay*.

2009. Almost all records were from the islands and west coast of the mainland. The only Oct records were from: *Gortinanane Kintyre* on 1 Oct, *Ardnave Islay* on 3 Oct, *Tayinloan Village Kintyre* on 23 Oct, and the last of the year *Ronachan Point Kintyre* on 31 Oct.

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *O. o. leucorhoa*

1146.2

A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.

2008. Spring records were from *Tiree* only with two records of two birds at the end of Apr, the first on 28 Apr. There were a further three records of two birds in early May. Autumn passage was noted from mid-Aug to early Oct with 11 records from: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Most were of single birds although 12 were noted at Hough/Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 1 Sep.

2009. Spring records were from *Islay* (4) and *Tiree* (7). Most were of single birds but over 60 were on *Islay* on 28 Apr including a loose group of 16 at Menengie with some staying until 30 Apr. Autumn passage was noted from: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. The first, a juv was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul followed by 35 passing through on 28 Jul. Higher numbers thereafter were all on *Tiree* with: 12 (17 Aug), 5 (2 Sep), 12 (12 Sep), 15 (29 Sep), and 6 (30 Sep). The last birds were noted from *Islay* and *Tiree* with singles on: 9, 15, 18, and 22 Oct.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH* *Monticola solitarius*

1166

A vagrant. A first summer male present at Skerryvore in June 1985 and later found dead is the only Argyll record. It is now accepted as the first record of a genuinely wild bird in Britain.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige

1186

A summer visitor breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in number: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.

2008. The only spring passage bird was noted near Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 2 Apr. Two breeding season records were of a male singing at the top of the Rest and be thankful *Cowal* on 22 Apr and two males heard in Glen Forsa *Mull* on 7 Jun. A single passage bird (an adult female) was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Sep.

2009. There were two spring records of singles on *Islay* and autumn records at Beach *Mull* on 10 Oct and a fine male at Milton *Tiree* on 23 Oct.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh

1187

A widespread, common and locally abundant resident breeding species. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some of which remaining during winter.

Jan-Jun 2008. Birds were present and frequent in all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. High counts of around 20 or over were common in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll* particularly during 2 hour BTO Atlas TTVs. The usual winter influx of largely juv males was evident.

2009. Birds were present and frequent in all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. High counts of around 20 or over were common in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll* particularly during 2 hour BTO Atlas TTVs. The usual winter influx of largely juv males was evident.

Breeding 2008. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (1). Elsewhere, apart from areas noted above where no records were received, possible/probable breeding was widespread. There were 6 territories recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (cf 8 in 2007).

2009. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Lismore North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3). Elsewhere, apart from areas noted above where no records were received, possible/probable breeding was widespread. There were only 2 territories

found in the CBC plots at Tainish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, the lowest number since records began in 1990 (*cf* the average of 5.4 since 1990).

Jul-Dec 2008. The usual autumn movement/influx, almost exclusively or mainly, of first winter males included: *Cowal* (14 at Largiemore on 7 Nov, 20 or more at Clachan of Glendaruel on 7 Nov, 30 at Largiemore on 12 Nov, and 15 at Castle Lachlan on 11 Dec), *Islay* (20 at Sunderland Farm on 11 Sep), *Mid-Argyll* (15 at Pennymore Point on 3 Nov and 16 at Inveraray Castle on 7 Dec), and *Tiree* (good numbers with up to 10 birds in some gardens, and 15 at Balephuill along with a Redwing influx on 30 Oct).

2009. A high number of records of large numbers were mainly the result of early winter TTVs with 17 counts in double figures mainly from *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*. An exceptional count was on *Tiree* where around 300 birds were on the island on 23 Oct which included 30 together at Balephuill and 35 at Vault.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Liath-thruisg

1198

A passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or pass through in spring.

Jan-May 2008. The only mainland flock of 50 or more was 55 noted at Drum Cottage (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 7 Jan. All other such flocks were on *Islay* where Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve held: 77 on 7 Jan, 111 on 25 Jan, and 104 on 9 Feb. In addition there were: 55 at Lyrabus on 15 Feb rising to ca 80 on 19 Feb, and 55 at Loch Ballygrant on 20 Feb. Elsewhere, smaller flocks were more widespread with: 38 at Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 20 Jan and 40 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 5 Apr. Smaller numbers were recorded in: *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. The last departing birds were 3 at Cattadale *Islay* on 10 Apr.

2009. There were flocks of 50 or more at: Lindsaig (Kilfinan) *Cowal* (135 on 18 Feb), on *Islay* (50 at Sunderland Farm on 5 Jan, 57 at Gruinart Flats on 6 Feb, 117 at West Carrabus on 6 Feb, and 120 at Uiskentuie on 10 Feb), and 105 at Stroneskar (Loch Ederline) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan. Elsewhere smaller flocks were recorded at locations in *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (6) where a single on 16 Mar was the last of spring.

Sep-Dec 2008. The first returning birds were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct when a large mixed flock of 300 (with Redwings) formed large groups on both sides of the narrows. Larger flocks of 50 or more were almost all noted from the last week of Oct to the first ten days of Nov. These were at sites in *Cowal* (300 at least at Drum Cottage on 30 Oct, 150 at Clachan of Glendaruel on 7 Nov, 100 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) on 11 Nov, 125 at Glenahuil (Ardlamont) on 11 Nov, and 55 at Creag an Daimh (Loch Striven) on 20 Dec), and *North Argyll* (100 at Castles Farm Loch Awe on 22 Oct). Elsewhere, smaller numbers were at locations in: *Cowal* (14), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (6).

2009. First returning birds were at Largiemore *Cowal* on 13 Oct where 18 were with 7 Redwings feeding on Rowan. The larger flocks of 50 or more were mainly during the last fortnight in Oct although some occurred to the end of the year. These were at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (4). Of these, 10 flocks were over 200 with the largest being: 350 at Leanach (Strachur) *Cowal* on 17 Oct, at least 300 at Scarisdale *Mull* on 20 Oct, ca1000 on *Tiree* on 23 Oct, 1000-2000 mixed with Redwings flying east over Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, well over 300 on *Tiree* on 29 Oct, and 700 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 31 Oct.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Smeòrach

1200

A widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.

Jan-Mar 2008. Birds were widespread in small numbers in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Five or more early birds were heard singing at Kames *Cowal* on 28 Jan. Seven together at Heylipol *Tiree* on 12 Feb were an indication of good numbers about the island and in late Mar a couple of *hebridensis* birds were noted. The only larger groups noted were 20 along a forest ride at Cruach Kilfinan *Cowal* on 12 Mar and 8, some of which appeared very dark, at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 17 Mar.

2009. Birds were widespread in small numbers although no records were received from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, *Mull*, or *North Argyll*. Ten birds at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 4 Jan were described as “*hebridensis*” birds as were others around at the time. Again 8 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 1 Feb were also so described. Larger counts were all on Gigha *Kintyre* and from late winter TTVs where there were: 18 at Achamhinish on 8 Jan, 12 at Gallochoille on 13 Jan, and 9 at Meall a Ghlamaidh on 18 Feb.

Breeding 2008. During Apr there were about 20 birds on *Tiree* including some singing males and a pair at Balephuill (*hebridensis* features). Breeding was confirmed in: *Cowal* (Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) on 10 May, and Otter Ferry, on 17 Jun), *Islay* (Kildalton on 1 Jun, and Laggan Farm on 7 Jun), *Kintyre* (Tayinloan Village on 19 May, Braids (N) (Killeen) on 20 May, Port a’ Garaidh (Gigha) on 8 Jun, and Bagh na Doirinne (Gigha) on 10 Jun), *Mid-Argyll* (Tulloch Gorm (Minard) on 1 Jun) and *Tiree* (widely during May). There were 4 territories only in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 11 in 2007, a considerable decline. Birds were present and breeding was probable or possible in all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll* from where no records were received.

2009. There were around 20 singing males on *Tiree* during Apr. Breeding was confirmed in: *Cowal* (Eas a’Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) on 9 Jun, Conchra (Glendaruel) on 11 Jun, Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) on 14 Jun, Killail Burn (Otter Ferry) on 14 Jun, and Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) on 17 Jun), *Kintyre* Coalfin (Skipness) on 9 Jul, *Mid-Argyll* Dalchenna (Inveraray) on 22 May, Inveraray Castle on 30 May, Kintallen (Tayvallich) on 14 Jun, Roc Dearg (Furnace) on 23 Jun, and Creggans (Loch Fyne) on 28 Jun, and *North Argyll* (Lismore where frequent in suitable habitat on 16 Jul). There were 8 territories found on the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, a large increase from 2008 and much nearer the average of 8.6 since 1990. Birds were present and breeding was probable or possible in all recording areas apart from *Coll*, *Jura*, and *Mull* from where no records were received. On 10 Apr a very bright, pale ‘*philomelos*’ type bird was at Carnan Mor *Tiree*.

Aug-Dec 2008. Most records were of singles. A flock of 20 was noted with a similar number of Mistle Thrushes at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 17 Sep, 20 at Balemartine *Islay* on 1 Nov were associated with a Redwing influx, and on 13 Dec 14 were between Balemartine and Mannal *Tiree* with moderate numbers about elsewhere.

2009. Again, most records were of singles. A flock of 10 was at Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Oct, 150 were around *Tiree* on 23 Oct (including groups of 15 at Balephuill and Vaul), 8 were still at Balevullin on 5 Nov and again on 13 Dec, 12 at Auchagoyl Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 17 Dec, 10 at Bagh na Dalach Dubh-Clachaich (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec, and 8 at Dunollie (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

1201

A passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals may be recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.

Jan-May 2008. With few exceptions most records were from the islands. On *Tiree* there were: 300 on 14 Jan, 400 on 11 Feb, widespread flocks of ca30 in Mar, ca200 with many in chattering sub-song in early Apr, with 50 still around on 10 Apr, and a final single at An Airidh on 26 Apr

was the last on the island and also in *Argyll*. The only other flocks, in double figures (30 or less) were in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

2009. Again, most records were from the islands. On *Tiree* there were: widespread flocks of up to 25 in Jan, 30 at Balephuill on 12 Feb and 70 at Barrapol on 15 Feb, and in March flocks of up to 20 were present all month. Few remained to Apr and the last for *Tiree* and *Argyll* was a single at Baugh on 13 Apr. The only other flocks, in double figures (30 or less) were in: *Cowal* (Kilfinan, Ardlamont Point, and Drum Farm), *Islay* (Rockmountain), *Mid-Argyll* (Blarghour (Loch Awe), and Slockavullin), and *North Argyll* (Ardchattan).

Sep-Dec 2008. The first arrivals were: 50 or more flying south over Kames *Cowal* on 19 Sep, 22 also flying south over Lossit House *Kintyre* on 29 Sep, and 3 at Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Oct. Very small numbers were then noted until 16 Oct when 300 were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* along with Fieldfares. Large flocks were then on both sides of Loch Etive on 18 Oct but appeared to have moved on by 22 Oct. The main arrival occurred in the last week of Oct when: 400 were at Fidden *Mull* on 27 Oct falling to 200 by 28 Oct, and 400 on *Tiree* on 28 Oct rising to 800 on 31 Oct. In early Nov numbers remained high on *Tiree* with: 300 at Balephuill on 5 Nov, 100 at Ruaig on 6 Nov, 200 at Balephuill on 7 Nov, and a peak of some 1000 around the island on 12 Nov. Numbers had fallen to 150 by 16 Dec with scattered flocks of up to 15 remaining on the island to the year end. Elsewhere the only counts of 100 or more were of: 200 at Clachan of Glendaruel *Cowal* on 7 Nov, at least 100 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 11 Nov, and a minimum of 125 at Glenahuil (Ardlamont) *Cowal* also on 11 Nov. Smaller numbers were widely reported from all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

2009. The first arrivals were 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep. Small numbers then followed until the major autumn influx started on 10 Oct when 300 were on *Tiree* including: 50 at Balemartine, 30 at The Glebe, and 50 at Balephuill. Numbers then built to 1500 on 23 Oct and remained at this level into the first week in Nov. Numbers then slowly declined with 300 still present on 14 Dec and flocks of ca20 around to the end of the year. Elsewhere larger flocks included: 1500 flying E over Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 200 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 17 Oct, 100 at Lephinmore *Cowal* and 200 at least in Glendaruel *Cowal* both on 17 Oct, an extraordinary influx of many1000s with Fieldfares between Scarisdale and Gruline *Mull* on 20 Oct, at least 100 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 100 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 2 Nov, and 100 at The Oa *Islay* on 12 Nov with several other similar flocks in the area. Smaller numbers were widely reported from all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Smedrach-mhòr

1202

A widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.

Jan-Jun 2008. Larger groups noted were in: *Colonsay* (10 pairs located on 1 Jun), *Cowal* (8 at Lochgoilhead on TTV on 20 Jan, 8 on o/h wires at Powder Dam (lower) on 8 Mar, 12 at Ballimore on TTV on 21 Jun), and *Mid-Argyll* (6 on o/h wires at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) on 14 Mar). Lower numbers, mainly singles or pairs, were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (22), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (13), (*Mull*) (2), and (*North Argyll*) (1). There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*.

2009. There were no large groups reported. One to four birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (10 pairs located), *Cowal* (18), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (an unprecedented influx with: 2 together at Balinoe, 1 at Balephuill, and another at Heylipol all on 18 Feb). There were no records from *Coll* or *Jura*.

Breeding 2008. Breeding was confirmed at one site on *Colonsay*, five in *Cowal* and one in *Kintyre*. Birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but no territories were

established. Elsewhere breeding was widely reported possible or probable in all areas apart from *Coll*, *Jura*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*.

2009. Breeding was confirmed at six sites in *Cowal*, one on *Islay*, one in *Mid-Argyll*, and another in *North Argyll*. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 2 territories were found; the first since 2002. Elsewhere breeding was widely reported possible or probable in all areas apart from *Coll*, *Jura*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Jun-Dec 2008. Flocks of 10 or more were confined to *Cowal* apart from 37 seen at Achnabreck (Lochgililhead) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep. In *Cowal* there were flocks of: 40 at Corra (Otter Ferry) on 18 Jul, 19 at Auchenlochan Farm (Kames) on 7 Sep, 29 at Kilail Burn (Otter Ferry) on 7 Sep, 14 at Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) on 9 Sep, 16 at Corra (Otter Ferry) on 10 Sep, and 20 at Loch Melldalloch on 17 Sep. Elsewhere small numbers occurred widely almost without exception on the mainland.

2009. Again, flocks of 10 or more were largely confined to *Cowal* where: 19 were >S at Kilfinan on 4 Aug with the same number, possibly the same birds being seen at Otter Ferry a few hours before, 21 at Kilfinan on 12 Aug, 40 at Corra (Otter Ferry) on 28 Aug, 14 at Ardmarnock road end on 4 Oct, and 26 at Powder Dam (lower) on 13 Oct. On 24 Jul, 14 were at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre*, and on 26 Sep 10 were at Cruach Bhiorach (Whitehouse) *Kintyre*. Elsewhere small numbers occurred widely almost without exception on the mainland.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche-leumnach 1236
A summer visitor, breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.

Apr-May 2008. The first arrivals were on 23 Apr when reeling males were heard in *Mid-Argyll* at Balvicar Bay and Connel. By the end of the month birds were reported from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), and *Mull* (1). In May in addition to those areas birds were reported from 3 locations on *Tiree*. The first bird was not heard: at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* until 27 Apr, on *Cowal* until 30 Apr, and on *Tiree* until 6 May.

2009. The first arrivals were at: Balure of Shian, *North Argyll* on 13 Apr, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, and 3 at Eas a'Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 16 Apr. By the end of the month birds had also been reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (20), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (1). In May in addition to those areas a bird was reeling at Aird of Kinuachdrachd on *Jura*.

Breeding 2008. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 2 territories in the CBC plots *cf* 4 in 2007. Breeding was nowhere confirmed for this vocal but elusive species but was possible or probable in all the areas mentioned above. On *Tiree* it was considered to be a poor year and on *Colonsay* there were only 13 reeling males *cf* 19 in 2007.

2009. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were a record 6 territories in the CBC plots *cf* 2 last year and an average of 2.6 since 1990. Breeding was confirmed at Creaganterve *North Argyll* when an occupied nest was found on 11 May. Again breeding was possible or probable in all the areas mentioned above.

Aug-Sep 2008. The last birds of the year were on *Tiree* where at least one was reeling at Balephuill until 5 Aug with another at Balinoe on 1 Aug.

2009. The last bird was again at Balephuill *Tiree* but somewhat later on 16 Aug. There were no other Aug records.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche 1243
A summer visitor and locally common breeding species in suitable habitats.

Apr-May 2008. The first arrival was at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 17 Apr followed by birds at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (2) on 28-30 Apr.

During May, singing birds were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1).

2009. First arrivals were noted during the last week in Apr from: *Colonsay* where an amazing 111 were recorded with Oronsay having a possibly incomplete count of 14, *Islay* where the first was on 20 Apr, *Mid-Argyll* at Taynish NNR on 28 Apr, and *Tiree* at Loch Bhasapol and Ruaig also on 28 Apr. During May, birds were noted at sites in *Cowal* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (2+) with 6 males noted on 10 May.

Breeding 2008. Thirteen territories (an equal record high) were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 10 in 2007. Counts of singing males elsewhere included: 61 on *Colonsay* during Jun cf 30 in 2007. Breeding was confirmed at 5 locations in *Kintyre*, on RSPB reserves on *Islay* at Loch Gruinart and Ardnave, and was “widespread and numerous” on *Tiree* in Jul with many fledglings seen. Elsewhere breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (19), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (18, almost all from contract TTVs), *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* (3). A bird ringed as a 1 year at Icklesham, Sussex on 9 Sep 2007 was found dead at Balinoe *Tiree* on 25 Jun.

2009. Only 6 territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* in contrast to the record 13 in 2008 and the average of 9 since 1990. Breeding was only confirmed at 5 sites, 3 in *Kintyre* and 2 in *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere probable or possible breeding occurred at sites in: *Cowal* (2) *Islay* (breeding widespread at RSPB Loch Gruinart and Ardnave). *Kintyre* (1), and *Tiree* (breeding widespread and numerous).

Aug-Sep 2008. There were few records in Aug: Oronsay, *Colonsay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (regular at breeding sites to end of month). The last of the year were: 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Sep with a single on 3 Sep, and a single at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 13 Sep.

2009. During Aug there were regular sightings at breeding sites on *Tiree* to the end of the month and birds were noted at single sites in *Cowal* and *Kintyre*. The last of the year were on *Islay* and *Tiree* with the final sighting being of a single bird at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on the late date of 26 Oct.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER * *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

1248

A vagrant.

2008. A singing Blyth's Reed Warbler was photographed at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on the evening (found at 17.45hrs) of 3 Jun. This is a notoriously difficult species but thanks to a detailed description of the song and the photographs the record was accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 102:580) and becomes a new species for the Argyll list [J. Bowler].

2009. No records

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

1250

A vagrant. The only accepted record is of one at Balephuill Tiree on 8-10 Jun 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

1251

A rare visitor in spring and summer. There are only five accepted records from Argyll, all from the islands.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BOOTED WARBLER* *Hippolais caligata*

1256

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.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

1259

A vagrant. Only 4 records; the last on Islay in 1993.

2008. No records.

2009. No records

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann-dubh

1277

A scarce but increasing summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn. An increasing number winter in Argyll.

Jan-May 2008. The only over-wintering report was of a single, present at a bird table at Kilkerran (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* during Feb. The first spring arrivals were noted on 6 Apr when males were heard singing at Torrisdale Castle *Kintyre*, followed by a female at Eas Mor (Beach) *Mull* on 18 Apr, and the first at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr. By the end of May, reports had been received from locations in: *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (very high numbers at many sites in the *Kintyre* area), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (7). At some of these locations many birds were noted.

2009. There were two over-wintering reports from: Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 12 Jan and Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Jan. The first spring arrivals were at: Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr (the earliest *Tiree* record to date), Skipness *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. By the end of May, reports had been received from locations in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (3).

Breeding 2008. There were 10 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the record 11 in 2007. Elsewhere, singing males were frequently and widely reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre* (where numbers are increasing year on year, at many sites in the area), and *Mid-Argyll* suggesting widespread breeding although there was no confirmation of such.

2009. There were 9 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *cf* the average of 3.6 since 1990 confirming the considerable increase over the last eight years. In the previous 12 years only 12 territories in total were found. Again singing males were frequent and widespread in: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree* with most reports from *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*. Very occasional females were seen. Breeding was only confirmed at Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun, Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jun, Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 1 Jul, and Clachaig Glen (Muasdale) *Kintyre* on 23 Jul.

Sep-Dec 2008. There were no reports between 16 Jun and 2 Sep when a male was found at Balephuill *Tiree*. There were only 4 further records in Sep from *Cowal*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree* (2). There were no reports in Oct. In early Nov there were records from: *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3) and the only Dec record was of a single male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Dec.

2009. There was a single Aug record of a female at Kilmory Industrial Estate *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug. In Sep a male and a female were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12-13 Sep and a female also at Balephuill on 14-15 Sep. In Oct, apart from a female at Otter Ferry *Cowal* from 28 Oct to 15 Nov and a female at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct, all records were from *Tiree* with 1-3 birds at various sites. In Nov records, mainly of single birds, were from sites on *Tiree* (3) and *Kintyre* (1). The last of the year were: a male at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* from 1-10 Dec and 2 at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

1276

A summer visitor and scarce breeding species in woodland and scrub habitats.

Apr-May 2008. The first arrivals were at: Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 3-4 May, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May, and Killunaig (Loch Scridain) *Mull* on 14 May. Elsewhere, to the end of May, birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (4), and *Mid-Argyll* (2).

2009. The first arrival was at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr (the earliest ever at this location). This was followed by a single at Ardenavan (W) (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May, 2 at Ardenavan (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* also on 3 May, and 1 at Creag a'Chrotha (Glen Nant) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May with 1 at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on the same date. Elsewhere, to the end of May, birds were recorded at sites in: *Mid-Argyll* (5), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding 2008. Two territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf one in 2007. Elsewhere, breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1).

2009. Two territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 2 since 1990. Elsewhere breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), and *North Argyll* (3).

Sep-Oct 2008. The last birds of the year were all on *Tiree* with birds at: Balephuul and Carnan Mor on 31 Aug, Balephuul on 2 Sep, and Balemartine on 3 Oct.

Sep-Oct 2009. The last birds of the year were again all on *Tiree*, with one at: Balephuul on 1-2 Sep and 15 Sep, Mannal on 5 Oct, and Vault on 6 Oct.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

1273

A vagrant. All records have been in autumn.

2008. No records.

2009. A juvenile showing well in a garden at Balephuul *Tiree* on 16 Sep was accepted by ABRC [J. Bowler] and a juvenile/first winter in a garden at Vault *Tiree* on 5 Oct was also accepted by ABRC [Ross Ahmed/Jim Dickson].

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille Beag

1274

A rare passage migrant in both spring and autumn. Most recent records have been from the islands.

2008. A male singing at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 1 Jun was a first spring record for *Tiree* and was accepted by ABRC [J. Bowler]. A single skulking bird, also at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 27 Jul, was accepted by ABRC [J. Bowler] and another at Balemartine *Tiree* on 2-3 Oct was accepted by ABRC [M. McKee]. One seen at Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Oct was accepted by ABRC [Bill Allan] and a late bird at Balephuul *Tiree* on 2 Nov was accepted by ABRC [J. Bowler]. Two other reports were made but no descriptions were submitted. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. All records accepted by ABRC were from *Tiree* apart from a bird at Lochbuie *Mull* on 23 Jun which was also accepted. On *Tiree* the first of spring was even earlier than last year; appearing at Carnan Mor (E) on 10 May. This was followed by a bird at Vault and Balephetrish on 18 May which was probably one and the same. In autumn birds were seen at: Balephuul on 29 Sep, Whitehouse on 29 Sep and 1 Oct, Carnan Mor (E) on 4 Oct, and Hynish on 7 Oct. All these autumn records were accepted as at least 6 individuals on 29 Sep to 16 Oct by ABRC, and were attributed to [Ross Ahmed/John Bowler/Jim Dickson] There were a small number of reports of other birds for which descriptions were not received or were rejected. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

COMMON WHITETHROAT (WHITETHROAT) *Sylvia communis* Gealan-coille 1275

A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year. Breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Apr-May 2008. The first arrivals were noted at: Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 30 Apr, Barr Ganuisg (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 30 Apr, and Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. The first at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* was on 6 May and the first on *Tiree* on 8 May. During May birds were noted at sites in; *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (7).

2009. The first arrivals were noted at: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, Ardchonnell (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, and Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May. The first at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* was on 10 May and the first on *Tiree* was on 11 May at Kilmoluag. Elsewhere during May birds were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (46 singing), *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5).

Breeding 2008. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there was a record low of only 2 territories in the CBC plots *cf* 6 in 2007. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* there were 11 pairs (outcome unknown) in Jun and on *Colonsay* there were 36 singing males also in Jun. Breeding was confirmed in: *Cowal* at Otter Ferry on 17 Jun and Largiemore on 23 Jun, *Kintyre* at Kinerarach (Gigha) on 14 Jun, and *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Glashan Dam on 23 Jun and Tullochgorm (Minard) on 20 Jul. Elsewhere possible or probable breeding occurred at many sites; mainly in: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*.

2009. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 4 territories in the CBC plots *cf* the record low of 2 in 2008 and the average of 6.4 since 1990. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* there were 14 pairs (outcome unknown) during Jun and on *Colonsay* there were 46 birds noted in Apr. Breeding was confirmed in: *Cowal* at Creag an Daimh (Loch Striven) on 25 Jun, Killail (Otter Ferry) on 22 Jul, and Millhouse on 23 Jul, and *Kintyre* at West Coast Salmon on 6 Jul and Tayinloan on 9 Aug. Elsewhere, possible or probable breeding occurred at many sites; mainly in: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*.

Aug-Sep 2008. Between 9 Aug and 16 Sep (last of year), birds were seen at 5 sites in: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Islay*, and *Tiree*.

2009. Between 8 Aug and 9 Sep (last of year), birds were seen at 5 sites in: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 1293

A vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one trapped, later taken into care and subsequently died in Kintyre in May 1983 and one trapped at Sanda in July 1987.

2006. No records.

2007. No records.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe 1300

A vagrant. Only five accepted records for Argyll, 1906-2001.

2008. One found at Balemartine *Tiree* on 2 Oct was accepted by ABRC with a possible additional bird at Hynish *Tiree* on the same day [Michael McKee *et al*]. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. One was found at Scarinish *Tiree* on 10 Oct [Jim Dickson], two at Carnan Mor on 15 Oct [John Bowler] and one at Balephuill 18-19 Oct [Andy Dowse/ Loyd Berry/John Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER* *Phylloscopus bonelli*

1307

A vagrant. Two previous records, 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.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille

1308

A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands.

Apr-May 2008. First arrivals were all in *Mid-Argyll* at: Brainport Bay (Minard) on 28 Apr, Taynish NNR on 5 May, and Crinan Harbour on 6 May. Elsewhere, during May, birds were only reported from sites in *Cowal* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *North Argyll* (1).

2009. First arrivals were at: Skipness *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr, and Inverawe House *North Argyll* on 28 Apr. Elsewhere, during May, reports were only from sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1).

Breeding 2008. There was only a single territory in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* which continues the sharp decline *cf* 7 in 2006 and a peak of 11 in 1998. Elsewhere, possible or probable breeding was only found at two sites. These were in *Mid-Argyll* at Birdfield (Minard), and Loch Glashan Dam.

2009. Again only a single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 5.7 since 1990 (and see above). Elsewhere, possible or probable breeding was only found at sites in: *Cowal* (2), and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

July-Aug 2008. There were no records.

2009. From 1-10 Jul there were reports of single birds from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (CHIFFCHAFF) *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean

1311

A summer visitor and scarce breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Mar-Apr 2008. There were no Mar reports. The first arrival, later than average, was at Achnabreck (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr. This was followed by singing males at: Saddell House *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, Lochdon *Mull* on 8 Apr, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr, and Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Apr. Elsewhere, by the end of Apr reports were very few from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3).

2009. The first arrival was at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 17 Mar. This was followed by birds at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Mar, Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Mar, Kilmory Industrial Estate (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, and Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 31 Mar. During the main arrival in Apr birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3).

Breeding 2008. Chiffchaff is usually only a passage migrant at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but a single territory was established in the CBC plots. Breeding was nowhere confirmed but was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (8), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and on *Tiree* there were 4 passage birds.

2009. A record 2 territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* 1 last year. Breeding was not confirmed but was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (3). On *Tiree* there was a good showing of passage birds with 1-2 sporadic throughout.

Sep-Dec 2008. All records were of passage birds on *Tiree* involving 3-5 individuals; the last of which was a single *collybita*-type on 2 Nov. Also on 2 Nov there was a single *abietinus*-type Scandinavian bird at Balephuill.

2009. In general more passage birds were noted on *Tiree*: with 11 present at 5 sites on 7 Oct and 10 present around the island on 16 Oct, as well as smaller numbers at many locations. Elsewhere, there were reports of single birds from: Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct, Beach (Loch Scridain) *Mull* on 12 Oct, Pennygael *Mull* on 22 Oct, and Macharioch (Southend) *Kintyre* on 10 Nov. From 25 Oct to 7 Nov on *Islay*, at least 5 individuals of the *abietinus*-type Scandinavian birds were recorded from 4 sites, and 2 individuals of the *tristis* type Siberian birds were at two sites on 8 and 23 Nov.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

1312

A widespread and abundant summer visitor.

Mar-Apr 2008. The first arrivals were at: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (8 Apr), RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (9 Apr), Mull of *Kintyre* area (widespread by 10 Apr), Loch Goil *Cowal* (11 Apr), and *Tiree* (20 Apr). Elsewhere, by the end of Apr, birds had been reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (10), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (3) and *Tiree* (6).

2009. The first arrivals were at: Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* (9 Apr), Balephuill *Tiree* (10 Apr), Loch Beg *Mull* (10 Apr), Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (11 Apr), and Colintraive *Cowal* (11 Apr). Elsewhere, by the end of Apr, birds had been reported from sites in: *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (15), and *Tiree* (4).

Breeding 2008. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 91 territories were found in the CBC plots *cf* the record 119 in 2007. Some very high counts were obtained during 2 hour TTVs. Early breeding counts from 8 tetrads in *Cowal* averaged over 29 with a high of 49 and a low of 8; in *Mid-Argyll* counts from 6 tetrads averaged 36.7 with a high of 70 and a low of 10. Similarly, from late breeding counts the same 8 tetrads in *Cowal* averaged almost 23 from a high of 41 and a low of 9 while in *Mid-Argyll* 7 tetrads (including the early 6) averaged 26.6 from a high of 41 and a low of 12. These figures would suggest that some birds from the early counts may still have been on passage. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (9), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (2) but was almost certainly widespread in all areas although less so on the outer islands.

2009. The Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* continues to buck the UK national trend with a further increase to 133 territories in the CBC plots *cf* 91 last year. This compares with *ca* 50 territories in the early 1990s and an average of 85 since 1990. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread and successful including *ca* 15 pairs fledging young at 3 sites on *Tiree* from mid-Jul.

Sep-Oct 2008. All the Oct reports were from *Tiree* where none remained after 10 Oct. The last birds on the mainland, all in *Kintyre*, were on the west coast on 4 Aug with the last on 17 Aug.

2009. All the Oct reports were again from *Tiree* with the last on 6 Oct and the last mainland report from Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 13 Sep.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Crìonag-bhuidhe

1314

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

Jan-Apr 2008. The first of the year was unusual being from *Islay* and on a bird table; at Ballygrant on 5 Jan. Elsewhere records were mainly from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*, with a few from *North Argyll* and *Tiree* (including up to 6 throughout Apr in a garden at Kilkenneth and a late bird at Balephuill on 7 May). Of 40 reports no less than 25 were from BTO Atlas surveys.

2009. Of 21 (*cf* 40 in 2008) reports, no less than 14 were from BTO Atlas surveys in: *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), and *North Argyll* (1). Unusually another early bird visited a

feeding station in Bruichladdich *Islay* on 3 Jan. Elsewhere a few passage birds were on *Tiree* and *Islay*.

Breeding 2008. Of 37 records, 25 were from BTO Atlas TTVs. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 4 territories were found in the CBC plots *cf* 1 in 2007. An amusing sight on 7 May was a bird at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* carrying a bunch of nesting material, larger than itself, from the garden to an isolated Sitka Spruce nearby. Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (4), and *Mid-Argyll* (1). Elsewhere, possible or probable breeding occurred at sites in: *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (4), and *Mid-Argyll* (15).

2009. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* a single territory was found in the CBC plots *cf* 4 in 2008 and the average of 1.6 since 1990. There were only 15 records, none of which confirmed breeding. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (1), and *Mid-Argyll* (9).

Sep-Dec 2008. An early influx of 6 juveniles arrived in foggy conditions at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Jul followed by small numbers to 9 Nov with a max of less than 10 on the island on 11 Oct. Small numbers (mainly 1-4) were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5).

2009. A very poor showing on *Tiree* with only a couple of passage migrants seen. Elsewhere most records were from early winter TTVs in *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre* of low numbers. A single bird at Tioran *Mull* on 17 Oct was the only bird seen on the island all year by the observer.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* Crìonag

1315

A vagrant. There are only seven Argyll records, 1980 – 2005.

2008. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. No records.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta

1335

Summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges.

May-Jul 2008. The first arrivals were in early May with mainly single birds reported from *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. The earliest arrival was a single bird at Taynish NNR on 6 May and by the end of Jul there were records from: *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (11), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid - Argyll* (9), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (24). There were no records from *Coll*.

2009. The first record was of a single bird at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 10 May. By the end of Jul there had been records from: *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (27), and *Tiree* (12). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Mull*, and *Jura*.

Breeding 2008. A single territory was held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* none in 2007. Elsewhere probable or confirmed breeding occurred in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *North Argyll* (1).

Breeding 2009. No territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (although birds were present) *cf* an average of 3.35 since 1990 (continuing the decrease over the last ten years). Elsewhere there were records of probable or confirmed breeding at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *North Argyll* (3).

August - Oct 2008. Records were from: *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (2), with the last records of single birds on *Tiree* on 23 and 30 Sep.

August - October 2009. Most birds had gone by mid-Aug. The last were on: 4 Sep at Lagganbeg *Mid-Argyll* and The Glebe, Scarinish *Tiree*, on 13 Sep.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

1343

A vagrant. Only two records for Argyll; on Islay in 1974 and 1975.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

1349

A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in recent years was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers now appear to be declining; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes.

2008. The earliest was on 10 May at Killellan Park *Kintyre*, followed by a bird heard at Strone Hill car park *North Argyll*, on 7 Jun, and a male at Mull of Kintyre (dump) *Kintyre* on 16 Jun. Late records of returning migrants were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Aug and at the same location on 17 Sep. There were no breeding records.

2009. The first record was of a pair on the early date of 18 Apr at Bar Laggan *Cowal* with the next record not until 11 Jul at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll*. Late records of migrant birds were of singles at Vault *Tiree* on 25 Sep and Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 30 Sep. There were no breeding records.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan

1437

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

2008. Jan – Mar. There were reports of 10 or more from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *North Argyll*, with flocks of less than 10 from across *Mid-Argyll*. On the islands there were: 6 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 10 Feb, 7 at Kildalton House *Islay* on 17 Feb, and on *Mull* 2 at Port na Saille (Loch Spelve) on 17 Feb.

2009. Single figure numbers only were reported from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*.

2008. Apr – Jul. There were reports of fledged birds from: *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, and *Mid-Argyll*. There were 5 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* which: is a record high. There were also reports from *Kintyre* and *Mull* (2 at Beach (Loch Scridain) on 4 Apr).

2009. Fledged birds were only reported from *Cowal*. There were no territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*: a stark reversal from the 2008 record high *cf* the average of 2 since 1990. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 12 Apr.

2008. Aug – Dec. Some larger flocks were in evidence in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*: there were no reports from *Kintyre* or *North Argyll*. In *Mid-Argyll*, there were 17 at Keills (Taynish) on 23 Sep, 19 at Claddich Steading (Loch Awe) on 14 Dec, and 15 at Eredine (L.Awe) on 22 Dec. On *Cowal* there were 12 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 1 Nov. On *Islay* there were: 20 at Bridgend Woods on 20 Sep, 12 at Traigh Ghruineart on 12 Nov, and 15 at Kilchoman on 25 Nov. On *Mull* there were: 10 at Croggan (Loch Spelve) on 20 Oct, 10 at Erraid Sound on 26 Oct, and 20 at Carsaig on 27 Oct. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 2 Nov and 2 records of singles from *Jura* on 6 & 11 Nov. On *Tiree*, there were 3 at Balephuill, 3 at Balemartine on 1 Nov and 4 at Meningie on 5 Nov.

2009. Larger flocks were from: *Mid-Argyll* with 14 at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 14 Oct, and *Cowal* with 15 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 27 Nov. Elsewhere, a couple of small flocks were in *Kintyre* in Nov, and singles on 22 Oct at Ballygrant Woods and Kildalton Woods on *Islay*.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

1462

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

2008. Jan – Mar. Most reports were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. An exceptional number was 34, foraging on a lawn, in Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan. A high count from a BTO Atlas TTV count in *Cowal* was 33 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) on 6 Feb.

Elsewhere, there were: 3 at Pennygael *Mull* on 1 Mar, 1 at Iona Abbey *Mull* on 10 Mar, 2 in a garden at Kilchoman *Islay* on 27 Jan, and 1 at RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Jan.

2009. Reports were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. The highest counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: *Mid-Argyll* 25 at Blarghour (L. Awe) on 4 Jan, 20 at Tom an Sgalag (Kenmore Forest) on 14 Jan, 35 at Inveraray on 28 Jan, and *Kintyre* 12 at Tayinloan on 19 Feb.

2008. Apr- Jul. There were reports of fledged birds from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Highest counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: 10 at Lochgair *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun, and in *Kintyre* 13 at Braids (Tayinloan) on 27 Jul. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* had a record high of 38 territories *cf* 35 in 2007. Elsewhere, single birds were seen on *Islay* at: RSPB L. Gruinart, Ardtalla, Port Askaig, and Ballygrant, on *Tiree* at Mannal, on *Jura* at Jura House, and at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay*.

2009. Reports of fledged birds were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Highest counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: *Cowal*, 18 at Lochhead (Loch Riddon) on 20 Apr, and *Mid-Argyll* 14 at Dalchenna on 26 Jun. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 36 territories *cf* an average of 26 since 1990. On *Islay* there were: 2 reported from RSPB L. Gruinart on 25 Apr, 1 at Finlaggan on 26 Apr, and 1 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 1 Jun.

2008. Aug – Dec. There were reports from *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Highest counts were from BTO Atlas TTVs with 20 at Ardchylne (St.Catherine's) *Cowal* on 2 Dec and 16 at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec. Elsewhere, there were 3 on 14 Oct and 2 on 3 Dec at RSPB L.Gruinart *Islay*.

2009. Birds were reported from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. Highest counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: *Mid-Argyll* 12 at Badden (Lochgilphead) on 9 Nov, 22 at Tom an Eich Bhain (L.Awe) on 2 Dec, and *Kintyre* 10 at Kilkivan Quarry (Drumlemble) on 13 Nov. Elsewhere, the only reports were from RSPB L.Gruinart *Islay*, with 3 on 14 Oct and 2 on 3 Dec.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna 1464

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

2008. Jan – Mar. Records (mostly in single figures) were from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: *Cowal* 30 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) on 6 Feb, 12 at Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) on 9 Feb. and *Mid-Argyll* 10 at Ardcastle Wood (Minard) on 12 Jan.

2009. Reports were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits were: *Cowal* 17 at Eas a'Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) on 8 Jan, and *Mid-Argyll* 18 at Portsonachan on 4 Jan. A Big Bird Watch at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan gave a total of 29.

2008. Apr – Jul. Records, including fledged birds, were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTVs were: *Mid-Argyll* 25 at Birdfield on 14 Apr, *Cowal* 26 at Otter Ferry on 6 May, 17 at Largiemore on 30 Jun, and *Kintyre* 10 at Gallochoille, Gigha on 12 Jun. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR held 17 territories *cf* 17 in 2007. Elsewhere, there was a single at Jura House *Jura* on 6 June, and *Islay* had 4 records of singles from around the island.

2009. Reports, including fledged young, were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. A high count from a BTO Atlas TTV was 19 at Eas a'Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) on 16 Apr. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 9 territories *cf* the average of 13 since 1990. Elsewhere, there was a single at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 29 Apr and 1 May, and on *Islay* breeding was reported from RSPB L.Gruinart in Jun.

2008. Aug – Dec. Most records were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits were from: *Cowal* 15 at Badgers Hole (Cairmdow) on 30 Nov, and 122 at Ardchylne (St.Catherine's) on 2 Dec. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Oronsay Farm, *Colonsay* on 22 Oct, and on *Islay*, ones and twos at RSPB L.Gruinart during Oct.

2009. There were reports in single figures from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. Elsewhere, there were 2 at Port nan Loagh *Jura* on 13 Dec, and one at RSPB L.Gruinart *Islay* in Nov.

CRESTED TIT *Lophophanes cristatus* Gulpag-stuic 1454
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.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* Smutag 1461
A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially in conifers.

2008. Jan – Mar. There were records from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits were from: *Cowal* with 14 at Barr Ganuisg (Kilfinan) on 15 Jan, 29 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) on 16 Feb, and *Mid-Argyll* with 10 at Ardcastle (Minard) on 12 Jan, 10 at L.Bealach Ghearran (Minard) on 12 Jan, and 10 at Moine Glas (L.Glashan) on 19 Feb.

2009. There were records from: *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Cowal*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits (all *Mid-Argyll*) were 40 at Rockhill Farm (Portsonachan) on 4 Jan, and 15 at Dun Leacainn (Furnace) on 10 Feb.

April-Jul 2008. There were records from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits included: *Mid-Argyll*, 18 at Ardcastle (Minard) on 16 Apr, 13 at Craigans (L.Glashan) on 5 Jul (including fledged young), and *Cowal*, 10 at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) on 21 Jun (including fledged young). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 11 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* 10 in 2007.

2009. There were records from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. There were no counts in double figures from BTO Atlas TTVs. There were 8 at Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 5 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* the average of 9.5 since 1990.

Aug – Dec 2008. There were records from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. An exceptional count of 30 was in a Campbeltown garden on 1 Nov. Higher counts from BTO Atlas TTV visits included: 14 at Ardchylne Farm *Cowal* on 2 Dec, 18 at Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 12 Dec, and 13 at Achnagoul (Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

2009. There were records from *Mid-Argyll* in single figures only, the highest being 9 on a BTO Atlas TTV at Tom Breac Plantation (Inveraray) on 13 Nov. In *North Argyll* 3 were recorded at Rubha Mor (L.Creran) on 20 Dec. Otherwise, there were single birds at only 2 sites on the east coast of *Jura* in Dec, and at Mulindry *Islay* on 30 Dec.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais 1442
A vagrant: the only Argyll record being one near Water of Tulla North Argyll in Jun 1991.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH (NUTHATCH) *Sitta europaea* 1479
A vagrant: three accepted records between 1975 and 1999.

2008. With the increase of birds breeding in central and eastern Scotland, numbers noted in Argyll also appear to be increasing. The first record of the year was on 11 Apr from Calgary Mull, followed by sightings in Dervaig Mull from 16 to 20 Apr, possibly of the same bird, which

might also apply to that seen at Craignure *Mull* on: 29 Jun, 23 Jul, and 13 Aug.[Peter & Janet Hall/Andrew Mortley et al] In *Cowal*, one was at Cairndow on 20 May, with another reported on 15 Sept at nearby Ardkinglas House.[Glyn Topliss] On *Jura*, there was an unconfirmed report of one at Jura House on 10 Dec.

2009. A single was reported from Ardkinglas *Cowal* on 13 Aug with at least 2 there on 11 Dec, and further sightings through to the end of the month.[Glyn Topliss/Jim Dickson/Bill Allan et al]. Records accepted by ABRC.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER (TREECREEPER) *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486

A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.

2008. Birds were recorded in ones and twos from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Colonsay*. One at Cornaigbeg on 12 Nov was only the second record for *Tiree*.

2009. Birds were recorded in ones and twos from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2008. There were 5 at Achamore House (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 11 Jun, including one carrying food. A record 9 territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 5 in 2007.

2009. A family group was found at Stronmilchan *North Argyll* on 10 Jul. Five territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 5 since 1990.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* 1508

A rare and irregular passage migrant: mainly in spring.

2008. A female/immature male was seen on 6 May at Carnan Mor *Tiree* and a female type was on *Coll* on 19 May. These were followed by a male at Balephuill *Tiree*, on 5 Jul.

2009. No records.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* 1515

A very rare passage migrant: only ten accepted records, 1954-2004.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE* *Lanius minor* 1519

A vagrant: only two records, on Mull in 1974 and on Coll in 1988.

2008. An adult male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Aug is the third Argyll record [J. Bowler] Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 102:588).

2009. No records.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas 1520

An increasingly rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

2008. One on 12 Nov at Cornaigbeg was a first record for *Tiree* [John Bowler].

2009. A male, found at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec, stayed to 16 Dec, when it was also seen at nearby Tayness [Andrew & Brian John, Jim Dickson et al].

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* 1523

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

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

EURASIAN JAY (JAY) *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheap 1539

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

2008. Recorded throughout the year, mostly in ones and twos, with most records from: *Cowal* (34), *Mid-Argyll* (26), and *North Argyll* (6). There were 2 *Kintyre* records including a loose flock of 11 at Dunmore (W Loch Tarbert) on 11 Dec. A single island record was one at Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Apr.

2009. There were records throughout the year (mostly in ones and twos) from: *Cowal* (33), *Mid-Argyll* (26), *Kintyre* (5), and *North Argyll* (5). The largest group was 5 at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul. There were no records elsewhere.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* Pioghaid 1549

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.

2008. Records from *Cowal* occurred in all months. Singles were regular along the Clyde coast from Ardentinny to Innellan, with 4 at Blairmore on 8 Aug. Elsewhere in *Cowal*, singles were seen at: Conchra (Glendaruel) on 23 Jan, Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 9 Apr, Kames on 23 Apr, and 2 at Strachur House on 3 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* there were: 1 at Kintallen (Tayvallich) on 24 Mar, 2 at Kilbride on 14 Apr, 1 on Easdale Island on 15 Apr, 1 on Scarba on 8 May, 1 at Achaleven (Connel) on 31 May, 1 at Cuilunaine on 31 May, and 1 at Kilmore (Oban) on 12 Jun. In *Kintyre* there were singles at: Campbeltown on 21 Mar, Glenreasdell Mains (Claonaig) on 10 Apr, Calliburn (by Campbeltown) on 15 Apr, Carradale on 15 Apr, Drumlemble on 14 Apr, Achamhinish (Gigha) on 26 May, and Peninver on 9 Oct. Islands also featured with *Islay* having singles at: Ardbeg on 25 Mar, Port Ellen on 18 Apr, Port Charlotte on 3 May, and Bunnahabhain on 24 May. *Mull* had singles at Lochdon on 20 Apr and Iona on 30 Apr.

2009. Records from *Cowal* occurred throughout the year, particularly along the Clyde coast from Blairmore to Toward Point, mostly of singles. There were: 4 at Kirm (Dunoon) on 1 Jan, 3 at Blairmore on 6 Jan, 2 at Sandbank on 13 Feb, 2 at Kirm on 1 Mar, 2 at Strone on 5 Nov, and 3 at Benmore Gardens on 23 Dec. Elsewhere in *Cowal* there were 2 in Strachur on 1 Jan and 2 Apr, with singles at: West Glen (Tighnabruaich) on 3 Apr, Camqhart (Glendaruel) on 11 Apr, South Hall Farm (Colintraive) on 15 Apr, Lochhead (L.Striven) on 12 Oct, and Kames in Nov and Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* there were: singles at Achahoish (Knapdale) on 27 Jul, Barnluasgan (Bellanoch) on 10 Oct, Oakfield (Lochgilphead) on 18 Dec, and at Dalmally Bridge on 23 Dec. In *Kintyre* there was a single in Tarbert Harbour on 5 Mar, and one at Killellan Park (Conie Glen) on 22 Mar.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH (CHOUGH) *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach 1559
The Argyll islands hold almost the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay are appreciated.

2008. On *Colonsay*, most reports were from Oronsay RSPB Reserve. Birds were present throughout the year with the highest count being 37 on Druim Mor on 18 Feb. Elsewhere the highest *Colonsay* count was 29 at Balnahard on 21 Nov. On *Islay*, at Ardnave, monthly maxima varied from: 47 in Jan, rising to 61 in Feb and Jul, falling to 40 in Dec. Good numbers were regular at Kilchoman, with the highest being 35 on 25 Mar. A roost count at Loch Gruinart on 3 Mar gave 32 birds. Elsewhere on *Islay* the highest count was 14 at The Oa on 17 Mar.

2009. On *Colonsay*, there were few reports outside the breeding season, with the highest being 4 at the Colonsay Hotel on 12 Aug. On *Islay*, at Ardnave, monthly maxima rose from: 47 in Jan to 57 in Jul, then falling to 54 in Dec. The highest count at Kilchoman was 50 on 4 Oct.

Breeding 2008. On *Colonsay* (including Oronsay), breeding was confirmed for 18 pairs (6 raising at least 15 young, 4 failing, and 8 with outcome unknown). One pair did not lay and there were 5 non-breeding birds. There was no census on *Islay*.

2009. On *Colonsay* (including Oronsay), there were 15 breeding pairs (10 raising at least 23 young, 1 failing, and for 4 the outcome was unknown). There was: 1 non-breeding pair, one site with a single bird, and 5 non-breeding birds. There was no complete census on *Islay* but at Ardnave 6 pairs bred, with 2 pairs fledging 3 young each. At Loch Gruinart a pair fledged 3 young, and on The Rhinns a pair fledged 5 young.

WESTERN JACKDAW (JACKDAW) *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560
A resident breeder, common throughout much of mainland Argyll: scarce on Mull and does not breed on Tiree or Coll. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.

2008. Recorded through the year on *Islay* with highest numbers in autumn and winter. Peak counts were 106 at Loch Gruinart (Oct monthly maximum), and 300 at Gartnatra on 10 Nov. On *Mull*, there were 16 at Sligneach, Iona on 10 Mar, and 1 at Ardnass on 21 Aug. On *Tiree*, singles were at Moss on 6 May and Balephetrish on 7 May. The largest reported mainland winter flock is regularly at Otter Ferry *Cowal*, peaking at 214 on 2 Feb. In *Mid-Argyll*, the Connel Bridge flock peaked at 85 on 22 Nov.

2009. On *Islay* the Loch Gruinart monthly maximum peaked in Feb at 60, disappearing over the summer, and then peaking again at 135 in Nov. On *Tiree*, there were: autumn appearances of 4 at Gott on 5 Nov, 2 at Meningie on 29 Nov, and 1 at Balephuill on 1 Dec. A spring flock at Port Sgibinish on *Colonsay* numbered 25 on 9 Apr, with an autumn flock of 29 at Lower Kilchattan on 18 Oct. In *Cowal*, the Otter Ferry flock peaked at 159 on 27 Feb. In *Kintyre*, there were 72 in Clachaig Glen (Muasdale) on 3 Mar, and a flock of 100 at Machrimore (Southend) on 13 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll*, the Connel flock reached 120 on 28 Mar, and in *North Argyll* there were 50 at Achnacreemore (North Connel) on 1 Sept.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* Ròcas 1563
A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on: Colonsay, Coll, or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.

2008. On *Islay*, an early flock of 200 was at Machir Bay on 28 Jan. A count of RSPB L.Gruinart rookeries found 137 nests. At Kintra there was a flock of 53 on 5 Jun. Counts at RSPB L. Gruinart peaked at 309 on 24 Sep. There were no records from: *Coll, Colonsay, Jura, and Tiree*. On *Mull*, there was a flock of 24 on Iona on 10 Mar. Elsewhere; notable flocks were in *Cowal* with 48 at Otter Ferry on 23 Jul, 32 at Barnacarry (Strathlachlan), on 16 Sep, and 25 at Kilfinan Bay on 22 Oct. In *Kintyre* there were: 31 at Tayinloan on 19 Feb, 21 at Braids (by Tayinloan) on 27 Feb, and 11 at Bellochantuy on 24 May. On Gigha, there were 6 at Ardmish on 9 Jun, and 8 at Highfield on 12 June. In *Mid-Argyll*, there were 10 at L. Scammadale on 28 Mar and 6 at Dunbeg on 14 Dec. In *North Argyll*, there were 6 at Lochan na Beithe (North Connel) on 18 Feb, and 8 at North Connel on 26 Apr.

2009. On *Islay*, the highest monthly count at RSPB L. Gruinart was 64 in Feb, and the nest count was 139. Flocks seen on the island included 25 at Cluanach on 28 Apr and 100 at Rockside on 3 Jul. There were no records from: *Coll, Colonsay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree*. Of the mainland records most were from *Kintyre*, with some big flocks (previously not recorded). There were: 200 in Clachaig Glen on 3 Feb, 61 at Kilmoluaig (Barr Glen) on 3 Jun, 50 at Crosshill Loch (Campbeltown) on 2 Nov, 60 at Kildalloig Bay (Campbeltown) on 6 Nov, 300 at Machrimore (Southend), on 13 Nov, 200 at High Margmonagach (Glen Barr) on 16 Nov, 80 at Kilchrist (by Stewarton) on 16 Nov, 100 at East Backs (by Stewarton) on 18 Nov, and 200 at

Glencaigs on 18 Nov. Elsewhere, notable flocks in *Mid-Argyll* included: 30 in Lochgilphead on 20 Jul, 72 at Loch Scammadale on 1 Sept. In *North Argyll*, there were 50 at Balnagowan Loch (Lismore) and 67 at Balleouchdarach (Lismore) on 12 Nov. The most recorded in *Cowal* was 30 at Millhouse on 23 Jul.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* Feannag-dhubh

1567.1

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.

2008. Outside the main breeding area in *Cowal*, there were widespread records of ones and twos from *Mid-Argyll* and some from *Kintyre* (from Machrihanish to Inveraray and west to Seil, where a flock of 30 were seen at Ardencaple House on 2 Jan). In *North Argyll*, there were 2 at Ardachy (L. Etive) on 12 Sep and one in Glen Strae on 6 Dec. On *Islay*, there were 9 records of ones or twos between Apr and Nov.

2009. Outside the main breeding area in *Cowal*, there were widespread records from *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre* (from Machrihanish to Dalmally and west to Seil and Oban). In addition there were: 5 records of singles from *Tiree* outside the breeding season, one on 8 Sep from *Mull*, and one on 1 Sep from Lismore *North Argyll*. On *Islay*, in Apr there were 2 records of 2 birds, and a single and 2 in Nov.

HYBRID CROW *Corvus corone x cornix*

1567.2

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.

2008. Outside the main hybrid zone in *Cowal*, most records were from *Mid-Argyll* with: 1 at Achnacloich (L. Etive) on 12 Jan, 2 in Ardcastle Wood (L. Fyne) on 27 Feb, 1 at Lochgair on 16 Jun, 2 at Auchindrain on 1 Nov, and 3 at Pennymore Point (Furnace) on 3 Nov. In *Kintyre* there were: 2 at Braids (Tayinloan) on 27 Feb, 3 at Cnoc na Greinne (Glen Bracherie) on 9 Jun and 1 at Gallochoille (Gigha) on 12 Jun.

2009. Outside the main hybrid zone in *Cowal*, most records were from *Mid-Argyll* (mainly of single birds seen through the year) between, Brenfield, Ardrishaig, and Drishaig (Dunderave) on L. Fyne. Up to 6 were seen at times at Auchindrain, and 1 was at Saulmore (Connel) on 15 Feb. In *Kintyre* singles were seen at: West Darlochan on 20 Feb, Auchencorvie on 11 Nov, and Ballochgair on 20 Nov. A single was at Salum *Tiree* on 26 Jan.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

1567.3

A widespread and very common resident breeding species.

2008. Jan – Mar. Reported from all mainland areas mostly in single figures, with a notable flock of 67 at Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 17 Feb. Reports were also from: *Colonsay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2009. Reported from all mainland areas except *North Argyll*, mostly in singly figures, but some notable large flocks, such as 200 at L. Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Feb. On *Islay* the monthly maximum was 6 at RSPB L. Gruinart in Feb, while on *Tiree* a count at Salum of 23 was the peak on 16 Feb.

2008. Apr – Jun. Reported from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* (a breeding pair). On *Colonsay* there were: 22 nesting pairs, with 18 chicks fledged from 10 nests, and 17 non breeders. On *Islay*, RSPB Ardnave had 2 pairs and RSPB L. Gruinart had 4 pairs. Birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* with no evidence of breeding *cf* none present in 2007.

2009. Apr – Jul. Reported in single figures from all mainland areas (some flocks into the twenties). Birds were present with no evidence of breeding in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf an average of 1.25 since 1990. Fledged birds were reported from *Kintyre* and Lismore *North Argyll*. On *Islay* RSPB L. Gruinart had 3 pairs and Ardnave 2. *Colonsay* had 22 pairs with: 6 rearing 14 young, 5 nests failing, and a re-laid clutch producing 2 young. A flock of 20 was seen at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 15 May. On *Tiree* there were 6 at Carnan Mor on 27 Jun, and on *Coll* a single was seen flying in from *Mull* on 1 Apr.

2008. July – Dec. Reported from all mainland areas and *Islay*, mainly in single figures but occasionally in larger flocks, such as 20 at Barnlongart House (Ceann Loch Caolisport) *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, and 48 at Eas an Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 24 Nov. There were 29 seen on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Dec, and 10 at Ruairig *Tiree* on 29 Sep.

2009. Aug – Dec. Widely reported from all mainland areas mostly in flocks of teens and single figures, with a larger flock of 30 near Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 16 Nov. On *Jura*, birds were found across the island in single figures during BTO winter atlas surveys. On *Islay*, the highest monthly maximum was 19 at RSPB Ardnave in Nov, while 21 were in Machir Bay on 9 Nov. The autumn peak on *Tiree* was 18 on Ben Hynish on 8 Nov.

COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN) *Corvus corax* Fitheach 1572
A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands. Large flocks may occur, especially in winter. Numbers appear to be increasing.

2008. There were reports from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Counts of 20 or more included: a maximum at Gott Tip *Tiree* of up to 120 on 25 Mar, 44 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 8 Jul, and 21 at Auchnaskeioch (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 14 Sep.

2009. There were reports from all recording areas except *Coll*. Counts of 20 or more included: a maximum at Gott Tip *Tiree* of 72 on 5 Nov, 22 near L. Tarsan *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 22 at L. Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep, 21 at Beinn Tart a' Mhill (Nerabus) *Islay* on 7 Apr, and 20 at L. Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb.

Breeding 2008. The following breeding records were received in addition to those listed in table 45.1: a nest with 2 large young on Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, and pairs with recently fledged young at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* and Barr Lagan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*. With the discovery of three new locations, the number of known nest sites in *Kintyre* has now reached 67 (E. J. Maguire).

Table 45.1 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2008.*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful site
Colonsay	19	14	13	12	1	0	47	3.91
Islay	10	10	6	4	1	1	10	2.50
Lismore	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	4.00
Tiree	11	11	11	1	0	10	3	3.00
Total	41	36	31	18	2	11	64+	3.34 ¹

¹ Calculated for 23 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known. (ARSG per RAB).

2009. Breeding records in addition to those in Table 45.2 include: a pair carrying food for young near Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Apr, a pair with young in the nest near the head of L. Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and pairs with recently fledged young at: L. Striven *Cowal*, Skipness, Clachaig Glen and Beacharr (Tayinloan) *Kintyre*, and Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*.

Table 45.2 *Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2009*

Area	Sites checked	Occupied sites	Sites with eggs laid	Successful sites	Failed sites	Outcome unknown	Min. number fledged	Young per successful pair
Colonsay	19	13	13	13	0	0	47	3.61
Cowal	44	34	21	15	6	0	20+	1.33+
Mid-Argyll	2	2	2	2	0	0	2+	1.00+
Islay	2	2	2	2	0	0	7	3.50
Tiree	10	10	10	1	0	9	3	3.00
Total	77	61	48	33	6	9	79+	3.25 ¹

¹ Calculated for 20 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known (ARSG per RAB).

COMMON STARLING (STARLING) *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

1582

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.

2008. Reports of larger flocks were from *Islay*: 250 at RSPB L. Gruinart on 17 Jan, *Kintyre*: 223 at Bellochintay on 8 Jul, *Mull*: 300 at Dun I (Iona) on 8 Mar, *Tiree*: 1200 at Loch an Eilein on 28 Jan, 800 at Balephetrish on 11 Feb, and 600 on seaweed at Sorobaidh Bay on 28 Mar. Post breeding on *Tiree* there were 1200 on a cut field at Cornaig on 30 Jul and in mid winter a peak of 1300 was on the island. Elsewhere, there were: 91 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 10 Jan, 62 on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in Jun, 80 at Island of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct, 90 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 75 in one tree at Skipness *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, and *ca* 60 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* through the early winter.

2009. Reports of larger flocks were from *Colonsay* with: 120 at Balnahard post-breeding on 14 Jun, 200 at Oronsay airstrip on 18 Oct, and 100 at Lower Kilchattan also on 18 Oct. From *Cowal* there were: 42 at Kilfinan on 11 Feb, and 112 at Kildavaig Farm (Ardlamont) on 18 Oct. From *Islay* there were: up to 250 at RSPB L. Gruinart in Jan, 100 at Kilchoman on 12 Jun, and up to 114 at RSPB Ardnave in Nov. On *Jura* there were 110 at Ardfin on 5 Nov. In *Kintyre* there were: 500 at Dalivaddy (The Laggan) on 21 Feb, 200 at Gortinanane (Tayinloan) on 5 Aug, 450 at Machrihanish SBO on 22 Sep, 600 at Clochkeil (The Laggan) on 2 Oct, 600 at Machrihanish SBO on 22 Oct, and 500 at Allt na Dunaich (Bellochintay) on 15 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* there were: 32 at Balvicar on 12 Nov, and 50 or more at Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) on 20 Nov. In *North Argyll* there were: 100 at St Moluag's Cathedral (Lismore) on 1 Sep, and 40 at Fennachrochan (Lismore) on 2 Nov. On *Tiree* there were: 1200 at Sorobaidh Bay on 12 Jan, 1400 at three sites on 16 Feb, widespread flocks of up to 300 birds on 1 Mar, 1400 at Loch a'Phuill on 24 Aug, and flocks of 800 birds at Ruaig on 14 Sep and Balephuill on 26 Oct.

Breeding 2008. One territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* the previous two blank years. Reports of breeding were widespread and birds were present in the breeding season in virtually all areas.

2009. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* the average of 1.8 since 1990. Breeding was again confirmed from more or less all areas: including the Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Druid-dhearg

1584

A rare visitor in summer and autumn but there were larger numbers in 2002 and 2003.

2008. Two adult birds were on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jun [Jim, Else/Ruth Mellor] and a single bird was at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* from 1-3 Jul [Jan Brown]. Single adults were at Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Jul [Arthur & Pam Brown] and at Bunessan *Mull* for several days up to 8 Aug. [Andrew & Diana Oldacre/Alan Spellman/Bryan Rains *et al*] An adult bird was at Bowmore *Islay* from 11 Aug to 27 Oct [Alistair Hutchinson/Becky Williamson *et al*]. These records were all accepted by ABRC.

2009. A first-summer bird was seen and photographed at Tobermory *Mull* on 29 May [Steven Brown]. This record was accepted by ABRC.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Gealbhonn

1591

A resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.

2008. There were records from most recording areas during the year. Reports of larger flocks included: 45 and 60 on *Tiree* during Jan, 35 at RSPB L. Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Jan, and 25 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr. Post breeding flocks on *Tiree* built up from the end of Jul with a peak count of 160; Ruaig (110) and Balephuill (40) on 1 Sep. In south *Kintyre* there were 300 at West Parkfergus (Machrihanish) (160) and Campbeltown area (140) on 1 Aug. Elsewhere: 22 were at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 27 May, 66 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 8 Jul, and 25 at Dunbeg (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec.

2009. Again there were records from most recording areas. Reports of post breeding/wintering birds came from: *Kintyre* with 20 at High Margmonagach (Glenbarr) on 3 Jun, 35 at Gortinanane (Tayinloan) on 9 Aug, and 40 at Druma Voulin (Southend) on 10 Nov; Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* with 20 on 13 Jun, 44 on 1 Sep, 34 on 12 Nov, and 28 on 24 Dec, and from *Tiree*: 45 at Balephuill during Jan, an amazing 200+ at Crossapol on 2 Feb, 40 at Whitehouse on 27 Jul, 80 at Kenovay on 14 Sep, 60 at Mannal on 4 Oct, up to 50 at Balephuill during Nov, and 60 at Whitehouse on 14 Dec. Elsewhere, there were 29 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* in Jan and 50 at Fennachrochan (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 1 Sep.

Breeding 2008. Breeding records were received from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*, where many fledglings were noted, and it is reasonable to assume that breeding was widespread in the areas where birds were present in the pre and post breeding seasons.

2009. Similar to 2008.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh

1598

A currently very scarce migrant: last recorded on Iona in Apr 2007. All records are required.

2008. No records.

2009. Two pairs were found breeding on The Oa peninsula *Islay* by Andy Schofield. He saw the first bird on 25 May but when he returned from a spell on Shetland on 6 Jul he discovered that the pair at Kinnabus had 3 fledged juvs and the Upper Killeyan birds were still attending the nest. On 9 July Jim Dickson found at least 2 fledged young and at least 2 adults at Upper Killeyan (there may have been more!) as well as the Kinnabus birds. The last known breeding Tree Sparrows in Argyll were in the Kilchrist area near Campbeltown *Kintyre* where one was seen during Breeding Bird Atlas work in 1990. On *Islay*, small numbers may have bred in the early 1970s but since then only occasional migrants have been recorded. Although there is a small breeding population in Ayrshire, the nearest breeding birds to *Islay* are in Northern Ireland, where George Gordon (Northern Ireland recorder) informs us there is still a thriving

population (e.g. in the Lough Foyle area). This is now a description species and the above records accepted by ABRC.

RED-EYED VIREO* *Vireo olivaceus*

1633

A vagrant: the only previous record concerns one at Arinagour (Coll) in Oct 1992.

2008. A first-winter bird was seen and photographed in the garden of Croch House (Caolas) *Tiree* by Bill Allan, Jim Dickson and E. MacKinnon on 9 Oct. This is only the second record of this species in Argyll and was accepted by the BBRC (*British Birds* 102:590).

2009. No records.

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

1636

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

2008. Records were received from: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (36), *Islay* (53), *Kintyre* (29), *Mid-Argyll* (97), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (15). There were no records from *Coll* or *Jura*. On *Tiree*, there were only two sightings of 1 and 6 birds pre-breeding season and six sightings of 1-3 birds post-breeding season. Flocks of 50 or more were recorded at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (150 max in Jan), (107 max in Feb), (63 max in Mar), (51 max in Oct), Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (90 on 5 Jan), Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* (120 on 30 Jan), Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 8 Feb), Bealachandrain (SW) *Cowal* (107 on TTV on 9 Feb), Cnoc Camquhart *Cowal* (55 on TTV on 17 Feb), Ardarnock Farm *Cowal* (250 at least on 17 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (more than 60 on 15 Oct), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (160 on 16 Nov), The Oa *Islay* (apparent influx to 150 on 24 Nov), Ballimore (S) *Cowal* (100 at least on 8 Dec), Castle Lachlan *Cowal* (50 with Fieldfares and Redwings on 11 Dec), and Creag an Daimh *Cowal* (87 on TTV on 20 Dec).

2009. A considerable increase in records (partly due to BTO Atlas surveying) was received from: *Cowal* (33), *Islay* (16), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (80), *Mid-Argyll* (93), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (7), and *Tiree* (21). There were no records from *Coll* or *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* 1 to 2 birds were seen on five occasions Jan-Mar with 6 being at Mannal for most of Jan and post breeding 1 to 4 birds were seen on 6 occasions. Flocks of 50 or more were recorded at: Garraron *Mid-Argyll* (300 on 3 Jan having been present since late summer), Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* (63 on TTV on 4 Jan), West Tarbert *Kintyre* (50 on 4 Jan), Ardkinglas House *Cowal* (200 on 21 Jan), Colintrave *Cowal* (78 on 4 Feb), Point Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* (100 at least on 18 Feb), Loch Baile Mhic Chailein *North Argyll* (50 on 1 Aug), Strath (Laggan) *Kintyre* (140 on 26 Aug), Rubha Gainmhich (Loch Ba) *Mull* (80 on 10 Sep), Skipness (NE) *Kintyre* (400 approx on ABC Birding Trip on 26 Sep), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (100 on 20 Oct), Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse *Kintyre* (130 on 23 Oct), Largiebeg *Kintyre* (100 on TTV on 4 Nov), Bridgend *Kintyre* (90 on TTV on 5 Nov), Lait *Kintyre* (200 on TTV on 9 Nov), Kilchattan Hill *Kintyre* (60 on TTV on 10 Nov), Macharioch *Kintyre* (60 on TTV on 10 Nov), Whitestone *Kintyre* (50 on TTV on 17 Nov), Tom an Eich Bhain *Mid-Argyll* (51 on TTV on 2 Dec), Colachla *Cowal* (150 at least including a few Bramblings on 2 Dec), and West Tarbert *Kintyre* (70 on 20 Dec).

Breeding 2008. There were widespread reports from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. Although present on *Tiree* in spring there was no evidence of breeding. Forty territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 35 in 2007.

Breeding 2009. There were widespread reports from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Mull*. Although present on *Tiree* in spring there was no evidence of breeding. Thirty-nine territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf an average of 30 since 1990.

An uncommon winter visitor. Numbers vary from winter to winter with fewer in recent years. There have been a few summer records.

2008. In the early part of the year there were: 6 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, singles at The Lodge *Coll* on 28 Jan, Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb, RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Mar, Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar (a female), with 2 in the south of *Islay* on 13 Feb. In early winter (all singles) the first arrival was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Nov (female type), followed by Minard Castle & Bay *Mid-Argyll* also on 6 Nov, and Lagganbeg *Mid-Argyll* (an adult male caught and ringed).

2009. In the early part of the year there were only two records with 2 at Eorrabus *Islay* on 28 Jan and an immature male at Mannal *Tiree* (the first spring record for the island) on 15 Apr. The first of winter were on *Tiree* with 12 birds noted on six dates between 23 Oct and 2 Nov. Elsewhere, singles were reported from: RSPB Craighens (Gruinart) *Islay* (2 Nov), Dunmore House (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* (2 Nov), Loch Gruinart RSPB Hide *Islay* (9 Nov), Grainel (W) *Islay* (2 on 11 Nov), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (a male with Chaffinches on 22 Nov), Colachla *Cowal* (at least one heard among 150 Chaffinches), Corra Farm *Cowal* (a male on 24-26 Dec), and Otter Ferry *Cowal* (1 at least on 26 and 29 Dec).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean-daraich

1649

A locally common resident and partial migrant: with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.

2008. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll*. Records of flocks of 30 or more included: Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* (30 max for Jan), Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* (100 or more on 1 Jan), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (30 on 1 Aug), Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* (47 max for Sep), Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* (30 on 1 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (73 in two flocks on 9 Sep), Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* (47 on 2 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (30 on 8 Sep), and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* (70 max for Oct).

2009. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Mull*. Records of flocks of 30 or more were very few indeed *cf* previous years. There was a single record only: of 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Sep.

Breeding 2008/2009. Birds were present as in 2008, but breeding was only confirmed at: Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (29 May), RSPB Gruinart *Islay* (Jun), Oronsay *Colonsay* (first ever record here on 1 Jun), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (6 Jun), Ballimore *Cowal* (21 Jun), Largiemore *Cowal* (30 Jun), Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (3 Jul), and Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) *Cowal*. Again, birds were present as in 2009 but breeding was only confirmed at: RSPB Gruinart *Islay* (Jun), Scalasaig Farm *Colonsay* (5 Jun), Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (10 Jun), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (13 and 20 Jun, and 5 Jul), Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* (26 Jun), Coalfin (Skipness) *Kintyre* (9 Jul), Port Ramsey (Lismore) *North Argyll* (16 Jul), Clachaig Glen *Kintyre* (23 Jul), Kilchoman *Islay* (24 Jul), and Beacharr *Kintyre* (25 Jul).

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

1653

A thinly distributed resident but absent as a breeding species on Tiree with recent breeding on Coll and Colonsay. Flocks occur in autumn.

2008. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Coll*. Flocks exceeding 20 or so, almost all post breeding, were received from: West Darlochan *Kintyre* (14 on 22 Feb), Bellochantuy *Kintyre* (16 on 24 May), Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* (15 on 7 Jun), Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (18 on 3 Jul), Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (40 on 16 Jul), Carry Farm *Cowal* (65 feeding on seeds along the shore on 29 Aug), Auchenlochan Farm (Kames) *Cowal* (30

feeding on roadside seeds on 31 Aug and 60 on 7 Sep), Kilfinan *Cowal* (25 incl many juvs on 5 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (30 on 8 Sep), Auchnaha (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (20 on 8 Sep), Otter Ferry (N) *Cowal* (35 on roadside on 8 Sep), Kilfinan *Cowal* (20 on 10 Sep with many other flocks on roadside to Tighnabruaich), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (250 on 13 Sep), Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (30 by duck pond on 14 Sep), Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (22 behind beach on 17 Sep), Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* (40 on 24 Sep), and Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* (37 on 24 Sep).

2009. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Flocks exceeding 20 or so, almost all post breeding, were received from: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (70 on 14 Apr, 17 on 3 May, 25 on 17 Aug, 30 on 23 Aug, 25 on 11 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (35 on 5 Sep), Coul Farm *Islay* (18 on 8 Sep), Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (27 incl many juvs on shore on 10 Sep), Gortinanane (W) *Kintyre* (30 on 11 Sep), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (250 on 14 Sep), Kilchoman *Islay* (50 on 18 Sep), Fidden *Mull* (30 on 25 Sep), Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (40 along with Linnets on 26 Sep), Barr Iola (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (23 on 19 Oct), Ardvengish *Mull* (20 on 23 Oct), Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse *Kintyre* (80 on 23 Oct), Otter House (Kilfinan) *Cowal* (27 on 22 Nov), Drum Cottage *Cowal* (25 on 2 Dec), and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (29 on 4 Dec).

Breeding 2008. Records were received from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Probable or confirmed breeding records were received from: Aros Moss *Kintyre* (1 May), Lindsaig *Cowal* (9 May), Bealachandrain *Cowal* (12 May), Ballimore *Cowal* (27 May), Loch Gruinart RSPB *Islay* (Jun), Ardnave RSPB *Islay* (Jun), *Colonsay* (Jun), Kinerarach *Kintyre* (10 Jun), Ardmish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* (11 Jun), Loch Glashan Dam *Mid-Argyll* (23 Jun), Largiemore *Cowal* (24 Jun), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (26 Jun), Largiemore *Cowal* (30 Jun), Braids (N) *Kintyre* (21 Jul), Portavadie *Cowal* (5 Aug), Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* (24 Aug), and Killail *Cowal* (28 Aug). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* a pair was in the vicinity of the sheds on 6 May but no territories were identified *cf* one territory held in 2007.

2009. Records were received from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Probable or confirmed breeding records were received from: Auchindrain *Mid-Argyll* (13 Apr), Eas a' Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (16 Apr), Dun Leacainn *Mid-Argyll* (22 Apr), *Islay* (general dump) *Islay* (24 Apr), Stiallag Bheag (Loch Striven) *Cowal* (10 May), Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* (22 May), Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* (30 May), Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (6 Jun), Eas a' Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (9 Jun), Dun Leacainn *Mid-Argyll* (10 Jun), Conchra (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (11 Jun), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (15 Jun), Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (21 Jun), Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* (26 Jun), Inion *North Argyll* (30 Jun), Baile Mhaodain *North Argyll* (30 Jun), Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* (30 Jun), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (5 Jul), Lismore *North Argyll* (16 Jul), Clachaig Glen *Kintyre* (23 Jul), Beacharr *Kintyre* (25 Jul), *Coll* (various sites during Aug), and Gortinanane *Kintyre* (9 Aug). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there was a single territory found in woodland plot *cf* the average of 1.3 since 1990.

Ringling returns 2009. On 14 Apr a bird ringed as a 1st year female at Brandon Suffolk 157 days previously was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (a distance of 533 km). On 12 Oct a bird ringed as a 1st year at Sutton Weaver Cheshire on 14 Nov 2008 (332 days previously, a distance of 307 km).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Gealag-bhuidhe

1654

A locally common partial migrant. Present in all areas apart from Coll and Tiree where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.

2008. There were reports from all areas apart from *Coll*. Two individuals were noted on *Tiree* during Apr and the only *Jura* record was of an individual at Jura House on 6 Jun. In the early part of the year larger flocks noted were at: Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (52 on 1 Jan), Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* (49 on 1 Feb), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (a sudden

influx of 25 on 21 Feb), and Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (around 50 passed through garden in groups of up to 20 on 28 Feb). Incredibly, the only post breeding record received Aug-Dec was of 22 at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 26 Nov.

2009. There were records from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Islay* with only very few records from: *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree* of one or two birds. Flocks in excess of twenty were noted at: West Tarbert *Kintyre* (26 on 19 Apr), Colintrave *Cowal* (32 on 21 Apr), West Tarbert *Kintyre* (42 on 26 Apr), Feorlan *Kintyre* (21 on 8 Nov), Druma Voulin *Kintyre* (100 on 10 Nov), Tom an Eich Bhain *Mid-Argyll* (40 on 2 Dec), Kames *Cowal* (35 feeding on Alder seed on 6 Dec), and Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (35 moving through loch side Birch and Alder on 13 Dec).

Breeding 2008. Probable or confirmed breeding was noted at: Ardcastle Wood (N) *Mid-Argyll* (6 Apr), Bar Gamhaim *Cowal* (6 Apr), Barr Lagan *Cowal* (7 May), Largiemore *Cowal* (8 May), Loch Glashan Dam *Mid-Argyll* (9 May), Loch Glashan Dam (SW) *Mid-Argyll* (14 May), Moine Ghlas (Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll* (9 May), Eredine (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* (25 May), Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (25 May), Craigens *Mid-Argyll* (26 May), Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (29 May), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (29 May), Kiloran Farm *Colonsay* (1 Jun), Birdfield *Mid-Argyll* (1 Jun), Gallochoille (Gigha) *Kintyre* (11 Jun), Barr Ganuisg *Cowal* (12 Jun), Lochgair & Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* (16 Jun), Loch Bealach Ghearran *Mid-Argyll* (20 Jun), Ballimore (S) *Cowal* (21 Jun), Otter Ferry (N) *Cowal* (22 Jun), Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* (24 Jun), Moine Ghlas (Loch Glashan) *Mid-Argyll* (30 Jun), Largiemore *Cowal* (30 Jun), Creag an t' Sionnaich *Cowal* (2 Jul), Bealachandrain (SW) *Cowal* (4 Jul), and Loch Glashan (SW) *Mid-Argyll* (12 Jul). While birds were present at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*; no territories were held.

2009. Probable or confirmed breeding was recorded at: Inverawe House *North Argyll* (7 Apr), Dun Leacainn *Mid-Argyll* (22 Apr), Ardachuple Lodge (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* (22 Apr), Stiallag Bheag (Loch Striven) *Cowal* (10 May), Roc Dearg (Furnace) *Mid-Argyll* (11 May), Cnocan Donnaich Dhuibh *Mid-Argyll* (11 May), Achnagoul *Mid-Argyll* (24 May), Ardmarnock Farm *Cowal* (4 Jun), Auchindrain Hill Road *Mid-Argyll* (6 Jun), Auchindrain *Mid-Argyll* (8 Jun), Eas a' Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (9 Jun), Dun Leacainn *Mid-Argyll* (10 Jun), Kilail Burn *Cowal* (14 Jun), Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* (15 Jun), Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* (22 Jun), Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* (26 Jun), Creggans *Mid-Argyll* (28 Jun), Cruach Neuran (N) *Cowal* (29 Jun), Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* (30 Jun), Coalfin (Skipness) *Kintyre* (9 Jul), Clachaig Glen *Kintyre* (23 Jul), and Beacharr *Kintyre* (25 Jul). While occasional sightings were made at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* no territories were held; as in 2008. On only six years since 1990 have territories been held; the last in 2002.

Ringing returns 2009. A 2 year female found dead at Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr had been ringed at Dunwich Suffolk on 6 Mar 2009. A male controlled at Lagganbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun had been ringed at Alnwick Northumberland on 13 Apr 2008.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lin

1660

A sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on: Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn and winter with most reports from Colonsay, Islay, and Kintyre.

2008. The first of the year were at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (a single on 7 Jan and 20 on 20 Feb), Aros Moss *Kintyre* (5 on 22 Feb), and Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* (12 on 27 Mar). Thereafter the majority of records, through the year, were from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Kintyre*, with 10 or less from *Mull* and *Tiree*, and 3 or less from *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*. There were no *Jura* records. Post breeding flocks of 100 or more were frequent but confined to RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and Oronsay *Colonsay* with a flock of 120 at Hough *Tiree* on 1 Sep.

2009. The first of the year were at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (max 125 in Feb and 132 in Mar), Ardnave *Islay* (max 7 in Feb), and Cornaigbeg *Tiree* (2 on 30 Mar). Thereafter records were distributed much as for 2008 above. Post breeding flocks of 100 or so were again frequent but confined to: *Islay* (125 Aug max at RSPB Gruinart, 353 Sep max at RSPB Gruinart, 150 Rockside on 30 Sep, and 320 Oct max at RSPB Gruinart), *Kintyre* (150 at Tayinloan Village on 13 Sep), *Mid-Argyll* (180 at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) on 30 Jul), *Mull* (90 on Iona on 11 Aug), and *Tiree* (150 at Hough on 31 Aug, 100 at Balinoe on 4 Sep, 190 at Balinoe and Cornaig crossroads on 22 Sep, 250 at Balevullin on 30 Sep, 160 at Mannal on 4 Oct, 280 at Miodar on 11 Oct, and 90 at Balemartine on 14 Oct).

Breeding 2008. Two territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf 3* in 2007. Probable or confirmed breeding was reported from: Carnan Mor *Tiree* (P on 26 Apr), *Tiree* (P widespread on 1 May), Cnoc Camquhart (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (P on 25 May), Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (T on 1 Jun), Gallochoille (Gigha) *Kintyre* (P on 1 Jun), Achamhinish (Gigha) *Kintyre* (P on 14 Jun), *Tiree* (FL on 16 Jun), Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* (P on 24 Jun), and Braids (N) *Kintyre* (FL on 21 July). Apart from the recording areas above; birds were present during the breeding season on *Mull* (including Treshnish Isles where this was a first ever record).

2009. Three territories were found in the coastal CBC plot at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 3 since 1990. Probable or confirmed breeding was reported from: Crossapol *Tiree* (P on 14 Apr), Meall a' Ghlamaidh (Gigha) *Kintyre* (H on 22 Apr), Gortinanane (W) *Kintyre* (H on 30 Apr), Carnan Mor *Tiree* (P on 10 May), Drum Cottage *Cowal* (P on 13 May), Coalfin (Skipness) *Kintyre* (H on 31 May), RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (ON in Jun), Ardnave RSPB *Islay* (ON in Jun), Balephuill *Tiree* (FL on 14 Jun), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (FL on 18 Jun), *Tiree* (FL widespread and common in Jul), Lismore *North Argyll* (FL widespread on 16 Jul), Clachaig Glen *Kintyre* (FL on 23 Jul), Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* (FL on 24 Jul), Beacharr *Kintyre* (FL on 25 Jul), Durry Loch (The Laggan) *Kintyre* (H on 27 Jul), and Gortinanane (W) *Kintyre* (FL on 9 Aug). Apart from the recording areas above; birds were present during the breeding season on *Mull* (including the Treshnish Isles).

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

1662

A local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrants birds.

2008. Birds were recorded from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura* and *Mid-Argyll* (although birds were almost certainly present). Flocks of 50 or over were widespread outside the breeding season on: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, south *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. The largest flocks of the year were 185 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Sep followed by 130 at Meningie *Tiree* on 24 Aug.

2009. Birds were recorded from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, and *Jura* (although birds were almost certainly present). Flocks of 50 or more were widespread and more numerous than in 2008, outside the breeding season, on: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, south *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. The largest flocks of the year were: 220 at The Reef *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 220 on *Tiree* (80 Balephetrish Hill, 70 Miodar and 70 Caolas) on 29 Sep, 250 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Oct, and 250 on *Tiree* (180 Clachan and 70 Miodar) on 11 Oct.

Breeding 2008. Probable or confirmed breeding was noted from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* (Treshnish Isles), and *Tiree*.

2009. Probable or confirmed breeding was noted from: *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay), *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* (incl. Iona and Treshnish Isles), *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Ringling returns 2008. A colour ringed adult female seen at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 27 Jul had been ringed at Heysham, Lancashire. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Sep a colour ringed

male had been ringed at Light Hazzles reservoir, Lancashire in Jan 2006. It had also been seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 2006 and 2007.

2009. All eight colour ringed birds noted during spring at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* had been ringed at various locations in Lancashire in winter 2007/2008. The male ringed at Light Hazzles reservoir Lancashire (*ca* 308 km south) was present for the fourth consecutive year at Machrihanish SBO. A female colour ringed at Heysham Harbour, Lancashire in Feb 2008 was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 1 May and had fledged 4 young there in 2008. During autumn/early winter many colour ringed birds were noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* (includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & Greenland Redpoll *C. f. rostrata*) 1663.1

A scarce passage migrant and irregular winter visitor.

2008. Two birds showing characteristics of *flammea* were at Balephuill *Tiree* between 14 and 25 May (J. Bowler/Jim Dickson). Record accepted by ABRC. Other records of birds from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree* in 2008 were submitted but none were accompanied by suitable descriptions (see list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

2009. Single birds, of the nominate and *flammea* races, were photographed in Colintrave *Cowal* on 28 and 29 Apr respectively (G&D Clark). Up to 4 birds of the *flammea* race were recorded at Balephuill *Tiree* between 14 May and 2 Jun (J. Bowler) which were accepted by ABRC. One Mealy Balephuill, *Tiree* 28 Oct & 4 Nov [John Bowler], one NW (Greenland type) Whitehouse, *Tiree* 29 Sep [Ross Ahmed] and one NW (Greenland type) Mannaal, *Tiree* 4 Oct [John Bowler]. All accepted by ABRC. Other records of birds from *Coll* and *Mid-Argyll* in 2009 were reported but none were accompanied by suitable descriptions (see list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 153).

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* Dearcan-seilich 1663

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.

2008. There were 4 flocks of 10 or more: 13 (including fledged young) at Largiemore *Cowal* on 30 Jun, at least 25 at Loch Leacan (Furnace) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul, 35 feeding on birch seed at Kames Golf Course *Cowal* on 31 Aug, and 40 feeding on birch seed at Auchenlochan Farm (Kames) *Cowal* on 7 Sep. Birds were present in smaller numbers in most other areas.

2009. Few large flocks were reported. Twenty-five were at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 Feb, 12 at Clachan Seil *Mid Argyll* on 4 May, 12 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* during Jun, 16 at Cruach Muasdale *Kintyre* on 3 Jun, and 10 at Airds Bay (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov. Birds were present in smaller numbers in most other areas.

Breeding 2008. Four pairs held territory in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* 6 in 2007. Elsewhere, there were sporadic reports of probable or confirmed breeding; including for the first time, on Oronsay *Colonsay*, and for the second time on *Tiree* at Carnan Mor.

2009. Six pairs held territory at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 4 since 1990. Elsewhere, there were sporadic reports of probable or confirmed breeding.

REDPOLL sp. *Carduelis flammea/cabaret*

Records not specifically assigned to Common or Lesser Redpoll

2008. No records.

2009. No records

ARCTIC REDPOLL* *Carduelis hornemanni*

1664

A vagrant. There are only two accepted Argyll records; both of the race exilipes. One was on Islay on 22 Sep 2001 and one on Tiree on 23 Oct 2004.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-ghob

1666

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years but few stay when cones are scarce.

2008. The number of records doubled again, representing a fourfold increase on 2006. That only 30% of these records were generated by BTO Atlas work suggests that there was a larger population in Argyll in 2007/8. Notable flocks included: 22 at Avonvogie plantation *Islay* on 1 Jan, 12 at Achnacloich (E of Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan, 17 at Creag an t-Sionnaich (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 19 Jan, 14 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 5 Feb, 14 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May, 45 at Lecknacrevie Burn (Mull of Kintyre) *Kintyre* on 10 Jun, and 20 at Laphroaig *Islay* on 8 Jul. The only early winter flock was 12 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 29 Dec.

2009. The most notable of the few late winter/spring records was of 38 feeding on pines and birch at Doire Darach (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* on 27 Apr. A single bird, calling in flight over Lunga, on 30 Jun was the first record from the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. Numbers increased from Jul onwards with: 30 at Gleann Seilisdeir *Mull* on 6 Jul, 20 flying S over Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jul, 14 over Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 29 Jul, 10 at Beinn Lora (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 13 Aug, 20 at Cruach Clenamachrie (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct, 26 at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec, and 30 at Ard na Gailich (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 9 Dec.

Breeding 2008. Young were being fed at Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. Juveniles were also present at: Carradale *Kintyre* on 1 May, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May, around Otter Ferry *Cowal* in Jul, and at Gleann Salach (Barcaldine) *North Argyll* on 17 Aug.

2009. The only record of juveniles was from Monieruadh Woods (Carradale) *Kintyre* on 1 May.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1679

A rare visitor which may have bred. Twelve records 1989-2007, mostly in May and Jun.

2008. A male bird was at Ballochroy (on A82 7km N of Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 16 May [? Observer]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2009. A first summer male was singing near bird feeders at Kellan Lodge Mill (Killiechronan) *Mull* [Ben Dickinson] on 16 Jun with another at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 23 Jun [Pete Roberts]. At least two juveniles were seen at Hynish and Mannal *Tiree* on 4- 6 Oct [Jim Dickson/John Bowler]. All three records accepted by ABRC.

BULLFINCH *Pyrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

1710

A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.

2008. The only notable late winter flock was of 12 at Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 2 Jan. Only the second ever spring record from *Tiree* was of two birds, one at Carnan Mor and one at Mannal, on 19 Apr. In early winter 6 were at Achnabreck (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep and 8 at Powder Dam (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 30 Oct. During the remainder of the year small numbers were occasionally recorded from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll.*

2009. Early winter flocks reported were: 12 at Barr Lagan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 15 Feb and 9, feeding on heather, at an altitude of 268m, at Creag an Tamhaig (Glen Tarsan) *Cowal* on 17

Feb. In late winter there were: 6 at Lily Loch *Islay* on 20 Oct, 13 at Loch Arail (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec, 9 at Cruach nan Tarbh (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 19 Dec, 10 at Druim Barr na Coille (Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec, and at least 20 were in the snow at Benmore Botanic Garden *Cowal* on 23 Dec.

Breeding 2008. Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf none in 2007. Juveniles or recently fledged birds were noted at: Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 30 Jun, Loch Glashan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul, Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug, and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 14 Sep.

2009. Four territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 2 since 1990. Juveniles or recently fledged birds were noted at: Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun, Cnocan Donnaich Dhuibh (Furnace) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jun, Bealachandrain (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 25 Jun, Dalchenna *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun, and Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 26 Jul.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

1717

A rare visitor: fourteen records 1953-2005.

2008. No records.

2009. One was at Frachadil House *Mull* on 15 Jun [Andrew and Helen Mortley]. Record accepted by ABRC.

AMERICAN REDSTART* *Setophaga ruticilla*

1755

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in November 1982.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

1847

A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.

2008. There were two records from *Islay* with one at Ardnave on 3 Apr and one at The Oa from 2-3 Nov.

2009. A notable influx of birds occurred in the autumn. On *Tiree*: a group of 4 was at Cornaigbeg on 26 Sep, with records of 1, 2 or 3 birds from four other sites during 26-30 Sep, and a further 1 at Cornaigmore on 5 Oct. Two were at Ardnave *Islay* on 3 Oct. One was at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Oct.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag-an-t-sneachda

1850

Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter): along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.

Jan-May 2008. Ten of the 12 spring records from *Islay* were from Ardnave with a maximum of 5 birds on 9 and 14 Feb. Elsewhere, 1 was at Tayinloan Jetty and Bay *Kintyre* on 6 Feb and 6 were at West Darlochan (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* on 22 Feb. A single bird at Ardnave *Islay* on 5 Mar was taken by a Merlin. The last spring record was of 2 birds at Ardnave *Islay* on 6 Mar.

2009. Only 8 records were received. Three birds were at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 4 Jan, 1 was at Creagan Airighe (NN3347) *North Argyll* on 1 Feb, and 30 were at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 10 Feb. A late male was seen at Balevullin *Tiree* on 24 May.

Sep-Dec 2008. The first of autumn was a single bird at Saligo Bay *Islay* on 7 Oct. Seventeen were at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Oct, rising to 40 on 31 Oct and 41 on 13 Dec. Elsewhere, 14 were at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 1 Nov, 7 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 8 Nov and there were records of up to 5 birds from: *Colonsay* (4), elsewhere on *Islay* (5), *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* (2).

2009. The first arrival was a single at Sandaig *Tiree* on 29 Sep. There were: 8 at Soa *Tiree* on 8 Oct, 12 at Ardnave *Islay* on 31 Oct, 10 calling over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Nov, 14 at Ardnave *Islay* on 17 Nov, and 4 at Rainberg Mor (NR5787) *Jura* on 10 Dec. Other records of 1-8 birds were from: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (5), and *Tiree* (5).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag-bhealaidh 1857
A localised resident which is absent from Coll and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.

2008. Records were biased slightly towards the first half of the year. Up to 7 were seen regularly at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* between 1 Jan and 23 Mar. Four were at Tayinloan Jetty and Bay *Kintyre* on 22 Jan and 4 at Ardnacloch (Appin) *North Argyll* on 30 Jan. Elsewhere there were reports of up to 3 birds from: *Colonsay*, *Islay* (2), *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* (6), and *Mull* (2). From Jul to Dec the most seen was 4 at Uisken *Mull* on 2 Sep. Reports of 2 birds came from *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Mull*, with singles reported from: *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* (3).

2009. Records were spread fairly evenly throughout the year except for a blank month in Aug. A flock of 7, feeding with finches, at Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 28 Apr was by far the largest spring flock. Groups of 3 were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb and Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar. A male bird was a very rare visitor to Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 11 Mar. Up to the end of Jun other reports of 1 or 2 birds came from: *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (5), and *North Argyll* (3). Thereafter, the largest flock was 8 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Dec. Reports of up to 4 birds came from: *Islay* (2), *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull*, and *North Argyll* (2).

Breeding 2008/2009. Occasional pairs were seen and singing males heard but there were no reports of confirmed breeding although this may have occurred.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirius* 1858
A vagrant. A pair at St. Catherine's, Loch Fyne in June 1920 is the sole record.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* 1866
A vagrant.

2008. No records.

2009. A female at Craignure *Mull* on 9 and 10 May [Sandra Price & Alison Ingle] was the first record of this species in Argyll. This record was accepted by SBRC.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* 1873
A vagrant. Only two Argyll records: one on Islay in May 1980 and one on Tiree in June 1987.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* 1874
A vagrant. The only Argyll records are of a bird found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west of Tiree), in September 1985 and a single bird on Tiree in October 2007.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING* *Emberiza aureola* 1876
A vagrant. The only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in September 1981.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòin

1877

A locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.

Jan-May 2008. There were records from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Counts of 10 or more were exclusively from the RSPB reserves on *Islay* with up to 60 at Loch Gruinart and up to 26 at Ardnave.

2009. There were records from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Counts of 10 or more included: 59 at RSPB Loch Gruinart/Ardnave *Islay* in Jan, 18 at Achamhinish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 17 at Otter House (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 21 Jan, 30 at Killinallan *Islay* on 24 Jan, 31 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Feb, 11 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 6 Feb, and 26 at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 6 Apr.

Breeding 2008. Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 2 in 2007. On *Colonsay*, 35 pairs (the highest total ever) were on territory in Jun. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

2009. A single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.5 since 1990. On *Colonsay*, a total of 26 pairs were found on territory with at least a further 3 on Oronsay during Jun. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

Jul-Dec 2008. Counts of 10 or more included: 31 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 43 at West Parkfergus (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* on 4 Nov, 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov, 10 at Gott tip *Tiree* on 12 Nov, 12 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 12 Nov, up to 50 at The Coves (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec, and 44 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Dec.

2009. Counts of 10 or more included: 12 at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 3 Oct, 21 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 17 Oct, 26 at West Parkfergus (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 22 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Nov, 20 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 9 Nov, and 15 at Leek *Islay* on 11 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING* *Emberiza melanocephala*

1881

A vagrant with eight previous records: all of singles, during May to Jul.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* Gealag-bhuachair

1882

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.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD* *Molothrus ater*

1899

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one at Ardnave Point, Islay in April 1988.

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

ESCAPES AND INTRODUCTIONS

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E (see definitions of categories on p.12). Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

Category E*. ***Infrequent visitor to Argyll, often seen with Mute Swans.***

2008. Records of a single bird at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 13 Mar, on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 16 – 29 Apr and at L. Indaal on 30 Apr may all have involved the same individual.

2009. No records.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

Category E*. ***First Argyll record.***

2008. One seen on Lochan na Beithe *North Argyll* on 18 Feb was probably an escape from the wildfowl collection at Kintaline Mill Farm (Benderloch) *North Argyll* (Mike Harrison).

2009. No records.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Category E*. ***Reported with increasing frequency.***

2008. A single bird was reported at various locations on *Islay*, sometimes with Barnacle Geese, on 9 Feb, 13 Mar and 9 Oct.

2009. A single bird was again present on *Islay*. On 24 Apr it was reported at Braibruich paired with a domestic goose.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

Category BE*. ***Genuine wild vagrants may have occurred in Scotland in the past, but all modern records have been assumed to refer to escapes. However recent opinion is that there is still at least the possibility of genuine vagrancy. British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee have asked that every effort should be made to establish the age and sex of each individual that occurs. (British Birds 95:123-128). Full details should be sent to Jim Dickson and Paul Daw.***

2008. Three present on Oronsay 1 – 4 Aug were presumably escapes. They constitute the first Argyll record of Ruddy Shelducks since 1997, when birds were seen on *Islay* and *Tiree*

2009. No records.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Category E*. ***Widespread and probably under-recorded in Argyll.***

2008. One was at Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Mar.

2009. No records.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Category E*. ***Two Argyll records: at Dunoon in 2000-2001 and on L. Ederline (Mid-Argyll) in 2006.***

2008. No records.

2009. No records.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii*Category E*. **Recent releases in Cowal.****2008.** Males were reported in *Cowal*; at Castle Lachlan in Feb, at Otter Ferry in Mar and near the head of L. Striven in Mar and Jun.**2009.** No records.**GREEN PHEASANT** *Phasianus versicolor*Category E. **First Argyll record.****2008.** A bird very similar to Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor* crossed the road at the head of Loch Scriven on 7 Mar (Steve Petty).**2009.** No records.**INDIAN PEAFAWL** *Pavo cristatus*

Category E*.

2008. Two males and 4 females were seen at Otter House (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 2 Nov (Tom Callan).**2009.** No records.**EAGLE OWL** *Bubo bubo*Category E*. **A long staying bird was frequently reported in the Arduaine area Mid-Argyll during 1989-1991.****2008.** No records.**2009.** No records.

Other Category E species with just one or two Argyll records include: Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Cinnamon Teal, , Pelican sp., Flamingo sp., Zebra Finch and White-rumped Munia.

LIST OF REJECTED RECORDS, PENDING RECORDS AND RECORDS FOR WHICH DETAILS ARE STILL AWAITED

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been rejected since the publication of ABR 21.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
King Eider	<i>Islay</i>	08/04/2008	BBRC
Steller's Eider	<i>Islay</i>	25/09/2009	BBRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Islay</i>	21/03/2008	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	18/05/2008	ABRC
Pallid Harrier	<i>Jura</i>	01/10/2007	BBRC
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Kintyre</i>	24/05/2008	BBRC
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Kintyre</i>	06/08/2009	ABRC

Ring-billed Gull	<i>Islay</i>	18/03/2009	ABRC
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Mull</i>	15/04/2009	ABRC
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Tiree</i>	28-29/03/2008	SBRC
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Coll</i>	28/03/2008	SBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	03/02/2008	BBRC
European Nightjar	<i>Islay</i>	08/06/2009	ABRC
Bluethroat	<i>Mull</i>	11/09/2009	ABRC
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	12/05/2008	BBRC
Marsh Warbler	<i>Islay</i>	27/05/2009	SBRC

Most records are rejected not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

The following records of species on the BBRC, SBRC or ABRC are currently in circulation around the relevant rarity committees. In some instances the decision has been delayed pending receipt of further details.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Lesser/Intermediate Canada Goose*	<i>Islay</i>	Various records 2002-2009	BBRC
Redhead	<i>Tiree</i>	14/12/2005	BBRC
North Atlantic Little Shearwater*	Machrihanish SBO	07/09/2000	BBRC
Gyr Falcon	<i>Tiree</i>	24 – 28/03/2009	BBRC
American Herring Gull	<i>Tiree</i>	24/03/2007 & 07/05/2007	BBRC

* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for these species.

Details of the following claimed 2008 and 2009 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
King Eider	Machrihanish and Rhunahaorine Point,	<i>Kintyre</i>	May/June 2008
Green-winged Teal	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	Apr-May 2008
Green-winged Teal	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	29/09/2009 – 19/12/2009
Ring-necked Duck	Loch Kinnabus	<i>Islay</i>	08/05/2008
Ring-necked Duck	Garelochhead	<i>Cowal</i>	15/01/2009
Ring-necked Duck		<i>Coll</i>	20/09/2009
Great Shearwater (3)	Ferry off Coll	<i>Coll</i>	01/09/2009
Eurasian Bittern	Nr. L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	10/01/2008
Cattle Egret	Fishnish Bay	<i>Mull</i>	23/05/2008
Little Egret	Ballimore	<i>Cowal</i>	08/01/2009

Little Egret	Tayvallich	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	23/01/2009
Glossy Ibis	Knockvologan	<i>Mull</i>	16-17/09/2009
Northern Goshawk	The Oa	<i>Islay</i>	03/11/2008
Hobby	Salum	<i>Tiree</i>	11/06/2008
Hobby		<i>Mull</i>	Aug. 2009
Common Crane		<i>Mull</i>	29/05/2008
Pectoral Sandpiper	Balephetrish Bay	<i>Tiree</i>	02/09/2009
Red-necked Phalarope	Loch Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	10/06/2008
Ring-billed Gull	Caolisport	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	05/10/2008
Ring-billed Gull	Dunstaffnage Bay	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	04/01/2009
Mediterranean Gull	Port Ellen	<i>Islay</i>	25/03/2008
Mediterranean Gull	Loch Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	27/08/2008
Black Tern (2)	Sound of Iona	<i>Mull</i>	06/05/2008
European Nightjar	Loch Spelve	<i>Mull</i>	13/05/2008
European Nightjar	Fishnish	<i>Mull</i>	23/06/2008 & 16/07/2008
Wryneck	Sorisdale	<i>Coll</i>	23/04/2008
Shore Lark	Upper Killeyan	<i>Islay</i>	08/05/2008
Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	The Oa	<i>Islay</i>	12/05/2008
Red-flanked Bluetail	Colonsay House	<i>Colonsay</i>	08/10/2009
Lesser Whitethroat	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	05/10/2008
Lesser Whitethroat	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	03/11/2008
Lesser Whitethroat		<i>Coll</i>	10/05/2009
Lesser Whitethroat	Campbeltown	<i>Kintyre</i>	12/08/2009
Lesser Whitethroat	Oban	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	27/08/2009
Yellow-browed Warbler	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	05/10/2008
Yellow-browed Warbler (2)	The Lodge	<i>Coll</i>	05/10/2009
Firecrest	Dalmally	<i>North Argyll</i>	06/01/2008
Firecrest	Dalmally	<i>North Argyll</i>	07/10/2008
Eurasian Nuthatch	Cairndow	<i>Cowal</i>	20/05/2008
Eurasian Nuthatch	Jura House	<i>Jura</i>	10/12/2008

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.

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Paul Daw

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