

**The Twenty third
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the years
2010/2011**

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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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PREFACE

This report is thankfully rather more timely than its recent predecessors. To a large extent this is thanks to the assistance we have been fortunate to have from several members of the Argyll Bird Club Committee in the writing of the individual species accounts. The accounts for the sea-birds (including divers, shearwaters, herons, waders, gulls, terns and auks) were compiled by Bob Furness, Tom Callan was responsible for some of the game-birds and many of the passerine species and I wrote the accounts for wildfowl, raptors and the species covered by the various rarity committees (see below p. 8). In addition, Malcolm Chattwood wrote the accounts for some game-birds, swift, kingfisher, woodpeckers and crows, Mike Harrison the doves, cuckoo, hirundines, wagtails and pipits, Nigel Scriven the finches and Katie Pendreigh the rails. Jim Dickson went through my work on the rarities with a fine tooth comb and John Bowler kindly checked the final draft for errors and omissions. This still leaves quite a heavy workload for some of our contributors and we would like to involve more club members in the work of compiling species accounts for future reports. You do not need to be an expert birder for this task; it's simply a matter of summarising the records from our database. If you think you might be able to help with this please contact the Paul Daw or any member of the Argyll Bird Club committee.

Once again records derived from fieldwork for the BTO 2007-11 Bird Atlas project have 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 published this autumn.

Two major weather events have made a significant impact on the numbers, distribution and breeding success of Argyll birds during the period covered by this report. The winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 in the UK were the coldest in the past 25 years. This had a noticeable effect of the populations especially of resident songbirds, which can clearly be seen in the reduction in number territories found for species such as Wren and Robin during the CBC surveys at Tainish NNR. It also affected species such as Common Stonechat, which had disappeared, at least temporarily, from many of their usual locations, or had at least been greatly reduced in numbers. The other significant weather event was the gale on 23 May 2011. This was exceptionally severe for the time of year and as well as causing a noticeable burning off effect on newly emerged tree leaves wreaked havoc with the nests of species such as Osprey. We are told that such extreme weather events may become more frequent in future due to climate change, making it is even more important that we closely monitor the fortune of our local birds and other wildlife. These reports are our contribution, as a club, to this task.

As always, my grateful thanks go out to all those who sent in the records on which this report is based, to all those concerned with the writing of this publication and to our editor who has endeavoured, as ever, to maintain the high standard we aim for in this report.

Paul Daw - April 2012.

Argyll Bird Report 23

Systematic list for 2010-2011

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INTRODUCTION

The following systematic list includes entries for 236 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2010 and 231 such species recorded in 2011 (*cf.* average 218 species during the years 1993 – 2009). Four new species were added to the Argyll list (*viz.* Pallid Harrier, Brown Shrike, Red-rumped Swallow and Northern Parula), which stood at 342 species seen up to Dec 2011. Records for 5 category E species in 2010 and 2 in 2011 are also listed, as are 8 additional races* in 2010 and 10 in 2011. These totals exclude the extinct Great Auk, which *was* once found in Argyll. They also exclude Lesser Canada Goose and races of Greater Canada Goose as these records are still of uncertain status.

* 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 'Bird Recording'.

For those of you who do not have access to a computer or the internet we are happy to continue to receive your records on paper (record forms available from the Argyll Bird Recorder on request).

Advice to contributors sending in records on paper.

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

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

Rare birds

Details of all rare bird sightings should be sent in as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF. Tel: 01546 603967 E-mail: meg@jdickson5.plus.com . Please use the standard form (available from Jim Dickson, 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 passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

The list below details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description (see 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 marked #) and UK rarities assessed by BBRC (those marked β). In general any claims of birds belonging to unusual races e.g. the races of

Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed, Grey Headed etc) must be supported by a description and any species not already on the Argyll list will also require a description before being accepted.

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

Species considered by the ABRC, SBRC (# - from January 2013) and BBRC (β - as at July 2011). **NB** some of these species are not yet on the Argyll list.

Bewick's Swan	Snowy Egret β
Bean Goose	Great White Egret
European White-fronted Goose	Purple Heron#
(race <i>albifrons</i>)	White Stork
Lesser White-fronted Goose β	Glossy Ibis #
Lesser Canada Goose β	Eurasian Spoonbill (Spoonbill)
Red-breasted Goose β	Pied-billed Grebe β
Egyptian Goose#	Red-necked Grebe
Ruddy Shelduck β	Black-necked Grebe
Wood Duck β	Honey-buzzard
American Wigeon	Black Kite#
Green-winged Teal	Montagu's Harrier#
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Pallid Harrier β
Black Duck β	Goshawk
Blue-winged Teal β	Rough-legged Buzzard
Red-crested Pochard	Red-footed Falcon#
Ring-necked Duck	Hobby
Ferruginous Duck#	Gyr Falcon β
Lesser Scaup β	Spotted Crake
King Eider β	Sora β
Harlequin Duck β	Little Crake β
Surf Scoter (except adult males)	Common Crane
Smew	Avocet
Ruddy Duck	Stone Curlew#
White-billed Diver#	Little Ringed Plover
Black-browed Albatross β	Killdeer β
Cory's Shearwater#	Kentish Plover#
Great Shearwater#	American Golden Plover
Balearic Shearwater	Pacific Golden Plover β
Macronesian Shearwater β	Semipalmated Sandpiper β
Wilson's Storm-petrel#	Temminck's Stint
White-faced Storm-petrel β	White-rumped Sandpiper#
Ascension Frigatebird β	Baird's Sandpiper β
Eurasian Bittern (Bittern)	Pectoral Sandpiper
American Bittern β	Broad-billed Sandpiper β
Night-heron#	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Cattle Egret#	Great Snipe β
Little Egret	Long-billed Dowitcher β

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

Wood Lark#
 Shore Lark
 Red-rumped Swallow#
 Cetti's Warbler#
 Long-tailed Tit (northern race *Aegithalos*
caudatus caudatus) β
 Greenish Warbler#
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
 Radde's Warbler#
 Dusky Warbler#
 Western Bonelli's Warbler β
 Barred Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat*
 Dartford Warbler#
 Subalpine Warbler#
 Booted Warbler β
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler#
 Aquatic Warbler#
 Blyth's Reed Warbler β
 Marsh Warbler#
 Reed Warbler
 Eurasian Nuthatch
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Common Nightingale
 Bluethroat
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Blue Rock Thrush β
 Tree Sparrow
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)
 Citrine Wagtail β
 Richard's Pipit
 Tawny Pipit#
 Red-throated Pipit#
 Rock Pipit (race *littoralis*)
 Water Pipit
 Buff-Bellied Pipit β
 European Serin#
 Mealy (Common) Redpoll (all races)
 Arctic Redpoll#
 Scottish Crossbill#
 Parrot Crossbill#
 Common Rosefinch
 Hawfinch
 Cirl Bunting#
 Ortolan Bunting#
 Rustic Bunting#
 Little Bunting#

Yellow-breasted Bunting β
 Red-headed Bunting β
 Black-headed Bunting β
 Corn Bunting

Brown-headed Cowbird β
 American Redstart β
 Northern Parula β

* Descriptions of Lesser Whitethroat are required for all records apart from those on Coll and Tiree during Aug-Oct inclusive.

INTERPRETATION OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

As agreed by the Argyll Bird Club Committee the English and scientific names, as shown in 'The *British Birds* list of Western Palearctic Birds' (Jul 2006), are used in the species accounts below. 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.

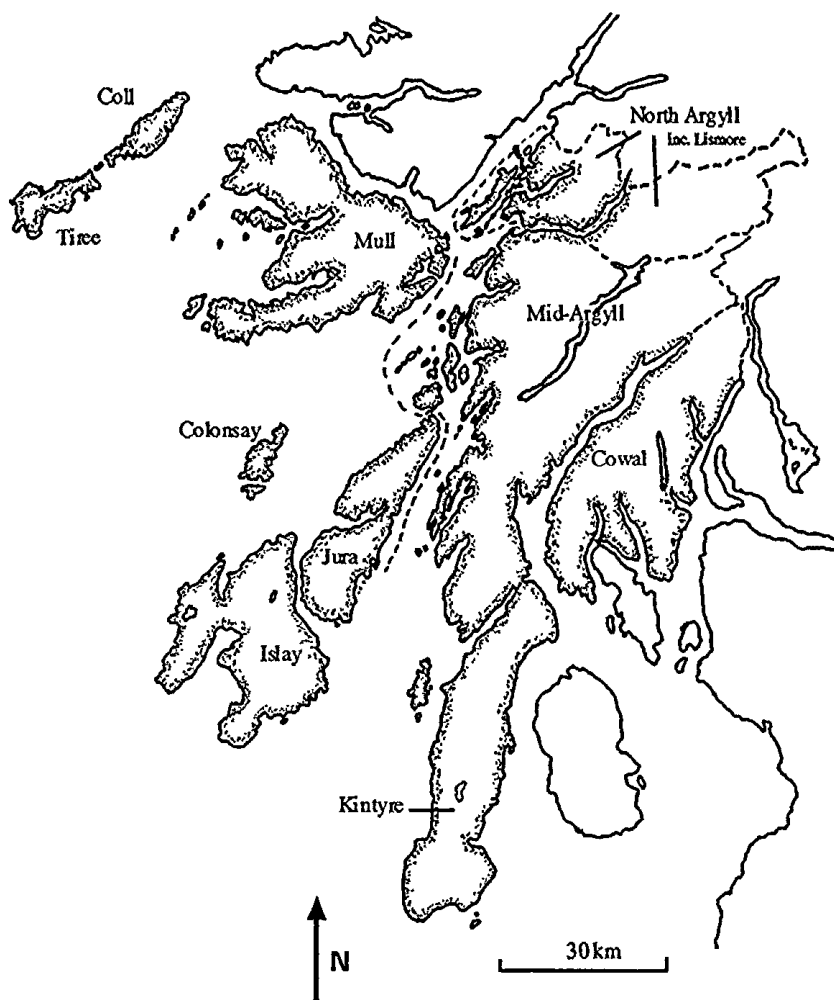
Each species heading in the report contains the following information:

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 Holt, C.A. *et al.* (2012). *Waterbirds in the UK 2010/11: The Wetland Bird Survey*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB, JNCC. The qualifying threshold for identification as such a site is generally that they hold, at some time during the qualifying period, at least 1% of the national (Great Britain) or international population of the species. The minimum qualifying count is normally 50 birds, although a lower figure has sometimes been chosen where the British population is very small. Significant 2010 and 2011 records are then listed in approximate chronological order. For scarcer species, records for 2010 or 2011 may be preceded by late records or recent acceptances from earlier years.

For the purposes of this report, Argyll is divided into 10 areas, which are named on the accompanying sketch map. Because few records have been received from Lismore in recent years, it is no longer considered a separate area but has been merged with North Argyll. For similar reasons Gigha's records are now included with those from Kintyre. Note that the boundaries of the Argyll recording area remained unchanged despite local government reorganisation in 1996. This means that places like Tarbet and Helensburgh, which are in the Argyll & Bute Council area are still covered by the Clyde Bird Club.

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



Map showing the recording areas of Argyll used in this report

Place names

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tables

Tables 2 – 3 and 5 - 8 are derived chiefly from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) goose counts. Tables 1, 9 – 21 and 30 - 40 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) and from the RSPB *Islay* database for 2010 and 2011, 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 - 28 and 41 - 44 and are taken from the Argyll Raptor Study Group monitoring summaries produced by R. A. Broad.

Figures in these tables for ‘Loch Gruinart’ represent the total for the whole of RSPB Loch Gruinart including the area known as Gruinart Floods (the area of flooded fields to the south of Loch Gruinart). Loch Crinan includes the outer Add estuary. In most cases the figures come from the respective WeBS counts for these areas although where higher counts are available these have been used. Also, ‘outer Loch Etive’ refers to WeBS counts covering the area from Connel Bridge to Taynuilt. ‘*Tiree*’ refers to WeBS counts covering the four main freshwater lochs on the island *viz.* Loch an Eilein, Loch Bhasapol, Loch Riaghain and Loch a’Phuill unless ‘monthly maximum day-counts’ are specified. Regrettably, no regular WeBS counts have been carried out for the important site of Loch Indaal *Islay* during the period covered by this report and for this reason figures for this site are missing from the tables.

Special studies carried out in 2010 and/or 2011

(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 have been used to compile the atlas, which is due for publication in autumn 2013. 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.

Sadly it appears that since John is moving to a new job in March 2013 he will no longer be able to carry out this survey work. Since this is probably the single most significant long running assessment of changing bird populations in Argyll we would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be willing to take it on.

(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. (2010 and 2011). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2010 and Results of the mink-seabird project in 2011. 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 2010 and 2011 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 *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. We are always keen to encourage new recruits and I'm delighted to say we have recently welcomed several new WeBS counters for Argyll who will cover such sites as Loch Craignish (some counts included in this report), Loch Ederline, Loch Gilp and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* and Loch Long (Ardentinny to Strone Point) *Cowal*. Data from these sites will be included in future reports. There are still plenty of other sites in Argyll that would be worth counting and, in particular, we are currently looking for someone to cover Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*. Please contact Paul Daw if you might be interested.

NB No regular counts were carried out at Loch Indaal *Islay* during the period covered by this report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Species status, categories: definitions

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

Symbols and abbreviations

ABR	Argyll Bird Report
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites

BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOURC	British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
<i>cf</i>	<i>confer</i> = compare
CBC	Common Birds Census
CES	Constant Effort (ringing) Site
<i>et al.</i>	et alii = and others
excl.	excluding
hr/hrs	hour/hours
imm.	immature
inc.	including
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum (the highest of 2 or more counts at a given locality during the period being analysed)
min.	minimum
Moine Mhor NNR	Moine Mhor National Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve
n/r	not recorded (in tables of counts, where no count was made)
nr.	near
RSPB Loch Gruinart	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve
SAMS	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Sd.	Sound
SBO	Seabird Observatory
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
Ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
TTV	Timed Tetrad Visit in connection with the Bird Atlas.
<i>Viz</i>	<i>Videlicet</i> = namely
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey

ARGYLL BIRD RECORDS 2010/11

Please note that the species accounts are now arranged in the 'new' sequence used by the BOU (and, increasingly, in recently published field guides etc.). The changes chiefly affect waders, gulls/terns and passerines. Please refer to the index for any species you can't find.

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 20,000 records annually, from a variety of sources. More detailed information from this source is available from the Argyll Bird Recorder (contact details above).

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.

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 Sandprouse.** 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 2010. The highest count reported was 50 (including 43 at Loch a' Phuill) during the WeBS count on *Tiree* on 22 Feb. The higher counts elsewhere were: 27 in Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 17 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, and 12 on Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 16 Mar.

2011. The highest count reported was 62 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Jan. The higher counts elsewhere were: 17 during the WeBS count in Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 15 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Feb, and 15 at RSPB Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 15 Apr.

Breeding 2010. At least 9 nesting pairs were noted at 7 sites on *Tiree* in late Apr; six broods of young were seen in Jun/Jul but by Aug only three broods, totalling 13 young, remained. Of six sites with nesting pairs in the Argyll part of the SAMS study area only one pair is known to have fledged 4 young: the outcome from one other pair was unknown. On *Islay*: 2 pairs reared 9 cygnets at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, a pair reared 6 young at Ardnave, and pairs with small young were seen at 2 other sites in Jun. Elsewhere, single pairs were noted at: Tarbert *Kintyre* (8 small cygnets in May, 7 remaining in Aug), Loch Craiglin *Mid-Argyll* (4 cygnets remaining in Aug), Tayinloan *Kintyre* (3 cygnets in Jul) and Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* (4 cygnets remaining in Aug).

2011. At least 11 nesting pairs were noted at 9 sites on *Tiree* in May and 6 broods of young were seen in Jun/Jul. By Aug only three broods, totalling 9 cygnets remained. On *Islay*, 3 pairs fledged a total of 14 cygnets at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, a pair reared 4 young at RSPB Ardnave, and pairs with small cygnets were seen at Loch Skerrols, and also at Inverlussa *Jura*. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, pairs were found on eggs at two sites: at one, a nest with 4 egg membranes (indicating they had recently hatched). However, no cygnets were seen later in the year anywhere in the area. On Eilean Mor, Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* there was a deserted nest with a lone female on shore nearby: a fox with two cubs were also present on the

island. Elsewhere, single pairs were noted at: Tayinloan *Kintyre* (6 small cygnets on 10 Jun), Loch Loskin *Cowal* (2 cygnets on 5 Jul), and Loch Craiglin *Mid-Argyll* (4 large young on 3 Aug). Adults were present at Clachan Burn *Kintyre* on 30 Jul and at New Ulva (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug where both were accompanied by young birds in both white and brown plumage; suggesting they were from the current and previous year's broods.

Jul-Dec 2010. The highest count was 62 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 17 Dec. Other counts in double figures included: 26 (including 4 juveniles) during the WeBS count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct, 22 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 24 Oct, 19 during the WeBS count at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep, and 12 at Rubha nam Buth *Jura* on 28 Aug.

2011. The highest count, of 55 on *Tiree* on 17 Oct, included 48 at Loch a' Phuill. On *Islay*, 53 counted at Loch Skerrols on 25 Oct included 12 juveniles. Other counts in double figures included: 30 (including 4 juveniles) during the WeBS count on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, 27 at Inverawe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug, and 16 at RSPB Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 16 Aug.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

0153

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

0154

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

Jan-Apr 2010. Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 156 on 16 Feb (at least 4 are known to have died during the freezing spell in the second week of Jan). The highest winter counts elsewhere were 63 flying north over Kilchoman *Islay* on 21 Mar and 57 were counted at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 27 Mar. Movement of migrants was noted from mid-Mar onwards and included: 34 at the north end of Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 40 flying up Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (and landing briefly) on 21 Mar, 20 flying over the Sound of Mull *Mull* on 3 Apr, 29 flying north in the Sound of Islay *Islay* on 3 Apr, 24 flying north over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Apr, 45 flying north over Machir Bay *Islay* on 8 Apr, and 16 flying north up Loch Fyne past Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. Two were still at Gruinart Farm *Islay* on 18 May.

2011. The peak count on *Tiree*, of 181 on 18 Jan, included 34 (18.8%) cygnets and the highest winter count on *Islay* was 64 at Loch Skerrols on 8 Feb. Migrating birds, reported from mid-Mar onwards, included: 25 flying west up east Kyles of Bute *Cowal* on 13 Mar, 37 flying north-west over Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 16 Mar, 10 flying west over Dunamuck (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar, 71 (in flocks of 19 and 52) flying north over The Reef *Tiree* on 24 Mar, 50 over Treshnish Point *Mull* on 28 Mar, 12 flying north over Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Apr, and 12 roosting on Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in thick mist on 18 Apr. A late bird landed on the sea, near the seabird cliffs at Binnein Riabhach *Colonsay* on 20 May, and one was at Canal Loch *Coll* on 29 May.

Summering birds 2010. A pair was present at a loch in the Ederline area of *Mid-Argyll* in Jun (with no evidence of breeding), and up to 7 birds were present on *Tiree* throughout Jul and Aug, again with no evidence of breeding.

2011. A colour-ringed (at WWT Martin Mere) bird present throughout May at Stinky Hole (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* was found dead at the head of the loch on 22 Jun. Once again, up to 10 birds were present on *Tiree* throughout Jul and Aug (no evidence of breeding).

Sep-Dec 2010. The first returning birds appeared in mid-Sep with: one at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll*, 3 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep, one at Gruinart Floods (RSPB) *Islay* on 18 Sep, and 12 flying south over Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 23 Sep. The main arrival occurred in mid-Oct when counts included: 46 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 15 Oct, 33 flying south at Machrihanish SBO and 7 flying south over Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct, 20 on Loch Assapol *Mull* on 22 Oct, 10 at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct and 37 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 31 Oct. On 13 Dec an impressive total of 234 birds (including 49 cygnets) were found during an all-island count on *Tiree*. The highest count on *Islay* of 185 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 5 Nov probably included migrants but 130 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 1 Dec would have been wintering birds. Mid-winter counts on the mainland and *Mull* were all in single figures.

2011. In mid-Sep the first returning birds arrived on *Islay* with one at Portnahaven on 14 Sep followed by 21 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 15 Sep. A group of 13 birds at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Sep included newly arrived birds. Nine were seen flying south at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 17 Sep and the 9 recorded at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* the following day were probably the same birds. Reports of flocks during the first two weeks of Oct were widespread, including: 60 at West Parkfergus (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 6 Oct, 64 on *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 125 on Oronsay *Colonsay*, and 304 between Rockside and Sunderland *Islay* on 13 Oct. Numbers continued to increase, with 144 on *Tiree* on 15 Oct and 237 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 17 Oct. Apart from 188 on *Tiree* on 21 Nov fewer were reported during the latter part of the year. Larger counts included: 36 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, 30 at Quinish Point *Mull* on 4 Nov, 30 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 30 Nov, and 69 on *Tiree* and 19 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Dec.

Table 1.1. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at Loch Gruinart in 2010.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	-	7	6	14	4	1	-	-	1	51	92	1
Tiree	145	156	100	9	9	8	7	7	12	180	151	234

Table 1.2. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at Loch Gruinart in 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	2	9	24	8	1	2	-	1	21	101	20	20
Tiree	181	168	71	13	14	10	10	7	13	144	188	69

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

0157

A vagrant, recorded in only eight of the 30 years 1980-2009.

2010. No records.

2011. On 26 Mar two *fabalis* race (Taiga Bean Goose) birds were watched and heard well, flying low NW over Carnan Mor *Tiree* [John Bowler]. Three *rossicus* race (Tundra Bean Goose) birds were present at Barran (Kilmore) *Mid-Argyll* from 24 to at least 26 Nov [Bill Allan, Simon Pinder, Jim Dickson]. Two *rossicus* race birds were present at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* from 26 Nov to at least 22 Dec [Paul French, Richard Schofield, Mike Harrison]. All records have been accepted by ABRC.

NB. From mid-November 2011 a small invasion of Tundra Bean Geese occurred in the UK with birds being noted along parts of the east coast and some birds making it through to the west. At the same time an unprecedented arrival of European White fronted Geese occurred, again in small to medium sized flocks, and as the winter progressed, very small numbers of Taiga Bean Geese were also being noted, away from traditional wintering areas. [Per Jim Dickson].

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Gèadh-gorm

0158

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

Jan-May 2010. Up to 3 birds were reported in winter from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

2011. Two groups totalling 95 birds flew north over Port Charlotte *Islay* on 9 April, 7 were settled at Victoria Bridge (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* on 20 Apr, and a total of five were present at various localities on *Tiree* from Jan to Mar. Elsewhere, only one, or occasionally, two birds were reported from: *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre*, and *Mull*.

Summering birds 2010. One was at Middleton *Tiree* on 19 Aug.

2011. Two were present with Greylag Geese at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* throughout the summer.

Aug-Dec 2010. On *Tiree*, a flock of 21 flying south over Loch a' Phuill on 17 Sep were followed by flocks of 30 over Balephuill, and 80 over Balinoe on 20 Sep. Elsewhere: at Port Charlotte *Islay*, 80 flew over south west on 23 Sep followed by ca300 on 24 Sep, and 22 flew east over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Sep. Larger flocks later in the year included: 22 at Ardnave *Islay* on 7 Oct, 175 over *Tiree* on 10 Oct, 66 flying south down Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, 850 flying south over *Tiree* on 13 Oct, 30 over *Tiree* on 15 Oct, 8 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 16 Oct, 40 at The Laggan (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 30 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Oct, and 8 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 1 Dec. Elsewhere, odd birds were reported from *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

2011. A flock of 50 flew south over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Sep, two were at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 22 flew south over Scarinish *Tiree* on 10 Sep, and 7 were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 19 Oct. Later in the year one, or occasionally two, birds were seen at various locations in: *Islay, Mid-Argyll, North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* Geadh-bhlàr

0159.0

The Greenland race A. a. flavirostris winters in a small number of traditional haunts, and is also a passage migrant. Argyll holds about 50% of the world population of this race in winter and all the locations where they occur regularly are sites of international importance in the UK. The European race A. a. albifrons is a rare vagrant.

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

0159.2

Jan-May 2010. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 9,977 birds in Argyll [Table 2.1]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,363), Clachan (153), Tayinloan (621), Gigha (245), and Glenbarr (19). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (28), Ulva (164), and Moine Mhor (15) [SNH Goose Project]. A count of 112 was made at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 3 Feb and among the 203 counted at Frackersaig (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 20 Feb a sample of 52 included 8 juveniles. Early on the afternoon of 2 Apr, a large flock numbering at least 1,500 birds were seen flying north over Tayinloan *Kintyre*. Two flocks, totalling 61 birds, were still on Lismore *North Argyll* on 24 April and the last two birds reported were on *Tiree* on 30 Apr.

2011. A flock of 35 on Gunna Island *Coll/Tiree* on 7 Jan was unusual and 26 were found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Jan. The WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 13 Feb found 69 birds. The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 11,359 birds in Argyll [Table 2.2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,866), Tayinloan (732), Clachan (147), and Gigha (114) and in *Mid-Argyll* at: Danna (33), Keills (123), Ulva (42), and Moine Mhor (17). A restless flock of 1,020 were spread over several fields at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 4 Apr. There was a rapid departure from *Tiree* in early Apr and by 11 Apr only two smallish flocks remained. On 18 Apr a flock of ca70 were seen flying north and calling, high over Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*, 21 were still at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 24 Apr, and the last reported were two at The Reef *Tiree* on 26 Apr.

Breeding 2010/2011. No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay*, and there were no other records of summering birds.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first two returning birds were with Greylag Geese at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 22 Sep. A flock of ca140 arrived at New Danna (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct which included one with the neck collar T2S, which had been marked (as an adult – probably female) at Ballylawn on Lough Swilly, County Donegal in Feb 2010 (per Tony Fox). At least 800 were present at West Parkfergus (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 8 Nov. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 10,199 birds in Argyll [Table 3.1]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,417), Tayinloan (878), Clachan (136), Gigha (76), and Glenbarr (96). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (144), Ulva (2), and Moine Mhor (16).

2011. The only records in Sep were of 9 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 19 Sep and 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Sep. The main arrival was in early Oct and on 7 Oct there were: 51 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, 15 flying south at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll*, and 5 flying south at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll*. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 26 Oct found 372 birds of which 51 (13.7%) were juveniles giving a mean brood size of 2.1 in 24 families. In Nov: a flock of 54 flew south over Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 Nov, ca300 were near Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, 69 were at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 20 Nov, 66 were at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, and 15 were at Fiddien *Mull* on 27 Nov. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 7,058 birds in Argyll [Table 3.2]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (683), Tayinloan (336), Clachan (190), Glenbarr (54), and Gigha (63) while in *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (45), Keills (85), Ulva (83), and Moine Mhor (11). This is by some way the lowest count in Argyll for many years. “After a period of increase, the Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* population has declined markedly since the late 1990s due to consistently low breeding success in recent years.” *Goose News* 11:6 (2012).

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

2.1 – Mar 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,401	207	n/r	6	294	861	105	0	5,745	114

2.2 – Mar 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,859	215	113	0	277	880	91	0	6,911	13

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

3.1 – Dec 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,603	162	n/r	30	276	632	74	24	6,384	14

There were also 189 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

3.2 –Dec 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,326	224	n/r	n/r	248	566	24	0	4,670	0

There were also 186 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

EUROPEAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. a. albifrons* 0159.1

2010. A lone adult, paired with a Greylag Goose, that had been present on *Tiree* since Apr 2009 was seen again in Jan [John Bowler]. Record accepted ABRC.

2011. At Barran (Kilmore) *Mid-Argyll* eleven were present with 3 Bean Geese, Greylag and Canada Geese from 24 – 26 Nov [Bill Allan, Simon Pinder, Jim Dickson]. Accepted by ABRC as White-fronted Geese of the ‘European’ race (*Anser albifrons albifrons*). As noted for Bean Goose, a mini-invasion of these ‘Russian’ geese occurred from mid-Nov 2011 with small flocks of birds turning up all over the UK (per Jim Dickson).

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* Geadh-bhlàr-beag 0160

A vagrant, last recorded Islay March 1986.

2010. No records.

2011. 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. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as ‘British/Irish’ and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.

Jan-Apr 2010. In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 5,095 birds in Argyll, of which 2,901 (56.9%) were on *Tiree* [Table 5.1]. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 18-19 Jan found 3,516 birds. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 230 at Glencaigs (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 225 at Ballymeanach *Islay* on 31 Jan, 215 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, ca200 at the head of Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 185 during the WeBS count on Outer Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, 180 at Mid-Ardyne *Cowal* on 10 Feb, 180 at Blarcreen *North Argyll* during a WeBS count on 19 Feb, 150 at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, and 140 on Luig *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan.

2011. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded a total of 5,014 birds in Argyll, of which 2,276(45.4%) were on *Tiree* [Table 5.2]. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 18-19 Jan found 2,732 birds. Larger counts elsewhere included: 816 at Westport Marsh (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 28 Jan, ca300 at Mid-Ardyne *Cowal* on 13 Mar, at least 220 Ardlamont House *Cowal* on 7 Jan, ca200 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* during a WeBS count on 16 Mar, 190 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar, 184 during a WeBS count at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 21 Jan, 173 during a WeBS count on the north coast of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Mar, 155 during the WeBS count on Outer Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar, 129 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 14 Feb, and 121 at Inveresragan *North Argyll* during the Loch Creran WeBS Count on 13 Mar.

Breeding 2010. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Clive Craik found at least 19 pairs breeding at 10 sites. Large numbers of broods were noted during the WeBS Count on *Tiree* on 21 Jun and an all island count on 18 Aug found 2,639 birds: of the 2,121 that were aged 726 (34.2%) were juveniles giving a mean brood size of 2.63 (N = 276 broods). Breeding was confirmed at: several locations on *Coll* in Jun, eight pairs with goslings were found on *Iona Mull* on 25 May, nine broods of young were seen on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 27 May, and 3 broods were on Loch Fiart (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 11 Jun. Elsewhere, broods of young were seen at two sites on *Colonsay*, two sites in *Cowal*, at least four on *Islay* (including several family groups on Loch Gorm), one in *Mid-Argyll*, and three on *Mull*.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area Clive Craik found at least 18 pairs breeding at 7 sites. During the WeBS Count on *Tiree* on 18 Jul, 639 were found at Loch a' Phuill (of which 89 were juveniles in 30 broods) and an all island count on 31 Aug-1 Sep found 2,236 birds: of

the 1,943 that were aged 645 (33.2%) were juveniles giving a mean brood size of 2.69 (N = 239 broods). Eight broods of young were seen on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 May and two or more broods of young were in the Sgeir na Fheoir / Fladda area of the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in Jun. On *Islay*, two pairs fledged 10 young at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* and broods of young were found at two other sites. Elsewhere, broods of young were seen at one site in *Cowal* and two on *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2010. By 9 Aug there were 1,190 birds at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* but the highest all-island count on *Tiree* was on 15 Nov, when 2,743 birds were found. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 4,717 for Argyll [Table 5.1]. Larger counts elsewhere included: ca800 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 16 Oct, 426 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Dec, 208 during the WeBS count on Outer Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov, ca200 at the head Loch Craignish on 26 Nov, 156 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 14 Nov, 150 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Sep and 147 at Ardyne Farm *Cowal* on 1 Dec.

2011. By 16 Aug there were 1,120 birds at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* and 826 were counted on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Aug. The highest all-island count on *Tiree* was on 17 Nov, when 2,259 birds were found (a lower than normal number) and larger counts elsewhere included: ca700 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 9 Oct, 241 at Ardnave RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 14 Sep, 200 or more at Killiechronan *Mull* on 8 Oct, 189 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 15 Nov, 128 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 12 Sep, and 126 during the WeBS count on Outer Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct. In Dec, the co-ordinated goose count produced a total of 3,596 for Argyll [Table 5.2].

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

5.1 – Mar 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
762	181	0	468	2,901	198	12	546	27

5.2 – Mar 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,249	192	n/r	526	2,276	0	7	568	106

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

6.1 – Dec 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
704	116	n/r	476	2,556	87	0	729	49

There were also 6,070 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

6.2 – Dec 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
599	104	n/r	0	2,153	0	0	703	37

There were also 1,400 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* Gàadh-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 2010. The only record was of the regular white morph bird (of unknown provenance) seen with Greylag Geese in the Craobh Haven/Loch Craignish area of *Mid-Argyll* from early Jan to 8 Apr.

2011. Once again the regular white morph bird was seen with Greylag Geese in the Craobh Haven/Loch Craignish area of *Mid-Argyll* from early Jan to mid-May. The only other record was of 2 at Treshnish *Mull* on 11 May.

Breeding 2010/2011. There were no reports regarding the *Coll* feral flock during the breeding season in either year but 3 immatures were reported with 22 adults at Breachacha *Coll* on 22 Oct 2011.

Sep-Dec 2010. Again the only record was of the regular white morph bird with Greylag Geese in the Craobh Haven and Loch Craignish areas of *Mid-Argyll* from mid-Aug to the year end.

2011. A flock of 15 was reported at Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 21 Oct and the white morph bird in the Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* area was reported again from Sep to Nov. A fine adult blue-phase bird found with Greylag Geese at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 12 Oct was seen again regularly until mid-Dec. On 26 Dec, a "scruffy looking" intermediate bird was found among Barnacle Geese at Carrabus *Islay*. It was seen again near Newton House *Islay* on 29 Dec.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh 0166
The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with increasingly frequent breeding attempts elsewhere. A transatlantic origin seems probable for at least some of the medium-sized and small individuals seen in winter goose flocks on Islay and Tiree. See also Lesser Canada Goose below.

Jan-May 2010. Larger flocks reported included: ca200 at Appin *North Argyll* on 21 Feb, ca180 at the head of Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 168 during the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 21 Feb, 150 at Portnacraoish *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, 85 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb, 60 at Mid-Ardyne *Cowal* on 10 Feb, 60 during the WeBS count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Mar, 54 at Camas Bruaich Ruaidhe (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 48 at Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 10 Apr, 37 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, and 35 at Cnoc Mor (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan.

There were at least 4 records on *Tiree*, claimed to be of birds belonging to the race *parvipes* (see Lesser Canada Goose below).

2011. Larger flocks included: 154 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar, 125 at the head of Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan, 106 during the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 13 Feb, 52 at Inveresragan (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 28 Feb, 51 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 12 Feb, 40 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 27 Jan, and 37 at Craigentaggart (Glen Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan.

Breeding 2010. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; at least 33 pairs were recorded nesting at 16 sites. Territorial pairs were found at two sites on *Jura* in late Mar/early Apr. Pairs with young were present: at Island of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May, at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 16 May, on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 May and at Davaar Island *Kintyre* on 20 May. Six adults and 5 juveniles were at The Black Lochs *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun, and 12 recently fledged young were at Portinnisherrich (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area; at least 34 pairs were recorded nesting at 12 sites. A pair attempted to breed at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* and pairs with young were seen at: High Smerby *Kintyre*, Shuna Sound *Mid-Argyll*, Sound of Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*, Lephinmore (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, Kames *Cowal*, and Powder Dam (Millhouse) *Cowal*.

Aug-Dec 2010. Larger counts included: at least 227 in the River Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug, 189 during the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Nov, 174 near

Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec, ca160 at Barran (Kilmore) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, 130 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 2 Oct, 122 at Ardyne Farm *Cowal* on 1 Dec, 73 at Dunamuck (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug, and 40 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 21 Oct.

2011. On 8 Aug at least 550 were at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*. To date this is the highest count at one place in Argyll but at the rate numbers are increasing the record may not stand for long. Larger flocks elsewhere included: 183 during the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Dec, 176 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 26 Oct, ca120 feeding with Greylag Geese at Caignure *Mull* on 1 Sep, 65 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug, 64 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug, 43 during the WeBS Count at Loch Craignish on 18 Dec, and 38 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 15 Nov.

Two birds, claimed to be of the race *parvipes*, were seen at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 14 Oct (see Lesser Canada Goose below).

[LESSER CANADA GOOSE/CAKCLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii*

What were formerly the races minima and hutchinsii of Canada Goose are now included with this new species. Although there have been many claims over the years of birds of this type, especially on Islay, there are currently no records accepted by BOURC. To confuse matters still further, the form parvipes, which was formerly included with this group, is now considered by BOU as a race of Greater Canada Goose. Also, some sources now use the name Cackling Goose for Lesser Canada Goose. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these birds.

2010. There were at least 30 records of birds on *Islay* and *Tiree* claimed to be of the race *hutchinsii*, ('Richardson's').

2011. There were at least 42 records of birds on *Islay* claimed to be of the race *hutchinsii* or *minima*.

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. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinns of Islay.

Jan-May 2010. The SNH co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 45,848 birds (*cf* 47,953 in 2008 and 51,903 in 2009 and the record count of 62,323 in 2007). The peak winter count on *Tiree* was 3,729 on 16 Feb and larger flocks, not covered by the co-ordinated goose counts, included: 450 in flight at Toberonochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb and 440 on Shuna *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan. One with the ring JTI was still at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 30 May.

202011. The co-ordinated goose count in Mar recorded an Argyll total of 43,042 birds. Again the great majority (35,661 or 82.9 %) were on *Islay* [Table 7.2]. No counts were received from *Mid-Argyll* or *Mull*. Eight were still on the shore at Ardnave *Islay* on 15 May.

Summering birds. 2010. One was seen with Greylag Geese on *Tiree* from Jun to Aug.

2011. Up to 3 were reported at various sites on *Islay* in Jun and Jul.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first returning birds reported were on *Islay*, with 19 at Sunderland Farm on 25 Sep but the main arrival was in mid-Oct including ca1000 flying south over *Tiree* on 13 Oct. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Dec, *Islay* had 44,844 birds which accounted for 88.2 % of the Argyll total of 50,526 [SNH Goose Project, Table 8.1].

2011. The first returning birds on *Islay* were 12 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 9 Sep and ca 4,500 were reported flying over Treshnish *Mull* on 10 Oct. The peak count on Oronsay

Colonsay was 2,511 on 11 Nov and the Dec co-ordinated goose count total for Argyll was 47,769, with 42,595 (or 89.2 %) of these on *Islay* [Table 8.2].

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

7.1 - Mar 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
56	588	n/r	711	3,725	389	1,711	38,621	47

7.2 – Mar 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
38	715	n/r	382	4,190	0	2,056	35,661	0

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

8.1 – Dec 2010.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
76	554	n/r	400	3,029	0	1,623	44,844	0

8.2 – Dec 2011.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
25	532	n/r	0	2,934	307	1,376	42,595	0

Hybrid BARNACLE X CANADA GOOSE.

0167.5

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.

2010. A flock of 41 hybrids flew east over The Laggan Kintyre on 18 Aug.

2011. No records submitted.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

0168

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

Jan-May 2010. On *Islay* there were 8 were at Glenburn (Loch Indaal) on 1 Jan. Flocks were subsequently reported regularly on *Islay* throughout the winter and spring, including: 14 at Port Charlotte on 12 Jan, 28 at Bowmore on 19 Jan, 34 at Bruichladdich on 5 Feb and 19 on 10 Mar, 17 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) on 22 Mar, 25 on Loch Indaal on 3 Apr, 58 coming in at Gortan on 22 Apr, and a flock of 282 flying in at Bruichladdich early on 23 Apr. The latter included 20 ringed birds, some of which had been reported at Strangford Loch, County Down, Northern Ireland at 17.40 on 22 Apr. Reports elsewhere included: 41 at Glas Eilean (Mucraidh) *Jura* on 21 Mar (27 were still there on 31 Mar), ca150 flying between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 16 Apr, ca 350 in two flocks on *Tiree* on 17 Apr, a total of 418 at various places on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 17 Apr, 450 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 18 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 25 Apr and 22 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 28 Apr. Smaller numbers were still being seen in May, including: 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 May, 80 or more at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 3 May, 8 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 5 May, 29 at Gortan *Islay* on 17 May, and 2 on *Iona Mull* on 24 May. A single late bird was seen on Gunna Island *Coll/Tiree* on 14 Jun.

2011. Up to 30 were recorded at several sites on *Islay* between early Feb the end of Mar. As usual, larger numbers were seen in Apr, including: 55 at Gortan *Islay* on 9 Apr, 33 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Apr, 325 (including 8 ringed birds) at two sites on *Tiree* on 16 Apr, ca200 flying south (!) over Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Apr, 45 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 21 Apr, and 75 at Gortan *Islay* on 24 Apr. Single figure numbers were seen at various sites up to mid-May. A scattering of sightings in Jun included a pale-bellied bird with a dark-bellied individual at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 2 Jun, 8 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 Jun, and one at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 22 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. The first returning birds were 28 at Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep followed by 60 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep. Good numbers in Oct included: ca800 flying over *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 570 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 7 Oct, 74 (in three flocks) on *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 300 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 11 Oct, 64 at Bowmore *Islay* on 11 Oct, 24 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Oct, 150 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 13 Oct, 10 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Oct, and 20 at Gartmain *Islay* on 18 Oct. Smaller numbers later in the year included: 21 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 10 Nov, 25 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Nov, 26 at Gortan *Islay* on 20 Nov, and 37 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Nov and 34 on 29 Dec.

2011. The first returning birds were: 50 at Port Haunn *Mull* on 6 Sep, followed by ca20 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 8 Sep, and 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Sep. Larger numbers later in the month included: 50 over Toba *Mull* on 22 Sep, ca100 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 22 Sep, 48 flying S low over Machrins *Colonsay* on 22 Sep, 7 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 25 Sep, 277 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 28 Sep and 247 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 30 Sep. Unusually high numbers were reported from Oct to the end of the year including: 34 at Treshnish Point *Mull* on 6 Oct, 280 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 6 Oct and 76 on 14 Oct, 40 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 25 Oct, 23 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, 37 at Foreland *Islay* on 8 Nov, 15 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Nov, 47 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 19 Nov, 18 at Bowmore *Islay* on 9 Dec, and 53 at Gartmain *Islay* on 30 Dec.

A single **dark-bellied Brent Goose** (*B. b. bernicla*) was reported on *Tiree* on 2 Jun 2011 (see above) and two at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Nov 2011 was the first record at this site.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

0169

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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 2010. Apart from those in Table 9.1 the largest counts were: 39 on *Tiree* (27 at Salum Bay, 12 at Loch a' Phuill) on 15 Mar, 17 at Ardpatrik House *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, and 13 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 3 Feb.

2011. Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 9.2, included: 41 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Apr, 33 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 30 Apr, 28 at Ardnave RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 9 May, 22 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Feb, 20 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Feb, 20 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 May, 17 at Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride Bay) *Cowal* on 2 May, 15 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 May, 14 at Loch Aulaig *Tiree* on 18 Apr, and 11 on Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Four pairs bred at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and 9 pairs hatched 75 young in the Machrihanish area in May and Jun. Pairs with young were also seen at: Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*, Eilean nam Ban (Sound of Iona) *Mull*, Bridgend (Loch Indaal) *Islay*, Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, Salum Bay *Tiree*, Islandadd Bridge (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*, Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre*, Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre*, and Port Appin *North Argyll*. Four pairs were present at Otter Ferry *Cowal* and 4 at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* in Apr. Two pairs were present on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in Jun.

2011. Three broods were found on Oronsay *Colonsay* in May and 17 pairs with 9 broods on *Colonsay* in Apr. Pairs with young were also seen at: Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Gartbreck *Islay*, Bellochautuy Bay, Gortinanane, Machrihanish SBO, Smerby, and Tayinloan *Kintyre*, Islandadd Bridge (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*, Calgary *Mull* and at: Clachan Mor, Port Chunn Neill, and The Ringing Stone *Tiree*. There was no evidence of breeding at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay*.

Aug-Dec 2010. Apart from those in Table 9.1 the only counts of more than 10 birds were: 18 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 31 Jul and 11 at Crinan ferry (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug. On 7 Nov, two were seen from the Tarbert-Portavadie Ferry *Kintyre* in choppy water mid-way across Loch Fyne, being blown towards Tarbert by the strong wind.

2011. Other than those listed in Table 9.2, counts of 10 or more birds included: 25 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Nov, 20 at Bridgend (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 21 Dec, 13 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 16 Jul, and 10 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 11 Dec.

Table 9 Maximum monthly counts of Shelducks at Loch Gruinart, Sound of Gigha and Loch Sween.

2010.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	71	207	144	97	79	92	2	0	1	2	30	122
S. o. G	4	12	2	13	n/r	17	0	0	0	0	3	n/r
Sween	18	15	28	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

2011.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	272	235	268	53	34	60	0	0	0	6	54	157
S. o. G	4	3	12	39	0	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	16
Sween	15	15	16	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	0	0

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.

2010. A pair was found nesting at Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun and five, including two males, were seen on Dubh Loch (Glen Shira) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep.

2011. There were no reports.

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

0179

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

2010. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 10, included: Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (75 on 24 Feb), Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 24 Jan), head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* (60 on 13 Feb), Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (60 on 9 Jan), and Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* (50 on 23 Mar).

2011. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 10, included: Bridgend Merse (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (349 on 21 Feb), Westport Marsh *Kintyre* (154 on 6 Feb), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (74 on 10 Feb), and Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (54 on 5 Feb).

Breeding 2010. A female was with two well grown young at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 27 Jun, and a pair at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* in late May were considered possible breeders.

2011. Two males and a female with a brood of 8 chicks were at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 22 Jun and at least two pairs at lochs on *Tiree* in late May were considered possible breeders. No young were seen with the two pairs present at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* in Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 10, included: Loch Skerrols *Islay* (max. ca400 on 20 Nov), Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (max. 240 on 30 Sep), Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (103 on 17 Oct), Kilmun (Holy Loch) *Cowal* (88 on 27 Nov), Oronsay *Colonsay* (70 on 1 Dec), Glenramskill Jetty (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* (56 on 25 Nov), and Ardnave Loch *Islay* (53 on 19 Nov).

2011. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 10, included: Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (max. 300 on 3 Oct), Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* (ca300 on 18 Dec), Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* (max. 198 on 7 Oct), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (max. 132 on 25 Oct), Ardlamont Bay *Cowal* (72 on 15 Dec), Oronsay *Colonsay* (60 on 31 Oct and 14 Dec), Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (56 on 24 Feb), and Loch Gearach *Islay* (50 on 9 Dec).

Table 10. *Maximum monthly counts of Wigeon at regularly monitored sites that held 50 or more birds in winter, viz.: Loch Gruinart, Islay, Lochs Etive and Sween, Mid-Argyll, Holy Loch, Cowal and on Tiree.*

2010.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	298	164	107	69	1	0	0	0	16	138	186	67
Sween	43	33	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	44	n/r	67
Etive	133	103	102	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	44	53	118	n/r
Holy Loch	19	91	56	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	11	n/r	55	59
<i>Tiree</i>	199	237	137	5	2	2	15	24	55	108	243	254

2011.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	109	115	107	86	4	4	0	0	20	191	177	158
Sween	116	112	19	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	10	59	117	75
Etive	135	90	104	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	35	84	103	127
Holy Loch	67	67	50	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	2	61	67	86
<i>Tiree</i>	162	108	149	66	3	2	3	6	33	145	157	189

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

0180

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

2010. No records.

2011. A drake found at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 14 Oct remained there until at least 16 Oct [Peter Roberts, Bob Davidson *et al*]. There are additional dates for this bird, at Gartmain and Loch Skerrols, into late Oct - early Nov. "I believe it was seen by numerous observers and therefore some photos are likely to have been taken although I have yet to see any." (Per Jim Dickson). Accepted by ABRC as Gartmain 14-16 Oct.

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.

2010. The highest numbers reported were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve Islay where there were 12 on 20 Apr and 10 on 11 Nov with smaller numbers in: Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Oct, and Nov. On 27 Apr on Tiree, 3 pairs were present at Kilmoluaig/Loch Bhasapol and a pair at Vault: a high total for *Tiree*. There were regular sightings of 4 drakes and 3 females at Loch Bhasapol, in May and breeding attempts are thought likely. A pair was present on Oronsay *Colonsay* through Apr and early May with 1 there on 24 Aug and two pairs were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* in Jun but with no evidence of breeding in either case. The only records elsewhere were in the Machrihanish area of *Kintyre* where up to 3 birds were recorded Oct-Dec and at Port nam Partan (Calgary) *Mull* where two were reported on 26 Nov.

2011. Once again highest numbers were at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, where there were 9 on 26 Apr and 12 on various dates in Oct and Nov. Up to 7 were seen on *Tiree* throughout the year with up to 3 pairs in the breeding season. On 13 Jul a female with a brood of 5 young was seen at Kilmoluaig *Tiree*. Pairs were present at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* in the breeding season but again no young were seen. Up to 7 were on *Tiree* from Aug to Nov and up to 12 at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* in the latter part of the year. A pair was in the Machrihanish (*Kintyre*) area during Apr and two were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* in Sep. The only record elsewhere involved a single first winter male at Connel *Mid-Argyll* in Nov and Dec.

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

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

Jan-Jun 2010. The only counts of 50 or more birds, at sites other than those listed in table 11, were: 57 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Jan and 50 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 11 Jan.

2011. Counts of 50 or more birds, at sites other than those listed in table 11, included: 116 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 13 Feb, 73 on Loch na Keal *Mull* on 13 Feb, and 52 at Sandbank (Holy Loch) *Cowal* on 16 Mar.

Breeding 2010. On *Islay*, 18 pairs were found at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 4 pairs bred at Ardnave. At least 15 pairs were located at likely breeding sites on *Tiree* in May. Three or more pairs with young and 3 or more at likely breeding sites elsewhere were found on *Colonsay* and at least 3 additional pairs were present on Oronsay. Pairs were also seen at suitable sites in the breeding season at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal*, Balnagown Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* (2) and Appin *North Argyll*.

2011. On *Tiree*, at least 12 pairs were breeding at 7 or more sites. On *Islay*, 7 pairs were breeding at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and one pair at Ardnave. A pair with two young was seen on East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 19 May and at least 4 pairs were present on Oronsay *Colonsay* in the breeding season. In the Eredine area of *Mid-Argyll*, a pair were seen on a diver raft at Lochan a' Bhruic and a pair with 4 large ducklings were at Lochan nam Breac Buidhe on 5 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2010. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11, included: 190 at An Fhoadhail *Tiree* on 17 Nov, 82 on Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Dec, and 65 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 5 Oct. Counts of around 50 were reported from: Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Tiree* on 4 Sep, Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, Loch Gorm *Islay* on 25 Sep, Gartnatra *Islay* on 3 Nov, and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Dec.

2011. Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 11, included: 245 at Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 20 Nov, 150 at An Fhoadhail *Tiree* on 16 Dec, 115 at Kinnabus (Oa) *Islay* on 27 Nov, 64 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 80 on the western

coastline of Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Dec, 61 on Holy Loch *Cowal* on 10 Oct, and 60 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 30 Nov.

Table 11. *Maximum monthly counts of Teal at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve Islay and on the Tiree freshwater lochs (i.e. all monitored sites which regularly held 100+ birds in the winter months).*

2010.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	427	509	259	219	10	9	4	n/r	67	381	1,194	132
Tiree	132	179	172	10	30	2	2	27	60	115	225	160

2011.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	206	563	591	157	5	19	n/r	25	n/r	509	1,135	1,116
Tiree	171	132	53	25	24	n/r	2	30	39	250	86#	361

Many more were on floods and around the coast.

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

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* 0184.2

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

2010. A male seen at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 25 Apr was accepted by ABRC as a returning bird [James How]. A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7-28 Nov 2010 [John Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2011. No records.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach 0186

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Jan-Jun 2010. Counts exceeding 50, other than those listed in Table 12, included: 319 at the head of Loch Striven *Cowal* on 22 Jan, 64 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 61 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 13 Mar, 60 at Glencraigs (the Laggan) *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 54 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 26 Jan, and 54 at Loch Loskin *Cowal* on 10 Feb.

2011. Counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 12, included: 78 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Jan, and 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 20 Feb.

Breeding 2010. On *Islay*, 41 pairs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 6 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Pairs with young were also reported from 2 other sites on *Islay* and from: *Coll* (one site), *Colonsay* (5 sites including 2 on Oronsay), *Cowal* (3 sites), *Kintyre* (brood on the sea at Machrihanish SBO), *Mid-Argyll* (2 sites), *Mull* (2 sites), *North Argyll* (2 sites) and *Tiree* (2 sites).

2011. On *Islay*, 63 pairs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 7 pairs at RSPB Ardnave. Pairs with young were also reported from one other site on *Islay* and from: *Colonsay* (4 sites incl. 2 on Oronsay), *Cowal* (2 sites), *Kintyre* (3 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (5 sites), *Mull* (2 sites) and *Tiree* (3 sites).

Aug-Dec 2010. Counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 12, included: 59 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep, 59 at sandbank (Holy Loch) *Cowal* on 1 Dec, and 50 at Bowmore (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 19 Nov.

2011. The only counts exceeding 50, other than those listed in Table 12, was ca100 on Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Nov.

Table 12 *Maximum monthly counts of Mallards at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay, Loch Creran, Loch Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs (i.e. all regularly monitored sites which held 50+ birds in the winter months).*

2010.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	61	54	13	19	80	82	37	n/r	48	76	91	54
Creran	n/r	58	62	8	13	10	n/r	14	n/r	25	42	n/r
Etive	239	258	93	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	129	87	125	160
Holy Loch	n/r	117	123	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	152	n/r	155	118
Tiree	70	126	60	14	32	53	88	165	45	67	23	97

2011.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	5	62	82	22	47	43	n/r	14	52	145	83	79
Creran	29	59	16	8	7	7	6	8	39	54	14	7
Etive	163	84	81	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	100	88	98	103
Holy L.	115	52	34	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	116	105	153	150
Tiree	74	41	33	14	8	35	52	16	137	5#	47	93

Many more were on floods and around the coast.

BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

0187

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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 2010. The highest count was 69 at Loch Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 18 Jan and the most reported on *Tiree* was 9 at Loch Riaghain on 6 Jan. Smaller numbers elsewhere on *Islay* included 8 on Loch Indaal on 24 Mar. None were recorded away from these two islands.

2011. The highest count at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve was 41, found on both 18 Jan and 10 Feb. Only single birds were recorded on *Tiree* until Apr when 12 were found at potential breeding sites. The only records elsewhere were singles at Machrihanish Seabird SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Mar and at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 26 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Up to five pairs were present on *Tiree* during the breeding season and a fledged brood of young were seen in late Jul. There was no indication of breeding on *Islay*.

2011. Six pairs were located at suitable breeding sites on *Tiree* in Apr and 5 pairs were present throughout May: a fledged brood of young were seen in early Jul. There was no indication of breeding on *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Numbers at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* peaked at 60 on 10 Nov and 17 were seen in Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 16 Oct. Six were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Aug, after which, no more than 3 were reported anywhere on *Tiree*. The only records elsewhere were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, where odd birds were recorded in Sep and Oct however, on 31 Oct, an unusually large flock of 19 was noted.

2011. The highest number at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve was 57, counted on both 19 Oct and 20 Dec. The only record elsewhere on *Islay* was one at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) on 4 Oct.

Fourteen were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Sep after which no more than 4 were reported anywhere on *Tiree*. The only records elsewhere were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where there were 8 on 12 Sep and singles in Oct and at Holy Loch *Cowal*, where one was present during the WeBS Counts in Nov and Dec.

Table 13. *Maximum monthly counts of Pintails at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve, Islay.*

2010.

Loch Gruinart	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	69	51	31	11	1	0	0	0	2	26	60	17

2011.

Loch Gruinart	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	41	41	34	11	2	0	0	0	9	57	55	57

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.

2010. Two were seen at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 23 Apr, a female was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Apr, a drake was at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 28 Apr and a drake was at Gortinanane (Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 9 May.

2011. A drake was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 and 24 Apr. A pair was found at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 2 May with three there the following day and two were reported at Cliad, Coll on 6 May 2011. One or two were present at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* throughout May although there was no evidence of breeding.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

0192

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

2010. A male was photographed at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 1 May [Bruce Hyde, Rodney Taylor *et al*] and what was presumed to be the same individual was seen off the coast of Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 May [Keith Helm]. Both records were accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 104:563).

2011. 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 2010. Away from *Islay* (where numbers were well down on recent years) and *Tiree* [Table 14], the only records were of up to 4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* from Apr to Jun.

2011. Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 14], one or two were on Oronsay *Colonsay* from Apr to Jun and a pair was at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* in May.

Breeding 2010. Twelve or more pairs were found nesting on *Tiree* and at least two broods of young were noted. At Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay*, 14 pairs were found in the breeding season and at least one female was seen with ducklings. A pair was present on Oronsay *Colonsay* throughout the breeding season but no young were seen.

2011. On *Tiree*, a minimum of 13 pairs were found in May but only one brood of young was noted. At Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay*, 14 pairs were found in the breeding season: outcome unknown. A pair was present on Oronsay *Colonsay* throughout the breeding season but again no young were seen and vegetation prevented a good view of a female at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* in May (suspected of incubating eggs).

Aug-Dec 2010. Away from RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 14] the only records concerned a first winter male at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep, a drake and two ducks at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 24 Nov and three on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Dec.

2011. The majority of records were on *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 14] but at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* an eclipse drake was present in Aug and four female/juveniles in Nov while a female/juvenile was seen at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29 Jul.

Table 14 *Maximum monthly counts of Shovelers at RSPB Loch Gruinart and on Tiree.*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	7	8	28	16	9	28	0	0	4	23	51	n/r
Tiree	10	16	7	16	24	11	6	6	2	6	10	10

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	4	19	25	7	7	10	0	0	8	35	64	41
Tiree	6	8	4	18	26	1	3	3	0	0	7	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 and this is now a scarce species in Argyll

2010. The only records concerned two at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 17 Feb with three there on 19 Nov and single drakes at: Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Feb and 7 Nov, Loch Gorm *Islay* on 16 Oct, Loch nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov, and at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Dec.

2011. Most records were from *Tiree*, where there were: up to 8 on Loch an Eilein in Jan and up to 3 in Nov, and at Loch a' Phuill, a drake in Oct with three in Nov and Dec. The only records on *Islay* were: 4 at Loch Skerrols on 4 Jan with 3 there on 13 Nov, 5 drakes on Loch Gorm on 7 Mar, and one at RSPB Gruinart Floods on 18 Nov. The sole mainland record concerned a drake at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Sep.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* 0200

A rare visitor from North America: the first accepted record in Argyll was in 1982, with at least 15 further records to 2011.

2010. A male was found with Tufted Ducks at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 13 Apr [David Fairhurst]. Record accepted by ABRC. There were further unconfirmed reports on *Islay* until early May.

2011. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca* 0202

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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 2010. During the goose count on *Tiree* on 5/6 Jan, 160 were found around the island, including 118 at Loch Bhasapol. Other than those listed in Table 15 the only sites with counts of

10 or more were: Loch Nell *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 1 Jan), Ardnahoe Loch *Islay* (47 on 3 Jan), Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* (max. 27 on 14 Jan), Loch Gorm (15 on 9 Feb), Loch Fiart (Lismore) *North Argyll* (14 on 20 Feb), Balnagown Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* (11 on 21 Feb) and Loch Ballygrant *Islay* (21 on 23 Mar).

2011. Other than those listed in Table 15 the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* (24 on 25 Jan), Loch Allan *Islay* (22 on 23 Jan), Loch Glenastle (The Oa) *Islay* (max. 20 on 17 Feb), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (10 on 22 Feb), and Loch Ballygrant *Islay* (10 on 23 Jun).

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree* in May, up to 11 pairs were found at 3 sites including 9 pairs at Loch Bhasapol with at least one brood of young seen. Ten pairs were present at Ardnave Loch *Islay*: outcome unknown.

2011. On *Tiree* in May, 11 pairs were found at 3 sites including 9 pairs at Loch Bhasapol with at least 5 broods of young seen. Eleven pairs were present at Ardnave Loch *Islay*, with at least one brood of young seen.

Jul-Dec 2010. Other than those listed in Table 15 the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) *Mull* (34 on 23 Oct) and Loch Gorm *Islay* (190 on 25 Sep and 225 on 2 Nov). Birds were also seen in single figures on *Coll* and in *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. Other than those listed in Table 15 the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Gorm *Islay* (60 on 9 Oct), Loch Glenastle (The Oa) *Islay* (24 on 19 Dec), Lochan Dubh (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* (17 on 20 Dec) and Loch Skerrols *Islay* (16 on 1 Dec). Birds were also seen in single figures in: *Cowal*, *Colonsay*, and *Mull*.

Table 15. *Maximum monthly counts of Tufted Ducks at Ardnave Loch (Islay) and at the four main freshwater lochs on Tiree (mostly at Loch Bhasapol).*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	5	0	6	22	12	12	12	5	6	0	12	0
Tiree	127	146	125	64	20	8	6	3	12	80	110	154

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	4	12	10	24	22	10	0	0	1	10	17	4
Tiree	169	149	109	37	22	14	13	13	15	55	65	92

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 sea-watches.

2010. Most of the records away from Loch Indaal [Table 16] were on *Tiree*, where single, mainly immature, birds were seen throughout the year, most often at Loch a' Phuill. Seven flew west past Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep. On *Islay*, birds were also reported from Loch Gorm (5 on 25 Sep) and Loch Skerrols (2 on 28 Oct). Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* had flocks of 19 and 12 flying south on 15 Sep, 2 on 2 Oct, and singles on 10 Oct and 1 Nov. The only other mainland records were of: 3 on Loch Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, singles on Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug, and at Loch Melldalloch and the Powder Dam *Cowal* on 14 Nov.

2011. Apart from 24 on Loch Gorm on 29 Oct records on *Islay*, away from Loch Indaal [Table 16], involved no more than 3 birds. One or two birds were reported from various sites on *Tiree* throughout the year. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* had flocks of: 19 on 24 Sep, 9 on 28 Nov and a total of 90 in 8 hrs on 6 Oct. Other mainland records all involved single birds: at Linne Mhuirich

(Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan and 16 Feb, at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Feb and 16 Mar, at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 10 Sep and Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 21 Sep.

Summering Birds. No summering birds were reported in either year.

Table 16 *Maximum monthly counts of Scaup at Loch Indaal (Islay) in 2010 and 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	250	n/r	150	n/r	44	0	0	n/r	n/r	80	170	253
2011	n/r	160	n/r	n/r	n/r	0	0	n/r	3	80	140	3

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

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

0205

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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

0206

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

Jan-Jun 2010. Away from the sites listed in Table 17, counts of over 50 included: 130 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jan, 90 at Finart Bay *Cowal* on 7 Jun, 87 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan, 76 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 Feb, and 56 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 20 Feb.

2011. Away from the sites listed in Table 17, counts of over 50 included: ca 200 off Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 17 Apr, 105 in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 96 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 16 Mar, 85 at The Big Strand *Islay* on 28 Jun, 69 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 22 Jun, 60 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, and 53 at Nave Island *Islay* on 21 Mar.

Breeding 2010. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 366 nests were found at 18 sites (cf 360 pairs at 15 sites in 2009). During May, Jun and Jul, 94 ducklings were noted in the Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* area, with an average brood size of 3.7. Adults with young were noted as follows: *Cowal* (3 sites), *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) (4 sites), *Islay* (4 sites), *Kintyre* (one site), *Mid-Argyll* (7 sites), *North Argyll* (3 sites), *Mull* (3 sites, incl. Treshnish Isles) and *Tiree* (4 sites). The survival rate at Otter Ferry *Cowal* was reported to be higher than usual.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 116 nests were found at 14 sites but by far the largest colony (at Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*, which has held in excess of 250 pairs in recent years, was not visited due bad weather in May. Adults with young were noted as follows: *Cowal* (2 sites), *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) (5 sites), *Islay* (5 sites), *Kintyre* (one site), *Mid-Argyll* (4 sites), *North Argyll* (2 sites), *Mull* (2 sites, incl. Treshnish Isles) and *Tiree* (3 sites).

Jul-Dec. 2010. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep gave a total of 1,774 for the Argyll part of the area, including 687 in Loch Fyne. This is not comparable with previous years Argyll totals because different count sectors were used but the overall decline in numbers in the Firth of Clyde as a whole continues: 2010 total = 6734, cf 7,573 in 2009, 9,271 in 2008 and a peak of 19,393 in 1997.

Away from the sites listed in Table 17, counts of over 50 included: 329 in Loch Scridain *Mull* on 29 Oct, 272 south of Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 26 Sep, 210 in the harbour at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 25 Nov, 156 in Finart Bay *Cowal* on 15 Oct, 120 at Hynish *Tiree* on 8 Aug, 75 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 71 on Loch Scridain *Mull* on 23 Oct, 67 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 14 Nov, 62 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Dec and

2011. The co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde 10th - 26th Sep gave a total of 1,741 for the Argyll part of the area including Loch Long/Loch Goil. See comment above regarding comparability of data.

Away from the sites listed in Table 17, counts of over 50 included: 357 off Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 29 Sep, 245 off the SW coast of *Tiree* on 11 Jul, 180 of Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Sep, 105 off Ardnacloch (Loch Creran) *North Argyll* on 22 Aug, and ca100 at Kintra *Tiree* on 5 Aug.

Table 17 *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Holy Loch (Cowal) and Loch Creran (North Argyll) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre).*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	102	93	80	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	31	n/r	83	27
L. Creran	n/r	62	91	1	67	4	6	21	n/r	183	62	n/r
S.o.Gigha	92	350	43	4	28	58	125	24	n/r	125	39	37

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	48	27	27	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	18	62	99	93
L. Creran	114	133	74	19	72	13	12	73	222	118	69	23
S.o.Gigha	31	21	62	24	n/r	25	63	135	37	53	n/r	n/r

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

0207

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

0211

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* Eun-buchainn

0212

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

Jan-Jun 2010. The highest count recorded was in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* where 30 were found during the WeBS Count on 17 Jan. Smaller numbers were seen here regularly from Jan to Apr. Numbers at Hough Bay *Tiree* peaked at 19 on 14 Jan and smaller numbers were seen off other bays on *Tiree* during the period. The only records from *Islay* were in Loch Indaal, where 4 males were present on 3 Jan and 2 on 24 Mar.

2011. The highest numbers were reported from *Tiree* with maximum counts of 21 in Hough Bay on 10 Feb and 22 Mar. Nine were at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 20 Apr. The highest count reported in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* was just 8 on 16 Mar with smaller numbers at other times. Up to 7 were seen in Loch Indaal *Islay* and a female was in Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 11 Feb.

Summering Bird. An adult female was seen with Red-breasted Mergansers off Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul 2010. What we presume to be the same bird has been reported in almost

exactly the same place in the summer months of 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009: it apparently summers here regularly and was seen again on 8 Jun 2011.

Jul-Dec 2010. The highest count recorded was in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* where 17 were found during the WeBS Count on 14 Nov. Smaller numbers were seen here regularly from Oct to Dec. Numbers at Hough Bay *Tiree* peaked at 12 on 24 Nov and smaller numbers were seen here and in other bays on *Tiree* during Oct-Dec. No more than 3 were reported at any one time in Loch Indaal *Islay*. The only record elsewhere was one in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 19 Dec.

2011. Only two were seen in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Oct: no WeBS Counts were made later in the year. Elsewhere in *Kintyre*, 2 flew S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Nov and one was in West Loch Tarbert on 25 Nov. The highest count in Loch Indaal *Islay* was 8, on both 27 Oct and 30 Dec, and one was at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 17 Nov. The only records on *Tiree* were one at Aird on 6 Oct and 3 in Hough Bay on 17 Dec.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh 0213
Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal (Islay) and in the Sound of Gigha (Kintyre): a scarce winter visitor elsewhere. The very small breeding population may well now be extinct.

Jan-Jun 2010. Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 18) counts included: 2 near Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 2 near Ardpatrik Point *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb, 7 at Treshnish *Mull* on 1 Mar, 6 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* and 9 at Ardpatrik House *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 11 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 27 Mar and 2 from the Tarbert-Portavadie Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr.

2011. Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 18) counts included: 6 from the Kennacraig-*Islay* Ferry on 5 Feb, 4 females in Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, 4 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Mar and 5 there on 12 May.

Jul-Dec 2010. Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 18) counts included: 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Jul, 23 at Kilfinichen *Mull* on 8 Sep, 19 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct, 2 at Calgary *Mull* in late Oct to early Nov, and one at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 Nov.

2011. Away from Loch Indaal *Islay* and the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 18) counts included: 2 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 4 Sep, 3 at Aird *Tiree* on 7 Sep, 17 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Sep, a total of 185 (all but one females!) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in the three days 11-13 Nov, up to 9 at Calgary *Mid-Argyll* during Nov, and 5 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 17 Dec. Single birds were seen at: Treshnish *Mull* on 14 Jul, Plaide Mhor *Colonsay* on 3 Sep, Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 8 Sep, Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Sep, Port Langamull *Mull* on 29 Sep, Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Oct, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Nov.

Breeding. No evidence of breeding was reported anywhere in Argyll in either year.

Table 18. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Scoter at Loch Indaal (Islay) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre)*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indaal	40	60	70	n/r	n/r	25	n/r	n/r	12	39	10	25
S.o.Gigha	29	22	18	32	19	7	20	4	8	67	31	7

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indaal	n/r	16	138	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	25	n/r	20
S.o.Gigha	21	8	17	13	n/r	n/r	30	73	11	23	n/r	n/r

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

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

0214

A rare visitor: at least 14 Argyll records, mostly in spring, including a returning female on Tiree 2008-2009.

2010. A female seen on 3, 6 and 11 Jan on *Tiree* was presumed to be the same as that seen in Nov/Dec 2009. Accepted by ABRC as a returning bird. [John Bowler *et al*].

2011. No records.

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. Now Red Listed as a 'Threatened' species – all records required.

2010. The only records were from the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* with: 4 on 13 Apr, singles on 18 Jul, 23 Jul, 15 Aug, and 19 Aug, and 2 on 10 Oct.

2011. Apart from a drake at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Oct all the remaining records were from the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* with: 6 on 16 Apr, one on 22 Jul, and 9 on 3 Aug.

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 2010. Other those in Table 19, sites with counts of 10 or more included: Ormsary (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* (max.76 on 30 Jan), Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (max. 56 on 13 Mar), Machir Bay *Islay* (36 on 23 Mar), Otter Ferry *Cowal* (max. 30 on 18 Jan), Bowmore *Islay* (25 on 3 Jan), Kennacraig *Kintyre* (24 on 7 Jan), Loch Gorm *Islay* (20 on 9 Feb), Loch Creran *North Argyll* (max. 18 on 14 Feb), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (14 on 27 Feb), and Kirm (Dunoon) *Cowal* (12 on 4 Mar). A drake headed north at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 4 May was the last record of spring.

2011. Other those in Table 19, sites with counts of 10 or more included: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (30 on 23 Jan), Kennacraig-*Islay* Ferry Crossing (30 on 5 Feb), Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* (15 on 15 Jan), Loch Indaal *Islay* (max. 15 on 21 Feb), Kirm (Dunoon) *Cowal* (12 on 6 Jan), and Ardnave *Islay* (12 on 16 Jan). A late bird was seen on Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May.

Summering birds 2010. None were recorded between early May and mid-Oct.

2011. None were recorded between early May and early Oct.

Oct-Dec 2010. The first record of autumn was 5 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 16 Oct. Other than those in Table 19, the only sites with counts of 10 were: Loch Riddon *Cowal* (15 on 10 Nov) and West Tarbert Pier *Kintyre* (12 on 23 Nov).

2011. The first records of autumn were on 11 Oct when: an immature was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, 3 were in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, and one was at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal*. Other than those in Table 19 the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: 26 together near Achnacloich Pier (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov and 12 on Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Dec.

Table 19. *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.*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	21	19	23	n/r		0	3	n/r
L. Sween	22	8	n/r	n/r		0	2	28
Holy L.	15	11	7	n/r		0	3	7
Tiree	49	41	41	0		7	22	48

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Etive	14	17	18	n/r		0	36	12
L. Sween	25	32	32	n/r		0	35	20
Holy L.	11	5	6	n/r		0	7	4
Tiree	44	49	38	2		2	24	39

SMEW *Mergus albellus* Sìolta-bhreac

0220

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Sìolta-dhearg

0221

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

Jan-Jun 2010. Counts of 20 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 20, included: Loch Indaal *Islay* (max. 65 on 7 May), Otter Ferry *Cowal* (max. 64 on 28 Feb), West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* (29 on 21 Mar), Crossapol Bay *Coll* (22 on 1 Jun), and head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* (22 on 12 Jun).

2011. Counts of 20 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 20, included: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (max. 30 on 9 Feb), Kennacraig-*Islay* Ferry Crossing (25 on 19 Feb) and *Tiree* (WeBS Count max. 21 on 16 May).

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*, 14 pairs were noted at 8 likely breeding sites in Apr/May and at least three broods of young were noted later. Broods of young were also noted at: Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Portavadie *Cowal*, and Sgat Beag (Loch Fyne) *Cowal*.

2011. On *Tiree*, 15 or 16 pairs were noted at 7 likely breeding sites in Apr/May (incl. 5 pairs at Loch a' Phuill) and at least five broods of young were noted later. Broods of young were also noted at: Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*, Craignure *Mull*, and Sgeir Caillich (Loch Creran) *Mid-Argyll*,

Jul-Dec 2010. Counts of 20 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 20, included: Loch Indaal *Islay* (max. 60 on 9 Sep) and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* (max. 23 on 19 Dec).

2011. Counts of 20 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 20, included: Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* (max. 44 on 16 Oct) and Loch Indaal *Islay* (max. 22 on 24 Oct).

Table 20. *Maximum monthly counts of Red-breasted Merganser at: Loch Gruinart (Islay), Sound of Gigha (Kintyre), and Loch Sween (Mid-Argyll).*

2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	16	6	19	15	n/r	5	17	49	44	36	25	2
S.o.Gigha	16	10	25	31	n/r	70	120	150	n/r	42	24	20
L. Sween	20	13	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/t	n/r	15	8	9	15

2011.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	4	9	14	2	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	25	35	6	5
S.o.Gigha	8	7	26	20	n/r	57	52	147	3	29	n/r	n/r
L. Sween	15	19	23	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	18	23	17	16

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-Jun 2010. By far the largest count was *ca*49 at the head of Loch Striven *Cowal* on 22 Jan. Other larger counts included: 19 at Ardpark House (West Loch Tarbert) on 4 Mar, 22 at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 12 Jun and 7 at Port an Tiorbairt at the north end of *Jura* on 1 Feb. Elsewhere up to 4 were seen at various sites in: *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll.*

2011. The largest count was 12 at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 28 Jun. Unusually there were several reports of sightings on *Islay*, including 4 at Ardnahoe Loch on 10 Mar. Elsewhere up to 4 were seen at various sites in: *Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll.*

Breeding 2010. Pairs were found at several suitable sites during the breeding season but the only confirmed breeding record concerned a female with a brood of 5 young on the River Ruel (Clachan) *Cowal* on 16 Jun.

2011. Pairs were found at various suitable sites during the breeding season but the only confirmed breeding record concerned a female with a brood of 8 young at Ardno (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 24 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2010. The largest counts were: 16 in Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 30 Sep, 8 at the head of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 23 Nov, 6 in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, and 5 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Sep. Elsewhere up to 4 were seen at various sites in: *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and North Argyll.*

2011. The largest counts were: 18 at the head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, 9 flying past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep, 7 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 13 Oct, 5 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 7 Sep, 5 in Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Sep, 5 in the Aros Estuary *Mull* on 22 Oct: and 5 in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov. Single birds were reported in Oct and Dec on *Islay*, whilst a drake at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 18 Nov was only the second on the island since 1992. Elsewhere, up to 4 were seen at various sites in: *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll.*

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

0225

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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

0329

A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.

2010. Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from: Loch Gorm and Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Beinn Tarsuinn *Jura*, Cruach Scarba and Eredine *Mid-Argyll*, and Loch Tulla *North Argyll.*

2011. Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from: Cruach nan Gearran (Glendaruel) *Cowal*, Bolsay, Kilbride, Loch Gruinart and The Oa *Islay*, and Carn Gaibhre (Loch Nant) *Mid-Argyll.*

Breeding 2010. On *Islay*, pairs were present at RSPB Loch Gruinart and Dunlossit during the breeding season but no counts were made. Other locations with birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season included: Cnoc an Lochain and Cruach Tarsainn (Whitehouse) *Kintyre*, and Ensay Burn (Treshnish) *Mull.*

2011. On *Islay*, pairs were present at Bruichladdich, and at RSPB reserves at Loch Gruinart and Ardnave during the breeding season but no counts were made. Other locations with birds calling in the breeding season included Loch Airigh na Creige (Furnace) *Mid-Argyll*.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

0330

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

2010. There were two records from *Cowal*: on 10 Feb one was seen on Creag Sgoilte (Loch Eck), and on 1 Dec a pair was seen at Beinn Narnain (Arrochar). In *North Argyll* records included: 2 on Beinn Fhionnlaidh (Glen Creran) on 16 Mar, a pair with 5 young on Beinn Lurachan (Dalmally) and a party of 10 adults and juveniles at Meall nan Eun (Glen Etive) on 25 Jun.

2011. The only records were of: a single bird on Ben Arthur *Cowal* on 30 Apr, a pair in Coire Buidhe (Glen Creran) *North Argyll* on 26 Apr, and a covey of 12 were on the northern slopes of Beinn Sgulaird (Glen Creran) *North Argyll* on 4 Sep.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

0332

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

2010. In *Cowal* records included: a very unusual garden record of a female in a garden at Otter Ferry on 24 Apr, a female at Clachan Dubh na Criche (Strachur) on 26 Apr, 2 calling males at Lephinmore (Strathlachlan) on 15 Oct, and 4 roosting males at Loch Melldalloch (Kilfinan) on 18 Oct. A pair was seen on 24 Jan near Skipness *Kintyre* whilst records from *Mid-Argyll* included: 5 at Ardchonnell on 3 Jan, 5 at Kilchrenan on 8 Jan, a female and a lekking male in Scammadale on 11 Apr, a pair at Loch nan Torran (Ormsary) on 22 Nov, and a female at Connel on 19 Dec.

2011. Another garden in *Cowal* was host to a male with one seen at Tighnabruaich on 1 Apr. Single birds were recorded in *Cowal* at: Powder Dam (Millhouse) on 17 Apr, Strachur on 2 May, Lephinmore (Strathlachlan) on 11 May, and Lag an Daimh (Kilfinan) on 18 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll*, records included 2 at Dun Creagach (Connel) on 8 Jan, singles flushed on Beinn Mhor (Clachan Seil) and Kilninver both on 25 Jan, and singles at Ashens (Tarbert) and Meall Mor (Knapdale) on 11 May.

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 is currently extinct in Argyll.

2010. No records.

2011. 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.

2010. Some birds survived from releases on *Islay* in previous years and birds were reported regularly at Kilchoman. Birds were also reported from Loch Striven *Cowal* and Lochgair *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. Following the release of 300 birds on *Colonsay* on 30 Aug a single bird was seen near Machrins on 4 Sep. Birds were reported from various locations on *Islay* including: Kilchoman with 19 on 18 Jan and 20 on 30 Jan and at Ardnahoe with 11 on 21 Feb and 12 on 11 Oct. In *Kintyre* a single bird was regularly seen throughout Jun at Campbeltown Airport. Birds were also reported from the head of Loch Striven *Cowal* 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.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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

0370

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

2010. A calling bird was reported at Totronald Coll on 14 and 16 Jun.

2011. Single birds were recorded at Cruachan Treshnish Mull on 18 Jun and The Reef Tiree on 27 Jun.

COMMON PHEASANT (PHEASANT) *Phasianus colchicus* Easag

0394

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

2010. Reported from all recording areas, apart from *Jura* and *North Argyll*, with breeding confirmed (eggs/newly hatched chicks) in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Large numbers were reported widely in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree* where birds are released for sport shooting.

2011. Reported from all recording areas, apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*, with breeding confirmed (eggs/newly hatched chicks) in *Cowal* and *Tiree* only but presumably occurred in all areas where numbers of birds are released for sport shooting.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* Learga-ruadh

0002

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

Jan-Apr 2010. 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* (25 on 28 Feb), Loch Indaal *Islay* (34 on 1 Jan), and *Tiree* (25 on 1 Mar).

2011. Widely reported in small numbers. There were: 14 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 10 off Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 10 in Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 10 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 21 Mar, and 10, seen from the ferry between Kennacraig *Kintyre* and *Islay*, on 23 Mar and again on 24 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Birds were reported at breeding sites from about mid-Mar until late Aug. Breeding was confirmed on several lochs throughout Argyll (details in database).

2011. Birds were reported at breeding sites from about mid-Mar until late Aug. Breeding was confirmed on several lochs throughout Argyll (details in database).

Sep-Dec 2010. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported a total of 148 birds flying south on 16 dates during Sep, and 37 on 13 dates in Oct. Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas apart

from innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter. There were 30 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 6 Dec.

2011. Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas apart from innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported: 7 on passage on 29 Aug, totals of 92 on 19 dates in Sep, 62 on 16 dates in Oct, and 40 on 18 dates in Nov.

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. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

Jan-Apr 2010. Birds were widely distributed around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more marine areas. Larger groups included: 17 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan and 9 on 30 Jan, 8 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 11 Feb, 13 at Corran *Kintyre* on 13 Apr and 12 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on the same day, 15 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, and 8 in summer plumage at Leth Uillt (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 28 Apr.

2011. Records were widely distributed: mostly of one or two birds. Larger groups included: 8 at Baile Bhoideach, Knapdale, *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan, 10 at Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 23 Mar, 10 seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 23 Mar, 20 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Apr, and 8 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Apr.

Breeding 2010. Eight sites were fully monitored and summering pairs were found at six of these. Breeding was proved at four sites (3 clutches laid on rafts and one at a natural site) and two pairs successfully hatched three chicks with all three surviving to fledging (details in database). One recently regular site has remained unoccupied since 2008 and another has now not held a summering pair since 2006. Despite this apparent sign of decline on the mainland, a pair summered on *Mull* at a site last occupied by a pair in 1977 [R. A. Broad].

2011. Breeding was proved at three or four sites (details in database). On 22 Jul there were two adults with three recently-fledged juveniles on the sea at the Leth Uillt (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre*, while four days later a fledged juvenile was still on a loch in *Mid-Argyll*.

Sep-Dec 2010. Single birds were seen at many sites, especially on *Islay* and *Kintyre*. Larger groups included: 10 in Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 19 Sep, 10 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, with 20 there on 8 Nov.

2011. Larger groups included: 9 in Claonaig Bay *Kintyre* on 13 Oct, 7 seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 17 Dec, and 11 in Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachail 0004
A numerous winter and passage visitor. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded from Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May and a few individuals summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around Tiree and Coll are sites of international importance for wintering birds and: Loch na Keal Mull, Loch Indaal Islay, West Loch Tarbert Kintyre, and Lochs Beg & Scridain Mull are sites of national importance.

Jan-May 2010. Birds were reported from all coastal areas, especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Gigha*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. A survey of birds coming in to roost at dusk, conducted on *Mull* at 19 coastal and sea-loch sites from 1–6 Mar found a total of 247 birds (per Dave Shackleton). Larger numbers elsewhere included: 19 at Braibruich *Islay* on 1 Jan, 18 in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 3 Jan, 18 near Bruichladdich Pier *Islay* on 3 Jan, 12 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 13 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 6 Jan, 19 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 30 off Killinallan Dunes *Islay* on 10 Feb, 46 around *Tiree* on 1 Mar, and 189 at nocturnal roosts on *Mull* on 1 Mar. The highest count at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was 37 on 3 Apr. On 13 Apr

there were 45 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre*, and 42 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* (a couple of these were in breeding plumage). Numbers tended to decrease from mid-Apr onwards. There were 24 birds off north-east *Colonsay* on 16 Apr, 12 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Apr, 18 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, and 15 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26 Apr. Most records in May were of individuals, reported widely from almost all coastal areas of Argyll but especially from *Mull* and *Kintyre*. A notable record was of 65 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 May, including a flock of 53 birds that were mostly in summer plumage. **2011.** Widely distributed as usual, with larger counts including: 12 in Sorobaith Bay *Tiree* on 2 Jan, 35 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Feb, 40 near Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Feb, 50 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 12 Mar, 17 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 30 at Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 23 Mar, 47 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Mar, 15 at Craighouse *Jura* on 27 Mar, 28 near Nave Island *Islay* on 9 Apr, 46 in Sorobaith Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr, 28 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, 30 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 26 Apr, and 23 at *Coll* on 29 Apr. However, some of the largest counts came from ferry journeys. Counts from the Kennacraig *Kintyre* to *Islay* ferry were: 30 on 5 Feb, 50 on 12 Feb, 94 on 19 Feb, and 63 on 24 Mar. There were 29 seen from the Oban to *Colonsay* ferry on 28 Apr. Most records in May were of single birds, some in breeding plumage, but there were 13 off NE *Colonsay* on 22 May and 9 in Sorobaith Bay *Tiree* on 30 May.

Jun-Aug 2010. There were 24 records, mostly involving 1 to 3 birds, from: *Colonsay*, *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. These involved a mix of birds from immature plumage to full adult plumage. One bird flying overland hit overhead wires at Gott *Tiree* on 13 Aug and was grounded, but survived and was successfully picked up and returned to the sea.

2011. There were 19 records in Jun, mostly of single birds, but including 10 off NE *Colonsay* on 10 Jun. Only one bird was reported in Jul, off *Tiree*, and one in Aug, off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

Sep-Dec 2010. Very few were reported in Sep, but numbers began to build up in Oct, and counts of 10 to 20 birds were not uncommon from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in Oct to Dec, with smaller numbers at many other locations with fully marine coastlines.

2011. As usual, numbers in autumn and early winter were generally lower than in late winter and spring. There were 13 records in Sep of up to 7 birds from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Larger groups later in the year included: 23 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Oct, 15 flying west off Aird *Tiree* in 2 hours on 7 Oct, 15 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Oct, 29 at Killinallan *Islay* on 12 Nov, 10 at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 1 Dec, 11 near Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 10 Dec, 13 off Port nan Each (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 14 Dec, 25 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Dec, and 28 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Dec.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii* Learga-bhlàr

0005

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

2010. No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. An adult in breeding plumage flew west past Aird *Tiree* at 08.10 on 18 Oct 2011: the first record for *Tiree* [John Bowler]. Accepted by SBRC as Aird 18 October 2011.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Thalassarche melanophrys*

0014

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom

0020

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

Jan-Apr 2010. Large numbers attended nest sites on *Tiree* from mid-Jan, with at least 1000 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 19 Jan, with similar numbers in Feb and Mar. Elsewhere in Argyll this species was reported in very small numbers, although in Mar there were over 30 occupied sites on The Oa *Islay* and 90 at Meall Lamalum *Colonsay*.

2011. On *Tiree*, birds were attending nest sites in large numbers from late Jan onwards.

Breeding 2010. There were 772 AOS at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 10 Jun (about 20% fewer than in 2008 and 10% fewer than in 2009). This site produced about 500 small chicks by 11 Jul falling to just over 200 medium-sized chicks on 22 Jul, suggesting fairly poor breeding success (as in the last few years). There were 341 AOS at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 19 Jun. TIARG reported 328 breeding pairs on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and 52 pairs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 27 Jun.

2011. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 778 AONs on 27 May, decreasing to 651 on 21 Jun (mostly with eggs). The numbers declined to 546 AONs on 11 Jul (mostly with small chicks), and 323 AONs on 21 Jul (mostly with medium sized chicks). At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were 229 AOS on 22 Jun. TIARG reported from the Treshnish Isles *Mull*: 301 AOS on Lunga, 68 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and 42 on Bac Beag on 25 Jun. One dark phase ('blue fulmar') was present on a ledge on Bac Beag (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Fewer records were received in Jul-Dec than in most years; an exception was 530 birds passing *Tiree* in 210 minutes on 15 Sep.

2011. Up to about one bird per minute was seen, apparently on passage, in Sep from *Tiree* and from Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*. A blue phase bird was seen off Aird *Tiree* on 19 Oct. Birds were irregularly attending nesting sites on *Tiree* from early Nov, with over 500 present on 6 Dec.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea*

0036

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

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr

0040

A rare passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh

0043

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

2010. The first of the year was seen from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Jul, with 12 passing south on 26 Jul. One was seen at Calgary *Mull* on 23 Aug. At Aird *Tiree*, 41 flew west in 80 minutes on 14 Sep, and 15 in 210 minutes on 15 Sep. Two were seen from the Oban to Barra ferry on 16 Sep, and two off Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Oct. The last records of the year were one off Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 5 Oct and one off Aird *Tiree* on 18 Oct.

2011. A good year in Argyll. The first record was of 12 birds in three hours passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Jul. One was seen from the ferry, east of *Tiree* on 20 Jul, and another at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 29 Jul. There were 8 records in Aug, of up to 5 birds, most from *Tiree* but also from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and from *Coll*. The largest numbers were

seen in Sep, with 14 records, as usual mostly from *Tiree*, but also from: *Coll*, *Islay*, and *Mull*, with 146 birds off *Coll* on 10 Sep and 20 passing *Tiree* in one hour on 20 Sep. One was seen between *Mull* and *Tiree* on 1 Oct, and 10 off *Aird Tiree* on 6 Oct. A very late individual was reported on 12 Nov off Oronsay *Colonsay*.

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 2010. The first record was on 28 Mar, when ten were seen between *Tiree* and *Coll*. Occasional birds were seen during Apr, off: *Tiree*, *Mull*, and the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll*. Large numbers appeared from mid-May with 500 at sea between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 18 May, and 150 in BALEPHETRISH Bay *Tiree* on 22 May. A bird that died in late May and found in Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* had been ringed as an adult on 8 Sep 1994 at Copeland Bird Observatory, Northern Ireland.

2011. The first record was of 3 birds on 10 Mar passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Numbers increased in Apr with the first large flock being 400 birds between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 12 Apr. There were 700 off Ardnamurchan *North-Argyll* on 6 May.

Breeding 2010. There were over 1000 birds offshore in the evenings at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in late Jun and early Jul, but there were no counts of numbers breeding at this or other colonies.

2011. There were no data on breeding numbers or breeding success.

Jul-Sep 2010. As has often been the case, there were some spectacularly large numbers passing Argyll sea-watching sites in late summer with: 1290 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hours on 17 Jul, 3200 in 6 hours on 20 Jul, 5000 in a single flock passing south on 28 Jul, and 2400 passing south in 4 hours on 29 Jul. About 600 were feeding in a flock off the southern tip of Lismore *North Argyll* on 26 Jul. Similar numbers were seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on various dates in Aug and Sep, and at Lismore *North Argyll* on 23 Aug. Flocks of up to 200 appeared at Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Dunoon *Cowal* and Portavadie *Cowal* on various dates through Aug. Hundreds, occasionally thousands, were seen passing *Tiree* during early Sep. Numbers declined to virtually none in the second half of Sep, with the last birds seen on 18 Oct.

2011. Small groups were seen off *Cowal*, but the largest counts came from *Tiree* (1000 in 2 hours on 8 Aug, 1100 in 2 hours on 14 Sep), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (2000 on 20 Aug, 2500 on 21 Aug, 2000 on 25 Aug, 2000 on 5 Sep), and Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* (4000 on 4 Sep, 3500 on 8 Sep). Numbers throughout Argyll decreased rapidly after mid-Sep. There were 8 records of birds on passage in early Oct, with the last reported on 22 Oct off Gigha *Kintyre*.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* 0046.3
A regular passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers: usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.

2010. One was seen flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with Manx Shearwaters on 7 Aug and two were recorded there on 17 Aug: one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

2011. Singles were recorded flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20, 21 and 26 Aug.

MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER (NORTH ATLANTIC LITTLE SHEARWATER)
Puffinus baroli 0048

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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-Jun 2010. There were no records in May, with the first sighting on 7 Jun in Gunna Sound *Tiree*.

2011. The first sighting was on 24 May off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. In Jun, birds were seen regularly from: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, occasionally at the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2010. TIARG caught 112 and 166 birds in mist nets on two nights in late Jun at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. They suggest a decline in numbers since the 1990s when mist net catches were higher.

2011. On three nights in late Jun and early Jul TIARG caught 89 birds in three 12m mist nets in 2.5 hours, 156 birds in one 12m net in 2.5 hours, and 41 birds in three 18m nets in 2.5 hours, at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Jul-Oct 2010. 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*. On 23 Aug, 27 were seen from the Oban to *Colonsay* ferry including 25 following a fishing trawler. On 16 Sep, 40 were seen from the Oban *Mid-Argyll* to Barra ferry.

2011. Only small numbers were seen in autumn from: the usual ferries, seawatching sites, and outer islands. The last bird was one on 8 Oct between *Mull* and *Tiree*.

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 2010. No records.

2011. No records.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were ten records, some involving unusually large numbers of birds. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* there were 86 flying south in 9 hours in gale force winds on 14 Sep, and 105 in 5 hours on 15 Sep. At Aird *Tiree* 38 flew past in 210 minutes on 15 Sep. The last record of the year was of 3 birds passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, also during gale force winds.

2011. There were 17 reports, between 6 Sep and 18 Oct, almost all from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Aird *Tiree*, or Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*. Most were of small groups, but there were 35 flying past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct during a strong gale.

NORTHERN GANNET (GANNET) *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire 0071
The nearest large breeding colonies to Argyll are Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, and often seen high up sea lochs. They are also reported in small numbers Nov/Mar.

Jan-Jun 2010. There were only a few records in Jan, mostly off the outer islands. 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 29 Apr about 450 were feeding off Hynish *Tiree*. On 30 May 72 passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* in 20 minutes. On 24 Jun there were 60 in Carskey Bay (Mull of Kintyre) *Kintyre*.

2011. There were three records in Jan, all from *Tiree*, and four records in Feb from: *Tiree*, *Mull*, and *Islay*. Numbers increased rapidly in Mar, when 100 were off Portnahaven *Islay* on 7 Mar. About 200 were seen from Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 19 Mar and 350 on 3 Apr. Although large numbers were mainly at offshore locations, there were 22 fishing off Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 25 Apr. In one hour, 360 flew west past Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 14 May.

Jul-Dec 2010. Peak numbers were: 760 flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hours on 4 Jul, 1200 in 6 hours on 26 Jul, and 680 in 3 hours on 6 Aug. Large numbers regularly passed *Tiree* during Aug to Oct, with highest counts being: 150 in 1 hour on 4 Aug, 135 in 1 hour on 12 Aug, 650 in 3 hours on 15 Sep, and 541 in 2 hours on 18 Oct. Much smaller numbers were seen in late Oct and early Nov. The last birds of the year were: one on 30 Nov at Dunoon *Cowal*, and one on 29 Dec at Portnahaven *Islay*.

2011. As usual, there were high numbers all around the coasts of Argyll from Jul to Oct. Larger counts were from: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* (1,000 on 3 Jul, 830 on 4 Sep, 436 in 100 minutes on 12 Sep, 724 in 100 minutes on 13 Sep and 895 in 100 minutes on 14 Sep), and from *Tiree* (500 at Balevullin on 8 Aug, 500 in 2 hours at Aird on 7 Sep, 752 in 1 hour at Hynish on 3 Oct, 1,285 in 3 hours at Aird on 18 Oct). After 18 Oct, very few were seen, although small numbers were present until the end of Dec.

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

Jan-Jun 2010. There were small numbers (1-5 birds) at many estuarine (predominantly sea loch) sites across Argyll. Larger numbers were 22 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 17 Jan and 10 in Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 17 Jan with 26 on 21 Feb.

2011. There were small numbers (1-5 birds) at many estuarine (predominantly sea loch) sites across Argyll. Larger numbers were: 10 in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 11 in outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 13 Feb and 17 on 13 Mar, 20 at Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) *Cowal* on 24 Feb, 15 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 17 Mar, and 24 at Liath Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar.

Breeding 2010. About 36 pairs fledged at least 32 young from Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, 33 pairs fledged at least 53 young from Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, 33 pairs fledged about 40 young from Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* (there was some evidence of mink predation at this colony), 29 pairs fledged about 72 young from Corr Eilean (McCormag Isles) *Mid-Argyll*. There were two nests at Eilean Buidhe (Portavadie) *Cowal* on 29 Apr. No cormorant nests were seen at three former colony sites: Sgat Mor (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, and Carraig an Daimh (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. The only report on breeding numbers this year was that there were 34 occupied nests at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr.

Jul-Dec 2010. Away from nesting colonies birds were fairly dispersed throughout the sea lochs and sheltered coasts of Argyll. The largest recorded groups being in: outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* (15 on 19 Sep, 24 on 10 Oct, and 27 on 14 Nov), Loch Long *Cowal* (14 on 23 Sep, 19 on 28 Oct, and 14 on 1 Nov), Port Appin *North Argyll* (12 on 9 Jul), Iona *Mull* (10 on 18 Aug), Grasspoint *Mull* (18 on 19 Aug), and Nave Island *Islay* (12 on 30 Dec).

2011. As usual, most records away from breeding sites came from sea lochs and sheltered coasts. The highest count was 45 at Arinagour *Coll* on 10 Nov, and there were consistently high numbers in outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* (12 on 18 Sep, 21 on 16 Oct, 17 on 20 Nov and 18 on 15 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 2010. 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.

2011. As usual, birds were widely distributed on sea coasts in the early part of the year, with no major aggregations reported.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*, there were 111 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara on 1 May which held a mean brood size of 2.6 (35 nests with chicks). Although many broods were close to fledging on 1 May, the same colony had 104 AONs present on 27 Jun, with many new nests, indicating a prolonged breeding season and that total breeding numbers were higher than the count on any one date. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* TIARG recorded 149 AONs on Lunga, 15 AONs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and 2 on Sgeir an Eirionnaich. Other colony counts were: 3 pairs fledging 7 young at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, 12-17 pairs fledged at least 6 young at Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, at least 37 pairs fledged around 45 young at Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* (where mink were present at the colony), 74 pairs fledged at least 63 young at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, there were at least 26 pairs at Corr Eilean (McCormaig Isles) *Mid-Argyll*, 17 pairs at Carraig an Daimh (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, and at least 10 nests at Maiden Island (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. On *Tiree* there were 85 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara on 27 May, with eggs or chicks up to half grown. By 21 Jun this had decreased to 75 AONs, predominantly with chicks, and decreased again to 61 by 11 Jul. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* TIARG recorded 109 AONs on Lunga, 9 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, 18 on Bac Beag, 17 on Bac Mor, and 4 on Sgeir an Eirionnaich. In addition to these breeding birds, there were around 500-1,000 birds foraging offshore from the Treshnish Isles *Mull* but apparently not breeding.

Aug-Dec 2010. There was some evidence of mass movements in autumn, with 93 in a loose flock flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Aug, 34 flying west past Aird *Tiree* on 4 Aug and 220 flying southwest past Hynish *Tiree* on 27 Oct. Large groups included: 400 at Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 14 Aug and still there on 27 Aug, 180 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 30 Aug and 560 there on 20 Sep, 200 at Kintra *Mull* on 26 Sep, and 300 feeding in Crossapol Bay *Coll* on 30 Dec.

2011. There were 112 flying SW past Hynish *Tiree* in one hour on 3 Oct. Large groups included 230 at Port Ban *Tiree* on 5 Aug, and 150 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 19 Sep.

ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata aquila* 0093.1
A vagrant: an immature bird was found exhausted at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) on 9 July 1953 and died later. This is the only record of this species in the Western Palearctic.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

EURASIAN BITTERN (BITTERN) *Botaurus stellaris* Chorra-ghràin 0095
A vagrant to Argyll with only five records of single birds since 1980: at Dervaig (Mull) Jan-Mar 1982, near Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre) on 4 Dec 1982, at Dervaig (Mull) on 23 Dec

1983, one found dead at Appin(North Argyll) on 19 Sep 1999 and near Craobh Haven (Mid-Argyll) Dec 2009-Feb 2010.

2010. The bird seen near Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* in December 2009 was found by the side of the A816, again near Craobh Haven, on 9 Feb. Not surprisingly, given the very hard weather that winter, it was in a bad way. So much so that the person who found it was able to pick it up and take it home. It was very emaciated but they did manage to get it to take some small pieces of chicken. Sadly despite their rescue attempt it survived for only two days, until 11 Feb. It didn't really have much chance, as it only weighed 682 grams (well into the lean/emaciated range for either sex) [Wendy Bramley, Helen & John Anderson].

2011. No records.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

0104

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

0111

A vagrant: the only record being of one on Islay in Oct 2009.

2010. No records.

2011. One seen at Croig *Mull* on 27 Oct [Richard Atkinson] re-appeared at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 17 Nov. It was seen again at various locations in the Hough/Balinoe area of *Tiree* until 25 Nov [John Bowler *et al*]. Record accepted by SBRC as the same bird on *Tiree* as on *Mull*.

SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula*

0115

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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.

2010. An adult was photographed near 'Stinky Hole' (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* at 17.00 on 22 May [Mavis Gulliver]. Record accepted by ABRC (see also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160)

2011. An adult was found at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 May [John Bowler] and one was photographed at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 4 May [Andy Robinson]. These were accepted by ABRC as being different birds.

One seen at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 2 Aug was seen again on 4 Aug [Danielle and Graham Clark de Bisschop, George Newall]. Record accepted by ABRC.

In Nov, one was found at Pennyghael *Mull* on 9 Nov [David Howard, Andy Walker] and an egret reported at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 5 Nov was seen at Barrapol *Tiree* on 10, 12 and 16 Nov and identified as a Little Egret [John Bowler *et al*]. This and the bird on *Mull* were accepted by ABRC as being different individuals.

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.

2010. No records.

2011. An adult in breeding plumage was found on the shore opposite the war memorial at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on the morning of 21 May [Paul Daw]. It stayed only briefly and was not there later in the day. Record accepted by SBRC.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghritheach

0122

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Jan-Apr 2010. The largest counts were: 35 at outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 17 Jan, with 28 on 21 Feb, and 20 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 21 Feb.

2011. WeBS counts in Jan-Mar mostly gave totals between 10 and 20 individuals on each of: Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* and Loch na Keal *Mull*. Elsewhere, birds were widely distributed in smaller numbers.

Breeding 2010. In total, 15 pairs nested at three sites on *Colonsay*. There were three nests at Eriska *North Argyll*, 22 at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*, and 36 at Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll*. The heronry at Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* had 16 nests on 13 Jun, half with chicks and half failed.

2011. In *North Argyll*, 30 nests were counted at the heronry at Ardachy (Loch Etive), and 18 nests at Ardtur (Appin). A total of 18 nesting pairs were found at 4 sites on *Colonsay*, where a few chicks fledged but most were killed by the severe storm in late May. At Loch a' Mhuillinn north *Jura* there were 5 nests containing at least 8 large young on 7 Aug, the exceptionally late date suggesting that these birds had most likely re-laid after losing their nests in the storm in late May.

Jul-Dec 2010. The largest counts were mostly from outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* (25 on 19 Sep, 22 on 10 Oct, and 17 on 14 Nov) and Loch Creran *North Argyll* (21 on 10 Oct and 23 on 14 Nov). There were 21 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 24 Sep.

2011. WeBS counts in Jul-Dec mostly gave totals between 10 and 30 individuals on each of Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* and Loch na Keal *Mull*. Elsewhere, there were: 19 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Sep, another 18 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* outside the RSPB reserve on 22 Sep, and 12 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 23 Sep. There were 15 around the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Oct.

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.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

0136

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

0144

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

2010. Two were photographed at Loch Don Mull on 23 Jun [Stephen Smith]. (The third record for Mull). Record accepted by ABRC. A single bird reported at Balvicar (Seil Island) *Mid-Argyll* less than a week later was not submitted, see list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160.

2011. No records.

PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

0006

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found at Loch Peallach (Mull) in Jun 1998.

2010. No records.

2011. One was found by Ben Ofield at Salen Bay Mull on 22 Mar. Several others saw it there subsequently, until at least 6 Apr [Jim Dickson, Anand Prasad, Chris Mills *et al*]. Accepted BBRC as Salen Bay 22 Mar to 6 Apr (*British Birds* 105:567)

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).

2010 – 2011. There were records from all recording areas apart from *Coll*.

Jan-Apr 2010. Numbers on outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* peaked at 26 on 21 Feb. The highest number seen elsewhere was 10 on Holy Loch Cowal on 22 Feb.

2011. The highest numbers were seen in Jan during cold conditions with: 10 on Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 16 Jan, 25 on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan, of which 20 were at Linne Mhuirich. There were 17 at Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 13 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Two pairs bred at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*, a pair had a brood of four young at Upper Powder Dam Cowal on 11 Jun, and a pair had a brood of young at Camas Daoine Loch *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jun.

2011. Breeding was reported at: East Loch Fada *Colonsay*, Colonsay House *Colonsay*, Loch Melldalloch *Cowal*, and Upper Powder Dam *Cowal*.

Sep-Dec 2010. The highest winter numbers were recorded during WeBS counts when: 33 were found on outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 14 Nov, 25 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep, and 18 at Linne Mhuirich (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec.

2011. Peak numbers during WeBS counts were: 21 at outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 20 Nov, 15 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, 23 at Ceann an t-Sailein (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, and 11 at Holy Loch Cowal on 22 Dec. One at Craighouse *Jura* on 20 Nov was the first reported there for a few years.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan-laparan

0009

An uncommon winter and passage visitor: with 1-6 records annually since 1984 and recorded in all months except Jun.

2010. Birds were seen at three locations. There was one at Blairmore (Loch Long) Cowal on 1 Feb with up to 6 between Sep and Dec. There was one at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 26 Mar, and one at Loch Indaal Islay on 20 Sep.

2011. Up to 12 birds were at Blairmore (Loch Long) Cowal during the first half of Jan. Singles were seen at Holy Loch Cowal on 19 Jan, Southend Kintyre on 23 Aug, and Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 29 Sep.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisigena* Gobhlachan-ruadh

0010

A scarce winter and passage visitor: most records are in Sep-Mar.

2010. One was seen at Bowmore (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 3 Jan [Kevin Rylands]. One in winter plumage found in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb was seen subsequently on 1-4 Mar [Jim Dickson, Andrew Stevenson, Bill Allan]. Both records accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. One was seen near Eilean Chaolais (Lagganulva) *Mull* on 6 Mar [Bill Aspin] was seen there again on 4 Apr [Arthur Brown]. Records accepted by ABRC as referring to the same individual. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan-mara 0011
A regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. The Sound of Gigha, Loch na Keal, Mull and Loch Indaal, Islay are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

2010. None were seen during May to Aug. Birds were most regular at: Loch Indaal *Islay*, Loch na Keal *Mull*, and Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 21.1) but there were also records of one to five birds from: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll*, North Ledaig *North Argyll*, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*, Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll*, and especially from Leth Uillt mouth (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* which seems to be becoming a more important site for this species. Numbers there peaked at 16 on 16 Oct and 14 on 23 Nov.

Table 21.1 Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2010 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	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	n/r	n/r	3	5	3
L. na Keal	19	n/r	n/r	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	n/r	n/r	n/r
S. of Gigha	16	12	n/r	3	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	43	7	6

2011. None were seen during May to Aug. Birds were most regular at Loch Indaal *Islay*, Loch na Keal *Mull*, and Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* (Table 21.2), and at Leth Uillt mouth (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* where there were 7 birds on 17 Jan and 11 on 24 Feb. There were also records of one or two birds from Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* and Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* as well as from various sites on *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Tiree* and at Otter Ferry *Cowal*.

Table 21.2 Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2011 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	24	17	8	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	7	1	13
L. na Keal	n/r	5	17	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	n/r
S. of Gigha	9	2	13	1	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	5	7	n/r	n/r

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

HONEY-BUZZARD (HONEY BUZZARD) *Pernis apivorus* 0231
A rare passage migrant with nine accepted records since 1980: the last near Carradale (Kintyre) in 2009.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

0238

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one at Vaul (Tiree) on 16th May 1997.

2010. On 31 May a moulting adult was seen and photographed from the A85 just east of Dalmally North Argyll [Andy Booth/Nigel Stewart]. Record accepted by SBRC - possibly the same bird reported on Skye on 30 May, judging by the moult pattern. This is only the second record for Argyll.

2011. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach

0239

A re-introduction programme in Scotland since 1996 has involved releases in Highland, central, and south west Scotland. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these released birds. All records are requested, ideally with details of wing tags if present.

2010. One seen in May at a site in Knapdale Mid-Argyll was apparently carrying nesting material, although there were no later records. In autumn, single birds were seen at: Carnan Mor Tiree on 10 Oct, Coullabus Plantation Islay on 27 Oct, and The Laggan Kintyre on 29 Nov. The prolonged wintry weather from Nov resulted in numbers of Red Kites moving SW from the mainland. Although the islands were hard frozen they largely escaped the snow that carpeted the mainland for weeks on end (per Roger Broad). During early Dec four different birds were seen on Oronsay Colonsay and Colonsay: including one with wings tags (blue left/red right) indicating it had been marked on The Black Isle, Highland in 2003. There were also several sightings of birds on Islay during Dec and it was suspected that up to 4 birds were involved. One had a blue wing tag and they were perhaps the same birds as those seen on Colonsay. Two were reported on Coll on 8 Dec and one at Connel Mid-Argyll on 21 Dec.

2011. Between Jan and early Apr up to 2 birds were seen on Oronsay Colonsay and Colonsay. Single birds were seen on Islay during Jan and one was seen flying from Bunnahabhainn towards Jura on 2 May. None were reported in autumn.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolaire-mhara

0243

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

2010. Reports away from Mull included: Cowal (one in Dec), Islay (regular sightings throughout the year), Jura (several sightings), Kintyre (one in Aug), Mid-Argyll (at least 12 at a variety of sites throughout the year), North Argyll (2 on Lismore in Mar), and Tiree (sightings in Jan, Jul and Nov).

Breeding 2010. In Scotland, 51 territorial pairs were located. Significant range expansion included: new pairs on Skye and Lochalsh and south into the Argyll Islands. In Argyll, 14 territorial pairs (10 Mull, 4 elsewhere) were located, of which 13 laid eggs and 11 were successful, fledging 15 young. Accessible chicks in 2010 continued to be fitted with oxidised aluminium colour rings on the left leg and 5 were also fitted with GPS satellite transmitters as part of a collaborative project looking at white-tailed eagle dispersal (RSPB Scotland, Sea Eagle Project Team).

2011. Reports away from *Mull* included: *Cowal* (one in Sep), *Islay* (frequent sightings throughout the year), *Jura* (two sightings), *Kintyre* (one in Feb), *Mid-Argyll* (at least 19 at a variety of sites throughout the year), *North Argyll* (3 in Jan/Feb), and *Tiree* (sightings in Jul and Aug). Not all these birds were of local (Argyll) origin, e.g. one seen on *Islay* in Nov was from the East Coast of Scotland introduction programme.

Breeding 2011. In Argyll, 17 territorial pairs were located and 16 laid eggs. Another new pair partly built a nest but did not lay. Several more new “pairs” are known but none of these are yet known to have built nests. Ten successful pairs reared 12 young. Among the failures, two (probably three) pairs failed during a severe storm on 23 May. Accessible chicks in 2011 continued to be fitted with oxidised aluminium colour rings on the left leg (RSPB Scotland, Sea Eagle Project Team).

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.

2010. A female was reported from two sites on *Islay* in May. The remaining records were all from *Tiree*, where a female was seen in late May and early Jun and a juvenile was at Loch a' Phuill daily from 27 to 31 Jul.

2011. One was seen at two sites on *Islay* on 3 May and a pair was reported at the north end of *Jura* on the same day. A female was present on *Tiree* from 9 to 11 May. This species is now annual in spring on *Tiree* and could be a potential coloniser (per J. Bowler).

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 with reports from all recording areas.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*: breeding was not suspected although up to 3 ringtails and a male were present Jan-Mar. There were no summering birds. The first returning bird was a male on 29 Jul, with 2-3 ringtails and a male present thereafter (J Bowler).

On *Mull*: of the 59 known hen harrier sites, 15 were not visited and no birds were seen at a further 23. There were 6 probable and 15 proven breeding attempts. Of the 15 proven attempts two were not monitored beyond observing a food pass and two failed completely (one just after hatching and another where the female was found predated about a metre from the nest). Of the remaining 11, three pairs each fledged at least one young. Clutch sizes at the 10 nests located were: 5 x 4, 4 x 5, and 1 x 6. The 8 successful nests monitored in detail fledged a total of 20 young (P Haworth).

On *Colonsay*: two occupied nests were located and a total of 8 young were ringed. A single bird was also reported at a third site but not until the very end of Jun/early Jul and this may have been a failed bird from elsewhere (D Jardine).

In Argyll mainland (*Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre*): “It was great having two hen harrier nests on the Moss (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*, one of them successful and the first since 1996! Sadly there were no harrier sightings at all at Mealdarroch (*Kintyre*). The only consistent site was near Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* which was successful again this year” (J Halliday).

Elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll*, fieldwork in sample areas for the 2010 hen harrier survey located two nesting pairs.

On *Bute* only one pair was found: breeding was not proven and it probably failed at an early stage (I Hopkins).

(ARSG per Roger Broad).

Table 22.1 Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll. NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area in 2010.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
<i>Coll</i>	1	1						
<i>Mull</i>	44	21	15	11	2	2	23	2.09
<i>Colonsay</i>	4	2	2	2	0	0	8	(4.00)
<i>Islay</i>	12	9	9	3	3	3	7	2.33
<i>Mainland*</i>	10	6	5	3	2	0	5+	1.66+
<i>Cowal</i>	13	7	4	4	0	0	14	3.50
<i>Bute</i>	1	1						
Total	85	47	35	23	7	5	57+	2.66***

* Mainland includes sites in Mid Argyll (6) and Kintyre (4)

*** Calculated for 15 broods from all areas where fledged brood size was accurately known.

Does not include (figs for young/successful site) = brood size where last visit was to ring chicks.

2011.

On *Mull*: the very wet and windy weather in May led to the abandonment of nest finding attempts because of risks to the birds. In the end, of the 59 known sites, 21 were not checked at all. No birds were seen at 20 sites although survey effort was often minimal. There were 13 proven and 5 probable breeding attempts. Eleven attempts were monitored and these produced a minimum of 22 fledged young (P Haworth), (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Table 22.1 Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll. NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area in 2011.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
<i>Mull</i>	38	18	13	11	0	2	22	2.00
<i>Colonsay</i>	4	2	2	2	0	0	2+	1.00+
<i>Islay</i>	8	5	4	2	2	0	5	2.50
<i>Mainland*</i>	13	9	5	2	2	1	5+	2.50
<i>Cowal</i>	13	5	1	1	0	0	4	4.00
<i>Bute</i>	1	1						
Total	77	40	25	18	4	3	38+	2.26***

* Mainland includes sites in Mid- Argyll (3), and , Kintyre with Knapdale(Mid-Argyll) (10).

*** Calculated for 15 broods from all areas where fledged brood size was accurately known.

Roosts 2010. The roost survey at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* found from 2 to 3 birds from Jan to Mar and from 2 to 4 birds from Oct to Dec. Three females were seen going to roost at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Dec.

2011. On Jan 1, four ring-tails were seen coming in to roost at dusk at Balephuill and Carnan Mor *Tiree* and a ringtail was noted going to roost at Aros Moss (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 10 Nov.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

0262

A vagrant: there have been no previous records in Argyll.

2010. No records.

2011. On 20 Sep, a juvenile was photographed at Pennyghael Mull [Bryan Rains]. It was present in the area until 24 Sep. Record accepted by BBRC as Salen Bay 20-24 Sep (*British Birds* 105:567). At 13:40hrs on 22 Sep, another juvenile was photographed flying south ca 180m off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre [Eddie Maguire, D Millward, Jo Goudie]. Record accepted by BBRC as juvenile 22 Sep (*British Birds* 105:567). This must be the first time that two individuals of a new species for Argyll have been recorded in just two days. In the autumn of 2011 there was an unprecedented influx of juveniles of this species to Britain, involving at least 29 individuals seen from Sussex to Shetland – see *British Birds* 105:567.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (GOSHAWK) *Accipiter gentilis* Glas-sheabhag

0267

A sporadic visitor of uncertain status: last confirmed record was in Knapdale (Mid-Argyll) in Mar 2006.

2010. One was seen at Elleric (Loch Creran) North Argyll on 28 Jan [Hugh Insley]. Record accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK (SPARROWHAWK) *Accipiter nisus* Speireag

0269

A widespread, resident, breeding species.

During **2010** and **2011** birds were reported from every recording area of Argyll except Coll (although they were presumably present there).

Prey species noted included: Rock Dove, Common Starling, House Sparrow, Linnet, Twite, Goldfinch and Reed Bunting.

Breeding 2010.

A total of 14 sites (Mull 2, Islay 1, Colonsay 3, Mid-Argyll 1 Cowal 6 (and one on Bute) were checked in 2010. Of these 11 sites showed signs of occupation (birds present or recent signs). Eggs were proved to have been laid at 8 sites and 5 sites were definitely successful. Two broods fully monitored in Cowal each fledged 4 young.

On Tiree breeding was not suspected but up to 4 birds were noted January–April and again from 21 August (J Bowler). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

2011. Ten sites (Colonsay 4, Cowal 6) were checked in 2011. Nine sites showed signs of occupation (birds present or recent signs). Eggs were known to have been laid at 8 sites and 6 of these had large young at the last visit.

Colonsay: a new Sparrowhawk territory was found (D Jardine). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

COMMON BUZZARD (BUZZARD) *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

0287

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

During **2010** and **2011** numerous records were received from all Argyll areas. The following counts give some idea of the numbers present: 14 in Tetrad NR96P (Millhouse Cowal) in 2 hrs on 11 Feb 2010 during atlas work, up to 13 over Beinn Chreagach (Brolass) Mull on 20 Sep 2011, 7 over Loch Etive Mid-Argyll during WeBS Count on 17 Jan 2010 and 7 together over Beinn Got Tiree on 9 Sep 2010.

Breeding 2010.

Table 23.1. *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2010* (ARSG – coordinator I. Hopkins). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

			Sites where breeding proven				
Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites failed	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged *	Young per successful site **
Tiree	12	12	0	2	0	4	2.00
Mull	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.00
Colonsay	57	20	12	6	2	7+	1.16
Islay	6	6	1	4	0	6	1.50
Kintyre	4	4	1	2	1	3+	1.00
Cowal	29	27	0	14	13	25	1.78
Bute	64	20	0	15	5	25+	1.81
Total	173	90	14	44	21	71+	1.53

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

** calculated for pairs where fledged brood size was accurately known; the total is based on 36 pairs where brood size was known.

On Colonsay it was a very poor season - a lot of rabbit fencing and traps were put in last autumn. However, there was an outbreak of Myxomatosis and the harsh winter decimated the population without any human help! Consequently, things were tough for the Buzzards and Hooded Crow and Raven were recorded as food items for the first time in the 25 years study. However, the season will be helpful for an analysis of climate and food which I hope to finalise this winter (D Jardine).

Many Bute pairs appeared not to be breeding. From personal observation, low rabbit numbers may have been to blame (I Hopkins). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Two adults and a juvenile seen in late Jun on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* suggested breeding (TIARG).

2011.

Table 23.2. *Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll* (ARSG – co-ordinator I. Hopkins). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

			Sites where breeding proven				
Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites failed	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged *	Young per successful site **
Tiree	10	10	0	1	0	1	1.00
Mull	2	2	0	2	0	4	2.00
Colonsay	58	16	1	4	2	5	1.25
Islay	6	6	1	5	0	7	1.40
Kintyre	5	5	1	4	0	7	1.75
Cowal	29	28	0	5	1	10	2.00
Bute	55	24	0	11	0	15	1.44
Coll	1	1	0	0	1		
TOTAL	166	92	3	32	4	49	1.54

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

*** calculated for pairs where fledged brood size was accurately known; the total is based on 30 pairs where brood size was known.*

Colonsay: many pairs appeared not to be breeding and at least three sites were burnt out in a bad hill fire on 1 May (D. Jardine). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

An adult and a juvenile, seen in late Jun, suggested breeding on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* (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.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire

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 **2010** from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and in **2011** from all recording areas apart from: *Coll*, *Kintyre*, and *North Argyll*. On 19 Jun 2010, an adult was seen delivering a whole hind leg of a red deer calf or roe deer fawn to a noisy chick at a nest site in *Cowal*.

Breeding 2010 - with a summary of previous years for comparison.

Table 24.1. *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll.*

Year	Territories checked	Territories occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min number of large young	Number of young per successful pair
2010	65	61	37	20 (25)	32.78% (40.98%)	28	1.10 (1.12)
2009	66	59	40	16	27.11%	18	1.12
2008	73	64	42	33 (35)	51.5% (54.68%)	36 (38)	1.09
2007	69	63	41	25 (26)	39.6% (41.2%)	25 (26)	1.00
2006	73	66	43	17	26.15%	17	1.00
2005	65	59	40	17 (18)	28.8%	19 (20)	1.11
2004	61	56	38	28 (29)	50%	32 (33)	1.14 (1.13)
2003	100	80	52	29 (30)	36.25% (37.50%)	30 (31)	1.03 (1.03)
2002	62	57	36	15	26.31%	15	1.00
2001	54	54	27	18	33.3%	21	1.16
1992	96	84	59	27	32.14%	28	1.03

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

(Data from National Surveys is shown in **bold**).

Scottish Ministers gave full consideration to all the views expressed by those consulted and have decided to classify Glen Etive & Glen Fyne as an SPA along with a number of other sites. Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPAs were classified with effect from 28 October 2010.

The person charged in connection with a poisoned Golden Eagle found in Glen Orchy appeared at the High Court in connection with firearms charges in Sep 2010. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Breeding 2011.

Table 24.2. *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll.*

	Ters. checked	Ters. occupied	Ters. where eggs laid	Ters. known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ters. that fledged young	Min number of large young	Number of young per successful pair
N Argyll	2	0	0	0	0	0	-
S Argyll	23	21	11	8	38.09	8	1.0
Mull	32	31	12	7	22.58	7	1.0
Other Islands	3	2	2	2	100	2	1.0
Total	60	54	25	17	31.48	17	1.0

Colonsay: based on DNA information from feather samples, Natural Research has found that the adult Golden Eagles have remained unchanged throughout the period 2006-2010 (David Jardine).

Part of a chick, ringed on *Mull* in 2008 by Derek Hayward, was found dead near Kilmelford, *Mid-Argyll*. Only the leg and a ring were found on the crag above a nest site where evidence of persecution and poisoning has been found in previous years. The talons were swabbed for common pesticides at SASA but the results were negative and the cause of death remains unknown (Elsie Ashworth, RSPB). A chick was fledged for the first time in a new territory on *Cowal*, but was later found dead. A large chick from a nest containing 2 chicks on *Mull* was removed under licence for the Irish reintroduction and is not included in the table above. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Iolair-e-iasgaich

0301

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

2010. An early arrival was seen flying north over Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar and one was at Loch na Cloiche *Coll* on 21 Mar. Following this, birds were recorded from all recording areas apart from *Jura*. In autumn, presumed passage migrants were reported on: *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* with the last sighting at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Oct.

Breeding 2010. Five new pairs were located in 2010, including one nest located in a new area late in the season but where local information suggests that breeding may have been successful. Apart from occupancy, details of this pair are excluded from the table below. A total of 16 pairs are known to have laid eggs although two pairs failed at the egg stage (one deserting after a grass fire nearby). Later in the season there was also evidence that several pairs had trouble feeding all their chicks. Unusually, a large emaciated chick (from b/2) was found recently dead in the nest at time of ringing and two other broods of three included single live but emaciated chicks. Only one chick survived to fledging from a brood of three found entangled in fishing tackle at a new nest site. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Table 25.1. *Summary of breeding information 2003-2010.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. large young	Young per successful site
2010	20	13	30	2.30

2009	15	12	28	2.33
2008	15	11	22*	2.00
2007	12	11	22	2.00
2006	12	9	17	1.88
2005	10	5	9	1.80
2004	9	7	13	1.85
2003	7	6	9	1.50

** brood size: b/1 x 3, b/2 x 3, b/3 x 7

* excludes breeding information for one pair where outcome unknown

2011. The first returning bird seen was at a nest site at Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar followed by one at another Loch Awe site on 25 Mar. Following this birds were recorded from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Colonsay*. In autumn, presumed passage migrants were reported on: *Coll, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree* with the last sighting at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Oct.

Table 25.2. *Breeding summary 2011.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. large young	Young per successful site
2011	16	6	13**	2.16

** brood size: b/1 x 1, b/2 x 3, b/3 x 2

Of the 16 pairs located; 14 laid eggs but just 6 were successful and raised a max of 13 young (*cf* 30 young in 2010). Most of the failed breeding attempts were a result of the severe storms on 23 May or were found to have failed in the next couple of weeks. A pair that has nested on the ruins of an ancient building since 2008 was prevented from nesting in 2011 by a pair of Greater Canada Geese that were already incubating in the nest when the birds returned. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

The gale on 23 May reached over 80mph locally. Two natural nests were blown out of their trees by this wind although all of the man-made platforms held firm (John Taylor - FE).

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 **2010** there were records from all recording areas apart from *Jura* and in **2011** from all recording areas apart from *Coll*. As usual there was a noticeable increase in sightings, in both years, from Sep onwards, especially in: *Cowal, Islay, and Tiree*.

Breeding 2010.

Table 26.1. *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2010. NB: includes data from Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number large young	Young per successful site
Islay	5	4	3	0	1	5+	
Colonsay	3	3	2	0	1	4+	
Kintyre	5	3	2	0	1	3+	
Bute	1						
Total	14	10	7	0	3	12+	1.71+

Tiree: Breeding was not suspected but at least 3 birds were present Jan-Mar after which none was noted until 12 August (J Bowler). *Cowal*: No occupied sites were located and hardly a bird seen in 2010 (A French). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

In addition to the above: an adult carrying food for young was seen at Beinn Reudle *Mull* on 17 May, a pair with two young was seen on Lismore *North Argyll* on 26 Jun, and a pair with 3 young was seen at Troustan (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 17 Jul.

Breeding 2011.

Table 26.2. *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2011. NB: includes data from Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number large young	Young per successful site
Mull	2	1	1	0	0	2	
Islay	1	1	0	0	1		
Colonsay	5	4	1	0	3	2+	
Kintyre	1	0	0	0	0		
Bute	3	1	0	0	1		
Total	12	7	2	0	5	4+	2.00+

In addition to the above, a pair at the Lower Powder Dam (Millhouse) *Cowal* was seen with a presumed juvenile on 27 May.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

0307

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

2010. A male seen at Gleann Mor (Port Charlotte) *Islay* on 2 May flew off SW towards Bolsay [Bob Davidson]. Record accepted by SBRC. This is a new species for *Islay* and third only for Argyll.

2011. No records.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

0309

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

2010 and 2011. There were frequent records of up to 4 birds on *Tiree* with up to 3 on both Oronsay *Colonsay* and *Islay*. Single birds were reported regularly from: *Colonsay* and *Mull* with rather fewer records from: *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2010.

Table 27.1 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2010 (ARSG per Roger Broad)*

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min. young fledged
5	2	1	1	0	3

Tiree: breeding was not suspected. Up to 5 birds were noted (Jan-Apr) including a female in possible breeding habitat near Vaul on 27 April (S. Wellock). All likely sites were checked and none were seen in May-Jul. First birds back were on 21 Aug (J Bowler).

A single adult was displaying over a former nesting site in *North Argyll* in Apr. Successful breeding was confirmed at one site on the *Cowal* where a brood of 3 fledged. Three former sites (2 *Kintyre*, 1 *Islay*) were apparently unoccupied in 2010.

A pair seen regularly to the south of Machrihanish *Kintyre* in May could have bred.

Breeding 2011.

Table 27.2 *Outcome of monitored Merlin territories in Argyll in 2011* (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min. young fledged
4	4	2	1	1	4

Pairs were acting territorially in May at a new site on *Mull* and another new site in South *Kintyre*. A pair was present at a previous nesting area in *North Argyll* in April. Successful breeding was confirmed at one site on the *Cowal* where a brood of 4 young fledged.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

0310

A rare visitor, mostly in spring and autumn.

2010. An adult was seen at Black Lochs *Mid-Argyll* hunting for dragonflies on 19 Jun [Calum Scott, Dave Graham, Bryan Hickman]. Record accepted by ABRC as adult or 2 calendar year. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. An adult was hunting hirundines at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 17 Aug [Neil Brown]. Record accepted by ABRC.

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

0318

A vagrant: several records prior to 1950 but only seven recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2009.

2009. A record of a white-morph 1winter bird on *Tiree* in Mar/Apr was still in circulation with BBRC at the time of writing.

2010. An immature white-morph bird, seen and photographed at Portnahaven *Islay* on 15 Jan and subsequently, was later found dead, on 10 Feb [John Armitage, Stephen McElwee *et al*]. Record accepted by BBRC as 15 Jan to 10 Feb (*British Birds* 104:576).

2011. No records.

PEREGRINE FALCON (PEREGRINE) *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag

0320

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

During **2010** and **2011** birds were reported from all recording areas apart from *Coll*: these included records from Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and Oronsay *Colonsay*.

Prey recorded included: Common Pheasant, European Golden Plover, Common Gull, tern spp, Rock Dove and Feral Pigeon. Peregrines were also seen pursuing: Pink-footed Goose, Puffin, Barn Swallow and Common Starling.

Breeding 2010.

Table 28.1. *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2010.* (ARSG per Roger Broad). *NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Misc Islands ¹	9	7	6	5	1	0	11	2.2
Islay	4	4	2	1	0	0	2	2.0
Cowal	13	9	6	6	0	0	16	2.66

Bute	2	1	1	1	0	0	3	3.0
Total	33	24	17	15	1	0	35+	2.42**

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

**** calculated for 14 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known**

Breeding 2011.

Table 28.2. *Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2011.* (ARSG per Roger Broad). *NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per success-ful site
Misc. Islands ¹	10	10	6	2	3	1	3+	1.50
Mainland (excluding Cowal)	3	2	2	2	0	0	3	1.50
Cowal	12	8	4	3	1	0	6	2.00
Bute	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	1.00
Total	28	23	13	8	4	1	13+	1.66**

¹ *Misc. Islands includes: Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay & Oronsay, and Islay.*

**** calculated for 6 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known**

Four sites are known to have failed (*Tiree* 2, *Colonsay* 1). Three of these failures appear to have been weather related, with little nesting activity seen after the hurricane force winds on 23 May.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan-allt

0407

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

Jan-Apr 2010. Calling birds were reported from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* (where at least 3 were calling throughout). A single bird was seen at Linne Mhuirich (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* crossing the road.

2011. At least 3 birds were calling throughout at Balephuill *Tiree*. Elsewhere, there were one or two records of calling birds from *Islay* and *North Argyll* and 5 territories were found at East Loch Fada *Colonsay*.

Breeding 2010. At the end of Apr, 5 territories were recorded on *Colonsay* with 3 elsewhere in May and another 2 in Jun. On *Tiree*, three birds were calling regularly throughout Apr with further single birds heard in: May, Jun, and Jul. In Jun at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* three birds were calling and one responded to tape on Lismore *North Argyll*.

2011. Three birds were calling at one site on *Tiree* in Apr with single birds at five sites in Jun and Jul. In Aug a recently fledged juvenile was seen in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree*. On *Islay* at least 9 calling birds were reported from RSPB Loch Gruinart in Jun with single birds in: Apr, May, and Jun. A calling bird, at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 28 Jun was a first at this location for the observer. On *Colonsay* five territories were reported in Apr, and one in Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. All records: apart from one bird heard in Oct and Dec at Kilchoman *Islay* and one brought in by a cat in Dec at Airdeny (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll*, were from *Tiree*. At Balephuill there was: 1 in Aug, 3 in Sep, 4 in Oct, 6 in Nov, and 3 in Dec. Elsewhere on *Tiree* there were 5 single birds calling.

2011. At Balephuill *Tiree* up to four birds were calling throughout with a single bird at Balemartine from Oct to Dec and two at Sorobaidh Bay in Sep. The only other records were from *Islay* with one reported in Oct at RSPB Loch Gruinart and one in Dec at Easter Ellister.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* Traon-breac

0408

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

2010. No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

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.

2010. The first calling birds were heard on 9 Apr at Friesland *Coll* and *Iona Mull* followed by birds on *Tiree* on 11 Apr and *Islay* on 12 Apr. Birds calling at Seil Island and Connel *Mid-Argyll* in Apr/May could well have been migrants.

Most had left by the first week in Oct but one was at Heylipol *Tiree* on 1 Nov and a very late bird with a damaged wing was seen at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Dec.

2011. The first reported calling bird was at Uig *Coll* on 7 Apr; followed by birds at Balephuill and Balemartine *Tiree* and Ballinaby *Islay* on 14 Apr. Birds were reported at the north end of *Iona Mull* on 19 Apr and on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr.

One was seen feeding with chickens (!) at Balephuill *Tiree* for several days in late Sep. The last report of the year was of one at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 2 Oct.

Breeding 2010 and 2011. 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 due in part to a re-assessment of the numbers on *Coll*.

2010. Two were heard calling on Gigha and two elsewhere in *Kintyre*. Birds were calling in Jun from at least one site in *Mid-Argyll*, but as in 2008, none were recorded on the Treshnish Isles.

2011. Records on the mainland in Jun included birds calling at at least two at sites in *Kintyre*. Four calling birds were heard on Lunga Treshnish Isles *Mull* and two broods of young with at least 5 in each brood were seen: the first confirmed breeding record on the islands (TIARG).

Table 29. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2002-2011.*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Coll</i>	74	90	134	159	171	180	118	122	116	121
<i>Tiree</i>	172	184	260	310	316	391	413	392	391	385
<i>Iona</i>	12	24	24	29	39	30	50	46	34	24
<i>Mull</i>	1	0	5	5	7	4	8	2	7	6
<i>Colonsay</i> <i>incl.</i> <i>Oronsay</i>	25	32	46	53	62	73	67	61	72	58
<i>Islay</i>	8	10	31	52	59	70	82	84	81	85
Smaller islands*	1+	4+	9+	6	10	7	n/r	2	2	12+**
Mainland					1			5	3+	<i>see above</i>
Grand Total	293	344	509	614	664	755	738	714	706	691

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

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

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

0424

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

Jan-Apr 2010. Eight birds at Port Charlotte *Islay* in Jan was the highest number seen in any one area throughout Argyll with other reports being of three at Tayinloan *Kintyre*, two at: Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*, Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*, Lismore *North Argyll*, and single birds at: River Add Estuary and Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll*, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*, and Rhunahaorine *Kintyre*.

2011. Single birds were reported in: Jan, Feb, Mar, and Apr at ten different locations scattered throughout islands and mainland Argyll as well as two at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* and a group of three at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

Breeding 2010. Within suitable nesting habitat in Apr at Tayinloan *Kintyre*, territorial behaviour was observed by three birds. This was also noted in Jun at Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll*. A pair with at least one juv was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Jun.

2011. At RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods *Islay* five birds were recorded in May and Jun and singles were seen in Jul in suitable nesting habitat at Gortinane *Kintyre* and Tayinloan *Kintyre*.

Aug-Dec 2010. There were 2 at Loch Indaal *Islay* in Sep. In Oct, 2 were seen at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* and Scoor Mull and singles at Kilbride Bay Cowal and Balephuill *Tiree* while in Nov at Balephuill *Tiree* and RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* single birds were reported.

2011. In Oct, there was a pair and a group of 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and in Nov a single bird was at Bruichladdich *Islay*. Dec records were of single birds at: Bruichladdich and Loch Indaal *Islay*, Loch Bhasapol *Tiree*, and 8 on the Oban Lochan Dubh, *Mid-Argyll*.

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

0429

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

2010. On *Tiree*, up to four birds were present at Lochs Bhasapol and Riaghain in Jan and Feb and three were on various lochs in Dec. One was seen on Balnagown Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 21 Feb, on *Mull*, singles were at the head of Loch na Keal on 6 Apr and on Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) on 23 Oct and two were on Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Dec. On the mainland, up to 3 were on Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* from Jan to mid-Mar.

2011. On *Tiree*, up to 10 birds were present at Loch a' Phuill during Jan, singles were on Loch Bhasapol and Loch a' Phuill on 7 Feb and a juvenile was on Loch Bhasapol on 21 Nov. Up to 8 birds were present at on Loch Skerrols *Islay* in Jan and up to 3 in Feb and early Mar. The only mainland record concerned one on Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

0433

A vagrant: eight accepted records 1966-2007.

2010. One photographed at Coul *Islay* on 4 May was seen at various locations on *Islay* until 6 May [Michal Sur *et al.*]. Record accepted by ABRC on the basis of a photograph.

2011. No records.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brìghde

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 2010. Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and somewhat smaller numbers at the regularly counted Loch Creran *North Argyll* (see WeBS counts in Table 30.1 for the last two of these sites). Elsewhere, counts of 100 birds or more included: 150 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, 100 at The Reef *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 155 on *Tiree* on 15 Mar, 104 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Mar, 114 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Mar, and 124 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 17 May. A bird originally ringed at Anglesey, north Wales, on 26 Oct 2003 was seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 May.

2011. Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, and Holy Loch *Cowal* (see WeBS counts for two of these sites and Loch Creran *North Argyll* in Table 30.2). Elsewhere, counts of 100 or more birds included: 159 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 142 there on 5 Feb, 194 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 11 Feb and 109 there on 17 Mar, 127 at Bridgend Merse (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 21 Feb, 102 at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Feb, 120 at Traigh Bay *Tiree* on 26 Feb, 170 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Mar, 262 at The Reef *Tiree* on 1 May, and 123 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 22 Jun. A ringed bird found dead on 12 Jan at Dunoon *Cowal* had originally been ringed on 27 Aug 2003 at Annan, Dumfries & Galloway.

Breeding 2010. BTO Atlas fieldwork recorded breeding across most of Argyll. Some examples of breeding numbers are: 6 pairs on Lunga and 18 pairs on five of the smaller Treshnish Isles *Mull*, 10 pairs on the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*, 6 pairs on Eilean Mor (McCormac Isles) *Mid-Argyll*, 3 pairs on Corr Eilean (McCormac Isles) *Mid-Argyll*, 5 pairs on Kilmaronag Isle (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll*, 4 pairs on Abbot's Isle (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll*, 5 pairs on Eilean an Ruisg *Mid-Argyll*, 4 pairs on Eilean Inshaig (Ardfern) *Mid-Argyll*, and 7 pairs on Ban Eileanan (Sound of Mull) *Mull*. See the database for details for other sites.

2011. There were 139 pairs at The Reef *Tiree* with chicks present from last week of May, 13 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and 21 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*. See the database for details for other sites with smaller numbers.

Jul-Dec 2010. Other than those in Table 30.1, sites with 100 or more birds included: 132 at *Tiree* on 8 Jul, 185 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Jul, 370 on 13 Aug and 440 on 22 Aug, 199 at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 20 Jul, 194 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep, 153 on 11 Oct and 233 on 14 Nov, 280 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 7 Nov, 186 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 10 Nov, 152 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Nov, and 410 at Glenramskill Pier *Kintyre* on 25 Nov. A mostly white bird was on *Tiree* through the autumn.

2011. Other than those in Table 30.2, sites with 100 or more birds included: 120 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 19 Jul, 120 on 15 Sep and 126 on 20 Nov, 250 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, 467 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 20 Aug and 412 on 31 Aug, and 500 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 1 Oct.

Table 30.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at Loch Gruinart, Loch Creran & Holy Loch 2010.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	269	355	286	179	203	138	154	220	367	302	152	288
Creran	n/r	112	82	49	41	22	48	51	n/r	94	101	n/r
Holy L.	430	649	440	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	358	n/r	385	209

Table 30.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Oystercatchers at Loch Gruinart, Loch Creran, & Holy Loch 2011.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	289	271	401	149	149	134	n/r	226	266	106	327	189
Creran	122	114	97	46	37	40	46	115	89	109	76	72
Holy L.	809	467	312	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	327	606	448	649

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

0456

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

0459

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

0469

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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.

Jan-May 2010. Widely distributed on Argyll coasts where larger counts included: 80 in Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jan, 90 in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan, 95 in Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 15 Jan, 185 on *Tiree* on 18 Jan, 165 in Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 120 in Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 7 Feb, 165 on *Tiree* on 1 Mar, 345 on *Tiree* on 28 Apr, 180 in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 20 May, 240 on *Tiree* on 26 May, and 149 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 29 May.

2011. Widely distributed on Argyll coasts where larger counts included: 277 on *Tiree* on 17 Jan and 185 on 1 Feb, 105 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 5 Apr, 250 at Traigh Cill an Rubha (Bridgend) *Islay* on 13 Apr, 220 at The Reef *Tiree* on 15 Apr, 124 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Apr, 180 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr, 150 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 21 Apr, 260 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 May and 265 on 5 May, 495 on *Tiree* on 3 May, 180 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 May and 275 on 13 May, 250 at Bowmore *Islay* on 14 May, 104 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 May, and 190 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 20 May. Two birds that had been colour-ringed in Iceland were on *Tiree* in early Apr.

Breeding 2010. From Atlas fieldwork, breeding was confirmed on shores and river shingle across much of coastal Argyll.

2011. There were about 10 pairs established on territories at Otter Ferry *Cowal* by early Mar. About 14 pairs held territory on *Colonsay* (excluding *Oronsay*). There were 46 pairs at The Reef *Tiree* in early May. Eight pairs held territories on Big Strand *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Counts of 100 or more included: 272 on *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 150 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 100 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 15 Sep, 250 on *Tiree* on 5 Oct, and 120 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 3 Nov. One bird, colour-ringed as a breeding male at Coigach, Wester Ross on 18 May 2006 returned for its third consecutive winter on *Tiree* in early Oct.

2011. Counts of 100 or more included: 180 on *Tiree* on 8 Aug and 310 on 11 Aug, 201 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Aug, 135 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 3 Sep, 120 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 141 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 4 Sep, 100 at Carnain *Islay* on 5 Sep, 100 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 10 Sep, 300 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 15 Sep, 120 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 3 Nov, and 120 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 12 Dec.

KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus*

0474

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern singles on Colonsay in Jan 1984 and on Oronsay (Colonsay) in Oct 2006.

2010. No records.

2011. One was photographed at Lossit Bay Islay on 31 Jan [Will Miles]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 105:575).

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

0482

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

2010. One was at The Reef Tìree on 19 Mar, 3 on Beinn nan Gabhar Mull on 7 May, and singles at: The Oa Islay on 7 May, Upper Killeyan Islay on 15 May, The Oa Islay on 15 May, and Meall nan Eun North Argyll on 25 Jun.

2011. A flock of 14 at The Reef Tìree on 19 Apr was the largest yet recorded in Argyll. Other records were: 2 on the summit of Ben More Mull on 22 Apr, a flock of 8 at the airport runway at Tìree on 17 May, and a juvenile at Ruaig Tìree on 25 and 26 Sep.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

0484

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

2010. An adult in moult found at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve on 4 Sep was seen there daily, usually at the head of the loch, until at least 11 Sep [Jim Dickson *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC as 4 - 11 Sep.

2011. A juvenile was found at Kilmoluaig Tìree on 7 Oct [Jerry Wilson]. It was subsequently seen at various locations in the Kilmoluaig / Barrapol/ Middleton area until at least 27 Oct [John Bowler, Bill Allan *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC as 7 – 27 Oct.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

0484.2

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

2010. No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

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

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

Jan-May 2010. Higher numbers were on Tìree (see Table 31), with other large flocks mostly on Islay. There were 400 at Ballinaby Islay on 27 Feb and 18 Apr and 500 on 24 Apr. There were: 356 between Feolin and Craighouse Jura on 5 Mar, 200 at Coull Farm Islay on 23 Mar, 440 at Oronsay airstrip Colonsay on 17 Apr, 200 at Rockside Islay on 29 Apr, and 276 at Oronsay airstrip Colonsay on 29 Apr.

2011. Higher numbers were on Tìree (see Table 31), with other large flocks mostly on Islay. There were: 230 at Ballinaby Islay on 30 Mar and 300 on 13 Apr, 209 at Oronsay airstrip Colonsay on 4 Apr, 260 on 9 Apr and 283 on 14 Apr, 382 at Saligo Islay on 9 Apr, and 300 at Lochans (Loch Gorm) Islay on 13 Apr.

Breeding 2010. Surprisingly, despite BTO Atlas fieldwork, there was only one confirmed record of breeding (2 pairs on Meall nan Eun North Argyll). Small numbers were seen in Jun and Jul on Mull and Tìree.

2011. Again, a surprising shortage of breeding evidence, although birds were reported in probable breeding habitat at Coire Buidhe (Glen Creran) *North Argyll*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Flock size and the distribution of records increased through Aug. Largest counts in Aug-Dec were from *Tiree* (see Table 31). Elsewhere, there were: 296 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 7 Oct, 472 on 8 Oct, and around 100-200 through to the end of Dec. A flock of 2500 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 9 Nov was described as ‘unprecedented’ for the area. There were 440 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Nov.

2011. Few were reported in Jul, with the largest counts being 9 at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Jul and 9 at Lossit Farm *Islay* on 26 Jul. Larger counts in Aug-Dec were from *Tiree* (see Table 31). Elsewhere, there were: 500 at Clochkeil Farm (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 9 Oct and 1000 on 31 Oct and 1 Nov, 250 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 13 Oct, 1000 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 27 Oct, 1100 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 16 Nov, 1000 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 Nov, and 800 on 18 Dec.

Table 31 *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on Tiree in 2010 and 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	645	975	825	3500	200	4	30	200	1200	2690	3625	1840
2011	785	150	2200	5000	4	5	9	405	1350	3100	4195	3510

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 2010. There were 11 records. Single birds were seen at: Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Jan, Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 6 Feb, Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb, Salum Bay *Tiree* on 23 Feb, Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 15 Mar, Ardnave *Islay* on 3 Apr, Traigh Nostaig *Islay* on 16 May, and Salum Bay *Tiree* on 21 Jun. There were: 2 birds near Ardpatrik House *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 3 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20 Mar, and 2 at Ardnave *Islay* on 25 Mar.

2011. There were 22 records, as usual mostly of single birds, and with about half of the records from *Islay*. The largest group reported was 8 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Jan. An unusual record was a bird at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 29 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were 28 records, mostly of single birds but with some flocks of up to 23 birds. Two were seen in Aug, five in Sep, and larger numbers in Oct-Dec. One at Otter Ferry Cowal on 19 Aug was an unusual location as well as an early date. Most records came from *Islay*, including a flock of 23 birds at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov, elsewhere there were also records from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

2011. There were 25 records, with small numbers, seen on numerous dates through Sep to Dec. About three-quarters of the records came from *Islay*, with smaller numbers from: *Colonsay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. There were: 10 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Oct, 8 on 18 and 19 Nov, and 12 on 20 Dec.

NORTHERN LAPWING (LAPWING) *Vanellus vanellus* Curracag

0493

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

Jan-Mar 2010. Larger numbers tended to be on *Tiree* (Table 32.1). Other high counts included: 300 at Largiebeg *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, and 270 at Glencraigs *Kintyre* on 21 Jan.

2011. Larger numbers tended to be on *Tiree* (Table 32.2). Other high counts included: 165 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 6 Feb, 295 at RSPB Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 10 Feb and 225 on 14 Mar, and 201 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 27 Feb.

Breeding 2010. There were 33 pairs on *Colonsay* but no other complete counts of breeding numbers.

2011. There were: 264 pairs at The Reef *Tiree*, 117 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and 33 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*. All these counts are slightly down from numbers breeding at these sites in 2009.

Jul-Dec 2010. Larger numbers were on *Tiree* (Table 32.1). Other large counts were: 122 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 2 Nov, 250 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Nov, 180 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 5 Nov, 522 on Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 19 Nov, 500 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Nov, and 150 at Rockside *Islay* on 29 Dec.

2011. Larger numbers were on *Tiree* (Table 32.2). Elsewhere numbers were regularly high at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with: 119 on 22 Sep, 213 on 2 Oct, 400 on 9 Oct, 326 on 14 Oct, 249 on 21 Oct, 160 on 28 Oct, 551 on 18 Nov, 1200 on 14 Dec, and 800 on 19 Dec. Other large counts were: 100 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 1 Sep, 200 at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 9 Oct, 300 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, and 545 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 Nov.

Table 32.1 Monthly *Maximum counts of Lapwings at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and on Tiree in 2010.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Gruinart</i>	88	200	70	28	48	20	11	-	-	11	718	223
<i>Tiree</i>	1160	2510	-	-	-	-	-	1500	1400	1760	2125	1380

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs.

Table 32.2 Monthly *Maximum counts of Lapwings at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and on Tiree in 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Gruinart</i>	163	295	225	38	53	26	-	-	135	341	571	1097
<i>Tiree</i>	1675	1050	-	-	-	-	450	2235	2500	1200	2385	2990

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs.

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

0496

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

Jan-May 2010. There were only six records: 20 at Glenburn (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 1 Jan, 2 at Holy Loch Cowal on 20 Jan, 3 at Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Mar, 15 at Springbank *Islay* on 17 May, 3 at Miodar *Tiree* on 20 May, and one at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 21 May.

2011. There were ten records: 2 individuals in Jan at Otter Ferry Cowal, 30, 52 and 25 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on dates in Feb, 5 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 17 Apr, 4 to 8 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in early May, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 May, and one at Bowmore *Islay* on 14 May.

Summer records 2010. There were six summer records: 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Jun and 2 there on 15 Jul, a remarkable 68 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 21 Jul (all in breeding plumage), one at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 22 Jul, and 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jul.

2011. There were 5 summer records: 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun, 10 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 15 Jun, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Jun, one at Gartnatra *Islay* on 7 Jul and 4 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Jul.

Aug-Dec 2010. Most records were from: *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and *Tiree* with good numbers in Aug and Sep during passage but smaller numbers in winter. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded peak counts of 48 on 22 Aug and 40 on 18 Sep. Other larger groups included 24 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug, 28 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep and 30 on 9 Oct, and 20 at Bowmore *Islay* on 19 Nov.

2011. As usual, most records were from *Islay*, *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre*, and *Tiree*, with good numbers in Aug during passage but small numbers in winter. In Aug, highest counts were: 87 at *Rubha na Moine (Loch Crinan) Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 60 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 13 Aug and 63 at *RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay* on 19 Aug. During autumn passage a bird that had been colour-ringed at *Simonszand* in *The Netherlands* on 25 Aug 2006 was seen at *Big Strand Islay* on 12 Aug. There were only 4 records in Nov and 2 in Dec, and all of these were of 1 to 3 individuals, apart from the last record of the year, which was of 32 birds at *Gartbreck Islay* on 18 Dec.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas

0497

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

Jan-Jun 2010. Larger numbers occurred on *Tiree* (Table 33.1). The highest count away from *Tiree* was 105 at *Gartmain Islay* on 4 Feb. Small numbers were seen on *Coll*, *Colonsay* and at various sites in *Kintyre*. Several leg-flagged birds were seen on *Tiree* including two marked in SW *Iceland* and two marked in *Ghana*.

2011. Larger numbers occurred on *Tiree*. Elsewhere there were few large flocks, except occasionally at *Loch Gruinart Islay* (Table 33.2). Small numbers were regularly seen on *Colonsay* and *Kintyre*. Leg flagged birds seen on *Tiree* in Apr included 3 marked in *Iceland*. In May there were: 16 marked in *Iceland*, 1 from *Poland*, 1 from *Ghana*, and 3 from *Portugal*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Apart from the high numbers on *Tiree* (Table 33.1) large counts elsewhere included: 118 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 17 Jul, 100 at *Ardnave Islay* on 16 Oct, and 176 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 19 Nov. A few birds were seen on *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Mull* and various sites in *Kintyre*. Leg flagged birds seen on *Tiree* in Aug included: 6 birds marked in SW *Portugal*, 1 marked in *Iceland*, and 1 marked in *Ghana*. Those seen in Nov included 5 marked in *Iceland*.

2011. Apart from the high numbers on *Tiree* and at *Loch Gruinart Islay* (Table 33.2) large counts elsewhere included 260 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 8 Sep. Small numbers were seen on *Colonsay*, *Mull* and various sites in *Kintyre*. Leg flagged birds on *Tiree* included 9 marked in *Iceland* and 1 marked in *Jersey*.

Table 33.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings on Tiree in 2010. Counts from Tiree are not always of the whole island.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Tiree</i>	165	450	348	n/r	775	30	120	264	328	197	175	245

Table 33.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings at Loch Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2011. Counts from Tiree are not always of the whole island.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Gruinart</i>	52	80	n/r	6	1	n/r	n/r	145	144	n/r	n/r	71
<i>Tiree</i>	340	160	120	380	2200	160	135	305	175	290	205	200

N.B. maximum count in May 2008 should read 2900 (not 180).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

0498

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag

0501

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

Spring 2010. Recorded only on *Tiree*, with one at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Jun.

2011. Recorded only on *Tiree*, with one at Loch a' Phuill on 9 Jun.

Autumn 2010. The first report was of one bird at Ardnave *Islay* on 11 Aug. In Sep-Oct there were 12 records, all from *Islay* or *Tiree*. There were 4 birds at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Sep and 2 on 7 and 8 Sep. There were 2 at Vaul *Tiree* on 13 Sep. Other records were of single birds.

2011. There were 3 birds at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Aug, but no other records that month. In Sep there were 15 records, all from *Islay* or *Tiree* apart from one seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Sep. Two birds were seen at Gartmain *Islay* on 18 Dec (the only record after Sep).

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 (Islay) in May 2000.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

0505

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

2010. No records.

2011. An adult was photographed with Dunlins at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 4 Aug [John Bowler]. Accepted by SBRC as Gott Bay 4 Aug. An adult was on the floods at The Reef *Tiree* on 15 Sep [John Bowler]. Accepted by SBRC as The Reef 15 September. These were the first and second records of this species for *Tiree* and only the third and fourth for Argyll.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

0506

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

2010. No records.

2011. A juvenile seen and photographed at Bridgend *Islay* on 4 Sep was still present on 5 Sep [Jim Dickson, P. Roberts *et al*]. Accepted by BBRC as juvenile Loch Indaal 4-5 Sep (*British Birds* 105:580). A juvenile seen and photographed at Sandaig *Tiree* on 26 Sep was still present on 27 Sep [Jim Dickson, John Bowler]. Accepted by BBRC as juvenile Sandaig 26-27 Sep (*British Birds* 105:580).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

0507

A scarce but increasingly frequent transatlantic visitor with about 30 accepted Argyll records during 1978-2009: a rare autumn migrant, with a few spring records.

2010. An adult was flying around with breeding Dunlins and Redshanks at The Reef *Tiree* on 10 Jun [John Bowler]. Accepted by ABRC with the comment: that on this date, there is the possibility the bird was breeding or attempting to breed. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160). A juvenile was found feeding with Snipe at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 13 Sep. In the following days one, or occasionally two, juveniles were seen at various locations, including Loch a' Phuill and Heylipol, until 10 Oct [John Bowler, Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson *et*

al]. Accepted by ABRC as at least two juveniles 13 Sep-10 Oct. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. An adult was seen at Fidden *Mull* on 21 May [Bryan Rains]. A juvenile was feeding with Snipe at Balinoe *Tiree* on 9 Sep and two were at The Reef *Tiree* on 15 Sep, with one remaining on 16 Sep. These three records were all accepted by ABRC. One was photographed at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* on 19 Sep and singles were seen at various locations nearby the following day [Mick Durham, James How, Bob Davidson *et al*]. Accepted by ABRC as one or possibly two birds. A juvenile was found at Sandaig *Tiree* on 24 Sep [Jim Dickson] and juveniles were seen at various locations on *Tiree* until the end of Sep, with other unconfirmed records until 14 Oct [John Bowler, Bill Allan *et al*]. Accepted by ABRC as at least 2 juveniles 24 Sep - 14 Oct. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom

0509

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

Spring 2010. No records.

2011. One was at Ballinaby *Islay* on 1 May, and two were seen at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 9 May.

Autumn 2010. A juvenile seen at Lochan Luing (Rhunahaorine) *Kintyre* on 21 Aug was the only record that month. However, there were good numbers of records throughout Sep and Oct, predominantly from *Tiree* but also from *Islay*. Most records were of 1 to 4 birds, but there were 8 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, and 8 on *Tiree* on 5 Oct. Away from these islands there was one on *Coll* on 8 Sep, and 2 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep.

2011. Birds were reported from 26 Aug to 7 Nov, but predominantly during Sep. Most were seen on *Tiree*, with other records from: *Islay*, *Colonsay*, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The largest counts were: 20 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 11 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 and 18 Sep, and 22 on *Tiree* on 19 Sep.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rioghail

0510

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

Jan-Jun 2010. Counts of 20 or more included: 36 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 6 Jan and 37 on 7 Jan, 120 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Jan, 38 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 19 Feb, 20 at Ardnave *Islay* on 21 Feb, and 25 on *Tiree* on 23 Feb. Numbers declined in Apr, and in May there were only three records: 5 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 1 May, 14 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 May, and 5 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 21 May. There were no records in Jun.

2011. Counts of 20 or more included: 30 at Urvaig *Tiree* on 7 Jan, 27 at Caolas *Tiree* on 28 Feb, and 23 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Feb. The largest group in May was 4 birds at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 21 May, and the last May record was of 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 May. No birds were seen in Jun.

Jul-Dec 2010. No birds were seen in Jul or Aug. The first autumn record was on 15 Sep, when one was seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The largest autumn counts came from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* where there were: 30 on 28 Sep, 30+ on 29 Oct, and 20 on 3 Nov. The largest winter counts were from *Tiree* (46 at Hough Bay on 24 Nov and 96 on 4 Dec, and 22 at West Hynish on 12 Dec) and Dunoon *Cowal*. At Dunoon birds roost near the crazy golf course (30 on 9 Nov, 33 on 10 Nov, 33 on 22 Nov, and 30 on 6 Dec). Apart from these key sites, small numbers (often single birds but sometimes groups of 2-8 birds) were reported from several sites on: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. The first of the autumn was on 13 Aug on *Coll*, but the first autumn record from *Tiree* was not until 1 Sep, and the first at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was not until 21 Sep. Birds were reported regularly in small numbers throughout Nov and Dec, but there were no large flocks; the

highest counts being, 32 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 16 Nov, and 27 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 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 2010. Larger numbers tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay* or on *Tiree* although regular counts came only from the last of these sites (Table 34.1). Other large counts included: 40 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 45 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 9 Feb, 600 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Feb, 40 at Kirm *Cowal* on 9 Mar, 50 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 22 Mar and 300 on 6 May, 180 at Traigh Nostaig *Islay* on 1 May, 48 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 20 May, 131 at Gartmain *Islay* on 21 May, and 50 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 25 May. A bird on *Colonsay* on 20 May had been colour ringed in Portugal.

2011. Larger numbers at regularly counted sites tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and *Tiree* (Table 34.2). Other large counts included: 40 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Feb and 45 on 21 Feb, 50 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Feb, 50 at Leth Uillt (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 20 Feb, 42 at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 4 Mar, 41 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 5 May and 53 on 13 May, 90 at Caolas Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 5 May, 250 at Ardnave *Islay* on 9 May and 80 on 19 May, 300 at Bowmore *Islay* on 14 May, 80 at Iona *Mull* on 22 May, 100 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 26 May, and 60 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Jun. A bird on *Tiree* on 14 May had been leg flagged in Portugal.

Breeding 2010. There were 37 singing males on the wetland area of The Reef *Tiree*, with small numbers at various sites elsewhere on *Tiree*. None were reported for other breeding sites.

2011. There were 57 singing males on the wetland area at The Reef *Tiree*. The only other count of breeding numbers reported was 3 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Larger numbers tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay* or on *Tiree*; although regular counts came only from the last of these sites (Table 34.1). Large counts, not tabulated, included: 275 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Jul, 120 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul and 80 on 18 Aug, 76 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug, 470 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Aug, 45 at Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 11 Oct, 100 at Bowmore *Islay* on 19 Nov, 126 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 26 Nov, and 575 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Nov.

2011. Larger numbers, at regularly counted sites, tended to be at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and *Tiree* (Table 34.2). Other large counts included: 130 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Aug, 80 on 10 Aug and on 6 Sep, 80 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, 150 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 5 Sep, and 500 at Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 15 Sep with 300 on 18 Dec.

Table 34.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlins at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2010.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	561	792	515	29	1570	n/r	20	520	247	346	575	178
Tiree	63	70	135	540	620	110	60	45	52	105	45	55

Table 34.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlins at Loch Gruinart Islay and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	112	96	n/r	4	227	3	n/r	245	703	300	n/r	370
Tiree	190	101	60	640	1700	60	90	245	95	18	65	95

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

0514

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* 0516

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

2010. Three were found at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 Sep. In the following days up to three were seen at any one time at various locations on *Tiree* until 7 Oct [John Bowler, Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC as at least 3 juveniles on *Tiree* 17 Sep - 8 Oct but John Bowler thinks there could have been as many as seven. A juvenile found at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 20 Sep was still there the following day [Bob Davidson *et al*]. Accepted ABRC as juvenile 20-21 Sep. Five juveniles were found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Sep with one remaining on 27 Sep [Mike Peacock *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2011. One was photographed at Fiddien *Mull* on 21 May [Bryan Rains]. Record accepted by ABRC on the basis of the photograph. Juveniles were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Sep [Keith Gillon] and at Barrapol *Tiree* on 29 Sep [Jim Dickson, Bob Grove]. Records accepted by ABRC.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan 0517

An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.

Jan-May 2010. There were 5 spring records: one at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, one at Sandaig *Tiree* on 19 Apr and 29 Apr, one at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 30 Apr, and one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 May.

2011. There was one at The Reef *Tiree* on 4 Apr and one at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 25 Apr.

Breeding 2010. No birds were reported in Jun.

2011. A pair was present at a confidential site in late Apr and much of May, with displaying seen but no proof of breeding was reported. No birds were reported from anywhere in Argyll in Jun.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were relatively few reports. The first were one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Jul, and one at Balemartine *Tiree* on 9 Aug, followed by regular reports from 19 Aug to 18 Oct (mostly as single birds but sometimes in groups of up to 5). Almost all records were from *Tiree*, with a few from *Colonsay* and *Islay*.

2011. There were considerably more seen than in 2010. Early autumn birds were: one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 Jul and 3 on 2 Aug, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Aug and 18 on 14 Aug. From 15 Aug to the end of Oct birds were reported almost daily from *Tiree* and *Islay*, with a very few seen on *Mull* and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. In Sep and early Oct there were from 10 to 30 present at Loch Gruinart *Islay* with similar numbers on *Tiree*, including a record count of 33 at Loch a' Phuill on 18 Sep. Numbers dropped in the second half of Oct, with the last being seen on *Tiree* on 2 and 4 Nov.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus* Gobhrag-bheag 0518

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

Jan-May 2010. Birds were seen at: Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, Ardnave *Islay* on 10 Jan, Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Jan, Belloch (Glenbarr) *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 12 Jan, Glas Eilean (Luig) *Mid-Argyll* (2 birds) on 16 Jan, Milton *Tiree* on 18 Jan, and Leorin *Islay* on 24 Mar.

2011. Only one reported, at Dhurnie (Laggan) *Kintyre* on 7 Jan.

Sep-Dec 2010. Reports were of: one at Balinoe *Tiree* on 4 Oct, 2 at Scoor *Mull* on 24 Oct, one at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 5 Nov, one at Port nam Partan *Mull* on 22 Nov, one at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Nov, 3 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 8 Dec, and one at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 12, 20 and 21 Dec.

2011. Two were at Barrapol *Tiree* on 25 Oct, one at Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Oct, and one at Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 10 and 13 Nov.

COMMON SNIPE (SNIPE) *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg 0519

A widespread and locally common breeding species: particularly on the outer islands. Higher numbers occur on passage and as winter visitors: mainly on the islands.

Jan-Apr 2010. Birds were widely reported, in small numbers, especially in western Argyll and on the islands. There were 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Jan, many along the roadsides, in frosty conditions. On the same date 6 were seen in roadside ditches at Otter Ferry *Cowal* also with frozen ground apparently concentrating birds. On 18 Jan there were 35 at Ruaig *Tiree*, six were seen at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 17 Feb, 13 were at Airds Bay (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb, and 13 at outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 21 Feb.

2011. Birds were widely distributed as usual, especially in western Argyll, but there were no counts in double figures, except on *Tiree* where birds were already 'drumming' by 4 Mar and 68 males were counted 'drumming' at The Reef *Tiree* in Apr.

Breeding 2010. There were 68 drumming birds at The Reef *Tiree* on 1 Jun. Elsewhere; birds were widely reported in ones and twos from suitable wet habitats throughout Argyll.

2011. Counts of drumming birds in early Jun included: 96 at The Reef *Tiree*, 35 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 13 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, and at least 5 at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Aug-Dec 2010. Birds were widely distributed in ones and twos in wet habitats throughout Argyll, with particularly high numbers on *Tiree*. An influx was noted on *Tiree* in early Sep with: 40 in Gott Bay on 3 Sep, 70 at Sandaig on 6 Sep, 550 on the island on 13 Sep, and 110 on the island on 19 Sep. Numbers fell to 55 on *Tiree* on 18 Dec. Elsewhere, the only counts in double figures were 21 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug, and 14 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 15 Dec. On 13 Dec, at Salum Bay *Tiree*, one was watched being chased by two Hoodies. It landed, exhausted on offshore rocks, where it was eaten by a Great Black-backed Gull.

2011. As usual, birds were widely distributed in ones and twos in wet habitats throughout Argyll, with particularly high numbers on *Tiree*. As usual there was evidence of autumn migration in Sep, with a count of 160 on *Tiree* on 4 Sep. There were: 120 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 60 on *Tiree* on 21 Nov, and 40 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 20 Dec.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 0527

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern singles on Islay in June 1986 and Apr 2009.

There are also three acceptable records (1891-1973) of unidentified Dowitchers.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille 0529

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

Jan-Mar 2010. Birds were reported from all areas of Argyll in ones and twos. Several records in Jan and Feb were of birds displaced from frozen ground into gardens and roadside verges. For example, one was seen foraging under rhododendrons at Corra Farm *Cowal*. Birds were

regularly seen on the lawn at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*. The farm cat there brought three into the farmhouse, one dead and two still alive, which were released unharmed. An unusually large group of 20 was seen at Grulinbeg *Islay* on 12 Jan.

2011. One or two birds were reported from many sites across Argyll in Jan, but very few were seen in Feb or Mar.

Breeding 2010. The database lacks detailed information on the breeding distribution and numbers of this species. Furthermore, in 2010 although records were reported almost daily through to the end of Mar, there were only: 2 records in Apr, 1 in May, 2 in Jun, and none in Jul or Aug; suggesting that this species is a relatively scarce breeder in Argyll. None of the summer records suggest breeding and none mention roding behaviour being seen.

2011. There were reports of roding birds in May at Bridgend Woods *Islay*, Scalasaig *Colonsay*, and Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll*. However there was only one record reported from Jun to Sep when a bird was flushed from bracken in woodland at Port an Tiobart *Jura* on 27 Jun.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first autumn record was on 17 Sep at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll*. There were only three records in Oct; one on *Jura* and two on *Tiree*. However, from mid-Nov to the end of Dec records were almost daily, from all areas of Argyll, generally of one or two birds. There were 30 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 27 Nov, and 12 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 26 Dec.

2011. There were no records in Sep or early Oct. Regular records were from 14 Oct onwards. All Oct records were from *Tiree* but in Nov and Dec records came from many parts of Argyll, though especially *Tiree* and *Islay*, mostly of single birds. However, about 100 birds were flushed by snipe shooters on *Tiree* on 16 and 17 Nov, which is reported as an unprecedented total for the island, and suggests that many birds are overlooked by birdwatchers.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Cearra-ghob 0532.2

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

2010. Although this species may overwinter, there were no records in 2010 until 21 Mar, when one arrived at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (the site which often holds the largest numbers of this species in Argyll). The number present there increased to 28 on 1 Apr, and there were 14 there on 8 Sep. Elsewhere, most birds were seen during spring migration in Apr. There were: 12 on *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 21 at Ardnave *Islay* on 20 Apr, 24 on *Tiree* on 22 Apr, 42 at Helipol *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 60 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 25 Apr, and 18 on *Tiree* on 30 Apr. In May very small numbers were seen at various sites, mainly in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. A bird on *Tiree* on 10 Jun was presumed to be a late spring migrant, but 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Jun were thought likely to be early autumn migrants! A remarkable 47 were at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 4 Jul. Apart from this flock, numbers in autumn were rather low, with peak counts of 12 on *Tiree* in Aug and 14 on *Islay* in Sep. There were 16 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep. Only one or two birds were reported in Oct, Nov and Dec, from *Islay* and *Tiree*.

2011. The first records were: one at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Feb, one at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 and 15 Mar, and one at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 8 Apr. Spring migration then developed rapidly. There were: 29 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 30 at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 14 Apr, 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Apr, 30 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 14 Apr, and 98 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 16 Apr. However, the largest count was 120 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr. There were 15 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 24 Apr. Only small numbers were seen in May and very few in Jun. However there was an unusual record of 81 at Gartnatra (Bowmore) *Islay* on 7 Jul. Autumn numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 74 on 15 Aug. There were still 50 birds at Loch Gruinart

Islay on 26 Sep, declining to: 35 on 9 Oct, 22 on 17 Oct, 20 on 1 Nov, and one on 18 Nov which was the last one reported in 2011. Several colour marked birds were seen on *Tiree*, *Islay* and *Colonsay*. These included individuals ringed in N Iceland and S England.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (nominat race) *Limosa limosa limosa* 0532.1
There were no confirmed records of this particular sub-species in 2010 or 2011.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuibneach 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 2010. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 38.1 for counts at Loch Indaal). Apart from data in Table 35.1, the only records of 20 or more were: 23 on *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 38 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 17 Mar and 230 on 22 Mar, 241 at Bun-an-uillt (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 23 Mar, and 41 at Ardnave *Islay* on 20 Jun.

2011. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 35.2 for counts at Loch Gruinart). Apart from counts at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Table 38.2; on *Tiree* there were: 24 on 17 Jan, 24 on 1 Feb, 21 on 28 Feb, and 25 on 17 Mar. There were: 26 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Feb and 32 on 24 Feb, 225 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 21 Feb, 350 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 9 Apr, and 60 at Ardnave *Islay* on 9 May.

Jul-Dec 2010. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 35.1 for counts at Loch Indaal). Apart from counts at Loch Indaal in Table 38.1, flocks of 20 birds or more were reported at Loch Gruinart *Islay* (30 on 14 Jul, 54 on 19 Aug, 300 on 6 Sep, 110 on 25 Sep, and 289 on 19 Nov).

2011. Mostly found at Lochs Gruinart and Indaal on *Islay* (see Table 35.2 for counts at Loch Gruinart). Apart from counts at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Table 38.2, there were: 187 at Gartnatra (Bowmore) *Islay* on 7 Jul, 206 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, 27 on *Tiree* on 30 Aug, 200 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 2 Sep and 9 Sep, 36 on *Tiree* on 26 Sep, 58 at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Sep, 280 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 1 Oct, 130 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 16 Oct, 400 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Nov, and 236 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 Nov and 90 on 18 Dec.

Table 35.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay in 2010.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	197	404	252	128	15	12	30	54	110	186	289	383
Indaal	60	121	200	255	110	105	178	79	n/r	160	2	n/r

Table 35.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at Loch Gruinart Islay in 2011.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	250	415	245	6	5	n/r	n/r	34	239	364	186	524

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Eun-Bealltainn 0538
A regular passage migrant: usually in small numbers and mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.

Mar-May 2010. There were unusually early records with: two at Loch Long *Cowal* on 8 Feb, two at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 8 Mar, and one at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Mar. The next record was from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Apr, followed by almost daily records thereafter with spring passage noted throughout Argyll, especially from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. Larger flocks were: 28 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Apr and 35 on 21 Apr, 10 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 20 Apr, 60 at The Ringing Stone *Tiree* on 21 Apr, 250 at Tayinloan

Kintyre on 24 Apr and 82 on 26 Apr, 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Apr, 31 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 26 Apr, 20 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 29 Apr and 36 on 30 Apr, 102 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and 100 on 4 May, 30 at Bowmore *Islay* on 2 May, 36 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 3 May, 55 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 4 May and 42 on 6 May, 51 at Gortan *Islay* on 12 May, and 50 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 13 May. After 13 May, apart from a flock of 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 May, most records were of single birds or very small groups, as spring passage finished.

2011. The first spring records were: 20 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 7 Apr, one at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Apr, and 4 on 10 Apr. Records were then daily through spring passage from 15 Apr to mid-Jun. Larger flocks were: 87 at Ardnave *Islay* on 28 Apr, 21 on *Tiree* on 29 Apr, 110 at Kintra *Islay* on 30 Apr, 28 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 1 May, 26 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 May, 40 at Ardnave *Islay* on 2 May, 56 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 May, 30 at Coultorsay *Islay* on 5 May, 38 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 May, 42 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 May, 27 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 11 May, 30 at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 May, 37 at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 May, 40 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 18 May, and 25 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 May.

June 2010. There was one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Jun and singles on 9, 11, and 15 Jun, and several birds on *Colonsay* (2 on 11, one on 18, 6 on 20 and one on 21 Jun).

2011. There were ten records in Jun, suggesting an unusually late end to spring passage. These were from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. While most were of 1-3 birds, there were 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Jun.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were slightly fewer reports for autumn than for spring, and much smaller numbers of birds. Records of only 1-3 birds in Jul were from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. The main autumn passage was during Aug and early Sep, mostly of 1-3 birds and mainly from *Colonsay* and *Kintyre* and to a lesser extent: *Coll*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Larger groups included 15 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Aug, and 10 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 6 Sep. The last two birds were reported in Oct, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Oct and one at Sandaig *Tiree* on 19 Oct.

2011. As usual, there were very few records during early Jul (three individuals in the first half of the month), but numbers increased from mid-Jul. Peak counts were: 30 at Soa Island *Tiree* on 8 Aug, 17 on *Tiree* on 11 Aug and 15 Aug, and 12 on 16 Aug. The last autumn records were unusually late, with: 20 at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Oct and single birds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Oct and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Nov.

EURASIAN CURLEW (CURLEW) *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

0541

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

Jan-Jun 2010. Higher counts included: 54 at Glenramskill (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, 80 at Macharioch *Kintyre* on 16 Jan, 65 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 50 at The Green *Tiree* on 31 Jan, 50 at Greenhill House *Tiree* on 17 Feb, 80 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Feb, 146 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Feb and 180 on 9 Mar and 111 on 15 Mar, 60 at Saligo *Islay* on 21 Mar, 170 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 30 Mar, and 70 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Jun.

2011. Apart from counts at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and on *Tiree* (Table 36.2) higher counts included: 136 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 50 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 19 Jan, 154 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Jan, 65 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 27 Jan, 50 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 30 Jan, 100 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 30 Jan, 235 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 8 Feb and 250 on 10 Feb, 72 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 93 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Feb, 98 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Feb, 70 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 20 Feb and 150 on 23 Feb, 65 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 26 Feb, 56 at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on

16 Mar, 98 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 17 Mar, 86 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 17 Mar, 118 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 26 Mar, 150 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 15 Apr, 80 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Jun, and 62 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 28 Jun.

Breeding 2010. Atlas surveys reported breeding in most regions of Argyll in small numbers.

2011. There were 19 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Higher counts included: 89 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Jul, 68 at *Tiree* on 16 Jul, 50 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Aug, 58 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Aug and 70 on 21 Aug, 140 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Aug, 72 on *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 183 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Sep, 56 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Sep, 94 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 30 Sep, 60 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 11 Oct, 106 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 7 Nov, 80 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 13 Nov, 90 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, 167 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Nov, 233 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Nov, and 136 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 1 Dec. A bird ringed as a nestling at Invermaric, Angus, in May 2009 was found dead at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 5 Aug.

2011. Apart from counts at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and on *Tiree* (Table 36.2) higher counts included: 53 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul, 200 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, 65 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Aug, 227 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 11 Aug, 50 at Octomore Hill *Islay* on 3 Sep, 280 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 15 Sep, 170 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Sep, 50 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, 102 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 11 Oct, 193 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Oct, 148 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 345 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, 350 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Nov, 64 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 16 Nov, 163 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 20 Nov and 121 on 18 Dec, 66 at outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 18 Dec, and 86 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Dec. A bird that had been colour ringed at Sunnmore, Norway, was on *Tiree* on 15 Aug.

Table 36.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at Loch Gruinart Islay in 2010.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	223	223	145	18	9	20	47	140	400	142	177	111

Table 36.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2011.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	326	200	116	79	4	19	n/r	99	429	160	220	166
Tiree	110	30	40	3	6	4	30	77	80	86	45	50

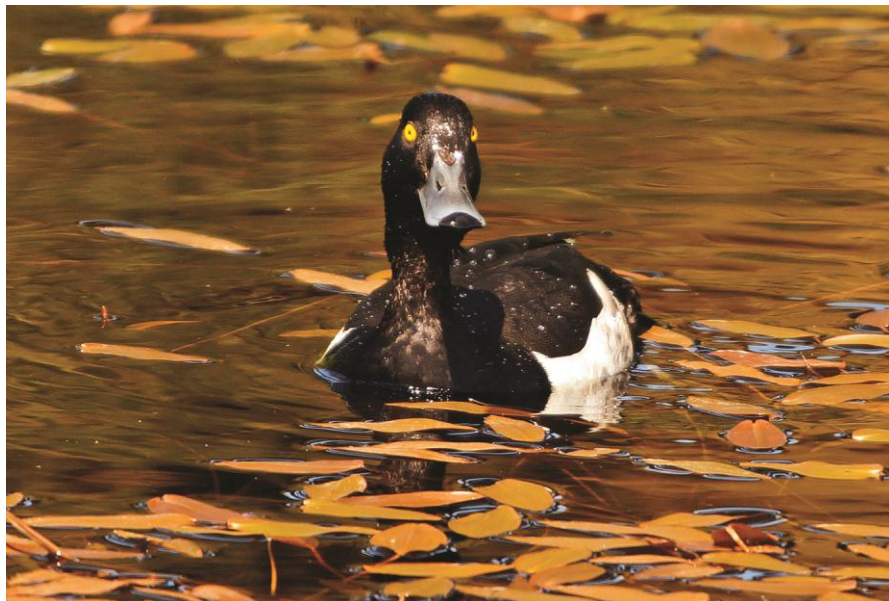
COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556
A widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.

Apr-May 2010. The first birds were seen at Ormidale *Cowal* on 9 Apr and at Lochbuie *Mull* on 11 Apr. Records were almost daily from then onwards and throughout Argyll. Most spring records were of 1 or 2 birds.

2011. There were no early records that suggested overwintering. The first spring migrants were reported on 14 Apr at Kilchiaran *Islay* and at Port Ban *Mid-Argyll*. From then, records (mostly involving one or two birds) were almost daily throughout Argyll, particularly from *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

Breeding 2010. Evidence of breeding was obtained from many locations across Argyll as part of the BTO Atlas survey, especially from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. On *Colonsay*, 25 territories were located.

2011. On *Colonsay* 27 pairs held territory. Breeding was confirmed at many locations across Argyll as a result of Atlas fieldwork. Three pairs nested within 200 m of Otter Ferry pier *Cowal*.



Tufted Duck – Mid-Argyll June 2012

© Jim Dickson



Great White Egret – Mid-Argyll October 2010

© Jim Dickson



Pied-Billed Grebe – Mull March 2011

© Alan Curry



Pallid Harrier – Machrihanish SBO September 2011

© Eddie Maguire



Gyr Falcon – Islay January 2010

© Stef McElwee



Common Crane – Islay May 2010

© Michal Sur



Killdeer – Islay January 2011

© Will Miles



Dotterel – Tiree September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Sanderling – Mull May 2011

© Tony Coombs



Little Stint (foreground) with Dunlin – Islay September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Baird's Sandpiper – Tiree September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Pectoral Sandpiper – Tiree September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Curlew Sandpiper – Islay September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Red-necked Phalarope – Mull May 2011

© Tony Coombs



Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage – Tiree May 2011

© Christian Verstraete



First winter Bonaparte's Gull – Tiree April 2011

© Jim Dickson



Mediterranean Gull – Mid-Argyll February 2011

© Jim Dickson



Common Cuckoo - Mid-Argyll May 2011

© Jim Dickson



Hoopoe – Tíree September 2011

© Jim Dickson



Brown Shrike – Tíree October 2011

© Jim Dickson



Short-toed Lark – Tiree October 2011

© Jim Dickson



Nuthatch, Otter Ferry
6 Sep 2011

Eurasian Nuthatch - Cowal September 2011 © Tom Callan



Common Nightingale – Tiree September 2011

© Mark Fanshawe



Whinchat – Mid-Argyll June 2011

© Jim Dickson



Northern Wheatear – Mid-Argyll May 2011

© Jim Dickson



House Sparrow – Mid-Argyll February 2012

© Jim Dickson



Hawfinch – Mull April 2010

©Anand Prasad



Twite – Mid-Argyll July 2012

© Jim Dickson

Jul-Sep 2010. Indications of autumn migration were seen when 14 arrived at Killail *Cowal* on 30 Jun, and 6 arrived at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Jul where the peak count was 30 birds on 14 Jul. There, and elsewhere, there were very few records in Aug. The last records of the year were single birds flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 and 22 Sep, and two birds at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 8 Oct.

2011. Autumn passage occurred mostly in Jul, with far fewer records in Aug. There were only 2 records in Sept, one at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 1 Sep, and one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Sep.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius* 0557

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine 0553

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

2010. One was seen at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 9 Jul.

2011. Singles were seen at Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 29 Apr and Rinns of Islay *Islay* on 2 Aug.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh-breac 0545

A scarce passage migrant: mostly in autumn.

2010. One in non-breeding plumage was found at Eilean Nostaig (Ardnave) *Islay* on 1 May [Michal Sur]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2011. One in non-breeding plumage was found at Hynish *Tiree* on 8 Aug [Tony and Jan Jenkins]. Record accepted by ABRC.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca* 0550

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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 2010. Over-wintering records included singles at: Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 25 Jan, The Strand *Colonsay* on 1 Feb, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 12 Feb, Loch Caithlim *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, and West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Feb. There were many records through Mar and Apr, mostly of one or two birds, particularly from *Islay* but also from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. There were very few records in May, suggesting rather little passage after late Apr.

2011. Over-wintering records included 7 birds seen in Jan at sites in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Mid-Argyll*, and 8-10 birds seen in Feb at sites in: *Cowal*, *Islay*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Slightly larger numbers of birds were reported in Mar-Apr, suggesting spring migrants passing through.

Breeding 2010. Birds were singing at three sites in *North Argyll* in May, and there was evidence of breeding at one of these sites in Jun, and possibly also on *Mull*.

2011. There were 9 Jun records from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. These may all have been migrants or non-breeders. There were no reports from likely breeding sites.

Jul-Dec 2010. Peak numbers were in late Jul and Aug, with most records of just 1 or 2 birds. Larger counts were, 7 birds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Aug, and 5 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 24 Aug. Up to 7 birds were present at sites in: *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll* during Nov and two were seen in Dec (one on *Islay* and one in *Mid-Argyll*).

2011. Autumn migrants were reported almost daily throughout Jul, Aug and Sep, mostly in ones and twos. Records were from throughout Argyll, but the only large groups were 10 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 Jul, and 10 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug. There were 11 records in Oct, 6 in Nov and 10 in Dec. Most of these late season records came from *Islay*, with the largest group (10 birds) at The Strand *Colonsay* on 16 Dec.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

0551

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

2010. No records.

2011. A juvenile photographed at Sandaig *Tiree* on 15 Oct was found again the following day at Barrapol [Toby Green, John Bowler]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 105:586) and now a first for *Tiree*.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille

0554

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

2010. There were only two records: one at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 24 May, and 2 at Kilmoluaig, *Tiree* on 28 May.

2011. There were: 2 on *Coll* on 28 Apr with 1 still there on 29 Apr, one at Sandaig *Tiree* on 1 May, and 1-2 birds present on many dates between 7 and 27 May at Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

COMMON REDSHANK (REDSHANK) *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

0546

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

Jan-Apr 2010. Apart from counts at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and *Tiree* (Table 37.1), larger counts included: 24 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan and 27 on 4 Mar, 13 at Loch Long *Cowal* on 8 Feb, 12 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 18 Feb (with 25 on 4 Mar, 13 on 27 Mar, and 16 on 15 Apr), and 180 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Apr.

2011. Apart from counts at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, outer Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and *Tiree* (Table 37.2), larger counts included: 11 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb, 12 at Islandadd Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar, 12 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 3 Mar, 10 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 14 Mar, and 12 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 9 Apr.

Breeding 2010. There were 35 pairs in the wetland compartments at The Reef *Tiree*.

2011. There were: 68 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 13 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, 8 pairs on *Colonsay* (excluding Oronsay), and 44 pairs in the wetland compartments at The Reef *Tiree*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported (higher than usual) counts as follows: 80 on 26 Jul, 120 on 10 Aug, 65 on 18 Aug, 40 on 22 Aug, 28 on 9 Sep, 40 on 13 Sep, and 35 on 15 Sep. Other than those in Table 37.1 and counts at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: 50 on the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* on 25 Jul, 56 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 35 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, 37 at Ardnave *Islay* on 7 Oct, and 22 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 23 Nov.

2011. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported only one large count of 58 on 3 Sep. Other than that and data in Table 37.2, the only sites with counts of 20 or more were: 20 at Killiechranon *Mull* on 7 Oct and 24 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 12 Nov with 20 on 21 Nov.

Table 37.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at Loch Gruinart (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2010.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	47	55	35	113	29	18	52	113	29	95	75	24
Holy L.	20	9	18	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	29	n/r	45	54
<i>Tiree</i>	16	14	34	n/r	66	70	22	12	25	22	24	1

Table 37.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at Loch Gruinart (Islay), outer Loch Etive (North Argyll), Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	66	65	37	37	31	28	n/r	n/r	89	42	57	130
L. Etive	1	1	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	6	8	3
Holy L.	14	11	21	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	30	16	52	2	4
<i>Tiree</i>	21	21	n/r	35	88	56	30	15	19	24	25	42

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.

Jan-Jun 2010. Seasonal changes in numbers at Holy Loch *Cowal*, Otter Ferry *Cowal*, and *Tiree* are shown in Table 38.1. Other large counts include: 56 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 20 Jan and 42 on 5 Feb, 26 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, 47 at Killail *Cowal* on 9 Feb and 34 on 10 Mar, 64 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 18 Feb, 28 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, 23 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 31 Mar, 37 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 8 Apr, and 28 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 30 Apr.

2011. Seasonal changes in numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and *Tiree* are shown in Table 38.2. There were consistently large numbers at Killail *Cowal* (60 on 9 Feb, 43 on 12 Feb, 57 on 22 Feb, 58 on 4 Mar, 22 on 5 May). There were 22 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 23 Mar and 26 there on 10 Apr, 56 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 10 Apr, and 20 at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 May.

Summering birds 2010. Several birds were present through Jun and Jul in *Tiree*, *Cowal* and *Kintyre*.

2011. Several birds summered on *Tiree* and in *Cowal*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Seasonal changes in numbers at Holy Loch *Cowal*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and *Tiree* are shown in Table 38.1. Other large counts include: 30 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 9 Aug, 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Aug, 52 at Kirm (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 4 Sep and 47 on 6 Oct, 61 at Killail *Cowal* on 3 Oct 50 on 12 Oct and 22 Oct, 46 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 25 Oct, 31 at Kirm (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 22 Nov, 38 at Killail *Cowal* on 24 Dec, and 45 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 28 Dec.

2011. Seasonal changes in numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and *Tiree* are shown in Table 38.2. Elsewhere, larger numbers included: 67 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Sep and 40 on 14 Sep, 30 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 15 Sep, 41 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 3 Oct and 46 on 11 Oct, 52 at Killail *Cowal* on 17 Oct, 35 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 4 Nov, 60 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 16 Nov, 35 at Killail *Cowal* on 1 Dec, and 73 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 18 Dec.

Table 38.1 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at Holy Loch (Cowal), Otter Ferry (Cowal) and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2010.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	16	29	54	3	0	0	n/r	3	16	30	11	29
Holy L.	22	26	27	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	n/r	10	10
Otter F.	45	100	n/r	25	1	n/r	18	n/r	22	65	n/r	n/r
<i>Tiree</i>	75	45	205	45	25	1	3	36	55	35	45	60

Table 38.2 *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at Loch Gruinart (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), Otter Ferry (Cowal) and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2011.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	31	36	16	n/r	6	n/r	n/r	12	n/r	2	58	36
Holy L.	19	13	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	12	n/r
Otter F.	37	74	40	46	25	n/r	16	60	84	n/r	79	92
<i>Tiree</i>	n/r	130	70	105	40	16	18	15	35	38	60	71

NB Otter Ferry counts include the shore from Otter Ferry spit to Otter Ferry fish farm (ca3k).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt

0564

A very rare and irregular passage migrant: formerly a very rare breeding species.

2010. Two splendid females were feeding with Sanderlings on the tide line on *Tiree* on 20 May [John Bowler]. On 21 Jun three females and a male were seen at another (confidential) site and one or more birds were seen there until 8 Jul. None were seen after this date and there was no sign of a brood of young [John Bowler]. Records accepted by ABRC. A juvenile found at Traigh Nostaig (Ardnave) *Islay* on 31 Oct [RAFOS] was originally identified as a Grey Phalarope. Fortunately a photograph was taken and when it was shown to Malcolm Ogilvie he identified it as Red-necked. It was present again on the following day. Record accepted by ABRC as a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope, *Islay* 30 and 31 Oct.

2011. A female fed with Sanderlings on the shoreline on *Tiree* on 11 May [John Bowler]. On 6 Jun, 2 males and 2 females were feeding and chasing at the site used in 2010. One or more birds were present here until 7 Jul and on 28 Jun two males were feeding together and flying from their nest-sites. However no broods were seen at this site. A second nest site was identified on 30 Jun and on 7 Jul a male was seen there with a brood of two young. This is the first successful breeding record in Argyll since 1992, although a pair laid eggs at the same site in 1999. The only record elsewhere was of a female photographed at Killiechronan *Mull* on 23 May [Marcus Conway, Tony Coombs *et al*].

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt

0565

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

2010. All records were between mid-Sep and mid-Nov. There were 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep (during WNW gales), 4 on 15 Sep, and a juvenile on 17 Sep. On *Tiree*, several birds were seen in early Oct: a juvenile was seen at Sandaig on 1 Oct, one seen at Miodar on 3 Oct, 6 off Hynish on 4 Oct, another 6 off Hynish on 5 Oct, and one in Gott Bay on 8 Oct. The last records were on *Islay* with: one at Ardnave on 30 Oct, one at Bowmore, one at Bridgend Marsh on 15 Nov, one at Bowmore on 16 Nov and again on 18 Nov, and one at Gortan on 18 Nov.

2011. There were 17 birds reported on dates between 6 Sep and 25 Nov. The first few were at Machrihanish *Kintyre*. One was seen flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Sep and there were two on 14 Sep. Another was swimming on Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 14 Sep. The next was seen on the sea from the ferry off Soa Island *Tiree* on 28 Sep. Three flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct during a strong gale. A juvenile was seen at Aird (Loch Beag) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct. Two flew past Aird *Tiree* on 18 Oct. One of these was chased by three Great Skuas, but managed to evade them. On the same date, one flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* during a gale. Two adults and a juvenile were seen between *Mull* and *Coll* on 20 Oct. The last of the autumn was seen from Sgeir an Fheidh (Sound of Islay) *Jura* on 25 Nov.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair-donn

0566

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

2010. There were relatively few birds. A single spring record was of three flying northwards, high over Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, on 20 May. Nine individuals were seen in autumn: the first an adult off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep. On the same date, single adults were seen passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and Port Ban caravan park *Mid-Argyll*. A juvenile passed Aird *Tiree* on 15 Sep, an immature was seen from the ferry from Oban to *Tiree* on 30 Sep, and single juveniles were seen: off Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Oct, off *Coll* on 23 Oct and 12 Nov, and off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* also on 12 Nov.

2011. There were four reports in spring. Two flew past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 May, one there on 20 May, and 32 flew past in 5 hours on 24 May. Two were seen at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 23 May. The first autumn record was 3 adults on 12 Aug passing *Coll*, followed by: single adults at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 and 23 Aug. There were 7 records of one or two birds in Sep from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. The first bird identified as a juvenile was seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct. Another 25 birds were seen in Oct, of which most were juveniles, with records from: *Coll*, *Gigha (Kintyre)*, and *Mull* but mostly from *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The last birds of the year were all juveniles with 3 between *Mull* and *Coll* on 1 Nov, and one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* also on 1 Nov.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

0567

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

Apr-Jun 2010. The first record of the year was a bird off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 May. There were small numbers seen from 15 May onwards at: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. The first record of the year was of two pale adults off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Apr, followed by a dark phase adult on 20 Apr (the only Apr records). However, small numbers were seen during May at: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. The largest count was 11 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 May.

Breeding 2010. There were no data on breeding status on *Jura*. A maximum of only 3 birds was seen on *Coll* in May-Jul.

2011. There were no data for this year from *Jura* or *Coll* colonies. Up to 4 adults were seen regularly around the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in late Jun and early Jul and were assumed to be birds from those colonies.

Jul-Nov 2010. Small numbers were seen throughout Jul and Aug, mainly from inter-island ferries, and from: *Coll*, *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. There was one record

from the coast of *Mid-Argyll*, at Port Ban. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded a total of 20 individuals flying S with: 1 in Jul, 12 in Aug, and 7 in Sep. The last bird of the year was recorded on 20 Sep off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

2011. During autumn passage, in Jul-Sep, birds were seen in small numbers in most areas of Argyll, particularly from *Kintyre* and *Tiree*. There was only 1 seen from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Jul, with: 11 in Aug, 16 in Sep, and 14 in Oct. Ten passed Aird *Tiree* in 2 hours on 6 Sep, 15 in 3 hours on 13 Sep, 17 in 2 hours on 14 Sep, 13 in 4 hours on 6 Oct, 3 in 1.5 hours on 7 Oct, 12 in 3 hours on 18 Oct, and 2 in 1 hour on 19 Oct. The last birds of the autumn were one at the Sound of Islay *Islay* on 22 Oct, and 1 off Milton *Tiree* on 30 Oct.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach 0568
A scarce and irregular passage migrant: records, off western coasts and islands are from both spring and autumn.

2010. An adult was reported flying over Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 25 Jun [B. Dawson per John Bowler]. Two juveniles were seen at Aird *Tiree* on 15 Sep [John Bowler]. Records accepted by ABRC.

2011. Four adults flew south just 100m from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* during a severe squall on 24 May - a rare spring sighting here. Juveniles were reported from: Arinagour *Coll* on 4 Oct [Jim Dickson, Ross Ahmed], the ferry between *Mull* and *Coll* on 6 Oct [Bill Allan], and from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Oct [Eddie Maguire]. All records accepted by ABRC.

GREAT SKUA (BONXIE) *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr 0569
An uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing breeding species which now breeds in very small numbers on: Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, and Staffa.

Mar-Jun 2010. The first of the year was a single at Port Haunn *Mull* on 2 Apr. One was seen from Treshnish Point *Mull* on 5 and 6 Apr, and 1 was following a fishing boat and chasing gulls off Port na Ba *Mull* on 9 Apr. There was one at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 20 Apr and one at The Oa *Islay* on 25 Apr. During May and Jun birds were seen regularly from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. The first records of the year were: one at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr, one at Port Haunn *Mull* on 24 Apr, and one at Iona *Mull* on 4 May. One or two birds were then seen regularly through May and Jun at: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding 2010. One pair held territory on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and three pairs nested on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. A pair held territory on *Tiree* and three pairs held territories on moorland NW of Arinagour *Coll*.

2011. There was no information from the *Coll* nesting area. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*: 2 pairs nested on Lunga, 2 pairs on Fladda, and one pair may have nested on Bac Mor. A pair again held territory on *Tiree*.

Jul-Oct 2010. Birds were seen in small numbers on most days in Jul to Sep, mainly off: *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Peak numbers occurred in mid-Sep when there were 13 passing Aird *Tiree* in 1 hour on 14 Sep and an exceptional 77 at the same location in 210 minutes on 15 Sep. On the same two days, autumn peak counts were made at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 10 in 9 hours on 14 Sep and 3 in 5 hours on 15 Sep. The last of the year were seen off *Tiree* on 6 and 18 Oct.

2011. Birds were seen in small numbers on most days in Jul to Sep, mainly off: *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. As usual, peak passage occurred in mid-Sep. At Aird *Tiree* counts included: 21 in 2 hours on 6 Sep, 31 in 3 hours on 13 Sep, 22 in 2 hours on 14 Sep, and 20 on 20 Sep. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 28 were seen on 7 dates in Sep with peaks of 8 in 9 hours on 12 Sep and 10 in 9 hours on 13 Sep. However, passage continued well into Oct, with 30 passing

Aird *Tiree* in 3 hours on 6 Oct and 29 in 3 hours on 18 Oct. Thereafter, only occasional single birds were seen off *Kintyre* during Oct. The last birds of the year were seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 and 4 Nov.

IVORY GULL *Pagophila eburnea*

0604

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

0579

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

2010. An adult in breeding plumage was photographed off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep [Eddie Maguire] and two adults flew west past Aird *Tiree* during NW gales on 15 Sep [John Bowler]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

2011. An unusual series of spring records included: one at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 17 May [Marcus Conway, Alan Spellman *et al*], one at Sandaig *Tiree* on 23 May [Christian & Ann de Zegher], one, or possibly two, at Calgary *Mull* on 23-24 May [Anand Prasad], one at Killiechranon *Mull* on 23 May (possibly same as Calgary) [Alan Spellman, Mike Shepherd *et al*], and an adult at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 May [Eddie Maguire]. The latter was the first ever spring record at Machrihanish. The first of autumn was a juvenile at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 7 Sep [Mark Fanshawe], followed by a juvenile at Aird *Tiree* on 7 Sep and 3 juveniles on 13 Sep [John Bowler], an adult and a juvenile at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Sep [Eddie Maguire *et al*], a juvenile at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 13 Sep [Perry & Judyth Smale, Eddie Maguire], a juvenile at Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep [John Bowler], an adult at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep [Eddie Maguire], an adult off Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep [Mark Williamson], a juvenile off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Oct [Roddy Angus], a juvenile off Aird *Tiree* on 6 Oct [John Bowler], three juveniles off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct [Eddie Maguire] and a juvenile off Balevullin *Tiree* on 7 Oct [Jerry Wilson]. All above records above accepted by ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

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 2010. There were very few records in Jan-Feb. Numbers increased in Mar around *Tiree*, though few were seen elsewhere until Apr. Large numbers appeared in Apr, with 200 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 18 Apr, and 250 off Port nam Partan *Mull* on 21 Apr.

2011. As usual, there were very few records in Jan-Feb (the highest count being 15 off Hynish *Tiree* on 15 Jan), but increasing numbers from early Mar. There were 273 flying west off Aird *Tiree* on 9 Mar and 150 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 3 Apr. By 7 Apr there were 'hundreds' back on breeding ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* and increased numbers offshore.

Breeding 2010. There were about 900 AONs (apparently occupied nests) on the cliffs at Meall Lamalum *Colonsay* and about 1000 at Pig's Paradise *Colonsay* in mid-May, 305 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* in late May (with some birds still building nests), and 456 AONs at Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* at the end of Jun (a large decline from numbers a few years ago). A few nests at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* held small chicks on 28 Jun but most still contained eggs. On 11 Jul, only 75 nests at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* still held chicks and the others had failed. On 15 Jul about 800 kittiwakes, almost all adults rather than immatures, flew past Machrihanish SBO

Kintyre in 7 hours of observation, but it is unclear whether these were foraging breeding birds or perhaps failed breeders. On 20 Jul about 500 flew past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (including just 25 in first summer plumage). On 22 Jul there were only 20 chicks in nests at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* although these were then close to fledging. The first flying fledgling reported was on 27 Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

2011. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were: 238 AONs on 27 May (mostly nest-building but a few with eggs), 205 on 21 Jun (most with adults incubating eggs), and 198 on 11 Jul (with many containing mid-sized chicks and a mean brood size of 1.47 chicks per nest for a sample of 47 nests). On 21 Jul 132 nests were still occupied and had an average of 1.44 chicks per occupied nest for a sample of 98 where contents could be seen. At Urugaig *Colonsay* there were only 28 nests on the monitoring area. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, TIARG counted only 308 AONs in late Jun, the lowest count there since 1994.

Jul-Dec 2010. Given the large numbers that can be seen at some sites even while local birds are breeding (such as 500 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Jul), it is difficult to identify when foraging movements of local breeding birds finish and migratory movements of birds from elsewhere start to occur. However, large counts in Aug to Oct probably represent migrants from elsewhere rather than local breeding birds. There were: 600 between Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* and *Colonsay* on 23 Aug, 350 feeding off the southern tip of Lismore *North Argyll* also on 23 Aug, 400 flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 9 hours on 14 Sep, and 600 in 5 hours on 15 Sep (of which 32% were juveniles which is interesting given the low breeding success at Argyll colonies). At about the same time at Aird *Tiree*, although numbers were smaller (89 in 2 hours); there was a similar percentage of juveniles. There were: 225 off Keills *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Sep, 108 at Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 26 Sep, and 300 south of Lismore *North-Argyll* on 30 Oct. The only large count in Nov was 590 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 7 hours during a gale on 12 Nov. The fact that high numbers are driven closer to shore during gales suggests that there are probably more kittiwakes offshore in Argyll waters than land-based observations normally indicate. However, none were reported in Dec suggesting that birds do normally leave Argyll waters in mid-winter.

2011. There was heavy passage at several sites in Aug-Oct including: 600+ off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, 550 per minute flying south past Port Ban *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, 800 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 9 hours on 7 Sep (75% juveniles) and 1080 in 7 hours on 8 Sep (70% juveniles), 105 flying south-west past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 10 Sep (70% juveniles), 202 in 100 minutes past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 14 Sep, 1700 south in 6 hours at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Sep (70% juveniles), 5000 south past Port Ban *Mid-Argyll* in 1 hour on 25 Sep, 970 south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 4 hours on 4 Oct and 1900 in 8 hours on 6 Oct, and 865 west past Aird *Tiree* in 3 hours on 18 Oct. The consistent high proportion of juveniles suggests a good breeding season for the species at least in the regions from which these birds originated. The only large movement reported in Nov was 1130 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hours on 1 Nov, and a few were seen later in Nov. There were four reports in Dec: 60 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 17 Dec, 2 between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 22 Dec, 30 between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 29 Dec, and 2 off Treshnish *Mull* on 29 Dec.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphia*

0581

A vagrant with only two previous records: both on Islay, in Jun and Sep 1975.

2010. A first winter bird was seen at Gott Bay *Tiree* on: 4, 6, 7, 8 and 21 Apr [John Bowler, Jim Dickson]. Accepted BBRC as first winter 4-21 April (*British Birds* 105:588)

2011. No records.

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

Jan-May 2010. Although WeBS and other counts in Jan and Feb normally show only small numbers present in Argyll at the start of the year, there were at least 1000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* daily from 3 to 29 Jan, actively feeding in the area together with similar numbers of Common Gulls and some Herring Gulls. There were 357 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan (the largest number seen there all winter). Elsewhere, higher counts were: 100 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 11 Feb, 200 at Toward Point *Cowal* on 12 Feb, and 79 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 22 Feb.

2011. As usual, numbers on the outer islands of Argyll were low in Jan and Feb. However, there were 230 birds at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan. The next largest count was of 60 at East Loch Oisair (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 26 Feb. Numbers on *Tiree* began to build up from Feb to Apr, with: 16 on 28 Feb, 40 on 1 Mar, 150 on 14 Mar, 215 on 6 Apr and 587 on 8 Apr. While some birds were on colony sites in Mar, most nest sites were occupied by mid to late Apr.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*, there were: 300 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 25 at Kilkenneth, 25 at Loch a' Phuill, 10 at The Reef, 3 at Hynish, 2 at Loch Riaghain, and 2 at Loch an Eilein. Fledglings began to fly towards the end of Jun. Elsewhere, there were: 10 pairs at Gartnatra *Islay*, 4 pairs at Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay*, 25 pairs at Duncuan Isle *Mid-Argyll*, 13 pairs at Eilean da Mheinn (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*, 11 pairs at Kilmaronag Isle (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll*, 6 pairs at Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll*, and 6 pairs at Eilean Faoileag *Mid-Argyll*. However, none nested at the traditional site on Eileanan Ruisg *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, *ca* 37 pairs at three sites fledged *ca* 29 young (average *ca* 0.77 young fledged/pair) though fledging was at just one site where 25 pairs fledged 29 young at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* (1.16 per pair). On *Tiree* there were: 200+ pairs at Balephetrish Bay, 300 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 36 pairs at The Reef, 15 pairs at Loch a' Phuill, 2 pairs at Greenhill House, 2 pairs at Loch an Eilein, and 2 pairs at Loch Riaghain. About 50 pairs could be found at The Green on open machair after the colony at Loch Bhasapol was severely disturbed by otters and all remaining small young were taken, north of the road. Despite this disturbance at the largest colony, at least 100 chicks fledged on *Tiree* by the end of Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. Large flocks can occur in late summer and early autumn. However, apart from 233 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Sep, the highest counts in autumn were rather low: 44 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct and 54 on 14 Nov, and 31 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Sep.

2011. The only large flocks recorded were: 219 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Sep and 130 on 20 Oct, 100 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 6 Nov, 200 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Dec and 350 on 13 Dec, and 250 at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec.

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

2010. There were 9 records, all of single birds. There was: a juvenile at Aird *Tiree* on 11 Aug, one in the Firth of Lorn *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug, single juveniles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 and 14 Sep and 28 Oct, one at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 18 Sep and another on 2 Nov, a juvenile at Scarinish *Tiree* on 30 Sep, and one at Port Ban *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov.

2011. Only four were recorded: a second summer bird at Bagh Gleann nam Muc *Jura* on 27 Jun, one at *Coll* on 4 Sep, a juvenile flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep, and a juvenile in the Sound of *Mull* on 20 Oct.

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*

0601

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

2010. A first winter bird was photographed flying south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre at 13.05 on 12 Nov, in a WNW gale. [Eddie Maguire, Derrick Goode]. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 104:586).

2011. No records.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

0576

A vagrant: there have been eight previous Argyll records 1974 – 2009.

2010. No records.

2011. A first-winter bird was seen and photographed at sea off the Isle of Luing, *Mid-Argyll* (1km east of Ardinamir, Luing and 1/2 km SE off Torsa) on 14 Sep [Dr. Graham Tucker, Ben Allen]. The finders were with a group of five sea-kayakers off Torsa when an immature gull flew nearby and Graham suspected this species. Fortunately Ben was able to take a couple of photos as the bird turned about 10 metres away. Record accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 105:587).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

0575

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

Jan-Apr 2010. An adult and a second winter bird were seen off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan with a new adult seen in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan [Jim Dickson, Andrew Stevenson] and possibly the same adult south of Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan [Jim Dickson]. An adult was seen at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* and a second winter reported at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan [Bill Allan]. An adult was again at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb [Bill Allan] and an adult was seen off McArthur's Head *Islay* on 6 Feb. Two second winter birds were reported from *Tiree* at Sorobaigh Bay on 7 Feb and Gott Bay on 22 Feb [John Bowler]. A second winter bird was reported at Toward Point *Cowal* on 12 Feb [Bill Allan]. A first winter was reported at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 12 Mar [Neil Brown]. An adult was seen Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr.

Jul-Dec 2010. A second summer bird moulting into adult winter plumage was present near Inverneill Island *Mid-Argyll* from 28 Jul to 3 Aug [Jim Dickson, Bill Allan] and a first winter bird, present at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 9-27 Sep, was last seen on 7 Oct [Eddie Maguire *et al*] and a second winter was there on 11 Aug [Eddie Maguire]. A first winter was reported at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* 8-16 Aug and joined by another first winter 15-16 Aug [Jim Dickson, Andrew Stevenson]. An adult was also reported at this time, from Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*.

Jan-Apr 2011. First winter birds were found at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan [Jim Dickson, Bill Allan] and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Apr [Eddie Maguire]. An adult was seen at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar.

Jul-Dec 2011. An adult was present in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* from 16 Jul to 5 Sep and again on 7 Dec. Two juvenile/first winter birds were photographed at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Sep [Eddie Maguire] and one, possibly two first winters on 4 and 5 Oct [Eddie Maguire]. An adult was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Oct. All records of non-adults accepted by ABRC. Descriptions not required for adult birds. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

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

Jan-May 2010. Apart from counts given in Table 39 the largest numbers were: 1000 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 3-5 Jan, 29 Jan, and 19 Feb, 240 at Killail Cowal on 28 Jan, 300 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile Islay on 23 Mar, and 194 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 18 Apr.

2011. Apart from counts given in Table 39 the largest numbers were: 200 at Machir Bay Islay on 1 Jan, and 139 at Loch Sween Mid-Argyll on 16 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Many colonies in Mid-Argyll and North Argyll 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 65, The Reef 86, Balinoe 20, Balevulin 35, Loch a' Phuill 25, Milton 21, Hough 6, Hynish 6, Happy Valley 12, Kilkenneth 10, and Moss 12. Breeding success on *Tiree* was good, with lots of large chicks at colonies by late Jun. In other areas, some of the larger colonies were: 222 pairs at Kilmaronag Isle (Loch Etive) North Argyll, 59 pairs at Ban Eileanan (Sound of Mull), 49 pairs at Abbot's Isles (Loch Etive) North Argyll, 49 pairs at Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorn) North Argyll, 30 pairs at Tucker's Islet (Loch Craignish) Mid-Argyll, and 23 pairs at Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) Mid-Argyll.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, at 19 sites monitored by Clive Craik, a total of 317 pairs fledged 57-61 young (details in database). [At a further 3 sites about 94 pairs nested but productivity was not monitored]. On *Tiree* numbers of pairs (AOTs) included: 70 at Crossapol, 68 at The Reef, 5 at Kilkenneth, 41 at Balevullin, 5 at Balinoe, 10 at Heylipol, 10 at Hynish, 15 at Milton, 185 at Loch a' Phuill, 5 at Hough, 15 at Moss, 10 at Loch Bhasapol, and 10 at An Airidh. Large numbers of chicks were present at most colonies on *Tiree* by late Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. Large numbers remained on *Tiree* to the end of the year. Elsewhere, birds were widely distributed across Argyll at this time of year. Highest counts were 181 at Bruichladdich Islay on 18 Aug, and 750 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 20 Sep.

2011. Widely distributed across Argyll in autumn. Apart from those in Table 39, largest counts were: 200 at Gruline Mausoleum Mull on 22 Oct, 250 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 13 Dec, 200 at Ardlamont Cowal on 15 Dec, and 300 at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) Mid-Argyll on 20 Dec.

Table 39. *Maximum monthly counts of Common Gulls at: Loch Gruinart, Holy Loch, and Tiree.*

2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	106	21	48	12	74	36	14	3	152	126	190	167
Holy Loch	84	83	16	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	24	n/r	44	17
Tiree	85	495	303	150	130	150	55	245	280	n/r	120	300
2011												
L Gruinart	173	63	87	86	44	48	4	4	260	68	n/r	253
Holy Loch	34	39	28	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	63	85	53	12
Tiree	190	380	448	310	83	150	140	300	291	250	90	135

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.

2010. An adult was present in the Dunbeg and Oban area Mid-Argyll through most of Jan and Mar [Bill Allan, Jim Dickson]. On 28 Aug, what was presumed to be the long returning adult bird was seen and photographed at Oban Mid-Argyll [Bill Allan]. All records accepted by ABRC. There were several records for Oban Mid-Argyll until the end of the year for which no supporting details were supplied, although they probably relate to the long returning bird.

2011. On 16 Jan a smart adult bird seen at Traigh Bheag, east of Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* [John Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC. The returning Oban adult was reported during Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec with supporting photographs [Bill Allan]. A first winter bird was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 16 Nov [John Bowler]. Record accepted by ABRC.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* Farspag-bheag 0591
A widespread breeding species: generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3,235 pairs in Argyll and Bute.

Jan-May 2010. There were only four records in Jan-Feb: 3 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, one at Portnacroish *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, one at Scoor *Mull* on 8 Feb, and one at Loch Long *Cowal* on 8 Feb. The main build-up of numbers occurred in Mar and early Apr. Sightings in Mar 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 18 at Treshnish *Mull* on 18 Mar and 30 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile (Loch Gorm lochans) *Islay* on 23 Mar.

2011. First of the year were: one at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, one at Sandaig *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 4 at Bridgend *Islay* on 18 Feb, and 2 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Feb. Numbers of records increased rapidly from 23 Feb, with birds appearing throughout Argyll but especially in *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in late Feb-Mar. There were: 50 on *Tiree* on 14 Mar, 85 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 28 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Apr, 65 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 21 Apr, and 190 at Loch Bhirceapol *Tiree* on 28 Apr.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*, numbers of pairs were: 50 at Loch Bhirceapol, 24 at Milton, and 10 at Ceann a' Mhara. Breeding success was good with many chicks fledging in early Jul. At Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* there were 50 pairs which fledged 40 chicks. At Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* there were 50 pairs. On the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* 123 pairs fledged 181 chicks, apparently making this the largest colony in Argyll.

2011. On *Tiree* numbers of pairs were higher than in 2010 with: 120 pairs at Loch Bhirceapol, 15 at Ceann a' Mhara, 5 at Milton, and 5 at Balevullin. In the SAMS study area in *Mid-Argyll* there were 53 pairs on 6 sites. Apparently, there were at least 150 pairs on the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*. In May-Jun, many adults from this colony were flying to the Dunoon area to feed and returning in a direct line across land and Loch Striven to the Burnt Islands to feed their chicks.

Aug-Dec 2010. Birds were widespread until late Aug then records dropped rapidly. There were only a few records from Oct-Dec, mainly from *Cowal*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. As usual there was a rapid drop in records in Sep, with few in Oct-Dec, mostly from *Islay* and *Tiree*. There were 11 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Oct. The last records were one at Hough *Tiree* on 17 Dec and 2 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 29 Dec.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Faioleag-an-sgadain 0592
A widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season: recently several large colonies have been abandoned, and very few now breed inland.

Jan-May 2010. Apart from data in Table 40, counts in excess of 200 birds were: 1,000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 3-5 Jan, 250 at Beinn Loisgte (Loch na Lathlaich) *Mull* on 3 Feb, 229 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Feb, and 210 at Milton *Tiree* on 15 Mar.

2011. Apart from data in Table 40, counts in excess of 200 birds were 300 at Leth Uillt (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, and 200 at Tobermory *Mull* on 26 Apr.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree* numbers of breeding pairs were: 13 at Loch Bhirceapol, 77 at Milton, 10 at Ceann a' Mhara, 38 at Hough, 5 at Balinoe, 12 at Ringing Stone, 15 at Rubha Chraiginis,

and 15 at Balevullin. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were: 17 pairs on Lunga, 7 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and 3 on Sgeir na Guisaich. In areas monitored by Clive Craik breeding success was extremely variable, with low success tending to result from mink predation. On the Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* 561 pairs fledged 732 young. At Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre*, 125 pairs fledged 82 young. At the McCormaig Isles *Mid-Argyll*, on Corr Eilean 176 pairs fledged only 18 young, whereas on Eilean Mor 112 pairs fledged 58-73 young. On Abbot's Isles (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 80 pairs fledged 82 young. On the Kilmaronag Isles (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* 27 pairs fledged 22 young. On Eilean Beag (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* 133 pairs fledged 151 young. On Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll* 350 pairs fledged more than 200 young. In contrast, on Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* 119 pairs fledged only 4 young. On Sgeir nan Gobhar (Sound of Mull) 53 pairs fledged only 2 young. On Eilean Rubha an Ridire (Sound of Mull) 20 pairs fledged 19 young.

2011. At 14 Argyll sites monitored by Clive Craik (mostly in *Mid-Argyll* or *North Argyll*; full details in database), a minimum of 976 pairs nested, with a minimum of 406 young fledged (0.41 fledged young/pair); also a further 9 sites held 627-632 pairs breeding but productivity was not recorded. Breeding success was much higher at sites where mink were controlled, although fox predation affected one or two large colonies. At two colonies in Loch Fyne there was clear evidence of human interference (egg pricking). On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were: 18 pairs on Lunga, 7 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, 11 on Bac Mor, 2 on Bac Beg, and 6 on Cairn na Burg More.

Aug-Dec 2010. The only counts of 200 or more not included in Table 40 were an exceptional 3,500 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 24 Sep, and a more typical 300 at Leth Uillt (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 22 Dec (indicative of scavenging opportunities).

2011. The larger autumn counts are all included in Table 40.

Table 40. *Maximum monthly counts of Herring Gulls at: Loch Gruinart Islay, Sound of Gigha Kintyre, Loch Creran Mid-Argyll, Loch Sween Mid-Argyll, and Holy Loch Cowal*

2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	29	43	8	79	48	25	56	31	51	4	179	21
S of Gigha	45	61	76	38	n/r	25	43	43	n/r	147	163	12
L Creran	20	16	301	44	21	20	22	45	n/r	52	46	n/r
Holy Loch	262	226	85	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	125	n/r	155	51
2011												
L Gruinart	83	16	51	143	32	48	n/r	49	288	79	36	20
S of Gigha	323	27	7	47	n/r	20	24	13	n/r	62	n/r	n/r
L. Creran	137	94	81	69	59	41	51	56	45	44	1	29
L. Sween	20	12	31	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	2	20	16	14
Holy Loch	92	257	92	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	143	176	81	39

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

0592.6

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

2010. No accepted records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. No accepted records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

AMERICAN HERRING GULL *Larus smithsonianus*

2663.2

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

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.

2010. Relatively few records, all of single birds were at: Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 3 and 9 Jan on 8 and 14 Feb and on 18 Mar, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 13 Jan, Port Askaig *Islay* on 17 Jan and 11 Feb, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 18 Jan, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar, and from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 21 Mar. There were only two in Jul-Dec: one at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Oct, and one at Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 23 and 26 Dec.

2011. One at Bunnahabhain *Islay* was seen almost daily from 11 Jan to 17 Apr. Other single birds were seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 12 Feb, at The Oa *Islay* on 25 Mar, and at Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 25 Mar. The next sighting was not until 2 Nov, when one was at Loch na Keal *Mull*. This was followed by numerous records up to the end of the year, especially from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*, but also from *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Jura*. There was a very dark juvenile with all-dark tail and dark wing tips (Thayer's Gull or intergrade with Kumlien's Gull) feeding with Herring Gulls behind a fishing boat off the SW tip of Lismore *North Argyll* on 10 Nov. This bird was subsequently seen at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* from 13 to 22 Nov.* There were 5 birds at Kintraw (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec (three first winters and two adults). On 8 Dec there were also 5 birds at Kintraw (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll*, but these included a second winter and a third winter bird as well as 2 adults and a first winter: in addition there was a first winter Kumlien's Gull.

* For a discussion of this bird see: Dickson J. M., Allan W. A. (2012). The Dunbeg 'High Arctic Gull'; is it a Thayer's? *Scottish Birds* Vol. 32 (2): 178-185.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir

0599

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

2010. There were only 11 records, a very low total compared to most other years, all of single birds, except for two seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 21 Mar. Singles were at: Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Jan, Carragh an t-Sruth *Jura* on 16 Jan, Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 14 Mar, Benderloch *North Argyll* on 14 Mar, Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr, Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 18 May, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov, Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 7 Nov, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Nov, and Portnahaven *Islay* on 29 Dec.

2011. Records mostly of singles were at: Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 2 and 8 Jan, Claddach *Islay* on 2 Jan, Port Askaig *Islay* on 16 Jan, Westport *Kintyre* on 26 Jan (found dead), Campbeltown *Kintyre* from 21 Mar to 4 Apr, *Tiree* on 1, 4, 9, 15 (2 birds), 27 Mar and 7 and 17 Apr (2 birds), Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 9 Apr, Saligo Bay *Islay* on 10 Apr, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 May. There were no records in Jun-Sep, then singles at: Barrapoll *Tiree* on 27 Oct, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov, Saligo Bay *Islay* on 5 Dec, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec, Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec, Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec, and 1 or 2 birds at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on most days between 14 and 26 Dec.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Farspag

0600

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

Jan-May 2010. Counts of over 50 included: 57 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Jan and again on 8 Feb, and 56 at Baugh *Tiree* on 30 Apr.

2011. Largest counts were 50 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Mar, and 60 following a trawler off NW *Mull* on 12 Apr.

Breeding 2010. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 47 pairs across 5 sites, with the largest numbers on Lunga (21 pairs) and Sgeir an Eironnaich (18 pairs). On *Tiree* an incomplete nesting survey found 11 pairs at The Ringing Stone and 4 pairs at Loch Bhirceapol. On Abbot's Isles (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 19 pairs fledged 30 young. On the Burnt Isles (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal* 10-12 pairs fledged 28 young. On the McCormaig Isles *Mid-Argyll* 6 pairs on Eilean Mor fledged only a single chick, while 35 pairs on Corr Eilean fledged 19 chicks.

2011. See database for details on colony sizes, which have been declining in size in many cases. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 56 pairs across 7 islands. There were 30 pairs on Carraig an Daimh (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* and 35 pairs on Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*. One pair nested at Airds Point *Mid-Argyll*, a new site for this species, and displaced Common Gulls from the area. At Liath Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* there were 6 pairs nesting, but their eggs had been pricked to prevent chicks from developing.

Aug-Dec 2010. Counts of more than 40 birds came only from *Tiree*, with around 20-60 birds present throughout Aug-Dec on that island. Elsewhere, 1-6 birds were reported from many locations on Argyll coasts. Larger groups away from *Tiree* included: 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Sep and 14 on 3 Oct, 13 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Sep and 19 on 10 Nov, 13 at Ardlamont Bay *Cowal* on 14 Oct (at a dead Minke whale), and 24 at Blairmore (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 22 Oct and 31 on 27 Oct.

2011. The largest groups reported were on *Tiree* (the highest count being 107 at Loch a' Phuill on 1 Sep). Elsewhere, there were 32 at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Sep, 22 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Oct, and 64 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Nov.

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus*

0622

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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 2010. The first records of the spring were not until 29 Apr, when there were 2 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* and 12 at Crossapol *Tiree*. Then regular in small numbers but none were seen away from known breeding areas.

2011. The first record was of two birds at Cnoc Iolairean *Islay* on 9 Apr, closely followed by 5 on *Tiree* on 11 Apr. There were 5 near Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 29 Apr and 2 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 6 May.

Breeding 2010. There were about 40 pairs breeding on *Tiree*, spread between several sites where breeding success was moderate, (nests at one site were flooded by very high tides). Several pairs bred on *Coll* and at sites on *Islay*, but no counts were available.

2011. There were at least 49 pairs breeding on *Tiree*. These fledged around 32 chicks (a reasonably successful season). About 3 pairs nested at Ardnave *Islay*. There was no data on numbers at other sites.

Jul-Aug 2010. A flock of 18 birds passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Jul. The last record of the year was an adult at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Aug.

2011. There were 25 around the Mackenzie Islands *Islay* on 2 Jul. There were 75 birds at Miodar *Tiree* on 18 Jul, and 28 (including 13 juveniles) in Gott Bay *Tiree* on 29 Jul. The last sightings were, 7 juveniles at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Aug and one bird at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 28 Sep and 2 on 29 Sep.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* 0605

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns a second summer bird seen on Tiree in Sep 2008.

2010. An adult was found at Moss *Tiree* on 25 Apr [Robin Ward, Ian Simms]. Accepted by BBRC (*British Birds* 104:587). Coming so soon after the last record on *Tiree*, at a nearby location, the possibility of it being the same individual can not be ruled out.

2011. No records.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 0606

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* 0626

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh 0627

A scarce and irregular passage migrant with only 16 records 1980-2009: usually in Sep.

2010. A juvenile was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep [David Kent]. Four juveniles were found at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 12 Sep [Christian & Ann de Zegher] and were there again the following day [John Bowler]: one remained until 16 Sep. Singles (un-aged) were seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep and 1 Oct with a juvenile on 6 Oct [Eddie Maguire]. All records accepted by ABRC.

2011. No records.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 0628

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr 0611

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

Jan-May 2010. The first record of spring was on 21 Mar at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, followed by two at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 6 Apr. There were many records from then until summer, with the largest numbers of sightings from *Kintyre* and *Cowal*, but also a few from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Tiree*. The largest numbers were seen from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, where there were: 25 on 25 Apr, 43 on 15 May, 20 on 1 Jun, 60 on 28 Jun, and 30 on 11 Jul. These included birds copulating on several days during May and early Jun, although there was no reason to believe that any were breeding locally.

2011. The first records were both on 30 Mar, at Loch Indaal *Islay* and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. As usual there were many records through spring, with most from *Kintyre* but also

from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, and Tiree*. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported: 37 on 29 Apr, a peak of 67 on 31 May, and 33 on 2 Jun.

Summering 2010. Records were widely distributed in Jun, from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Kintyre, and Tiree*. However, there was no evidence of breeding within Argyll. A recently fledged juvenile was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Jul, but was presumed, most likely, to have come from a colony in Northern Ireland.

2011. During Jun, most records were from *Kintyre*. Despite presence throughout the summer there was no evidence of breeding within Argyll. The first sighting of recently fledged juveniles was on 31 Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

Jul-Nov 2010. Most autumn records were during Aug and Sep from: *Cowal, Islay, or Kintyre*. There were: 17 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Aug, 32 at Bagh an Achain (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Sep, 53 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 11 Sep, and 26 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Sep. The last record of the year was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep.

2011. Most autumn records were during Aug and from *Kintyre*. There were 12 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 14 Sep. The last records were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29 Sep and at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 26 Oct.

FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri*

0618

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Steàrnag-chumanta

0615

A locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland.

Apr-May 2010. The first birds were 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Apr, followed by 2 at Eilean an Ruisg *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May. Reports were daily and widespread from 11 May onwards. There were 35 at Rubha Garbh (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May, and 26 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 16 May.

2011. The first record was on 23 Apr at Soa Point *Tiree*, with the next on 28 Apr at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Records were then daily from 7 May onwards. There were 35 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 10 May and 27 on 13 May.

Breeding 2010. At Glas Eileanan (Sound of Mull) *Mull* there were 300 adults present in mid-May, but only 1 pair nested. At Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* 150 pairs were present on 9 Jun but only 10-20 pairs laid eggs, and these failed to rear any young. At Abbot's Isles (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* 5 pairs raised 3 young. At Torinturk Islets (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* 6 pairs raised 4 young. Ten pairs nested on Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) *Kintyre* but failed to rear any young. The most productive colony in Argyll was on the tern rafts at South Shian, Sgeir Caillich (Loch Creran) *North Argyll*, where 177 pairs reared 110 young.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area monitored by Clive Craik, 457 pairs bred at 8 sites. Low productivity at several sites was attributed to a variety of predators, including mink. At Sgeir Caillich (Loch Creran) *North Argyll*, 300 pairs nested on the tern rafts and fledged 400 young. In contrast, at the 7 natural sites monitored, only 20 young fledged. At Glas Eileanan, (Sound of Mull) *Mull*, there were 97 pairs on 20 Jun, but only 72 of these had clutches. No chicks fledged from that colony and most birds had gone by 12 Jul.

Jul-Oct 2010. There were large numbers in Argyll in Jul and Aug, but only a few birds in Sep. At Machrihanish SBO Kintyre 170 flew south in 5 hours on 4 Jul, there were: 400 at Duart Point *Mull* on 15 Jul, 100 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul, and 800 at Rubha Fiart (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 26 Jul and 750 on 23 Aug. The last of the year was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 29 Sep. **2011.** There were 250 in the Sound of Mull on 7 Jul and 200 on 17 Jul (possibly birds from the deserted Glas Eileanan colony mentioned above). There were 140 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 17 Jul, and 400 at Lady's Rock *Mull* on 26 Jul. The last records were of one at Calgary *Mull* on 16 Oct, and one at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Oct.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Steàrnag

0616

A summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 counted 1,823 pairs in Argyll & Bute.

Apr-May 2010. The first record was on 25 Apr from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, and the second on 28 Apr when birds were seen on: *Islay, Kintyre, and Tiree*. Thereafter birds were seen daily, with most records being from: *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*. There were over 100 seen from the ferry crossing from Oban to Craignure *Mull* on 15 May, and 200 at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May.

2011. The first of the year was seen on 14 Apr at Ardnave Point *Islay*. Records were daily from 17 Apr, with most records from: *Islay, Mull, and Tiree*. There were 450 in the Sound of Mull *Mull* on 10 May, and 150 feeding in Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 14 May.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree*, there were 305 AONs at 12 sites and 'reasonable' numbers (100+) of chicks reared. Elsewhere there were: 50 pairs on Eilean Rubha an Ridire (Sound of Mull) *Mull*, 24 on Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) *Kintyre*, 22 at Craignure *Mull*, and 8 at Glas Eilean (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*. In contrast to the moderate success reported from *Tiree*, apparently very few or no young survived at any of these colonies due to a combination of predation and food shortage.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, there were 64 pairs at 5 sites, which fledged about 15 young. One pair nested alongside the Common Terns on the South Shian tern rafts at Sgeir Caillich (Loch Creran) *North Argyll* (the first breeding by Arctic Terns at this site). On *Tiree* there were 295 pairs at 12 sites and at least 110 chicks fledged by late Jul. There were 16 pairs nesting on Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) *Kintyre*.

Jul-Nov 2010. Birds were widespread in Jul-Aug. There were: 118 flying south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in 5 hours on 4 Jul and 42 in 5 hours on 15 Sep, and 100 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul. There were only two records in Oct, with one bird at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Oct and another at Ardnave *Islay* on 23 Oct.

2011. There were 100-300 around the Treshnish Isles *Mull* on most days in late Jun and early Jul. There were: 200 at Glas Eileanan (Sound of Mull) *Mull* on 17 Jul, 238 flying south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in 12 hours on 23 and 24 Sep, 150 in 1 hour past Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Sep, and 108 in 2 hours past Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep. Only small numbers were reported in Oct but were present up to the end of the month, mainly off: *Islay, Mull, and Tiree*. The last record was of two at Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Nov.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

0614

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

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p.158-160).

2011. No records.

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.

Jan-Apr 2010. There were very few reports in Jan-Feb, with just a few birds seen offshore. Birds usually start to return to nesting sites in Mar. Some 200+ birds were counted on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree as early as 6 Mar (though numbers there had increased to 2000 by the end of May). Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* recorded 44 flying south in 4 hours on 27 Mar during strong NW wind.

2011. 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 from Mar onwards. There were 100 on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 7 Apr, and 1,978 there on 27 May.

Breeding 2010. At Ceann a' Mhara Tìree there were 2327 adults on the cliffs on 28 Jun with 460 small chicks. Breeding success there was considered to be good and the first chicks fledged on 15 Jul. Newly fledged chicks were on the sea off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 11 Jul. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were 5213 adults in late Jun (the smallest number counted at that colony since annual records began in 1994).

2011. At Ceann a' Mhara Tìree there were 2,001 adults with 500 small chicks on 21 Jun and 2,042 adults on 10 Jul with some chicks already fledged but about 200 remaining. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 6,980 adults on Lunga and 107 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil; higher numbers than in 2010 suggesting a better season.

Sep-Dec 2010. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 600 birds were counted flying south in small groups in 4 hours on 22 Jul. Large numbers of birds (juveniles with adults in attendance) were seen in the Clyde *Cowal* in late Aug. In late Sep, there were many records from Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* of groups of up to 50 birds, with some showing signs of weakness. For example, there were 45 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* and 31 at Glaschoine (Cairndow, Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep, but these records seem to be too few to represent a 'wreck'.

2011. There was no suggestion of high mortality of juveniles in the autumn, despite the apparently good productivity of fledglings this year. Relatively few autumn records came from the Clyde and sea lochs, with most autumn records coming from more open marine areas.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT *Uria lomvia* 0635

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* Falc 0636

A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.

Jan-Apr 2010. There were very few records although there were 130 flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Mar. There were 700 on the cliffs at Pigs Paradise *Colonsay* on 16 May.

2011. There were counts of *ca* 100 near Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 and 23 Jan, but otherwise very small numbers reported in Jan-Mar. There were 2,460 auks, mostly Razorbills, passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 5 hours on 11 Apr.

Breeding 2010. It was reported to be a poor breeding season for this species on *Tìree*. There were 350 birds on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 10 Jun (some with eggs), 309 plus a few

chicks on 28 Jun, but only 59 plus a handful of large chicks on 11 Jul. At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were only 314 adults in late Jun, very considerably fewer than a few years previously. There were 48 on the monitoring plot at Urugaig *Colonsay*. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* the first chicks at sea were seen on 15 Jul.

2011. At Treshnish Isles *Mull* TIARG counted 560 birds on cliffs. On *Tiree* there were 412 adults on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara on 27 May with some birds on eggs. On 21 Jun the count was down to 389 with some attending small chicks. On 21 Jul there were still 234 adults on the cliffs and some large chicks. Despite this suggestion of late breeding, or replacement laying, it was considered to be a fairly productive breeding season for Razorbills on *Tiree*.

Sep-Dec 2010. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 80 flew south in 4 hours on 22 Jul. There were 152 flying west off Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 6 Oct, while 982 flew west off Aird *Tiree* in 2 hours on 18 Oct. There were 114 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Oct, and 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 29 Dec.

2011. Reports were mostly of small numbers and there were very few records in Oct-Dec.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (TYSTIE) *Cephus grylle* Gearra-breac 0638

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

Jan-May 2010. Larger counts included: 12 at Gribun *Mull* on 2 Feb, 10 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 18 Apr, 10 at Treshnish Point *Mull* on 7 May, and 10 at Uamh nan Gabher (Scarba) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May.

2011. Larger counts included: 13 at *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 25 seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 5 Feb, 10 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 13 Feb, 15 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 27 Mar, 16 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr, and 10 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 17 Apr.

Breeding 2010. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 22 adults were seen during the summer at 8 sites. There were 20 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 14 Jun and 29 around the Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 27 Jun.

2011. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 87 adults were seen during the summer at 17 sites. At Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* all natural sites were unoccupied but two large young ringed from the one successful nest box. There were 49 birds on the sea around the Treshnish Isles *Mull* in late Jun. There were 18 in Oban Harbour *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jun and several of these had nests in drainage holes along the esplanade. There were 59 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 7 Jun.

Aug-Dec 2010. Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Large counts included: 20 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 15 Aug, and 54 at Toward *Cowal* on 5 Nov.

2011. Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. There were 29 near Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 16 Dec.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag 0647

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

2010. There were four records: one SE of *Jura* on 27 Mar, one on Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 2 Oct, one in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 19 Nov, and one in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 30 Dec.

2011. Only one record, of a single off Arinagour *Coll* on 15 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-Jun 2010. The first record of spring was on 28 Mar, when 2 were seen between *Tiree* and *Coll*. On 12 Apr up to 300 were ashore on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* although boat operators said that few, if any, had been ashore earlier in the season. Elsewhere, very small numbers were

seen off: *Colonsay, Islay, Garvellachs Mid-Argyll, Seil Island Mid-Argyll, Mull and Tiree*. One off Dunoon Cowal on 2 Jun was a very exceptional sighting.

2011. The first records were off Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 4 Mar and off Lagganulva *Mull* on 10 Apr. Then there were regular records of small numbers during the second half of Apr to Jun from: *Coll, Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*.

Breeding 2010. TIARG reported 1229 AOBs (apparently occupied burrows) on Lunga, and 161 AOBs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. One found dead on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 5 Jul 2009 had been ringed there as an adult as more than two years old on 30 Jun 1995 and was thus at least 16 years old.

2011. TIARG reported 1372 AOBs on Lunga, and 239 AOBs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. There were at least 150 AOBs on Sanda Islands *Kintyre*.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were only very small numbers seen in late Jul and Aug off *Tiree* and *Kintyre*. The last record of the year was 1 bird off Gott Bay *Tiree* on 23 Aug.

2011. Only seen in very small numbers in late summer. The last records were of 2 birds off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 12 Sep, and one seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 17 Dec. Ringing return: one found dead on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 5 July 2009 had been ringed there as an adult more than two years old on 30 June 1995 and was thus at least 16 years old.

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 the breeding season. Genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons: those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.

Jan-Jun 2010. The highest counts from the islands were: up to 150 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* during Jan and Feb, 62 at Braigo (Sanaigmore) *Islay* on 22 Mar, 30 (including 3 feral type) at Sliabh Riabhach *Colonsay* on 18 Apr, ca20 at Cnoc Maol Mhucaig (Salen) *Mull* on 23 May, and 7 on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 27 Jun. On the mainland, ca30 almost pure Rock Dove type were around the cliff face at Keil Point (Southend) *Kintyre* on 21 Apr, and 20 were on nearby farmland on 24 Jun.

2011. The highest count reported was 105 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 7 Feb. Other larger counts included: 100 at The Oa *Islay* on 28 Feb and at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Jun, 90 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 5 Mar, 72 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, and 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Jun.

Breeding 2010. Birds were present during the breeding season on: *Colonsay, Islay, Tiree* and *Iona Mull*. Breeding was suspected at Keil Point (Southend) *Kintyre*, and chicks were found on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

2011. Birds were present during the breeding season on: *Islay, Mull, and Tiree*. Hatched eggs were found on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

Jul-Dec 2010. The largest counts reported were 418 at Grainel *Islay* on 20 Aug and 240 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 31 Aug. Other larger counts were: 130 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 15 Sep, 100 at Cnoc na Croise (Bunnahabhain) *Islay* on 21 Nov, and 90 at Miodar *Tiree* on 20 Oct. There were no mainland records.

2011. The largest count reported was 330 on a cut silage field at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 6 Oct. Other larger counts included 161 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 25 Sep and 84 at The Oa *Islay* on 2 Dec.

Feral Pigeon 2010. Larger flocks were: 70 at East Backs (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 45 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaille (Kilchoman) *Islay* on 1 Nov, and 28 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 19 Sep. Smaller numbers were reported from various other locations in: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and North Argyll*.

2011. A flock of 50 was at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov and 46 were in a garden at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr. Smaller numbers were reported from various locations in: *Colonsay, Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree.*

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm 0668
A very scarce and local resident: only regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll in recent years. There are occasional records from: Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull and North Argyll.

2010. Two were seen at Knockdow *Cowal* on 26 May and one was at Rhugarbh Croft (Appin) *North Argyll* on 9 Jul.

2011. No records.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich 0670
A common resident, breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks which form on the mainland in winter may include immigrants.

Jan-Jun 2010. Higher counts were 41 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 28 Jan and 30 at Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 28 Feb. Birds were seen regularly at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull*, peaking at 10 on 6 Mar. Other *Mull* records included 4 at Loch Frisa on 25 May and 2 at Cnoc Maol Mhucaig (Salen) on 23 May. Single birds were found on *Coll* on 4 and 5 May and on *Tiree* on four dates in May and Jun.

2011. Higher counts were, 32 at Upper Brenfield (Ardrihaig) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan and 30 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 18 Feb. On *Mull*: up to 3 birds were seen regularly at Treshnish, 9 were at Loch Buie on 27 Apr, and 1 was at Loch Frisa on 3 May and 5 Jun. On *Tiree*, one at Balephuill on 4 Apr was a very early record and one or two birds were seen at various locations in May and Jun.

Breeding 2010. Pairs were noted during the breeding season at: 4 sites in *Cowal*, 1 in *Mid-Argyll*, and 1 in *Kintyre*. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. Breeding was confirmed only at High Smerby (Campbeltown) *Kintyre*. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. Pairs were noted during the breeding season at 1 site in each of: *Cowal, Islay, and Mid-Argyll.*

Jul-Dec 2010. The highest count was 255 at Auchadalvorie (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 12 Nov. Only two other counts reached double figures; 53 at Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 14 Nov, and 47 flying over Eas Mor (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 4 Nov. Up to 4 birds were seen regularly at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull*.

2011. One seen on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 1 Jul was the first ever recorded by TIARG. The largest group noted was 11 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 12 Nov and single birds were seen on *Tiree* on three dates in early Sep.

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.

Jan-Jun 2010. Higher counts were: up to 18 in the Crossapol/Kenovay area of *Tiree* on 1 Feb, 12 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 3 May, 10 at Achaleven (Connel) *Mid Argyll* on 23 Jan, and 10 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 12 Apr. Smaller numbers were reported from: *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal, Kintyre, and North Argyll.*

2011. The highest count was of 14 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 1 Feb. A flock of 12 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 5 Jun was the most ever seen there. Eight were in a garden in Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Jun. Smaller numbers were reported from all areas except *Coll* and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2010. A fledged brood of 4 was at Urvaig *Tiree* on 15 Jun and a juvenile with 2 adults were unusual visitors to Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 13 Jul. Apart from a pair reported from each of *Kintyre* and *Mull* no other breeding records were received.

2011. Breeding was confirmed at 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and pairs were reported from *Cowal* and *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. There were 19 at Craighens Farm (RSPB Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 6 Sep and 12 in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov. Smaller flocks (<10) were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. The highest count was 25 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Oct. Fifteen were at Crossapol *Tiree* on 1 Jul and smaller numbers were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan

0687

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

2010. Singles were at Dubh Loch *Colonsay* on 25 May and on *Coll* on 28 May. A single bird was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 1-2 Oct, 2 birds at Nerabus *Islay* on 1 Oct and nearby Craigfad on 4 Oct.

2011. There were only two records: single birds at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 21 Aug and at Sandaig *Tiree* on 17 Oct.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (Ring-necked Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri* (see Escapes and Introductions p.156).

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.

2010-2011. Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll*. Birds were undoubtedly present on *Coll* but the lack of reports simply reflects the overall paucity of records from the island.

Apr-Jun 2010. First arrivals were in *Mid-Argyll* at Lagganbeg and Glen Euchar on 9 and 10 Apr respectively. Widespread arrivals started on 13 Apr when birds were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. By 19 Apr birds were also reported from: *Colonsay*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. Whilst it was thought that there could be more birds than usual on *Islay* they were considered to be scarce on *Tiree*.

2011. The first arrivals were on 10 Apr at Inveroran (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* and on *Islay* at Kilchoman and RSPB Loch Gruinart. The main arrival started on 16 Apr and by 22 Apr birds were widely reported from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

Breeding 2010. A total of 17 territories were found on *Colonsay* while 2 were recorded on the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 1 in 2009. Territories were also noted at Port Haun *Mull* and Sgat Beag (Loch Fyne) *Cowal*.

2011. On *Colonsay*, 18 – 19 breeding territories were identified while 2 were again recorded in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.9 since 1990. Territories were also noted at Barr Lagan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* and Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*. Mating was observed at Glen Clachaig *Mull* and on *Islay* while a fledgling was noted at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 16 Jun.

Jul-Aug 2010. Only four records were received, all of single birds, from *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre* with the last being on 17 Jul.

2011. Juveniles were seen at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Jul and Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug. Thereafter 2 birds were at Rubha Dubh *Colonsay* on 12 Aug.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

0727

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*

0728

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Comhachag

0735

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

2010-2011. Birds were reported from all recording areas during 2010-2011 apart from *Coll* and *Colonsay*. Records were most frequent in: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. Birds were recorded on *Tiree* in: Feb, Sep, and Dec 2010 and Apr and Dec 2011. On *Jura* there were records in Jan and Nov 2010 but there were no records at all for *Coll*. Five were seen in the Loch Melldalloch (Millhouse) area of *Cowal* at dusk on 26 Sep 2010. One spent at least a week in a barn at Heylipol *Tiree* in February 2010 (J Bowler).

Table 41. *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2010 and 2011.* (ARSG per Roger Broad. NB: includes data for *Bute*, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Breeding 2010.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Mull	1	1	1	0	0	1	1.00
Islay	6	3	2	0	1	2	1.00
Kintyre/ Knapdale	41	27	20	4	3	52	2.60
Cowal	23	20	18	2	0	48	2.66
Bute	2	2	2	0	0	3	1.50
Total	73	53	43	6	4	106	2.50**

** calculated for 40 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.

Colonsay: Pellets of a bird which wintered on Colonsay were found in November 2009 – the first recent record for the island (D Jardine).

Cowal: The best year ever on Cowal – with 48 young ringed (D Anderson).

2011.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Mull	1	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Islay	3	3	3	0	0	3+	1.00+
Kintyre/ Knapdale	36	29	20	3	6	54+	2.70+
Cowal	16	16	12	2	2	31	2.58
Bute	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	57	49	36	5	8	91+	2.88 **

**** calculated for 27 nesting attempts (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.**

In Kintyre and Knapdale Mid-Argyll, 2011 was another successful breeding season for Barn Owls. Interestingly, 20 successful nesting attempts were found in both 2011 and 2010 and totals of 52 and 54+ young were fledged respectively. However, in 2010 there was no evidence of double clutches being laid while in 2011 there were 5 locations where second clutches were laid. Three of these second clutches were laid after first broods had successfully fledged (table below).

First breeding attempt	Second nesting attempt
4 chicks fledged	4 chicks fledged
4 chicks fledged	3 chicks hatched at last visit
2 chicks fledged	2 chicks hatched at last visit
Nesting attempt failed	4 large young at last visit
Eggs failed	Eggs failed

(ARSG per Roger Broad).

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

0739

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one found dead at Scarinish (Tiree) on 6 Apr 1997.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus*

0749

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

2010. No records.

2011. 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.

2010/2011. Birds were reported in 2010 and/or 2011 from: Cowal, Islay, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll. This is a still a much under recorded species and all records are welcome.

Breeding 2010.

Table 42. *Outcome of monitored Tawny Owl territories in 2010 and 2011.* (ARSG per Roger Broad). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Min no young fledged	Young per successful site
Cowal	43	28	17	11	32	1.88

Breeding 2011.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no young fledged	Young per successful site
Kintyre	1	1	1	0	0	1	1.0
Cowal	39	23	12	11	0	22	2.0
Bute	2	2	0	0	2		

Cowal: there was evidence that nesting failures at the long running nest-box scheme were attributed to starvation (4) and mammalian predator (5). Pine martens were identified at 4 of the 5 nests predated by mammals (D Anderson).

Islay: There were no breeding attempts in 2011 at Loch Gruinart Reserve (J How). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

As well as those shown in Table 44, calling birds were reported regularly during the breeding season from the Treshnish (nr. Calgary) area of *Mull*.

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.

2010. The only records away from breeding sites were: one at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, one calling at Mid Achinduin (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 20 Feb, and a very surprising sighting of one in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree* on 20 Nov.

Breeding 2010. On *Colonsay*, three sites were checked - one was occupied, another had fresh signs and the third was apparently unoccupied. Breeding was not confirmed and no young were fledged (D Jardine) In *Mid-Argyll*, four chicks were photographed at a nest site in a garden at Ardferrn on 22 May (per Clive Craik).

2011. The only record received, other than the breeding birds on *Mull* (below), concerned one at Arnabost *Coll* on 12 Sep.

Breeding 2011. On *Colonsay*, three sites were checked but none was occupied (D Jardine). On *Mull*, a new site was reported from the north of the island, where an adult was seen and a chick heard (Julian Bray).

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).

2010. Reports, of up to 3 birds, during the year were from: Oronsay (*Colonsay*), *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

2011. The great majority of records were from *Mull*, elsewhere single birds were reported from: Oronsay (*Colonsay*), *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*.

Breeding. Table 43. *Outcome of monitored Short-eared Owl territories in Argyll in 2010 and 2011.* (ARSG per Roger Broad).

2010.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Mull	3						
Islay	6	5	3	1	1	7+	2.33+
Mid-Argyll	1	1	1	0	0	1+	1.0+
Cowal	3	1	1	0	0	5	5.0
Total	13	7	5	1	1	13+	2.6+

On Tiree, one at Balinoe on 1 Jun was presumably a late migrant as there were no other records (J Bowler).

On *Mull*, only one breeding pair was recorded in 2010 (P Haworth).

On *Colonsay*, no birds were present at one site that has been occupied in previous years.

2011.

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Mull	1	1	1	0	0	1+	
Islay	1	1	0	0	1		
Mid-Argyll	2	2	1	[1]	0	1+	
Cowal	2	2	1	0	1	1	
Total	6	6	3	[1]	2	3+	1.0+

[] = adult male disappeared, young taken into care by SSPCA and subsequently released back on site after fledging.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR (NIGHTJAR) *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgràicheag-oidhche 0778
A very scarce and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal.

2010. One was heard churring at Glen Forsa *Mull* on 3 Aug [Mick Brennan]. Record accepted by ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. No records (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

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.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

COMMON SWIFT (SWIFT) *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr 0795
A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

2010. The first arrivals were three birds at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May with two birds seen on the following day at Campbeltown *Kintyre*. During the next two weeks single birds were noted at: Dunoon *Cowal* on 6 May, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, Glen Gallain (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* and pairs at Black Lochs (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May, and Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May. Significant early counts over Campbeltown *Kintyre* were 17 on 29 May and 22 on 5 Jun. Suspected breeding was reported from a site close to Oban town centre on 19 Jun. Island records included: 4 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 26 Jun, 12 at Port Haunn *Mull* and 2 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 26 Jun, and 2 at Leek *Islay* on 14 Jul. Forty birds seen over Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 29 Jun were rather more unexpected than a similar number seen over the town on 8 Aug which were the last mainland records. Late records were all from the islands and included: Craighouse *Jura* on 26 Aug, Sandaig *Tiree* on 8 Sep, and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 7 and 23 Sep.

2011. The earliest ever record for Argyll was a bird seen at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 4 Apr. It was over a month before the next sightings were reported with 10 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 7 May. Locations of other early records included: Ardalinish Bay *Mull* on 8 May and Kirn *Cowal* on 12 May. Low numbers were reported from a number of sites, mainly in *Mid-Argyll*, whilst island records included: Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 2 Jul, Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 2 Jul, and Gartbreck *Islay* on 4 Jul. Significant counts of birds over Campbeltown *Kintyre* were: 50 on 14 Jul, 60 on 29 Jul and 20 on 3 Aug. Other counts of 10 or more were at: Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* with 12 on 6 Aug and 10 on both 13 Aug and 15 Aug, and 20 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug. The last record was of a single bird at Achaminish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 26 Aug.

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.

2010. A single bird was seen on 9 Jan at Rubha Teithil (Barcaldine) *North Argyll* with the next not until 1 Sep when one was on the Crinan Canal at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. Two birds were seen on the River Sorn at Bridgend *Islay* on 22 Sep and 7 Nov with a single bird seen at the same site on: 28 Sep, 2 Oct, 22 Oct, 7 Nov, and 19 Nov. Elsewhere single birds were seen at: Colintrave *Cowal* on 18 Oct, Knockstaplemore (Southend) *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, Ardkinglas *Cowal* on 7 Nov, Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 10 Nov, and Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 9 December

2011. Sightings were rather sparser with reports of single birds at: Loch Indaal, *Islay* on 7 Jan, Caol Scotnish (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan, West Loch Tarbert *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 23 Sep, and Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (BEE-EATER) *Merops apiaster* 0840
A vagrant: with only 4 or 5 records since the first in 1981.

2010. Two found at Calgary *Mull* on 24 Apr stayed until 26 Apr and were photographed [Marvin Muxlow *et al.*]. There were unconfirmed reports of two at Calgary *Mull* on 28 Apr and one on Iona *Mull* on 30 Apr, which probably related to the same birds.

2011. No records.

EUROPEAN ROLLER (ROLLER) *Coracias garrulus* 0841
A vagrant: with six records 1887-1992, mostly in autumn.

2010. No records.

2011. On 16 Jun, one was found and photographed, on telephone wires *ca*2.5 miles along Glen Aros road from junction with A849 on *Mull* [John Bannon *et al.*]. Record accepted by BBRC as 16 June (*British Birds* 105:592). Recent research has revealed that the 1927 record referred to in

Birds of Argyll (p.272) relates to a bird shot on the Ardtornish Estate in Morvern (Highland) and not on *Mull* as stated. This is thus the first record for *Mull* since the bird shot there in 1888.

HOPOE *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh 0846

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

2010. The possibility of the same individual being seen is suggested by records from Hough Bay *Tiree* on 24 Apr and Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 30 Apr. A single bird was seen at Garmony *Mull* on 13 May.

2011. Single birds were seen at Arnabost *Coll* on 26 Aug and at Balemartine *Tiree* on 30 Sep: again possibly the same bird.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Geocair 0848

A rare and irregular passage migrant: in spring and autumn.

2010. No records.

2011. One was seen and photographed (in flight!) at Treshnish (Calgary) *Mull* on 15 Aug [Anand Prasad]. This is the third record for *Mull* and there are only 12 previous Argyll records. Record accepted by ABRC.

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.

2010. A single bird was reported at Ardtalla *Islay* on 17 May.

2011. No records. The lack of records from *Cowal*, especially Benmore Gardens, could be a result of two exceptionally cold winters running.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich 0876

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

2010. Birds were widely reported from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*, and less frequently, from *Mull* and *North Argyll*. A single bird was seen and heard drumming at Bridgend *Islay* on 20 May.

2011. Birds were widely reported from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll* with a few from *Kintyre* and *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 2010. Most breeding season records were from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Fledged young were seen at Glen Aray *Mid-Argyll* on 23 July and Lochdon *Mull* on 18 Aug. There were 3 territories identified in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 2 in 2009.

Breeding 2011. Most breeding season records were from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre*. Sightings of juveniles were reported from Calgary *Mull* and West Tarbert *Kintyre*. There were 5 territories in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 2.7 since 1990.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* 1633

A vagrant: the only Argyll records concern singles on Coll in Oct 1992 and on Tiree in Oct 2008.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* 1508

A rare and irregular passage migrant: mainly in spring.

2010. It seems likely that the male seen near Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr was the same bird that was seen at Arduaine Gardens (Kilmelford) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr.

2011. No records.

BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*

1513

A vagrant: there have been no previous records in Argyll.

2011. A first winter bird was found at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Oct [John Bowler, Janet Hunter, Toby Green *et al*]. Unlike many extreme rarities this one was very obliging and stayed until at least 7 Nov, allowing many people to see and photograph it. The bird remained faithful to a small area of sheltered gardens and fields, occasionally wandering to the adjacent hill-side at Carnan Mor and fed predominantly on large beetles. Record accepted by BBRC as first winter 22 Oct to 20 Nov (*British Birds* 105:592). This is a new species for the Argyll list and there were, at the time, only 11 previous British records including four in Scotland.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

1515

A rare passage migrant: only thirteen accepted records, 1954-2007.

2010. No records.

2011. A first winter bird was found at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 9 Oct: it remained until 11 Oct. [Bill Allan, John Bowler *et al*]. Record accepted by ABRC.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

1519

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas

1520

An increasingly rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

1523

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

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH (CHOUGH) *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach1559

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.

2010. On *Colonsay*, most reports were from Oronsay RSPB Reserve where birds were present throughout the year with winter counts regularly reaching 20 birds with a maximum of 29 on 15 and 17 Dec. Elsewhere the highest *Colonsay* count was 9 at Balnahard on 8 Apr. On *Islay*, at Ardnave, there were fewer records than recent years with: 27 on 19 Aug, 31 on 31 Oct, and 23 on 30 Dec. Elsewhere on *Islay* there were reports of 10+ birds at Kilchoman with: 20 on 14 Feb, 10 on 23 Mar, 20 on 25 Mar, and 24 on 20 Jul.

2011. On *Colonsay*, 20+ birds were regularly seen at Oronsay including: 26 on 12 Jan and 6 Feb, and 14 on 21 Oct. At Ardnave *Islay* an increase in the number of records provided a clearer picture of the population with monthly maxima of: 80 in Jan, 21 in Feb, 22 in Apr, 57 in Sep, and 53 in Dec. The highest count at Kilchoman *Islay* was 39 on 23 Jul.

Breeding 2010. On *Colonsay* breeding was confirmed with a pair and 3 juveniles at Carnan Eoin (Kiloran Bay) and regular sightings of a pair with 4 fledglings on Oronsay. There were no records of confirmed breeding on *Islay* but was presumably widespread.

2011. On *Colonsay* there was evidence of successful breeding with sightings of juveniles at Balnahard Bay (1 bird), Machrins (4 birds) and Oronsay (5 birds). On *Islay* at Ardnave 5 pairs fledged 12 young, and at Loch Gruinart a pair fledged 3 young; breeding was presumably widespread elsewhere.

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.

2010. Birds were recorded throughout the year, with most records from: *Cowal* (35), *Mid-Argyll* (46), and *North Argyll* (8). Sightings were generally of fewer than 5 birds although there were 11 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 14 Aug. There was a single record of a bird at Stewartfield (Clachan) *Kintyre* on 14 Jan.

2011. There were records throughout the year (mostly in ones and twos) from: *Cowal* (28), *Mid-Argyll* (25), and *North Argyll* (7). Larger groups were recorded at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (8 on 29 Aug and 7 on 5 Dec), Appin *North Argyll* (8 on 6 Oct), and Barraholm (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* (16 on 10 Oct).

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.

2010. Records from *Cowal* occurred in most months. A pair was at Hafton Woods (Dunoon) on 3 Feb. Elsewhere in *Cowal*, singles were seen over a wide area including: Kilmun on 3 Feb, Blairmore on 10 Feb, Colintrave on 27 Feb, Ardkinglas on 10 Mar, Kirn on 22 Mar, Dunloskin (Dunoon) on 26 Apr, and Succoth (Arrochar) on 1 Dec. In *Kintyre* there were singles at Stewarton on 7 Apr, Peninver on 20 Apr and Keil Point (Southend) on 26 May. In *Mid-Argyll* there were sightings at: Lochgilphead on 2 and 17 Jan, 30 Mar and 17 Sep, Crinan on 14 Feb, Garraron (Craobh Haven) on 18 Feb, and Achadunan (Cairndow) on 7 Nov. Islands also featured with *Islay* having a single at Bridgend on 29 Jun and *Mull* with a single bird at Uisken (Bunessan) on 14 Apr.

2011. There were fewer records from *Cowal*, perhaps indicating that the species is regarded as an accepted and regular resident. Records included: 3 birds at Dalinlongart (Sandbank) on 12 Feb, singles at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) on 6 Apr and Shellfield (Loch Riddon) on 17 Apr, and a pair at Arrochar on 14 Sep. In *Kintyre* a single bird was regularly reported as being present at Campbeltown between 1 June and 19 Aug. A single bird was also seen at Southend on 23 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* there were singles at: Lochgilphead on 2 Feb, Slockavullin on 14 Apr, Connel on 28 Apr, and Eredine on 23 Jul. On *Islay* there were records of single birds at: Easter Ellister (The Rhinns) on 29 Mar, Gruinart/Ardnave from 8 Apr to 14 Jun, Portnahaven on 21 Jun, and Port Askaig on 9 Sep.

WESTERN JACKDAW (JACKDAW) *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560

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

2010. A winter flock at Cnoc Corr *Colonsay* numbered 25 on 2 Feb with a summer flock of 23 noted at nearby Balnahard on 18 Jun. On *Islay* the highest spring count was 60 at Coille (Loch Gorm) on 23 Mar whilst in summer the highest number recorded was 80 at Gruinart on 27 Jul. The only sighting from *Mull* was of a single bird at on Iona on 18 Aug whilst the situation on

Tiree was similar with a single bird at Balephuill on 16 Jan. In *Cowal* large flocks were reported at Otter Ferry with 140 on 10 Jul increasing to 150 on 25 Oct. In *Kintyre* a number of large flocks were reported including: 110 at Machrimore (Southend) on 16 Jan, 500 at Kilkivan Quarry (Drumlemble) on 14 Sep, and 100 at Machrihanish SBO on 19 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* the Connel flock reached 59 birds on 27 Jan and 28 Dec whilst elsewhere a flock of 50 was noted at Kilninver (Loch Feochan) on 24 Oct.

2011. A single record from *Colonsay* was of 16 at Balnahard on 14 Feb whilst on *Islay* there were 95 at Loch Gruinart on 25 Jun. On *Mull* 2 birds were present at Ensay (Calgary) from 2 to 6 May and a colony of 12 birds was reported nesting on cottages on Iona on 25 May. In *Cowal* the Otter Ferry flock peaked at 107 on 13 Dec and in *Mid-Argyll* the flock resident on Connel Bridge reached a maximum of 125 on 11 Mar.

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.

2010. On *Islay* the largest flock recorded was 80 at Port Charlotte on 10 May. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, or *Jura*. On *Mull*, there were flocks on Iona of 20 on 7 Mar and 40 on 28 May. On *Tiree* a pair was reported at Loch an Eilein on 21 Jan and a single bird was reported at a number of sites between 12 and 14 Mar. Elsewhere, the only notable flock in *Cowal* was 42 at Drum (Kilfinan) on 16 Jun. Larger flocks were recorded in *Kintyre* including: 250 at Machrimore and Macharioch (both Southend) on 16 Jan, 100 at Ballochgair on 21 Jan and 100 at Glenacardoch (Glenbarr) on 20 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll*, there were 35 at Balvicar and 26 at Loch Scammadale on 16 Feb and 6 at Dunbeg on 14 Dec. In *North Argyll*, there were 30 at Achnacreebeag (North Connel) on 16 Feb and a total of 48 occupied nests at two sites on Lismore on 10 Apr.

2011. On *Islay*, the largest flock was 125 at Bridgend on 22 Feb and 103 nests were counted at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 May. On *Mull* 15 occupied nests were recorded at the Iona colony on 24 May. Of the mainland records: unusually, there were no large flocks recorded in *Kintyre*. Elsewhere, notable flocks included: in *Cowal*, 30 at Kilfinan on 1 Dec and 47 at Ardlamont on 15 Dec, in *Mid-Argyll*, 30 at Inverneill on 14 Jan, 43 at Bridgend on 7 Aug, and 50 at Scammadale on 8 Sep. In *North Argyll*, there were 56 at Inveresragan (Bonawe) on 13 Feb. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*.

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.

2010. Outside the main breeding area in *Cowal*, there were widespread records of ones and twos from *Mid-Argyll*. Small flocks were recorded in *Kintyre* including: 5 at Kilchattan Hill (Southend) on 16 Jan, 8 at Carradale on 18 Jan, and 5 at Kilchenzie on 21 Jan. On *Islay* there were 7 records of ones or twos between Mar and Nov and a flock of 20 was seen at Kilchoman on 1 Nov.

2011. Outside the main breeding area in *Cowal*, there were 5 mainland records of single birds from *Mid-Argyll*. On the islands there were 3 records of single birds and a pair on *Colonsay* and six single birds on *Islay*.

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.

2010. Outside the main hybrid zone in *Cowal*, most records were from *Mid-Argyll* including: 2 at Brenfield (Loch Gilp) on 22 Jan, 2 at Kilmory (Lochgilphead) on 7 Feb, 3 at Glen Aray on 12 Feb, 2 at Badden (Lochgilphead) on 14 Apr, and 2 at Stonefield (Tarbert, Loch Fyne) on 24 Nov. In *Kintyre* there were: 2 at Macharioch (Southend) on 16 Jan, 10 at Carradale on 18 Jan, and 2 at Leacann an t-Deasgaich (Skipness) on 13 Jul.

2011. Outside of the main hybrid zone in *Cowal*, most records were from *Mid-Argyll* (mainly of single birds, seen throughout the year) from: Stonefield, Ardrihaig, and Tullochgorm (Minard). Six were seen at Brackley (Lochgilphead) on 20 Jan.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

1567.3

A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.

2010. Jan – Mar. Widely reported from all mainland areas, mostly in single figures, with flocks of over 20 at a number of sites including: 20 at Dunollie *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 20 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, and 30 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 18 Jan. Also reported from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Mull*.

2011. Widely reported from all mainland areas except *North Argyll*, mostly in singly figures. Island records included: 4 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 1 Jan, 13 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 12 Mar, and 6 at Crackaig *Mull* on 20 Mar.

2010. Apr – Jun. Widely reported from all mainland areas. On *Colonsay* there were 27 nesting pairs, with at least 11 chicks fledged from 5 nests and 38 non breeders whilst on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* a single breeding pair was recorded. Birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but with no evidence of breeding.

2011. Apr – Jun. Widely reported in single figures from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. A pair bred in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf an average of 1.25 since 1990. On *Islay*, RSPB Loch Gruinart had 5 pairs and Ardnave 1 pair. *Colonsay* had 19 pairs with 7 rearing 21 young and 2 nests failing. A flock of 80 was seen at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 5 Apr. On *Tiree* there were 3 at Balephetrish on 10 May and 2 at Scarinish on 14 May.

2010. Jul – Dec. Widely reported from all mainland areas, mainly in single figures, with records of larger flocks from the islands including: 47 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 14 Sep, 18 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 Sep, and on *Islay*, with 50 at Kilchoman on 1 Nov and 30 at the Oa on 13 Nov.

2011. Jul – Dec. Widely reported from all mainland areas mostly in flocks of teens and single figures, with a larger flock of 50 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Sep and a flock, with some hybrids, of 140 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 18 Oct.

COMMON RAVEN (RAVEN) *Corvus corax* Fìtheach

1572

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

2010. There were records from all recording areas, including Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Counts of 20 or more included: a maximum of up to 80 at Gott Hill *Tiree* on 29 Jun, 52 at Ardnave *Islay* on 30 Dec, 30 at Ardmor *Mull* on 2 Jun, 21 over Glengorm Coffee Shop (Tobermory) *Mull* on 14 Apr and 20 at Ifferdale (Saddell Glen) *Kintyre* on 18 Jan.

2011. There were reports from all recording areas, including Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Counts of 20 or more included: a maximum of up to 100 at Gott Hill *Tiree* during Jan, ca50 at

Ardnave Islay on 8 Jan, 30 or more at An Carn (NR6893) Jura on 14 Feb and 21 on the summit ridge of Beinn Sgulaire (NN0546) North Argyll on 4 Sep.

Table 44. Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2010 and 2011. NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Breeding 2010.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. young fledged	Young per successful site
Tiree	16	14	12	5	0	7	13	2.60
Colonsay	20	14	10	10	0	0	32+	3.20+
Islay/Jura	4	4	4	1	0	3	3	3.00
Kintyre	4	4	3	1	0	2	3	3.00
Bute	23	12	10	9	1	0	24+	2.66+
Total	67	48	39	26	1	12	75+	3.21**

** calculated for 19 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.

On *Tiree*, a full survey conducted for SNH by Janet Hunter found a total of 12 nests plus a further 2 territorial pairs. The species remains numerous on the island with regular counts of 80+ birds at the Gott Tip. Several licences were given by SNH for shooting around lambing fields.

On *Mull*, there were at least 20 pairs breeding on the Ross of Mull. Most appeared to breed successfully and 7 of the 20 produced 22 young (P Haworth).

2011.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. young fledged	Young per successful site
Tiree	12	12	12	4	0	8	11+	2.75
Mull	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	2.00
Colonsay	20	13	13	13	0	0	41+	3.15+
Islay/Jura	2	2	2	2	0	0	5	2.50
Mid-Argyll	1	1	1	0	0	1		
Kintyre	4	4	4	3	1	0	10	3.33
Bute	24	13	6	3	0	3	8+	2.66+
Total	64	46	39	26	1	12	77+	3.22**

** calculated for 22 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size was accurately known.

Tiree: a new pair nested at a new site on a radar tower and raised 3 young (J Bowler).

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 2010. Records (34) were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, and *Jura*. Of those, half were from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and derived from BTO Atlas counts. The first bird of spring was on *Tiree* was at Carnan Mor on 21 Mar with another at Balephuill on 26 Mar.

2011. There were only 9 records from: *Cowal* (1), *Jura* (2), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (4). The first of spring was at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 14 Mar, followed by birds on *Tiree* from 25 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Of 38 records, 17 were from BTO Atlas counts or other surveys. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* a single territory was held in the CBC plots as in 2009. Breeding was confirmed at single sites in: *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* and was possible or probable at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (17), and *Mull* (6).

2011. As in the two previous years a single territory was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.6 since 1990. Breeding was noted as possible or probable at sites in *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Mull* (2) but was only confirmed at Treshnish *Mull* and Bridgend Woods *Islay*.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first of autumn on *Tiree* was a single at Balephuill on 10 Sep with others, mainly singles, present elsewhere to the middle of Oct. On 10 Oct there were 12 present on the island. Elsewhere, small numbers (up to five) were noted at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (5), and *Mid-Argyll* (7).

2011. Apart from a single record from *Coll* all other Sep records were from *Tiree*, involving 1-3 birds on seven occasions throughout the month. During the remainder of the year birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (4).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* Crìonag 1315

A vagrant: there are only seven Argyll records, 1980 – 2005.

2010. A first winter male was seen with Goldcrests at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 Oct [John Bowler, Janet Hunter, Jim Dickson]. This, the first record for *Tiree*, was very confiding and allowed photographs at close range. Like the Northern Parula Warbler that preceded it, this little gem favoured the same bushes. Record was accepted by ABRC.

2011. No records.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm 1462

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

2010. Jan – Mar The vast majority of almost 100 records received were from BTO Atlas TTVs. Of these, most were from *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* with less than 10 from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*. Highest counts were: 16 at Crinan Canal (Baden) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan, 16 at Brenfield (N) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan, 17 at Kilmory Castle (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb, 17 at Ladyfield (Glen Aray) *Mid-Argyll*, and 15 at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb (all but one of these derived from 2 hour BTO Atlas counts).

2011. There were records from: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), and *Tiree* (1). The only counts in double figures were: 16 at a garden in West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 13 Feb, 20 along with 15 Great Tits feeding on Birch at Cnocan Corrach (Evanachan) *Cowal* on 13 Feb, and 11 at Ashens (Stonefield Castle) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb.

2010. Apr-Jul. Breeding was widely confirmed from sites in: *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (4), and *North Argyll* (1) with possible or probable breeding noted from many sites. There were no breeding records from outside these areas. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 42 territories: yet another record year cf 38 in 2009.

2011. Breeding was widely reported from many sites in all mainland areas and to a lesser extent from *Islay* and *Mull*. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 39 territories cf the average of 27.5 since 1990: maintaining the increasing trend over that period.

2010. Aug – Dec. There were reports from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll* but none from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, nor *Tiree*.

2011. There were reports from locations in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), and *North Argyll* (1) but none from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, nor *Tiree*.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna 1464

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

2010. Jan – Mar. Widely reported throughout from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and, *Mull* with over half of records received being from late winter BTO Atlas surveys. Most were of only 1-3 birds with the few higher counts being: 9 at Crinan Canal (Badden) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan, 10 at Druma Voulin (Southend) *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 10 at Whitestone (Saddell) *Kintyre* on 18 Jan, 9 at Tom-breac Plantation (Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Feb, and 12 at Glen Aray *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb.

2011. Widely reported throughout from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. Most were of only 1-3 birds with the few higher counts being: 10 at Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride Bay) *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 15 at Cnocan Corrach (Evanachan) *Cowal* feeding on birch along with 20 Blue Tits, and 14 at Ashens (Barmore Island) *Mid-Argyll*.

2010. Apr – Jul. Breeding season reports were widely received, but only, from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* where confirmed breeding was frequent. There were two reports from *Colonsay* but no record of breeding. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 14 territories *cf* 9 in 2009.

2011. Breeding season reports were widely received from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* with a very few from: *Islay*, *Jura* and *North Argyll*. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 15 territories *cf* the average of 12.9 since 1990.

2010 Aug – Dec. Most records were from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll* with a single *Colonsay* record. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*.

2011. There were records in single figures from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, *Mull*, or *Tiree*.

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.

2010. No records.

2011. 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 conifers.

2010. Jan – Mar. There were widespread records from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *North Argyll*; most of which were from BTO Atlas late winter surveys. Higher counts from these included: 7 at An Sailean (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 2 Jan, 11 at The Barr (Silvercraigs) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan, 9 at Glen Aray *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb, and 19 at Craig na Sassanach (Cladich) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb.

2011. There were records from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Mull* only. The only record in double figures was of 18 at Lochan Anma (Kilmichael Forest) *Mid-Argyll* on a BTO Atlas survey on 10 Feb.

April-Jul 2010. There were records from: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (18), *Mid-Argyll* (25), and *Mull* (3). Breeding was confirmed at: Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 28 May, Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 5 Jun, The Barr (Silvercraigs) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jun, Ardmores Bay *Mull* on 10 Jun, Crinan Canal (Badden) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun, Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun, Brenfield (N) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun, Tom-breac Plantation (Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jul, and

Glen Aray *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at a further 26 sites. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 6 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* 5 in 2009.

2011. There were records from: *Cowal, Islay, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Although breeding was only confirmed at 7 sites it is likely to have been widespread in all mainland areas as well as on *Mull*. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, 8 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* the average of 9.3 since 1990.

Aug – Dec 2010. There were between 3 and 5 records from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*. Unlike in 2009, there were no high counts of note.

2011. There were records of between 1 and 8 birds from all areas including *Tiree*, apart from: *Coll, Colonsay*, and *North Argyll*. Comments varied from “first of year on feeders” on 15 Nov at Kilchoman *Islay* to “noticeably more than usual on garden feeders” on 19 Dec at Otter Ferry (*Cowal*).

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais

1442

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one near Water of Tulla (North Argyll) in Jun 1991.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

0968

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in Aug 2008.

2010. One found at Sandaig *Tiree* on 2 Oct remained until 7 Oct [Jim Dickson, John Bowler *et al*]. Record accepted by SBRC.

2011. One found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Oct remained until 5 Oct [Mike Peacock]. Record accepted by SBRC.

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.

2010. Widely reported from all recording areas with the highest counts being: 60 at Machrimore (Southend) *Kintyre* on 16 Jan, 45 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 16 Jan, 133 in the field beside the steading at RSPB Reserve (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 30 Jan, 50 in a newly ploughed field at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb, 64 at Larach na Gaibhre (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, and 37 between Balephetrish and Vaul *Tiree* on 28 Feb.

2011. Widely reported from all recording areas with the highest counts being: 45 at Killinallan *Islay* on 7 Mar, 70 at RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 12 Mar, 70 at Vaul *Tiree* on arable silage aftermath on 19 Sep, 60 at Oronsay Airstrip *Colonsay* on 1 Nov, 120 at The Rhinns *Islay* on 7 Nov on barley stubble (being observed by a Sparrowhawk and a Merlin!), and 70 on *Tiree* on 12 Dec when 55 were at Crossapol and 15 at Whitehouse.

Breeding 2010. The first singing bird was heard at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 16 Feb. Thereafter, breeding behaviour was recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (6), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (19), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (10), *North-Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (widespread). A single territory was held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* 1 in 2009.

2011. The first singing birds were from mid-Feb and were recorded at: Glenacardoch *Kintyre* on 24 Feb, RSPB (Gruinart) *Islay* on 25 Feb, and Caolas *Tiree* on 26 Feb (with widespread singing on brighter days by 1 Mar). There were no territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 1.8 since 1990. Breeding birds were widespread in suitable habitat in all recording areas.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

0976

A vagrant with only one accepted record of: three birds, on Islay in October 1976.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich

0981

A summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.

Mar-May 2010. First arrivals were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Mar followed by: 2 at A'Chleit (Muasdale) *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, a flock of at least 20 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar, and a flock of 50 at Ormidale *Cowal* on 9 Apr. The main arrival was from 8 to 16 Apr by which time records had been received from most recording areas.

2011. The first bird was at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 23 Mar, another at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, and then ca30 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar. By 9 Apr records had been received from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*.

Breeding 2010. The large colony at North Connel *North Argyll* held 323 apparently occupied burrows on 28 Jun. In *Cowal*, there were 70 apparently occupied burrows at Sgat Beag (Loch Fyne) and 60 at Ormidale. Over 50 burrows were reported from Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* with a further 40 at 6 other sites around the west of the island and ca50 at Cretshengan Bay (Kilberry) *Mid-Argyll*. Two active colonies were reported from *Coll* and others were at: Ardmarnock Farm *Cowal*, Kilchiaran and Kilchoman *Islay*, Glenacardoch *Kintyre*, Connel and Loch Ceann a'Choin *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Frisa and Iona *Mull*, and An Dorlinn (South Shian), Barcaldine and Beinn Eunaich *North Argyll*.

2011. On *Tiree* 202 burrows were counted across 7 sites in the western part of the island, including 150+ at Loch a' Phuill whilst there were 10 pairs at 3 sites on *Coll*. In *Cowal* 60 burrows were occupied at Ormidale and another 60 across two colonies at Kilfinan Bay. There were five other active colonies were reported with one each from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and a new colony of 11 burrows at The Gauldrons (Machrihanish) *Kintyre*.

Aug-Sep 2010. Although the last mainland record was from Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, birds were still feeding young at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 14 Sep. The last record was from Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Oct.

2011. Records were almost exclusively from *Tiree* where up to 100 were present throughout Aug at Loch a' Phuill with 35 still there on 16 Sep. The last record from *Mull* was a single bird at Craignure on 11 Sep and the last mainland record was of 28 heading south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Sep. The last bird was seen at Balemartine *Tiree* on 30 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW (SWALLOW) *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

0992

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Mar-May 2010. The first arrival was on *Islay* on 2 Apr and by 10 Apr birds had been reported from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll* although they did not reach *Tiree* until 21 Apr. Although birds were widely reported by the end of Apr, the northward passage was still taking place in May with >1000 birds counted from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 10 to 12 May.

2011. First arrivals were on *Islay* from 23 Mar and on the mainland, one was at Achnabreck (Lochgilhead) on 25 Mar *Mid-Argyll*. These were followed on 31 Mar by birds at Blarghour (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* and Ormsary *Cowal*. Small numbers were reported from many areas through the first half of Apr, becoming more numerous from about 17 Apr. Heavy passage was noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 80 in 4 hours on 7 May and 140 in 5 hours on 8 May.

Breeding 2010. Confirmed breeding was widely reported. The first fledglings were noted at Port Haunn and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 11 Jun and the first juveniles were at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jun.

2011. Whilst confirmed breeding was widely reported some failures were noted in *Kintyre* due to a shortage of insects at the end of May. Some mortality of poor condition adults was noted on *Islay*.

Jul-Dec 2010. Post breeding flocks were noted at Balephuill *Tiree* (105 on 9 Aug) and at Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (60 on 11 Aug). At Kilchoman *Islay*, 154 were perched on the overhead wires on 15 Aug. Southward passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was notably heavier from 20 Aug with 700 birds in 90 minutes early on 26 Aug. However, birds were still widespread throughout Sep and in smaller numbers in Oct. The last lone bird was reported from Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Nov.

2011. Around 120 were at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 10 Aug as post-breeding flocks began to form. Seventy were at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 3 Sep, 60 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, and 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Sep as flocks declined. Passage continued in Oct with 23 at Sliabh Riabhach *Colonsay* on 9 Oct and 12 on *Tiree* on 13 Oct. The penultimate record was on *Islay* on 26 Oct with a lone bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* Gobhlan-taighe 1001

A common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only one recently recorded breeding attempt on Tiree.

Apr-May 2010. First arrivals were at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr with the next records not until: 18 Apr at Barr Lagan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, 26 Apr at Spion Kop *Kintyre*, followed by Lagavulin *Islay*, and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Apr. Northward passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was described as 'light' with a maximum of 25 birds in one hour on 21 May. Twelve birds at Jura House *Jura* on 24 May was the only other notable flock reported.

2011. First arrival was 30 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on the early date of 6 Apr. On 10 Apr twelve were at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* and 3 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay*. The first mainland record was at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. Twenty at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 May was the only other notable flock.

Breeding 2010. Breeding was reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Kintyre*. While one nest at Port Ellen *Islay* was reported to be occupied by 20 May another at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* did not fledge until 15 Sep.

2011. Breeding was reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* although it was reported that fewer birds attempted to breed than had arrived in May.

Jul-Oct 2010. The only notable post breeding flocks were 10 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 30 Aug and 18 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep. Most birds had left by mid-Sep but 2 were battling strong winds at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 5 Oct and a very late single bird was at Kildalton *Islay* on 2 Nov.

2011. A flock of 20 at Loch Tarsan *Cowal* on 15 Jul was the only notable flock. Small numbers were reported through Aug and Sep before 12 were noted heading south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Sep. The last record was a single bird at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 9 Oct.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica* 0995

A vagrant: there have been no previous records in Argyll.

2011. One was found at Ballygown (Loch Tuath) *Mull* on 5 Jul but not seen later [Chris Smith]. Record accepted by SBRC. A species for which there have been previous unconfirmed records is finally added to the Argyll list.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan

1437

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

2010. Jan – Mar. There were 16 reports from sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (3), and *Mid-Argyll* (10). The only records in double figures were 12 at The Barr (Silvercraigs) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan and 20 at Brenfield (N) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan (both BTO Atlas counts).

2011. Reports were: a single at Colonsay House *Colonsay*, 1-2 from 2 sites in *Cowal*, 2-6 from three sites on *Islay*, 4-7 from 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll*, and 1- 6 from Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull*.

2010. Apr – Jul. There were reports of possible breeding from *Cowal* (3) and *Mid-Argyll* (4) and of probable or confirmed breeding from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (1). In addition, there were 3 territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf none in 2009 (when birds were present but did not hold territory).

2011. There were reports of possible breeding from: *Cowal* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (1) and of probable or confirmed breeding from: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), and *Mid-Argyll* (2). In addition, there were 4 territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 3 in 2010 and the average of 2.1 since 1990.

2010. Aug – Dec. Post breeding parties of 10 or more were found in: *Cowal* (10 at least at Portavadie on 26 Sep and 12 at Rubha Mor (Kames) on 29 Oct), *Islay* (12 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 Dec), *Kintyre* (30 at least at Knock Bay (Campbeltown) on 10 Aug), *Mid-Argyll* (15 or more at Lochgair and Loch Gair on 4 Nov, 16 at Lochgilphead on 11 Nov, and 10 at Connel (S) on 21 Dec), and *Mull* (15 at Glen Aros summit on 23 Dec). Reports of smaller numbers were received from locations in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (6), and *Mull* (7).

2011. Larger post breeding parties were found at: Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (three parties, all going south through the garden, of: 11, 20, and 9 on 23, 27 and 30 Sep respectively), Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (20 on 2 Oct), Bridgend Woods *Islay* (10 on 11 Oct), Bennan (Calgary) *Mull* (10 on 25 Oct), Rubha na Sroine (Craignure Bay) *Mull* (14 at least on 26 Oct) , and RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* (14 by the visitor centre on 17 Dec). Apart from the locations above, smaller numbers were reported from other sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (4).

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

1293

A vagrant: the only two records concern one trapped, later taken into care and which subsequently died in Kintyre in May 1983 and one trapped at Sanda (Kintyre) in July 1987.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe

1300

A rare passage migrant with only thirteen or so accepted records, 1954-2009.

2010. Singles were reported as follows: at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11-12 Oct [Janet Hunter, John Bowler, Jim Dickson *et al*], Bruichladdich *Islay* on 11 Oct [Malcolm Ogilvie], Kenovay *Tiree* on 12 Oct [Jim Dickson] and in the Balephuill/Carnan Mor areas of *Tiree* on 23-24 Oct [John Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. One was found at Balephuill Farm *Tiree* on 26 Oct [Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

1307

A vagrant: of two previous records the first, a singing male on Islay in May 1976, could not be specifically assigned to either Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler. The second, of the Western spp. was found at Carnan Mor (Tiree) on 8 Sep 2006.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille 1308

A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a scarce passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.

Apr-May 2010. First arrival was at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr (the earliest ever at this site in 20 years of recording). This was followed by: one at Clachan Sound (N) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, 2 at Creag na Croiche (Lephinmore) *Cowal* on 26 Apr, 2 at Tervine (Pass of Brander) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr, and finally, a single at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll*, also on 30 Apr.

2011. First arrival, on 21 Apr, was again at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but slightly later than the previous year. This was followed by: one at Lochawe Village *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, one at Beinn Lora *North Argyll* on 30 Apr, one at Erines *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, one at Carnan More *Tiree* on 3 May (the first seen on the island by the observer in 10 years), one at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May, and 2 at Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 5 May.

Breeding 2010. Again, as in 2009, there was a single territory only in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, in *Cowal*, there were at least 3 pairs at Creag na Croiche (Lephinmore) (noted over five visits), at least one singing at Black Harbour (Ardmarnock) *Cowal* on 3 Jun, in *Kintyre* a male was singing persistently at Alderlea (Torrisdale) on 15 Jun, in *Mid-Argyll*, breeding was either possible or probable at 7 locations in addition to Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, and on *Mull* breeding was possible at the head of Loch Buie and at Tobermory.

2011. Three territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* only one held 2008-2010 and the average of 5.4 since 1990. Elsewhere, possible, probable or confirmed breeding was noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (3).

July-Aug 2010. There were no records.

2011. There were 6 records. These were: one at Keillbeg (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jul, 2 at Barr Laggan *Cowal* on 21 Jul, one at Carse House (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jul, 1 on Gorse at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, and finally a very vocal late bird at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Aug.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF (CHIFFCHAFF) *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean 1311

A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Mar-Apr 2010. There were two Mar records; one at Arinagour *Coll* on 27 Mar and another at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar. During Apr there were records from sites in: *Colonsay* (where 6 territories were found), *Islay* (3 males calling in Bridgend Woods), *Mid-Argyll* (5) at The Barr (Silvercraigs) on 12 Apr, The Crinan Canal (Baden) on 14 Apr, Kilmory Castle also on 14 Apr, Kilninver (W) on 19 Apr, and The Puddle (Loch Sween) on 22 Apr, *Kintyre* (males calling at Tarbert Harbour and Ballochroy), and *Tiree* with 2 seen at Balevullin on 29 Apr, and singles at Balephuill and Cornaigbeg on 30 Apr.

2011. Unusually, there were a number of Mar records. These were: one at Port Ban (Caravan Park) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar, one singing at Ardnore Point (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, one heard at Daill Loch (N) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, 2 singing males at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Mar, one seen and heard at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar, one singing at

Cairnbann *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, one At Pulpit Hill (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar, one singing at Connel (S) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar, one singing at Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar, one singing at Brox Wood (Sandbank) *Cowal* on 29 Mar, and one singing at Lossit Estate *Kintyre* on 30 Mar.

Breeding 2010. Formerly a passage migrant at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but a single territory was established in the CBC plots following 1 in 2008 and 2 in 2009. Breeding was confirmed at Balephuill *Tiree* where a pair fledged 3-4 young (a first for the island). Elsewhere, breeding was either possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (2).

2011. A single territory was held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* as in 2010. Elsewhere, possible or probable breeding occurred at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (1). Following the first record last year of successful breeding on *Tiree* another pair fledged 3-4 young again this year.

Sep-Dec 2010. Apart from birds noted at single sites in *Cowal* and *Islay*, and 3 sites in *Mid-Argyll*, all other records were from *Tiree*. These were almost all of single birds and were mainly present throughout Sep and the first half of Oct with the last few trailing on into the beginning of Nov. Thereafter, on *Tiree*, a good calling *tristis* type bird was at Balemartine on 14 Nov and a single *abietinus* type birds were present on 4 dates between 17 Oct and 10 Nov at Balemartine and Balephuill.

2011. Almost without exception, apart from 3 migrants at Sliabh Riabhach (W. of Scalasaig) *Colonsay* on 8 Oct, all records were from *Tiree*. Apart from 9 at Balephuill on 1 Oct, these were almost all of 1 or 2 birds on 14 occasions through to 2 Nov. One or two *abietinus* type birds were noted on a number of occasions (mainly at Balephuill, between 25 Sep and 21 Nov).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

1312

A widespread and abundant summer visitor.

Mar-Apr 2010. First arrivals were at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr closely followed by three sites on *Islay* on 9 Apr. Over the next week reports were widespread from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* including Iona (5), *North Argyll* including Lismore (2), and *Tiree* (2). By the end of Apr a record had also been received from *Jura*.

2011. First arrivals were at: RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (3 Apr), Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* (3 Apr), Oban *Mid-Argyll* and Connel (S) *Mid-Argyll* (5 Apr), and Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* (6 Apr). Elsewhere, by the end of the month, birds had been reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (5).

Breeding 2010. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 109 territories were found in the CBC plots *cf* the record 133 in 2009. Early breeding BTO Atlas counts from 7 sites in *Mid-Argyll* averaged over 18 per tetrad with a high of 33 and a low of 6. Breeding was widespread in suitable habitat in all areas apart from the outer islands although around 10 pairs were apparently breeding successfully on *Tiree* in Jun.

2011. The Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* continues to buck the UK national trend with a further increase to 137 territories in the CBC plots *cf* 109 last year. This compares with *ca* 50 territories in the early 1990s and an average of 88.5 since 1990. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread and successful, including 8 pairs on *Tiree*.

Sep-Oct 2010. All reports were during Sep, mainly from *Mull* and *Tiree*. Those on *Tiree* were almost all juveniles with the last seen on 24 Sep (an earlier departure than some years). On *Mull* most records were from Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull*. The only other record was of a single juvenile at Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep. There were no Oct records.

2011. Apart from a single report from Treshnish *Mull* (5 Sep) and 2 from *Islay* (Loch Lossit on 8 Sep and The Oa on 2 Oct) all other records were, as usual, from *Tiree*. These were mainly single juvenile birds which were widespread and regular around the island with the last being seen on 23 Oct.

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 2010. Overwintering birds were: a male throughout Jan at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll*, one and later two at Dalintart (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* from 13-24 Jan, one at Inverfolla (Strath of Appin) *North Argyll*, and one at Craighouse (N) *Jura* on 11 Feb. The first spring arrival was reported on 2 Apr when a singing male was at Clachan Bridge (Clachan Seil) *Mid-Argyll*. Thereafter, during Apr, birds were reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *North Argyll* (7), and *Tiree* (4). In May there were further reports from: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1). Of these, the only counts of more than one or two birds were at: Kilmory Castle (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* (5 on two hour BTO Atlas Tetrad count on 2 May), Largie Farm *Kintyre* (8 on 11 May), and Bridgend Woods *Islay* (7 on 17 May).

2011. Following the unusual record (below) on New Year's Eve 2010, a singing male, with female close by, was recorded in Tesco car park Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan. The only other Jan record was a male at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*. There were no Feb records. A female at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Mar was the first Mar record for the island followed by a male at Kilkenneth on 24 Mar. In Apr, 1-4 birds were recorded from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5). These included the earliest ever bird (8 Apr) at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* since 1990. In May 1-4 birds, mainly singing males, were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding 2010. There were 14 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, which is a record high. Elsewhere, and including some of those in 2010 above, probable or confirmed breeding was reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (8).

2011. A record 19 territories was found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, continuing a steady rise since 1990 *cf* the average of 4.8 since that time. Elsewhere, and including some of those in 2011 above, probable and confirmed breeding was reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (1). An early juvenile at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Jul was most unusual as breeding does not occur on the island. There was a record of a male interacting with a Whitethroat in the garden of Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 31 Aug.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first of autumn was a single female-type bird at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 9 Sep. This was followed by 1-4 birds present on the island to 14 Nov with a marked passage involving 27 birds from 9-11 Oct. Elsewhere, to the end of Dec, there were records of 1-2 birds from sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), and *Mid-Argyll* (3). Unusually, a male was seen and heard singing in the Tesco car park at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on New Year's Eve.

2011. There were 24 records on *Tiree* between 10 Sep and 21 Nov of 1- 4 birds. Elsewhere there were records from: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), and *Mid-Argyll* (4). The last of the year was at Ardferrn *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

1276

A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.

Apr-May 2010. The first arrival was unusually early at Clachan Bridge (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr with the only other records for the month being at Knippoch Hotel *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr and Clach Dubh na Criche (Strachur) *Cowal* on 26 Apr. During May arriving birds were recorded at a single site in *Cowal* and 10 in *Mid-Argyll*. Almost all records were of singing males.

2011. The first arrival was at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 18 Apr followed by single birds at: Duntrune Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr (the earliest record since 1990), Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 29 Apr, and Lochawe village *North Argyll* on 29 Apr. During May arriving birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (1). Almost all records were of singing males.

Breeding 2010. Five territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* which equals the record high, also present in 1999 and 2000, cf 2 in 2009). Apart from the possible breeders recorded as singing males above: possible or probable breeders were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Mull* (1).

2011. Seven territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* (a new record high cf an average of 2.6 since 1990). Apart from the possible breeders recorded as singing males above: possible or probable breeders were recorded at sites in *Cowal* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

Sep-Oct 2010. Single passage birds were noted on *Tiree* on four dates between 26 Sep and 16 Oct.

Sep-Oct 2011. Single passage birds were noted on *Tiree* on 2 and 4 Oct.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

1273

A rare passage migrant: all nine records have been in autumn.

2010. A juvenile was seen in gardens at Vaul *Tiree* on 7 and 9 Oct [Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. No records.

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.

2010. One was singing at Keil Point (Southend) *Kintyre* on 2 May [Andrew Stevenson] and one was seen at Vaul *Tiree* on 20 Oct [John Bowler]. Both records accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. One was seen at Kilfinichen *Mull* on 3 May [Bryan Rains]. Record accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

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 2010. The first arrivals were noted at: Grainel (W) *Islay* (27 Apr), and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* (29 Apr, 2 days earlier than previous years). The first at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* was on 3 May and the first on *Tiree* on 12 May. Elsewhere records throughout May were regular, including many singing males, from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (7), and *Tiree* (3).

2011. The first arrivals were noted at: Tayness (Kilmartin) *Mid-Argyll* on the very early date of 10 Apr, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr (5 days earlier than any previous year since 1990), and 3 sites in *Islay* on 23 April. The first on *Tiree* was on 28 Apr. Elsewhere in Apr there were more records than usual from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (5), *Mid-Argyll*

(1), and *Mull* (2). In May records (mainly of singing males) were from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding 2010. In the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 4 territories as in 2009. On *Colonsay*, 51 territories were recorded including one on Oronsay. Elsewhere, breeding was probable or confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (1). Singing males were widespread and frequent in all the above areas since late Apr (plus a single on *Coll*) suggesting that breeding may have occurred at some of these.

2011. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 6 territories found in the CBC plots *cf* the average of 6.3 since 1990. On *Colonsay* 54 territories were found including 2 on Oronsay. At RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* 21 singing males were recorded in the standard survey (CMS). Elsewhere, breeding was probable or confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (8), and *Mull* (5). Singing males were widespread and frequent in all the above areas since late Apr suggesting that breeding may have occurred at some of these. A singing male, mist netted on 6 Jul, on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* was only the third record for this location.

Aug-Sep 2010. Between 7 Aug and 11 Sep (last of year), birds were seen at 6 sites in: *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* (last of year).

2011. Between 1 Aug and 25 Sep (last of year), birds were seen at 8 sites in: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* (last of year).

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 2010. The first arrival on 4 Apr at Clachan Bridge (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* was earlier than usual followed by birds at: An Doirlinn (N) *North Argyll*, Aros Moss *Kintyre*, and Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*, all on 10 Apr, Fearnoch (Kilmichael Glen) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr (earliest ever here), and Crinan Canal (Baden) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. By the end of Apr birds had also been recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (1), *North-Argyll* (Lismore) (3), and *Tiree* (2). During May, further records were from: *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (9), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5). The first bird heard on *Tiree* was on 30 Apr.

2011. The first arrival was at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr (the same date as in 2010) followed by birds at: Eriska (N) *North Argyll* and Tayness (Kilmartin) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, RSPB (Gruinart) *Islay* on 18 Apr, and Lochans (Loch Gorm) *Islay*, Colonsay House (*Colonsay*), Loch Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll*, and Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 19 Apr. By the end of Apr birds had also been recorded from further sites in: *Colonsay* (12), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3). During May, further records were from: *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (1).

Breeding 2010. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were 4 territories held on the CBC plots *cf* the record 6 in 2009. On *Colonsay* 17 territories were found in Jun. Virtually all the Apr-May records above involved singing males and were therefore possible breeding birds as were the Jun-Jul records indicating possible breeders at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (3). The last Jul record was at Sron chadh a' Chipein Bhuidhe (NW of Skipness) *Kintyre* on 13 Jul.

2011. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* a record 7 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* the average of 2.9 since 1990. On *Colonsay* 27 territories were found in Jun including one on Oronsay. On *Tiree* 11 birds were reeling on and off in Jun at 8 sites (an island record total). At RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* 24 reeling males were found in early Jun in a Standard Survey (CMS) along with 3 at RSPB (Ardnave) *Islay*. There were 2 reeling males at Kilchoman *Islay*

CE count and 5 on the Ardnave to Uiskenbuie CE count. Virtually all the Apr-May records above involved singing males and were therefore possible breeding birds as were the Jun-Jul records indicating possible breeding at sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (8).

Aug-Sep 2010. The last birds of the year were: 2 in *Mid-Argyll* (5-13 Aug), one on *Jura* (still singing on 23 Aug), 1-2 at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* (30 Aug to 2 Sep including an adult carrying food), and the last of the year were single birds at Balephuill and Scarinish *Tiree* both on 3 Sep *cf* the last of 2009, also on *Tiree*, which was on 16 Aug.

2011. The last birds of the year were: a family with recently fledged young at Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug, one still reeling at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Aug, 2 at RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 15 Aug, a juvenile at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 and 21 Aug, and a very late bird also at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Sep.

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.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

1259

A vagrant: only 4 records; the last on Islay in 1993.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche

1243

A locally common summer visitor: breeding in suitable habitats.

Apr-May 2010. The first arrival was on 19 Apr at Portnahaven *Islay* with possibly the same bird again on 21 Apr followed by birds at: *Jura* on 21 Apr, Achnacroish (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 24 Apr, Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr, Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Apr, Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, and Kilchoman *Islay* on 30 Apr. In May birds (almost all singing males) were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (6), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (8), and *Tiree* (widespread).

2011. The first arrival was at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 14 Apr followed by: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr (a week ahead of the previous earliest ever here), *Colonsay* House *Colonsay* on 19 Apr, Ballinaby *Islay* on 20 Apr, and Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr (the earliest ever here). To the end of Apr there were records from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (2). In May, birds (almost all singing males) were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (3 with singing males all over the island from the second week).

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree* birds were widespread and numerous with fledglings noticed from the middle of Jun and all Jul. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 9 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* 6 in 2009. On *Coll* a count of at least 24 singing males was made in Jun. Virtually all the Apr-May records above involved singing males and were therefore possible breeding birds as were the Jun-Jul records indicating possible or confirmed breeders at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (5), and *North Argyll* (1).

2011. On *Tiree* birds were widespread and numerous with fledglings noticed from the middle of Jun and all Jul. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 9 territories were held in the CBC plots *cf* 9 in 2010 and the average of 8.9 since 1990. Virtually all the Apr-May records above involved

singing males and were therefore possible breeding birds as were the Jun-Jul records indicating possible or confirmed breeders at sites in: *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (including Treshnish Isles) (2), and *Tiree* (widespread).

Aug-Sep 2010. In Aug at Balephuill *Tiree* up to 6 were regular at breeding sites all month. Elsewhere, birds were at: *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). In Sep there were two records from *Tiree* on 3 and 22 Sep and a very late bird was at Cornaigbeg from 9-11 Oct.

2011. In Aug at Balephuill *Tiree* up to six birds were seen throughout and birds with fledglings were also noted at: Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 1 Aug, Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug, Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Aug, Port Haunn (Treshnish) *Mull* on 18 Aug, and Drimfern (Glen Aray) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug. In Sep, 2 were seen at Vaul *Tiree* on 5 Sep, one at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4-7 Sep and 2 from 9-18 Sep, and one at Port Haunn (Treshnish) *Mull* on 4 Oct was last of the year.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

1248

A vagrant: the only accepted record concerns one at Carnan Mor (Tiree) on 3 June 2008.

2010. No records.

2011. One that frequented gardens at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19-26 Sep was photographed [John Bowler, Graham Todd, Jim Dickson]. Accepted BBRC as first winter 19-26 Sep (*British Birds* 105:601)

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

1250

A vagrant: the only accepted record is of one at Balephuill (Tiree) on 8-10 Jun 2007.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

1251

A rare visitor in spring and summer: there are only five accepted Argyll records, all from the islands.

2010. No records.

2011. One was seen and heard singing at Ard Imersay (Ardbeg) *Islay* on 2 Jun [Bob Davidson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

WAXWING *Bombcilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg

1048

An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.

2010. With only one early winter report of 8 birds between Barcaldine and Bonawe *North Argyll* in 2009 it was not surprising there were few late winter 2010 reports. These were: a single at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 10 Feb, possibly the same bird at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, and a single at Salen Bay *Mull* from 23 Feb to 4 Mar. Autumn arrivals began on 16 Oct with a flock of 16 at Balemartine *Tiree* which flew off towards *Mull*. The next was a flock of 7 at Dunoon (SE) *Cowal* on 21 Oct which signalled the start of a major irruption. By the end of the month reports of flocks (some over 100) were from: *Coll* (3), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (8), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (4). Through Nov and Dec reports and numbers of birds tailed off rapidly after mid-Nov. In Dec 1-4 birds were seen at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Jura* (2), and *Mid-Argyll* (4).

2011. There were only two late winter records following the irruption in early winter 2010: a lone bird, fly-catching on the strand-line at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jan and 6 in a garden at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb. There were no late autumn/early winter records.

- EURASIAN NUTHATCH (NUTHATCH)** *Sitta europaea* 1479
A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north in Scotland.
2010. One, or sometimes two, birds were regularly reported at Ardkinglas Cowal from Jan to Sep [Glyn Topliss *et al*]. This is now treated by ABRC as a returning/resident species at that locality. Unfortunately no confirmatory details were received of two other plausible records during the year. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).
2011. On 22 May a pair was seen removing faecal sacs from a nest site at Ardkinglas Cowal [Bill Allan]. This is the first confirmed breeding record for Argyll and almost certainly heralds the further spread of this species in our county. One seen at Ballimore (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 6 Aug was seen there again and photographed on 6 Sep. One or possibly two were present in the area until at least 4 Oct [Mike Barritt, Tom Callan]. One was seen on a bird feeder at Melfort Timeshare Village Mid-Argyll on 27-28 Oct [Angela McAllister].
- EURASIAN TREECREEPER (TREECREEPER)** *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486
A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.
2010. Birds were recorded, mainly in ones and twos, from sites in: Colonsay (1), Cowal (13), Islay, (10), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (16), and Mull (4).
2011. Birds were recorded, mainly in ones and twos, from sites in: Colonsay (1), Cowal (9), Islay (11), Jura (1), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (10), Mull (3), and North Argyll (1).
Breeding 2010. Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll cf 5 in 2009 and a record 9 in 2008. Of all records received in 2010, at least 40% were in the breeding season and breeding was at least probable at most.
2011. Six territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll cf 3 in 2010 and the average of 4.9 since 1990. Of all records received in 2011, at least 40 % were in the breeding season and breeding was at least probable at most.
- WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn 1066
A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters.
2010. Birds were widespread and numerous in all areas apart from Coll from where there were no records.
2011. Birds were widespread and numerous in all areas apart from Coll from where there were no records.
Breeding 2010. Birds were widespread in all areas apart from Coll (although no doubt present here). At Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll the CBC plots held 38 territories cf 77 in 2008 and 32 in 2009. The considerable fluctuation in breeding numbers is probably due to the varying effect of winter mortality.
2011. Birds were widespread in all areas apart from Coll. At Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll the CBC plots held only 24 territories cf: 38 in 2010, 32 in 2009, 77 in 2008, and the average of 54.5 since 1990. On Tiree there were singing/territorial birds at 5 sites which did not show an obvious decline after the hard winter but perhaps reflects the milder climate of the outer isles.
- 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.
2010. Pre-breeding birds were reported widely from: Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, North Argyll, and Tiree. Larger flocks reported were: 270 at Largiebeg Kintyre on 21 Jan, 190 at Treshnish Point Mull on 22 Jan, 172 at Oronsay Airstrip Colonsay on 5 Feb, 280 at Ruaig Tiree

on 16 Feb, 500 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 17 Feb, 280 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 16 Mar, and 500 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 17 Mar. Post breeding, larger flocks were on the islands where the first was 400 at Meningie *Tiree* with many fledglings on 10 Jun. By 20 Jun there was a flock of 2200 at Traigh Bhi Dunes *Tiree*. Most of the later large flocks were also from the islands with 5 counts of over 1000 birds on *Tiree*, the highest of which was 2800 (1600 at Ruaig and 1200 at Loch a' Phuill on 20 Sep). Elsewhere, larger counts were from: *Colonsay* (130 at Port Sgibinis on 16 Jun, 180 at Druim Mor Oronsay on 19 Jul, and 360 at Oronsay Airstrip on 8 Oct), *Cowal* (140 at Kildavaig Farm Ardlamont), *Kintyre* (150 at Tayinloan on 5 Sep), (600 at Machrihanish SBO on 1 Oct and 1 Nov), (1000 at Tayinloan on 2 Nov), and (1800 at the Laggan on 29 Dec), *Mull* (200 at Ardvernish (Loch Beg) on 20 Oct), (300 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) on 29 Oct), and (200 at Beinn Bhuidhe (Calgary) on 31 Oct).

2011. Pre-breeding, birds were reported widely from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Larger flocks included: 200 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 11 Feb, 200 at Upper Killean (The Oa) *Islay* on 23 Feb, 500 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 5 Mar, 800 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 900 at The Green and 500 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 22 Mar, 400 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 28 Mar, and 600 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Apr. Post breeding there were nine records from *Tiree* of flocks in excess of 500, seven of which were over 1000 with the largest being 2200 on the Traigh Bhi dunes on 4 Sep. Elsewhere there were 500 on barley stubble at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 7 Oct and 1000 on Gruinart Flats *Islay* on 14 Dec.

Breeding 2010. Although birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, no territories were found. Reports of breeding were widespread and birds were present in the breeding season in virtually all areas: including the Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

2011. No territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.6 since 1990. Reports of breeding were widespread and birds were present in the breeding season in virtually all areas: including the Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Druid-dhearg 1584

A rare summer and autumn visitor: has occurred more frequently in recent years.

2010. An adult was seen at Totronald *Coll* on 14 Jun [Ieuan Bryn]. This record was accepted by ABRC.

2011. There were records of adult birds on *Jura* on 10-14 Jun [Alison Lindsay, Ann Petch], at Laphroaig *Islay* on 3 Jul [John Bell] and at Ardnave *Islay* from 3-23 Jul [James Redman, Mary McGregor *et al*]. These were accepted by ABRC as relating to at least one and possibly three birds. A juvenile was seen at Fidden *Mull* on 26 Sep [David Wright, Michael Wagemakers]. Record accepted by ABRC.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge 1050

A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.

2010. To the end of Mar birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *North Argyll* (1). From Aug to Dec birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (1). Most of the above were of single birds but there were 8 records of 2-4 individuals. A lone bird on the outlet stream at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Oct was just the second record for the island and had the dark belly typical of the race *hibernicus* which breeds locally in the Outer Hebrides as well as in Argyll.

2011. To the end of Mar birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). From Aug to Dec birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (5). Most of the above were of single birds but there were 5 records of 2-4 individuals.

Breeding 2010. Birds were only recorded at sites in: *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (1). The only confirmed breeding was at the Ensay Burn (E) *Mull* on 12 May when fledglings were noted.

2011. Birds were only recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Mull* (2). The only confirmed breeding was at the Ensay Burn (E) *Mull* on 11 Apr when a nest with young was noted and at The Woollen Mill *Islay* on 9 May when an adult was seen carrying food.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige 1186

A summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.

2010. The records for the year were: a male at Achnafad Quarry *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, one at Borgadale Glen *Kintyre* on 2 May, a pair at the Narnain Boulders *Cowal* on 1 Jun, a pair possibly with young at Beinn Lurachan (N) *North Argyll* on 5 Jun, one briefly at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Jul (judged to be 1 winter), and a male between Bunnahabain and Port Askaig *Islay* on 24 Oct.

2011. The records for the year were: a male at The Reef *Tiree* on 21 Apr, one (in song) at Coire Buidhe *North Argyll* on 26 Apr, one at Arileod *Coll* on 1 May (probably sub-adult), a first winter bird at Balephuill *Tiree* with other thrushes on 7 Nov, and another or same first winter bird at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 20 Nov.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh 1187

A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.

Jan-May 2010. Birds were present and frequent in all areas apart from: *Coll* and *Jura*. As usual there were frequent counts of 10-25 or so, often largely juvenile males, from most areas. Total reports for the whole year were *ca* 340.

2011. Birds were present and frequent in all areas apart from: *Coll* and *North Argyll*. High counts, such as the 22 all males (many juveniles) at Largimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 4 Feb, were rare compared to some years. Total reports for the whole year were *ca* 250.

Breeding 2010. From late Apr probable or confirmed breeding was recorded widely in all areas apart from *Coll*, *Jura* and *North Argyll* which possibly lacked observer coverage. There were 5 territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 2 in 2009 and 6 in 2008.

2011. From late Apr probable or confirmed breeding was recorded widely in all areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll* which possibly lacked observer coverage. There were 4 territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 5.3 since 1990.

Jul-Dec 2010. The first group was 25 at Coshandrochaid (Ulva) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct, followed by: 15 mainly immature males at Largimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 18 Oct, 21 (1 winter males) at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 15 Nov, 50 at Saligo *Islay* on 28 Nov, 30 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 28 Nov, 19 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 15 at Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride Bay) *Cowal* on 22 Dec, and 15 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 24 Dec.

2011. Larger counts were: 60 around Kiloran *Colonsay* on 8 Oct, 60 at least around *Tiree* on 26 Oct, 45 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Oct, 20 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Nov, 100 plus at Gleann Mor *Islay* on 9 Nov, 30 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 10 Nov, 180 at Machrihanish Airfield *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, 100 at least at Achnacraig (Glen Bellart) *Mull* with hundreds noted along the Dervaig- Salen road on 15 Nov, 500 around *Tiree* on 17 Nov, and 27 (all but one males) at Largimore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 12 Dec.

A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or pass through in spring.

Jan-May 2010. A good year with many large flocks. Those of 50 or over were: 60 at Bagh Achadh da Mhaolein (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 50 at Ardmarnock Road End *Cowal* on 10 Jan, 50 at Ardlamont Bay *Cowal* on 10 Jan, 130 at Stewartfield (Clachan) *Kintyre* on 14 Jan, 500 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 15 Jan, 100 at Lailt (Glen Breackerie) *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 100 at Druma Voulin (Southend) *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 50 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 17 Jan, 50 at Sheirdrim (Clachan) *Kintyre* on 19 Jan, 83 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 21 Jan, 70 at Largiebeg *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 50 at Tangy *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 80 at Kilchrist (Stewarton) *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 80 at Ballochgair *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 56 at Ardacheranmor (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 25 Jan, 120 at Shiaba *Mull* on 8 Feb, 51 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 8 Feb, 56 at Rockside *Islay* on 17 Feb, 60 at Balinakill (Clachan) *Kintyre* on 18 Feb, 120 at Octomore Hill *Islay* on 5 Mar, and 80 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 15 Mar. There were few Mar records and the last was a single at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 1 Apr. Many of the above derived from BTO Atlas surveys.

2011. Very unlike 2010 the only flock over 50 was 80 at Balole *Islay* on 6 Jan. Smaller flocks (10-45) occurred at 7 sites in *Islay* and 3 sites in *Cowal*. The remainder (mainly singles) were from sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (3), *Mull* (3), and *Tiree* (5). The last were singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Mar and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 8 Apr.

Sep-Dec 2010. Earlier than usual, the first returning birds (less than 10) were at Ardtalla *Islay* on 17 Sep, Ardfin *Jura* on 29 Sep, and *Tiree* (at 3 locations) on 11 Oct. The first large flock was 90 coming in to roost on gorse at Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 16 Oct followed by: 60 at Ballygrant Village *Islay* on 19 Oct, 80 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 21 Oct, 100 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct, 110 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 24 Oct, 50 at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct, 200 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 2 Nov, 50 at least at Dalinlongart (Sandbank) *Cowal* on 4 Nov, 70 or more at Bagh Achadh da Mhaolein (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 75 at Garvie (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 50 at Barr an Sithiche (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 9 Nov, and 50 or more at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Nov was the last of the larger flocks. Smaller numbers (10 or less) were noted elsewhere through to the end of the year.

2011. The first returning birds were: 8 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 2 Oct, a single at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Oct, and 100 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 13 Oct. The second fortnight in Oct saw a large and widespread influx which continued through to mid-Dec. Larger flocks included: 400 at Craighouse *Jura* on 14 Oct, 150 at Carsaig (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 175 at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 18 Oct, 100 at Storakaig *Islay* on 25 Oct, 300 around *Tiree* on 26 Oct, 300 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 26 Oct, 350 at Lussa *Jura* on 26 Oct, 190 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Oct, 110 at Gott and Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Oct and again on 31 Oct, 150 around *Tiree* on 1 Nov, 300 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Nov increasing to 460 on 4 Nov, 100 at Ensay *Mull* on 4 Nov, 100 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 5 Nov with many 100s more around the airport area on 5 Nov, 200 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 6 Nov, around 800 in the airport area Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 9 Nov, an incredible 1500 at Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, 600 around *Tiree* on 17 Nov, 500 at Rockside *Islay* on 26 Nov, 120 at The Oa *Islay* on 5 Dec, and 250 around west *Tiree* on 15 Dec.

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 2010. Birds were widespread in small numbers in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Unusually high numbers were: 15 in a field with Blackbirds at Coshandrochaid (Ulva) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan, 15 at Bagh Achadh da Mhaolein (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 20 on a BTO

Atlas tetrad at High Margmonagach (Glenbarr) *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 40 on a BTO atlas tetrad at Belloch (Glenbarr) *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 15 at Oronsay Airstrip *Colonsay* on 22 Jan, and 10 at Scallastle Bay (Craignure) *Mull* on 11 Feb.

2011. Apart from 9 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on the dunes and moderate numbers elsewhere on the island all other records were of 1 or 2 birds from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (2). A poor showing *cf* 2010.

Breeding 2010. On *Tiree* in early Apr there were very small numbers of singing males *cf* normal and this continued on 1 May when *ca* 15 birds were on the island but very few were singing. There were only 3 territories found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* 8 in 2009. Birds were widely present and breeding was probable or possible in all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll* from where no records were received.

2011. Again, on *Tiree*, in early Apr there were few singing males *cf* normal with only *ca* 15 singing on the island on 1 May. Elsewhere, breeding was possible, probable or confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3). In the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were only 3 territories in the CBC plots as in 2010 *cf* the average of 8.1 since 1990.

Aug-Dec 2010. Most records were of singles from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (3).

2011. Most records were of 1 or 2 birds apart from: 8 including brighter birds at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Oct, 40 at Sliabh Riabhach (above Machrins) *Colonsay* on 8 Oct, 15 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Oct, 25 at The Manse (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 25 Oct, more than 80 around *Tiree* on 26 Oct, 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Nov, and 8 at The Oa *Islay* on 5 Dec.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

1201

A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.

Jan-May 2010. Most records were in Jan from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura* with only two records from *North Argyll*. Flocks of 20 or over were: 50 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 50 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 15 Jan (along with around 500 Fieldfares and 40 Starlings), 20 at Lossit Farm *Islay* on 17 Jan, 30 at Lailt *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 31 at Druma Voulin (Southend) *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 20 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 17 Jan, 30 on *Tiree* on 18 Jan, 35 at Beinn an Sgoltaire *Colonsay* on 18 Jan, 25 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Jan, 29 on *Tiree* on 25 Jan, 200 on *Tiree* on 17 Feb, 20 at Octomore Hill *Islay* on 5 Mar, 40 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 15 Mar, 20 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 16 Mar, and an influx of at least 39 on *Tiree* on 27 Mar with 5 further records of small numbers in Apr. The last were singles at Kilchiaran *Islay* on 2 May and Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 May (both of which were in song or sub-song).

2011. There were far fewer records than in 2010 with none seen after 16 Apr when 3 were at Carnduncan *Islay*. On *Tiree*, there were up to 100 on the island on 19 Jan then very few until: 76 on 28 Mar, a big influx of 400 on 8 Apr, and the last at Kilkenneth on 12 Apr. Elsewhere there were: 25 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jan, 30 at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 4 Feb, 40 at Lindsaig (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 8 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 26 Mar, 13 at Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Mar, and 13 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 8 Apr.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first arrivals were singles on *Tiree* from 3-29 Sep with the main influx arriving from 9 Oct onwards. Larger flocks included: 600 around *Tiree* on 10 Oct, 50 on *Islay* on 10 Oct, 40 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 50 at Barcaldine House *North Argyll* on 12 Oct, 30 at Glenacardoch *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 80 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 120 at Ardtalla *Islay* on 23 Oct, and 30 at Corra (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 29 Oct. In Nov, numbers peaked: on *Tiree* when 1100 were present on 5 Nov and on *Islay* where more than 1000 were at

Octomore (Port Charlotte) on the following day. Numbers then tailed off rapidly with larger flocks being: 40 at Castle Lachlan *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 75 at Garvie (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 50 at Barr an Sithiche (Leanach) *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 20 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Nov, 40 at Gott *Tiree* on 13 Nov, and 30 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 16 Nov. There were few later records to the end of the year although around 100 were on *Tiree* at the beginning of Dec with 50 or less by the end. Elsewhere, in Dec, there were 20 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 23 Dec and 1-3 in: *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

2011. The first arrivals were: 4 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 27 Sep, 5 at The Oa *Islay* on 2 Oct, 1-8 at 5 sites on *Tiree* from 9-10 Oct, and a single at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 11 Oct was the first on the mainland. The start of the autumn influx was: 220 on *Tiree* on 14 Oct, 500 at Carsaig Bay (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 175 at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 18 Oct, 300 on *Tiree* on 21 Oct rising to 500 on 26 Oct, 100 at Storakaig *Islay* on 25 Oct, and 350 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Oct. Through Nov most records were still mainly from the islands with: up to 1200 around *Tiree* on 16/17 Nov, 100s at Gleann Mor *Islay* on 9 Nov, 500 at Rockside *Islay* on 26 Nov, 50 at Craignure Golf Course *Mull* on 1 Nov, and 100 at Ensay *Mull* on 4 Nov. On the mainland there were: 100s at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, 460 at Raslie Burn (Slockavullin) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, and 75 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Nov. In Dec records tailed off very rapidly with higher numbers being 800 around *Tiree* on 15 Dec, and 30 at The Oa *Islay* on 5 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Smeòrach-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 2010. Groups of 4 or more were: 5 at The Doune (NE of Southend) *Kintyre*, 6 along with winter thrushes at Millhouse *Cowal* on 17 Jan, 4 at Auchgoyle Cottage (Millhouse) *Cowal*, 12 at Loch Fiart (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 20 Feb, 24 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, and 10 (5 territories) on *Colonsay* on 1 Jun. Elsewhere, mainly single birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (17), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (14), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (3), and *Tiree* (1). There were no records from *Coll* or *Jura*.

2011. Groups of 4 or more were: 20 at least with Redwings at Camp Cottage (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 4 Feb, 5 at Bunnahabhainn Bay *Islay* on 9 Feb, 4 at Corra (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 15 Feb, 4 at Drum Farm (Kilfinan) *Cowal* on 28 Feb, and 10 at Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 9 Jun. Elsewhere, mainly 1-2 birds were recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (16), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (6), and *North Argyll* (1). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, or *Tiree*.

Breeding 2010. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). Breeding was confirmed at 4 sites in *Cowal*. No birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*.

2011. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (1). Breeding was confirmed at 3 sites in *Cowal*. Birds were present at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but no territories were held cf the average of 1 since 1990.

Jun-Dec 2010. Flocks of 10 or more were: 41 around Port Charlotte *Islay* on 17 Aug, 30 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 20 Sep, 26 feeding on Rowans at Killail (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 22 Sep, 16 at Auchadalvorie (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 29 Sep, and 12 at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 18 Oct. Elsewhere, less than 10 birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (2).

2011. Flocks of 10 or more were: 38 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Aug, 11 near Loch Gorm *Islay* on 30 Aug, 11 at Bennan (Calgary) *Mull* on 17 Sep, and 24 at Otter Ferry (N) *Cowal* on 4 Nov.

Elsewhere 1-7 birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (2).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta 1335
A summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges.

May-Jul 2010. The first of the year was one at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May followed by: 2 at Ardkinglas House *Cowal* on 5 May, 2 at Arichastlich (Glen Orchy) *North Argyll* on 5 May, one at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 13 May, and 2 at Ladyfield (Glen Aray) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May. During the remainder of May, Jun, and Jul singles or pairs were widely recorded from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5).

2011. The first of the year was on 4 May at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* followed by: singles at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 8 May, Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 May, Waulkmill (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 8 May, Barnacarry *Cowal* on 11 May, and Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 13 May. During the remainder of May, Jun, and Jul singles or pairs were widely recorded from sites in: *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (1).

Breeding 2010. A single territory was held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* none last year. Probable or possible breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (2), and *Tiree* (1). Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (1).

2011. Three territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* *cf* one last year and the average of 3.2 since 1990. Probable or possible breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (2). Breeding was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7), and *Mull* (1).

August - Oct 2010. Records were from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (5). The last of these were on *Tiree* on 3-11 Sep with the last elsewhere on 27 Aug.

2011. There were only 4 Aug records (3 in *Mid-Argyll* and one on *Islay*) and the only Sep record was on 1 Sep, from Keills *Mid-Argyll*.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg 1099
A widespread and common resident breeder: rare on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. A noticeable autumn passage occurs with some migrants over-wintering.

2010/2011. Over 450 records were recorded in the database of which 60% were in 2010 and 40% in 2011. This considerable difference possibly indicates the effect of the severe winter of 2010/2011. Passages were noted in both years; predominately from the west coast and from *Tiree* in particular.

Breeding 2010. There were records from all areas apart from *North Argyll*. A very few birds were on *Tiree* both early and late but there was no indication of breeding. A pair, present at Broadhills *Coll* on 1 Jun, was the only record for the island. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held 19 territories *cf* 21 in 2009.

2011. There were records from all areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll*. A very few birds were on *Tiree* both early and late but there was no indication of breeding. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there were only 9 territories held, the lowest ever, *cf* 19 in 2010 and the average of 22 since 1990. This record is again a possible reflection on the severe winter of 2010/2011.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag 1104

A vagrant with 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.

2010. No records.

2011. One seen and photographed at Vaul Tiree on 3 Sep was seen there again several times until 8 Sep [Keith Gillon *et al*].

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* 1106

A vagrant with only four Argyll records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975, and males of the red-spotted race svecica on Coll in 1994, on Colonsay in 2009, and on Tiree in 2009.

2010. A first winter bird was seen at Balemartine Tiree on 5 Oct [Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by ABRC.

2011. No records.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* 1343

A vagrant: only two records in Argyll; on Islay in 1974 and 1975.

2010. Amazingly, after a gap of 35 years, two first winter birds were recorded: at Poll Gorm (Oronsay) Colonsay on 7 Oct [Paul Fraser Cook] and at Achamore House (Gigha) Kintyre on 10 Oct [Andrew Stevenson]. Both records accepted by ABRC.

2011. 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.

2010. The only spring arrivals were: one at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 6 May, one at Carnan Mor Tiree on 22 May, and a pair at St Catherines Cowal on 4 Jun. The first of autumn was 2 at The Oa Islay on 26 Aug followed by: one (1st winter) bird at Carnan Mor Tiree on 2 Sep, one on Coll on 15 Sep, one (an immature) at An Airidh Tiree on 11 Oct, one on Coll on 11 Oct, and one at Carnan Mor Tiree on 24 Oct. There were no breeding records.

2011. The only spring arrivals were: one at Croggan (Loch Spelve) Mull on 13 May, one at Cruachan Power Station Mid-Argyll on 26 May, and one at St Catherines Cowal on 5 Jun. In autumn there was one (an immature) at Carnan Mor Tiree on 14-15 Oct. There were no breeding records.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan 1121

A less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).

2010. One was at the old hide RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 Feb, one at The Oa Islay on 6 and 12 May, one at Dunlossit Islay on 16 May, and 1 (a male) at Hough Tiree on 1 Nov.

2011. Records of single birds were: a male in breeding plumage at Spion Kop (Whitehouse) Kintyre on 23 Apr, a female at Gribun (Loch na Keal) Mull on 1 May, and an immature at Hynish Tiree on 25-26 Oct.

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.

2010. Arrivals were: 1 (a male) at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr, 1 (a female) at Carnasserie Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr, 1 (a male) at Creag Bhreac (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 27 Apr, 1 (a female) at High Carse (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr, and a male at Torinturk (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. Other than a single male at Dunmore House (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug there were no other late records.

2011. Arrivals were singles at: Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr (earliest ever), Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 15 Apr, a female at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 16 Apr, and Bridgend *Islay* on 28 Apr and a male at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 2 May.. Other than a splendid male at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* from 13-15 Oct there were no other late records.

Breeding 2010. Possible or probable breeding was noted at: 4 sites in *Cowal*, 4 sites in *Mid-Argyll*, and 1 site in *North Argyll*. Confirmed breeding was noted at: 1 site in *Cowal* and 4 sites in *Mid-Argyll*. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 8 territories were held in the CBC plots cf 6 in 2009

2011. Possible or probable breeding was noted at: 1 site in *Cowal*, 5 sites in *Mid-Argyll*, 1 site in *Mull*, and 1 site in *North Argyll*. Confirmed breeding was recorded at: 1 site in *Cowal*, 1 site in *Kintyre*, 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll*, and 1 site in *Mull*. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*, a record 11 territories were held in the CBC plots cf the average of 6.5 since 1990.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*

1166

A vagrant: a first summer male present at Skerryvore (Tiree) in June 1985 and later found dead is the only Argyll record. It is now accepted as the first record of a genuinely wild bird in Britain.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan

1137

A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.

Apr-May 2010. First arrivals were singles at: Loch na Keal *Mull* on 25 Apr, Loch Gruinart (RSPB Reserve) *Islay* on 26 Apr, Barr Lagan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (a pair) on 26 Apr, and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 1 May. By the end of May, records had also been received from sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (1).

2011. First arrivals were: one at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 2 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Apr, one at Ensay (Treshnish) *Mull* on 24 Apr, and one at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 25 Apr. By the end of May, records had also been received from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* and *Tiree* (1).

Breeding 2010. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (10), and *North Argyll* 2. Confirmed breeding was recorded at: Strone Road (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, Millar's Bay (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll*, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*, Portinnisherrick (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, Keills House (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll*, and Black Mount (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll*. There was a brief sighting of a male at Moss *Tiree* on 1 Jun.

2011. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (2). Confirmed breeding was recorded at: Barr Iola (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 15 Jun, Strone Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 23 Jun, Ensay Burn (Treshnish) *Mull* on 30 Jun, Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 14 Jul, Millhouse *Cowal* on 20 Jul, and Barr Laggan (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 21 Jul.

Aug-Sep 2010. Birds were recorded from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (1). A very late bird was recorded at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 8 Oct.

2011. One to five birds was recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Mull* (3).

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan

1139

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

2010. Widely reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. A number of comments were made of the relative scarcity *cf* recent years. On *Tiree* in Jan and Feb there was a marked reduction in numbers after the long cold spell and visitors to *Islay* remarked on the scarcity *cf* previous years. On *Colonsay* 20 territories were found *cf* 36 in 2009 and 54 in 2008. Singles and pairs were widespread on *Tiree* in Nov and Dec and 20 were recorded at The Laggan *Kintyre* in Dec.

2011. Widely reported during the year from all Argyll recording areas apart from *Coll*. On *Tiree*, only the odd bird was around in Jan and none in Feb after the prolonged cold spell. On *Islay* a number of observers remarked on the lack of birds early in the year. On *Colonsay* (excluding *Oronsay*) there were 13 territories found *cf*: 20 in 2010, 36 in 2009, and 54 in 2008. Overall there was a reduction of one third in records received in 2011 *cf* 2010.

Breeding 2010. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (20), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (3), and *Tiree* (6) and was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (4).

Breeding 2011. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (13), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (8), *Jura* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* (5) and was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (4).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (WHEATEAR) *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal

1146

A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

Mar-Apr 2010. First arrivals were at: Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull*, Loch na Keal *Mull*, Ardnave *Islay*, and Loch an Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll*, on 20 Mar. By the end of Apr records had also been received from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (12), *Jura* (4), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (3). There was a notable fall of around 100 birds in 2 fields at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 2 May.

2011. First arrivals were singles at: Mid Ardyne (Bay) *Cowal* on 13 Mar (on ABC Field Trip), Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Mar, Loch Beg *Mull* and Ardnave *Islay* on 15 Mar, and Persabus *Islay* and Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 16 Mar. Through the remainder of Mar, records were from: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (4), and *Tiree* (2). Arrivals continued through Apr at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (9), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (5), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3). Of these, higher numbers were from: Ormsary Water *Mid-Argyll* (10 or more on 11 Apr), Balephuill *Tiree* (10 on 12 Apr), and 100 or more on *Tiree* on 29 Apr.

Breeding 2010. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (5) and confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* including Ulva (5), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (2). Birds were present in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* but no territories were held *cf* 1 in 2009. On Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, there were several families with dependant young but none on the other Treshnish Isles.

2011. Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (4) and confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (8), and *Tiree* (3). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* there was a single territory held (the sixth since 1990 with the last in 2009). On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* breeding was confirmed on Lunga and was also possible on Sgeir a' Chaisteil.

Aug-Nov 2010. Almost all records were as usual from the islands and west coast of the mainland. Unusually, there were a good number of Oct records from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay*

(7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mull* (3), and *Tiree* (4). Of 16 around Kilchoman *Islay* on 8 Sep, most were Greenland type.

2011. Almost all records were from the islands and west coast of the mainland. As in 2010 there were a good number of Oct records from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (9). There were two Nov records with one at Cleit Rock (N. Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Nov and a very late bird at Balinoe *Tiree* on 22 Nov was the last of the year.

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *O. o. leucorhoa*

1146.2

A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.

2010. The first of spring was a bird at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 4 Apr, followed by: singles at Scarinish Moor *Tiree* on 10 Apr, Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 12 Apr, and Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Apr. Birds, attributed the characteristics of *leucorhoa*, continued to 26 May, sparingly in ones and twos, from sites in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Autumn passage began on *Tiree* on 18 Aug when 3 Greenland looking birds were at Heanish *Tiree* followed by up to 9 similar birds at various locations around the island to 5 Sep. Almost all later records were also from *Tiree*, with a very few on *Islay* and *Colonsay* of 1-12 birds. The last of autumn was a single Greenland type bird at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 23 Oct.

2011. Spring passage started with a possible (not 100% certain) bird at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 10 April. Thereafter, records were: 2 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, one at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Apr (with several others possible), 2 at The Reef *Tiree* on 26 Apr, 12 around the west end of *Tiree* on 29 Apr, 2 at Tayinloan Jetty & Bay *Kintyre* on 1 May, one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 May, one at Moss *Tiree* on 4 May, and the last was at The Reef *Tiree* on 30 May. Autumn passage began with one at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Aug followed by a further 23 records of 1-11 birds around *Tiree* mainly during Sep and the first week in Oct with the last being a single bird at Balinoe on 10 Oct. The only other records were of one at Camas Cuil an t Saimh (Iona) *Mull* on 15 Sep and another at Port Ban Caravan Park (Kilberry) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn-nam-preas

1084

A widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and does not breed on Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.

2010. Outside the breeding season there were rather sparse records, apart from those from BTO Atlas surveys, from all areas apart from *Jura*. Almost certainly birds were under recorded.

2011. Outside the breeding season there were rather sparse records, apart from those from BTO Atlas surveys, from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Almost certainly birds were under recorded.

Breeding 2010. Records were received from all areas. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (16), and *Mull* (3) and confirmed breeding in: *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (2). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held 8 territories cf 4 in 2009.

2011. Records were received from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (1), and *Tiree* (1) and confirmed breeding in: *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), and *Mull* (3). At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* the CBC plots held 4 territories cf 8 in 2010 and the average of 4.4 since 1990.

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.

2010. There were records from most recording areas during the year. Reports of larger flocks included: 95 around *Tiree* during Jan, 31 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 20 at Belloch *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 40 at Machariorch *Kintyre* on 16 Jan, 30 at Whitestone *Kintyre* on 18 Jan, 20 at Port na Cuile (Carradale) *Kintyre* on 18 Jan, 50 at Largiebeg *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 20 at Tangy *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 30 at High Park *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 105 around *Tiree* during Feb, 30 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb, 80 around *Tiree* during Mar, 35 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, 25 at Balephuill *Tiree* during Apr, 20 at Balephuill *Tiree* during May, 20 at Leac Buidhe (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 13 Sep, 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Oct, 40 at Mannal *Tiree* on 15 Oct, 36 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 90 at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 20 Oct, 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Nov with smaller flocks elsewhere, and 35 at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Dec.

2011. There were records from most recording areas during the year. Reports of larger flocks included: 70 around *Tiree* throughout Jan, 20 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan, 67 around *Tiree* throughout Feb, 65 around *Tiree* throughout Mar, 40 on garden feeders at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 11 Mar, 29 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 12-31 Mar, 25 in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Apr, up to 20 in a garden at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout May, 30 at Easdale *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May, 26 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 25 May, 20 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May, 54 at Claddach *Islay* on 12 Jun, 30 at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 22 Jun with similar nearby on 13 Jul, 20 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 18 Jul, 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Jul, 30 at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 31 Jul, 38 at least at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 18 Aug, 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 20 Aug, 30 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 185 around *Tiree* on 31 Aug, 38 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 31 Aug, 75 at Meningie *Tiree* on 16 Sep, 28 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 22 Sep, 60 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 23 Sep, up to 200 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 23 Sep, 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Oct, 20 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Oct, 130 on silage aftermath at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 45 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Oct, 35 at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout Nov and Dec, 20 at Balvicar Bay, *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov and 23 Dec, and 20 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 12 Dec.

Breeding 2010. Breeding records were received from: *Colonsay, 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.

2011. Breeding records were received from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Jura, 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.

Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding took place on Islay in 2009. All records are required.

2010. Birds were again reported in the Upper Killeyan (The Oa) area of *Islay* following last year's re-colonisation but no details of breeding success were forthcoming. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

2011. Once again birds were reported in the Upper Killeyan (The Oa) area of *Islay* but with no further details. Two birds were seen and photographed in a garden on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* feeding on grain dropped from a bird feeder on 9 Apr [Richard Allan]. Record accepted by ABRC. There were again unconfirmed reports of birds on Iona *Mull*. These are sometimes described as hybrid House/Tree Sparrows and we would be grateful for full details and

especially photographs, of sparrows seen there. (See also list of rejected, pending etc. records p. 158-160).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan-buidhe 1017

A scarce but annual passage migrant: birds of the Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi (in 1985 and 2005).

2010. Males were seen at Carskier (Southend) *Kintyre* on 2 May [Andrew Stevenson], at Kintra *Mull* on 3 May [Hilary Adams, Chris Jenkins] and at Ardnave *Islay* on 17 May [John Shutes]. An immature/female type of an unspecified race was seen at Vaul *Tiree* on 9 Oct [Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson]. A male of the Blue-headed race *flava* was seen at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 28 May [Val Peacock]. All records accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

2011. A male of the Blue-headed race *flava* was seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 May [John Bowler]. Record accepted ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna 1019

Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.

Jan-Mar 2010. Anecdotally very scarce this year; only 14 records in this period, of ones and twos from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Mull.*

2011. Even scarcer than in 2010; only 3 records for this period with singles at Bruichladdich and Finlaggan *Islay* and at Ledaig *North Argyll.*

Breeding 2010. Fledged young or juveniles were reported from: Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal*, Bridgend and Gleann Mor *Islay*, Amod (Glen Breackerie) *Kintyre*, and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull.*

2011. Only 3 pairs reported at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Apr, carrying food or faecal sac, the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 9 May, and 2 juvs at Goirtein Croft (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 14 Jul. Single juveniles were also seen at Balliemore (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 4 Jul and Arduaine Gardens *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug.

Aug-Dec 2010. Apart from 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Sep and 4 at Calgary *Mull* on 7 Sep, only ones and twos were reported. Reports were from all mainland areas and *Islay* and *Mull.*

2011. There were only 2 records; singles at Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 2 Sep and Kilnoughton Bay *Islay* on 12 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 2010. Present throughout in single figures in all mainland areas and on: *Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree.* At least 25 were noted at Aoradh Wood *Islay* on 24 Mar and 15 were at Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* on 2 Jan.

2011. Recorded in all mainland areas and from: *Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree.* The highest count was of 10 during a WeBS count at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Mar. One at Sandaig *Tiree* on 12 Apr had been colour-ringed at Slapton Ley, Devon in Sep 2009.

Breeding 2010. Recorded in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*, with breeding confirmed in: *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull* (including the Treshnish Islands), and *Tiree.* Notable gatherings included: 21 at Meningie *Tiree* on 30 Jul, 20 feeding on old seaweed at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Apr, and 16 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 26 Jun.

2011. Confirmed breeding was recorded from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull* and *Tiree* and probably occurred in all areas.

Aug-Dec 2010. Recorded in all mainland areas and: *Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree*. Notable gatherings of passage birds were noted from Aug through to Oct with: 50 at Loch Stornoway *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 35 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug, 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Sep, 43 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep, and 20 at Balemartin *Tiree* on 3 Oct. Subsequent records (less than 10) to the end of the year were from: *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, and Tiree*.

2011. Recorded in all mainland areas and: *Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree*. There were some large passage gatherings: ca40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 3 Sep, 26 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 23 Sep, and 75 coming to roost at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep. A notable late record was ca55 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 15 Dec.

WHITE WAGTAIL *M. a. alba*

1020.1

A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring; extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.

Spring 2010. First arrivals were: 2 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, 5 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Apr, and singles at Hynish and Kenovay *Tiree* on 19 Apr. The main passage started soon afterwards with: 10 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr, "hundreds" seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* between 20 and 30 Apr (peaking at 80 on 26 Apr), and 15 on *Tiree* on 28 Apr. Passage continued into May with 47 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 May and single figures daily to 24 May. Eleven were at Kilchoman *Islay* on 13 May, 2 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 15 Jun, and 3 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on the late date of 6 Jul.

2011. A single male on 1 Mar was the earliest ever recorded at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. After a second on 23 Mar (a more typical arrival date), 2 were at Reudle (Treshnish) *Mull* on 21 Mar. Daily passage began on 2 Apr. Large numbers were seen during Apr with: 44 in 5 hours at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Apr, 70 coming in off the sea at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 Apr, 30 on *Tiree* on 21 Apr, and 18 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 29 Apr. Records of ones and twos on: *Colonsay, Islay* and *Tiree* continued to the end of May.

Autumn 2010. A single at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Aug heralded autumn passage, with birds noted regularly from 14 Aug. Eight were noted at Loch Stornoway *Mid-Argyll*, 7 on *Tiree* and 30 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Aug. Small numbers continued to pass through Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* during Sep and 50 were found sheltering from a gale at nearby Lossit Estate *Kintyre* on 14 Sep. Singles were recorded in: *Mid-Argyll*, on Lismore *North Argyll*, and on *Tiree* before the last 2 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Oct.

2011. Three juveniles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Aug were followed by the first adult on 16 Aug and 20 on 20 Aug, by which time birds were passing through every day. Eight were on the golf course on *Colonsay* on 3 Sep and 4 on *Tiree* on 5 Sep. Peak passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was 45 in 6 hours on 9 Sep. Small numbers were seen in: *Islay, Kintyre, and Tiree* before the last bird was seen at Sliabh Riabhach *Colonsay* on 9 Oct.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

1001

A vagrant: the only two Argyll records were both on Islay, in Sep 1971 and 1973.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

1009

A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.

Apr-May 2010. Early arrivals were at: Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* and Loch Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, Silvercraigs *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, and Badden and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. By the end of May there had been widespread records of singing birds from: *Cowal, Mid-Argyll, North Argyll* and *Mull*, with 11 singing birds found in a single BTO Atlas tetrad at Ladyfield (Glen Aray) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May.

2011. A single on 7 Apr was the earliest ever arrival at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. One was at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 14 Apr, followed by singles at Eriska *North Argyll* and Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr. By the end of May birds had been recorded in: *Cowal, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull*, and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2010. Eight territories were held in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf 5* in 2009. Confirmed breeding records came only from 2 sites in *Cowal*.

2011. Nine territories were held in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 10.7 since 1990. Elsewhere, breeding was confirmed at: Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, Inver Cottage *Jura*, Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll*, and Loch Frisa *Mull*.

Aug-Sep 2010. The last records were of single birds in *Mid-Argyll* and *Kintyre* on 13 Jul.

2011. A calling bird at Carnan Mor on 8 Jun was an unusual record for *Tiree*. No birds were recorded after 20 Jun.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag

1011

An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.

Jan-Apr 2010. Flocks of 30 or more included: *ca50* at Kildavaig Farm *Cowal* on 10 Jan, 30 at Auchnasavil Farm (Carradale) *Kintyre* on 18 Jan, *ca50* along the shore at Killegruer (Glenbarr) *Kintyre* on 18 Feb, 40 at Larach na Gaibhre (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, 250 at Aoradh Wood *Islay* on 24 Mar, 100 at Cruachan (Treshnish) *Mull* on 17 Apr, and 45 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 26 Apr.

2011. Flocks of *ca50* were seen at: Corra (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 24 Mar, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 28 Mar, and Strone Road End (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 22 Apr. Over 100 were seen at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 1 May coming in off the sea in groups of *ca20*.

Breeding 2010. Four territories were found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf 6* in 2009.

2011. Five territories were found in the woodland CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll cf* the average of 6.6 since 1990.

Jul-Dec 2010. Flocks of 35 or more included: 73 at Cruach Tarsuinn *Kintyre* on 13 Jul, 40 at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 30 Jul, 50 or more at Creag a' Chromain *Mull* on 19 Aug, 100 at Loch Stornoway *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 340 near Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Aug, 90 on the machair at Hough *Tiree* on 5 Sep when groups of 50 were widespread on the island, and 35 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 10 Oct.

2011. Flocks of 40 or more included: 45 at The Reef *Tiree* on 28 Jul, 90 at Meningie *Tiree* on 4 Aug, 70 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 5 Aug, 80 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 3 Sep, and 40 at Point Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 15 Dec.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

1012

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one at Tobermory (Mull) in May 1975.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* Gabhagan

1014.2

A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Breeding 2010. Several pairs were reported to have bred on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. Breeding was also reported from many locations in: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Mull*.

2011. Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Breeding was also reported from: *Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Mull*.

2010. The WeBS count on 17 Jan found 21 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*. Elsewhere: 22 were at Conarst (Knockvologan) *Mull* on 3 Feb, 15 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 15 at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 14 Oct, and 16 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Dec.

2011. Fifteen were at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, 50 were counted between Frenchman's Rocks and Portnahaven *Islay* on 19 Mar, and 20 were at Lugger Bay (Rubh' a' Mhail) *Islay* on 19 Apr. Twelve were at Sandaig *Tiree* on 1 Oct, 35 at Port Uisken *Mull* on 27 Nov, and 12 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 15 Dec.

Scandinavian race *A. p. littoralis*.

2011. An individual seen at Langamull *Mull* on 13 May was accepted by ABRC as the first confirmed Argyll record of this race [David Hatfield].

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

1636

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

2010. In the early part of the year there were widespread reports of flocks and smaller numbers from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Most of the flocks of over 50 were in *Kintyre*, around the coastal farmland, with the largest at Largiebeg (Kilchenzie) of 230 on 21 Jan. Notable flocks elsewhere were 90 at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, and 103 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* also on 30 Jan. Post breeding reports were widespread across all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, and Jura*. Single figure numbers were on *Mull* and *Tiree*. Notable larger aggregations were: 100 at Creagan *North Argyll* on 23 Aug, 140 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Sep, 150 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 31 Oct, and 1500 at Cnoc na Croise (Bunnahabhain) *Islay* on 21 Nov.

2011. In the early part of the year there were widespread reports from all areas apart from: *Coll, Jura, and North Argyll*. All of the flocks of over 50 were in *Islay* and *Kintyre*, with 70 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, and on *Islay*: 1000 at Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) on 23 Jan, 200 on The Oa on 27 Jan and 8 Feb, 100 at Loch Skerrols on 16 Feb, and 150 at Cluanach on 21 Feb. Post-breeding reports were widespread across all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Flocks of over 50 were found in all other areas apart from *Tiree* where smaller numbers occurred. Larger flocks included: 100 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Nov, 150 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 2 Sep, 200 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 24 Oct, and 150 at Point Farm (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 15 Dec.

Breeding 2010. Reports were widespread from all areas, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*, and breeding was confirmed from all areas apart from *Colonsay* and *Tiree*. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 38 territories *cf* 39 in 2009.

2011. Reports were widespread from all areas, apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Breeding was confirmed in: *Cowal, Mid-Argyll, and Mull* and was probable on *Islay*. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 31 territories *cf* the average of 32.5 since 1990.

Ringling return 2011. A first year, ringed at Tarbet (Loch Lomond) on 2 Sep 2010 was reported from Feorline (Strathlachlan) *Cowal* on 29 Apr 2011, having moved 31 km WSW.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn

1638

An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.

2010. The first record of the year, on New Year's Day, was 2 at Dunollie *Mid-Argyll*, with 5 other Jan records of singles elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll*. In *Cowal*, 4 at Otter Ferry on 4 Jan rose to 8 on 8 Jan. In *Kintyre* there was: one at West Tarbert on 3 Jan, 2 at Greenhill (Saddell) on 4 Jan, and a late single at High Askomil (Campbeltown) on 1 Apr. Autumn records were more numerous and began with 6 around *Tiree* on 10 Oct and 9 the next day. On *Islay*, 3 were at The Oa on 14 Oct, with singles across the island to the year end. In *Kintyre*, the first was one at Machrihanish SBO on 14 Oct, then a single on 5 Dec at West Tarbert, 3 at Ballochgair (Peninver) on 6 Dec, and 2 at Tayinloan on 21 and 22 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll*, the first was a single at Port Ban (Kilberry) on 1 and 8 Nov, then 2 at Tullochgorm (Minard) on 6 Dec rising to 6 by 27 Dec, 2 at Lochgilphead on 9 Dec, 3 at Connel on 19 Dec, and one at Tayvallich on 21 Dec. In *Cowal*, 6 at Otter Ferry on 31 Oct rose to 10 on 2 Nov with numbers fluctuating to the end of the year with 6 on 26 Dec. Other *Cowal* records were of: 4 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 10 Nov rising to 6 on 24 Dec, 2 at Colintrave on 21 Nov, 20 at Innellan Farm on 20 Dec, and an impressive 35 in a Dunoon garden on 20 Dec.

2011. Continuing the good autumn numbers, there was a scattering of reports from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. First of the year was a single at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 2 Jan. On *Islay* the 15 at the Oa on 27 Jan had dropped to 1 by 25 Feb. Also on *Islay*, there were: 10 at Imeraval (Port Ellen) on 8 Feb, singles at Knocklearoch (Ballygrant) on 19 Feb, and at Cluanach on 21 Feb. A late female was on *Tiree* at Carnan Mor on 30 Apr. The first autumn record was also from *Tiree*, with a single at Balephuill on 26 Sep, followed by another at Carnan Mor on 14 Oct, and 4 there on 25 Oct. Other singles were at: Kilkenneth on 24 Oct, Loch a' Phuill on 27 Oct, Vault on 28 Oct, and finishing with 2 at Balephuill on 4 Nov. On *Islay* there were: 6 at Port Charlotte on 4 Oct, one at Bridgend woods on 24 Oct, one at Kinnabus (The Oa) on 27 Nov, and one at Kilchoman on 18 Dec. A single on *Mull* at Loch a Chumhainn (Dervaig) on 6 Nov might have been the same seen there on 26 Nov. In *Cowal* a single was in Dunoon on 13 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* there were singles at Ardrishaig on 7 Nov and at Connel on 5 Dec. In *Kintyre* a single was regular at Machrihanish SBO from 7 – 23 Nov.

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.

2010. Reports were from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. There were few flocks of 20 or more, mostly from *Kintyre* with: 20 at Stewartfield on 14 Jan, 20 at Machrihanish SBO on 31 Mar, and 50 at Tayinloan on 6 Jul and again on 5 Sep. Elsewhere, there were 19 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Oct, and 20 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 7 Dec. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* ringed 130 in Aug and Sep, with the most seen at any time being 30.

2011. Reports were from all areas apart from *Coll*. Flocks of 20 or over were: 22 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Aug, 25 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 24 Aug, 23 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Sep, and 38 at Calgary *Mull* on 13 Sep.

Breeding 2010. Breeding was confirmed at: Skipness *Kintyre*, Port Ban Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll*, Creag na Croiche (Lepinmore) and Killail *Cowal*, Oakbank (Lochdon) and Salen *Mull*, and Vault *Tiree*, and was also likely elsewhere.

2011. Breeding was confirmed at: Tayinloan *Kintyre*, Corra Farm (Otter Ferry), Corra (Ardlamont), Killail, and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal*, and Balephuill, Vault, Milton and Scarinish *Tiree*, and was probable at Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

1653

A thinly but widely distributed resident, absent as a breeding species on Tiree, but with recent breeding on Coll and Colonsay. Flocks occur in autumn.

2010. Reports were received from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Early year flocks of 20 or over included: 42 at Ardnave *Islay* on 10 Jan and 20 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Mar. Post breeding flocks were larger and more frequent. In *Kintyre* there were: 20 at Tayinloan on 21 Oct and up to 50 at Machrihanish SBO during Nov with 57 on 7 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* there were: 30 at Port Ban Caravan Park on 29 and 31 Aug, 25 at Keillmore on 1 Sept, and 25 at Sidhean Corr (Knapdale) on 15 Oct. In *North Argyll* there were 30 at Fennachrochan (Lismore) on 2 Oct. In *Cowal* there were: 40 at Kilfinan Bay on 10 Oct, 50 at Carn an Tilgidh (Evanachan) on 22 Oct, 20 on Kames Golf Course on 29 Oct, 22 at Rubha Mor Corrachra (Kyles of Bute) on 29 Oct and 30 at Auchnaha (Otter Ferry) on 3 Nov. On *Mull*, numbers seen at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) rose from 20 on 28 Aug to 100 on 11 and 17 Sept. On *Islay*, there were 38 at Foreland House on 20 Sept and 150 at Bruichladdich on 28 Sept. On *Tiree*, 33 were at Kenovay on 5 Oct, and 43 were around the island on 8 Oct. On *Colonsay* a flock of 14 at Balnahard Bay on 13 Dec was a good number for the island.

2011. Reports were from all areas apart from *Coll*. Early year flocks of 20 or over included 30 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 11 Mar. Post-breeding flocks were larger than in 2010, especially on *Islay* with: 30 at Loch a'Gheoidh, (Loch Gorm) on 30 Aug, 50 at Kilchoman on 1 Sep, 30 at Foreland House on 10 Sep, 60 on The Oa on 14 Sept, 30 at Loch Gruinart on 14 Sep, 80 at Coull Farm (Kilchoman) on 28 Sep, 50 at Loch Gruinart on 2 Oct with 38 on 26 Oct, and 25 at Ardnave on 26 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll*, there were 50 at Kilnaish (Knapdale) and 38 at Add Estuary on 11 Oct. On Lismore *North Argyll*, there were 19 at Port Ramsay on 4 Sept. In *Cowal* there were: 80 at Strone (Otter Ferry) on 5 Sep, 30 on Kames Golf Course on 19 Sep, 35 at Kilfinan on 1 Oct, and 30 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 4 Oct. On *Mull*, Treshnish (nr. Calgary) had 60 on 3 and 10 Sep, while down on the Ross there were 100 at Ardalanish Bay on 10 Sep. The biggest flock of all was on *Jura* on 14 Oct with 128 at Craighouse.

Breeding 2010. Reports were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Confirmed breeding was found: in *Kintyre* with fledged young seen at Skipness on 26 Jun, at Machrihanish SBO on 26 Jun and 7 Jul: in *Mid-Argyll* at Badden (Lochgilphead) on 22 Jun, Tayvallich on 26 Jun and Tullochgorm (Minard) on 1 Aug, and in *Cowal* a pair was seen at Cruaich Odhar (Caol Ghleann) on 6 Jul. Fledged young were reported from Port Haun (Treshnish) *Mull* on 11 Jun. On *Islay*, a fledged brood was at Kilchoman on 18 Jun and a late nest with young was found at Port Askaig on 11 Aug. There were two territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 1 in 2009.

2011. Reports were from all areas apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll*. Confirmed breeding, with fledged young noted, was found: in *Cowal* at Otter Ferry on 31 May, in *Kintyre* at High Smerby on 24 May, and at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 May. An occupied nest was found at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 May, and at Corra (Ardlamont) *Cowal* on 18 Jul. Probable breeding was reported from *Mid-Argyll* with a pair at Easdale. Elsewhere there was a pair at Iona Abbey *Mull* on 24 May. There were 2 territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.3 since 1990.

Ringling returns 2010. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, 161 birds were ringed between 1 Aug and 31 Oct. Amongst birds caught or digiscoped, some notable movements were found. Female X070283 found on 10 Apr had been ringed on 2 Jun 2009 in Motherwell, Lanarkshire: a distance of 117km. Another adult on 9 May had been ringed on 19 Oct 2009 at Creting St. Mary, Suffolk.

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.

2010. Reports were from Jan onwards from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Tiree*. Larger flocks included: 62 at Gallachaille (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 70 at Big Park (Appin) *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, and 50 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 2 Feb. Post breeding reports were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. The only larger flock was 50 at Kennacraig Ferry *Kintyre* on 28 Aug with other flocks of 20 to 30 being widely scattered to the year end. On *Tiree*, numbers peaked at 12 on 27 Oct.

2011. Reports from Jan onwards were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*. There were few larger flocks with the only flock of more than 30 being 42 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 5 Mar. Post breeding reports were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *North Argyll*. Higher numbers were: 30 on 9 Aug at Barguillan Farm (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll*, 60 on 18 Aug at Balure (Inverawe) *Mid-Argyll*, 40 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 30 Aug, and 40 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 8 Sep. On *Tiree*, singles were seen at Balephuill on 18 Jun and 1 Oct and at Balemartine on 30 Sep.

Breeding 2010. Confirmed breeding was reported from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*, with possible breeding on *Islay*. Despite being present, there were no territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* as in 2009.

2011. Confirmed breeding was reported from: *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*, with probable breeding from *Islay*. Despite being present, there were no territories held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* as in 2010 *cf* the average of 0.4 since 1990.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lin

1660

A sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on: Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn and winter with most reports from: Colonsay, Islay, and Kintyre.

2010. Early year reports were few from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Jura*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. Notable flocks included: 50 at Kilchattan Hill (Southend) *Kintyre* on 16 Jan, 32 at Sliabh Riabhach *Colonsay* on 28 Jan, and 20 at Coullabus Plantation *Islay* on 17 March. On *Tiree* there were 2 at Loch an Eilein on 17 Mar. Post-breeding reports were considerably higher and from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. There were numerous large flocks on *Tiree*, with the larger being: 120 at Balemartine on 19 Aug, 160 on Carnan Mor on 11 Sep, 150 at Kilkenneth on 13 Sep, 120 at Baugh on 25 Sep, 120 at Loch a' Phuill on 27 Sep, 100 at Balevullin on 2 Oct, 180 at The Reef on 7 Oct, and 100 at Miodar on 20 Oct. At Oronsay Airstrip *Colonsay* there were 290 on 11 Sep, and at Balnagowan Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* there were 25 on 25 Aug. A few large flocks were on *Islay*, with 115 at Grainel (Gruinart) on 18 Aug, and 120 at Craighens (Gruinart) on 12 Oct.

2011. The very few early year reports were from *Islay* and *Tiree* only. Post-breeding reports were from: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Larger flocks on *Tiree* included: 220 at Loch a' Phuill on 9 Sep, 160 at Balephetrish on 26 Sep, and 250 at Mannal on 1 Oct. On *Islay* there were: 130 at Loch Gruinart on 1 Oct and on *Colonsay* there were 250 at Oronsay Airstrip on 16 Sep. An autumn flock of 170 at Clochkeil (Laggan) *Kintyre* was the largest seen there for a long time. A leucistic bird was seen on The Oa *Islay* on 29 Oct.

Breeding 2010. Confirmed breeding reports were from: Machrihanish SBO and Glenacardoch (Glenbarr) *Kintyre*, Torr a' Bhlaire (Kilmichael) *Mid-Argyll*, Sgat Beag (Loch Fyne), Clachan of Glendaruel, and Strone Point (Loch Striven) *Cowal*, Kilchoman *Islay*, Balephuill *Tiree*, and Port Haunn (Treshnish) *Mull*. Three territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* as in 2009. Birds were also present during the breeding season in *Colonsay* and *North Argyll*.

Breeding 2011. Breeding was confirmed at: Keillmore *Mid-Argyll*, Auchenlochan Farm (Kames) *Cowal*, Middleton and Balephuill *Tiree* and Bruichladdich *Islay*. Three territories were

held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 2.9 since 1990. A singing male was on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 29 Jun and birds were also present, during the breeding season, in *Kintyre* and elsewhere on *Mull*.

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.

2010. Reports were from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura* (although almost certainly present). In the early part of the year flocks of over 50 occurred in: *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*, with notable larger flocks being on *Islay* (250 at Ballymeanoch on 31 Jan and 200 on The Oa on 23 Mar), and in *Kintyre*, (100 at Macharioch (Southend) on 16 Jan). Post breeding flocks of over 50 occurred in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. The most notable of these were: 340 on *Tiree* on 6 Oct, a staggering 1000 on The Oa, *Islay* on 15 Dec, and the year finished with 250 at Saligo *Islay* on 31 Dec. A leucistic all-buff bird was reported from Gott *Tiree* on 30 Aug.

2011. Reports were from all areas apart from: *Coll*, *Cowal*, and *Jura*. In the early part of the year, flocks of over 50 occurred in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Tiree*. On *Islay* flocks of up to 300 were at: Saligo Bay on 2 Feb, The Oa on 8 Feb, and 270 at Bunn an Uillt (East Loch Gruinart) on 28 Feb. Post-breeding flocks of over 50 occurred in: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. On *Islay*, largest flocks were on The Oa, peaking at 510 on 5 Dec. On *Tiree*, the peak count was 170 at Balephetrish on 18 Oct, and the regular flock at Hough was 160 through Sep and Oct. On *Colonsay* the Oronsay airstrip flock reached 250 on 16 Sep. In *Kintyre* the Machrihanish SBO flock reached 100 on 19 Sep, and at Tayinloan there were 50 on 23 Sep.

Breeding 2010. Confirmed breeding was reported from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Jun and *Tiree* on 1 Jul. Probable breeding was also noted from: Ballygrogan *Kintyre*, Craignish Castle *Mid-Argyll*, Baileouchdarach (Lismore) *North Argyll*, and: Treshnish Isles, Cruachan (Treshnish), and Port Haunn *Mull*.

2011. Confirmed breeding was reported from: Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride) *Cowal* on 16 Jun, Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 14 Jun, Gott Bay *Tiree* on 23 Jun, Hough *Tiree* on 8 Jun, and from Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 7 Jul. Probable breeding was noted on: *Mull* at Kintra on 7 May and Ensay Burn on 23 Jun, and almost certainly occurred elsewhere.

Ringling Returns 2010. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* ringed 494 birds between Aug and Oct, and controlled birds from elsewhere. Table 45 notes 6 of the reported movements.

Table 45.

Ring No.	Sex	Date at MSBO	Origin	Date ringed or controlled	Distance km	Days elapsed
T938086	m	14 Apr 2010	Heysham, Lancs	9 Dec 2009	239	126
R687796	m	17 Apr 2010	Heysham,	24 Mar 2009	239	389
V240422	f	18 Apr 2010	Heysham,	12 Mar 2010.	239	37
R687868	f	23 Apr 2010	Askam in Furness, Cumbria	21 Nov 2007	216	883
R687729	f	23 Apr 2010	Heysham	2 Apr 2010	239	21
R688216	m	8 May 2010	Askam in Furness	29 Dec 09	216	132

2011. Machrihanish colour-ringed birds were sighted in: East Lothian, Northumberland, Essex, and Co Wexford.

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.

2010. Birds were reported from all recording areas except *Coll* and especially frequently from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*, with records for every month. Flocks of 10 or more were reported at: Loch Stornoway (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* (ca60 on 22 Aug), Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* (30 on 10 Sep), Powder Dam *Cowal* (20 on 20 Feb), Machrihanish SBO (20 on 8 Apr), Craig nan Sassanach (nr. Cladich) *Mid-Argyll* (15 on 31 May), Craighouse *Jura* (12 on 4 Nov) and Lettermore (Loch Frisa) *Mull* (10 on 26 Apr).

2011. Birds were reported from all recording areas except *North Argyll*, with records for every month except Jan and Dec. Flocks of 10 or more were reported at: Achamore *Coll* (35 on 2 Oct), Port Charlotte *Islay* (30 on 30 Sep), Colonsay House *Colonsay* (ca20 on 20 Apr), Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve *Islay* (20 on 2 Oct), Loch Ba *Mull* (15+ on 13 Jun) and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* (12 on 2 Oct).

Breeding 2010. Ten pairs held territory in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*: a new record total. Elsewhere, recently fledged young were reported from *Cowal* and *Kintyre* and territorial birds from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

2011. Six pairs held territory in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*: about average for this site. Elsewhere, recently fledged young were reported from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

1663.1

Includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea* & Greenland Redpoll *C. f. Rostrata* (latter now sometimes known as North- western Redpoll: *Carduelis rostrata*, which includes *islandica*). A scarce passage migrant: and irregular winter visitor.

2010. Two were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 May. On 29 May, 8 birds were found on *Tiree* when 6 were at Carnan Mor along with the 2 nearby at Balephuill. In Jun a pair at Carnan Mor were seen nest building and subsequently gathering food as if feeding young in the nest. However the nesting attempt appears to have failed as none were seen after 1 Jul [John Bowler]. Accepted by ABRC as Common Redpolls: most likely *C. f. flammea* 22 May - 01 July. There were further records on *Tiree* of birds identified as possibly of the form *islandica* from 9 Sep to 8 Oct with a maximum of 13 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor on 1-4 Oct [John Bowler, Ross Ahmed, Jim Dickson *et al*] followed by up to 3 Mealy Redpolls at Balephuill on 23-28 Oct. All records accepted by ABRC. On 25 Sep one large individual seen at Balephuill was identified as *C. f. rostrata*: it stayed until 4 Oct. Accepted ABRC as *rostrata* 25 Sep to 04 Oct.

2011. A flock of 30 were seen at Ardanish *Mull* on 17 May [David Hatfield]. Record accepted by ABRC as 'probably *C. f. flammea*'. From 19 May up to 4 were seen in the Carnan Mor area of *Tiree* and elsewhere on the island. In Jul, a pair at Carnan Mor fledged 3 young and another pair at The Glebe (Scarinish) fledged 4-5 young. This is the first confirmed breeding record of this species in Argyll and two of very few nesting pairs in Britain [John Bowler]. From 2 Sep until 3 Nov at least 14 birds were seen at various locations on *Tiree*. Eight birds seen from 2 Sep to 15 Oct were considered to be possibly of the form *islandica* whereas all birds seen after 15 Oct showed characteristics of *C. f. flammea* with one bird showing at least some characteristics of *C. f. rostrata* [John Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC.

(See also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

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 the other on Tiree on 23 Oct 2004.

2010. No records.

2011. 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.

2010. Reports from early in the year were from all areas apart from: *Coll, Colonsay, Jura* and *Tiree*, mostly in single figure groups but occasional larger flocks such as: 18 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 1 Jan, 14 at Loch Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 14 at Dalintart (Oban) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 16 at Fearnoch (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan, and 40 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 23 Feb. Autumn records were more widespread but mostly in single figures from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull*, and *North Argyll*. Larger groups included: 15 at Avenvogie Plantation *Islay* on 18 Oct, 10 at Gleann Salach *North Argyll* on 23 Oct, 14 at Monadh a'Bhaile Mhoir (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec, and in *Cowal*: 26 at Barr Iola (Otter Ferry) on 30 Nov, 22 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 30 Nov, and 20 at Kilbride Farm (Millhouse) on 31 Dec.

2011. There were no reports from: *Coll, Colonsay, Jura* or *Kintyre*. Elsewhere, reports were mainly in single figure, although some bigger flocks were widespread. These included 13 at Beinn Lora *North Argyll* on 7 Jan, 10 at Kilberry on 22 Jan and 25 on 10 May at Fearnoch Forest *Mid-Argyll*, 12 at Finlaggan on 27 Feb and 20 at Loch Finlaggan on 1 Mar *Islay*, 21 at Cruach nan Gearran (Glendaruel West) on 6 Mar, 11 at Powder Dam (Millhouse) *Cowal* on 29 Jun, and 10 at Loch Mingary *Mull* on 5 Sep with 21 at Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 23 Oct. On *Tiree* a single was seen at Balephuill on 12 Jun and again on 11 Aug.

Breeding 2010. Reports of confirmed breeding were from: Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 22 May, Black Mount *North Argyll* on 16 June, and Druim Reidh (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul.

2011. Reports of confirmed breeding were from: *Islay* at Avenvogie on 14 Feb and Cnoc na Seilge (Finlaggan) on 20 Feb, *Cowal* at Barr Laggan (Otter Ferry) on 16 Feb and Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride Bay) on 6 May and 16 Jun and *Mid-Argyll* at Arichonan (Caol Scotnish) on 12 Jun.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1679

A rare visitor which may have bred: twelve records 1989-2007, mostly in May and Jun.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

2011. An adult male was present at Dervaig *Mull* 22-23 May [Pamela and Arthur Brown *et al*], a first-summer male at Balephuill *Tiree* 8-9 Jun [John Bowler], a juvenile at Balephuill 19-24 Sep [John Bowler, Janet Hunter, Jim Dickson], and another juvenile (a different bird from 19-24 Sep) at Balephuill 30 Sep [John Bowler]. All records accepted by ABRC.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

1710

A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.

2010. Early year records from: *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* were mostly of single figures with a few larger groups including: *Cowal*, 27 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) on 1 Jan, *Mid-Argyll*, 20 at Sidh Mhor (Fincham) on 8 Jan, *Islay*, 12 on 17 Feb and 29 on 21 Feb at Bunnahabhainn. Post breeding records were from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* with widespread single figure groups including a single at Inver Cottage *Jura* on 4 Nov, and 15 at Monadh a'Bhaile Mhoir *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec.

2011. Early year records from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull* were mostly of ones or twos, with bigger groups reported of: 18 on 21 Jan at Kilberry *Mid-Argyll* and 11 on 6 Mar at Cruach

nan Gearran (Glendaruel) *Cowal*. Post-breeding records of single figure groups were from: *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*, with a group of 10 at Bunnahabhainn, *Islay* on 15 Dec.

Breeding 2010. Confirmed breeding with fledged birds was from: Skipness *Kintyre* on 26 Jun, Brenfield *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun, Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 6 Jun, and Rubha na Gall (Tobermory) *Mull* on 13 Jul. Probable breeding was noted at: Achnafad Quarry *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 18 Apr, Largiemore (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 26 Apr, and Port Charlotte *Islay* on 2 May. Four territories were held in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 4 in 2009.

2011. Confirmed breeding with fledged birds was from: Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 2 Jun, Langamull *Mull* on 15 Jun, and Treshnish (nr. Calgary) *Mull* on 14 Jul, and with adults carrying food at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jun. Probable breeding was reported from: Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, Inverawe House *North Argyll* on 2 May, Ashens *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jun, and Brainport Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jul. The CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* held 3 territories cf the average of 2 since 1990. A single male was present at Carnan Eoin *Colonsay* on 30 May.

Bullfinch: Northern race *pyrrhula*

2010. No records.

2011. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

1717

A rare visitor: fifteen records 1953-2009.

2010. A female was photographed at Lower Kilchattan *Colonsay* 8-9 Apr [Margaret Keirnan] and a female was on bird feeders at Treshnish House *Mull* on 30 Apr [Anand Prasad]. Both records accepted by ABRC. (See also list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

2011. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

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-Jun 2010. There were 8 early year records. On 1 Jan there were 9 at Ardnave *Islay* with 8 remaining on 17 Jan. Elsewhere, 11 were at Tom na Gualainne (Glen More) *Mull* on 11 Jan with 10 on 26 Feb, 35 on the col between Creag Bhrosgan and Binnean an Fhìdhleir (North of Glen Kinglas) *Cowal* on 7 Feb, one on Beinn Eunaich (N of east end of Loch Awe) *North Argyll* on 10 Feb, and 4 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 3 Mar. Unusually, there was a Jun record when one was at Gruinart Flats (RSPB) *Islay* on 6 Jun.

2011. There were only 2 early year records, with a lone immature at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 2 Jan and one at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 10 Mar.

Sep-Dec 2010. The first of autumn were 2 at Ardnave *Islay* on 25 Sep. Thereafter, larger groups of 5 or over were: 6 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 6 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 7 Oct, 19 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 11 Oct with 20 on 21 Oct, 20 on *Jura* on 21 Oct, and 9 >S over Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Oct. Elsewhere, 1-4 birds were present at sites in: *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), and *Tiree* (4).

2011. The first of autumn were 2 at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 17 Sep. Thereafter, larger groups of 5 or over were: 6 at Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 7 at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 7 Oct followed by a flock of 25 on 9 Oct, 8 at Mannal *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 11 at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Oct, 5 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 14 Oct, 8 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 18 Oct, 5 at Traigh Baigh *Tiree* on 20 Oct, 5 at Killinallan *Islay* on 20 Oct, 15 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 22 Oct, 20 at Ardnave *Islay* on 25 Oct, 11 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 26 Oct, 27 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 26 Oct, 6 at Machir Bay

Islay on 28 Oct with 8 on 29 Oct, 6 at Ardnave *Islay* on 28 Oct, and 5 at The Oa *Islay* on 16 Dec.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

1847

A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.

2010. The only early year bird was one in sub-song at Grishipoll Bay *Coll* on 28 Mar. Two birds at Dubh Eilean (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 28 Aug heralded a major, and unprecedented, influx which continued to the end of the year with most reports in Sep and Oct. Birds were widespread on *Tiree* throughout Sept, involving over 200 birds with notable counts of: 48 at Hough Bay on 5 Sep, and at least 29 at The Reef on 30 Sep. There were 28 on *Coll* on 11 Sep, and 18 at Seal Cottage (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 11 Sep. Elsewhere in Sep, smaller numbers were reported at sites in: *Coll* (6), *Colonsay* (7), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (1), and *Mid-Argyll* (1). In Oct similar numbers were noted throughout the month, mainly on *Tiree*, including a record Argyll count of 160 at The Reef on 13 Oct, with only a handful of records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Kintyre*. In Nov and Dec up to 4 birds were noted at *ca*10 sites on: *Colonsay*, *Islay*, and *Tiree*.

2011. Following the major influx of the previous autumn, 1-4 birds were recorded through to 9 May from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (4), and *Tiree* (4). The last was a smart male at Heylipol (W) *Tiree* on 9 May. The first returning birds were 11 at Killinallan Gate (East Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 18-20 Sep followed by single birds on *Tiree* on a few occasions with the last on 21 Nov.

NB. A full account of the Lapland Bunting influx of autumn 2010, including the Argyll data we supplied to the authors, is given in the November 2012 issue of *British Birds*. (Pennington, M. G., Riddington, R. & Miles, W. T. S. The Lapland Bunting influx in Britain & Ireland in 2010-2011 *British Birds* 105:654-673).

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.

2010. In the first half of the year, 5 were found on a BTO Atlas tetrad at Bagh Ban (Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, with 8 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Feb, and 6 at Bunnahabain *Islay* on 23 May. Elsewhere, 1-3 birds were at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (1). While some pairs were noted and 2 singing males were heard; there were no records of confirmed breeding. From July to Dec higher counts were: 6 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 2 Oct, 6 at Kildalton *Islay* on 23 Oct, 4 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 6 at Ardnahoe *Islay* on 30 Oct, 4 at Upper Killeyan (The Oa) *Islay* on 1 Nov, 7 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, and 8 at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec. Elsewhere, 1-3 birds were noted at sites in: *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3), and *Mull* (4).

2011. In the first half of the year, 1-3 birds were found at sites in: *Islay* (5), *Jura* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (1). While some pairs were noted and *ca*6 singing males were heard; there were no records of confirmed breeding. From July to Dec higher counts were: 6 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 11 Sep, 5 at Foreland House *Islay* on 28 Oct, and 5 on 20 Nov with 6 on 26 Dec at Balvicar *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, 1-3 birds were noted at sites in: *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* 1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), and *North Argyll* (2).

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirius*

1858

A vagrant: a pair at St. Catherine's Loch Fyne (Cowal) in Jun 1920 is the sole record.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

1866

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Mull in 2009.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

2011. No records.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

1873

A vagrant with only two Argyll records: one on Islay in May 1980 and the other on Tiree in June 1987.

2010. No records.

2011. 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 Sep 1985 and a single bird on Tiree in Oct 2007.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*

1876

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Tiree in Sep 1981.

2010. No records.

2011. 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 2010. There were records from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Counts of 10 or more were: 12 at RSPB (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 12 Jan, 20 at Glencraigs (NW of Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 26 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Jan, 20 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Feb, 13 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 22 Feb, 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Mar, 26 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, and 11 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 22 Mar. Elsewhere, 1-9 birds were at sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (3).

2011. There were records from all areas, apart from *Coll* and *North Argyll*. Counts of 10 or more included: 11 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 6 Jan, 27 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Jan, 30 at Grainel (W) *Islay* on 29 Jan, 14 at Ashens (N of Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb, and 26 territorial birds on *Colonsay* on 31 May. Elsewhere, 1-9 birds were at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (13), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (5), and *Tiree* (5).

Breeding 2010. Two territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf 1 in 2009. On *Colonsay*, 22 (including 3 on Oronsay) pairs were on territory in Jun. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

2011. Three territories were found in the CBC plots at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* cf the average of 1.45 since 1990. On *Colonsay*, a total of 26 pairs were found on territory and 30 pairs were on territory at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Elsewhere, breeding was widespread in suitable habitats.

Jul-Dec 2010. Counts of 10 or more included: 10 at Glenacardoch *Kintyre* on 20 Jul, 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 14 on *Tiree* on 8 Oct, 12 at Oronsay Airport *Colonsay* on 14 Oct, 20 at Maol Bhuidhe (Gruinart) *Islay* on 16 Oct, 45 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Nov with 27 on 13 Dec, and 11 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 24 Dec.

2011. Counts of 10 or more included: 12 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 14 Jul, 10 at Baugh *Tiree* on 26 Oct, 10 at An Doirlinn (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 13 Nov, 12 at The Oa *Islay* on 15 Dec, and 23 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Dec.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala* 1881

A vagrant with eight Argyll records: all of singles, during May to Jul.

2010. No records.

2011. 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.

2010. No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records p. 158-160).

2011. No records.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD *Molothrus ater* 1899

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one at Ardnave Point (Islay) in Apr 1988.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla* 1755

A vagrant: the only Argyll record concerns one on Islay in Nov 1982.

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana* 1732

A vagrant: there have been no previous records in Argyll.

2010. On 25 Sep a first winter bird was identified at Carnan Mor *Tiree*, much to the surprise of the observer who, given the prevailing NE winds at the time, had been searching the bushes in the hope of finding an early Yellow-browed Warbler! It stayed until 29 Sep, during which time it occasionally strayed to Balephuill gardens, allowing many visitors to catch up with and photograph this considerable rarity [John Bowler *et al*]. This was the first British record for 15 years; a first for Scotland and only the fourteenth ever in Britain. Record accepted by BBRC as first winter (probably female) (*British Birds* 104:625).

2011. 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.*

2010. No records.

2011. An adult was present with Whooper Swans at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 13 Oct to 2 Dec.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Category E*. *Reported with increasing frequency.*

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

NB. The following record was missed from ABR 22 for 2008-2009:

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (Ring-necked Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri*

Category C1E*. *First Argyll record.*

2009. One photographed in a garden in George Street, Hunters Quay, Dunoon on the morning of 2 October 2009 (Callum Satchell) was probably an escaped cage bird as there are no nearby breeding populations. Birds were, however, recorded in North Ayrshire during BTO Atlas fieldwork.

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.*

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Category E*. *Widespread and probably under-recorded in Argyll.*

2010. One was seen at Ronachan Point Kintyre on 27 Mar.

2011. No records.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Category E*. *Two Argyll records: at Dunoon in 2000-2001 and on Loch Ederline (Mid-Argyll) in 2006.*

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

REEVE'S PHEASANT *Symaticus reevesii*

Category E*. *Recent releases in Cowal.*

2010. All reports were from Cowal with: 3 at Otter Ferry on 11 May, 5 at Castle Lachlan on 10 Oct, and 2 at Kilbride Bay (Millhouse) on 14 Oct.

2011. A (very aggressive!) male was photographed at Achnabreac (near Lochgilphead) Mid-Argyll on 21 Apr. All previous records have been from Cowal.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus*

Category E*.

2010. Three at least were noted were noted at Corra (Ardlamont) Cowal on 31 Jan and again on 29 Oct. A single, at least was noted at Skipness & Bay Kintyre on 26 Jun during the ABC Field Trip (All Tom Callan)

2011. Three were noted at Craig Lodge Farm (Kilbride Bay) Cowal on 12 Feb during a late winter BTO Atlas TTV (Tom Callan).

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*Category E. **First Argyll record.**

2010. A large bird of prey trailing jesses was photographed by Graham Thomas flying over his garden at St. Catherine's *Cowal* on 21 Aug. Jim Dickson identified it as an adult Harris's Hawk; presumably an escaped falconer's bird.

2011. No records.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*Category E*. **A long staying bird was frequently reported in the Arduaine area Mid-Argyll during 1989-1991.**

2010. No records.

2011. No records.

Other Category E species with just one or two Argyll records include: Swan Goose, Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Pelican sp., Flamingo sp., Green Pheasant, Zebra Finch and White-rumped Munia.

LIST OF REJECTED RECORDS, PENDING RECORDS AND RECORDS FOR WHICH DETAILS ARE STILL AWAITED

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been rejected since the publication of ABR 22.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Sooty Albatross	<i>Mull</i>	05/10/2010	BBRC
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Kintyre</i>	05/03/2011	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	21/03/2010	ABRC
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Colonsay</i>	24/07/2010	BBRC
Spotted Redshank (2)	<i>Oronsay Colonsay</i>	13/04/2010	ABRC
European Nightjar	<i>Kintyre</i>	21/06/2010	ABRC
European Nightjar	<i>Mull</i>	30/06/2010	ABRC
European Nightjar	<i>Kintyre</i>	28/09/2011	ABRC
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Mull</i>	04/05/2011	BBRC
'Northern' Long-tailed Tit	<i>Mull</i>	26/10/2010	BBRC
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Islay</i>	17 & 21/05/2010	ABRC
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Mull</i>	08/06/2010	ABRC
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Mull</i>	28/06/2011	ABRC
Hawfinch	<i>Kintyre</i>	14/03/2011	ABRC
Corn Bunting	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	12/05/2010	ABRC

Most records are rejected not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

The following records of species on the BBRC, SBRC or ABRC are currently in circulation around the relevant rarity committees. In some instances the decision has been delayed pending receipt of further details.

Species	Recording area	date(s)	Committee
Lesser Canada (Cackling) Goose*	<i>Islay and Tiree</i>	Various records 2002-2011	BBRC
Gyr Falcon	<i>Tiree</i>	May/Jun 2009	BBRC
Little Egret	<i>Tiree</i>	08/05/2010	ABRC

* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for this species.

Details of the following claimed 2010 and 2011 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
Ring-necked Duck	Lochs Fada & Ballygrant	<i>Islay</i>	23/06/2011
White-billed Diver	Kilpatrick	<i>Mull</i>	20/04/2010
White-billed Diver	Near Skerryvore Lighthouse	<i>Tiree</i>	21/04/2010
White-billed Diver	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	28/01/2011
Cory's Shearwater	Lunga (Treshnish Isles)	<i>Mull</i>	02/07/2010
Little Egret	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	18/01/2010 - 17/04/2010
White Stork	Clachan Beag (Loch Fyne)	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	04/09/2010
Eurasian Spoonbill	Balvicar (Seil Island)	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	30/06/2010
Red-necked Grebe	Loch Indaal	<i>Islay</i>	01/11/2010
Red-necked Grebe	Kennacraig-Islay Ferry Crossing	<i>Islay</i>	05/02/2011
Black-necked Grebe	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	23/03/2011
Honey-buzzard	Clachan	<i>Kintyre</i>	01/06/2010
Black Kite	Loch Avich	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	07/05/2011
Northern Goshawk	Grogport	<i>Kintyre</i>	07/10/2010
Northern Goshawk	Port Charlotte	<i>Islay</i>	08/10/2010
Northern Goshawk	Kilchoman	<i>Islay</i>	11/12/2010
Hobby	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	25/04/2010
Spotted Crake	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	02-08/06/2010
Spotted Crake	Cliad	<i>Coll</i>	25/04/2011
Spotted Crake	Ardnave	<i>Islay</i>	03/06/2011
Spotted Crake	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	24/06/2011

Pectoral Sandpiper	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	16/05/2010
Pectoral Sandpiper	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	01-07/10/2011
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		<i>Coll</i>	16/09/2011
Long-billed Dowitcher	Loch Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	07/01/2010
Sabine's Gull	Ardmore Point	<i>Mull</i>	08/10/2011
Yellow-legged Gull	Kintra	<i>Islay</i>	18/08/2010
Yellow-legged Gull	Druim na h-Eresaid	<i>Islay</i>	11/09/2010
Yellow-legged Gull	Loch a' Phuill	<i>Tiree</i>	09/05/2011
Roseate Tern	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory	<i>Kintyre</i>	22/05/2010
European Nightjar	Caol Scotnish	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	20/05/2010
Yellow-browed Warbler		<i>Coll</i>	Several records 07-26/10/2010
Yellow-browed Warbler		<i>Coll</i>	26/09/2011
Barred Warbler		<i>Coll</i>	10-11/09/2010
Lesser Whitethroat	Port Ban Caravan Park, Knapdale	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	04/09/2010
Lesser Whitethroat	Loch Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	24/05/2011
Eurasian Nuthatch	Tighnabruaich	<i>Cowal</i>	10-11/05/2010
Eurasian Nuthatch	Minard Castle	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	31/08- 08/09/2010
Tree Sparrow	Iona	<i>Mull</i>	15/05/2010
Tree Sparrow	Feolin Farm	<i>Jura</i>	08/07/2011
Yellow Wagtail	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory	<i>Kintyre</i>	21/05/2010
(Blue-headed) Yellow Wagtail	Oronsay	<i>Colonsay</i>	04/05/2011
Common Redpoll	Beinn an Sgoltaire	<i>Colonsay</i>	03/09/2011
Common Rosefinch	Belloch	<i>Kintyre</i>	June 2010
Common Rosefinch	Scarinish	<i>Tiree</i>	28/09/2010
Bullfinch (Northern race <i>pyrrhula</i>)	Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve	<i>Islay</i>	04/02/2011
Hawfinch	Hunter's Quay	<i>Cowal</i>	30/04/2010
Hawfinch	Glenbarr	<i>Kintyre</i>	01/10/2010
Ortolan Bunting	Cnoc Carrach (The Oa)	<i>Islay</i>	15/09/2010

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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* Three members of the team returned for a second week in 2011 to collect further data, particularly breeding bird data for the final year of the BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. (Referred to in the text as “TIARG”).

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