

**The Twenty Fifth  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the year  
2013**

Edited by  
**Jim Dickson**

Assisted by  
**Robin Harvey and David Jardine**

Systematic List by  
**John Bowler, Neil Brown, Malcolm Chattwood, Paul Daw,  
Jim Dickson, Bob Furness, Mike Harrison, David Jardine, Andy  
Robinson and Nigel Scriven**

**ISSN 1363-4386**  
Copyright: Argyll Bird Club Feb. 2015

**Argyll Bird Club**  
Scottish Charity Number SC008782

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

**Activities**

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

**Publications**

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

**Website**

[www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)

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

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

Name(s):

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode

Telephone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

***Annual subscription (please tick):***

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

## Argyll Bird Club Officials and Committee as at Feb. 2015

<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Harrison, 8 Ferryfield Drive, Connel, Oban, PA37 1SP
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Nigel Scriven, 14 Taylor Ave., Kilbarchan, Johnstone, PA10 2LS
<b>Secretary</b>	Position currently vacant.
<b>Treasurer</b>	Prof. Bob Furness, The Cnoc, Tarbet, Loch Lomondside, G83 7DG
<b>Committee</b>	Neil Brown, Malcolm Chattwood, Jim Dickson, David Jardine, Dr. Steve Petty, Andy Robinson and Blair Urquart.
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Sue Furness, The Cnoc, Tarbet, Loch Lomondside, G83 7DG
<b>Argyll Bird Records Committee</b>	Dr. John Bowler, Roger Broad, Jim Dickson (Secretary), David Jardine, Dr. Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson
<b>Editor of <i>Argyll Bird Report</i></b>	Jim Dickson, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, PA31 8UF
<b>Editor of <i>The Eider</i> (newsletter)</b>	Dr. Steve Petty, Cluaran Cottage, Ardentinny, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TR

### **S.O.C. Recorder for Argyll:**

Jim Dickson, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF

E-mail: [meg@jdickson5.plus.com](mailto:meg@jdickson5.plus.com)

### **Assistant Recorder:**

Malcolm Chattwood, 1 The Stances, Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA 31 8QA

E-mail: [abcrecorder@outlook.com](mailto:abcrecorder@outlook.com)

### **Secretary Argyll Bird Records Committee:**

Jim Dickson, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF

**Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Organiser for Argyll mainland & Mull:** Paul Daw, Tigh-na-Tulloch, Tullochgorm, Minard, Inveraray PA32 8YQ. E-mail: [monedula@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:monedula@globalnet.co.uk)

**B.T.O. Representatives for North Argyll, Mull, Coll, Tiree & Morvern:** **Arthur Brown**

E-mail: [pamartbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:pamartbrown@btinternet.com) *Islay, Jura and Colonsay:* **John S. Armitage**, Airigh Sgallaidh, Portnahaven, Islay, Argyll PA47 7SZ. E-mail: [jsa@ornquest.plus.com](mailto:jsa@ornquest.plus.com).

*Argyll Mainland, Bute and Gigha:* **Nigel Scriven**. E-mail: [njscriven@gmail.com](mailto:njscriven@gmail.com)

**R.S.P.B. Conservation Officer, Argyll & Bute:** Andy Robinson, RSPB S&W Scotland RO, 10 Park Quadrant, Glasgow, G3 6BS E-mail: [Andy.Robinson@rspb.org](mailto:Andy.Robinson@rspb.org)

# Contents

Editorial	5
Bird Recording in Argyll	6
Interpretation of Species Accounts	10
Special Studies carried out in 2013	14

## Systematic List for 2013

Swans	18 - 19
Geese	19 - 24
Ducks	24 - 35
Game birds	35 - 36
Divers & albatross	36 - 38
Fulmar, shearwaters, petrels	38 - 41
Gannet, cormorants, egrets, herons	41 - 45
Grebes	45 - 46
Raptors	46 - 53
Rails	53 - 56
Waders	56 - 75
Skuas, gulls, terns	75 - 85
Auks	85 - 87
Pigeons & doves	88 - 89
Cuckoos & owls	89 - 91
Nightjar, swifts, kingfisher, woodpeckers etc.	91 - 92
Vireo, oriole, shrikes	92 - 93
Crows	93 - 96
Goldcrest – tits	96 - 97
Larks	97 - 98
Swallows & Long-tailed Tit	98 - 99
Warblers	99 - 104
Nuthatch, treecreeper, wren, starlings	104 - 106
Dipper & thrushes	106 - 108
Flycatchers, robin, nightingale, chats	108 - 112
Duncock & sparrows	112 - 113
Wagtails & pipits	113 - 115
Finches	115 - 120
Buntings etc.	120 - 122
Escapes & introductions	123
Rejected and Pending records	123 - 124
Articles	125 - 140
Argyll Ringing Recoveries	141 - 146
Recent Literature on Argyll Birds	147 - 152
Acknowledgements & contributors	153 - 154
Species Index	155 - 158

## Editorial

In 2013 some 235 species were recorded, which is just one short of our record year in 2010, and maintains the recent run of a good range of species being seen in our region. The year was full of various highlights which included the recording of three new species with Black Stork on Mull as well as Cedar Waxwing and Water Pipit on Tiree. Full accounts of these are given later in the report. The discovery of a juvenile Ascension Frigatebird on Islay in mid summer was quite remarkable. Other notable finds during the year included our 3<sup>rd</sup> Long-billed Dowitcher, 3<sup>rd</sup> Richard's Pipit, 4<sup>th</sup> Little Ringed Plover, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Semipalmated Sandpipers and 5<sup>th</sup> Bonaparte's Gull. Towards the end of May there was an exceptionally heavy passage of Long-tailed Skuas up the west side of the British Isles much further east than usual which meant that several lucky observers in Argyll managed to witness this event. The autumn period gave us record numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers which continues a definite increase for this species in recent years.

Of course rare bird highlights do not reflect the importance of Argyll as a place for species such as our wintering Great Northern Divers and Slavonian Grebes around our coasts and Barnacle and Greenland White-fronted Geese in particular on Islay. Several areas hold good numbers of wintering waders and also act as important staging posts for migrating birds. Islay and Tiree held record numbers of Black-tailed Godwits for a few days at the end of April and were spectacular to watch when they were all in flight. Graphs presented in the report illustrate declines in breeding Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Common Sandpipers over the last decade.

Our region is now a stronghold for breeding White-tailed Eagles and a slow but steady expansion continues with birds from both the Irish and east coast re-introduction programs having now been recorded. The Argyll Raptor Study group continues to do valuable work in monitoring our breeding species. Common Terns had a successful season at some sites with help from the excellent work done with nesting rafts by Clive Craik. Both Corncrake and Osprey numbers appear to have peaked in 2007 and 2010 respectively and of course it remains to be seen how this trend will go in future. Nuthatches appear to be continuing their expansion into Argyll with new reports coming from the Mid-Argyll/North Argyll border in addition to sites in Cowal however we have only one record of confirmed breeding so far. The same applies to Kingfishers which have seen an increase in numbers here recently but still only one confirmed breeding record back in 1993 and most of our birds are presumably passing through or wintering. Many other breeding species are gradually reducing in numbers and volunteers are always welcome to take on survey squares organised by the BTO to help study trends. In 2015 national surveys will include Golden Eagle and House Martin. Casual reports for infrequently recorded breeding species such as Ring Ouzel, Yellowhammer and Stock Dove are always very useful and there is a great deal of scope for further studies.

Hopefully you will find this report interesting and it may inspire you to help out in some way. All sightings are encouraged and very welcome, with guidelines given in this report and also on the bird club website.

Jim Dickson (Feb 2015).

# Bird Recording in Argyll

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

The software comes complete with full instructions and Malcolm Chattwood will be happy to talk you through it.

All you need to do to get your hands on this brilliant and time saving system is to e-mail Malcolm: [abcrecorder@outlook.com](mailto:abcrecorder@outlook.com) with details of the operating system you are using (e.g. Microsoft XP, Vista etc) and the version of Excel you have (e.g. Excel 2000 or later releases) and he will send you a ZIP-file of the appropriate software and the instructions for using it. Advice on what to record is available on the Argyll Bird Club website [www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://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](http://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@jcdickson5.plus.com](mailto:meg@jcdickson5.plus.com) . Please use the standard form (available from Jim Dickson. These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (whose members are listed on p. 3), sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), as appropriate.

The list below details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description (see a helpful guide in *‘The Eider’* for March 2009 pages 8 & 9 - also available on the club website [www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://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  $\beta$ ). 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 (as at Jan 2015), SBRC (# - as at Jan 2015) and BBRC ( $\beta$  - as at Jan 2015). **NB** some of these species are not yet on the Argyll list.

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

Great Cormorant (race <i>sinensis</i> )	traditional breeding areas)
Ascension Frigatebird $\beta$	Long-tailed Skua (except adult)
Eurasian Bittern	Ivory Gull $\beta$
American Bittern $\beta$	Sabine's Gull
Night-heron#	Bonaparte's Gull $\beta$
Cattle Egret#	Ross's Gull $\beta$
Snowy Egret $\beta$	Laughing Gull $\beta$
Great White Egret	Ring-billed Gull
Purple Heron#	Yellow-legged Gull#
White Stork	Caspian Gull#
Glossy Ibis#	American Herring Gull $\beta$
Eurasian Spoonbill	Bridled Tern $\beta$
Pied-billed Grebe $\beta$	Gull-billed Tern $\beta$
Red-necked Grebe	Caspian Tern $\beta$
Black-necked Grebe	Whiskered Tern $\beta$
Honey-buzzard	Black Tern
Black Kite#	White-winged Black Tern#
Montagu's Harrier#	Forster's Tern#
Pallid Harrier $\beta$	Roseate Tern
Goshawk	Brunnich's Guillemot $\beta$
Rough-legged Buzzard	Pallas's Sandgrouse $\beta$
Red-footed Falcon#	Black-billed Cuckoo $\beta$
Hobby	Yellow-billed Cuckoo $\beta$
Gyr Falcon $\beta$	Eurasian Scops Owl $\beta$
Spotted Crake	Snowy Owl $\beta$
Sora $\beta$	Little Owl
Little Crake $\beta$	Nightjar
Common Crane	Alpine Swift#
Avocet	European Bee-eater
Stone Curlew#	European Roller $\beta$
Little Ringed Plover	Wryneck
Killdeer $\beta$	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker#
Kentish Plover#	Red-eyed Vireo $\beta$
American Golden Plover	Brown Shrike $\beta$
Pacific Golden Plover $\beta$	Red-backed Shrike
Semipalmated Sandpiper $\beta$	Lesser Grey Shrike $\beta$
Temminck's Stint	Great Grey Shrike
White-rumped Sandpiper#	Woodchat Shrike#
Baird's Sandpiper $\beta$	Firecrest
Pectoral Sandpiper	Crested Tit
Broad-billed Sandpiper $\beta$	Willow Tit
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Marsh Tit
Great Snipe $\beta$	Bearded Tit
Long-billed Dowitcher $\beta$	Short-toed Lark#
Spotted Sandpiper $\beta$	Wood Lark#
Spotted Redshank	Shore Lark
Greater Yellowlegs $\beta$	Red-rumped Swallow#
Lesser Yellowlegs $\beta$	Cetti's Warbler#
Red-necked Phalarope (away from	



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

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

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

# Interpretation of the Species Accounts

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

Each species heading is followed by a summary of the bird's known status and distribution within Argyll (*see* species status categories – below), together with any other relevant information.

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

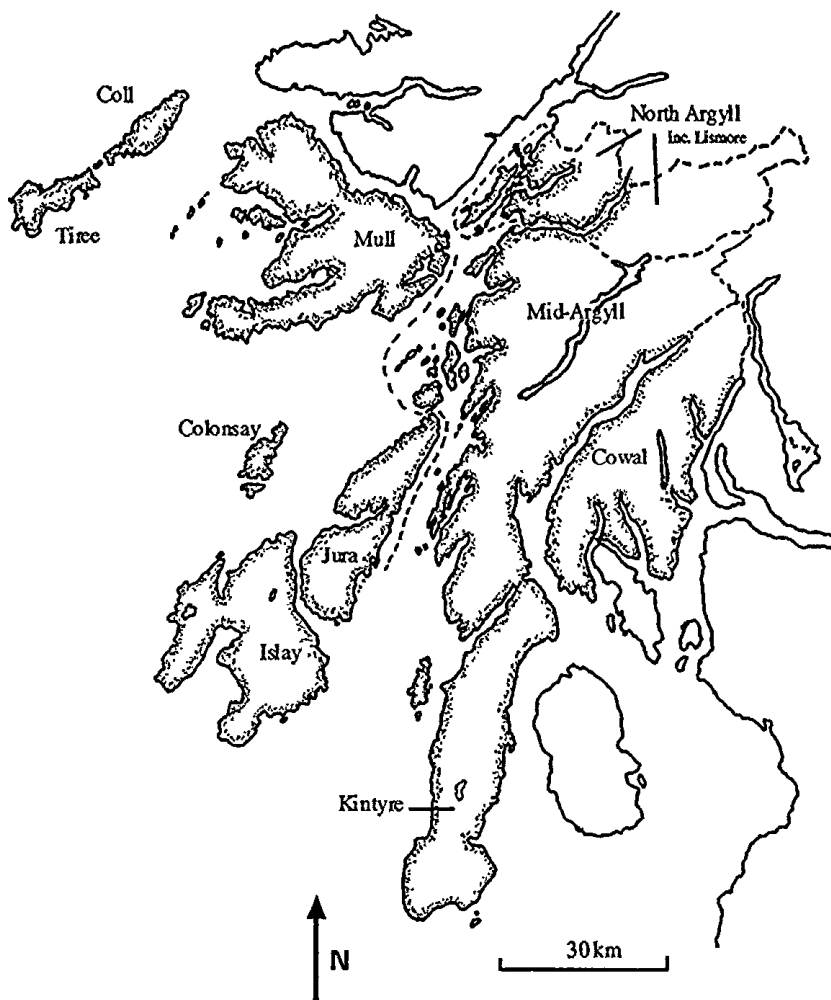
**RED LIST** is the highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action.

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

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

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

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



Map showing the recording areas of Argyll used in this report

## Place names

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

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

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

Add Estuary	Mid-Argyll	NR8093
Ardnave Loch	Islay	NR2873
Balephetrish Bay	Tiree	NM0047
Campbeltown Loch	Kintyre	NR7220
Dunoon	Cowal	NS1776
Frenchman's Rocks	Islay	NR1554
Gigha	Kintyre	NR6449
Gott Bay	Tiree	NM0546
Holy Loch	Cowal	NS1681
Iona	Mull	NM2625
Loch a' Phuill	Tiree	NL9541
Loch Awe	Mid-Argyll	NN0016
Loch Bhasapol	Tiree	NL9747
Loch Caolisport	Mid-Argyll	NR7475
Loch Creran	North-Argyll	NM9442
Loch Crinan (incl. Add Estuary)	Mid-Argyll	NR7994
Loch Don	Mull	NM7332
Loch an Eilein	Tiree	NL9843
Loch Feochan	Mid-Argyll	NM8623
Loch Fyne	Mid-Argyll	NR9386
Loch Gilp	Mid-Argyll	NR8685
Loch Gruinart	Islay	NR2868

Loch Indaal	Islay	NR2961
Loch na Keal	Mull	NM5038
Loch Riaghain	Tiree	NM0347
Loch Scridain	Mull	NM4525
Loch Sween	Mid-Argyll	NR7484
Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory)	Kintyre	NR6220
Moine Mhor (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR8192
Oban	Mid-Argyll	NM8529
Oronsay	Colonsay	NR3489
Otter Ferry	Cowal	NR9284
Outer Loch Etive (i.e. Connel Br. to Taynuilt)	North Argyll	NM9434
Sanda Island(s)	Kintyre	NR7204
Sorobaidh Bay	Tiree	NL9942
Sound of Gigha	Kintyre	NR6749
Sound of Jura	Mid-Argyll	NR6480
Sound of Mull	Mull	NM6144
Tayinloan (jetty)	Kintyre	NR6946
Taynish NNR (National Nature Reserve)	Mid-Argyll	NR7384
Treshnish Isles	Mull	NM2842

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

## **Tables**

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

Tables 1, 8 – 20 and 28 - 37 are based principally on data from the Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) and from the RSPB *Islay* database for 2012, although higher counts have been included where available. Some tables include ‘monthly maximum day-counts’ on *Tiree*. These may be at one site but often represent the total number of birds seen at two or more sites on the island on a given day. Figures 1- 3 were supplied by David Jardine.

Tables 21 - 26 and 38 are taken from the Argyll Raptor Study Group monitoring summaries produced by Roger 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 2013

(1) **Common Bird Census.** This national scheme is run by the British Trust for Ornithology and involves mapping breeding territories of common and widespread birds in around 200 selected plots throughout the United Kingdom. The aim has been to quantify trends in bird populations and it has been instrumental, for example, in drawing attention to the declines among farmland birds. The scheme has been running nationally since 1962. From 1990 until 2012 two plots in the Taynish 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 Taynish plots were among them until 2012. Because of the detailed nature of this survey and the continuity of the work (annually since 1990) at Taynish, the data provided are particularly significant for Argyll. John Halliday no longer monitors this area and therefore a new volunteer to carry on this valuable work would be very welcome.

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

**For further details see: Craik, J. C. A. (2013). Results of the mink-seabird project in 2013. Privately Published (copies available from Dr J. C. A. Craik, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA).**

(3) **Systematic sea-watching at Machrihanish SBO (*Kintyre*)** [E. J. Maguire (Warden) contact: msbowarden@yahoo.com ]. 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. A colour-ringing study of Twite is also ongoing and part of the larger UK Twite Study Project. The observatory celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.

(4) **Breeding Birds Survey (BBS).**

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) started in 1994. Its objective is to extend and improve the monitoring of population changes of common breeding birds. It now counts birds annually in more than 2,300 randomly chosen one-km squares in the UK, using a line-transect method. Results for one-km squares surveyed in Argyll have been referred to in previous reports but too few squares were covered during 2012 to yield significant results for our area. **New recruits are always needed for the BBS.** If you think you might be interested but are not sure how much time it would take or how expert you need to be, or would like to know the location of the squares needing coverage, please contact your local BTO Representative (see p. 3 for details). It is hoped to include results for Argyll in future Argyll Bird Reports.

## 5) WeBS counts.

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is the scheme which monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution and to identify important sites for waterbirds. Counts are carried out at loch, sea lochs and estuaries at monthly intervals, principally from September to March, with fewer observations in the summer months. In Argyll, regular counts currently take place at the four main freshwater lochs on *Tiree*; Loch Gruinart *Islay*; Holy Loch, Loch Melldalloch and Kilfinan Bay *Cowal*, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*; Dunstaffnage Bay, Loch Crinan, Loch Etive and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Creran *North Argyll*. These regular counts produce valuable information for conservation purposes nationally as well as for this report. We are always keen to encourage new recruits and I'm delighted to say we have recently welcomed several new WeBS counters for Argyll who will cover such sites as Loch Craignish (some counts included in this report), Loch Ederline, Loch Gilp and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Long (Ardentinnay to Strone Point) *Cowal*. Data from these sites will be included in future reports. After a period when no counts were carried out at the important site of Loch Indaal *Islay* the section from Bowmore to Gartbreck was covered in 2013 and relevant counts are included in this report.

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

## (6) Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group.

The Group have been monitoring the Treshnish Isles breeding seabirds since 1971, producing annual reports since 1996. In 2013 the expedition took place between 22 June and 29 June. They were led by Robin Ward (robin\_m.ward@tiscali.co.uk). The group based themselves around the village ruins at the northern end of Lunga, with the majority of the fieldwork taking place on Lunga and Sgeir a'Chaisteil, where an annual full seabird census, and ringing of specific colonies are carried out. The Shag ringing is registered as a BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) Project. As well as studying the seabirds, the group also carried out recording of other birds and wildlife, including mammals, and Lepidoptera. Their 2013 annual report can be downloaded from their website. [www.tiarg.org](http://www.tiarg.org)

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 1800 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently. (The only species recorded in Argyll that falls into this category is White-faced Petrel although there are seven species (Red-crested Pochard, Wilson's Petrel, American Bittern, Sora, Little Crake, Great Snipe and Pallas's Sandgrouse) that have been recorded in Britain since 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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

# Systematic List for 2013

The following systematic list includes entries for 235 Category A, B and C species recorded in Argyll during 2013 (*cf.* average 221 species during the years 1993 – 2012). Three new species were added to the Argyll list (*viz.* Black Stork, Cedar Waxwing and Water Pipit) which stood at 349 species seen up to Dec 2013. There was only one category E species recorded in 2013 (Black Swan). A further 10 notable races (sub-species) were recorded in 2013.

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

## **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor* Eala

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

***Winter/spring*** The highest count reported was 45 on *Tiree* on 15 Jan, comprising 39 during the WeBS Count at the 4 main freshwater lochs and at least 6 elsewhere. The only counts in double figures elsewhere were 16 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan and 14 (*inc.* 3 juveniles) at the Ulva lagoons (Loch Sween), *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Feb.

***Breeding/summer*** By the end of Apr a minimum of 9 nesting pairs had been located on *Tiree* (at Loch an Eilein, Loch Bhasapol (2 pairs), Loch a' Phuill (2 pairs), Loch Garradh nan Capull, Loch Caol, Loch Bhirceapol and Heylipol Church lochan) with an additional pair found at Loch a' Chlair in May. Broods found on the island included: b/5 at The Reef, b/3 at Loch a' Phuill, b/1 and b/2 at Loch Bhasapol and b/5 at Loch an Eilein in Jun and b/5 at An Fhoadhail in Jul. By contrast Clive Craik reports that only three pairs nested in the Argyll part of the SAMS study and none of them successfully raised young. Elsewhere, pairs with young were noted as follows: Aoradh *Islay* b/4 on 3 Jun; Inverlussa *Jura* b/1 on 18 Jun; Ardnave Loch *Islay* b/4 on 24 Jun; Connel *Mid-Argyll* b/1 on 4 Jul; Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* b/3 on 5 Jul; Aoradh *Islay* b/8 on 5 Jul; Loch Skerrols *Islay* b/2 on 11 Jul; Loch Striven *Cowal* b/3 on 3 Aug; Loch Long (between Ardentinny and Gairletter), *Cowal* b/4 on 15-24 Aug; RSPB Loch Gruinart b/3 on 16 Aug; Portavadie *Cowal* b/3 on 25 Aug; Tayinloan *Kintyre* b/6 on 21 Sep; Achnamara (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* b/6 on 22 Sep and 10 Nov; Aros Castle *Mull* b/1 on 24 Sep and Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* b/1 on 10 Nov.

***Winter/spring*** The highest count reported was at Loch Skerrols *Islay*, where 54 were present on 3 Nov and *Tiree* had 45 during the WeBS Count at the 4 main freshwater lochs on 3 Nov. Higher counts away from these two sites included: 32 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep and 14 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov.

## **BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

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

No records.

## WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

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

**Winter/spring** The highest count reported was 134: a *Tiree* total island count on 1 Jan, which included 105 at Loch a' Phuill. Up to 50 were recorded on *Tiree* until the end of Mar (Table 1). Fewer were recorded elsewhere but higher counts included: at least 40 at *Bridgend Islay* on 28 Mar, 36 at *Kilchattan Colonsay* also on 28 Mar, 27 at *Cornabus Islay* on 30 Mar, 16 at *West Parkfergus, Kintyre* on 31 Mar, 15 flying over *Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar and 11 at the head of *Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Up to 3 were recorded at various sites on *Islay* and *Tiree* during late May, Jun and Jul and 2 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 6 Jul but with no indication of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Early arrivals included 10 at *Dunoon Cowal* on 6 Sep, 12 at *Glenacardoch Point Kintyre* on 23 Sep and 17 at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 1 Oct. The peak count for passage birds at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* was 189 on 24 Oct and higher counts elsewhere included: 86 at *Aoradh Islay* on 23 Oct, 80 (incl.2 juveniles) at *Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov, 52 at *Loch Skerrols Islay* on 3 Nov, 44 at *Ardnave Loch Islay* on 10 Nov, 35 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 13 Oct, 25 at *Loch Gorm Islay* on 23 Oct, 25 at *The Oa Islay* on 2 Nov, 20 at *Tayinloan Kintyre* on 9 Oct, 20 at *Loch Kinnabus Islay* on 10 Oct, 17 at *RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay* on 9 Oct, 15 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 26 Oct and 15 at *Inver Cottage Jura* on 28 Oct. Later in the year, 112 (inc. 39 juveniles) were found during an all island count on *Tiree* on 9 Dec, 39 were at *Ardnave Loch Islay* on 11 Dec, 61 at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 16 Dec, 38 at *An Fhaodhail Tiree* on 28 Dec and 13 at *Ardnave Islay* on 6 Dec.

Table 1. *Maximum monthly counts of Whooper Swans on Tiree and at Loch Gruinart in 2013.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	13	2	7	2	-	2	-	-	-	64	15	1
Tiree	117	101	95	21	4	1	1	1	3	107	98	149

## BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

*A vagrant recorded in only ten of the 33 years between 1980 and 2012. Two races have occurred in Argyll: A. f. fabalis or 'Taiga' Bean Goose from northern Europe is the more frequent, and A. f. rossicus or 'Tundra' Bean Goose from further east which has occurred in Mar 2004, twice in Nov-Dec 2011 and three records from 2012.*

**'TAIGA' BEAN GOOSE** *Anser f. fabalis* and **'TUNDRA' BEAN GOOSE** *Anser f. rossicus*  
No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

## PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Gèadh-gorm

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

**Winter/spring** The largest group reported from Jan-Mar was 12 flying north over *Balephuill Tiree* on 15 Mar. The only larger flocks were 38 at *Loch Cruinn (nr. Kennacraig) Kintyre* on 12 Apr and 28 flying north high over *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. Elsewhere birds were reported in single figures from various sites in *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*.

**Breeding/summer** A single bird was at *Loch an Eilein Tiree* on 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first birds of autumn were 17 over *Corbaig Tiree* on 6 Sep. Then on 25 Sep, 45 were seen at *Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll* (24 on the mud and 21 flying SE overhead)

followed by 95 at Gott Bay *Tiree* (35 flying SE and 60 flying SW) on 26 Sep. Larger groups later in the year included: 18 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Oct, 50 at Esknish *Islay* on 28 Oct, 30 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Nov and 15 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaile (nr. Loch Gorm) *Islay* on 10 Nov. Otherwise up to 6 were seen at various locations in *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree* until early Dec: two at Ruaig *Tiree* on 6 Dec being the last of the year.

## **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons* Geadh-bhlàr

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

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

**Winter/spring** The co-ordinated count in Mar produced a total of 9,298 birds in Argyll [Table 2]. In *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,611), Clachan (168), Tayinloan (419) and Gigha (147). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (74), Ulva (116) and Moine Mhor (16) [SNH Goose Project]. This is a welcome increase on last year's total of 8,133, which was the lowest spring count in Argyll for many years.

Significant counts elsewhere included 530 at The Oa *Islay* on 12 Mar, 450 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 400 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb, 73 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 12 Mar, 55 at Loch a' Chnuic Bhric *Jura* on 12 Jan and 48 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 15 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** No reports were received concerning the introduced population on *Islay*, and the only summer record concerned one at Barrapol *Tiree* on 8 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** The first reported returning birds were on 29 Sep, when 12 were at Aoradh *Islay* and 4 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll*. By 9 Oct there were 300 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 474 there the next day. In the following days, 70 were at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 10 Oct, 18 at New Danna (Loch Sween) on 10 Oct, 230 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 15 at *Colonsay* on 14 Oct.

The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 9,247 birds in Argyll [Table 3]. The *Kintyre* birds were at: The Laggan (1,617), Tayinloan (561), Clachan (75), Gigha (92), and Glenbarr (3). In *Mid-Argyll* birds were at: Danna (31), Ulva (81) with none at Keills or Moine Mhor. In *North Argyll*, 60 were at Ardnaclach, Appin on 16 Dec.

Table 2. *Number of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in spring (per Tracey Johnston SNH). March 2013.*

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,345	206	52	25	255	927	64	0	5,449	0

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

Table 3. *Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in winter (per Tracey Johnston SNH). December 2013.*

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,348	112	93	31*	136	658	n/r	0	5,869	0

\*counted on 4 Nov.

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

**Spring** One adult was at Kilchiaran *Islay* on 6 Apr [Malcolm Ogilvie, Bob Davison]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

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

*A vagrant with two records: both on Islay in Mar 1980 and Mar 1986.*

No records.

**GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* Gèadh-glas

**AMBER LIST A resident:** *with an increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as ‘British/Irish’ and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.*

**Winter/spring** An all-island count on *Tiree* on 15 Jan found 2,871 birds and 662 were counted on floodwater at Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 22 Feb. In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 5,205 birds in Argyll, of which 2,638 (50.7%) were on *Tiree* [Table 4]. Larger counts elsewhere included: 205 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, 167 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 149 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 145 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb, 135 *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, 107 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb, 95 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 7 Mar, 92 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 3 Jan, 83 at Duine (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan and 70 at Loch Caithlim (Seil Island) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** In Jun, large numbers of broods were noted on *Tiree*, including 33 broods at Loch a’ Phuill with a mean brood size of 2.85 and 75 broods checked on the island in Jul had a mean brood size of 3.02. At least 17 pairs found on on *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) in Jun had 50 or more goslings. In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Clive Craik found evidence of at least 9 pairs breeding at 5 sites and at least 10 broods of goslings were reported from *Islay*. Broods of young were also reported from several other locations in *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** The peak count on *Tiree* was 2,480 on 19 Nov. Larger counts elsewhere included: 985 between Gartbreck and Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Sep, 708 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 27 Sep, 185 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 12 Nov, 161 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 154 near Kiloran *Colonsay* on 11 Oct, 133 at Inveresragan (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 10 Nov and 121 at Eilean na h-Uamha (Ulva) *Mull* on 26 Sep. The co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 4,547 birds in Argyll, of which 2,313 (50.9%) were on *Tiree* [Table 5].

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

**Mar 2013.**

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,285	144	10	0	365	2,638	135	13	534	14

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

**Dec 2013.**

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,098	133	10	0	315	2,313	n/r	0	631	47

## **SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens* Gèadh-bàn

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

**Winter/spring** An adult blue-morph bird first seen at Westport Marsh Kintyre on 5 Mar was present in the area until at least 8 Apr.

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

**Autumn/winter** On 16 Oct two were found with Greenland White-fronted Geese at Tayinloan Kintyre. One was a white morph individual and the other was described by different observers as either blue or intermediate morph. They were subsequently seen at various localities in mid Kintyre until at least 6 Dec.

## **GREATER CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis* Gèadh-dubh

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

**Winter/spring** During the WeBS Count at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Jan 220 were counted. Other larger flocks reported included: 146 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, 137 at Dunadd (Moine Mhor) on 7 Jan, 120 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 120 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 115 grazing at Dunamuck (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Feb, 110 at the head of Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan and 96 at Ardnaclach (Appin) *North Argyll* on 15 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, Clive Craik found evidence of breeding for at least 44 nesting pairs at 14 sites. On *Colonsay* six pairs were found with broods of young on The Strand on 6/7 Apr and 3 pairs with well grown goslings were found at Ardencaple House (Seil Island) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug. Adults and young were also reported from: Duntrune Castle (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May, Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jun, Portavadie *Cowal* on 17 Jun and the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** The highest number reported at this time was 235 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct. Other larger flocks reported included: 195 at Dunadd (Moine Mhor) on 23 Dec, 155 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 17 Dec, 106 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 103 during the WeBS Count at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul, 90 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 11 Oct, 71 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov.

## **LESSER CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis interior/parvipes*

*Also known as Todd's Canada these distinct races are being considered by the BBRC. The race interior breeds NE Canada from Hudson Bay to Baffin Island and NW Greenland wintering in SE USA. The race parvipes breeds W Alaska, E to Yukon Territory and most winter Washington and Oregon.*

**Winter/spring** The adult bird of the race *interior* known as 'Todd's Canada' remained at Rhunahaorine, Kintyre from 2012 until 20 Mar [John Nadin, Angus McNab, Angus Murray] and was accepted by the BBRC.

## LESSER CANADA GOOSE *Branta hutchinsi/minima*

*Although there have been many claims over the years of birds of this type, especially on Islay, there are currently no records accepted by the BOURC. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these birds.*

**Winter/spring** On Islay there were 16 reports of single birds between 8 Jan and 26 Apr with probably only one or perhaps two individuals involved. Most reports assigned to race were *hutchinsii* and one reported as *minima*.

**Autumn/winter** On Islay there were 2 *hutchinsii* at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 9 Oct with 1 there on 16 and 25 Oct.

## BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

**AMBER LIST** *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinn of Islay.*

**Winter/spring** In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 53,585 birds in Argyll; only slightly down on last year's high count of 54,453. The great majority (44,854) of these were on Islay. The peak winter count on Tiree was 4,567 on 11/12 Feb and other large flocks, not covered by the co-ordinated goose counts, included: 3,000 between Gartbreck and Bowmore Islay on 24 Jan, 1,740 at Ardnave Islay on 27 Feb, 1,170 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) Colonsay on 15 Jan, 510 on Luing Mid-Argyll on 19 Jan, 269 at Kiloran Meadows Colonsay on 12 Feb and 91 on Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura) Jura on 24 Mar. The last flocks of spring were 70 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 4 May and 76 at Kilmoluaig/Cornaigmore Tiree on 6 May and a late individual was at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 26 May.

**Summer** On Tiree, two birds were at An Talla (Crossapol) on 7 Jun, one of which had a damaged wing and one was at Loch Aulraig on 24 Aug. A lone individual was seen at various places on Islay from early Jul to the end of Aug.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning birds on Islay were 3 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Sep but the main arrival was during the first week of Oct and a count there on 9 Oct found 31,570 birds. Oronsay Colonsay had 400 birds on 9 Oct, 348 (a record day total) flew over Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 9 Oct, a total of 69 flew over Tiree on 10 Oct and 3 were at Ulva Lagoons (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll on 10 Oct. The peak count on Tiree was 3,450 during the all island goose count on 16/17 Dec and 770 were counted on Luing Mid-Argyll on 30 Nov. By the time of the co-ordinated count in Dec, Islay had 38,994 birds, which accounted for 88.9 % of the Argyll total of 43,837 birds

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

**Mar 2013.**

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
4	704	0	980	4,518	980	1,362	44,854	183

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

**Dec 2013.**

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
27	531	0	835	3,450	n/r	2,750	36,244	0

## Hybrid BARNACLE X CANADA GOOSE

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

No records.

## BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

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

**Winter/spring** The only records during Jan and Feb were from *Islay*, with monthly maxima of 32 at Bridgend Bay on 2 Jan and 24 at Bowmore on 14 Feb. Records in Mar included: 20 at Mucraidh *Jura* on 3 Mar, one at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 5 Mar and 25 at Gortan *Islay* on 18 Mar. Larger numbers were reported in late Apr/early May including: a total on 195 of *Tiree* on 21 Apr, 320 at Baugh *Tiree* on 28 Apr, 76 at Gortan *Islay* (incl. 5 with coloured rings) on 28 Apr, 90 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Apr, 41 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 30 Apr, 92 (incl. a ringed bird which had wintered on Angelsey) at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 1 May, 150 flying N over Baugh *Tiree* also on 1 May, 38 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 May and 120 on *Tiree* (110 Gott Bay, 10 Balephetrish Bay) on 6 May when also 7 at Balvicar (Seil) was the only *Mid-Argyll* for the year. Elsewhere, 4 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Apr. Single figure numbers were present on *Islay* until the end of May.

**Summer** Five were seen at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 13 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first of autumn were: 2 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 1 Sep, 4 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 3 Sep and 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Sep. Larger numbers later in the year included: 25 flying south at Portnahaven *Islay* on 1 Sep, 176 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Sep, 27 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 120 at the head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 6 Oct, 14 at Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct, 29 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 24 Oct, 25 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Oct, 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Nov, 42 at Bowmore *Islay* on 6 Dec and 53 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 11 Dec. The only record from *Mull* concerned 3 at Calgary on 22 Sep and away from *Kintyre*, there were no mainland records.

## RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*

*A vagrant: an adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001 and another adult on Islay from Oct 2012 into 2013.*

**Winter/spring** The adult first seen at Kilchoman *Islay* on 21 Oct 2012 remained on the island at various locations around Loch Gorm and Loch Gruinart *Islay* until 19 Apr.

## COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Crà-ghèadh

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

**Winter/spring** Counts of 10 or more birds, apart from those shown in Table 8, included: 363 at Ardnave *Islay* on 11 Feb, 312 at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Apr, 109 during an all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* on 3 Feb, 80 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 May, 45 at Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 5 Mar, 35 east of Salum *Tiree* on 23 May, 18 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 1 Apr, 17 at Gortinanane (nr Tayinloan) *Kintyre* on 9 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** At least 11 broods, totalling 101 young, were found on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 37 ducklings hatched in the Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* area in the period May to July



(mean brood size (7 prs) = 5.4). Pairs with broods of young were also reported from: Iona *Mull*, Carradale Bay *Kintyre*, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*, Hynish *Tiree*, Loch na Keal *Mull*, Dearach *Mull*, Kilbride Farm *Cowal*, Bruichladdich *Islay*, Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Machir Bay *Islay* and Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Apart from those in Table 8 the largest counts were: 20 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 7 Nov, 16 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Aug and 10 at Salum *Tiree* on 28 Nov.

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

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	335	363	290	318	208	99	12	0	15	19	69	183
Indaal*	8	20	21	12	18	13	10	4	3	0	0	5
Craignish	10	n/r	23	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sween	3	24	31	7	n/r	2	0	0	0	0	1	3

\* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck.

### MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

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

Reported regularly from the area around Ford *Mid-Argyll*, with a maximum of 9 on 14 Dec. The only count from Lock Eck *Cowal* was of 19 (11 males/8 females) at Coylet on 1 Nov.

### EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope* Glas-lach

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

**Winter/spring** Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 9, included: 325 found on *Tiree* during an all-island coastal survey on 2 Feb, 120 at Loch Gearach *Islay* on 4 Jan, 114 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Mar, 82 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jan, 78 at Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 12 Feb, 72 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 12 Mar, 55 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 3 Jan and 53 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan. There were still 310 at Aoradh (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 13 May.

**Breeding/summer** The only confirmed breeding record concerned 3 broods of young (b/1, b/3, b/4) found at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 24 Jun. Pairs seen at Loch an Eilein and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in May were not present later in the breeding season. Birds were present at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in May and Jun but with no evidence of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 9, included: 400 on Lochan na Nigheadaireachd *Islay* on 3 Nov, 350 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 14 Oct, 221 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 86 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov, 54 on Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov and 50 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Dec.

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

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	88	181	204	46	2	0	0	0	38	225	151	212
Indaal**	210	161	60	4	0	0	0	0	6	5	241	176
Crinan	n/r	55	54	13	0	0	0	11	155	274	335	116
Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Etive	60	67	68	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	18	115	85	70
Sween	99	88	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	26	112	110	37
Holy Loch	104	87	68	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	8	57	95	107
Tiree	162	161	261	97	8	0	1	13	14	128	337	213

\* Including Loch Gruinart Floods \*\* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck.

### AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

**A vagrant with nine or more previous Argyll records: all since 1989 and all of single males. Records in the Loch Craignish/Loch Crinan area between 1998 and 2004 were attributed to a single returning individual.**

No records.

### GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach-ghlas

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

**Winter/spring** Birds were reported regularly at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, where numbers peaked at 8 on 21 Apr. The only other records were on Oronsay *Colonsay*, where two males and a female were present late Apr and May, on *Tiree* where pairs were present during Apr and May at several sites and at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* with a pair on 6 May.

**Breeding/summer** Pairs were present at at least two sites on *Tiree* and a female with a brood of 10 young was found at Loch a' Phuill on 26 Jun. A female with a brood of 5 young was found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Jun and is the first recorded breeding from *Colonsay*. Pairs were also reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* during the breeding season but with no confirmation of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Up to 6 were reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from Oct to Dec. Five were on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Aug and odd birds were seen there until the end of Dec. The only record elsewhere concerned a flock of 7 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Oct.

### EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca* Crann-lach

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

**Winter/spring** An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* on 2 Feb found a total of 396 birds.

Other than this the only counts of 50 or more birds, at sites other than those listed in table 10, were: 240 at Lag an Traghaidh (nr Ballinaby) *Islay* on 15 Feb, 211 at Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 19 Mar, 205 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 12 Feb, 82 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 28 Feb, 80 at Loch Gearch *Islay* on 4 Jan and 65 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** At least 15 pairs were at likely breeding locations on *Tiree* in May and a female with a brood of 7 young was seen at Loch Garradh nan Capull on 3 Jul. Pairs were also seen in the breeding season at at RSPB Loch Gruinart and at The Powder Dams *Cowal*.

**Autumn/winter** Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in table 10, included: c.1000 on Lochan na Nigheadaireachd *Islay* on 3 Nov, 515 at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Sep, 160 at An Fhoadhail *Tiree* on 7 Nov, 155 in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct, 150 on Oronsay

Colonsay on 22 Dec, 114 at Holy Loch Cowal on 18 Dec, 100 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 27 Sep and 68 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 17 Dec.

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

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	423	65	448	353	21	0	5	0	228	588	29	66
Indaal**	360	51	42	18	2	0	0	7	5	36	260	296
Crinan	n/r	24	16	8	0	0	0	25	86	61	158	83
Tiree	148	171	295	108	n/r	n/r	n/r	95	109	174	111#	178

\* Including Loch Gruinart Floods \*\* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck. # Many more feeding around the coast and on floods.

### **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas carolinensis*

*A rare visitor from North America with 17 or more accepted records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.*

**Winter/spring** Three males on Tiree with one at Loch a' Phuill on 11 to 15 Mar, another there on 7 to 20 Apr and one at Loch an Eilein on 9 to 15 Apr [John Bowler]. A male was on Oronsay Colonsay on 4 to 12 May and is a first record for these islands [Mike Peacock, David Mason, Izzy Baker].

**Winter** A male was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 27 Nov to 31 Dec [John Bowler]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

### **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach-riabhach

*A common breeding, passage and wintering species*

**Winter/spring** Other than those listed in Table 11, the only count of 50 or more birds reported was 50 at Loch Skerrols Islay on 23 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** At least 15 broods of young were reported on Oronsay Colonsay and several broods of young were reported at RSPB Ardnave and RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay.

Pairs with young were also reported from: Kilail, Loch Melldalloch, Otter Ferry and Powder Dams (2) Cowal, Machrihanish Kintyre and several sites on Tiree.

**Autumn/winter** The only counts exceeding 50, other than those listed in Table 12, were: 80 at Ardencaple House (Seil) Mid-Argyll on 25 Sep, 63 at Ederline (nr Ford) Mid-Argyll on 14 Dec and 61 at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 15 Dec.

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

*Numbers at most sites were again lower than in recent years.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	210	100	86	60	51	1	30	0	7	169	162	202
Indaal**	52	6	42	20	10	1	0	6	48	27	57	53
Creran	37	27	69	19	6	n/r	3	0	12	24	20	13
Etive	9	48	57	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	62	112	162	180
Holy Loch	114	86	71	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	142	76	155	72
Tiree	70	64	63	40	2	7	8	48	51	39#	4#	29#

\* Including Loch Gruinart Floods \*\* WeBS Counts for Bowmore to Gartbreck. # Many more around the coast and on smaller pools.

### **AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** *Anas rubripes*

***A vagrant: one was at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree on 15 Jun 2001.***

No records.

### **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* Lach-stiùireach

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

**Winter/spring** The highest count was 64 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Feb. No more than 2 were seen on *Tiree* from Jan to Mar and the only records elsewhere concerned a pair flying in off the sea at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Feb and single birds at Holy Loch *Cowal* in Feb and Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Up to seven pairs were present on *Tiree* during the breeding season: nest with 9 eggs found on 16 May and two broods of young noted in Jul. Pairs were present at RSPB Ardnave & RSPB Loch Gruinart during Apr and May but with no evidence of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Numbers on *Tiree* peaked at 19 at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Aug and one or two remained there until early Dec. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* had 5 flying south on 16 Sep, 3 female types on 2 Oct and 8 female types together on 20 Oct. A single female at Loch Craighlin (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct was the first Pintail recorded during WeBS Counts at Loch Sween.

Table 12. *Maximum monthly counts of Pintails at RSPB Loch Gruinart (including Loch Gruinart Floods), Islay.*

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	62	64	55	16	2	0	0	0	0	44	23	93

### **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

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

**Spring** Single drakes were present at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 and 13 May and at Ruaig *Tiree* on 13 May. A pair were seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Jun.

**Autumn** Records in Argyll at this time are very unusual so a female/immature seen among Eurasian Teal at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Oct was a surprise find.

### **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** *Anas discors*

***A vagrant: two or three 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.***

No records.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Away from *Islay* and *Tiree* [Table 13] there were records at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* (a drake 17-21 Feb & 10 Mar), Chiscan (The Laggan) *Kintyre* (2 drakes 26 Feb-15 Mar), Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (pair on 9 Apr) and on Oronsay *Colonsay* (a male and female on various dates in Apr and May).

**Breeding/summer** At least 13 pairs were found nesting at 11 sites on *Tiree* and at least two broods of young were seen. Pairs were located at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at least five broods of young were seen. A nest and eggs were found at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 May and at least one brood of young was located on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** The only records away from *Islay* and *Tiree* concerned single birds on Oronsay *Colonsay* during Jul.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Gruinart	21	8	12	23	12	14	17	0	6	29	54	36
Tiree	21	18	20	18	26	n/r	n/r	8	1	2	7	14

### **COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* Lach-mhàsach

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

**Winter/spring** The only records concerned single birds at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 17 Jan and 16 Mar and at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 15 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** A drake flew S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Jul. Up to 3 were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Oct and Nov and a drake was present at various sites on *Colonsay* during Nov and Dec. On *Islay*, 8 were seen at Loch Ballygrant on 12 Nov and a single bird was at Ardnave Loch on 29 Nov and 11 Dec.

### **RING-NECKED DUCK** *Aythya collaris*

*A rare visitor from North America: the first accepted record in Argyll was in 1982, with at least 18 further records to 2012.*

**Spring** A second calendar year female was at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 1 to 4 May [Mary McGregor, James How, Jim Dickson et al]. Record accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca*

*A vagrant: a drake was at Loch Bhasapol, Tiree on 21 to 29 Apr 2003.*

No records.

### **TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula* Lach-thopach

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

**Winter/spring** Other than those listed in Table 14, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Leathan *Islay* with 16 on 15 Jan, Loch Kinnabus *Islay* max. 16 on 15 Apr, Kilchurn Castle (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* 12 on 22 Feb, Glenastle *Islay* 12 on 25 Mar and Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 7 Mar. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere, in *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*.

**Breeding/summer** *Tiree* had a good breeding season with ca 20 pairs present in May and at least 6 broods of young located in Jul. Six pairs were present at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, females with broods of young were also reported from Loch Kinnabus *Islay* and Ardencaple House (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* and pairs were reported during the breeding season elsewhere on *Islay* and in *Cowal* and on *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** Other than those listed in Table 14, the only sites with counts of 10 or more were: Loch Gorm *Islay* with 52 on 13 Sep, Loch Skerrols *Islay* 14 on 30 Oct, Ardencaple House (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* 12 on 25 Sep, Lower Glenastle Loch *Islay* 12 on 16 Dec and East Loch Fada *Colonsay* 10 on 27 Nov. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere on *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Colonsay* and in *Cowal*.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ardnave	1	10	8	n/r	21	7	n/r	7	n/r	3	4	5
Tiree	80	93	112	94	21	6	1	6	10	33	80	89

## **GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila* Lach-mhara

**RED LIST A** *winter visitor and passage migrant with large numbers wintering at Loch Indaal (Islay): a site of national importance, but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn sea-watches.*

**Winter/spring** The only records away from *Islay* concerned one or two birds on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Jan and Feb.

**Breeding/summer** A pair was present on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* 18-21 May and a female was there in late Jul/early Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Records away from *Islay* comprised: 7 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, an immature at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in late Sep and Oct and one or two birds at the Powder Dams *Cowal* on various dates from 24 Oct to 2 Dec.

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

Loch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Indaal	135	50	7	6	4	0	0	n/r	132	95	158	n/r

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

## **LESSER SCAUP** *Aythya affinis*

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

No records.

## **COMMON EIDER** *Somateria mollissima* Lach-Lochlannach

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

**Winter/spring** An all-island coastal survey on *Tiree* on 2/3 Feb found a total of 347 birds.

Other than this the only counts of 50 or more birds, at sites other than those listed in table 16, were: 85 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Feb and 54 between Bowmore and Gartbreck (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 13 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** In the Argyll part of the SAMS study area, 153 nests/clutches were found at 19 sites but this did not included the large colony at Burnt Islands (Kyles of Bute) *Cowal*, which was not monitored in 2013. (In 2012 it held 238 nests or 69% of the Argyll total). In all, 69 ducklings were hatched in the Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* area in May – Jul. Adults with young

were also noted as follows: *Colonsay* (incl. Oronsay) (10 or more sites), *Cowal* (3 sites), *Islay* (4 sites), *Kintyre* (1site), *Mid-Argyll* (1site), *Mull* (1site on Treshnish Isles) and *Tiree* (3 sites).

**Autumn/winter** At the time of writing, the report of the co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde for 2013 had yet to be published. The highest counts at Otter Ferry *Cowal* were 588 on 6 Aug, 980 on 22 Sep and 640 on 28 Nov. Away from the sites listed in Table 16, counts of over 50 included: 205 off Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 31 Jul, 169 counted in flat calm conditions from the pier at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Nov, 150 displaying noisily in Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 21 Oct, 140 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec, 95 heading west in 1 hour off Aird *Tiree* on 5 Dec, 79 at Queens Bay *Colonsay* on 22 Nov, 71 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov and 51 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 23 Nov.

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

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	54	51	23	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	43	107	30	63
Creran	53	46	37	27	16	n/r	34	84	212	133	33	42
Long*	n/r	n/r	n/r	21	63	114	n/r	113	207	166	109	116
S.of Gigha	68	60	n/r	n/r	18	n/r	105	431	55	48	36	5

\* Ardentinnay to Strone Point

#### **‘NORTHERN’ COMMON EIDER** *Somateria mollissima borealis*

*No previous Argyll records of this Eider sub-species which breeds in Greenland and northern Canada.*

2012. A record from *Tiree* in April is still under consideration by the BBRC.

2013. No records.

#### **KING EIDER** *Somateria spectabilis*

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

No records.

#### **HARLEQUIN DUCK** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

*A vagrant: a female was at Claggain Bay, Islay on 20 to 30 Oct 1987 and was only the fifth Scottish record.*

No records.

#### **LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* Eun-buchainn

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

**Winter/spring** The largest numbers recorded were on *Tiree*, where up to 18 were counted in Hough Bay, with 3 more at Balephetrish Bay, on 2 Feb. The highest count in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* was 18 on 9 Feb. On *Islay*, 15 were counted at Bridgend Merse on 10 Feb and 12 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) 30 Apr. Elsewhere, 3 were off Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 8 Jan, 2 were at Otter Ferry on 12 Mar, one was at Ardentinnay *Cowal* on 15 Feb and at least one was at Eilean da

Ghallagain (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 6 Mar. A drake in breeding plumage was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first was a female type bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 14 Oct. The highest counts at regular sites were 18 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Dec, 15 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Nov and 13 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Nov. Elsewhere, 2 were at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on various dates in Nov, 2 near Bowmore *Islay* on 10 Nov, 2 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 6 Dec and singles at Machrihanish SBO on 6 Nov and on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Nov.

## COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach-bheag-dhubh

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

**Winter/spring** The highest count was 200 in a tight raft off Laggan Point (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 4 Jun. Machrihanish SBO had 30 flying south in three flocks on 8 May, a flock of 18 on 28 May and a total of 188 on 10 dates in Jun (well above average here). Larger counts elsewhere included: 17 at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 23 Jan, 15 at Otter Ferry spit *Cowal* on 29 Jun, 9 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 7 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 3 Mar. Smaller numbers widely reported elsewhere included 3 flying north at Slaterich (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May.

**Breeding/summer** Unusually large numbers were recorded at various locations in Jun but no evidence of breeding was reported anywhere in Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** A total of 26 flew south past Machrihanish SBO in 3 hours on 12 Nov and smaller numbers were seen there regularly from Jul to Nov. Numbers built up on Loch Indaal *Islay* from early Sep and the peak count was 80 on 4 Nov. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere, from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	98	67	27	186	50	200	0	0	50	50	80	n/r
Sound of Gigha	40	58	n/r	n/r	n/r	140	37	25	1	n/r	50	1

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

## SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

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

**Summer/autumn** A drake, probably second calendar year, was on the sea with a flock of Common Scoters near Rhunhaorine Point (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 26 Jun and seen on several dates to 26 Jul. An adult drake was off Ardnave Point *Islay* on 23 Oct.

## VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

**AMBER LIST** *Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha, and in much smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay. The wintering population in the Sound of Gigha is now much reduced from the population in the 1970s when over 50 were present. Now Red Listed as a 'Threatened' species – all records required.*



**Spring** Regularly reported, in ones and twos, in the Sound of Gigha and on *Tiree* during Jan-May. Single birds also reported from Bridgend Merse *Islay*, Creag a' Guail (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, Ardachoil (Loch Spelve) *Mull*, and Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre*.

**Summer/autumn** A drake was seen with Common Scoters at West Coast Salmon (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 26 Jun, 2 drakes were with Common Eiders at West Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Jul and 4 were off Garmony Point *Mull* on 20 Jul.

**Winter** Eight were seen off Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 6 Dec.

## **COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* Lach-bhreac

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

**Winter/spring** By far the highest count was at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* where 97 were found at Ormsary on 8 Feb. Sites with counts of 10 or more elsewhere (other than those in Table 18) included: 45 at the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* 1 Feb, 16 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Feb, 40 in Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Feb, 18 in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb, 29 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, 15 in a tight group on Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 Mar, 14 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 9 Jan, 12 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 10 Mar, 11 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar, 10 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 13 Jan and 10 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr. Smaller numbers were reported from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*.

**Breeding/summer** Birds recorded at Loch Melldalloch *Mid-Argyll* and RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in mid-May, were almost certainly late migrants and there was no evidence of breeding anywhere in *Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** An early returning bird was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep but there were no further records until 14 – 22 Oct, when birds were widely reported. The highest count was at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* where 47 were found at Ormsary on 7 Dec. Other than those in Table 18, the only site with a count of 10 or more was Ardnave Loch *Islay* with 14 on 1 Dec. Smaller numbers were reported from all recording areas except *Coll*, *Jura* and *Mull*.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
L. Creran	9	9	23	7		0	0	7
L. Indaal	16	20	3	8		2	1	1
L. Etive	7	8	8	n/r		0	0	9
L. Sween	30	30	n/r	n/r		0	22	32
Holy L.	8	2	2	n/r		0	3	7
Tiree	44	53	41	1		1	9	20

## **SMEW** *Mergus albellus* Siolta-bhreac

**A rare winter visitor: last records were at Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie), Mull on 16 May 2004 and off Bowmore, Islay on 21 Dec 2012.**

No records.

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Siolta-dhearg

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

**Winter/spring** Counts of 10 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 19, included: 54 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 27 Feb, 51 at Loch na Keal Mull on 22 Feb, 50 at Gartnagrenach Bay (West Loch Tarbert) Kintyre on 23 Apr, 40 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 3 Mar, 20 at Ballimore Cowal on 16 Jan, 16 at Knipoch (Loch Feochan) Mid-Argyll on 9 Jan, 16 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 30 May, 13 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 14 Jan, 13 at Blairmore (Loch Long) Cowal on 21 Apr, 12 near Aros Castle Mull on 19 Apr, 12 at Loch Glp Mid-Argyll on 9 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Eleven were at the Strand Colonsay on 29 Jun. A female with with a very large crèche of 43 chicks was seen at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 27 Jul. The only brood of young reported on Tiree, was b/4 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 4 Aug. Broods of young were also noted at: Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll, Otter Ferry Cowal and Ballimore Cowal.

**Autumn/winter** Counts of 10 or more, other than at sites listed in Table 19, included: 120 at Ballure Kintyre on 11 Jul, 43 at Inverneill Island (Loch Fyne) Mid-Argyll on 2 Sep, 38 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 6 Dec, 34 at Salum Bay Tiree on 14 Oct, 30 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 21 Sep, 28 at The Strand Colonsay on 25 Sep, 20 at the head of Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 9 Nov, 20 at Hough Bay Tiree on 17 Nov, 19 in Skipness Bay Kintyre on 5 Sep, 17 at New Danna (Loch Sween) Mid-Argyll on 13 Oct, 15 at Caolas Mor (Oronsay) Colonsay on 13 Oct, 13 at Kilfinan Bay Cowal on 14 Oct, 12 at Ledaig North Argyll on 24 Nov, 11 at Dunstaffnage Bay Mid-Argyll on 24 Jul and 10 at Scarisdale Point Mull on 27 Jul.

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

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	9	4	17	15	8	0	4	7	21	51	33	4
Indaal	52	26	12	14	63	42	2	28	64	30	81	3
Craignish	15	n/r	14	14	19	36	n/r	63	66	39	63	29
Crinan	n/r	16	6	28	n/r	n/r	n/r	58	74	14	28	16
Sween	8	15	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/t	n/r	24	19	22	6
Creran	13	7	7	12	4	0	8	6	30	6	8	4
S.of Gigha	20	13	n/r	n/r	14	141	120	140	4	37	18	0

\* Including Loch Gruinart Floods

## GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* Siolta

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

**Winter/spring** The largest counts reported were, 6 at Loch an Losgainn Mor (nr Kilmelford) Mid-Argyll on 31 Mar, 4 at Loch Etive Mid-Argyll on 9 Feb, 4 at Evanachan Cowal on 14 Feb, 4 at Kilchurn Castle (Loch Awe) Mid-Argyll on 19 Feb and 4 at Ford Mid-Argyll on 20 Mar. Records elsewhere were widespread and up to 3 were seen at various sites in: Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll.

**Breeding/summer** Females with broods of young were seen at Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 22 May, Portavadie *Cowal* on 16 Jun and Ormidale (Loch Riddon) *Cowal* on 6 Aug. 23 were seen from the Kyles of Bute viewpoint *Cowal* on 26 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The largest numbers reported were at Loch Riddon *Cowal* with counts of 88 on 6 Aug, 109 on 19 Aug, 89 on 26 Aug and 118 on 6 Sep. Nowhere else had 10 or more birds but single figure counts included: 9 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 10 Sep, 8 during the WeBS Count at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep, 7 at Loch Caithlim (Seil Island) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct, 6 in the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug and 6 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 17 Oct. Elsewhere, up to four were reported from various sites in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

### **RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

**A vagrant: four records since 1984, the most recent was at Claddach Loch, Islay on 12th May 1999.**

No records.

### **RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus scotica* Coileach-fraoich

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

**Winter/spring** On *Islay*, birds were reported from: Storakaig, Creag na Feannaige (The Oa), Rinns of Islay, RSPB Loch Gruinart, Lower Glenastle Loch and Ardnave. Elsewhere, one or two birds were reported from: Barr Iola (nr Otter Ferry) *Cowal*, Beinn a' Chaolais *Jura*, Lochan Coire Thoraigh (Glen Orchy) *North Argyll* and Cnoc an Tobair (nr Kennacraig) *Kintyre* and 6 were at Cnoc an Lochain (nr Kennacraig) *Kintyre* on 16 May.

**Breeding** Pairs were seen during the breeding season at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Ardnave *Islay* and Loch Airigh na Creige (Eredine) *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** One or two were reported from: Oronsay *Colonsay*, The Oa *Islay*, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Bolsa *Islay* and Gallanach (nr Oban) *Mid-Argyll*. Three were on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct and 4 at Loch a' Choire Dhoinn (nr Creagan) *North Argyll* on 31 Aug.

### **PTARMIGAN** *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

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

**Winter/spring** One was seen near the boundary of the Argyll recording area, at Meall an Fhudair (nr Loch Sloy) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar, two were on Beinn Chuirn *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar and one was on Ben Lui *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Ben Buie *Mull* on 11 Oct, 2 were at Stob Diamh (Ben Cruachan) *North Argyll* on 12 Oct, 6 on Beinn Narnain *Cowal* on 13 Oct, 15 on Beinn Fhionnlaidh *North Argyll* on 17 Nov and 19 at Glas Bheinn Mhor (Bheinn Mhor) *North Argyll* on 1 Dec.

### **BLACK GROUSE** *Tetrao tetrix* Caoileach-dubh

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

**Winter/spring** The only records concerned a male flushed at Strone *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb, one calling at Barr Laggan (nr Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 28 Feb and 1 Mar (the first heard here for at least 15 years), 2 at Loch Cruinn (nr Claonaig) *Kintyre* on 12 Apr, one near Loch Arail *Kintyre* on 12 May and 2 near Spion Kop *Kintyre* on 17 May.

**CAPercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille

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

No records.

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

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

Birds surviving from releases on *Islay* were widely reported, including 16 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan. Birds were also reported from near Oban *Mid-Argyll* in Mar and Jun, Loch Striven *Cowal* in Apr, Kiloran Lodge *Colonsay* in May, Craigendive (Loch Striven) *Cowal* in Jun and on *Colonsay* in Oct. On 5 Oct, 25 were seen wandering about on the A83 near Rhunahaorine *Kintyre*, just asking to be run over!

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix* Cearc-thomain

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

No records.

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

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

*Summer* After a good year for Quail in Argyll in 2012 there was just a single record: a calling bird at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 Jul.

**COMMON PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus* Easag

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

Large numbers were reported on *Islay* and there were records from all Argyll recording areas. On Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* around 2,300 poults were released in Jul. Breeding was confirmed on *Islay* and *Tiree*.

**GOLDEN PHEASANT** *Chrysolophus pictus*

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

No records.

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

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

*Winter/spring* Reported widely in small numbers: around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more sheltered areas. Particular concentrations occur in certain favoured locations, such as: 14 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 11 Jan, 10 at *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 13 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Feb, 48 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Feb, 15 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 3 Mar and 12 there on 5 May, 8 (of which 4 were immatures) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Jun.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported at breeding sites from about mid-Mar until late Aug. Breeding was suspected on several lochs throughout Argyll (details in database), but numbers, population trend, and breeding success are uncertain. Some lochs have rafts for red-throated divers and breeding success at sites with rafts tends to be higher than at sites without rafts. Numbers currently breeding in *Kintyre* seem to be larger than previously thought, based on recent survey work for possible wind farm sites. However, no areas in Argyll have been designated Special Protection Areas for breeding red-throated divers.

**Autumn/winter** Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas apart from innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported a total of 79 birds flying south on 16 dates in Sep, with 32 in seven hours on 17 Sep. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported a total of 73 on 13 dates in Oct. There were 36 birds at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Nov, 60 in the Sound of *Islay* on 17 Nov, and 58 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Nov.

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

AMBER LIST A *very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds. Knapdale Lochs Special Protection Area is designated for breeding black-throated divers.*

**Winter/spring** Birds were widely distributed in very small numbers around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast especially in more marine areas. Larger groups included: 19 in Claonaig Bay *Kintyre* on 3 Jan, 8 seen from the *Islay* to Kennacraig ferry on 15 Jan, 7 at Dun Skeig *Kintyre* on 15 Jan, 22 at Sgor Cainnteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 7 Feb, 7 off *Colonsay* on 23 Feb, 23 at Achadh (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, and 26 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 5 May.

**Breeding/summer** There are eight or so traditional breeding sites, some of which are monitored by RSPB. Some of these have nesting rafts to enhance breeding success.

**Autumn/winter** Single birds were seen at many sites, especially around *Islay* and *Kintyre*. Larger groups included: 4 at Sgor Cainnteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 16 Nov, and 16 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec.

### **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer* Muir-bhuachaille

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

**Winter/spring** Birds were reported from all coastal areas, especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Coll, Colonsay, Gigha, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree*. Highest numbers seem to be reported in spring, although this may in part relate to better conditions for counting and more birdwatching activity. Larger numbers included: 20 seen from the *Islay* to Kennacraig ferry on 15 Jan, 17 at Brenfield *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb, 108 at *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 20 at Scarinish *Tiree* on 7 Feb, 15 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 7 Feb, 23 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 7 Feb and 113 there on 9 Feb, 20 at Bridgend *Islay* on 10 Feb, 27 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Feb, 17 at Ronachan *Kintyre* on 20 Feb, 60 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 22 Feb, 71 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Feb, 39 at Loch Scridian *Mull* on 23 Feb, 37 at Port na Caillich *Mull* on 24 Feb, 35 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 24 Feb, 25 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 25 Feb, 21 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 3 Mar, 25 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Mar, 21 at Achadh (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, 69 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 2 Apr, 96 at Loch Tor *Mull* on 2 Apr, 18 at

Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 5 Apr, 38 at Loch Scridian *Mull* on 5 Apr, 31 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 30 at Gartnagrenach Bay (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, 10-20 birds on the sea at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* throughout May, 32 at Bagh an Achain (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 5 May.

**Summer** There was no indication of breeding in Argyll, but non-breeders, some in full summer plumage, were present throughout the summer at many sites. Records came especially from *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* where groups of up to 15 birds could be seen in May and Jun, but with rather smaller numbers, mostly individuals, reported in Jul and Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Many individuals were reported in Sep but no large groups. Numbers began to build up in Oct, and counts of 10 to 20 birds were not uncommon from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree* in Oct to Dec, with smaller numbers at many other locations with fully marine coastlines. As usual, numbers in autumn and early winter were generally lower than in late winter and spring. Larger groups included: 15 at Sgor Cainnteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 21 Oct, 17 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Nov, 23 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 22 Nov, 24 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 22 Nov, 35 from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry on 25 Nov, 70 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Nov, and 118 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 6 Dec. All these records were of birds on the sea. There was a rare freshwater record of one on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Nov.

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

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

**Winter** One in non-breeding plumage was on the sea off Machrihanish SBO (Uisead Point) *Kintyre* on 5 Mar [Eddie Maguire, Iohmar McMillan, Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by the SBRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS** *Thalassarche melanophrys*

**A vagrant:** *an adult flew north past Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, Kintyre on 27 October 2008.*

No records.

### **FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun-crom

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

**Winter/spring** Most records came from the western fringes of Argyll, especially *Tiree*, *Islay*, and *Colonsay*. Large numbers attended nest sites somewhat erratically from Jan onwards. For example, there were 500 on sites at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 15 Jan, numbers tending to be higher during days of calm weather at that time of year. There were also some large movements of birds; for example 357 flew SW past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hour on 28 Jan. There were 1,800 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 5 Apr. A 'blue' phase bird was seen flying north past Port Mor *Colonsay* on 23 May. A 'blue' phase bird was seen on the cliffs at Uragaig *Colonsay* on 9 Jun. There is no firm evidence of this bird breeding at the colony although it was still present on a site on 20 Jun and was first seen at this site in 2004.

**Breeding** On 21 May there were 754 occupied sites at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, with some birds then incubating eggs. Numbers of occupied sites declined to 667 on 19 Jun (when most had eggs and no chicks were hatched yet, so indicating a late breeding season), and declined further to 458 on 12 Jul (when most had small chicks). This suggests fairly poor breeding success at that colony. On *Colonsay*, there were 41 occupied sites at Pig's Paradise on 18 Jun. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) reported that the long term trend in fulmar numbers on Lunga

*Mull* from 1994 to 2013 was a decline of 3.5% per annum. There were 302 occupied sites on Lunga, 54 on Sgeir a' Chasteil, at least 14 on Fladda, and 8 on Bac Mor (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn passage (or possibly large-scale movements of foraging breeders with chicks) included observations of over 300 birds per hour passing Hynish Tìree on 2 and 3 Aug, but numbers seen in late Aug and Sep were mostly of tens per hour. As usual, numbers seen in Oct were extremely small, with just the occasional individual flying past Tìree. There was a rather unexpected record of 840 birds back on the cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 28 Nov, suggesting a very early return to breeding sites for the following breeding season.

### **CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea*

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

No records.

### **GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh-mòr

*A rare passage migrant: mostly in autumn.*

No records.

### **SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh-dubh

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

**Autumn** Most records came from Tìree, with a few birds seen from Islay, Colonsay, Machrihanish SBO Kintyre and Mull. The first of the autumn was seen on 2 Aug and the last on 9 Oct, with peak counts of 14 flying west past Aird Tìree in two hours on 16 Sep, and 40 in a raft at the mouth of Gunna Sound Tìree on 21 Sep. Only 2 were seen from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre all autumn, both on 15 Sep.

### **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh-bàn

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

**Spring** The first record in spring was of one bird passing through Gunna Sound Tìree on 26 Mar, followed by five birds passing Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 29 Mar. Mostly small numbers were seen in Apr, the largest groups being 60 birds flying west past Aird Tìree on 18 Apr, 10 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 18 Apr, and 40 flying north past West Hynish Tìree in 30 minutes on 21 Apr. Much larger numbers were present in May, with 500 at Portnahaven Islay on 11 May, 300 at Port Wemyss Islay on 12 May, 350 rafting off Hynish Tìree on 19 May, and 200 flying south past Port Mor Colonsay in 3 hours on 23 May.

**Breeding/summer** Higher numbers were seen in Jun than in May, with 450 passing Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in 5 hours on 20 Jun, and 1,020 seen from the ferry between Mull and Tìree on 25 Jun. Given that breeding numbers in Argyll are not large enough to explain these high totals passing by, it seems probable that birds from the huge colony on Rum must commute into or through Argyll waters while breeding. There were also high numbers passing in Jul and Aug (a time when this species has chicks in the nest), with 870 between Coll and Tìree on 8 Jul, 1,200 between Mull and Coll on 11 Jul, 590 flying south past The Oa Islay in 3 hours on 25 Jul, 1,900 off Urvaig Tìree on 31 Jul, a massive movement of 21,350 in 1 hour flying past Tìree on 12 Aug, and 550 between Coll and Tìree on 20 Aug. There were no data on breeding at Sanda Islands Kintyre. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group reported adults present on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull but with no assessment of the breeding numbers at that colony.

**Autumn** Many hundreds were seen passing well-known seawatching sites in early Sep (Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* and Aird *Tiree*), but these numbers tended to be lower than the numbers seen in Aug, suggesting that migration from the massive colony on Rum may occur less through Argyll waters than foraging activity of chick-rearing adults. Counts generally continued to decline in early Sep. The largest count after 18 Sep was of only 79 birds off *Tiree* on 9 Oct. After that, the highest count was of 13 birds passing Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 31 Oct. The last record of the year was a single bird passing *Tiree* on 29 Nov, one of the latest records of the species in Argyll. A bird found dead on the shore at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 18 Aug had been ringed as an adult on Skomer (Wales) on 3 May 1983, making this bird at least 32 years old when it died.

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

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

No records.

**MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER** *Puffinus baroli*

A vagrant: the only accepted record is one seen at Frenchman's Rocks, *Islay* on 30 Jun 1974.

A record from 2000 is still under consideration during a full review of records by the BBRC.

No records.

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

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

**Spring** The first spring record was of nine birds at Suil Ghorm *Coll* on 11 Jun. The first of the year at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* appeared on 15 Jun, when 17 birds were seen in four hours of seawatching during strong onshore winds. All spring sightings came from *Coll*, *Tiree*, island ferries, or Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

**Breeding** TIARG reported that many birds were heard churring in burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. However, mist netting in late June at the Village and Boulder Beach colonies on Lunga resulted in smaller catches than had been typical in the 1990s, with 142 birds caught in a 12 m net in 2.25 hours, 43 caught in 1.75 hours and 84 caught in three 18 m nets set over a total of 5.5 hours during three nights at the Village. TIARG also noted concern about mice on the Treshnish Isles as possibly affecting breeding storm petrels there.

**Autumn** Small numbers were reported from seawatching from *Coll*, *Islay*, *Mull*, *Tiree*, from ferries, and from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The last records were on 11 and 15 Sep at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, where there were 17 birds flying south in two hours of drizzle on 11 Sep, and 12 single birds flying south during similar conditions on 15 Sep.

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Gobhlan-mara

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

**Autumn** Most records were during Sep but with a few seen in Oct to Dec. Eight flew past Aird *Tiree* in two hours on 16 Sep, three passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 Sep, two passed Caliach Point *Mull* on 16 Sep, seven passed Aird *Tiree* in 1.5 hours on 17 Sep and two during



one hour on 18 Sep, while single birds were seen at Druim na h-Eredaid *Islay* on 9 Oct, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct, Glengorm *Mull* on 31 Oct, and Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Dec.

## **NORTHERN GANNET** *Morus bassanus* Sùlaire

**AMBER LIST** *Most gannets in Argyll waters probably come from 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 to Mar.*

**Winter/spring** Small numbers were reported most days in Jan from *Tiree*, with a few reports also from *Islay*. The largest Jan count was 22 birds passing Aird *Tiree* in one hour on 31 Jan. Similar small numbers were seen in Feb off *Islay* and off *Tiree*. Numbers increased in Mar with records from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*, though mostly of small numbers of birds. However, there were 60 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 26 Mar. There were more reports during Apr, from a wider range of areas, including *Mull*. Numbers passing *Tiree* during Apr were up to 100 birds per hour. During May, numbers passing *Tiree* increased to between 50 and 600 birds per hour, while there were 150 passing Port Wemyss *Islay* on 12 May. Numbers elsewhere were mostly much smaller, with 1 to 10 birds reported from many sites including areas such as Loch Long *Cowal* and Loch Fyne *Cowal/Mid-Argyll* where birds were not reported earlier in the year.

**Summer** Birds were reported from all marine areas of Argyll in early Jun but mostly in small numbers, with few flocks exceeding 30 birds. There appear to be no sites in Argyll being prospected by gannets as future colony sites, despite the moderate numbers regularly present in Argyll waters in summer. However, in Jul-Aug the numbers reported increased, with up to 300 per hour passing *Tiree* and slightly smaller numbers passing *Islay* and *Kintyre*, suggesting that birds from large colonies such as Ailsa Craig were making longer feeding trips so passing through Argyll. However, numbers in 2013 were rather smaller than reported from these sites in Jul-Aug 2012. Small numbers were reported fishing and searching for fish near the heads of many sea lochs, such as Loch Fyne, Loch Long and Loch Gilp.

**Autumn/winter** Tens per hour flew past seabird hotspots such as Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, Aird *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on various dates in Sep and Oct. Numbers of gannets reported then declined rapidly at most sites in late Oct. Very few were reported from anywhere other than *Tiree* in Nov or Dec, and numbers even off *Tiree* were then down to a few birds per day.

## **GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh

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

**Winter/spring** There were small numbers (mostly 1-5 birds) at many estuarine (predominantly sea loch) sites across Argyll. Larger numbers were: 20 at Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 13 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 20 on *Tiree* on 2 Feb, 13 at Ardnave *Islay* on 2 Feb, 12 at Aros Castle *Mull* on 8 Feb, 16 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb, 20 at Eilean Buidhe (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 18 Feb, 20 at Caignure *Mull* on 26 Feb, 14 at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Feb and 28 there on 12 Mar, 20 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 18 and 19 Apr.

**Breeding** There were 24 Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs) at Craro Island (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 13 Apr. At Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll*, 21 pairs were nesting on an apparently mink-free west-facing cliff, though mink were present on the island. There were 42 AONs at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, 22 at Corr Eilean McCormaig Islands (Sound of Jura)

*Mid-Argyll*, 33 at Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll*, and 40 AONs at Gigha Island (Gigha) *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were fairly well dispersed throughout the sea lochs and sheltered coasts of Argyll throughout autumn and winter. The largest recorded groups were: 12 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 21 Sep, 10 on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct, 14 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Oct, 30 at Eilean Traighe (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct, and 60 at Sgeir na Sgarbh *Islay* on 31 Oct.

### **SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh-an-sgumain

**AMBER LIST A** *very common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles, and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland at all times.*

**Winter/spring** As usual, birds were widely distributed on sea coasts in the early part of the year, with no major aggregations reported. The largest groups were 40 at Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 42 at Sgor Cainnteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 7 Feb, 53 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Feb, and 40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 18 Apr in a feeding frenzy with other birds and several harbour porpoises.

**Breeding/summer** Eddie Maguire reported a new shag colony with at least four pairs nesting on a rock stack close to the A83 at Tangy *Kintyre*. John Bowler reported that at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 100 AONs on 5 Apr, decreasing to 95 on 21 May, by which time some nests held large chicks but some birds were still nest-building. By 19 Jun there were 99 AONs at that colony, with a mean brood size of 1.67 chicks per nest (n=24 nests), with most nests holding medium to large chicks. On 12 Jul this colony held 68 AONs with large chicks close to fledging in most occupied nests (mean brood size 1.85, n=27). TIARG reported that shag breeding numbers seem to have declined considerably on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. There were 159 AONs on Lunga, 44 on Fladda and 21 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, well below numbers present before 2005. TIARG have been carrying out a colour ringing study of this population to assess survival rates as part of the BTO 'RAS' programme, but survival rates have not yet been estimated. Brood sizes in 2013 were considered to be small, with most nests containing only two young in late Jun (though this seems similar to brood sizes reported at *Tiree*). Although breeding numbers appear to have declined, 450 shags were seen offshore from the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, suggesting that many of the birds may have chosen not to breed (TIARG speculate that birds may be in poor condition) but remained in the population. In the SAMS study area, Corr Eilean McCormaig Islands (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* held 66 nests, Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* held 60 nests, Glas Eilean (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* held 13 nests, Eilean Balnagowan (Loch Linnhe) *North Argyll* held 8 nests, Eilean Dubh (Lynn of Lorn) *North Argyll* held 7 nests but mink were present on the island, killing adult shags and all nests were empty.

**Autumn/winter** Although west coast shags tend not to migrate extensively, there can be large aggregations in autumn and some large local movements. There were 68 at Sgor Cainnteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 22 Aug, 63 at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 26 Aug, 63 at Port an Eas *Islay* on 27 Aug, 60 at Lady's Rock *Mull* on 14 Sep, 62 at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Sep, 50 at Port na Ba *Mull* on 26 Sep, 76 at Raineach Mhor *Islay* on 13 Oct, 250 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 15 Oct, 50 on *Colonsay* on 17 Oct, and 57 at Cuan Sound *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov.

### **ASCENSION FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata aquila*

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

**Summer** A first stage juvenile was observed sitting on the harbour wall at Bowmore *Islay* on 5 Jul [V. V. S. Bonarjee, J. Brown, T. E. Matre, T. Redman, J. Sim]. Record accepted by the

BBRC. This remarkable record was identified from photographs taken during its brief stay and was almost exactly 60 years after the only other record from the Western Palearctic, also in Argyll. (see article on page 133).

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

**RED LIST** A rare visitor: five records of single birds since 1980: at Dervaig, Mull in 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 to Feb 2010 which later died in care.

**Winter/spring** One was picked up freshly killed after striking a vehicle on the ‘meadows road’ A816 one km north of Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 19 Mar [David Jardine, Jim Dickson] Record accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

*David Jardine followed up the age & sex details through with both Gillian Gilbert and Bob McGowan (Royal Museum of Scotland) after this record was submitted. Bob McGowan confirmed it was a male (based on enlarged testes and had a culmen of 65.7mm). [Its last meal was a Toad (of sufficient quality also to be used as a museum specimen!)] Gillian had a PhD student look at a series of skins and produced a biometrics paper on ageing and sexing which confirmed how difficult this is in this species. She thought that it would be a small male (based on blueing at base of bill) and was proved correct on dissection, but it remains unaged.*

**NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

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

No records.

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

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

No records.

**SNOWY EGRET** *Egretta thula*

A vagrant: one record; at Balvicar, Mid-Argyll on 5 Nov 2001 which was subsequently seen at various locations in Argyll until 13 Jun 2002: no previous British records.

No records.

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* Corra-gheal-bheag

**AMBER LIST** A scarce visitor: no 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.

**Spring** An adult in breeding plumage was at Ardilistry Bay (near Ardbeg) Islay on 19 to 28 Apr [Carl Reavey et al].

**Winter** One (unaged) was at Kilfinan Bay, Cowal on 15 Nov [Tom Callan]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

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

A vagrant: seven previous records; one at Gruinart Flats, Islay in Jun 1986, one Ballachuan Loch (Seil) Mid-Argyll in Apr 1988, one at Loch Gruinart, Islay in May 1998, one on Tiree in

*May & Jun 2000, one on Tiree in May and Jun 2002, one at Feolin, Jura in Oct 2009 and one at Inveraray, Mid-Argyll in May 2011.*

No records.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea* Corra-ghrithreach

*A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** WeBS counts in Jan-Mar mostly gave totals between 10 and 35 individuals on: Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere, birds were widely distributed in smaller numbers, although there were 26 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 14 Jan and 20 there on 11 Feb, 18 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 31 Jan, 36 on *Tiree* on 2 Feb (where the species does not breed), 14 at Aros Castle *Mull* on 20 Feb. One was seen for several days in succession in gardens in Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* in late Mar. It was assumed to be stalking small mammals, but at this time of year may have been looking for frogs seeking ponds in which to spawn.

**Breeding** In many areas of Argyll herons nest as individual pairs or groups of two or three nests rather than in large heronries, and these scattered pairs are easily overlooked so breeding numbers are probably much higher across the county than totals recorded. Several former sites on *Colonsay* have been abandoned (including Lochan Gleann Raonabuilg, Scalasaig Wood, Ballarulin Mill Wood, Dun Cholla, and Traig nam Barc), but 1 pair nested at West Loch Fada, 3 pairs at Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) and 13 pairs at Garvard Point *Colonsay*. There were 28 nests at Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll*, 12 at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*, 5 at Islandadd Bridge *Mid-Argyll*, 21 at Ballachuan Hazel Wood *Mid-Argyll*, 2 at Millhouse *Cowal*, 4 at Achamore House (Gigha) *Kintyre* and 4 at Aoradh *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** WeBS counts in Aug-Dec mostly gave totals between 10 and 30 individuals on each of Loch Creran *North Argyll*, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll*. The highest single count was of 35 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct. Elsewhere, there were: 15 at Aros Castle *Mull* on 28 Jul, 10 at a high tide roost by Glenramskill Jetty (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 11 Aug, 21 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 21 Sep, 17 there on 16 Oct and 24 on 6 Nov, 15 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Sep, 15 at Anhainn a' Chuirn *Colonsay* on 25 Sep, and 21 roosting around pools during gale force winds at Oronsay Airstrip *Colonsay* on 19 Dec.

**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*

*A vagrant: three records; singles at Benderloch, North Argyll in Apr 1971, on Islay in Apr/May 1978, and at Campbeltown, Kintyre in May 1978.*

No records.

**BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra*

*No previous records.*

**Spring** One was seen and photographed flying over Fanmore (Loch Tuath) *Mull* on 26 May and shortly later that day over Dervaig *Mull* [P Toner, G Daly (at Fanmore); D & T Parsons (at Dervaig)]. This becomes the first record for Argyll and was accepted by the BBRC. (see article on page 132).

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

*A vagrant: seven records since 1901; the most recent being one at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll on 25 and 26 Sep 2009.*

No records. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on pages 123).

## **EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

*A rare visitor: eight records; the most recent of these involving four juveniles on Islay in 1998 and two together on Mull on 23 Jun 2010.*

No records.

## **PIED-BILLED GREBE** *Podilymbus podiceps*

*A vagrant: two records; one found at Loch Peallach, Mull in Jun 1998 and one at Salen Bay, Mull on 22 Mar to 6 Apr 2011.*

No records.

## **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spàg-ri-tòn

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

**Winter/spring** There were records from all areas of Argyll apart from *Coll*. Most were of one or two birds, with largest numbers: 19 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 12 Jan and 20 there on 9 Feb and on 7 Mar, and 8 on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb.

**Breeding** Although far from complete coverage, breeding was reported at Powder Dam *Cowal*, Garbhallt Lochain (Strathlachlan) *Cowal*, Loch Allan *Islay*, Loch Skerrols *Islay*, Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll*, Kilbride (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll*, Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, Balvicar Lagoons (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, Breac Achadh *Mull*, Benderloch *North Argyll* and Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** There were records from all areas of Argyll except for *Coll* and *Jura*. Most were of one or two birds, with largest numbers: 30 at Eilean traighe (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 15 Oct, 20 there on 10 Nov and 19 on 17 Dec, 20 on Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, and 18 there on 10 Nov, 9 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 6 Nov.

## **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan-laparan

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

**Winter/spring** The only report was of one bird at Gleann Alasgaig *Mull* on 4 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** Two records: one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, and one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 25 Nov to 4 Dec.

## **RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena* Gobhlachan-ruadh

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

No records.

**2008:** A record was received of a winter plumaged bird photographed near fish cages off the west side of Kerrera, *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr [Alexander Mackintosh].

## **SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan-mara

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

**Winter/spring** Records from Jan to late Apr, came mostly from Loch na Keal *Mull*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, and Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*. Apart from counts at these best known sites (Table 20), other records are usually predominantly of just one or two birds and mostly at sites near these strongholds. However, in 2013 there were rather more records of this species at sites away from the main strongholds. There were four at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 12 Jan and 2 Feb, 3

at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 2 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb, 6 at Ballimore Shore *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 5 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Feb, 3 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 24 Feb, 3 in Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Mar, 8 in Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar and 10 in Loch Ba *Mull* on 3 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** The first autumn record was of a single bird at Leth Uillt mouth (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 25 Aug and there were 5 birds there on 20 Sep. A few birds were seen in autumn in *Colonsay, Cowal, Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll* in addition to the regular sites.

Table 20. *Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2013 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	15	15	8	2	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	12	13	n/r
L. na Keal	n/r	39	2	4	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	5	n/r	20	n/r
S. of Gigha	26	41	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	7	29	7	19

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

*A rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*

No records.

### **HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

**AMBER LIST** *A rare passage migrant: nine accepted records since 1980; the last near Carradale, Kintyre in 2009.*

**Autumn** A dark adult female bird was seen over Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jul [John Bowler]. Record accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*

*A vagrant: two records; one at Vaul, Tiree on 16th May 1997 and one near Dalmally, North Argyll on 31 May 2010.*

No records.

### **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus* Clamhan-gobhlach

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

**Winter** One was flying around the head of Loch Striven *Cowal* on 1 Jan. It had a red tag on the right wing and blue on the left and had been tagged on the Black Isle *Highland* in 2003.

**Spring/summer** One flying south at Balnabraid Glen *Kintyre* on 5 Apr was being mobbed by a Hen Harrier. One with red wing tags was seen at Coillabus *Islay* on 9 Apr and one seen at various locations on the south side of *Mull* on 28 May.

**Autumn/winter** One seen at Largybaan *Kintyre* on 8 Oct had wing tags (yellow right/red left) which identified it as being marked in Central Scotland in 2004. Single (untagged or tags not noted) birds were also reported from Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, Baraskomill (nr Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 17 Oct, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19/20 Oct, Low Askomil (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 27 Oct, Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 4 Nov and at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 4 Nov. The late Oct records from the Campbeltown area may all relate to the same individual.

**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolaire-mhara

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

Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas throughout the year. There were single records from *Coll* and *Kintyre*, and total sightings for the other recording areas were: *Colonsay* (including *Oronsay*) (14 records), *Cowal* (5 records), *Islay* (over 50 records, some of two or more birds together), *Jura* (10 Records), *Mid-Argyll* (24 records), *Mull* (over 50 records, some of two or more birds together and including one on *Staffa*) and *North Argyll* (6 records). **Please continue to send in all sightings, which will be particularly useful as birds expand their range into new areas on the mainland and the islands.**

**Breeding** In Argyll, 26 pairs attempted to breed and 25 of these were confirmed to have laid eggs. Seventeen pairs were successful and fledged 19 chicks. There are several more new “pairs” but none of these are yet known to have built nests. Accessible chicks in 2013 continued to be fitted with oxidised aluminium colour rings on the left leg. There are now 2 East coast releasees paired up and breeding and for the first time an Irish released sea eagle attempted to breed in Argyll (David Sexton, RSPB Scotland, Roger Broad).

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan-lòin

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

**Spring** A female was hunting the reed-beds at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 9 May. One, described as an immature female, seen at Port Charlotte *Islay* on the same day might possibly have been the same bird.

**Autumn** An adult male was seen briefly at Minard (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep and a juvenile was hunting over the reed-bed at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Sep.

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

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

During the year records were received from all Argyll recording areas and 7 were reported from Gleann Alasgaig *Mull* on 4 Jan.

**Breeding**Table 21. *Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll.*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Coll	2	2	2	2			6	3
Mull	45	23	12	8	4	0	18	2.25
Colonsay	7	4	4	3	0	1	15	5
Islay	10	6	6	4	2	0	10	2.50
Mainland*	7	6	6	4	1	1	10	2.50
Cowal	12	8	1	1	0	0	4	4
Total	83	47	31	22	7	2	63	2.61**

\* *Mainland includes sites in Mid Argyll (32) and Kintyre & Knapdale (7).*

\*\* *Calculated for 18 broods from all areas where fledged brood size accurately known.*

*Coll*: two pairs fledged six young on the reserve and there were at least another 4 pairs present on Coll (Ben Jones).

*Mull*: voles were very sparse throughout 2013. In total 18 areas were not checked at all. Of the 44 hen harrier sites surveyed in 2013 there were 22 apparently unoccupied and 22 were occupied. Although food passes were observed at 6 sites there was no evidence of actual nesting. 12 nests were monitored of which 2 failed on eggs, two failed with young (2+ weeks old) and 8 successful nests fledged 18 young (Paul Haworth).

*Colonsay*: fifteen large young were ringed (3 broods) and at least 6 are known to have fledged. A corncrake was found as prey at a nest (David Jardine).

*Cowal*: a male Hen Harrier was fitted with a satellite tag in 2013 and was recovered dead (natural causes) in Ayrshire four months later. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

**Roosts** Numbers recorded at the monitored roost at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* during the year were as follows: Jan: 4 (2m/2f), Feb: 2 (f), Mar: 2 (1m/1f), Oct: 3, Nov: 3. Five ringtails were seen going to roost near Feolin *Jura* on 28 Oct and a male which landed in deep heather near Otter Ferry *Cowal* at dusk on 3 Sep was possibly going to roost.

### **PALLID HARRIER** *Circus macrourus*

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

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis* Glas-sheabhadh

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

No records.

### **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus* Speireag

*A widespread, resident, breeding species.*

During 2013 birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Prey species noted included: Eurasian Teal, Collared Dove, Great Tit, Blackbird, House Sparrow and Twite.

**Breeding** Sixteen sites (including one on Bute) were checked in 2013 (*Mull*, *Colonsay* (4), *Islay*, *Knapdale Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal* (8) and Bute). Ten sites showed signs of occupation (birds present or recent signs). Eggs were known to have been laid at 8 sites and 7 of these reached the large young stage. The final outcome is unknown at three sites but 4 were known to have successfully fledged some young. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

### **COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

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

During 2013 numerous records were received from all Argyll recording areas. The following counts give some idea of the numbers present: 25 noted during the goose count on *Tiree* 14/15 Oct, 10 soaring above the fields at Spion Kop *Cowal*, playing and calling to each other for over 15 minutes on 9 Sep, 9 along the dunes at Machir Bay *Islay* on 8 Feb, 8 between Feolin and Craighouse *Jura* on 19 Aug, 6 during the WeBS Count at Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 12 Jan, 6 at Aros Castle *Mull* on 5 May and 6 on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct. Regular sightings suggested the presence of two adults on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* that were seen commuting to other



Treshnish Isles to the north. A third bird, a non-moulting individual, was seen on 25 Jun with this or another such individual seen flying to *Mull* from Lunga. (TIARG). On 4 Nov, 2 birds were seen interacting at Otter Ferry Cowal: one was forced into sea but later swam ashore!

### **Breeding**

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

Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites where breeding proven				
			Sites failed	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Min no. fledged *	Young per success-ful site
Kintyre	7	7	0	6	0	12	2.00
Tiree	12	12	0	3	9	6	2.00
Colonsay	58	16***	2	4	1	6	1.50
Islay	9	6	0	4	0	5	1.25
Cowal	27	26	0	11	0	17	1.54
Mid Argyll	2	2	0	2	0	4	2.00
Bute	39	16****	0	9	0	14	1.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1.78**</b>

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

\*\* calculated for 36 pairs where fledged brood size accurately known.

\*\*\* includes 6 sites with single birds.

\*\*\*\* includes 4 sites with single birds.

The Buzzards on *Colonsay* continued to decline despite some evidence that rabbit populations had increased slightly. Eagles are involved, with one brood of buzzards definitely predated when medium-sized and indications of interference at other sites. One pair/territory had to contend with a young white-tailed eagle and also a young golden eagle. Another site appears to be lost to buzzards with the ledge now regularly being used as an eagle roost (David Jardine). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

### **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus* Bleidir-molach

**A rare visitor: occurring mostly in autumn, seldom recorded in recent years and most recently on Tiree on 17 Sep 1997.**

No records.

### **GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire

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

Away from breeding sites, birds were reported during 2013 from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll*, including just a single record on *Tiree*, of 2 in May. There were three records of 4

birds together: at Gleann Alasgaig *Mull* on 4 Jan, Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 6 Mar and on *Colonsay* on 15 Oct.

### **Breeding**

Table 23.1 *Outcome of monitored Golden Eagle territories in Argyll 2013.*

	Ts checked	Ts Occupied	Ts where eggs laid	Ts known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ts that fledged young	Min no. of large young	Young per successful pair
N Argyll	2	1	1	1	100	1	1.00
S Argyll	23	22	16	7	31.81	7	1.00
Mull	32	31	15	10	32.25	12	1.20
Other Islands	7	7	5	2	28.57	3	1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32.78</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1.15</b>

Table 23.2 *Golden Eagle Summary Information 2003-2013. (Data from National Surveys is included in bold).*

Year	Ts checked	Ts occupied	Ts where eggs laid	Ts known to have fledged young	% of occupied Ts that fledged young	Min number of large young	Number of young per successful pair
2013	64	61	37	20	32.78	23	1.15
2012	65	61	36	18 (21)	31.14% (36.06%)	19 (22)	1.05 (1.04)
2011	60	54	25	17	31.48	17	1.0
2010	65	61	37	20 (25)	32.78% (40.98%)	28	1.10 (1.12)
2009	66	59	40	16	27.11%	18	1.12
2008	73	64	42	33 (35)	51.5% (54.68%)	36 (38)	1.09
2007	69	63	41	25 (26)	39.6% (41.2%)	25 (26)	1.00
2006	73	66	43	17	26.15%	17	1.00
2005	65	59	40	17 (18)	28.8%	19 (20)	1.11
2004	61	56	38	28 (29)	50%	32 (33)	1.14 (1.13)
<b>2003</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>29 (30)</b>	<b>36.25% (37.50%)</b>	<b>30 (31)</b>	<b>1.03 (1.03)</b>

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

South Argyll: the summary provided by Mike Gregory for the sites he monitored (included in the table above) provides supplementary details for much of this area: 13 or 14 Pairs laid eggs of which only 7 pairs reared 7 young. Two or three clutches failed to hatch and in addition 3 (possibly 4) clutches hatched out but the chicks did not survive. At least 6 and maybe as many as 8 pairs almost certainly did not lay. Also, on *Kintyre*, intriguing reports suggest a former

territory may now have been re-occupied by a pair of birds but this needs further follow up visits to confirm the situation.

On *Cowal*, a nest and chick completely fell out. The chick survived and was subsequently reared successfully on the ground and was fitted with a sat tag before it fledged (Dave Anderson & Arthur French).

On *Mull*, one chick from a brood of two was satellite tagged before fledging (Derek Hayward).

On *Colonsay*, one of the chicks ringed (from twins) was found dead on Oronsay about 6 months after hatching (1st November) and had a bacterial infection. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

## **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* Iolair-iasgaich

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

**Spring** The first arrival reported was one at Achnamara (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar. This was followed by birds at: Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 5 Apr, one carrying a fish at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 9 Apr, Poltalloch (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, Gartcharran (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr and Lochawe *North Argyll* on 15 Apr.

### **Breeding**

Table 24. *Summary Information 2003-2012.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. large young	Young per successful site
2013	17	13	29	2.23
2012	19	14	39**	2.78
2011	16	6	13	2.16
2010	20	13	30	2.30
2009	15	12	28	2.33
2008	15	11	22*	2.00
2007	12	11	22	2.00
2006	12	9	17	1.88
2005	10	5	9	1.80
2004	9	7	13	1.85
2003	7	6	9	1.50

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

\* *excludes breeding information for one pair where outcome unknown.*

(ARSG per Roger Broad).

**Autumn** Migrant birds were widely reported from mid-Aug onwards, including birds at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19-25 Aug, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 21 and 25 Aug, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on several dates from 23 Aug onwards, Tullochgorm (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug, Loch Crinan/Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29-31 Aug. The last records were of single birds at Loch na Cille (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep, RSPB Loch Gruinart on 9 and 10 Sep and at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* 10-13 Sep.

**Reports of ringed Ospreys in Argyll:** A chick ringed in Argyll on 27 Jun 2013 was seen and photographed at Puslinch Marsh, Yealm Estuary, Devon on 24 Aug 2013. Three colour ringed adults breeding in Argyll in 2013 had originally been ringed elsewhere: one as a chick on 16 Jul 2001 near Dornoch, Sutherland, one as a chick on 28 Jun 2007 in Angus and one as a chick on 09 Jul 2008 at Bassenthwaite, Cumbria. (ARSG per Roger Broad).

## **COMMON KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan-ruadh

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

During 2013 there were records from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll*. As usual sightings increased noticeably, in most recording areas, from Sep onwards. One by Keills chapel (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb caught a small rodent and on 10 Jun one was seen at Garvard *Colonsay* carrying a slow-worm towards its nest. On 29 May, a male at Cnoc Carrach (The Oa) *Islay* was seen mobbing a Cuckoo and then a Hen Harrier.

### **Breeding**

Table 25. *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2013. 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	1*	1	0	0	1	-	-
Colonsay	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Kintyre	2	1	1	0	0	3	3.00
Bute	1	1	1	0	0	4	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.50</b>

On *Colonsay* two sites were occupied by pairs but their outcome is unknown (D Jardine).

Overall, very little information was received in 2013 and Gordon Yates's observation during his annual holiday (25 May-14 Jun) probably reflects the general situation throughout Argyll - "always elusive on *Islay* but only seen three times. A male was seen to capture a vole but instead of flying off with it to a nest he ate it himself so may not have been breeding". (ARSG per Roger Broad).

## **RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus*

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

No records.

## **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* Mèirneal

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

**Breeding** Breeding was confirmed at one site on *Cowal* where a brood of 4 large chicks was found and where a later report indicated that some young had successfully fledged. Elsewhere, Merlins were recorded at three locations (*Islay, Mid-Argyll* (2)) where behaviour suggested they could be breeding but it was not confirmed whether any actually bred or were successful. A regular nesting area that has been used for 33+ years on *Islay* was vacant in 2013 (Gordon Yates via Malcolm Ogilvie). (ARSG per Roger Broad).

**Autumn** The first bird back on *Tiree* was on 3 Aug with up to 3 thereafter.

By far the majority of records (at least 70) were on *Islay*, where birds were seen regularly throughout the year. *Tiree* also had records throughout the year apart from May-Jul. There were at least 15 records from *Colonsay* (incl.Oronsay), especially during spring and autumn passage

periods and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* had at least 8 records during autumn. There were relatively few records elsewhere from: *Cowal, Jura, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and none from *Coll* or *North Argyll*.

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* Gormag  
*A rare visitor: mostly in spring and autumn.*  
No records.

**GYR FALCON** *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag-mhòr-na-seilg  
*A rare visitor: several records prior to 1950 but only eight recent accepted records, between 1973 and 2011.*  
No records.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag  
**AMBER LIST** *A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. There have been indications of a decline in numbers breeding away from coastal areas. Found throughout the year in most areas.*  
During 2013 birds were reported from all recording areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura* (although birds were almost certainly present there). Five were seen mobbing a Golden Eagle at Cnoc Carrach (The Oa) *Islay* on 7 Jul. The most frequent records were from *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*), *Islay* and *Tiree* with rather fewer from *Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll* and surprisingly few (only 4) from *Mull*. During the TIARG visit to the Treshnish Isles *Mull* 22-29 Jun, a single bird was seen on most days, with sightings relating to at least two individuals, one of each sex. Prey recorded included: Oystercatcher, Northern Lapwing, Feral Pigeon, Western Jackdaw and Common Starling.  
*Breeding*

Table 26. Outcome of monitored Peregrine Falcon territories in Argyll during 2013. (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 (large young)	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Misc. Islands <sup>1</sup>	15	12	7	3	1	3	6+	2
Mainland (exc Cowal)	4	2	1	0	0	1	-	-
Cowal	12	4	4	2	1	1	5	2.50
Bute	5	3*	2	2	0	0	3+	1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14+</b>	<b>2.33**</b>

<sup>1</sup> Misc. Islands include *Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*), *Islay*.  
\* 2 pairs and one single.  
\*\* calculated for 3 pairs (all areas) where fledged brood size accurately known.

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

**Winter/spring** Unlike in 2012, there were 2 reports from mainland Argyll involving 2 birds heard/seen at Gortinanane *Kintyre* and 1 at Moine Mhor *Mid Argyll*. Single birds were reported from: *Islay*, *Gigha* and *Tiree*. Groups of 3 birds were reported from *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree* in Mar.

**Summer/breeding** The first record of possible breeding was of calls heard throughout Apr in suitable habitat on *Tiree*. In May and Jun singing birds were recorded in at least 3 permanent territories on the island, whilst squealing birds were heard in Jul and Aug. In May and Jun, birds were also recorded at 2 sites on *Colonsay*, at 1 site on *Islay*, and at 1 site on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were more widespread with up to 3 recorded at 5 sites on *Colonsay* including Oronsay in Oct-Nov. Birds were recorded at 4 sites on *Islay* in Jul-Nov. 3 were reported from Gortinanane *Kintyre* in Nov, whilst singles were reported from *Gigha* and *Mull* in Aug and Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* in Oct. Records from *Tiree* included a group of at least 3 birds squealing at Balephuill from Aug through Dec with 1 being mobbed by Wrens in a garden there in Sep. Birds were squealing at Kilkenneth in Oct, 1 was seen at Sorobaidh Bay in Sep and 1 was brought in alive by a cat at Moss in Oct and released unharmed.

## **SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana* Traon-breac

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

**Spring** One heard calling at Sunderland Farm, *Islay* on 21 May and another called on 17 and 28 Jun from a site on *Tiree*, with a territory held there in 2006.

## **CORN CRAKE** *Crex crex* Traon

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

**Spring/summer** Arrivals were rather late this year in a cold late spring, with the first bird at Totronald *Coll* and *Iona Mull* on 19 Apr and first arrivals on *Tiree*, *Islay*, and *Colonsay* on 23-29 Apr. A single calling male was noted calling briefly in the vicinity of Tarbet, Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 25 Jun (TIARG). The only mainland record was of one calling persistently at Carradale *Kintyre* from late Jul into early Aug. A bird was reported with young at Eilean Mhic Coinnich *Islay* on the very early date of 23 May and another family was seen at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Aug. The overall Argyll total was some 13% down on 2012.

**Autumn** Most had left by mid-Sep but 2 birds were seen walking along tracks on *Islay* on 24 Sep and a late bird was seen crossing the road at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Oct.

**Winter** A very late bird was seen at Runaich Croft *Iona Mull* on 15 Dec.

**Breeding** The table below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in 2013 and shows earlier years for comparison. The reduction in the Argyll totals since 2007 is due in part to a re-assessment of the numbers on *Coll*.

Table 27. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2004-2013.*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Coll	134	159	171	180	118	122	116	121	103	64
Tiree	260	310	316	391	413	392	391	385	371	348
Iona	24	29	39	30	50	46	34	24	31	25
Mull	5	5	7	4	8	2	7	6	2	3
Colonsay/ Oronsay	46	53	62	73	67	61	72	58	71	53

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Islay	31	52	59	70	82	84	81	85	86	87
Smaller islands*	9+	6	10	7	n/r	2	2	12+**	2	1
Mainland			1			5	3+	<i>see above</i>		<i>see above</i>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>581</b>

\* 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

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

**Winter/spring** This year again, *Islay* reported the most birds in Argyll: a single at Ardnave in Jan, 3 at Bridgend Merse, 1 at Loch Skerrols and 1 at Loch Indaal in Feb, 2 at Port Charlotte, 2 at Bridgend and singles at Loch Indaal and Aoradh in Mar, and 4 at both RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods and Ardnave in Apr. Elsewhere, 2 birds were at Lochan Luing and near the sound of Gigha *Kintyre* in Jan, 2 were in Oban *Mid-Argyll* in Feb, singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* and Skeroblin Loch *Kintyre* in Mar and 1 was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* in Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Two birds were seen fighting at Sandaig *Tiree* in May and 2 adults with 5 juveniles were at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 30 May. Two were at Duileter *North Argyll* in Jun. All other reports came from *Islay*: up to 3 at Aoradh in May-Jul, 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Floods in May and a pair with a brood at Crosshouses in Jun, whilst regular records from Bruichladdich included a nest with 2 eggs in Jun and a pair with a brood of 4 one week-old chicks in Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were more widespread later in the year with 2 records of singles from Seil *Mid-Argyll* in Sep, 2 at Port Charlotte *Islay* and singles in Oban *Mid-Argyll*, Kiloran *Colonsay* and Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* in Oct, 2 at Benderloch *North Argyll* in Oct, 1 again in Oban *Mid-Argyll* in Nov and 2 records from Cornaigmore *Tiree* in Dec.

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

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

**Winter/spring** One was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Jan, another at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Feb had been present since Dec 2012, whilst one at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 12 Mar was the first record for the RSPB Mull of Oa reserve.

**Spring** One at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jun [John Halliday] was the observer's first record at the site.

**Summer** A fluffy fledged chick at Mill Loch, Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Aug was presumably of local origin.

**Autumn/Winter** There were singles at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 19 Oct and 3 Nov, and at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 1 Oct to 28 Nov.

## **COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus*

**AMBER LIST** ***A rare visitor: fourteen record; some records of up to three together 1966-2012. Up to nine individuals recorded in 2012.***

**Winter/Spring** An adult or near adult bird was seen and photographed flying over Parkfoot (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 25 Mar [Neil Brown].

**Autumn/winter** Two adults were seen flying over and circling above Minard Castle then over Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov [Graham Clark]. Both records accepted by the ABRRC.

## **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brìghde

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

**Winter/spring** Widespread through winter, with highest numbers generally at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Loch Indaal *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and somewhat smaller numbers at the regularly counted Lochs Sween, Crinan, and Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, Lochs Etive and Creran *North Argyll* and at Blairmore *Cowal* and the Strand *Colonsay* (see WEBS counts in Table 28). Away from the WEBS count sites there were 539 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 26 Jan, 3 at Feolin Ferry *Jura* on 12 Jan and 65 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 13 Jan. The all-island count on *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb found 697 birds; other wintering flocks included 28 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 3 Feb, 68 on Eilean Treunaig (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 7 Feb, 363 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Feb, 60 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Feb and 170 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 20 Feb. 113 noted at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Mar were probably migrants and only 50 remained at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 28 Apr as wintering birds moved on. A bird colour-ringed at Dublin Bay, Eire on 26 February 2014 was re-sighted on passage at Loch Caithlim (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr giving some indication of the wintering locations of Oystercatchers migrating through Argyll.

**Breeding/summer** Proven breeding was reported from Oronsay (FL) Baleromindubh (b/2), Port Mor (b/3), Garvard (b/1), and Balnahard Bay (c/2) (all *Colonsay*), Otter Ferry Spit (ON) and Killail (ON) both *Cowal*, Bruichladdich (ON) and Claggain Bay (ON) both *Islay*, Ledaig Point (FL) *North Argyll* and *Tiree* (FL) where a total of 132 pairs were found on The Reef. A census on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* proved breeding on Lunga where 4 pairs with young and 6 further territories were found. Proven breeding was also found on Fladda (4 pairs - NY), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (1 pr - NY), Sgeir an Fheoir (1 pr) and found 2 terr on Sgeir a' Chastail, 2 terr on Sgeirean na Guisaich and 1 terr on Sgeirean na H-Iolaire. During Jun flocks of failed/non-breeders included 212 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 9 Jun, 50 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 10 June, 33 at Machrins *Colonsay* on 11 Jun, 26 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 17 Jun and 131 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Jun. 13 at Arinagour *Coll* on 24 Jun was the only report from this area. A bird colour-ringed in Devon in September 2004 was re-sighted at Garvard *Colonsay* on 10 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Counts from regularly surveyed sites are presented in Table 28. The first real movement noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was of 140 moving south on 28 Jul, around 10 days later than 2012. Other migrants included 120 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug (a large count for this site), 620 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* by 14 Aug, increasing to 823 by 29 Aug. 157 were at Bridgend *Islay* on 25 Aug and 45 at Calgary *Mull* on 26 Sep. Towards the year end other notable flocks included 178 at Ardlamont Ferry *Cowal* on 18 Nov, 270 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 20 Nov, 125 on Eilean Treunaig (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Dec and 153 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Dec.

Table 28. *Maximum WEBS monthly counts of Oystercatchers at Lochs Gruinart, Indaal (Islay) Sween, Crinan, Gilp, Craignish (Mid-Argyll), Holy Loch, Blairmore Loch Long (Cowal), Etive, Creran (North Argyll) and the Strand (Colonsay) 2013.*

<i>Lochs</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	178	222	180	102	185	109	175	263	132	182	117	198
Indaal	85	173	47	58	20	30	95	92	45	51	54	50



<i>Lochs</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sween	27	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	18	24	12
Crinan	-	38	53	38	-	-	-	48	37	37	49	52
Gilp	-	257	179	-	-	-	-	-	268	244	220	225
Craignish	19	-	31	34	44	36	14	17	20	8	11	20
Holy L.	337	262	268	-	-	-	-	-	444	342	328	391
Blairmore	-	-	-	30	26	23	-	65	51	91	98	74
Creran	77	105	71	51	52	-	40	51	124	78	90	78
Etive	7	22	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	19	-
The Strand	9	-	58	-	15	-	-	58	80	-	58	70

### **AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

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

No records.

### **STONE CURLEW** *Burhinus oedecnemus*

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

No records.

### **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

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

**Spring** An adult male found on the morning of 1 May, near Kilchoman/Coull Farm Islay [Jim Dickson] was the fourth record in Argyll. Record accepted by the ABRC.

### **COMMON RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan-tràghad

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

**Winter/spring** Tiree remains by far the most important site throughout year (see Table 29 for maximum counts); elsewhere during Jan, 25 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 7 Jan, 37 at Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Jan, 80 at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Jan and 22 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jan. During late winter other counts included 51 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 9 Feb, 20 at Loch a'Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 9 Mar, 14 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Mar and 28 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar. Numbers reported increased in Apr: 68 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Apr, 37 at Bowmore *Islay* on 13 Apr, 24 at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, 20 at Fidden *Mull* on 15 Apr, 219 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Apr and 30 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr. Spring migration peaked in May, e.g. 73 were grounded in rain at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, 150 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 May, but these counts were eclipsed by a record count of 1879 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 May and 250 were at Bowmore *Islay* the following day. Other notable groups of migrants included 56 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May and 300 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 May. The last sizeable flocks in spring were 47 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun and 50 moving north at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Jun.

**Breeding** The first occupied nest was found at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 7 May. Other confirmed breeding was reported from Tayinloan *Kintyre*, Largiemore and Kilail *Cowal*, Kiloran Bay *Colonsay*, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll*, and small young were seen at Sanaigmore *Islay* as late as 26 Aug. 42 breeding pairs were counted at the Reef *Tiree* (Trends in breeding pairs at this site during 2002-2013 are shown in Figure 1), with the first hatched young noted there on 27 May. Probable breeding was also reported on Lunga, Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

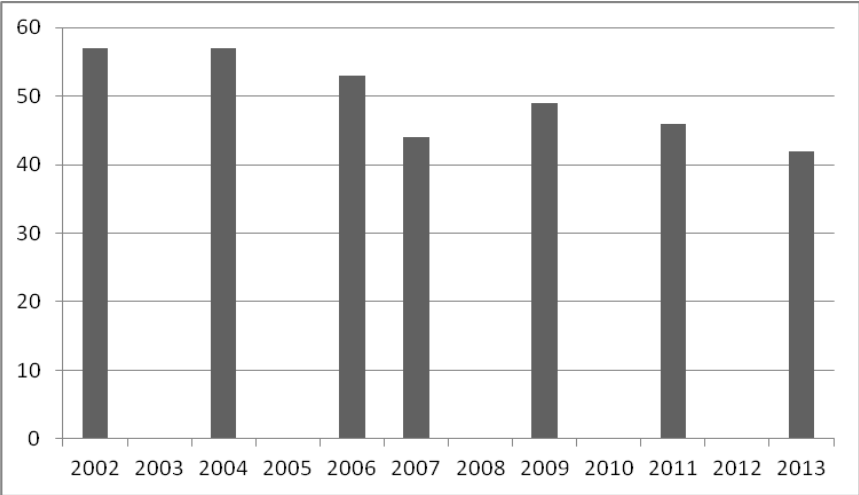


Figure 1: Trend in breeding pairs of Ringed Plover at The Reef, *Tiree*, 2002-2013. There were no counts in years with no bars.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn migration was noted from late July when birds were reported flying south at Machrichanish SBO *Kintyre*; 75 on 21 Jul, 40 on 23 Jul and 60 on 26 Jul. 300 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Aug, 40 at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 10 August, 55 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Aug, 77 at Bridgend *Islay* on 27 Aug and 16 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Aug. Sep and Oct records included: 75 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 3 Sept, 20 at Fidden *Mull* on 14 Sept, 40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Sept, 49 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sept, 16 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 250 on *Colonsay* on 15 Oct, 53 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 20 Oct, 16 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Oct and 92 on Traighe Baile Aongais *Islay* on 24 Oct. Towards the year end notable counts were 58 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, 36 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov, 38 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Nov, 9 at Blackmill Bay (Luinig) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov, 26 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec and 140 at Ledaig Point *North-Argyll* on 30 Dec.

Table 29. Maximum monthly day-counts of Ringed Plovers on *Tiree*, and the Strand, *Colonsay* in 2013.\*Total for all-island count.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	330	836*	150	655	210	230	105	310	130	435	165	170
The Strand	138	35	10	11	110	n/c	n/c	194	87	72	43	n/c

## **KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus*

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

No records.

## **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

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

**Spring** On 3 May, the first three migrants were found on Oronsay airfield *Colonsay*, another was there on 6 May, while two were found at Gleann Cul Bhurg (Iona) *Mull* on 5 May. The only other migrant reported was one at Creag na Feannaige (The Oa) *Islay* on 21 May.

**Breeding** On 19 Jun a party of five birds, including a chick, was found on Stob a'Coire Odhair *North Argyll*.

## **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica*

*A rare visitor: 17 previous Argyll records (2001-2012). The recent increase in records may well be due to improved awareness of identification criteria.*

**Autumn** An adult found at Sandaig *Tiree* on 5 Sep [Keith Gillon] was later seen nearby at Greenhill on 6 Sep and at Middleton on 9-10 Sep. A further three birds, one adult and two juvs., were on *Tiree* from 9-23 Sep [John Bowler]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

## **PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva*

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

No records.

## **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag

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

**Winter/spring** During Jan records were only received from *Tiree* (see Table 30) and *Islay* where the largest count was 400 at Gruinart on 12 Jan. Records were more widespread during Feb when 2000 were at West Parkfergus *Kintyre* on 3 Feb, 600 at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb and 170 on *Colonsay* on 25 Feb. Early spring migrants were noted at Fiddon *Mull*; 4 on 4 Mar, increasing to 15 by 15 Apr. There was a record count of 49 at Ballymeanach *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar and 770 were at Clochkeil (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 7 Apr. A period of northerly winds at the end of Apr which held up many migrating waders led to a large number of reports including 24 at Kilchattan (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 17 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 21 Apr, 577 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Apr and 710 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 29 Apr. On *Tiree* 7600 were noted on 22 April, including 6300 at The Reef. Numbers declined to 3800 on 24 Apr but increased thereafter to a huge count of 11520 on 29 Apr, including 7200 at The Reef. With a change in wind direction there was a rapid reduction in numbers present in early May with 765 at Ardnave-Gruinart *Islay* and 390 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 May and by the middle of month all counts were down to single figures.

**Breeding/summer** There were no reports from birds in breeding habitat. During Jun and Jul there were single figure counts from *Islay*, Oronsay *Colonsay*, *Tiree* and *Mull*, where a fly-over bird was noted on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) on 25 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning group were 18 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 25 July, but at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* the first, a single going south, was not until 16 Aug. During Aug and Sep numbers on *Tiree* increased (see Table 30), while elsewhere 10 were at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 17 Aug, 40 moved south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 3 Sep and 200 were at Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Sep. In Oct, 8 were at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct, 800 at Clochkeil (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, 440 at Bowmore *Islay* 13 Oct and 220 on Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 19 Oct. Towards the year end, away from *Tiree*, 1645 were at Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Nov, 169 at Oronsay airfield *Colonsay* on 10 Nov, 105 at An Leth-onn *Mull* on the same date, 850 at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 12 Nov and 1000 at Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Dec.

Table 30. *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on Tiree in 2013.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Tiree</i>	3885	2780	2400	11520	1800	7	401	1135	3500	3810	3895	2115

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

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* Feadag-ghlas

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

**Winter/spring** Numbers reported early in Jan were low, with 5 found at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Jan and singles on *Tiree* at Balaphettrish Bay on 24 Jan and Sorobaidh Bay on 30 Jan the only birds noted. Records suggest there might have been a small influx in Feb when 16 were found around *Tiree* during an all-island count on 2-3 Feb. Three were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 9 Feb and on *Islay* 14 were at Ardnave Point on 15 Feb and 13 at Bowmore *Islay* 17 on Feb. During Mar, small numbers were again noted on *Islay* and *Tiree*. During May there was some evidence of spring passage, with two found at Baugh *Tiree* on 7 May, 9 were at Gruinart *Islay* on 13 May, and 4 flew north at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 May. The last 2 were noted at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 June.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning autumn individual was at Neriby *Islay* on 25 Aug (three days later than in 2012). Up to three were seen at various sites on *Tiree* in early-mid Sep and 5 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Sep. These were the prelude to the peak in passage during early Oct. In *Kintyre* a remarkable 30 birds were noted passing south during easterly winds at Machrihanish SBO during 5-9 Oct, including 11 on 8 Oct; this movement probably included 5 which were found feeding on the shore at Machrihanish Links on 5 Oct. During this period 1-2 were reported from *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree* and one was at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct. One found on Oronsay *Colonsay* in late Oct lingered until at least 5 Dec, and 6 were found during the WEBS count at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Nov. In Dec the only others reported were singles at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Dec and at Bowmore *Islay* on 29 Dec.

**NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus* Curracag

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

**Winter/spring** Regular counts were made at Gruinart *Islay* and *Tiree* where the largest populations were found throughout the year (see table 31). Away from these sites other winter records were of 76 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Jan and 65 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 13 Jan. Small numbers were noted from less regular haunts eg Gleann Alasgaig *Mull* on 4 Jan, 1 at Loch Caithlim (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 2 at The Oa *Islay* on 22 Jan, 6 at Saulmore *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan and 3 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Feb. As spring approached records were more widespread and numbers increased: 29 were at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 14 Feb, 15 at Loch

Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb, 35 at Fidden *Mull* on 6 Mar, 90 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Mar, 2 at Aros Estuary *Mull* on 5 May and 1 at Carraig an Daimh (Iona) *Mull* on 16 May.

**Breeding** On *Tiree* incubation was noted from mid-March, with the first chicks noted on 17 May at the Reef, where 312 prs bred. On Oronsay *Colonsay* the first brood (b/4) was noted on 10 Apr. Proven breeding was noted at Garvard *Colonsay*, Ballinaby (b/4 and b/3), Aoradh Wood (7 prs with 18 young), and Gruinart, all *Islay*. Trends in the breeding pairs at Ardnave and Gruinart *Islay* are shown in Fig 2. At Westport Marsh *Kintyre* 3 prs were proved breeding, while on *Mull* probable breeding (4 prs) was noted at Braigh (Knocknafenaig). Probable breeding was also noted at Gartbreck *Islay* and around 40 birds were reported from various locations on *Coll* in Jun.

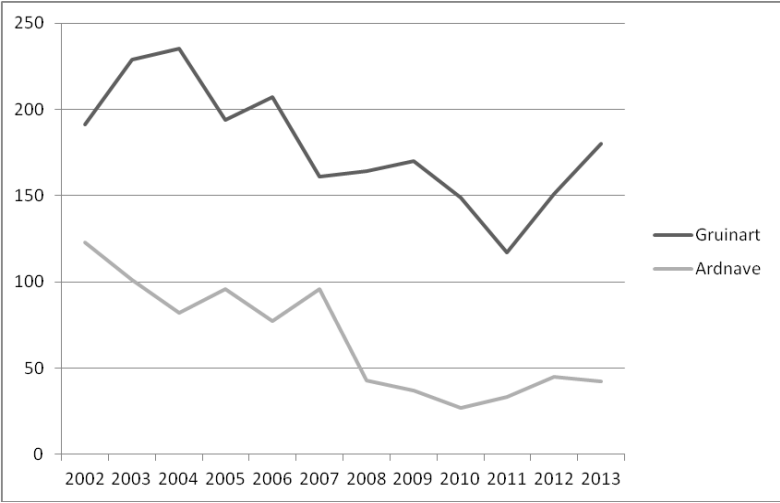


Figure 2. Trend in breeding pairs of Northern Lapwing at Gruinart and Ardnave *Islay*, 2002-2013

**Autumn/winter** Away from the regular wintering sites on *Islay* and *Tiree* (see table 31), reasonable numbers were reported from *Colonsay*: 41 at Machrins on 2 Oct, 83 at Traigh nam Barc on 21 Oct, 52 on Oronsay on 31 Oct, rising to 148 on 31 Dec. There were also regular reports from *Kintyre*: 10 at Westport Marsh on 24 July, 5 flew south at Machrihanish SBO on 23 Aug, 50 at Machrihanish Airfield on 12 Nov and 79 at Tayinloan on 16 Nov. Nine at An Leth-On *Mull* on 14 Sep was the highest autumn count from *Mull*. On *Cowal*, at the Holy Loch there were 6 on 21 Oct and 4 on 18 Nov and 18 Dec, a single was at Otter Ferry on 24 Oct and 50 were at Ardlamont Ferry on 18 Nov; these sightings plus the two above were all the reported sightings from this area during the year. There were no records throughout the year from *North Argyll*. There were very few records from *Mid-Argyll* in the latter part of the year, with only small numbers noted: 1 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep, 1 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov and 2 at Blackmill Bay (Luìng) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov.

Table 31. Monthly *Maximum counts of Lapwings at Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve and on Tiree in 2013.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	410	400	30	90	-	30	46	25	123	250	564	430

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	3520	2235	-	-	-	-	430	3020	2500	2430	2165	3690

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs.

### **RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus* Luatharan-gainmhic

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

**Winter/spring** Usually a flock wintered on Loch Fyne with counts of 57 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 7 Jan considered to include the same birds as 37 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 26 Jan. On Islay 12 were at Ardnave Point on 12 Feb and 40 at Bowmore Islay on 17 Feb. For the remainder of the winter (to end Mar) smaller numbers were reported from Campbeltown Loch, Machrihanish Bay, Kennacraig (all Kintyre), Oronsay Colonsay, Garmony Mull, and Balephetrish Bay Tiree.

All counts from late Apr to Jun were of fewer than five birds, except six in non-breeding plumage at Loch a'Phuill Tiree on 10 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning bird in autumn was one at Loch a'Phuill Tiree on 28 Jun. The main peak of migration was in late Jul when 130 moved south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 24 Jul and the following day when 45 were at Loch a' Phuill Tiree, 45 flew past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre and 4 were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll. On Islay 10 were at Ardnave Point on 3 Aug and 10 were reported at Bridgend on 28 Aug. Later in the autumn migration 11 juv. were at Loch a'Phuill Tiree on 3 Sep, 8 were also reported from the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on the same day. On 7 Sep, 50 passed Machrihanish SBO Kintyre and small numbers were recorded there through until end Sep. 12 were at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) Islay on 14 Oct and 7 were found at the Holy Loch Cowal on 21 Oct. The only birds noted wintering were 60 at Corsapol Islay on 2 Nov. and 2-4 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll 4-9 Nov, which were probably the same birds as 2-3 noted at Otter Ferry Cowal during Nov-Dec.

### **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas

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

**Winter** On Tiree, the numbers reported were slightly lower than 2012 throughout the year (see Table 32). Other wintering flocks reported included 54 on The Strand Colonsay on 15 Jan, 40 at Machrihanish Bay Kintyre on 2 Feb, 80 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 12 Feb, 45 at Ardnave Islay on 4 Mar and 30 flying north past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 20 Mar.

**Spring** 18 colour flagged birds found amongst the large numbers found on Tiree during May gave a good indication of the movements of birds seen in Argyll. They were ringed in Ghana (1), Mauritania (3), Portugal (2), Hayling Island (1), Greenland (2) and Iceland (9 - which wintered on Tiree (2), Iceland (2), France (3), Portugal (1), Mauritania (1)). Elsewhere, 34 migrants were found on The Strand Colonsay on 4 May, 20 on Iona Mull on 18 May, 32 at Gruinart Islay on 13 May, 140 at Taylinloan Kintyre on 22 May and 1 at An Sailean (Benderloch) North Argyll on 26 May (the only record during the year from North Argyll). 120 were on Oronsay Colonsay on 26 May, 41 at Loch Gilp Mid Argyll on 3 June and 90 were noted flying north at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre the following day. Possible summering birds included 40 feeding on a rotting Sperm Whale carcass at Knockangle Point Islay on 15 Jun and 4 at Arnabost Coll on 22 Jun.

**Autumn** Movement south was reported from 24 Jul, when 100 flew south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre; 320 went past the following day. 12 were noted at Machir Bay Islay on 26 Jul. A single bird at Otter Ferry Cowal on 1 Aug was the only record during the year from Cowal. 200 were at Loch Gruinart Islay on 5 Aug, a single bird was reported at Scallastle Bay Mull on 16 Aug,

while 106 were on The Strand *Colonsay* on 26 Aug, 2 were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Aug and 45 on Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 3 Sep. The proportion of juvs. on *Tiree* peaked at 17% on 9 Sep. Away from *Tiree*, late autumn counts included 130 at Ardnave *Islay* on 18 Sep, 1 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 3 at Calgary *Mull* on 23 Sep, 44 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, 86 at Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Oct, 70 on *Colonsay* 15 Oct and 58 moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Oct.

**Winter** Two leg-flagged individuals seen in the large flocks on *Tiree* in Nov had been marked as juv. in Greenland. Elsewhere towards the year end 90 were seen flying south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Nov, 56 were at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 Nov and 21 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 13 Nov.

Table 32. *Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings on Tiree in 2013. Counts from Tiree are not always of the whole island. Those marked \* are from all island surveys.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	190	653*	180	170	1400*	400	326	276	282	254	235	185

### **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** *Calidris pusilla*

**A vagrant: the only Argyll records were of four or more birds on Tiree and Islay in Sep 1999 and another was found on Tiree in Sep 2012.**

**Autumn** Two individuals found in early Sep were the fourth and fifth records for Argyll. A juv. was found at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Sep and later was also seen at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 12 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler, Roger Broad]. The other, presumed to be an adult, was with Dunlin in the unexpected location of Black Mill Bay (Luining) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Sep [David Jardine]. Both records accepted by BBRC.

### **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* Luatharan-beag

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

**Spring** Four adults were found at Loch a Phuill *Tiree* on 30 May; two were still present on 2 June.

**Autumn** The first returning bird was at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun; however no more were seen until 10 Aug when an adult was found at Gott Bay *Tiree* and another was seen there on 22 Aug. Several juvs. were found on *Tiree* from 8 Sep, when one was at Clachan Mor on 8-11 Sep, 2 were there on 12 Sep, 2 were at Gott Bay on 8-9 Sep, with one still there on 12 Sep and another at Miodar from 9-16 Sep, two unaged birds were also at Torosa *Tiree* on 12 Sep. Elsewhere two were found at Stinky Hole (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 20 Sep and one, the last seen, was one at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Sep.

### **TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii*

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

No records.

### **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** *Calidris fuscicollis*

**A vagrant: only four Argyll records, two on Islay: one at RSPB Loch Gruinart in Aug 2000 and one at Traigh Ghruineart in Oct 2005, and three on Tiree: adults in Aug and Sept 2011 and Aug 2012.**

No records.

### **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** *Calidris bairdii*

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

**Autumn** A juv. found at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler] was the ninth record for Argyll. Record accepted by BBRC.

### **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*

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

**Autumn** Four juvs. occurred; the first was found at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug [Jim Dickson], followed by three different birds at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree*: on 5 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler], 11 Sep [John Bowler] and 24-25 Sep [Jerry Wilson, John Bowler]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

### **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan-crom

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

**Spring** There was a good spring passage with reports of six birds. The first was an early bird at Fidden *Mull* on 7 May, but it was not until 26 May that the next was found at Oronsay *Colonsay*, followed by one (not in full summer plumage) at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 30 May. In June one (in summer plumage) was found at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jun, while later in the month there were singles at Kintra *Mull* on 20 Jun and at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 Jun.

**Autumn** The first returning autumn migrant was at Ardskenish Point *Colonsay* on 24 Aug. A juv. was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6-9 Sep, but no more were seen until later in the month when there was one at Loch Beg *Mull* on 20 Sep, when there was also a juv. at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree*. Two juvs. were at Salum *Tiree* on 26 Sep and singles were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Sep and Croggan, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 30 Sep. The only individuals seen in Oct were found on *Tiree* when there was a juv. at Gott Bay on 1 Oct and single juvs. at Vaul Bay and Sandaig on 9 Oct.

### **PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima* Luatharan-rioghail

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

**Winter/spring** Spring numbers were lower than in 2012, with very few being noted from mainland sites; however, 22 were found on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 9 Jan, 44 were at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Jan and 2 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 11 Jan. An all-island count on *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb found a total of 219; elsewhere there were 31 on Eilean Treunaig (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 7 Feb, 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb, 10 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 28 Feb and 23 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 13 Mar. Smaller numbers were noted in April e.g. 12 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 22 Apr and 11 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Apr. There were only four reports in May; 5 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 6 May, 1 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 11 May, 6 at Croggan *Mull* on 15 May and 6 on Staffa *Mull* on 24 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning bird was one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 15 Sep, but no more were reported until Oct; 1 was at Balgie Burn (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 4 Oct, 2 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Oct, and 4 on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct. Twelve flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Oct. During Nov and Dec counts were slightly higher than 2012, with the following larger groups reported: 25 on Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 10 Nov, 58 flew south past



Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, 17 were at Dunoon *Cowal* on 14 Nov, then 41 on 19 Nov, 67 on *Tiree* on 17 Nov, 66 on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Dec and 29 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Dec.

# **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* Graillig

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

**Winter/spring** Regular counts were received from three locations on *Islay* and *Tiree* where most birds were seen (see Table 33). Other notable winter counts were: 82 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Jan, 27 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 100 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 15 Feb, 45 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb and 15 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 20 Mar. Numbers increased as migrants moved through during May with 138 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 4 May, 6 were at Aros Estuary *Mull* on 5 May, 253 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, and 110 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on the same day. The following day there were 220 on Oronsay *Colonsay*, increasing to 300 on 12 May; 11 were at Loch a'Chumhain (Dervaig) *Mull* on 8 May, followed by the highest count of the spring: 3000 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 13 May, with 1790 still there on 25 May. 10 were at Dun Aoidhean *Mull* on 15 May, 30 on Iona *Mull* on 18 May, and 85 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 23 May when there were also 52 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*. 300 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 May, 23 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 27 May, 44 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun, with 80 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Jun the last notable spring migrant flock.

**Breeding/summer** Four pairs had returned to The Reef *Tiree* by 30 April, where there was a final total of 80 singing males by Jun. A good breeding season was reported here with many young being found by the end of Jun. This is a significant increase on 2012, when only 27 singing males were found. The first hatched chick was noted at Balevuillin Pools *Tiree* on 3 Jun, with young seen at several other sites on *Tiree*. There were no other reports of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** 120 flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Jul were the first evidence of autumn migration. These were followed by 160 on 23 Jul, 250 on 24 Jul, 550 on 25 Jul and 930 between 26-31 Jul. Around this time there were 100 on Oronsay *Colonsay* 24 on Jul, 50 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* 1 Aug, 65 at Killail *Cowal* on 3 Aug and 20 at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 10 Aug. Later migrants included 130 at Gortan *Islay* on 25 Aug, 64 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep, 55 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 3 Sep, 15 at Blackmill Bay (Luig) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Sep and 50 on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct. In winter there were a few reports away from *Islay* and *Tiree*: 4 were at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Nov, 30 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec and 17 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 30 Dec.

Table 33. *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2013.*  
\*All-island count on 2-3 Feb.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	347	89	242	42	3000	-	70	1000	25	228	22	400
Indaal	40	100	34	1	654	7	170	206	46	100	7	2
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	295	270*	57	430	595	131	655	185	91	135	35	163

# **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** *Limicola falcinellus*

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

No records.

## **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis*

**Formerly a rare autumn migrant with the first Argyll record in 1971. There have now been a total of 28 records involving a minimum of 32 and a maximum of 39 birds to the end of 2012. Most have been on Tiree with records also from Islay, Oronsay, Mull, Coll and Kintyre. There have been four records of singles in spring.**

**2010:** An adult bird was seen and photographed on Oronsay Colonsay on 14 and 17 Sep [Mike Peacock]. This is in addition to the 5 juveniles already accepted there in Sep 2010. Record accepted by the ABRC.

**Spring** The third and fourth spring records for Argyll were noted: an unaged bird at Gruinart Islay on 22-23 May [James How] followed by an adult or 2CY at The Reef Tiree on 3 Jun [John Bowler].

**Autumn** An adult or 2CY Brunerican Bay, Southend on 3-4 Aug [Grant Edmundson] was the third Kintyre record. This was followed, more typically, by a juv. at Loch a'Phuill Tiree on 17 Sep [John Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

## **RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan

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

**Spring** Two spring migrants, both females, were found at Loch a' Phuill Tiree, the first on 10 May, and the other between 4-6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A strong autumn passage was noted on Tiree, but it is difficult to establish how many birds were involved. The first returning birds were 2 juv. at Middleton on 27 Aug. One was also there on 30 Aug & 2 Sep. In early Sep one juv. was at Loch a' Phuill on 8 Sep, one was noted at Greenhill machair on 9 Sep and a juv. was at Middleton on 13 Sep. From mid-Sep numbers increased with 3 juv. at Middleton on 16 Sep, 1 juv. at Loch a'Phuill on 17 Sep, 2 juv. at Barrapol on 22 Sep. During 26-28 Sep, six were present on the island (4 at Loch a'Phuill, 1 at Barrapol and 1 at Ruaig). Three were found at Balephuill on 30 Sep when there was also a 1 juv. at Loch a'Phuill. The following day 4 were found (3 at Meningie and 1 at Barrapol). Two were still at Meningie on 3 Oct. The following day, 7 were at Loch a'Phuill, 5 of which lingered until 5 Oct. Three were at Balephuill on 6 Oct, and one was found at Moss on 15 Oct. Another small influx occurred at the end of the month when 2 were at Loch a'Phuill at 27 Oct, 1 at Ruaig on 28 Oct, and 4 at Loch a' Phuill on 29 Oct. The last birds were 2 there from 4-11 Nov. The only other records came from Islay, where one was with Northern Lapwing at Gruinart on 24-26 Sep. Later two were seen there on 14 Oct with a single also noted on 17 Oct and 22 Oct.

## **JACK SNIFE** *Lymnocryptes minimus* Gobhrag-bheag

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

**Winter/spring** There was a slight increase in winter sightings with nine single birds reported: at The Oa Islay on 21-22 Jan, at Tayinloan Kintyre on 9 Feb, at Gruinart on 28 Feb and Port Charlotte (both Islay) on 12 Mar, at Loch Spelve Mull on 4 Mar, at Hynish on 19 Mar, at The Reef on 27 Mar (both Tiree), at Ardnave Islay on 3 Apr, at Ceann a'Mhara Tiree on 5 Apr, at Knock Mull on 9 Apr and finally at The Reef Tiree on 18 Apr.

**Winter** There were five records, all of singles: at Ceann a'Mhara Tiree on 27 Sep, on Colonsay on 15 Oct, at Balephuill Tiree (in a puddle in the middle of the road) on 30 Oct, at Ruaig Tiree on 6 Dec, and finally at Glenastle Islay on 7 Dec.

## **COMMON SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg

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

**Winter/spring** During Jan, only 5 singles were reported; 3 from the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* and the other 2 from Loch a'Chuihmhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 12 & 24 Jan. Reports increased in Feb when 23 were counted around the coast of *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb and 3 were found on outer Loch Etive *North Argyll* during a WEBS count on 9 Feb. Signs of birds returning to breeding areas included 10 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 8 Mar, 7 at The Oa *Islay* on 13 Mar, 5 at Gruinart *Islay* the following day and one at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 17 Mar. However, the first report from *Cowal* was not until 28 Mar when one was found at Blarbuie, Glen Fyne. Birds were also noted at Ardminish (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 6 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Drumming was reported on *Tiree* from mid-March and first noted on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Mar and recorded at An Leth-onn *Mull* on 14 Apr. An increase in ters. was noted at The Reef *Tiree* with 91 found in Jun (c.f. 63 in 2012). Breeding was proved here and also at Gruinart *Islay*, where hatched young were noted from 29 May and on Oronsay *Colonsay* where a brood was noted on 12 Jun. 18 drumming birds were found on a circuit of the island road on *Colonsay* on 16 Jun. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, at least 3 breeding pairs were found on Lunga during 22-29 Jun and one was noted on Fladda during 22-29 Jun.

Other possible breeding was noted at the Stone Road end *Cowal* on 9 May, at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 24 May and at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** During Jul and Aug there were regular sightings of small numbers; larger counts included 20 at Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Jul and 58 there on 27 Jul. From late Aug more signs of migration were noticeable with 40 at Balemartin *Tiree* on 21 Aug during an obvious influx. There were 70 at Hynish *Tiree* on cut silage on 27 Aug, 75 at Middleton *Tiree* on 30 Aug and more unusually 6 at Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep and 13 at The Oa *Islay* on 5 Sept. Numbers peaked in mid-Sep when there were 125 on *Tiree* on 10 Sep (80 at Balinoe, 45 at Middleton), 155 at Middleton *Tiree* on 13 Sep; 471 were found on *Tiree* on 16 Sep, where the largest groups noted were 220 at Middleton, 120 at Ruaig and 80 at Baugh. A flock of 280 was found at the last site two days later and 160 were found at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 22 Sep.

Elsewhere there were 37 at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Sep; 13 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep, and 6 were noted at Lochgilphead Meadows *Mid Argyll* on 27 Sep. Numbers dropped significantly as birds moved through, with only 52 on *Tiree* on 10 Oct, 25 at Bowmore *Islay* on 13 Oct, 12 at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 16 Oct and 60 at An Fhaidail *Tiree* on 17 Oct, the larger flocks noted. On *Cowal* the only birds reported were singles at Otter Ferry and Holy Loch on 21 Oct. During Nov, 75 on *Tiree* on 15 Nov, 40 at Ardnave *Islay* on 29 Nov and 13 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov were the peak counts reported. During Dec the only double figure counts were from *Tiree* where 40 were at West Hynish on 1 Dec and 45 at Loch a'Phuill on 29 Dec. Seven on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Dec was a high count for this offshore islet.

## **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

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

**Spring** A bird found at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 1 May was viewed and photographed well, allowing specific identification before it flew off in the direction of Loch Gruinart and was not seen subsequently [Mary McGregor, James How, Jim Dickson]. Record accepted by the BBRC.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach-coille

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

**Winter/spring** The first record of the year was of one on Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan. Most early winter records were of 1-2 birds, but 4 were noted at Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Jan, 5 at Quinish *Mull* on 20 Jan, and 20 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 20 Jan. During February two were noted on *Tiree* on 2 Feb, two were at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 25 Feb and one was found on *Colonsay* on 26 Feb. Ten were at Kynagarry *Islay* on 10 Mar and two were reported from Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 21-22 Mar. Four were disturbed on the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 4&8 Apr, while one was found in the Ban Ruhba woodland (Scarba) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr and another at Barrs (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 13 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Roding birds were reported from 12 Apr at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and also from Knapdale Forest *Mid-Argyll* and *Colonsay House Colonsay*, where there were 19 registrations of woodcocks during the national Woodcock samples on 24 May and 6 Jun. Roding birds are under recorded and all records are welcome for this species, which is believed to have declined as a breeding species in Argyll (*Bird Atlas 2001-11*). The only other record during summer was of one on Garbh Eileach (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul. There were no reports in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** 20 at Creag an Uisgean *Islay* on 24 Sep and a single at Heylipol *Tiree* on 26 Sep, were the first evidence of an autumn influx. During October, four were at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 14 Oct, a single was found at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 20 Oct and 5 flew SW over Balephuill *Tiree* with thrushes on 22 Oct. Later singles were found at Drimfern *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov and Balliemore (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov. Thereafter only singles were reported from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*, except for four at Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Dec and three at Red Well *Cowal* on 19 Dec.

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

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

**Winter** There were two records of single wintering birds; one at Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Jan and the other at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 14 Feb.

**Spring** The first signs of spring passage were 12 at Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Mar and the first noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was almost in full summer plumage on 29 Mar. There were single figure counts until later in Apr when 20 were on Traigh Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr, and 34 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on the same day (4 of which were colour-ringed). On 22 Apr, 64 were on *Tiree*, increasing to 132 on 24 Apr. On 26 Apr, 12 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 54 at Gruinart *Islay*. A period of persistent strong northerly winds over the next few days prevented birds from returning to their breeding grounds on Iceland and numbers built up to produce the largest ever recorded concentration of this species in Argyll. On 28 Apr, 118 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, 40 at Salen *Mull* and 52 were found on Oronsay *Colonsay*. The following day counts peaked at 1520 on *Tiree* (including 510 at Heylipol, 395 at Balevullin, 320 at Loch Bhasapol, 113 at The Reef and 96 at Loch a' Phuill) and 891 were at Gruinart *Islay*. Many moved off as the weather blocking migration shifted with only 231 remaining on *Tiree* and 500 on *Islay* the following day. By 4 May the numbers on *Tiree* had dropped to 145, and elsewhere in early May only small numbers were reported from *Islay*, Oronsay *Colonsay* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Summer** No evidence of breeding was reported, but single figure counts were reported in Jun and Jul at various sites on Oronsay *Colonsay* and *Tiree*.

**Autumn** Autumn passage started in late Jul, when 17 were at Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Jul, 11 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 25 Jul, where a further 22 moved south the following day. 21 were at Barrapol *Tiree* from 2-5 Aug and 3 noted at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 4 Aug included a bird colour-ringed in Iceland. The first juv. reported in the autumn was found at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug. Autumn migration reached a peak in late Aug, when 30 were seen at Tobermory *Mull* on 20 Aug, 89 were on *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 16 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug and 20 at Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Sep. On *Tiree* the peak at Loch a'Phuill was 53 on 5 Sep; 2 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on the same date. Thereafter smaller numbers were reported on *Islay* and *Tiree* except for 18 feeding in a cut silage field at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 12 Sep and 25 at Tangy *Kintyre* on 29 Sep.

**Winter** Two at Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Nov and singles at Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Nov, and at The Reef *Tiree* on 11 Nov were the only birds reported.

### **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* Roid-ghuillbneach

**AMBER LIST A** *mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.*

**Winter/spring** *Islay* remained the most important area in Argyll, where regular counts were undertaken (see table 34). The first record of the year was of one at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 1 Jan – throughout the year all counts from *North Argyll* were of 1 or 2 birds. 38 were counted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 77 on the all-island count on *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb. Other Feb records included 1 at Aros Estuary *Mull* on 14 Feb, 250 at Ardnave *Islay* on 15 Feb (the highest count during year, well down on the 2012 peak of 600 birds) and 20 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb. There was a leucistic bird at Nave Island *Islay* on 16 Feb. The first spring migrant at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was seen on 12 Apr, followed by a flock of 85 seen flying north there on 14 Apr. Other spring records were of 5 at Loch a'Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 24 Apr, 197 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 May, and finally 2 found on The Strand *Colonsay* on 23 May.

**Summer** Other than on *Islay* (see table 3), where there were 65 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) on 11 Jul, other summering birds included a single at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Jun, 5 at Machrins *Colonsay* on 11 Jun, 3 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 16 Jun and 5 at Salum *Tiree* on 20 Jun (all of which may refer to the same group of birds).

**Autumn/winter** The first returning birds were 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jul; however, it was not until 13 Aug that they were reported moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, where passage peaked on 20 Aug when 11 moved south. Other autumn records included 12 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 17 Aug, 17 juv. at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug and 4 at Fidden *Mull* on 14 Sep. Counts of 13 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* and Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* both on 19 Sep, point to the regular movement of some waders across Loch Fyne between these two sites. Away from *Islay* (see Table 3) counts were generally low: 8 were at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 15 were on *Colonsay* on 1 Oct, 6 moved south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Oct and 8 were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Oct. 21 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* from 4 Nov – 6 Dec, with 44 there on 15 Dec; elsewhere 4 were found on the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Nov, 16 on *Tiree* on 2 Dec and 11 were on The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 Dec.

Table 34. *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay in 2013.*

<i>Lochs</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	180	97	73	80	-	-	7	55	65	84	139	174
Indaal	200	200	5	64	156	1	65	123	189	18	100	3

Note – these numbers are down on previous years

### **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* Eun-Bealltainn

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

**Winter** One found with Curlews at Ardyne Farm Cowal on 9-11 Feb was only the second record of a wintering bird in Argyll (George Newall). The previous one was found on *Colonsay* in Jan 1984.

**Spring** There was a very early migrant at Aros Estuary *Mull* on 11 Mar, a month before the next at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 13 Apr, followed by two at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* the following day. The first on *Tiree* was at Balinoe on 17 Apr, followed by 15 the next day at The Reef. After this, reports became more widespread: one was at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 19 Apr, 4 were found on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 8 at head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr, 53 at Treshnish Point *Mull* and 7 on the same date on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Passage increased the following day when 97 were found on *Tiree* and 12 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 9 passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. 50 were seen moving north at this site on 24 Apr. For the next week the numbers reported were lower, until there were 66 on *Tiree* on 30 Apr and the following day there, 98 at Nerabus *Islay* and 17 on Oronsay *Colonsay*. On 5 May, 10 were at Aros Estuary *Mull* and 21 at Tayinloan *Kintyre*. Two days later 25 were at Fiddien *Mull*, 20 at Loch an Duin *Tiree*, 20 at Bruichladdich *Islay*, 10 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* and one flew over Knapdale Forest *Mid-Argyll* during a Woodcock survey. Passage continued to be coastal with 60 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 11 May, so 2 over Loch Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May was an interesting record of overland passage. The following day 93 were on *Tiree*, 11 on Oronsay and 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and on 14 May, 49 were found at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* and 38 at Bowmore *Islay*. Following 3 on Iona *Mull* on 16 May, the number of migrants diminished, with 11 at Arinagour *Coll* on 24 May the last large group noted.

**Summer** Small numbers were reported from island locations during Jun and Jul: singles were on Oronsay and The Strand *Colonsay* between 3-11 Jun and again on 7 Jul, 2 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 June and 3 were on *Tiree* on 5 Jun, then 1-2 there between 26 Jun-1 Jul.

**Autumn** Autumn passage was first noted when one came in off the sea at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul; another flew south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 July, but the main period of passage there was from 3-20 Aug, peaking on 18 Aug when 16 were noted flying south. Elsewhere during Aug, five or fewer birds were recorded at several sites on *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree*, singles were also noted at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and on *Mull* at Ulva Ferry on 26 Aug and at Aros Estuary on 28 Aug. Small numbers were reported from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and *Tiree* during Sep, but one at Otter Ferry Cowal on 4 Sep was the only other record from that area during the year. The last few reported included 2 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, one at Hynish *Tiree* on 3 October, with the last on Iona *Mull* on the relatively late date of 29 Oct.

### **EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

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

**Winter/spring** Details of regular counts at four sites are given in Table 35. Other notable early year counts were 34 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 80 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 13 Jan, 44 at Killail Cowal on 16 Jan and 61 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan. 804 were found on an all-island count on *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb, while 70 were at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 7 Feb and 43 at Ardlamont Point Cowal on 14 Feb. Later in the month numbers increased suggesting birds were

moving north with 100 found at Ardnave *Islay* on 15 Feb, 60 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Feb, 171 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 18 Feb, 94 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 20 Feb and 61 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb. Other spring counts from less regularly reported sites included 20 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 10 Mar, 8 at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 13 Apr and 16 at Loch a'Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull* on 19 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** There were no reports of breeding activity; the *Bird Atlas 2007-11* suggests this is a declining species in Argyll and all records of breeding are welcome. Small numbers were reported through summer on the coast including a single bird on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in late June. There were 104 non-breeders (mainly juvs.) at Carnain *Islay* on 5 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Details of regular counts at four sites are given in Table 35. Few concentrations were noted until 94 were found at two locations on *Tiree* on 9 Aug, followed by a peak count at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* of 74 moving south on 21 Aug. Thereafter larger flocks were: 58 at Low Ballevain *Kintyre* on 3 Sep, 90 at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 17 Sep, 35 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Sep, 60 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 25 Sep, 100 at Westport *Kintyre* on 1 Oct, 26 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct, 45 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 30 Oct, 55 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, 37 on Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov, 72 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov, 130 at two sites on *Tiree* on 21 Nov and 35 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov.

Table 35. *Maximum monthly counts of Curlews at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay, and WEBS counts from Loch Creran and the Holy Loch in 2013.*

<i>Loch</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	155	190	147	54	21	21	79	326	255	216	110	96
Indaal	130	73	50	12	10	9	104	191	117	12	40	14
Creran	38	40	35	14	3	nd	23	39	25	29	28	32
Holy Loch	163	80	146	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	243	76	121	36

## COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan

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

**Spring** The first returning bird was seen at Loch a'Chumhain (Dervaig) *Mull* on 14 Apr. (One day later than 2012); 3 were there the following day. On 16 Apr two were at Islandadd bridge *Mid-Argyll*, 1 at Tobermory *Mull* on 17 Apr and 1 at Kilchiaran *Islay* on 18 Apr. On *Tiree* the first was found at Hynish the following day. Arrival in other areas was later: 2 at Ballimore shore *Cowal* on 23 Apr and 2 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 28 Apr. The first birds on *Colonsay* and *Jura* were not reported until 3 May and 9 May respectively.

**Breeding/summer** In Jun breeding was proved at Uragaig *Colonsay* (nest c/4 on 15 Jun), with hatched young noted at Loch Turraman *Colonsay*, Otter Ferry *Cowal* and Connel and Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll*. Probable breeding was reported from Otter Ferry (N), Goirten Croft (Loch Fyne), Creag a Croit Powder Dam, Cnocan Corrach, Loch Melldalloch, Ballimore Boathouse, Largiemore, Kyles of Bute viewpoint (all *Cowal*), Bruichladdich and Claggain Bay *Islay*, Claonaig and Auchameanach Farm *Kintyre*, Loch Leacann and Brainport Bay *Mid-Argyll*, Lunga, (Treshnish) *Mull*, and Milton harbour *Tiree*. In *Cowal* possible breeding was noted at Killail, Kilfinan Bay, Lephinchapel and Portavadie ferry slip. On *Colonsay* 22 ters. were located, the lowest total recorded during 1996-2013 (see fig 3. for trend in ters. found on *Colonsay*). Five were noted feeding at a rotting Sperm Whale carcass beached at Knockangle Point *Islay* on 15 Jun.

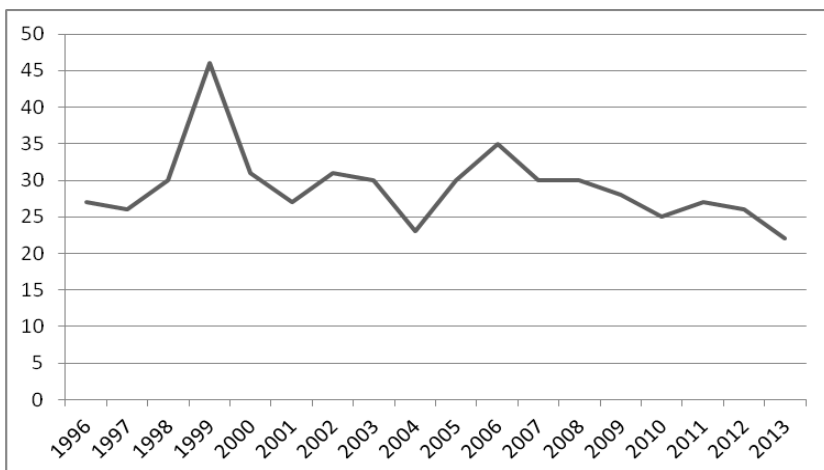


Figure 3. Trend in territories of Common Sandpiper on Colonsay and Oronsay, 1996-2013

**Autumn** Nine at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 Jul, were the first migrants noted, but they were not noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* until 13 Jul when 10 flew south. Two on Eilean an Naoimh and 2 on Dun Chonnuill (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll* on the same date were also thought to be migrants. Migration increased towards the end of the month with 22 noted flying south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Jul and 35 moved past there between 29-31 Jul. Elsewhere 4 were noted at Traigh na Cille *Mull* on 25 Jul and 4 at Lagavulin *Islay* on 27 Jul. The last sightings in each recording areas were as follows: a single at Kilbride (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug, 3 at Kellan (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 16 Aug, 8 going south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Aug, one at Blairmore Farm *Cowal* on 31 Aug and a very late individual at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 30 Oct.

#### **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** *Actitis macularius*

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

No records.

#### **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan-uaine

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

**Spring** One found at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun was the only spring migrant.

**Autumn** Only two were noted on autumn migration; both were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*. The first was on the early date of 30 Jun and the other on 13 Jul.

#### **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh-breac

**AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant: mostly in autumn.**

**Spring** The only record was of one at Druim Mor, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Apr [Mike Peacock, Izzy Baker]. Record Accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).



## **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa melanoleuca*

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

No records.

## **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* Deoch-bhuidhe

*A scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and there are regular winter records in some localities.*

**Winter** During Jan, small numbers were reported around most of western Argyll: 2 at Kennacraig *Kintyre*, 1 at Gleann Alasaig *Mull*, 1 at Loch a' Chumhainn (Dervaig) *Mull*, 1 at Linne Mhurich *Mid-Argyll*, 1 at Loch Caithlim (Seil) *Mid-Argyll*, 3 at Loch Creran *North Argyll*, 1 at An Sailen (Benderloch) *North Argyll* and 3 at Loch Laich *North Argyll*. A larger group of 7 was reported at Salen Bay *Mull* on 8 Feb.

**Spring** The first evidence of migration was of an increase to 6 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 10 Mar, 5 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Mar and 3 at Ardnave *Islay* the same day. The first noted on *Tiree* was 1 at Balemartine on 7 April. There was a noticeable passage in mid-Apr when 3 were found at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, and the following day 6 were at Loch Riddon *Cowal*, 4 at Bridgend *Islay*, 3 at An Leth-onn *Mull*, 4 at South Shian *North Argyll* and 4 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, including a bird which had been colour-ringed at the Ythan Estuary, North-east Scotland in 2006. Thereafter reports were only of 1-2 birds.

**Breeding/summer** While there were no reports from potential breeding sites in *North Argyll*, birds were recorded regularly during May and Jun near to possible breeding habitat on *Mull* and an aggitated pair was on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 24 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first evidence of post breeding dispersal was a bird at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Jun; 4 were at Ruaig *Tiree* on 4 Jul, 2 at Bruichladdich *Islay* 8 on Jul and the first (a freshly plumaged juv.) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was noted on 13 July. At the end of the month 3 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jul and the early autumn passage peaked on *Tiree* with 12 at Loch a' Phuill on 31 Jul. Two were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug, 3 flew south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Aug and one was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 6 Aug. Autumn migration continued with 9 noted on *Tiree* on 15 Aug, 3 singles on *Mull* on 16 Aug, 3 at Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Aug, 9 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Aug, then 12 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 26 Aug. Five were found at Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep and 7 lingered on the Strand *Colonsay* until 25 Sep. In Oct, 9 were at Lochdon *Mull* on 2 Oct, 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Oct and 3 at An Sailean (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 26 Oct. Towards the end of the year the following counts of wintering birds were received: 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Nov, 5 at An Leth-onn *Mull* on 10 Nov, 2 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 13 Nov, 3 on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 1 Dec, 2 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec, and 2 at Drumin na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 17 Dec.

## **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa flavipes*

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

No records.

## **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* Luatharan-coille

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

**Spring** Four singles were seen during May with the first at Eilean Mor (Loch Gorm) *Islay* on 17 May and one at Grunart *Islay* the following day. On 30 May singles were found at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and Gruinart *Islay*.

**Autumn** Four were found at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 24 Jul and one was at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Aug.

## **COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus* Cam-ghlas

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

**Winter/spring** Apart from regular counts at: Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Holy Loch *Cowal*, and *Tiree* (see Table 36), typical sightings were 9 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 1 Jan and 21 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan. Typical late-winter counts were: 5 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 20 at Bridgend *Islay* on 10 Feb, 5 at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, 6 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 11 Feb, 20 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 15 Feb, 13 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Feb, and 13 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 10 Mar. 12 reported at Loch a'Chumhainn (Dervaig) during 17-18 Apr was the highest count from *Mull*. Spring migration was noted from early April and peaked late in the month when: 231 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr, 232 in tight noisy flocks were on *Tiree* on 24 Apr, when there were also 40 at Dunoon *Cowal*. Later there were 28 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Apr when there were also 11 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* and a count of 100+ at Kinloch *Mull*. A small passage also occurred in early May when 45 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May and 35 in a tight flock at Loch an Eilean *Tiree* the following day

**Breeding/summer** Breeding records were restricted to: *Islay*, where displaying was noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 8 May and probable breeding was noted at Sanaigmore on 26 Jun; *Tiree*, where 56 ters. were found on The Reef (42 ters. in 2012) and a b/3 was found at Greenhill machair on 18 Jun; Oronsay *Colonsay* where the first chicks were noted on 12 Jun and a late b/4 was found on 14 Jun and *Colonsay* where 10 ters. were found (5 ters. in 2012). Birds were also recorded on *Coll* in Jun, but no details of breeding were provided.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning birds of the autumn migration were 20 noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jul, with passing numbers increasing there during the month and peaking with 140 on 24 Jul (part of 505 passing between 24-30 Jul). 16 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jul. Numbers diminished during Aug; the larger flocks reported were 70 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Aug, 83 at Ardnave *Islay* on 22 Aug, 25 on The Strand *Colonsay* on 26 Aug, and 71 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug. Regular counts during the winter were conducted at key sites (Table 36), with widespread reports of small numbers elsewhere eg 10 at An Leth-on *Mull* on 14 Sep, 26 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, 22 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 12 Oct and 25 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Dec.

Table 36. *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at Loch Gruinart (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), and monthly maximum day-counts on Tiree in 2013. \* All-island count on 2-3Feb.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	42	55	61	27	17	18	13	87	4	9	71	36
Holy L.	38	35	3	nd	nd	Nd	nd	nd	28	21	24	22
Tiree	28	248*	52	232	112	112	45	6	35	17	17	16

## **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan-beag

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

**Winter/spring** Regular counts were undertaken at a series of sites (see Table 37); away from these 30 were found on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 9 Jan. A total of 798 were found on the all island count on *Tiree* during 2-3 Feb, while 46 were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 9 Feb, 26 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 24 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Feb and 17 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar. Reports from *Mull* in Apr included 20 at Pennyghael on 14 Apr and 20 at Fidden on 15 Apr. During May numbers diminished away from *Islay* and *Tiree*, with 80 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12&19 May the largest group recorded.

**Summer** 30 were found on Eilean nan Ron (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 5 Jun, while 6 fed on a rotting Sperm Whale at Knockangle Point *Islay* on 15 Jun and 8 were noted on *Tiree* on 20 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning birds were noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Jul (6 days later than 2012). 63 were noted moving south there between 27-30 Jul. During Aug the following flocks were noted away from regularly counted sites (see Table 37): 45 at Killail *Cowal* on 3 Aug, 48 at Kirn (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 5 Aug and 46 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 17 Aug. Later in the autumn 21 were found at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep, 25 at Garmony Point *Mull* on 2 Oct and 30 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 1 Nov. Toward the year end there were notable counts of 60 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Dec, 49 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Dec and 40 at Ledaig Point *North Argyll* on 30 Dec.

Table 37. *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal (Islay), Otter Ferry (Cowal) and Tiree in 2013.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	24	32	45	37	26	-	5	1	7	28	41	5
Indaal	17	18	41	4	4	-	-	10	7	5	12	3
Otter F.	121	104	107	85	3	-	-	58	95	109	85	66
Tiree	150	798	200	35	140	8	5	30	60	115	45	60

### **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan-allt

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

**Breeding** A pair was first seen at one of the same (confidential) sites as in 2010-12 on 7 Jun. Later in June the female was seen on her own and later only a male, which lingered until 30 Jul rearing two young to fledging.

**Spring/summer** A migrant male was found grounded in the mist with other waders at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun, and later flew off high out to sea [John Bowler].

### **GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag-allt

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

**Autumn** The first of seven sighted in autumn was one at Portnahaven *Islay* on 15 Sep. The following day three flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and a further bird found there that day lingered until 17 Sep. One flew west past Aird *Tiree* on 9 October and the last bird noted was one being harried by Hooded Crows at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov which flew off to Traigh Bhi.

### **POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair-donn

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

**Spring** Forty-two birds were seen in spring which is more than normal. The first was a dark phase bird at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 9 May. There were two seen from the ferry off *Coll* on 14

May. One was reported from Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* and another at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 16 May. On 23 May there were 13 at Haunn *Mull*, two at Ardnoe Point (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*, and two at Rubha na Moine (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*. On 24 May another 12 were seen at Haunn *Mull*, and two at Gunna Sound *Tiree*. One was seen at Sound of *Islay Islay* on 29 May, and 5 passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Ten birds were seen in autumn/early winter. One was reported from Quinish *Mull* on 30 Jul. One passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Aug. One was reported from Dubh Loch *Colonsay* on 24 Aug. One flew south off Arinagour *Coll* on 28 Sep. A juvenile passed Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct. One was seen at Beinn nan Gabhar *Mull* on 9 Oct. Singles were also reported on *Colonsay* on 15 Oct, Machir Bay *Islay* on 24 Oct, Aird *Tiree* (a juvenile) on 14 Nov, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (a juvenile) on 5 Dec.

### **ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

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

**Spring** First of the spring was a dark phase bird at West Hynish *Tiree* on 21 Apr. Very small numbers were seen during May-Jul off *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*, the largest count being six birds seen on 24 May off Haunn *Mull*. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* noted that this species was unusually scarce in spring 2013, with the largest daily count being five birds on 29 May. About half of the birds where colour phase was reported were dark phase, suggesting that very few birds from high Arctic breeding areas (which are all pale birds) passed through Argyll waters this spring and that most birds seen in spring were from the local population.

**Breeding** No data were available on breeding numbers or success for the colonies in *Coll* and *Jura*. Small numbers were seen daily by TIARG in Jun-Jul around the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, and were presumed by TIARG to be birds from the colony on *Coll*, although they may also have included non-breeders from more northern populations summering in Argyll. Dark and pale phase individuals first seen at sea off *Jura* in late Jun were watched flying onto *Jura* so were thought likely to be breeding there.

**Autumn** Very small numbers were seen off *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* but especially *Tiree* in Jul-Oct. The last record of the autumn was of two birds passing Aird *Tiree* on 9 Oct.

### **LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Fasgadair-stiùireach

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

**Spring** All the following records are of adult birds. One at Bruichladdich was seen flying towards Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 May and possibly the same at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 May. Forty flew past Ardchiavaig (near Loch Assapol) *Mull* on 20 May and 14 flew past the Mull of Oa *Islay* on 21 May. On 23 May, 9 flew past West Hynish *Tiree*, 44 flew past Haunn (Treshnish) *Mull*, 25 flew past Port Mor *Colonsay*, 3 flew past Port na h-Atha *Colonsay* and 32 flew past Ardnoe Point (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll*. The following day 72 flew past Haunn (Treshnish) *Mull*.

**Autumn** No records.

*This is an unprecedented spring passage through Argyll associated with a strong NW airstream and was reflected throughout the west side of the British Isles at this time. It is thought that many more birds passed through Argyll unnoticed and counts of more than 1,000 birds were*

*made just north of Argyll at the Corran narrows near Fort William on 23 May (per Dan Brown).*

### **GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair-mòr

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

**Winter/spring** The earliest record was a bird at Traigh Bhi Dunes *Tiree* on 8 Mar, and possibly the same bird was at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 10 Mar. There were no more sightings until 18 Apr, when a bird was at Baugh *Tiree*, chasing fulmars. There were reports for most dates from then through to autumn. Apart from one or two seen passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, all reports during spring were from the western Argyll islands (especially *Colonsay*) or from ferries travelling to/from those islands.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, TIARG reported that at least three territories were occupied on Lunga, with breeding confirmed in two of these. At least two pairs held territory on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Birds on Lunga were twice seen drowning other large seabirds, once an adult shag (one of the birds that had been colour ringed by TIARG in a previous year) and once a large gull. Birds were holding territory and displaying on *Oronsay* and on *Colonsay* but there was no proof of successful breeding. At least one pair nested at *Coll*, but none nested at *Tiree*. No data were received on the current breeding status at *Staffa Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Small numbers (mostly single birds) were seen on passage in Aug to mid-Nov from a variety of coastal sites but especially *Tiree*. The peak counts were seven birds passing Calliach Point *Mull* in 1.5 hours on 17 Aug, 81 passing Aird *Tiree* in two hours on 16 Sep, 27 there in 1.5 hours on 17 Sep, 18 in one hour on 18 Sep, and 37 in two hours on 9 Oct. The last record of the year was also at Aird *Tiree*, with three birds on 14 Nov.

### **IVORY GULL** *Pagophila eburnea*

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

No records.

### **SABINE'S GULL** *Larus sabini*

*A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn. Reported more frequently recently than in the 1980's*

**Autumn** An adult in summer plumage was seen off SE *Coll*, from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry, on 20 Sep [David Bryant]. Record accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

**AMBER LIST** *Normally a strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on: Islay, Treshnish Isles, and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland. Breeding Kittiwakes are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

**Winter/spring** Although normally scarce in winter, there were 1,200 dip feeding between Ardrishaig and Sronachullin (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, and 150 feeding off skerries at Hough *Tiree* on 11 Jan, while about 250 birds per hour passed Aird *Tiree* on 30 and 31 Jan.

**Breeding** Some 200 birds were back on ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 5 Apr, when increasing numbers were also noted offshore. There were 107 AONs there on 21 May but most birds were still nest-building and no eggs had been laid. On 19 Jun there were at least 160 pairs

at that colony, including 84 active nests with eggs or small chicks. On 12 Jul there were 96 pairs present, with 60 active nests containing 83 half-grown to large chicks. At Dun Tealtaig (Urugaig) *Colonsay* there were 17 AON's on 9 Jun. At Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* there were 233 AONs in late Jun, representing a 41% drop in numbers from the previous year. Brood sizes were also noted to be lower than normal. A flock of 200 were feeding at Gulf of Corryvreckan *Jura* on 2 Aug, contained no juveniles. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported that the first juvenile was not seen there until 16 Aug, about two weeks later than normal. These observations suggest that breeding was very late.

**Autumn/winter** About 600 were loafing on the shore at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Aug. There were 1,000 at Lady's Rock *Mull* on 5 Sep, and 3,000 flew south past Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* in one hour on 15 Sep during a gale. There were 340 feeding between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 12 Oct. Moderate numbers (between 100 and 500 birds per hour) flew past *Tiree* on various dates during Oct and Nov. Although numbers in Argyll waters are normally very small in Dec, there were over 3,000 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in less than one hour on 5 Dec.

### **BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Larus philadelphia*

**A vagrant: four records: Islay in Jun and Sep 1975, Tiree Apr 2010 and the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Aug 2012.**

**Summer** A second calander year bird was seen and photographed at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Jun [John Bowler] Record accepted by BBRC.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Although normally scarce in most of Argyll during winter, there were 400 dip-feeding between Ardrishaig and Sronachullin (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 120 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jan, 1,000 feeding intensively within 50 m of the shore close to the fish farm at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 14 Jan, 770 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan, 200 feeding in the running tide at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 29 Jan, 250 there on 28 Feb, and 500 there on 11 Mar. In contrast, numbers on Argyll islands such as *Islay* and *Tiree* were generally small in Jan-Feb but increased in Mar and especially in Apr.

**Breeding** On *Tiree*, on 29 Apr there were: 100 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 48 pairs at Greenhill, 29 pairs at The Reef, and 40 pairs at Barrapol, somewhat larger numbers than in the previous year. Productivity was high on *Tiree* with large numbers of fledged young by mid to late-Jun, and birds left colonies mostly during late Jul. At Duncuan (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* 22 pairs fledged at least 16 young. At Eilean Munde (Loch Leven) *North Argyll* only three pairs attempted to breed and failed due to mink. Two pairs nested at Abhainn a' Chuirn *Colonsay*, and eight pairs nested at Bowmore *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed in autumn and winter, though mostly in small numbers. However, there were 100 at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* on 28 Aug, 400 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep, 220 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep, 130 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Oct, 143 at Killail *Cowal* on 11 Nov and 147 there on 20 Nov, and 300 between the fish farm and Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 18 Dec.

### **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag

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

**Winter/spring/summer** There were several reports between 2 Mar and 28 Jun, most of these were of birds in first-summer plumage and many may have related to the same individual. A

bird at Duncuan Island (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Mar was thought to be the same individual that had been seen there on 20 Nov 2012. Apparently the same bird was seen at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, and at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr. Then a first-summer bird arrived at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 27 Apr. There were further reports of a first-summer bird at various locations in *Tiree* on 28 Apr, 1, 6, and 9 May, 6, 11, 20, and 28 Jun. Single adult birds were seen at Caliach Point *Mull* on 18 May and at Killiechronan *Mull* on 3 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A first-summer bird on *Tiree* on 9, 11, and 23 Aug, might be the same bird that was there in Apr-Jun. An adult was seen at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep, and a first-winter bird was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 and 10 Nov.

### **ROSS'S GULL** *Rhodostethia rosea*

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

No records.

### **LAUGHING GULL** *Larus atricilla*

**A rare visitor: nine records: all between 1974 and 2011.**

No records.

### **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

**AMBER LIST A vagrant until recently: recorded much more frequently in recent years and now a scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter.**

**Winter** An adult and a first-winter (both un-ringed) were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan [Jim Dickson].

**Autumn/winter** A moulting was at Criagnure *Mull* on 3 Aug [Roy Atkins] and a different 'full summer' adult was at Port Langamull *Mull* on 6 Aug [Ewan Miles]. A first-summer/second-winter was at Gruline *Mull* on 1 Sep [Martin Gillingham]. Two first-winters (both un-ringed) were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep [Jim Dickson]. A first-winter (colour ringed) was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep [Jim Dickson]. A first-winter (un-ringed) was at Ruag (near Soa Island) *Tiree* on 1 Oct [Jim Dickson, John Bowler, Bill Allan]. An adult and a first-winter were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Oct [Eddie Maguire, Dave Milward]. A different juv/first-winter was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct with the adult bird there on 29 Oct [Eddie Maguire]. An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov [David Jardine]. A first-winter (un-ringed) was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Nov [Jim Dickson]. An adult and a first-winter (both un-ringed) were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec with the adult at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec [Jim Dickson]. An adult was at Killail *Cowal* on 24 Dec [Tom Callan]. *The colour ringed bird at Loch Gilp on 15 Sep had been ringed as a chick at Yonne (S of Paris) France 48,07N 3,17E on 26 Jun 2013.*

### **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus* Faoileag-chumanta

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

**Winter/spring** Large numbers were present on *Tiree*: 720 on 8 Jan, 290 in Hough Bay on 11 Jan, 515 at The Reef on 29 Jan, 290 at Loch Bhasapol on 3 Feb, 210 in Hough Bay on 12 Feb, 240 on 1 Mar, 380 on 6 Mar, 660 on 11 Mar, 350 at Loch a' Phuill on 31 Mar. Other large counts include: 175 at Ardnave *Islay* on 4 Jan, 1,000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* feeding close to the shore between the spit and fish farm on 14 Jan and 200 feeding there on 29 Jan, 200 at Bridgend

Merse *Islay* on 10 Feb, 250 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 28 Feb and 500 there on 11 Mar. Smaller numbers were reported from all areas of Argyll.

**Breeding** Widely distributed, mostly in small numbers. On *Tiree*, there were: over 100 pairs at Loch a' Phuill, 97 pairs at The Reef, 90 pairs at Crossapol, 42 pairs at Balevullin Pools, 5 pairs at Milton, 7 pairs at Balinoe, 10 pairs at Greenhill machair, 5 pairs at Loch Bhasapol, 6 pairs at Hynish, 13 pairs at Happy Valley, 3 pairs at Hough dunes, 5 pairs at Kilkenneth, 6 pairs at Loch Aulaig. Productivity on *Tiree* was good, with large numbers of fledglings from early to mid-Jul. At least 70 chicks fledged from the colony at Loch a' Phuill. Counts at other breeding sites include: 1 pair at Sgeir na Giusaich, 1 pair at Fladda and 1 pair at Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. In the study area monitored by Clive Craik a total of 45 sites held 790 pairs. At 34 of these productivity was monitored and 729 pairs produced 248 fledglings. Many sites were affected by mink whereas productivity was high in some sites where mink were controlled.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed, but often in small numbers. Large counts include: 200 at the Gulf of Corryvreckan *Jura* on 2 Aug, 450 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 600 at Kilnave *Islay* on 24 Aug, 780 at Middleton *Tiree* on 27 Aug, 280 at Hough *Tiree* on 9 Sep, 450 at Raineach Mhor *Islay* on 14 Sep, 300 at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Sep, and 500 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* feeding in the strong tidal flow on 18 Dec.

### **RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

**A scarce to rare visitor: usually annual with one to four records in late winter and spring, although there are records for every month of the year.**

**Winter** An adult was at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Feb and thought most likely to be the returning adult first seen in Apr 2005 [David Jardine].

**Summer/Autumn** A Third calendar year bird (second summer plumage) was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 5 to 8 Jun [John Bowler, Keith Gillon] and most likely the same individual at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 and 30 Aug [John Bowler]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Only 4 birds were reported in Jan, one on *Islay*, one on *Tiree*, one seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry, and one at Dun Skeig *Kintyre*. Numbers increased in late Feb, with several people reporting their first sighting of the year towards the end of that month. A steady influx was noted on *Tiree* from 1 Mar when there were 10 on the island, 19 on 6 Mar, 26 on 8 Mar, and 100 on 18 Mar. There were 180 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Mar, and 77 there on 9 Apr.

**Breeding** TIARG reported that two pairs nested on Lunga and about five pairs on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. On *Tiree*, an incomplete survey found: 88 pairs at Loch Bhirceapol, 59 pairs at Milton, 10 at Ceann a' Mhara, 5 at The Ringing Stone, 5 at Hough dunes, 0 at Balinoe, and 2 at Ballevullin. Numbers at *Tiree* dropped from late Jul, with very few remaining after mid-Aug. One pair nested above the main cliff at Pigs Paradise *Colonsay*, and one pair at A' Chuli (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll*. In the study area monitored by Clive Craik a total of 16 sites held at least 115 pairs. Many sites were affected by mink whereas productivity was high in some sites where mink were controlled.

**Autumn/winter** No particularly large numbers were reported in autumn (but there were 20 at the Gulf of Corryvreckan *Jura* on 2 Aug and 7 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 31 Aug). Numbers declined during winter, with only a few birds reported during Dec, with one at



Aoradh *Islay* on 13 Dec, 4 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Dec, and one at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 17 Dec.

### **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus* Faoileag-an-sgadain

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

**Winter/spring** Widespread across Argyll, especially on sheltered coasts, at harbours, and on pasture land near the coast. There were: 290 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 6 Jan, attracted to the area by cattle cake set out nearby, 350 feeding off Hough Skerries *Tiree* on 11 Jan, 170 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 14 Jan, 112 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 14 Jan, 130 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 18 Jan, 300 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 20 Jan, 180 at Raineach Mhor *Islay* on 23 Jan, 180 at Bowmore *Islay* on 24 Jan, 111 at Gruline Mausoleum *Mull* on 1 Feb, 150 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 3 Feb, 175 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Feb, 228 at Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 17 Feb, 150 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 10 Mar, 253 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Mar, 273 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 12 Mar, 180 at Milton *Tiree* on 18 Mar, 190 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Mar, and 130 at Port na h-Atha (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 24 Mar.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Lunga (estimated 10 pairs) and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (estimated 1 pair), Fladda (11 pairs), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (10 pairs), Sgeir an Fheòir (2 pairs). No birds were holding territory on Sgeir na H-lolaire or Sgeirean na Guisaiach. The average rate of change on Lunga between 1994 and 2013, is calculated at -11.6% per annum (TIARG). On *Tiree*, numbers of breeding pairs were: 33 at Milton, 16 at Loch Bhirceapol, 30 at The Ringing Stone, 15 at Rubha Chraiginis, 12 at Hough dunes, 12 at Balevullin, 7 at Ceann a' Mhara, 0 at Salum and 4 at Balinoe. Good numbers of fledglings were about by early Jul at the colonies on *Tiree*. There were 40-50 pairs on Eileach an Naoimh and 40 pairs on A' Chuli (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll*. In the study area monitored by Clive Craik a total of 50 sites held at least 4,633-4,683 pairs. Many sites were affected by mink whereas productivity was high in some sites where mink were controlled.

**Autumn/winter** Widespread, with highest counts: 348 at Aoradh *Islay* on 22 Aug and 270 there on 29 Sep, 417 at Crois Mhor (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 22 Aug and 301 there on 20 Sep, 234 at Sgor Cainteach (Sound of Gigha) *Kintyre* on 21 Oct, 230 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov and 350 there on 15 Dec, 369 at Druim Mhor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 5 Dec and 790 there on 19 Dec.

### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

**A vagrant: one record: a bird at Loch Gruinart, Islay on 1-7 Sep 2002 (in this case the race/sub-species 'atlantis' was not ruled out).**

No records.

### **AMERICAN HERRING GULL** *Larus smithsonianus*

**A vagrant: one record: a first winter bird seen on Tiree in 2007, with another two records on Tiree from 2007 still under consideration by the BBRC.**

No records.

### **ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides glaucooides* Faoileag-liath

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

**Winter/spring** There were only a relatively small number of individuals reported: one at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 1, 12 and 22 Jan, 14 and 17 Feb, 2, 21, 26 Mar, 11, 12, 25 and 30 Apr,

an adult at Traigh Bhi Dunes *Tiree* on 6 Jan, one at Reudle *Mull* on 7 Feb, an adult Kilninian *Mull* on 11 Feb, one at Saligo *Islay* on 11 Feb, one at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 Mar, a 1<sup>st</sup> winter at The Laggan *Kintyre* in early May, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 May.  
**Autumn/winter** Only a single report: one was at Gribun Cliffs *Mull* on 16 Dec.

**KUMLIEN'S GULL** *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*

*A sub-species of Iceland Gull, from arctic NE Canada, with no Argyll records before 2011 but a small influx during late winter 2011/12.*

No reports.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir

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

**Winter/spring** All reports were of single birds: there were 1<sup>st</sup> winter birds at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 3 Feb, Clachan Beag (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Feb, Abhainn Mhor (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb, Glaschoine (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Mar, 18 Apr, 13 and 28 May, an immature at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 2 Jan, adults at Gartbreck *Islay* on 13 Mar, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Mar, and birds of unspecified ages at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 5 Feb, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 and 6 Feb, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Feb, Ardnave *Islay* on 11 Feb, RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Feb, Bowmore *Islay* on 17 and 18 Feb, Gartbreck *Islay* on 21 Feb, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar, Clachan Beag (Loch Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, Gartbreck *Islay* on 15 Mar, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Mar, Druim na h-Eresaid *Islay* on 28 Mar, Dun an Fhithich *Islay* on 4 Apr, The Oa *Islay* on 4 Apr, and Duncuan Island (Loch Gilp) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May. A dead bird was found on the beach at Saligo *Islay* on 10 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Only two records: One at Kilfinichen Bay *Mull* on 6 Dec and one at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 and 30 Dec.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus* Farspag

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

**Winter/spring** Records were mostly of small numbers, from all coastal areas of Argyll but particularly on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Largest groups were: 23 at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Jan, 25 at Kames Fish Farm (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Feb, 28 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Mar, 54 there on 15 Mar, and 35 on 4 Apr.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Fladda (29 pairs), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (20 pairs), Lunga (14 pairs), Bac Mor (7 pairs), Sgeir an Fheoir (3 pairs), Sgeir a' Chaisteil (2 pairs), Sgeir na h-Iolaire (1 pair). On *Tiree*, numbers of pairs were: 5 at Milton, 10 at Loch Bhirceapol, 5 at The Ringing Stone, 0 at Hough dunes, 12 inland from Baugh, 0 at Rubha Chraiginis, 1 at Balevullin. Two pairs were on Eileach na Naoimh and one on Dun Chonnuill (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll*. In the study area monitored by Clive Craik a total of 40 sites held at least 314 pairs. Many sites were affected by mink whereas productivity was high in some sites where mink were controlled. At 35 sites where productivity was measured, 266 pairs fledged 237 chicks.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed on coasts of Argyll in small numbers. Larger groups included: 22 at Kames Bay (Loch Melfort) *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jul and 46 there on 1 Oct, 32 at Raineach Mhor *Islay* on 14 Sep and 25 there on 13 Oct, 30 at Bowmore *Islay* on 23 Sep, 40 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Oct, 87 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 48 at Eilean Glas (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov, 31 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov and 48 there on 27 Nov, 36 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Dec and 29 there on 16 Dec, 49 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 5 Dec, 35 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 13 Dec, and 31 at Holy Loch Cowal on 18 Dec.

**BRIDLED TERN** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

*A vagrant: one record: present on Tiree on 30 Jun to 9 Jul 1994 was only the fourth Scottish record.*

No records.

**LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons* Steàrnag-bheag

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

**Spring** The first of the spring was on 14 Apr at Bruichladdich Islay. Spring records came mainly from Islay, Tiree, and Colonsay and from Sound of Gigha Kintyre. Almost all spring records away from breeding sites were of only 1 to 4 birds, apart from 13 at Kintra Islay on 3 May.

**Breeding** On Tiree, there were 36 pairs in total, spread across several sites. Breeding success was good, with mean productivity around one chick per pair. No data from breeding sites in Islay, Coll and Kintyre, although there were 36 adults in the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 6 Jun.

**Autumn** Many birds had already left breeding areas during Jul. There were still 21 on Tiree on 5 Aug, but the last autumn record was of an adult in Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 12 Aug.

**GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

*A vagrant: two records: both on Tiree: in Sep 2008 and in Apr 2010.*

No records.

**CASPIAN TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia*

*A vagrant: one record: an adult seen between Ardpatrik Point, Mid-Argyll and Gigha, Kintyre in Jun 1981.*

No records.

**WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida*

*A vagrant: one record: an adult at Machrihanish, Kintyre on 9 Jul 2007.*

No records.

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* Steàrnag-dhubh

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

No records.

**WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

*A vagrant: one record: an adult at Balephetrish, Tiree on 2 and 3 Sep 1999.*

No records.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr

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

**Winter/spring** The first record of spring was on 25 Mar, when one was seen at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre. Records were frequent but involving small numbers (mostly 1, 2 or 3 birds) in Apr, from most coastal areas of Argyll but especially Kintyre. The largest count in Apr was of 15 on the shore of West Loch Tarbert near Ardpatrik House Mid-Argyll. In May, numbers at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre peaked at 63 on 4 May.

**Breeding/summer** In Jun and Jul, there were plenty of records from most parts of coastal Argyll with numbers in groups generally small but ranging up to 27 birds. However, there was no evidence of breeding occurring in Argyll. A few juveniles were seen from 23 Jul onwards. A small number of first summer birds were also reported.

**Autumn/winter** Most autumn records were during Aug and from *Kintyre*. There were 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug, 6 on 8 Sep and 2 on 20 Sep at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Latest was a single off Otter Ferry *Cowal* with possibly the same individual off Tarbert *Kintyre* on 27 Oct.

### **FORSTER'S TERN** *Sterna forsteri*

**A vagrant: one record: at Oban Bay and Loch Feochan, Mid-Argyll from 8 to 11 Jan 2003.**

No records.

### **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* Steàrnag-chumanta

**A locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland. Breeding Common Terns are a feature of Glas Eileanan SPA.**

**Spring** The first of the season was seen at Traigh Bhi Dunes *Tiree* on 5 May, a relatively late date. The species was seen regularly from 13 May onwards, in many coastal areas of Argyll. Most spring records were of small numbers, with flocks of more than 6 birds being unusual. However, there were 18 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 May, and 50 feeding in Loch Etive east of Connel Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 30 May.

**Breeding/summer** In the study area monitored by Clive Craik a total of 13 sites held at least 723 pairs. Many sites were affected by mink whereas productivity was high in some sites where mink were controlled. Purpose-made mink-proof tern rafts in Loch Creran *North Argyll* managed by Clive Craik held 450 pairs that fledged about 440 young (62% of pairs and 81% of fledglings in this study area), making it one of the largest and most productive common tern colonies in the British Isles. In 2011, JNCC tracked terns from the Loch Creran colony and found that most were feeding at the south end of the Sound of Mull, a 34 km round trip. This unusually long foraging trip for common terns suggests that the richest feeding grounds for the species are in the Sound of Mull (where there used to be a very large colony at Glas Eileanan that was extirpated by mink; a few pairs attempted to nest there this season but abandoned due to egg predation). Birds presumably commute this long distance because of the benefit of nesting in the mink-free conditions provided by rafts that are unavailable at natural sites in most of Argyll. At least 100 birds were feeding in the flood tide off Lady's Rock *Mull* on 4 Jun, and 25 were feeding in the tidal flow off Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun, though it is unclear whether these birds came from particular breeding sites. At least 5 pairs nested on Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) *Kintyre*, and 5 or 6 pairs nested at Aoradh *Islay*. None nested on the Treshnish Isles *Mull*. Four pairs nested at Leac Bhuidhe (Oronsay) *Colonsay*.

**Autumn** Birds were reported in good numbers from many coastal areas in Aug. There were 100 at Eilean Musdile *North Argyll* on 16 Aug and 120 at Rubha Fiart (Lismore) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug. Most birds had gone from Argyll waters by the end of Aug. Late records were: 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep, and one at Glenburn (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 25 Oct.

### **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea* Steàrnag

**AMBER LIST 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.*

**Spring** The first bird reported was at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 14 Apr but reports came from several locations from 15 Apr onwards. Spring records came mostly from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. There were 45 at *Tiree* on 6 May, 150 at *Urvaig Tiree* on 13 May, 100 at *Baile Mor (Iona) Mull* on 18 May, 80 feeding off *An Talla (Crossapol) Tiree* on 21 May, 60 feeding with kittiwakes off *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 22 May, 82 at *Eilean Treunaig (Oronsay) Colonsay* on 23 May, and 360 in *Gunna Sound Tiree* on 24 May.

**Breeding** On *Tiree*, it was reported that birds were slow to settle in colonies, with no sign of nesting by the end of May. There were 191 pairs nesting at 14 sites across *Tiree* by mid Jun. Breeding success at *Tiree* was 'fair' with several dozen fledglings from mid-Jul. On *Tiree* there were 470 birds at *Loch a' Phuill* on 30 Jun including an 'unprecedented' 350 birds in first summer plumage. Numbers there increased to 650 birds on 3 Jul, including 450 in 1<sup>st</sup> summer plumage. On 5 Jul there were 1,450 birds on *Tiree*, mostly at *Loch a' Phuill*, with 1,200 of these being 1<sup>st</sup> summer plumage immatures. These birds then dispersed from the island with about 300 remaining on 11 Jul but few after that. TIARG reported a colony of about 98 pairs on *Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) Mull*. Twenty pairs nested at *Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) Kintyre* in Jun but deserted by 9 Jul. About 40 pairs nested at *Plaide Mhor* and 46 pairs at *Abhainn a' Chuirn Colonsay*. Clive Craik monitored 10 colonies which held a total of 215 pairs. At 8 sites with known productivity 203 pairs fledged about 82 young. Several colonies were affected by mink, but productivity was high at sites where mink were successfully trapped out.

**Autumn** Birds were widely distributed in more marine areas of Argyll in Aug but mostly in small numbers. About 50 birds per hour were passing *Aird Tiree* on 1 Sep. Numbers reported decreased strongly in early Sep. The last record from *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* was of a bird sheltering from a squall on 19 Sep, and the last record from *Tiree* was of two birds at *Vaul* on 23 Sep.

**ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

**RED LIST** A rare migrant: prior to 1980 it occasionally bred in Argyll. The most recent records were in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2012.

No records.

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

**AMBER LIST** A highly colonial, and locally abundant, breeding species. Adults with small young appear on the sea far from colonies in late summer. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands and smaller numbers are regular in sea lochs in winter. Breeding Common Guillemots are a feature of *North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA*. **Winter/spring** There were very few reports from Jan to early Mar, with just a few birds seen offshore. Larger numbers were reported from late Mar onwards. There were about 2,000 back on nesting ledges at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 5 Apr and birds were then also widespread around the coast.

**Breeding/summer** The first egg was noted on *Colonsay* on 20 May where at *Urugaig ave.* of 80.8 adults in Jun. On *Tiree*, although there were 1,377 birds on breeding ledges on 21 May there were very few with eggs. A total of 814 birds were foraging in *Machrihanish Bay Kintyre* on 1 Jun, of which 5.2% of those that were seen well were bridled birds. Presumably these birds originated from local colonies. There were 2,005 adults on ledges at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 19 Jun, about 73% of these birds apparently incubating eggs. *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* reported the first adult guillemots carrying fish (sandeels) on 23 Jun and suggested that this marked the start of hatching at nearby colonies. On 12 Jul there were 2,224 adults at *Ceann a'*

Mhara *Tiree* with 445 ‘mid-sized’ chicks. Most of the chicks fledged between 17 and 24 Jul, with breeding success considered to be ‘reasonably good’ despite this being a rather late breeding season. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a’ Chaisteil, with 6,212 adults counted (a slightly lower number than in 2012). On 27 Jul there were at least 850 guillemots, many with chicks, seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry, indicating dispersal of birds from local colonies. Numbers in this area had fallen considerably by 23 Aug (420 birds of which 160 were chicks) and further by 30 Aug (217 birds in total) as post-breeding dispersal took birds out of the area.

**Autumn/winter** There was no suggestion of high mortality of juveniles in the autumn, despite the apparently fairly good productivity of fledglings this year. Although most autumn records came from more open marine areas, some autumn records came from the Clyde and sea lochs. Only small numbers were reported in Sep and in Oct in most areas, although some large numbers of auks (common guillemots and/or razorbills) were seen passing *Tiree*, especially during Oct. As usual, there were very few reports in Nov and Dec, indicating that birds had generally moved out of inshore Argyll by early winter.

### **BRUNNICH’S GUILLEMOT** *Uria lomvia*

**A vagrant: one record: found dead at Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll on 11 Oct 1969.**

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda* Falc

**AMBER LIST A locally common breeding species, although much less numerous and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.**

**Winter/spring** As usual, few were seen in Jan or Feb, although there were 200 at Brenfield *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb and 150 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 Feb which are unusually large numbers for this time of year. Numbers increased in Mar. By 5 Apr there were at least 200 birds back on breeding sites at Ceann a’ Mhara *Tiree*, with widespread feeding activity around the coast in small numbers.

**Breeding** Three birds were incubating at Urugaig Cliffs *Colonsay* on 20 May with an ave. of 29.4 adults counted in Jun. but at Ceann a’ Mhara *Tiree* there were just 103 birds on the cliff on 21 May with no sign of any eggs, though most pairs appeared to have laid eggs by 1 Jun. On 1 Jun there were 704 birds feeding in Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre*, presumed to be birds from local Argyll/Clyde or Irish colonies. Overall, the breeding season appeared to be fairly successful at the *Tiree* colony, with 361 birds on cliffs on 19 Jun (many with eggs), and 376 in 12 Jul (many with chicks). On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a’ Chaisteil with 405 birds on Lunga and 3 on Sgeir a’ Chaisteil. Post-breeding dispersal from Argyll colonies resulted in a count from the ferry of 150 birds between Kennacraig and *Islay* on 27 Jul, declining to 40 on 23 Aug and 28 on 30 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** After post-breeding dispersal in Jul-Aug, reports were mostly of small numbers and there were very few records in Sep-Dec. However, there were 40 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 20 Oct, and about 100 auks, mostly razorbills, between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 21 Nov.

### **BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cephus grylle* Gearra-breac

**AMBER LIST A widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs. Black Guillemot is a protected feature of Clyde Sea Sill pMPA.**

**Winter/spring** Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Large counts included: 22 off *Colonsay* on 25 Feb, 28 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 30 at Ceann a’ Mhara *Tiree* on 5 Apr, 32 at Eilean nan Caorach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 6 Apr and 20 at

Port na Cuilce *Colonsay* on 24 May. Because black guillemots remain in much the same area throughout the year these counts are likely to indicate the size of the local populations in these sites (though including immature as well as adult birds), possibly better than counts during the breeding season (when adults may be in burrows/cavities at nests so not detected).

**Breeding** Widely distributed along Argyll coasts where nesting habitat is available. Birds were already visiting nest sites at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Mar. Rab Morton counted 349 around Sanda Islands *Kintyre* (the population within the Clyde Sea Sill pMPA) on 5 May, a date which is after the ideal census period as some birds are likely to be in nest sites so not detected. Nevertheless, that is possibly the largest population of this species in Argyll. TIARG counted 6 at Lunga, 8 at Sgeir an Eirionnaich, and 51 at Fladda (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in late Jun. Clive Craik counted 105 adults at 13 sites in his study area, and noted that many colonies were being affected by mink. As a result, breeding success of black guillemots was very low, although mitigation by providing nest boxes and controlling mink is possible and was successful at some sites. There were 120 birds counted near Rhuvaal lighthouse *Islay* on 13 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Large counts included: 24 around Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug.

### **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

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

**Winter** Somewhat more records than usual, though still only seen in small numbers and mostly from *Tiree*. There was one at Pennyghael *Mull* on 3 Jan, eight off *Tiree* on 30 Jan and two on 31 Jan, three about 2 km off Brenfield *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Feb, one at Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb, a dead bird was found on the shore at Killinallan *Islay* on 3 Feb, one was seen at An Carraigeann *Mull* on 5 Feb, a dead bird was found on a barn roof at The Green *Tiree* on 15 Feb, and another dead bird was found at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 2 Mar. One bird was seen at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 1 Nov and one at Aird *Tiree* on 5 Dec.

### **PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

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

**Winter/spring** One flying past Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Jan was noted as an unusual record. The only birds seen in Feb-Apr were one found dead at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 2 Mar, and one off West Hynish *Tiree* on 21 Apr. Small numbers were seen during May off known breeding sites, while there were 100 off Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 17 May and 100 off Staffa *Mull* on the same date. There were also two off Slaterich (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May, and several seen on various dates off *Colonsay* and *Tiree*.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, the estimated breeding population was 2,212 Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOBs) on Lunga and 211 AOBs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. One "white-winged" puffin was again seen visiting the breeding colony as in the previous year. No data were available from Sanda Islands *Kintyre*. A pair apparently nested at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* in the same location where nesting occurred in 2009. One was seen circling over and apparently assessing the ground at *Colonsay* on 21 Jul. There were 350 between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 17 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Only seen in very small numbers in late summer/autumn apart from a record of 47 birds passing Hynish *Tiree* in one hour on 2 Aug. The last records were of single birds, one in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 20 Aug, and one seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 23 Aug.

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

*A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith the breeding season. The genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons: those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.*

**Winter/spring** The highest counts from the islands were: 170 at Aoradh Islay on 10 Jan, 200 at Imeraval Islay on 12 Feb, 180 at Bridge House Islay on 3 Mar, 76 on Oronsay Colonsay on 21 Apr, 24 at the Post Office (Loch Buie) Mull on 1 May, and 15 at The Foxes Coll on 19 Jun. From the mainland, reports of up to five birds were received from: Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and North Argyll.

**Breeding/Summer** Birds were reported to be present during the breeding season in all areas except Cowal and Jura. Flocks of 22 and 26 were seen on Mull on 17 Aug at Caliach and Lochbuie respectively and three flocks totalling 120 were on Tiree on 21 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** The largest count reported was 220 at Ardnave Loch Islay on 10 Nov. Other large counts were: 113 at Oronsay Farm Colonsay on 13 Sep, 85 at Balevulin Tiree on 8 Oct, 150 at Ballygrant Woods Islay on 15 Nov, and 83 at Kinnabus (Oa) Islay on 18 Dec.

**FERAL PIGEON** Three reports of Feral Pigeons were received, all from islands. Four birds were at Gylen Castle (Kerrera) Mid-Argyll on 13 Jan. Single birds were reported from Lochbuie Mull on 17 Aug and Urugaig Colonsay on 19 Oct; the latter was with Rock Doves.

## **STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* Calman-gorm

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

**Winter/spring** Only one record was received, of a single bird at Castle Stalker North Argyll on 10 Mar.

## **WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* Calman-fiadhaich

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

**Winter/spring** Higher counts were: 11 at Beinn an Soltaire Colonsay on 15 Jan, 14 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 28 Jan, 40 at Whin Park Islay on 25 Mar, and 50 at the head of Loch Striven Cowal on 7 Apr. Only two single birds were reported from Tiree, one at Balephuill on 30 Mar and one at Carnan Mor on 21 May.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed only at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) Cowal.

**Autumn/winter** The highest counts were: c. 250 at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) Cowal on 30 Oct, 120 at Ballygrant Woods Islay on 8 Nov, and 70 at Maymore (Glendaruel) Cowal on 13 Nov.

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

*A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll: usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations, but is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.*

**Winter/spring** Higher counts were: 10 at the head of Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 2 Jan, 11 on Gigha Kintyre on 3 Jan, 10 at Salen Bay Mull on 24 Jan, 10 at Loch a' Chumhainn Mull on 18 Apr, 12 at Port Charlotte Islay on 7 May, and 20 at The Lodge Coll on 25 May. Smaller numbers were reported from: Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and North Argyll. Up to 6 birds appear to have been on Tiree throughout the period.



**Breeding/summer** No breeding records were received. Flocks of up to 10 were seen regularly on *Tiree* during Jul and Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were reported from all areas except *Cowal*. There were 16 at Mannal *Tiree* on 6 Oct and 15 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 26 Oct.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* Calman-tùchan

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

**Spring** A single bird was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 13 May.

**Breeding/summer** Two birds were seen at Crossapol *Tiree* on 12 Jun and one was at Mannal *Tiree* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn** Single birds were seen on *Tiree* at Kilkenneth on 25 Sep, Balemartine on 3 Oct, Mannal on 6 Oct, and Kirkapol on 8 Oct. A single bird was present at Glenbarr Abbey *Kintyre* from 30 Sep to 16 Oct.

**COMMON CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag

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

Birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas.

**Spring** First arrival was at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr. Widespread arrival soon followed with birds reported from: *North Argyll* and *Mull* on 19 Apr, *Islay* on 20 Apr, *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and *Cowal* on 25 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Six birds were on the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May, 5 were at Cnoc an Tobair *Kintyre* on 17 May, 6 were calling round Arinagour *Coll* on 25 May, 4 were at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on the same day, and 5 were at Ardnave *Islay* on 5 Jul. Only two reports of juveniles were received: one at Caol Ila *Islay* on 4 Jul and one, the final report of the year, at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Aug.

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

**A vagrant: one record: a first-winter bird found dead near Southend, Kintyre on 8 Nov 1950.**

No records.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** *Coccyzus americanus*

**A vagrant: two records: one found dead on Colonsay on 6 Nov 1904 and one found dying at Barcaldine, North Argyll in late Sep 1969.**

No records.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* Comhachag

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

Three-quarters of the year's records came from *Islay*, with the remainder from: *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Most records were of single birds although 5 were reported on *Islay* on 15 Feb, 2 were reported from Sanaigmore *Islay* on 24 May, and 3 were at Aoradh *Islay* on 5 Jul. A bird heard calling near Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* was noted as being the "first for a very long time", and a bird hunting at dusk near Colonsay House, *Colonsay* on 24 May was the first island record since 1988.

Table 38. *Outcome of monitored Barn Owl territories in Argyll in 2013.* (ARSG per Roger Broad).

Area	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful *	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min number fledged	Young per successful site
Islay	5	5	0	0	5		
Mid-Argyll	1	1	1	0	0	4	4
Kintyre/ Knapdale	30**	19	16	1	2	53	3.31
Cowal	13	13	10	3	0	29	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3.33***</b>

\* *Fledged young or large young in nest on last visit*

\*\* *Sites occupied by 21 pairs and 9 singles*

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

### **EURASIAN SCOPS OWL** *Otus scops*

*A vagrant: one record: found dead at Scarinish, Tiree on 6 Apr 1997.*

No records.

### **SNOWY OWL** *Bubo scandiacus*

*A vagrant: six records: a male on Coll on 27 Jan 2007 and an immature female on Tiree on 29 Jan 2007. Four old records between 1870 and 1892 are also considered acceptable.*

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* Comhachag-dhonn

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

Birds were reported from all areas except: *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Tiree*. Whilst most records were of single birds, up to 3 were heard at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 18 Apr and at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 4 Nov. No records of breeding were received. This is a still a much under-recorded species and all records are welcome.

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus* Comhachag-adharcaiche

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

**Breeding** A pair fledged 2 young at Aros Moss *Kintyre* and the calls of at least 2 fledged young were heard at Peninver *Kintyre* on 22 Aug. Three sites on *Colonsay* showed signs of occupation and one pair was known to have raised 2 large young.

**Autumn** Single birds were on *Colonsay* on 12 Oct and at Fishnish *Mull* on 16 Oct.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus* Comhachag-chluasach

**AMBER LIST A** *widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles (Microtus agrestis).*

Birds were present during the year on: *Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull*, and *Tiree*, with most records referring to one or two birds. Most of the records were in Apr, May and Jun but no evidence of breeding was reported.

**Winter** Several reports of singles, however on *Mull* there were 2 at Torloisk on 15 Feb, 2 at Glen More on 19 Feb, 3 at Treshnish on 17 Mar and 5 at Glen More on 28 Mar.

**Summer** Several observers saw hunting behaviour but only one reported success, at Am Bog-airigh *Jura* on 18 Jun. A bird photographed on *Jura* on 20 Jun as a possible Snowy Owl was later identified as a leucistic Short-eared Owl.

**EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraicheag-oidhche  
**RED LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal. Only one accepted record since 2006.**

No records.

**ALPINE SWIFT** *Apus melba* Gobhlan-monaidh  
*A vagrant: two records: one at Largybaan, Kintyre on 15 Apr 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles, Mull on 11 Jul 1994.*

No records.

**COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr  
*A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.*

**Breeding/summer** The first arrival was a single bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 May and in the next two weeks low numbers of birds were seen over a wider area including single birds at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May, Cairnbaan and Island Add Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May, Mishnish *Mull* on 13 May and at Oban *Mid-Argyll* and The Oa *Islay* on 16 May. Counts of 10 or more birds included: Oban *Mid-Argyll* with 12 on 17 May, 25 on 24 Jul and 17 on 22 Aug, 20 at Arle *Mull* on 10 Jun, 30 at The Oa *Islay* on 8 July and Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* with 14 on 24 Jul. The main passage appeared to be complete with pairs seen at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug but a further record on 3 Sep with 10 birds recorded at The Laggan, Machrihanish *Kintyre* was very unusual.

**COMMON KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-crùidein  
*A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in Kintyre in 1993.*

**Winter/spring** The only records were a single sighting at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 14 Jan and a number of records from Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan and between 15 and 21 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** Summer records were a single bird at the mouth of the River Orchy *North Argyll* on 1 Aug and a pair at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Around the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* there were a number of sightings between 18 Sep and 27 Nov including a pair on 21 Sep and a single bird flying up the Crinan Canal on 27 Oct. At Holy Loch *Cowal* there were sightings on 17 Sep and 7 Oct. There were island records from Laggan Bridge *Islay* on 23 Sep, and Killiechronan *Mull* on 13 Oct.

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster*  
*A rare migrant: five or six records since the first in 1981. Last record was of two birds on Mull on 24 to 26 Apr 2010.*

No records.

## **EUROPEAN ROLLER** *Coracias garrulus*

*A vagrant: seven records between 1887 and 2011. Last record was on Mull on 16 Jun 2011.*

No records.

## **HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh

*A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.*

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

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

## **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* Geocair

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

*Autumn* One was seen and photographed at Port an Eas (The Oa) Islay on 25 to 30 Aug [Martin Armstrong et al]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

## **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis* Snagardach

*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.*

*Breeding/summer* The only records were of single birds at Melfort Mid-Argyll on 13 Jun and Lochawe North Argyll on 1 Aug.

## **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich

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

*Winter/spring* Birds were regularly reported from the head of West Loch Tarbert Kintyre and Otter Ferry Cowal. There were also records from sites in all mainland areas and Mull. On Islay a single bird was seen near Bruichladdich on 3 Feb.

*Breeding/summer* Indications of successful breeding on the mainland were recorded from Cowal, Kintyre and Mid-Argyll. A sighting of 3 birds at Ballygrant Islay on 6 Jul suggested possibly the first breeding record on the island whilst on Jura near Ardlussa a nest with young was seen on 17 Jun. Another single bird was seen on Jura at Tarbert on 21 Sep. Sightings of juveniles were reported from Otter Ferry Cowal, West Loch Tarbert Kintyre and Tayvallich Mid-Argyll.

*Autumn/winter* Sightings were regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll.

## **RED-EYED VIREO** *Vireo olivaceus*

*A vagrant: two records: singles at Arinagour, Coll on 3 Oct 1992 and at Caoles, Tiree on 9 Oct 2008.*

No records.

## **GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus*

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

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

## **BROWN SHRIKE** *Lanius cristatus*

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

No records.

### **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio*

**RED LIST A rare passage migrant: only 15 records between 1954 and 2012.**

**Autumn** A first-winter bird was seen and photographed along the Dervaig to Salen Road, half a mile from Dervaig *Mull* on 5 to 14 Sep [Howard Stockdale, Geraldine Caldwell et al]. Another first-winter bird was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Oct [Emily Platt] and again there on 19 to 26 Oct [James How, Peter Roberts et al]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

### **LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius minor*

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

No records.

### **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor* Feòladair-glas

**A rare passage migrant and winter visitor. Most recent records: Tiree in Nov 2008 and at Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2009.**

No records.

### **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator*

**A vagrant: one record: a juvenile near Port Ellen, Islay on 16 Sep 1996.**

**Spring** One, probably a female, was seen and photographed at Carnan Mor (Balephuill) *Tiree* on 19 to 21 May [John Bowler, Janet Hunter]. Record accepted by the SBRC.

### **RED-BILLED CHOUGH** *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Cathag-dhearg-chasach

**The Argyll islands hold almost the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay are appreciated.**

**Winter/spring** On *Colonsay* most reports were from Oronsay RSPB Reserve where counts exceeded 10 birds on 5 occasions with a maximum of 15 on 19 Mar. On *Islay* monthly maxima at Ardnave were 55 in Jan, 50 in Feb and 46 in Mar.

**Breeding/summer** A complete island survey on Oronsay and *Colonsay* found a total of 10-11 occupied sites; breeding performance was established at 10 sites – 9 successful nests fledged 19 young. Five non-breeding birds were also found. On *Islay* at Ardnave two fledged birds were noted on 5 Jul with the largest summer count producing 45 birds on 20 Aug. At The Oa the largest number recorded was 7 on 9 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Records from *Colonsay* generally referred to flocks in single figures although 15+ birds were noted at Oronsay in Dec with a maximum of 17 on 31 Dec. On *Islay* Ardnave provided the largest flocks with: 35 on 18 Sep, 46 on 21 Oct and 48 on 6 Nov. Machir Bay returned 10+ records including 21 on 21 Oct, and 20 on 15 Nov.

### **EURASIAN JAY** *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheap

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

**Winter/spring** With the exception of a bird seen at Lochrodale *Kintyre* on 20 Mar all sightings were from widespread areas of *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Breeding/summer** A bird was recorded at Beinn Lora Woods (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 20 Aug but sightings were generally of single birds in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*. 4 birds recorded at Feochaig *Kintyre* were suggested as reflecting a general increase in the species in the area over recent years.

**Autumn/winter** Cowal and Mid-Argyll provided the majority of records with the only island records being from Mull with the highest count being 4 at Gruline Estate on 25 Oct.

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica* Pioghaid

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

**Winter/spring** Away from the breeding area in Cowal, Kintyre provided a number of records of single birds at Stewarton during Feb and Mar with a second bird seen on 5 Feb. 2 birds were also seen in Campbeltown Kintyre on 14 Apr. The only island record was a single bird at Ardbeg, Islay on 28 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** Two birds were reported from Campbeltown Kintyre as being present throughout Jul and Aug raising the possibility of a prolonged stay in the area by the pair. Single birds were seen in Mid-Argyll at Tarbert on 17 Jul and near Cladich (Loch Awe) on 19 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Sightings of 2 birds in Campbeltown Kintyre continued through Sep and Oct. 10 birds in the Dunoon town area Cowal were counted on 6 Sep and a single bird was reported from Tarbert Mid-Argyll on 29 Dec.

**WESTERN JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula* Cathag

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

**Winter/spring** On Islay the largest flock recorded was 300 at Bridgend on 12 Jan. Other large flocks included: 69 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 7 Feb, in Kintyre with 88 at Muasdale on 8 Feb and 219 at Kilkivan Quarry (Drumlemble) on 14 Feb. Further island records included: a single bird at Oronsay Colonsay on 16 Apr, 20 at Iona Mull on 15 Apr and 5 at Balevullin Tiree on 25 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Large late summer flocks included: 60 at Kilchoman Islay on 16 Jul, 97 at Cluniter (Dunoon) Cowal on 2 Aug and 85 at Cluanach (Bridgend) Islay on 26 Aug. Other island records with fewer than 10 birds came from Colonsay and Iona Mull.

**Autumn/winter** 120 birds at Kilchoman Islay were reported between 10 and 15 Nov but the largest flock was 160 birds recorded at Barloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 18 Nov. On Colonsay 30 were reported on 16 Oct and 26 at Kiloran Bay on 19 Oct.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus* Ròcas

**A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on: Colonsay, Coll, or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** On Islay the largest flock recorded was 700 at Blackrock (Bridgend) on 13 Jan. Other large flocks included 66 at Kilfinan Cowal on 10 Feb and 40 at Castle Stalker North Argyll on 3 Feb. Island records included 13 at Toberonochy (Luing) Mid-Argyll on 30 Mar and 24 on Iona Mull on 29 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** 13 AONs at Toberonochy (Luing) Mid-Argyll on 30 Mar and 34 AONs at Inverneill Mid-Argyll on 13 Apr. Late summer flocks included: 30 at Claonaig Kintyre on 24 Jun, 156 at Ardnave Islay on 5 Jul, 102 at Cluanach (Bridgend) Islay on 26 Aug and 32 at Bridgend (Lochgilphead) Mid-Argyll on 29 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Flocks exceeding 50 were reported from a number of sites on Islay in Oct and Nov with the largest being 110 at Ballygrant on 15 Nov. Flocks of 60 birds were recorded at Ardlamont Cowal on 18 Nov and Toberonochy Mid-Argyll on 30 Nov. Other island records included 2 from Mull with 9 birds at Fidden (Fionnphort) on 8 Nov and 11 at Ardalanish (Buessan) on 9 Nov.

## **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone* Feannag-dhubh

*A sedentary resident: mainly in east Cowal and parts of Mid-Argyll, in a variety of, mainly low ground habitats. It hybridises readily with Hooded Crow where ranges overlap.*

**Winter/spring** Outside the main breeding area in Cowal, there were widespread records of ones and twos from Mid-Argyll and also Tayinloan Kintyre.

**Breeding/summer** There were irregular sightings of single birds within Mid-Argyll and also Tangy and Saddell Kintyre.

**Autumn/winter** Two birds were reported from Kilchenzie Kintyre on 3 Sep.

## **HYBRID CROW** *Corvus corone x cornix*

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

**Winter/spring** Outside the main hybrid zone in Cowal, there was a record of a single bird from Mid-Argyll at Tarbert on 21 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** The only record out-with Cowal was of a bird at Furnace Mid-Argyll on 2 May.

**Autumn/winter** A single bird was reported from Loch Fada Colonsay on 19 Oct.

## **HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

*A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.*

**Winter/spring** Widely reported in small numbers from all mainland areas with island records from Islay, Jura, Mull and Tiree. Larger flocks exceeding 10 birds included Islay with 20 birds at Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan, The Oa with 25 on 11 Jan, Mid-Argyll with 11 at Tayvallich on 7 Jan and on Mull with 15 at Aros Castle on 20 Feb and 19 on 11 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Widely reported from all mainland areas. Island records included Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull and Tiree. 15 fledged broods on Colonsay contained 35 young.

**Autumn/winter** Records from mainland areas generally referred to numbers in single figures. Large flocks tended to found on the islands including: 58 at Oronsay Colonsay on 13 Sep and 42 on 5 Dec; 42 on 14 Sep and 30 on 29 Oct at The Oa Islay.

## **COMMON RAVEN** *Corvus corax* Fitheach

*A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter.*

**Winter/spring** There were records from all recording areas except Coll. Counts of 30: on Islay with 34 at Ardnave on 16 Feb and 50 at Loch Indaal on 23 Feb, and Tiree with 35 at Balevullin, on 25 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** In addition to the survey of territories in table 39, pairs of birds were also recorded from Coll and Lismore North Argyll.

Table 39. Outcome of monitored Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2013. NB: the table includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. young fledged	Young per successful site
Tiree	13	12	11	3	0	8	7	2.33
Colonsay	22	12	10	10	0	0	31	3.10+

Islay	3	3	2	2	0	0	7	3.5
MidArgyll	11	10	9	3	1	5	8+	2.66+
Kintyre	8	8	5	4	1	0	12+	3+
Bute	17	12	11	11	0	0	23+	2.08+
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3.00**</b>

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

**Autumn/winter** There were records from all recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Numbers were generally in single figures but larger flocks included 52 birds at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 13 Sep, 52 at Storakaig *Islay* on 3 Nov and 26 at Gott *Tiree* on 18 Nov.

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* Crìonag-bhuidhe

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

**Winter/spring** Records (66) were reported from all areas including *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (12), *Tiree* (5) and *Coll* (2). Counts: 4 at Cluanach *Islay* on 14 Jan, 5 at Corra farm *Cowal* on 5 Mar and 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Recorded from sites in *Mid-Argyll*, *Islay*, *Cowal* and *Mull* were mostly of single birds. 12 were recorded at Loch Cruin *Kintyre* on 12 Apr and 11 were at The Oa *Islay* on 15 Apr. Several records of singing males would indicate widespread breeding; however a count of 20 at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug suggests that these were passage birds.

**Autumn/winter** Recorded from seven sites across *Islay*, mostly of pairs or individual birds, but with 20 at Gearach *Islay* on 3 Nov. There were records from four sites on *Tiree* with the highest count of 3 at Balephuill on 12 Oct. Small numbers were present in *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll* with a high count of 5 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Dec.

### **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla* Crìonag

**AMBER LIST A** *rare migrant/visitor: nine records between 1980 and 2012.*

No records.

### **BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

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

**Winter/spring** Reported from most locations including: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (8), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (12), *Mull* (9) and *North Argyll* (7). High counts included: 27 at Kintallen *Tayvallich* on 2 Jan with 40 on 23 Feb and 11 at Portnacroish, *North Argyll* on 20 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (22) and *North Argyll* (8). Larger counts were: 5 at Aros Castle *Mull* on 5 May and 3 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 8 May. No records of breeding noted however probably widespread.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (14), *Kintyre* (14), *Mid-Argyll* (6) and *Mull* (6). Highest counts were: 7 at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug and 16 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Dec.

### **GREAT TIT** *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna

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

**Winter/spring** Reported from: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (8). No reports from: *Coll*, *Colonsay* or *Tiree*. Larger counts were: 22 at Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan and 8 at Portnacroish *North Argyll* on 10 Mar.



**Summer/breeding** Records from locations in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (26) and *North Argyll* (11). Recorded incubating eggs in a nest in a railway bridge at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May, also a breeding attempt recorded at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 19 Jun and 3 juveniles at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 30 June. A nest box monitored in Benderloch *North Argyll* fledged only 1 chick from 4 on 25 Jun, with 2 unhatched eggs.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Colonsay* (4), *Islay* (18), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (2). No reports from *Cowal*. The highest counts were: 7 at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug, 4 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 15 Sep and 5 at Dubhchladach *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec.

**CRESTED TIT** *Lophophanes cristatus* Gulpag-stuic

**A vagrant: two records: one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in November 1991 and one at Tobermory, Mull in October to November 2002.**

No records.

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater* Smutag

**A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially conifers.**

**Winter/spring** Reported from: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (5) and *North Argyll* (8). No reports from *Colonsay*, *Coll* or *Tiree*. Larger counts were: 4 at Portnacroish *North Argyll* on 1 Jan, 11 at Lower Balitarsin *Islay* on 11 Jan, at least 14 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 9 Feb, 5 at Kintallen *Tayvallich* on 4 Apr and 5 at Glenegedale *Islay* on 28 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from: *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (9) and *North Argyll* (5). A fledgling was recorded in A'Choille Mhor *Colonsay* on 24 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (1). Counts: 7 at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug, up to 5 were feeding on birch seed at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 28 Oct and 4 were at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 29 Dec.

**WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais

**RED LIST A vagrant: one record; near Water of Tulla, North Argyll on 1 Jun 1991.**

No records.

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

**A vagrant: three records: one on Tiree in Aug 2008 another Tiree in Oct 2010 and one on Oronsay, Colonsay in Oct 2011.**

No records.

**SKY LARK** *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag

**RED LIST A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low lying localities.**

**Winter/spring** Reported from: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (47), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (3). The largest counts were on *Islay* including: 45 at Grainel on 16 Feb, 55 at The Oa on 22 Feb, 95 at Aoradh on 24 Feb, 80 at Laggan Farm on 26 Feb and 100 at Aoradh on 14 Mar. Elsewhere there were 20 at Ardanish, *Mull* on 7 Mar, 29 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Mar and 22 near Dunadd Hill *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from: *Coll* (19), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (36), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (16) and *Tiree* (4). Counts included: 175 singing males during a survey on *Tiree* between 19-30 Mar and 238 singing males there between 17-21 May, 37 at Cnoc an

Lochain, *Kintyre* on 16 May and at least 5 males holding territories on Lunga *Treshnish Isles* on 29 Jun. 10 birds were recorded at Ulva ferry *Mull* on 27 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Colonsay* (10), *Islay* (13), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (4). Counts included: 12 from Fiddon *Mull* on 14 Sep, 35 at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 Sep, 65 there on 28 Sep, 200 at Octomore Hill *Islay* on 8 Oct, 15 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 15 Oct and 15 at Mannal *Tiree* on 30 Nov, the last report of the year.

### **SHORE LARK** *Eremophila alpestris*

**A vagrant: one record of three birds: on Islay on 18 to 19 October 1976.**

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich

**AMBER LIST A summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.**

**Spring** A late arrival this year; the first bird was at Loch Pottie *Mull* on 13 Apr followed by one at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 14 Apr and birds at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* and Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr. A single bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Apr was the latest ever arrival record. By 22 Apr birds had also reached *Colonsay*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

**Breeding/summer** More than 50 pairs nested at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* with a further 32 pairs at five other sites on *Tiree*. Four burrows were noted on Oronsay *Colonsay*, 42 burrows were apparently occupied at Ballure *Kintyre* and there were at least 30 at North Ledaig *North Argyll*.

**Autumn** Up to 50 were seen at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* during Aug, 40 were at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 9 Aug, 50 were moving south along the shore at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 23 Aug, and 60 were at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 24 Aug. After 80 were seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Sep numbers declined dramatically down to a single bird at Gruinart Wood *Islay* on 16 Sep. Two late birds were at Aoradh *Islay* on 17 Oct.

### **BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

**AMBER LIST A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.**

**Spring** A relatively late but concentrated arrival. The first arrival was at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 12 Apr, followed by: RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Apr, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Apr, Islandadd Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr, and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, Loch Chumhainn *Mull* and Lochawe Station *North Argyll* all on 15 Apr. Thereafter reports were widespread by 19 Apr although few large flocks were reported. Forty at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 21 Apr and 120 at Glac Easgamail (The Oa) *Islay* were the only reports of more than 20 birds.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree* with the first fledglings noted at Kilchoman *Islay* on 4 Jul. The last nest at Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* fledged on 29 Aug.

**Autumn** Post-breeding flocks started to build in Aug with 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 100 at Baileouchdarach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 22 Aug, and 80 at Aoradh *Islay* on 24 Aug. Migration was noted at Machrihanish SBO on 2 Sep when 40 moved south in one hour and on 8 Sep when 400 moved south in 3 hours. Despite this there were some large flocks still around well into Sep with 85 at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep, 85 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep, and 100 at Otter Ferry fish farm *Cowal* on 24 Sep. Thereafter small numbers were recorded through Sep and Oct in *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Single birds at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov and Port Charlotte *Islay* on 12 Nov rounded off the season.

## **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum* Gobhlan-taighe

**AMBER LIST A** *common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only one recently recorded breeding attempt on Tiree.*

**Spring** First arrivals were 3 birds at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* and 1 at Aros Bridge *Mull* on 15 Apr followed by 2 each at Appin *North Argyll* and Traigh Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Apr. Single birds were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and Achafolla (Luìng) and Barsloisnoch, both *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr. The first report from *Tiree* was on 21 Apr, from *Cowal* on 30 Apr, and from *Mull* on 2 May. The largest flock reported was 25 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 May.

**Breeding/summer** The only breeding records were from Minard *Mid-Argyll* where birds were seen leaving a nest site on 30 Jul and at least two nests were still active with adults feeding young 13 Sep. Observers suggested that fewer birds than usual were present in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*, but 72 were reported around Port Charlotte *Islay* on 28 Jul.

**Autumn** A flock of 100 was reported at Baileouchdarach (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 23 Aug and 19 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 25 Aug. Passage was noted at Machrihanish SBO with 68 heading south in 20 minutes on 3 Sep and 110 in 3 hours on 8 Sep. Late records were all from *Islay* with 10 birds at Aoradh on 22 Sep, 13 at the monument on The Oa on 26 Sep, and the final record of a single bird at Coullabus plantation on 29 Sep.

## **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Cecropis daurica*

**A vagrant: one record: a bird seen at Loch Tuath, Mull on 5 Jul 2011.**

No records.

## **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* Cìochan

**A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reported from: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (5). No reports from *Colonsay*, *Coll* or *Tiree*. Counts included: 6 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 9 Jan, 8 at Portnacraish *North Argyll* on 20 Jan and 9 at Crinan Wood (Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb. There were several reports of birds coming to peanut feeders during Mar and Apr in *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5) and *Mull* (1). Breeding was indicated at Dunamuck *Mid-Argyll* with a pair gathering nest material on 27 Apr and a pair at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 27 Apr. 5 were at Ardlussa *Jura* on 21 Jun and 4 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 31 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (1). Counts of: 15 at Ardnadrochit *Mull* on the 2 Oct, 20 on *Colonsay* on 12 Oct, 20 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 21 Oct, 11 at Drum Farm *Cowal* on the 24 Oct, 14 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov and 7 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 21 Nov. The last report of the year was of 3 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 29 Dec.

## **GREENISH WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**A vagrant: two records: one trapped on 27 May 1983 at the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, later taken into care and died, and one trapped at Sanda, Kintyre on 31 July 1987.**

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe

***A rare passage migrant: at least 21 records between 1954 and 2012.***

**Autumn** A record number (10 or 11 birds) were on *Tiree* as follows: One at Baugh on 25 and 27 Sep [Simon Wellock, Bill Allan], one at Carnan Mor on 27 to 28 Sep [John Bowler, Jim Dickson] one at Balephuill on 25 Sep to 5 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson, Janet Hunter et al], one at Vaul on 26 Sep and 4 Oct [Jerry Wilson, John Bowler, Jim Dickson], one at Balevuillin on 29 Sep [Jim Dickson], one at Melness (Cornaigbeg) on 4 Oct [Jim Dickson], one at Balemartine on 4 Oct [Jim Dickson], two at Balephuill on 4 to 6 Oct [John Bowler, Janet Hunter] and one at Baugh on 24 to 25 Oct [John Bowler, Simon Wellock]. Outwith *Tiree* there were single birds at The Oa RSPB reserve *Islay* on 29 Sep [David Wood] and Colonsay House woodlands, *Colonsay* on 16 Oct [John Calladine] giving a record Argyll total of twelve or thirteen individuals. All records accepted by the ABRC.

*A significant increase in records this year and reflected elsewhere in the UK. After only 5 Argyll records between 1906 and 2001 there have now been 29 birds in the last six years.*

**WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus bonelli*

***A vagrant: one record; at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 8 Sep 2006 and confirmed as a Western.***

No records.

**WESTERN or EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus bonelli* or *P orientalis*

***A vagrant: one record: a singing male on Islay in May 1976, could not be specifically assigned to either Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler.***

No Records.

**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche-coille

**RED LIST** *A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.*

**Spring/breeding** First arrivals were singles noted at Auchgoyle Bay (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr and Creag na Circe (Lochawe) *North Argyll* on 4 May. These were followed by reports on 5 May with: one at Benderloch *North Argyll*, two at Creag na Circe (Lochawe) *North Argyll* and one Brainport Bay (Minard) *Mid-Argyll*. One was seen with a small fall of migrants at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 19 May and a probable migrant was at Kilchoman Wood *Islay* on 27 May. In May and Jun birds were seen or heard singing in suitable woodlands in mainland Argyll with records from: *North Argyll* at Allt an Fhaing (Dalmally) (4), Creag na Circe (Lochawe) and Benderloch. *Mid-Argyll*: at Auchgoyle Bay (Minard) (2), Brainport Bay (Minard) (2), Taynish NNR (2), Inveraray (3), Gartnagrenoch (nr. Bellanoch) (2), Crinan and Auchindrain. *Cowal*: at Creag na Croiche (Lephinmore), Goirtein Croft (N of Otter Ferry). *Kintyre*: at Achamore House (Gigha) and Ardmish (Gigha) (2). There were two reports from *Mull*: at Salen on 2 Jun and at Eilean na Beithe on 21 Jun which was also the last record of the year.

**COMMON CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean

***A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.***

**Spring/breeding** No arrivals were noted in Mar this year. The first arrival was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Apr followed by 3 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 6 Apr and 3 at Loch Allan *Islay* on 7 Apr. From Apr to the end of Jul, singing males and territorial birds were widely reported from

sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (4).

**Autumn** Reports became more sparse during Aug with a gap with no reports between 26 Aug and 28 Sep after which migrant birds were noted as follows on *Tiree*: 2 at Carnan Mor (Balephuill) on 28 Sep, 2 at Baugh on 30 Sep, 1 at Gott Bay on 14 Oct, 1 at An Airidh on 17 Oct and 1 at Baugh on 24 Oct. *Colonsay*: 1 at Colonsay House Woodlands on 19 Oct and on *Islay* 1 was at Kilchoman on 21 Oct.

Single birds showing features of the 'Scandinavian' race *abientinus* were noted on *Tiree* at Balephuill, Baugh and Vaul between 26 Oct and 4 Dec.

**'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

**A rare visitor: an eastern race of Chiffchaff, still regarded as a sub-species of Common Chiffchaff, rather than a distinct separate species. Rare in Argyll, although small numbers of this race occur during late autumn in Scotland.**

**Autumn/winter** A long-staying individual was at Balephuill *Tiree* daily from 17 Oct to 17 Nov and again on 30 Nov and last seen on 7 Dec [John Bowler].

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

**AMBER LIST** A *widespread and abundant summer visitor*.

**Spring/breeding** The first arrivals were birds at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 11 Apr, at Machrihanish SBO garden *Kintyre* on 14-16 Apr, 4 on The Oa *Islay* on 15 Apr, on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Apr, at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Apr and Knochvologan *Mull* on 16 Apr. Arrivals were more numerous and widespread from 18 Apr and singing birds reported to the end of Apr from sites in: *Coll* (no reports), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (11), *Jura* (no reports), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (5). During May to Jun breeding was widespread and numerous with birds were reported from sites in: *Coll* (8), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (19), *Jura* (no reports), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (15), *North Argyll* (4), and *Tiree* (3). Some birds were still singing until 5 Jul and the first fledglings noted from late Jun.

A BBS of Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* gave a count of 26 singing males on 20 Apr.

**Autumn** Probable migrants moving through Argyll in Aug but low numbers e.g. 4 at Lower Ballitarsin, *Islay* on 25 Aug and 7 at Cluanach, *Islay* on 26 Aug. In Sep and Oct most reports were of singles from *Tiree* or *Islay* with a max. of 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* and the last record there of a single on 4 Oct.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann-dubh

**A scarce but increasing summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.**

**Winter** The only report was of a male at Tobermory *Mull* on 19 Jan.

**Spring/breeding** The first arrival was a male at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 1 Apr followed by a male in song at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Apr, a female seen at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 19 Apr and a female at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr. Thereafter, during Apr birds were reported from sites in: *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (3). During May and Jun, birds (mainly singing males) were reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (no reports), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (no reports), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (4), although none bred on the latter island.

**Post breeding** In Jul and Aug there were only 4 reports: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (1).

**Autumn** There were reports from *Cowal* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (15). The highest numbers were 8 around *Tiree* on 21 Oct. The last reports of the year were

singles at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov, Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Nov and West Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Nov.

### **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

**A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.**

**Spring/breeding** Birds were very late to arrive this year with the first record at Aros Castle *Mull* on 5 May. No further reports until one with other migrants at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 May and at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 May. Singles were then recorded at Arduaine Gardens *Mid-Argyll* on 30 May, Corra Farm *Cowal* on 3 Jun, Minard Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun, a migrant at Hough *Tiree*, 2 at Gartnagrenoch (nr. Bellanoch) *Mid-Argyll* and singles at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* all on 9 Jun, Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 17 Jun, Brenchoillie *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jun and Minard Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun.

**Autumn** Single migrant birds were seen at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 and 26 Sep and 4 Oct.

### **BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*

**A rare passage migrant: eleven records: all have been in autumn.**

**Autumn** A juvenile/first-winter was at Vaul *Tiree* on 6 and 10 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler]. A first-winter was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Sep [John Bowler]. Both records accepted by the ABRC.

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille Beag

**A rare/scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.**

**Autumn** A very elusive bird was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 19 Oct [John Bowler] and one at West Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Oct [John Bowler].

### **COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis* Gealan-coille

**A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.**

**Spring/breeding** The first arrivals were noted at Treshnish *Mull* on 30 Apr, Foreland *Islay* on 1 May, Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 1 May and then a migrant at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 May. Birds, almost all singing males, were then widely recorded through to early Jul from sites in: *Colonsay* (5), *Coll* (2), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (22), *Jura* (no reports), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *North Argyll* (no reports) and *Mull* (6).

**Autumn** Reports of up to 3 birds (adult and juveniles) were from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Mull* (1). The last record was at Creag an Uisgean (The Oa) *Islay* on 27 Sep. There were no autumn reports from *Colonsay*, *Coll*, *Kintyre*, *Jura* or *North Argyll*.

### **SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*

**A vagrant: one record: a bird of the 'eastern race' *S. c. albigularis* was at Balephuill, Tiree on 28 May 2012.**

No records.

### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche-leumnach

**RED LIST A summer visitor: breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.**

**Spring/breeding** Arrivals were slightly later than in recent years. Singles were at: Appin *North Argyll* on 19 Apr, Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Apr,

Corra Farm *Cowal* on 24 Apr, Auchnasaul (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr and Barr Laggan *Cowal* on 30 Apr. Arrivals were then more widespread from the start of May. Singles, mainly singing birds were at sites in: *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (15), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (2), *Colonsay* (6) and *Tiree* (2). A single was at Eileach an Naoimh (Garvellachs) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul.

Sites with more than one bird were: *Islay* with 2 at Kinnabus (The Oa), 2 at Loch nan Gilleann (The Oa), 2 at Loch Allan on 6 May, 3 at Foreland on 12 May, 4 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 May, 2 at Sanaigmore on 24 May, 2 at Lower Glenastle Loch on 17 Jun and 11 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 Jul. *Tiree* had 2 at Balephuill on 16 May, with 3 there on 15 Jun and 2 on 31 Jul. There were fewer than usual reports from *Cowal* and only the one report from *North Argyll*. Few records were received from *Mull*.

**Autumn** The latest reports were of singles at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 16 Aug and a juvenile at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Sep.

### **BOOTED WARBLER** *Iduna caligata*

*A vagrant: two records: one at Balemartine, Tiree on 20 Sep 1998 and one at Balephetrish, Tiree on 31 Aug to 2 Sep 2006.*

No records.

### **ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina*

*A rare passage migrant: four records: on Islay 28 Aug 1976; at Taynuilt in Jun 1984; on Tiree in Jun 1987 and on Islay on 4 to 5 Sep 1993.*

No records.

### **MELODIOUS WARBLER** *Hippolais polyglotta*

*A vagrant: one record: at Totronald, Coll on 8 Jun 2012.*

No records.

### **SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche

*A locally common summer visitor: breeding in suitable habitats.*

**Spring/breeding** First arrivals were at Gartbreck *Islay* on 13 Apr, Portnahaven *Islay* on 19 Apr, Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 21 Apr, Lochgilphead Meadows *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr, Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Apr, RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Apr and Creag na Feannaige (The Oa) *Islay* on 30 Apr. During May singing males were widespread at sites in: *Colonsay/Oronsay* (7), *Coll* (1), *Islay* (29), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (5). These reports do not always give an idea of abundance but a good indication of numbers involved were counts on *Tiree* giving 25 at Balephuill on 19 May, over 100 singing males noted around the island on 31 May and 150 singing males by 30 Jun with some fledglings recorded.

**Autumn** Records were still fairly widespread during Aug. The only reports during Sep were from Balephuill *Tiree* where numbers decreased from 8 on 5 Sep to the last bird there on the 28 Sep. The last bird noted on *Islay* was one at Loch Gorm on 13 Sep.

*A bird caught on Colonsay on 21 May had a Paris ring and had been ringed at Tours aux Mouton, Donges, Loire-Aquitaine.*

### **BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

*A vagrant: two records: one at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 3 June 2008 and one at Balephuill, Tiree in Sept 2011.*

No records.

**MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*

**RED LIST A rare passage migrant: two records: one at Balephuill, Tiree on 8-10 Jun 2007 and one at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 28 May 2012.**

No records.

**EUROPEAN REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**A rare visitor in spring and summer: seven records: all but one from the islands.**

**Autumn** A first-winter was at Balephuill Tiree on 24 Sep [John Bowler]. Record accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

**CEDAR WAXWING** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

**No previous Argyll records on this North American vagrant. Only two previous UK records: Noss, Shetland on 25-26 Jun 1985 and in Nottingham from 20 Feb to 18 Mar 1996.**

**Autumn** A juvenile at Vaul Tiree from 21 to 29 Sep [John Bowler, D. & E. Campbell, A. & V. Grant et al]. Record was accepted by the BBRC and becomes the first record for Argyll.

*This bird appeared tired when it at first turned up in a private garden with restricted access, feeding on a limited supply of Cotoneaster berries. A transatlantic vagrant that has increased in numbers significantly in North America over the last 40 years. (see article on page 135).*

**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg

**An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.**

**Winter** Single flock of 21 was seen in a garden at Sandback Cowal on 16 and 17 Feb.

**Autumn/winter** A sighting of a single at Balephuill Tiree on 26 Oct was the only report.

**EURASIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north in Scotland.**

**Winter** One at Bonawe House, near Taynuilt, *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan [Simon Pinder]. One in song at Ardkinglass, *Cowal* on 24 Feb [David Jardine]. One heard calling near St. Catherine's (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* on 25 Feb [Andrew Stevenson].

**Spring/summer** One to two birds present in Ardkinglass woodlands *Cowal* during Mar to Apr [Glyn Topliss]. One was at Aird's Bay (Taynuilt) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr [M McIntyre]. One was at Barnabuck (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May [S & D McGregor]. One was near Lochawe *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May [Mike Phillips]. One was at Lochdon *Mull* on 14 May [S Weir].

**Autumn** One was at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug [Paul Daw]. One was at Inveraray Castle woodlands *Mid Argyll* on 25 Aug [Glyn Topliss]. One was at Dalintober (Campbeltown) *Kintyre* on 15 Sep [P Sinclair et al]. One was near Tarbert Golf course *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct [Tony Johnson].

**EURASIAN TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear

**A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.**

**Winter** The first record of the year was one on 5 Jan at Kilchoman *Islay*. Other winter records were mainly singles at sites in *Islay* (4 others), *Cowal* (3) and *North Argyll* (1).

**Spring/breeding** While there were no records anywhere of confirmed breeding, records from suitable habitat are presumed to indicate it, and these were from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (4) and *North Argyll* (2). There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura*, *Kintyre* or *Tiree*.



**Autumn/winter** From Sep to the end of the year there were records of 1-2 birds from sites in *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5 including Balliemore on Kerrera), and notably 1 at Scarinish on *Tiree* on 3 Oct. There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura*, *Mull* or *North Argyll*.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn

**A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters.**

Birds were widespread and numerous in all recording areas. Notable confirmed breeding reports for Treshnish Isles *Mull* and Balephuill *Tiree*.

**COMMON STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

**RED LIST A common resident on: Coll, Islay, part of Kintyre, and Tiree: less common on most of the mainland. Flocks containing juveniles appear in many parts in late summer and numbers are boosted by immigration in winter from north-west Europe.**

**Winter** Larger flocks in late winter (100 or over) seemed more numerous this year: 900 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Jan, 380 at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Jan, 150 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 10 Jan, 150 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 10 Jan, 170 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 13 Jan, 220 at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 15 Jan, 100 at Fraoch Eilean, Fladda, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan, 1300 on *Tiree* (800 Balephuill and 500 Caolas) on 9 Feb, 120 at Giol, The Oa *Islay* on 12 Feb, 180 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Feb, 600 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 6 Mar, 150 at Fidden *Mull* on 6 Mar, 700 at Sorobaidh Bay (N) *Tiree* on 13 Mar, 1150 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Mar. The biggest winter flock was a pre-roost murmuration of 2000 at Lintmill, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 2 Mar. Large flocks persisted on *Tiree* into April: 600 at Balephuill on 7 Apr, 900 at Barrapol (N) on 12 Apr and 700 at Sorobaidh (N) on 14 Apr. There were no records from *Coll*, *Colonsay* or *North Argyll*.

**Breeding** From Apr to Jun breeding birds were widely reported from sites in all areas: *Coll* (11), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (15), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (12), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (8). The first fledglings were seen at Bridgend *Islay* on 1 Jun, and the first on *Tiree* at Carnan Mor (E) on 4 Jun, about a week later than usual. From mid-Jun flocks of adults with juveniles built up, with 300 and over found on *Tiree*: 350 at Meningie on 12 Jun, 650 at Traigh Bhi dunes on 19 Jun, 350 at Ruaig (E) on 20 Jun, 800 at Balevullin on 5 Aug, 900 at Heylipol on 7 Aug, 800 at Cornaigmore and 400 at Kenovay on 9 Aug, 450 at The Reef on 3 Sep and 1100 at Sandaig on 16 Sep. On *Islay*: 304 at Kinnabus, The Oa on 15 Aug and 300 at Machir Bay on 28 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Moderate flocks up to 100 birds in early winter were recorded from all areas except *Coll*, *Jura* or *North Argyll*, from which there were no reports. Larger flocks (100 or over) were recorded: 150 at The Oa *Islay* on 15 Oct, 130 at Askenish *Colonsay* on 19 Oct, 160 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct, 150 at Octofad (W) *Islay* on 29 Oct, 1000 at Bowmore *Islay* on 29 Oct, 100 at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* on 31 Oct, 1000 at Coullabus plantation *Islay* on 31 Oct, 400 at Corsapol *Islay* on 1 Nov, 100 at Esknish *Islay* on 1 Nov, 130 at Gortinane (W) *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, 150 at Loch Clach a'Bhuile *Islay* on 10 and 11 Nov, 150 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 10 Nov, 120 at Creag na Fearnaige *Islay* on 12 Nov, 140 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 350 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 28 Nov, 370 at Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov, 300 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 1 Dec, 800 at Sorobaigh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Dec, 300 at Druiim Mor, Oransay *Colonsay* on 5 Dec, 1200 at Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Dec, and the peak of *Tiree* numbers reached 1700 on 7 Dec (900 at Kenovay and 800 at Miodar).

**ROSE-COLOURED STARLING** *Sturnus roseus* Druid-dhearg

**A rare summer and autumn visitor: has occurred more frequently in recent years.**

No records.

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge

**A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay, and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Single birds were reported at: Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 17 Jan, Killail Cowal on 24 Jan remaining into March, Loch Shira *Mid-Argyll* 31 Jan. In Feb singles were reported from Loch an Torr *Mull* and Aros Castle *Mull*. Through Feb to Mar, 2 birds were present at Bridegend *Islay*, and at Ormidale *Cowal*.

**Breeding** Birds present in suitable habitat, in pairs, or with young were noted at: Ardgartan, Cowal, Finart Bay *Cowal*, Loch Striven *Cowal*, Woollen Mill *Islay*, Bridgend Woods *Islay*, Mulreesh *Islay*, Lochbuie *Mull*, Guala Dhubh *Mull*, Tobermory *Mull*, Knock *Mull*, Connel *Mid-Argyll*, Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** From Aug to the end of the year single birds were reported at: Ormidale *Cowal*, Killail *Cowal*, Kilfinan Bay *Cowal*, Otter Ferry *Cowal*, Lachlan Castle *Cowal*, Bealachandrain *Cowal*, Claggain River *Islay*, Bridegend *Islay*, Achdacailin *Mid-Argyll*, Connel *Mid-Argyll*, Auchgoyle Bay *Mid-Argyll*, Garmony Point *Mull* with 2 noted at Corran River mouth *Jura* on 11 Oct, 2 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov and 2 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 17 Nov.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus* Dubh-chreige

**RED LIST A summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required.**

**Breeding** Birds were reported in the breeding season from three sites: Cruach Ardura *Mull*, Beinn Odhar (N) *North Argyll* and Cruachan Dam *North Argyll*.

**Autumn** Passage birds reported were: 3 along with an influx of thrushes at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 13 Oct, and singles on *Colonsay* on 12 and 18 Oct.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* Lon-dubh

**A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.**

**Winter/spring** In late winter birds were widely reported in ones and twos from all areas apart from *Coll* and *Jura*. Groups of 10 or more included: 80 on *Colonsay* on 28 February, 20 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 31 Jan, with 12 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 22 Feb and at 12 Ballimore *Cowal* on 11 Mar.

**Breeding** Birds were noted and breeding could be reasonably assumed at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (9), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (18), *North Argyll* (6), *Tiree* (3) and *Coll* (7).

**Autumn/winter** In early winter, birds were widely reported in ones and twos from most areas. Groups of 10 or more were: 50 at Pier House (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* on 22 Oct, 12 at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 18 Nov, 12 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 19 Dec, 10 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 10 Nov, 12 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 17 Oct, 19 at Ballygrant woods *Islay* on 8 Nov, 15 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaille *Islay* on 11 Nov, 10 at An Airidh *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 10 at Carnan Mor (E) *Tiree* on 13 Oct, 15 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 Oct, 25 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 27 on *Tiree* (15 at The Glebe and 12 at Balephuill) on 21 Oct and 100 at Lochdon *Mull* on 28 Oct.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* Liath-thruisg

**RED LIST A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or pass through in spring**

**Winter/spring** Unlike in 2012, when many large flocks were noted only four flocks exceeded 50 birds: Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* (120 on 7 Jan), Loch Gearach, *Islay* (115 on 4 Jan), Giol (The Oa) *Islay* (60 on 12 Feb) and Leanach (Strachur) *Cowal* (60 on 14 Mar). In spring birds were reported (15 sightings) mainly from the islands and *Mid* to *North Argyll*; good numbers remained on *Islay* into Apr with 40 at Maol Mhor (The Oa) *Islay* on 5 Apr. The last of the spring were single birds at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 7 May and at Baile Mor (Iona) *Mull* on 16 May.

**Autumn/winter** A report of 6 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 22 Sep followed by large arrivals, mainly from the islands, from around mid-Oct with arrival with peaks on 21 to 22 and 26 October and 4 November. Flocks of 50 and over noted: on *Colonsay* (150 on 18 Oct), Loch Tallant (Laggan) *Islay* (80 on 20 Oct), *Tiree* (110 on 21 Oct), *Colonsay* (200 on 21 Oct), Kildalton *Islay* (400 on 21 Oct), Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* (350 on 21 Oct), Balephuill *Tiree* (1900+ on 22 Oct decreasing to 60 by 26 Oct), *Islay* (160 on 22 Oct), Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* (800 on 22 Oct), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (550 on 22 Oct), Ardmarnock, *Cowal* (250 on 24 Oct), Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* (500 on 25 Oct and gone by 29 Oct), Goirtein Point (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* (1500 on 26 Oct), Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* (1100 on 4 Nov), West Carrabus, *Islay* (220 on 5 Nov), Millhouse *Cowal* (130 on 18 Nov), Upper Killeyan *Islay* (50 on 19 Nov), Maymore (Glendaruel) *Cowal* (60 on 20 Nov), Ardacheranmor *Cowal* (60 on 20 Nov), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (50 on 28 Nov), Monydrain, (Lochgilthead) *Mid-Argyll* (230 on 6 Dec), Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* (230 on 19 Dec), Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* (260 on 23 Dec). Many of these flocks contained other thrushes, particularly redwings, with a notable movement southwards.

### **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* Smedràch

**RED LIST A** *widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.*

**Winter** Birds in late winter were reported, usually in single figures, larger flocks of over 10 birds were noted at: Otter Ferry *Cowal* (17 on 22 Feb), Strone Farm *Cowal* (18 on 22Feb), Port Charlotte *Islay* (13 on 23 Feb), Kilfinan *Cowal* (20 on 25 Feb), Lephinchapel, *Cowal* (12 on 21 Feb), on *Colonsay* (48 on 28 Feb), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 10 Mar), Otter Ferry *Cowal* (32 on 10 Mar), Ballimore (S) *Cowal* (47 on 11 Mar), Otter Ferry Fish Farm *Cowal* (20 on 12 Mar), Strone Farm *Cowal* (15 on 13 Mar), Corra Farm *Cowal* (1 on 15 Mar), Barrahornmid *Mid-Argyll* (36 on 24 Mar), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (18 on 24 Mar), Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* (12 on 24 Mar,) Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (32 on 24 Mar). The Mar influx was marked with the highest figures ever recorded noted at some regular sites.

**Breeding** Records of breeding, or presumption of breeding were: Arinagour *Coll* (6), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (13), *North Argyll* (8) and *Tiree* (20).

**Autumn/winter** In early winter reports pertaining to migrant birds were limited to October and mostly from the islands: on *Colonsay* (20 on 17 Oct dropping to 8 on 20 Oct), Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* (10 on 17 Oct) and Balephuill *Tiree* (20 on 22 Oct) when warm-brown "continental-type" birds noted as part of massive thrush movement.

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

**RED LIST A** *a passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

**Winter/spring** Records were regular through Jan to Apr with just a few remaining into May. Flocks of 30 or more noted: at Otter Ferry *Cowal* (37 on 9 Jan), *Tiree* (50 on 14-15 Jan), Brainport Bay, *Mid-Argyll* (40 on 18 Jan), Dalvore, (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* (42 on 8 Feb), Kilberry Bay *Mid-Argyll* (30 on 9 Feb), *Tiree* (50 on 12 Feb), Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (32

on 22 Feb), Ardnave *Islay* (35 on 24 Feb), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (36 on 24 Mar), Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* (125 on 24 Mar), Port Charlotte *Islay* (65 on 15 Apr), Knockdon *Islay* (150 on 15 Apr), Strath of Appin *North Argyll* (40 on 16 Apr), with an obvious influx noted on *Tiree* (120 on 19 Apr). A late spring record on *Tiree* on 6 June.

**Autumn/winter** The first arrival was a single on *Islay* on 14 Sep followed by small numbers in early Oct from *Tiree* reaching 35 on 11 Oct. Largest movements of migrants noted between 22-29 Oct. Flocks of over 50 birds were then noted at: Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 15 Oct), on *Colonsay* (up to 300 12-16 Oct), Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* (90 on 12 Oct), Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* (70 on 17 Oct, 150 on 21 Oct and peak of 1200 on 22 Oct), Kilchoman *Islay* (50 on 17 Oct), *Tiree* (135 on 21 Oct), Balephuill *Tiree* (800 flying over on 22 Oct), Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* (200 on 2 Oct), *Tiree* (172 on 23 Oct) included continental type birds increasing to (500 on 24 Oct), Ardnave *Islay* (190 on 24 Oct), Tayvallich Harbour, *Mid-Argyll* (600 on 25 Oct all gone by 29 Oct), *Tiree* (220 on 26 Oct increasing to 390 the next day), Goirtein Point (Loch Fyne) *Cowal* (1500 on 26 Oct), Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* (50 on 27 Oct), Gearach and Giol (The Oa) *Islay* (80 and 50 respectively on 28 Oct), *Tiree* (800+ on 29 Oct), Torony *Islay* (60 on 29 Oct), Bunnahabhainn *Islay* (70 on 30 Oct), Corra Farm *Cowal* (60 on 30 Oct), Keills *Islay* (120 on 1 Nov), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (50 on 2 Nov), West Hynish *Tiree* (90 on 3 Nov), Aoradh *Islay* (65 on 4 Nov), West Hynish/Balephuill *Tiree* (150 on 5 Nov), Creag an Uisgean (The Oa) *Islay* (60 on 5 Nov), Ardnave *Islay* (71 on 8 Nov), West Hynish *Tiree* (180 on 9 Nov), *Tiree* (400 on 11 Nov) Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* (160 on 11 Nov), *Tiree* (500 on 18-19 Nov) thereafter 2-300 birds present on *Tiree* until 17 December. It should be noted that many of the days with large numbers that flocks also included other thrush species.

### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* Smeòrach-mhòr

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.*

**Winter/spring** In Jan to Mar there were reports of up to 5 birds at: *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (2) *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (5). Reports of higher numbers were at: Gigha *Kintyre* (6 on 3 Jan), Dunamuck *Mid-Argyll* (6 on 15 Jan), Ardnave *Islay* (6 on 25 Jan), Loch Skerrols *Islay* (6 on 14 Feb), Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (11 on 22 Feb), Strone Farm, *Cowal* (6 on 22 Feb), Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* (13 on 24 Feb), Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* (16 on 26 Feb), Braids *Kintyre* (6 on 28 Feb), Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* (6 on 10 and 12 on 24 Mar), Castle Lachlan *Cowal* (6 on 15 Mar), Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* (8 on 24 Mar), Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* (15 on 24 Mar).

**Breeding** Pairs were noted and territories held with presumed breeding from late Mar to end of Jul at sites in: *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (3), and *North Argyll* (1).

**Autumn/winter** From early Aug to Sep flocks into double figures of adults with juvs were reported from: Corra Farm (Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (max 25 on 7 Aug), Strone Road End *Cowal* (15 on 23 Aug); Cattadale *Islay* (12 on 28 Aug). Records from Oct to Dec mostly involved sightings of 1-3 birds with flocks of over 10 at Balnabraid Glen *Kintyre* (11 on 5 Oct) and Foreland *Islay* (20 on 16 Oct).

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* Breacan-glas-sgiobalta

**RED LIST A** *summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges. Regular passage migrant on the islands.*

**Spring** First arrivals noted were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (14 May), The Oa *Islay* (16 May), Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* (17 May), Taynish *Mid-Argyll* (20 May) and Carnan Mor *Tiree* (22 May). Birds were more widespread in the last week of May with additional records from

Colonsay Hotel *Colonsay*, Kilchoman *Islay*, Oban Seil *Mid-Argyll*, Balephuill and Kilkenneth *Tiree* and Ardgarten *Cowal*.

**Breeding** Possible, probable or confirmed breeding birds were recorded from 1 Jun to 20 Aug from sites in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (3), *Mull* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *North Argyll* (1), and *Tiree* (5), although none bred on the latter island. There were no records from *Coll*.

**Autumn** The last passage birds as usual were on *Tiree*; at Balephuill on 20-25 Sep, Kilkenneth on 26-27 Sep and at Vaul on 30 Sep-4 Oct. Elsewhere, the last sightings were on 7 Sep at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll*, on 8 Sep at Coshandrochaid *Mid-Argyll* and on 16 Sep at The Oa *Islay*.

### **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula* Brù-dhearg

*A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants over-wintering.*

**Winter/spring** In late winter, birds were widespread in all areas including high counts of 10 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 11 Jan, 25 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 20 Jan and an estimate of 110 birds on *Colonsay* on 28 Feb; 5 together at a feeder at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Apr were unusual with the last bird noted on *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

**Breeding** Records of possible to confirmed breeding were from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (24), *Mull* (16) and *North Argyll* (4). There were no breeding season records from *Jura*.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were widespread in all areas in winter. The first passage bird on *Tiree* was a male singing at Balephuill on 27 Jul with a high day-count of 17 around the island on 4 Oct, whilst 9 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* may also have included passage birds.

### **COMMON NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag

*AMBER LIST A vagrant: four records: one on Islay in April 1973; one at West Loch Tarbert, Kintyre in May 1989; one at Balephuill, Tiree on 2 May 2004 and one at Vaul, Tiree on 8 Sep 2011.*

No records.

### **BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica*

*A rare passage migrant: five records: a female in Kintyre in May 1975; and males of the red-spotted race 'svecica' on Coll in 1994, on Colonsay in 2009 and on Tiree in 2009; also a first-winter on Tiree in Oct 2010.*

No records.

### **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva*

*A rare passage migrant: six records: on Islay in Nov 1974 and Oct 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010 and two singles on Tiree in Oct 2012.*

No records.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

**AMBER LIST** A *scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in recent years was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers now appear to be declining; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes.*

**Spring** The only records were from *Tiree*. A smart male briefly at Balephuill on 8 May was followed by another male there on 20 May.

**Breeding** Singing was heard at Strone Hill picnic site *Mull* on 9 Jun.

**Autumn** A bird reported on a date around 3-10 Aug from the Achnacarron Track *Mid-Argyll* could have referred to local breeding. More typical autumn passage records were of 1 imm. at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 28 Aug with 2 imms. together there on 29 Aug, and 1 on *Colonsay* on 16 Oct.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan

**AMBER LIST** A *less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).*

**Spring** A smart male photographed at Clabhach *Coll* on 6 May [Ben Jones] was the only record of the year and may have been present for a few days.

**COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann-dearg

**AMBER LIST** A *summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree.*

**Spring** First arrivals were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Apr, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Apr and at the Add Estuary and Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr. These were followed by arrivals at Tigh Cherracher Loch Awe *North Argyll* on 4 May, Aros Castle *Mull* on 5 May, Minard Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May and Colintraive *Cowal* on 7 May.

**Breeding** Birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (5), with birds recorded singing at Brainport Bay *Mid-Argyll* until 19 Jun and successful breeding confirmed at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* in the first week of Jul.

**Autumn** There was just one record: a bright immature male bird at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25-29 Sep.

**BLUE ROCK THRUSH** *Monticola solitarius*

*A vagrant: one record: a first summer male present at Skerryvore, Tiree on 4 to 7 June 1985 and found dead on 8 Jun. Accepted as the first record of a genuinely wild bird in Britain.*

No records.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan

*A sparse but widespread, summer visitor*

**Spring** Arrival dates were similar to previous years with first arrivals noted at: Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* and Strone Road End *Cowal* (both 26 Apr), Dunamuck *Mid-Argyll* and Bar Laggan Otter Ferry) *Cowal* (both 27 Apr), Lochbuie *Mull* and The Oa *Islay* (both 1 May), Loch nan Gillean *Islay* and Glen Astle *Islay* (both 2 May). Elsewhere, by the end of May, records had also been received from sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (12), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (2), *Kintyre* (1) and *Tiree* (1). A late lone female was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 6 Jun.

**Breeding** Many observers noted that there were more around than in recent years including a possible 16 territories in the Add / Loch Crinan / Mhoine Mhor area *Mid Argyll* at the end of

May. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *North Argyll* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Jura* (5 singing males on 19 Jun) and *Mull* (5). Confirmed breeding was recorded at: Loch Caithlin *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul, Rubh' Ard an Duine, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jul and The Oa *Islay* on 13 Aug.

**Autumn** Single birds at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep, Mull of Oa *Islay* on 1 Oct and Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Oct were the last of the year.

### **COMMON STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.*

**Winter/spring** To the end of Mar, single birds and pairs were noted at sites in: *Islay* (13), *Jura* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Cowal* (2), *Mull* (4) and *Tiree* (3). There were no records from: *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Kintyre* or *North Argyll*.

**Breeding** Breeding was possible or probable at sites in: *Coll* (4), *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (21), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (11), and *Tiree* (2) and was confirmed at sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (6) with the first fledglings noted on 28 May at Balephuill *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** From Oct to Dec mainly single birds were recorded at sites in: *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (33), *Colonsay* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (scattered singles and pairs around the island). Peak counts included 13 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 13 Oct and 14 at The Oa *Islay* on 15 Oct.

### **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal

*A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

**Spring** First arrivals were on similar dates to previous years with the very first on 12 Mar at Ardnave *Islay* and other early birds on 15 Mar at High Ranachan *Kintyre*, on 19 Mar at Sanaigmore *Islay* and on 30 Mar at Lochan Gleann Raonabuilg *Colonsay*. Birds were noted more generally in Apr at sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (28), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (8). Higher counts were: 10 at West Hynish and 5 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr with 14 at Loch Buie *Mull* on the same date, 12 at Hynish *Tiree* and 12 at Ardnave *Islay* on 23 Apr and 14 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 30 Apr.

**Breeding** Confusion does arise where some birds will have started breeding while others are still on migration. From May to end Aug records of possible/probable breeders were noted at sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (28), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (22), *North Argyll* (4), *Coll* (10) and *Tiree* where successful breeding was widespread with the first brood noted on 19 Jun. Probable passage birds included 19 in a field at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 14 May with 21 there on 16 May but with no evidence of breeding in the area on subsequent visits.

**Autumn** Only small numbers (6 or less) were seen at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Islay* (18), *Kintyre* (3), *Cowal* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *North Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2), and *Tiree* (1). The last of the year were at scattered sites on *Islay* and on *Colonsay* on 27 Oct.

### **'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR** *O. o. leucorhoa*

*A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.*

**Spring** The first of spring was at Aros Bay *Islay* on 27 Apr. This was followed by a single at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 May, 5 around *Tiree* on 8-9 May, 3 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 May and 1 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 15 May.

**Autumn** Birds were reported more widely than in previous autumns with many records from *Tiree*, *Islay* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The first was on 12 Aug at Machrihanish SBO

*Kintyre*, where 1-2 birds were reported near daily until 23 Aug, followed by 1 on 5 Sep and 5 on 4 Oct. On *Tiree*, 2 birds were at Cnu Lochanan and 2 were at Ruaig on 26 Aug, but there was a large influx of 40 birds to West Hynish on 7 Sep, including 35 in a single small field near the point. Birds were then seen near-daily with peaks of 60 on 9 Sep, 40 on 29 Sep including 22 at Balevullin and 18 at Kilmoluaig, 12 on 1 Oct, 10 on 4 Oct, 5 on 8 Oct and then odd ones and twos until the last at Loch an Eilein on 24 Oct. Elsewhere, 3 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Sep with odd birds noted elsewhere until the last at Rockside on 1 Oct, 1 was at Druim Mor Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Oct and 1 was at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep. The last of the year was a late bird attracted to the Twite feeding station at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1-2 Nov.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn-nam-preas

**AMBER LIST** *A widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and does not breed on Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.*

**Winter** To the end of Mar 1-4 birds were reported from all areas apart from *Coll*. Larger numbers reported were not necessarily flocks, but counts in an area, and include 16 at Lower Ballitarsin *Islay* on 11 Jan, and 12 on *Colonsay* on 28 Feb.

**Breeding** Birds were recorded from Apr to Sep from sites in: *Coll* (3), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (14), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (3). The only proved breeding record was of a nest with eggs, and fledged young on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. There were no records from *Colonsay* and *Jura*.

**Autumn/winter** From Oct to the end of the year 1-5 birds reported from all areas except *Coll*, *Jura* and *North Argyll*.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus* Gealbhonn

**RED LIST** *A resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.*

**Winter/spring** There were reports from all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Mid-Argyll*. Flocks over 20 included: up to 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* all Jan, up to 50 at Kennovay and Balephetrish *Tiree* all Jan, 20 at Loch an Duin *Islay* on 15 Feb, 55 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 6 Jan and 20 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 13 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from all areas except *Jura*. First fledglings reported on 28 May at Balephuill *Tiree*. Post breeding flocks then began to build with flocks of 20 or more reported: 24 at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 10 Jun, 20 at Arinagour *Coll* on 19 Jun, 50 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Jul, 30 at Ellenabeich (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug, 20 at Tobermory *Mull* on 12 Aug, 40 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug, 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Aug, 80 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 24 Aug, 220 at Whitehouse *Tiree* on 26 Aug and 30 Aoradh *Islay* on 28 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from Sep onwards from all areas except *Coll*, *Jura* and *North Argyll*. Sightings of 20 or more included: 50 at Middleton *Tiree* on 11 Sep, 35 at Fionnphort *Mull* on 14 Sep, up to 45 present Balephuill *Tiree* all Oct/Nov/Dec, 50 at Middleton *Tiree* on 15 Oct, 30 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 27 Oct, 20 at Rockmountain *Islay* on 30 Oct, 20 at Head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 40 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 25 Nov, 35 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 30 Nov, 40 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov, 30 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Dec, 44 at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 19 Dec.



**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh

**RED LIST** *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding took place on Islay in 2009. All records are required.*

**Winter/spring** A single bird was found at Toberonochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar [David Jardine]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flavissima* Breacan-buidhe

**RED LIST** *A scarce 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).*

No records of *M. f. flavissima*.

**‘BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL’** *Motacilla flava flava*

**Spring** A male was at Craignuire *Mull*, near the campsite on 24 Apr [Ruth Fleming, Stuart Gibson]. A male hybrid type Yellow x Blue-headed, also known as ‘Channel Wagtail’ was seen at the RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 1 May [Peter & Pia Roberts]. A male was 0.5 km north of the Tayinloan ferry jetty *Kintyre* on 5 Jun [David Jardine]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

**CITRINE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla citreola*

**A vagrant: one record: a first-winter bird was at Loch a’ Phuill, Tiree on 27 to 29 Sept 2012.**

No records.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna

**AMBER LIST** *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

**Winter/spring** One record, from *Mid-Argyll* in Jan, five, from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*, in Feb, all of single birds. Reports and birds became more numerous from mid-Mar with: 2 birds at Benmore Lodge (Loch Ba) *Mull* on 20 Mar, 2 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 24 Mar, 2 on the River Sorn in Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 4 Apr, and 2 at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 6 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** A pair were feeding young in Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May and fledged young or juveniles were also seen at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jul, Ormidale *Cowal* on 6 Aug, Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 7 Aug, and Camquhart *Cowal* on 6 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Apart from 3 birds at Calgary *Mull* on 22 Sep, reports were of 1 or 2 birds at various sites in *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Jura, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Breac-an-t-sìl

**A widespread and common breeder: absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive in late Feb to early Mar and depart Aug-Oct.**

**Winter/spring** Present throughout in all areas except *Coll, Colonsay* and *Jura*. Twelve were at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 11 Jan, 12 were counted along the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 7 and 9 Feb and 10 were at Camquhart *Cowal* on 17 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** Recorded in all areas with breeding confirmed in: *Colonsay, Cowal, Jura, Mid-Argyll, Mull*, and *Tiree*. Notable gatherings included 27 at Loch a’ Chumhainn *Mull* on 9 Apr and 20 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Recorded in all areas except *Jura* and *North Argyll*. There were some large passage gatherings from Aug through to Sep: 24 at Eilean Nostaig *Islay* on 24 Aug, 30 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 27 Aug, 30 at the Add estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep, 22 at two roosts on

*Tiree* on 9 Sep, and 124 on wires at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 24 Sep with many others in the surrounding reeds and bushes. Numbers declined during Oct and, apart from 11 at Gortinanane *Kintyre* on 3 Nov and 10 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, only single figure reports were received thereafter.

**‘WHITE’ WAGTAIL** *Motacila alba alba*

**A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring; extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.**

**Winter/spring** First arrival was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Mar and birds had reached Traigh Bhi *Tiree* by 5 Apr. Daily passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was noted from 11 Apr with a significant arrival of more than 30 on 20 Apr. Notable flocks elsewhere included: 19 at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr, 14 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 29 Apr, 20 around the west of *Tiree* on 30 Apr, 14 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 2 May, and 18 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May. Small numbers were also reported from *Mull*. Passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* continued in small numbers up to 21 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Juveniles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Jul and 8 Aug heralded the autumn passage with a further 3 birds on 17 Aug, small numbers of juveniles daily from 20 Aug, and peaks of 40 on 8 Sep and 35 on 9 Oct. Elsewhere, 8 were at Blackmill Bay (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Sep, 8 were at Fidden *Mull* on 14 Sep, 22 were at various sites on *Tiree* on 23 Sep, and 3 were at Ardmore (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct. After the last bird at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Oct a late bird was at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 18 Nov.

**RICHARD’S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi*

**A vagrant: two records: both on Islay, on 28 Sep 1971 and 10 Sep 1973.**

**Autumn** A first-winter bird was seen near Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 18 Oct [John Calladine]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

**RED LIST** **A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.**

**Spring** After the first bird at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 7 Apr arrival was widespread across *Jura* and *Mid-Argyll* from 19-21 Apr. A bird at Carnan Mor on 21 Apr was a rare spring visitor to *Tiree*. Two birds were reported from *Islay*: one at RSPB Gruinart on 1 May, and one at Claggain Bay on 7 May. By the end of May there had been widespread records, many of singing birds, from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Mull*.

**Breeding/summer** Two birds carrying food at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 21 Jun was the only confirmed breeding record.

**Autumn** The last singing bird was noted at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun. One bird was flying south at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug and the last record was of one at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* Snàthag

**AMBER LIST** **An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.**

**Winter/spring** Larger flocks included: 35 at Neriby *Islay* on 17 Jan, 50 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 2 Mar, 66 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, 40 at Ceann a’ Mhara *Tiree* on 2 Apr, 135 in two flocks at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 45 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 19 Apr, 60 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 21 Apr, and 120 at the Gruline Mausoleum *Mull* on 28 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported during the breeding season from all areas except *Jura*. Breeding was confirmed from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, and Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Flocks were noted from late Jul onwards with: 40 at The Reef *Tiree* on 30 Jul, 52 on wires at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug, 40 on Beinn Lora *North Argyll* on 20 Aug, and 50 at Ardarnock Road end *Cowal* on 23 Aug. Flocks continued to build with 200 at Kilnave *Islay* on 24 Aug, 125 at Lower Ballinarsin *Islay* on 25 Aug, 150 west of Vaul *Tiree* on 29 Aug, and 120 at Loch a' Choire Dhoinn *North Argyll* on 31 Aug. Northbound movements of 600 in 4 hours and 250 in 3 hours were noted at Machrihanish SBO on 10 and 11 Oct respectively. Flock sizes declined in October and thereafter most reports were in single figures.

### **RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*

**A vagrant: one record: at Tobermory, Mull on 7 May 1975.**

No records.

### **WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*

**No previous Argyll records. Breeds in mountainous regions of mainland Europe and is a short-distance migrant with small numbers reaching southern parts of the UK in winter.**

**Autumn/winter** One was at West Hynish *Tiree* on 19 Nov [John Bowler]. This record was accepted by the ABRC and becomes the first record for Argyll. (see article on page 136).

### **ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus petrosus* Gabhagan

**A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.**

**Winter/spring** Fifteen were reported from Gallanach (Loch Crinan) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 15 were at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 11 Jan, and 11 were at the Add estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan. A full coastal survey of *Tiree* on 2-3 Feb recorded 220 birds. Single figure reports came from all areas except *Coll* and *Colonsay*.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed from: *Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and at least three of the Treshnish Islands *Mull*. About 100 birds were counted between Gartbreck and Laggan Point *Islay* on 5 Jul, a distance of ca 3km.

**Autumn/winter** A flock of 25 was at Fidden *Mull* on 14 Sep, 33 were at Gortinanane *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, 20 were at Uisken *Mull* on 7 Nov, and 20 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 13 Dec. Two birds on top of Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 21 Oct was an unusual record away from the coast.

### **'SCANDINAVIAN' ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

**A Rock Pipit sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll still unclear. Only one accepted record, from Mull on 13 May 2011.**

Some 'possibles' reported in spring however none showing all the spring plumage characteristics required to conclusively separate them from *A. p. petrosus*.

### **AMERICAN BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT** *Anthus rubescens rubescens*

**A vagrant: one record: a first-winter bird at Ruaig, Tiree on 27 Sept 2012.**

No records.

### **COMMON CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

**An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except *Coll* and *Colonsay*. Most counts of 50 or more: on *Islay* with 60 at Kilchoman on 5 Jan, 100 at Port Charlotte on 6 Jan, 86 at Kilchoman on 27 Jan, 200 at Sannaigmore on 15 Feb, 55 at Aoradh on 24 Feb and 80 at Port Charlotte on 8 Mar. Elsewhere there were 50 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 50 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 24 Jan and 5 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread, and recorded in all areas. Probably breeding in all these areas including *Coll* but not *Tiree*, where it was present in Apr but seemed to disappear thereafter. The first fledglings were recorded on 16 Jun at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll*. A nest with 4 young at Inverlussa *Jura* fledged on 19 Jun. Post breeding flocks of adults and juveniles began to increase, with a flock of 60 at Otter Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 24 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports were widespread, and from all areas except *Coll* and *North Argyll* (but reappearing on *Tiree* in Oct). Counts of 50 or more include: 50 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 19 Oct, 60 at Otter Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 31 Oct, 80 at Craighens, Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Nov, 51 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Nov, 50 at Bonawe Furnace, *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov, 50 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov, 50 at Aoradh *Islay* on 16 Dec and 84 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec.

### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn

**An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.**

**Winter/spring** Following the trend of autumn 2012 reports were mainly single figures and from few sites: 4 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Jan, 1 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 22 Jan, 1 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 2 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Jan, 1 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Feb. Double figures were reached at Ardnave *Islay* with 10 on 27 Jan, and 10 at Sannaigmore *Islay* on 15 Feb. The last reports of the season were 1 at Carsaig Bay *Mull* on 16 Apr and 1 at Carsaig *Mull* on 19 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** First of the autumn were 2 at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 8 Oct, followed by 5 at Slaterich, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct. Most records were on *Islay*, beginning with 3 at Kinnabus, The Oa on 19 Oct also 3 there on 27 Oct, 1 on The Oa on 25 Oct, 1 at RSPB Gruinart on 6 Nov, 1 at Kilchoman on 6 Nov and 1 at RSPB Gruinart on 2 Dec. On *Colonsay*, 1 on 13 Oct, 2 on 16 Oct and 1 at Scalasaig on 20 Oct. On *Coll*, 1 at Uig on 22 Oct. In *Cowal*, 2 at Otter Ferry on 25 Oct and 1 at Cora Farm on 1 Nov. In *Kintyre*, 1 at Machrihanish SBO on 24 to 29 Oct, and 1 at Southend on 25 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll*, 1 at East Kames on 15 Oct, 1 at Crinan Ferry on 1 Nov, 4 at Bonawe on 23 Nov, 2 at Drimfern on 23 Nov and 16 Dec with last 1 at Connel on 31 Dec. On *Tiree*, 1 at Carnan Mor on 13 Oct and 2 at Balephuill on 21 and 24 Oct.

### **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean-daraich

**A locally common resident and partial migrant: with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.**

**Winter/spring** Early year records were generally single figure numbers from all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Jura*. A few groups of 10 or more were seen, mainly on *Islay*: 12 at Kilchoman on 5 Jan and 13 on 27 Jan, 20 at Port Charlotte on 6 Jan and 20 on 8 Mar, 20 at Machir Bay on 13 Jan. Elsewhere there were 10 at Heylipol *Tiree* on 15 Jan, 10 at Cullipool *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 10 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 4 Feb, and 10 at Moss *Tiree* on 19 Mar.

**Breeding** Reported in all areas except *Jura*, but confirmed breeding (fledged young) only from *Cowal* (Corra Farm), *Islay* (Kilchoman), *Mid-Argyll* (Kintallen, Tayvallich) and *Tiree* (Moss). Post-breeding flocks of adults and juveniles numbering double figures were seen at: Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 15 on 20 Aug, 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Sep, 40 at Tayinloan Village *Kintyre* on 20 Sep and 10 on *Colonsay* on 23 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Single figure reports from *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. The largest flock was 13 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 13 Nov.

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair-choille

**A widely distributed resident but absent as a breeding species on Tiree with recent breeding on Coll and Colonsay. Flocks occur in autumn.**

**Winter/Spring** Reported in single figures from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Flocks of 10 or more seen at: Meningie *Tiree* 11 on 1 Jan, Kenovay *Tiree* 12 on 5 Jan, Kilchoman *Islay* 10 on 5 Jan and 12 there on 3 Mar.

**Breeding** Reports from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Flocks of 10 or more still around through April: Cullipool, Luing, *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 20 Apr, Kilchoman *Islay* 12 on 20 Apr and 14 on 25 Apr, Glenegedale *Islay* 22 on 28 Apr. First report of breeding at Balephuill *Tiree* where a pair had a nest with eggs on 12 Jun, but it failed. Adults carrying food were seen at Strone road end *Cowal* on 22 Jun, and the first fledgling was reported at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun. Loose flocks with juveniles started to appear, with 20 at Killail *Cowal* on 30 June, 14 at Islandadd Bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 10 at Aoradh *Islay* on 24 Aug, 15 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 25 Aug, 42 at Lower Ballitarsin on 25 Aug and 17 at Cluanach *Islay* on 26 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn flocks were larger and more numerous than earlier in the year, and were found in all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Flocks over 30 were common through Sep: Balvicar Lagoons (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* 30 on 5 Sep, Druim Buidhe (North Ledaig) *North Argyll* 65 on 13 Sep, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* 40 on 15 Sep, Creag an Uisgean (The Oa) *Islay* 40 on 22 Sep, Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* 30 on 22 Sep, Killail *Cowal* 100 on 22 Sep, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* 55 on 25 Sep, Coull Farm *Islay* 30 on 26 Sep, and Tayvallich Harbour *Mid-Argyll* 35 on 27 Sep. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* flocks in the area totalled 90 on 4 Oct and 56 were trapped and ringed during the month. Elsewhere at Kilchoman *Islay* there were 35 on 2 Oct and 50 on 7 Nov, Corra Farm *Cowal* 34 on 28 Oct, Loch Clach a'Bhuile *Islay* 30 on 10 and 12 Nov. Thereafter flocks were smaller, although the 27 at Mannal *Tiree* on 30 Nov was notable for the island.

**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus* Gealag-bhuidhe

**A locally common partial migrant: present in all areas apart from Coll and Tiree where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.**

**Winter/spring** Widespread reports from most areas except *Coll, Islay Jura* and *Tiree*. Most records were single figures with a few larger flocks: Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* 12 on a peanut feeder on 8 Jan, Loch Riddon *Cowal* 20 on 30 Jan and Loch Laich *North Argyll* 30 on 10 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Reported present in all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Some flocks still seen in Apr: in *North Argyll* at Loch Laich 20 on 7 Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* Aird Luing, Luing 19 on 20 Apr, Achafolla (Luing) 15 on 20 Apr, and in *Cowal* Dreich Seillich 30 on 22 Apr, and Killail 40 on 24 Apr. Fledglings reported only from Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May. Thereafter some merging of family groups led to some smaller flocks appearing again: Carraig Fada *Islay* 10 on 3 Jun, West Tarbert *Kintyre* 14 on 30 Jun, Bridge of Awe *Mid-Argyll* 10 on 23 Jul, and Tioran *Mull* 10 on 7 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports declined, restricted to *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*, being single figures or large flocks: Minard Castle *Mid-Argyll* 40 on 24 Oct, Ardtalla *Islay* 100 on 28 Oct, Corra Farm *Cowal* 20 on 30 Oct, Tighnabruaich *Cowal* 26 on 18 Nov, Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* 55 on 26 Nov, and Lephinchapel *Cowal* 25 on 11 Dec.

**LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan-lìn

**RED LIST A** *sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn and winter with most reports from Colonsay, Islay, and Kintyre.*

**Winter/spring** None reported in Jan. Thereafter reports of flocks only from *Islay*: Bun-an-uillt, Loch Gruinart 30 on 10 Feb, Saligo 10 on 11 Feb, Sanaigmore 20 on 15 Feb and Coille 20 on 28 Feb.

**Breeding** Recorded as present from *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, North Argyll, and Tiree*, mostly in single figures. Some flocks still about in Apr and May, apparently not having settled to breed: Ballinaby *Islay* 25 on 29 Apr, Torranmore *Islay* 25 on 29 Apr, Coull Farm *Islay* 20 on 13 May, Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* 30 on 13 & 14 May, and Achaminish, (Gigha) *Kintyre* 20 on 26 May. Fledged young first reported from Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 June. During Jul and Aug family groups join to make larger flocks: Monument, Mull of Oa *Islay* 15 on 29 Jul, Balephuill *Tiree* 50 on 4 Aug, Kilnave *Islay* 80 on 24 Aug, Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* 50 on 25 Aug, Caolas *Tiree* 50 on 26 Aug, Beinn Hough *Tiree* 130 on 27 Aug, Oronsay *Colonsay* 250 on 2 Sep, Lower Killeyan *Islay* 60 on 17 Sep, Balemartine *Tiree* 180 on 27 Sep, Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* 80 on 22 Sep, Baugh *Tiree* 80 on 23 Sep, Grainel *Islay* 115 on 24 Sep, and Aoradh *Islay* 50 on 24 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports came from all areas except *Coll, Cowal, Jura, Kintyre* and *North Argyll*. Large flocks of late summer appear to have broken into smaller flocks, although a few were still substantial, including: on *Colonsay* 50 at Upper Kilchattan on 8 Oct, at Rockside *Islay* 130 on 3 Nov, and on *Tiree* 120 at Meningie 120 on 1 Oct, and 150 at Baugh on 4 Oct.

**TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

**RED LIST A** *a local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrants birds.*

**Winter/spring** Winter flocks reported up to mid April from *Colonsay, Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Oronsay *Colonsay* boasted a flock of up to 70 throughout this period, peaking at 125 on 7 Jan, but still had 27 on 24 Apr. *Islay* had flocks across the island, with a peak count of 120 at Ardnave on 15 Feb. *Tiree* also had flocks across the island with a peak of 90 at Sandaig on 12 Feb. Elsewhere there were 6 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan, in *Kintyre* regular handfals at Machrihanish SBO as well as 42 at Gortinanane on 9 Feb, and 40 at Strone Farm *Cowal* on 12 Apr.

**Breeding** A few sizable flocks were still evident to mid-May, including 20 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 May, 40 at Tayinloan Jetty *Kintyre* on 13 & 14 May, and 50 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 20 May. However there were reports of display and nest building by this time, and birds were reported from all areas except *Cowal, Jura* and *North Argyll*. The first family group was noted on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 29 Jun. Thereafter flock sizes increased with 60 at the The Oa monument *Islay* on 29 Jul, and 21 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 Aug, 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Aug, and 45 at Hynish *Tiree* the same day.

**Autumn/winter** While reported in all areas except *Coll* and *Cowal*, the really large flocks were found on *Islay* and *Tiree*. On *Islay* the best area is the The Oa, where the regular flock of hundreds peaked at 427 on 22 Nov. On *Tiree* the peak of 250 was found at Moss on 15 Oct, and at Kennovay on 25 Oct. On *Colonsay* the Oronsay flock reached 100 on 2 Sep, and in *Kintyre* 100 were found at Clochkeil (Laggan) on 11 Oct.

*In Kintyre the Machrihanish SBO Twite Study continued catching and colour-ringing during Sep, Oct and Nov. A total of 216 Twite were ringed / colour-ringed in just 4 trapping sessions. The ring sequence this autumn was metal BTO on left leg and white over white on right leg. Three birds ringed in 2012 were retrapped in 2013 at Heysham Harbour, Lancashire, and a*

bird ringed in Gairloch, Highland on 26 Sep 2013 was caught at Machrihanish on 13 Nov. Another 2012 ringed bird was seen at Carnan Mor Tìree on 25 May.

### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret* Dearcan-seilich

**RED LIST A** *locally common partial migrant, breeding locally: numbers fluctuate from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.*

**Winter/spring** There were no reports at all.

**Breeding** Reports of single figure numbers began with one at Balephuill Tìree on 5 Apr, then increased rapidly in mid-Apr across all areas, with a report of 32 at Achaminish (Gigha) Kintyre on 26 May standing out. Successful breeding must have taken place, but went unreported. Thereafter loose flocks into double figures were reported from many areas, with 35 seen at Cluanach Islay on 26 Aug being the largest.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn flocks were scarce, and reported only from Colonsay, Cowal and Islay. Those of any note were a peak of 15 on Colonsay on 13 Oct, and a peak of 25 at Corra Farm Cowal on 8 Dec.

### **COMMON REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

**Includes Mealy Redpoll** *C. f. flammea* & **Greenland Redpoll** *C. f. rostrata* (latter now sometimes known as *North-western Redpoll*, which includes *islandica*). *A scarce passage migrant; and irregular winter visitor.*

**Spring/summer** One to three adults were seen at Balephuill/Carnan Mor Tìree between 5 May and the end of Jul with two noted mating there on 25 May. Four juveniles were seen at Balephuill Tìree on 4 Aug and three near Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 8 Aug. One was at Scalasaig farm Colonsay on 21 May [David Jardine]. One was at Treshnish farm Calgary Mull on 23 May [Ananad Prasad]. A flock of 15-20 were at Calgary Bay Mull on 24 May and at least some of these shown to be this race from photos. [D & L Hatfield].

**Autumn** Four locally produced immatures were at Balephuill Tìree on 10 to 30 Sep and 1 to 11 Oct with two on 13 to 16 Oct. Two new birds were at Balephuill on 24 Oct and two at West Hynish Tìree on 24 Oct. [John Bowler et al.]. All these records of the race *C. f. flammea* and accepted by the ABRC.

Birds of the NW race *C. f. rostrata* were on Tìree at Balephuill with the first one on 21 Sep, and peaks of 7 on 23 to 27 Sep and 11 on 28 Sep. Three were at Barrapol on 22 Sep and the last record was of a large dark bird at West Hynish on 12 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson et al.]. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **ARCTIC REDPOLL** *Carduelis hornemanni*

**A vagrant: three records: two of the Scandinavian/Russian race** *exilipes* (Coues's Redpoll) *with one on Islay on 22 Sep 2001 and the other on Tìree on 23 Oct 2004 and one of the nominate Greenland/Arctic Canada race* *hornemanni* (Hornemann's Redpoll) *on Islay on 10 Apr 2012.*

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on p.123).

### **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-ghob

**An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years but few stay when cones are scarce.**

**Winter/spring** No reports at all marked a slow start to the year and reflected the absence of cones in many of Argyll's forests.

**Breeding** First of the year was a single at Garbhalt, Cowal on 28 Apr. After this, reports of single figure numbers from all areas except Coll, Jura, Kintyre and Mull. Flocks of 10 or more

occurring in *Mid-Argyll* included 10 at Kilmahumaig on 25 Jun, 30 at Crinan Harbour on 30 Jun and 12 at Crinan Ferry on 17 Jul. Elsewhere there were 10 on Beinn Lora (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 20 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Single figure reports came from 5 locations in *Mid-Argyll*, with a flock of 30 at the Add Ponds on 16 Nov. 5 were seen at Avenvogie *Islay* on 22 Nov, and on *Mull* there were 2 at Aros Cottage on 5 Sep and 5 at Loch an t-Suidhe on 14 Sep.

### **COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

*A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: eighteen records between 1989 and 2012, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

**Spring** An adult male with a BTO type ring was seen and photographed in a garden at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May [Morag & Norman Rea] and remarkably the same individual was seen and photographed in a garden at Lochdon *Mull* the following day 29 May [Phil McDermot et al]. Records accepted by the ABRC as the same bird.

*All credit to the finders for taking good quality photographs at each location making it possible to identify this as the same individual.*

### **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille

**AMBER LIST A** *widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Early year records from *North Argyll*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Cowal*, *Islay* and *Mull* were all in single figure numbers, except a report of 35 at Doire Darrach, (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* on 17 Jan.

**Breeding** The only confirmed breeding came from 3 sites in *Mid-Argyll*. Presence scattered across all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura*, and *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Post-breeding records came only from *Cowal* (4 sites), *Islay* (4 sites) and *Mid-Argyll* (6 sites), with the 6 at Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov.

### **HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

**RED LIST A** *rare visitor: eighteen records between 1953 and 2011.*

**Winter/spring** One was at Oakfield (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar [Dr. R Helliwell, D Payne]. Record accepted by the ABRC.

### **SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag-an-t-sneachda

**RED LIST** *Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter): along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.*

**Winter/spring** There were only five early year records all of single birds: Eilean Nostaig *Islay* on 10 Jan, Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Mar, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, Glengorm *Mull* on 18 Apr and a late migrant flying north at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 8 May.

**Autumn/winter** First of the autumn were 3 on *Jura*'s west coast on 21 Sep, followed the next day by one on *Tiree* at Traigh Bhi dunes, and one on *Coll* at Torastan. One was seen at Machrihanish Bay on 4 Oct and was the only record from *Kintyre*. On *Islay* there were 5 sites reporting birds, but most were from Ardnave with a peak of 20 on 7 Nov. *Tiree* reports were spread across the island, with a peak of 37 on the Reef on 30 Nov. Elsewhere the only other records were 6 singles from 6 sites on *Colonsay* and Oronsay *Colonsay*, the first on 13 Oct, and the last on 5 Dec.



## **LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*

**A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.**

**Winter/spring** The first record of the year was from *Tiree*, with 3 at Hough Bay on 3 Feb, still there on 6th, followed by singles at Balevullin and the Reef on 3 Apr, and another on the Reef on 25 Apr. Passage migrants continued through Apr and May on *Islay* with 3 at Rockside on 29 Apr, and 3 seen at Druim na h-Eresaid the same day, followed by a single at Ardnave on 9 May. Elsewhere singles turned up at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 1 May, and at Gleann Cul Bhurg (Iona) *Mull* on 6 May. The last of the spring passage was 1 at Druim Mor Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 May.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn passage began on *Tiree* with singles at Balephuill on 7 Sep. Next report was 1 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 18 Sep. On 24 Sep 2 were seen at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and 2 the same day at Milton at the other end of the island. A single at West Hynish on 28 Sep was followed by 2 on The Reef on 1 Nov. In *Kintyre* a single was at Machrihanish SBO on 10 Oct, and there was 1 on *Colonsay* on 12 Oct. Finally, 3 were at Rockside *Islay* on 18 Nov.

## **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag-bhealaidh

**RED LIST A localised resident which is absent from Coll and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.**

**Winter/spring** Reported in single figures from *Islay* (5 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (Kilmartin and Luing), *North Argyll* (Loch Laich). A male at Menengie *Tiree* from 23 to 26 Mar was the first record since 1912!

**Breeding** Present in small numbers where they occurred. No evidence of confirmed breeding reported, but probable where found: *Islay* (5 sites), *Jura* (3 sites) *Kintyre* (3 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (7 sites), *Mull* (6 sites), *North Argyll* (1 site). No reports from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Cowal* and *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** While several were seen near Keills *Jura* on 3 Oct, the only other reports were from *Islay*, mostly from the The Oa, but also from Ardnave, Kildalton and Aoradh. The peak count was 14 at Kintra on 26 Nov.

## **ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana*

**A vagrant: one record: at Craignuire, Mull on 9 and 10 May 2009.**

No records.

## **RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*

**A vagrant: two records: at Easter Ellister, Islay on 23 May 1980 and one at Hynish, Tiree on 4 June 1987.**

No records.

## **LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*

**A vagrant: two records: one found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west of Tiree), on 27 Sep 1985 and one at Milton, Tiree on 23 Oct 2007.**

No records.

## **YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola*

**A vagrant: one record: at Kenovay, Tiree on 5 Sep 1981.**

No records.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòin

**AMBER LIST A** *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

**Winter/spring** Reported in single figures from Oronsay Farm Colonsay, Tayinloan Kintyre, Luing and Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll and Middleton and Balephuill Tiree, while frequent, widespread and more numerous on Islay, including Creage na Feanaige, The Oa 25 on 15 Jan, Loch Gorm 20 on 19 Jan, Ardnave Point 20 on 15 Feb, 50 roosting in scrub willow on RSPB Loch Gruinart on 28 Feb, An Sidhean 28 on 3 Mar, and Aoradh 30 on 14 Mar.

**Breeding** Reported present in all areas except Kintyre. The only evidence of successful breeding (fledged young) was reported from Bruichladdich Islay, but was probable from all areas where recorded. An RSPB Islay count at Aoradh recorded 53 pairs and 48 territories were located on Colonsay.

**Autumn/winter** Post-breeding reports came from all areas except Coll, Jura and North Argyll, and were mostly in single figures. Double figure counts occurred at Barr Iola Cowal 24 on 24 Nov, West Hynish Tiree 10 on 22 Oct, and on Islay: 65 at Loch Gorm on 17 Oct, 11 at Creage na Feannaige (The Oa) on 12 Nov, 13 at Giol (The Oa) on 17 Dec and 12 at Ardnave on 18 Dec.

**BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza melanocephala*

**A vagrant: eight records: all of singles, during May to Jul, the last record being on Colonsay in Jun 2005.**

No records.

**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra* Gealag-bhuachair

**A former resident on Tiree and Coll but has recently become extinct. There are occasional records of wandering birds: last reported in Aug 2006 on Coll.**

No records.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** *Molothrus ater*

**A vagrant: one record: at Ardnave Point, Islay on 24 Apr 1988 and was the first British record.**

No records.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** *Setophaga ruticilla*

**A vagrant: one record: a female or first-winter bird at Portnahaven, Islay on 1 Nov 1982. This remains the only Scottish record to date.**

No records.

**NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*

**A vagrant: one record: a first-winter at Balephuill, Tiree on 25-29 Sept 2010. This remains the only Scottish record to date.**

No records.

## Escapes and Introductions

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E (see definitions of categories on p.17). Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

### **BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

**Category E.** *An infrequent visitor to Argyll, often seen with Mute Swans.*

**Autumn** One was at Lochbuie *Mull* on 17 Aug.

Other Category E species recorded in Argyll include: Swan Goose, Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Muscovy Duck, Pelican sp., Flamingo sp., Harris Hawk, Indian Peafowl, Green Pheasant, Reeves Pheasant, Eagle Owl, Ring-necked Parakeet, Zebra Finch and White-rumped Munia.

## List of Rejected Records, Pending Records and Records for which Details are Still Awaited.

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

**The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been rejected since the publication of ABR 24.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Recording area</b>	<b>date(s)</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Mull</i>	01/07/2013	BBRC
Brunnich's Guillemot	<i>Iona</i>	05/05/2013	BBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Jura</i>	28/03/2013	BBRC
Veery	<i>Tiree</i>	15/10/2009	BBRC
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Islay</i>	19/04/2013	BBRC

**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 for 2013 or before are still in circulation or being reviewed 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 2002-2013	BBRC
‘Northern’ Eider	<i>Tiree</i>	07/04/2012	BBRC
‘Northern’ Eider	<i>Tiree</i>	16/05/2013	BBRC
Gyr Falcon	<i>Tiree</i>	May/June 2009	BBRC
Macronesian Shearwater	<i>Kintyre</i>	07/09/2000	BBRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Islay</i>	30/12/2009	BBRC
American Herring Gull	<i>Tiree</i>	22/03/2007	BBRC
American Herring Gull	<i>Tiree</i>	07/05/2007	BBRC

\* BBRC is currently reviewing the identification criteria for this species.

**Details of the following claimed 2013 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.**

Species	Place	Recording area	Date
Bean Goose	Eskinish	<i>Islay</i>	29/10/2013
Ring-necked Duck	Loch Skerrols	<i>Islay</i>	21/03/2013
White-billed Diver	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	20/04/2013
Bittern	Cullipool	<i>Luìng</i>	25/03/2013
Glossy Ibis	Colonsay	<i>Colonsay</i>	12/13-02/2014
Honey Buzzard	Loch Awe	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	05/2013
Pallid Harrier	Inveraray	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	04/06/2013
Montagu’s Harrier	Grasspoint	<i>Mull</i>	30/06/2013
Spotted Redshank	The Strand	<i>Colonsay</i>	25/08/2013
Sabine’s Gull	Oban-Tiree Ferry	<i>Coll</i>	15/09/2013
Shore Lark (3)	Killinallan/Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	05/05/2013
Reed Warbler	Benderloch	<i>North Argyll</i>	29/05/2013
Reed Warbler		<i>Coll</i>	19/06/2013
Common Redpoll	Portnacraish	<i>North Argyll</i>	27/04/2013

**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 the ABRC, BBRC or SBRC.**

# ARTICLES

## **Birds of the Inner Argyll Islands: Luing**

*David C Jardine & Col MacDougall*

### **Introduction**

Whilst many of the Argyll islands have detailed or summary publications which describe the island avifauna (e.g. Elliott 1989, Bowler & Hunter 2007, Sexton & Snow 2012) there are some of the larger islands e.g. Lismore, Luing, Scarba, Kerrera for which a species list never appears to have been published. One characteristic of these islands is their inshore location; the outer islands of Argyll being more popular with visiting birders. It is hoped that this publication on Luing, will be the first of a series on the birds of the Inner Isles of Argyll and will encourage others to visit.

In view of the low level of ornithological recording on Luing, this short paper necessarily must be viewed as a preliminary account of the birds of the island. It is to be hoped that this publication may elicit further records, particularly for some of the species which almost undoubtedly occur on the island but have not yet been reported there (see endnote to species list).

### **Birding on Luing**

Luing, the ninth largest island (1543ha) in Argyll (Haswell-Smith, 1996), has a variety of habitats of ornithological interest. Pastoral farming is the principal land-use and areas of rough grazing in the 'hills' are supported by a series of fertile fields around Kilchattan used to grow winter fodder (currently silage). There are small areas of native woodland and scrub and a number of spruce shelterbelts which provide nesting habitats for larger species and diversity for passerines. Open water is restricted and there are only a few small burns but some low-lying areas are no longer cultivated and provide habitat for a range of specialist marshland species. The cliffs of the former coastline provide nesting sites for a range of species which can watch over the generally rocky coast interspersed with small sandy and pebbly beaches. The strong tidal currents around the island provide good feeding conditions for a wide range of local and visiting seabirds.

#### ***Aird Luing (NM7405)***

The walk down the track to Aird Luing from Kilchattan church is well worth the effort. After passing the Kilchattan fields (see below) both coasts of the island are viewed giving a good vantage point to watch for raptors. Barnacle Geese also congregate at the point and the shoreline there is a good area for waders. Offshore seabirds and divers feed in the tidal currents.

### ***Black Mill Bay (NM7308)***

Situated on the western side of the island this sandy and stony beach appears an unlikely spot but is one of the more interesting birding locations on the island as it is situated next to the flyway through the Sound of Luing and is a regular drop-off point for migrating waterbirds and waders. It is worth checking the shore to the south of Rubha Cuil and also scanning the Sound of Luing for seabirds and divers.

### ***Cuan Sound (NM7513 & NM7514)***

The strong currents at Cuan provide good feeding for Shags throughout the year, often attract gulls and a patient heron is regularly seen on the shore. The sheltered gardens around Cuan have a good range of woodland birds and the crofts here are a regular spot for Yellowhammer, now a relatively rare species in Argyll.

### ***Cullipool & Fraoch Eilean (NM7311 & NM7312)***

The rocky coastline at Cullipool is adjacent to the more sheltered inlets adjacent to Fraoch Eilean giving an interesting combination of habitats and birds. Turnstones are regularly seen on the shore by the village and Little Grebes will feed in the sheltered inshore waters. Seabirds occur offshore, garden birds are to be found at feeders and Ravens and Buzzards are often overhead.

### ***Kilchattan (NM7408)***

The large area of wet grassland to the south of Kilchattan farm is a favourite feeding spot for geese; particularly the wintering Barnacle Geese, hundreds of which can be found here, or grazing elsewhere on the southern half of the island. This grassland area is also attractive to wintering and passage waders such as Golden Plover and Lapwing. Rooks nest in the trees around the farm and feed in surrounding fields.

### ***Lochan Iliter (NM7410)***

Situated in the hills on the eastern side of the island this small loch is the largest area of freshwater on Luing. It attracts diving ducks as well as dabbling ducks and swans; as well as less regular visitors such as Moorhen and Coot. The feeding areas on the track to the loch attract finch flocks including Twite and often also Reed Buntings.

### ***Toberonochy (NM7408 & NM7407) & The Sound of Shuna (NM7508)***

The eastern side of Luing provides shelter for birds when the wind blows; whether this in the gardens, where feeders attract a wide range of garden birds, in the Sound of Shuna where divers and sea-ducks gather regularly, or on the coast to the south of Toberonochy which includes a series of small bays attractive to waders, dabbling duck and herons.

## **Birds of Luing - Systematic List**

Records included in this account have been gleaned from the ornithological literature, principally *The Birds of Argyll* (Ap Rheinallt *et al.* 2007), *The Birds of Scotland* (Baxter & Rintoul 1953, Forrester *et al.* 2007), *Argyll Bird Reports* (1980 – 2013) and elsewhere. Additional details have been gleaned from the *Atlas of Breeding Birds 2007-2011* (Balmer *et al.* 2013) supported by the authors' own records. Records of rare species have been considered by the relevant records committees.

This list follows the taxonomic order used by the BOU 'British List'. Breeding status follows the categories (proved, probable and possible) used in *Bird Atlas 2007-11*.

**Mute Swan** – resident, former breeder, no recent records.

**Whooper Swan** – winter and passage visitor.

**Pink-footed Goose** – scarce winter visitor; occasional individuals found amongst the Greylags.

**White-fronted Goose** – winter visitor; a group of 8-12 birds were regularly found with Greylags 1988 – 2014.

**Greylag Goose** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Snow Goose** – scarce visitor; the bird seen in the Loch Craignish /Craobh Haven area during 2006- 2011, was seen regularly on Luing with Greylags.

**Greater Canada Goose** – resident, confirmed breeder; groups totalling over 100 now occur.

**Barnacle Goose** – winter visitor; up to 900 feed in the fields around Kilchattan and Aird Luing.

**Brent Goose** – passage visitor; small numbers (up to 3) sometimes occur at Black Mill Bay.

**Common Shelduck** – summer visitor, confirmed but scarce breeder; broods noted at Lecamore Hill pond, Black Mill Bay and Toberonochy.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – winter and passage visitor.

**Gadwall** – scarce visitor; a single was seen Loch Iliter in 2004 and a pair were there in August 2012.

**Eurasian Teal** – resident, confirmed but scarce breeder; broods noted at Loch Iliter and Lechafolla Hill pond. Regular on the coast and Loch Iliter in small numbers in winter.

**Mallard** – resident, confirmed breeder; regular breeder at Loch Iliter, with broods also noted elsewhere.

**Garganey** – scarce visitor; a pair was found on the sea south of Toberonochy, 10 May 2014; the male was displaying, but there were no subsequent sightings.

**Shoveler** – scarce visitor; one was seen at Black Mill Bay in 1998.

**Common Pochard** – scarce visitor; individuals occasionally turn up on Loch Iliter in winter

**Tufted Duck** – winter visitor in small numbers to Loch Iliter.

**Common Eider** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Common Scoter** – scarce visitor; noted offshore south-east Luing in 1999.

**Common Goldeneye** – winter visitor; occasional birds seen on Lochan Iliter or offshore.

**Red-breasted Merganser** – resident, probable breeder; regularly seen in small groups around the coast, especially Toberonochy Bay.

**Goosander** – scarce visitor; two were in Black Mill Bay in 1992 and two in Toberonochy Bay in 2010.

**Red-legged Partridge** – scarce visitor; a single bird (probably a released bird from Shuna or Seil) was seen 2005-7 (Fleming & Fleming 2007).

**Common Pheasant** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Red-throated Diver** – resident, no evidence of breeding; usually seen offshore.

**Great Northern Diver** – winter and passage visitor. This is the most common diver found around the shores of Luing, with up to 5 seen in the Sound of Shuna.

**Little Grebe** – resident, confirmed breeder; breeds regularly on Lochan Iliter, up to 4 young seen.

**Fulmar** – passage visitor; only one offshore record (Cullipool on 24 January 2014) but undoubtedly under-reported.

**Manx Shearwater** – passage visitor; a small group was seen between Luing and Lunga in 2000 and 11 were seen passing Toberonochy in 2006. Given the numbers seen regularly near the Garvellachs, further observations are likely to turn up further records.

**Storm Petrel** – scarce visitor; a dead bird was found at Toberonochy Pier in 2012.

**Gannet** – passage and summer visitor, offshore.

**Cormorant** – resident, does not breed, but regularly seen offshore.

**Shag** – resident, does not breed, but regularly seen offshore in large numbers.

**Little Egret** – scarce visitor; one was at Black Mill Bay in 2008.

**Grey Heron** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**White-tailed Eagle** – resident; young and adult birds breeding in neighbouring areas seen regularly.

**Hen Harrier** – winter and passage visitor.

**Sparrowhawk** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Buzzard** – resident, confirmed breeder; breeding reported in the 1980s (Waite & Waite 1985). Several pairs nest throughout the island.

**Golden Eagle** – scarce visitor, does not breed; young birds and adults from surrounding areas are occasionally seen flying over the island.

**Kestrel** – resident, confirmed breeder; a few pairs breed, but more regularly seen on passage and in winter.

**Merlin** – winter and passage visitor.

**Peregrine** – resident, does not breed; regularly seen hunting over the island.

**Water Rail** – resident, breeding not yet recorded; regularly found in willow marsh by the Fire Station.

**Corn Crane** – scarce visitor and former breeder; noted in July 1979 (Waite & Waite (1985), but no recent records of breeding.

**Moorhen** – scarce visitor – occasionally seen on Loch Iliter.

**Coot** – scarce visitor – noted on Loch Iliter.

**Oystercatcher** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Ringed Plover** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**European Golden Plover** – winter and passage visitor; usually seen from September until April in fields at Kilchattan / Ardlarach in small numbers, although 78 seen on one occasion.

**Lapwing** – resident, probable breeder.

**Knot** – scarce passage visitor; one record of one on the shore S of Toberonochy on 11 August 2012.

**Sanderling** – scarce passage visitor; single birds seen at Black Mill Bay in 1990, 1998 and a juvenile there on 27 September 2014.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – vagrant. The only record of this North American shorebird was a presumed adult found on Black Mill Bay in the company of Dunlins on 7 Sept 2013 (Brit. Birds 107:599).

**Purple Sandpiper** – winter visitor.

**Dunlin** – passage and rare winter visitor.



**Jack Snipe** – winter and passage visitor in small numbers.

**Snipe** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Woodcock** – resident, probable breeder; numbers increase in winter.

**Black-tailed Godwit** – scarce visitor, one noted on rocky shore north of Toberonochy, 2009.

**Whimbrel** – passage visitor, greater numbers found in spring eg. 42 on shore south of Blackmill Bay, 10 May 2014.

**Curlew** – resident, confirmed breeder; nesting Achafolla Hill and Island at Aird Luig.

**Redshank** – resident, formerly bred at Loch Iliter, and along rocky shore north of Toberonochy. Small numbers seen on shores.

**Greenshank** – scarce migrant that has occurred at Black Mill Bay and Loch Iliter.

**Green Sandpiper** – scarce visitor, singles noted at Lecamore in 1996 and Black Mill Bay in 2006.

**Common Sandpiper** – summer visitor, probable breeder.

**Turnstone** – winter and passage visitor – small number eg. Cullipool.

**Pomarine Skua** – scarce passage visitor. On 30 May 2007 two flocks of 16 flew north, Sgeir a Cusha, Sound of Luig, including 3 dark phase birds; then 33 Achafolla, Luig, north through Sound of Luig at midday.

**Arctic Skua** – Scarce summer visitor noted in 1982; presumably from nesting colony on Jura

**Black-headed Gull** – winter and passage visitor.

**Common Gull** – resident; breeds on some of the adjoining islands.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – summer and passage visitor, breeding not yet recorded.

**Herring Gull** – resident, probable breeder.

**Iceland Gull** – winter visitor; found during the *2007-11 Atlas* at Aird Luig.

**Glaucous Gull** – winter visitor; singles were noted at Black Mill Bay in 1998 and 2008 and during the influx in early 2012 an adult was found in a gull flock at Ardlarach on 18 February.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – resident, probable breeder.

**Kittiwake** – resident, does not breed; seen offshore regularly.

**Sandwich Tern** – scarce visitor; unusually the only record is of one during winter when one was found in Shuna Sound on 6-9 December 2005.

**Common Tern** – summer visitor; occasionally seen offshore. Has bred in large numbers on Fladda, but not recently.

**Arctic Tern** – summer visitor; regularly seen offshore when it used to nest on Fladda, but there has been no successful breeding at this colony since 2002 and sightings are now irregular.

**Guillemot** – resident, non-breeder. Tracking studies of birds breeding on Colonsay suggest that the birds seen offshore in summer are from the colonies there.

**Razorbill** – resident, non-breeder. Tracking studies of birds breeding on Colonsay suggest that the birds seen offshore in summer are from the colonies there.

**Black Guillemot** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Puffin** – summer visitor, does not-breed – the Old Statistical Account of Scotland 1791-95 noted that they were found in the parish, although it is not clear whether they were on Luig or Seil. It is still seen offshore occasionally.

**Rock Dove** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Wood Pigeon** – resident, confirmed breeder; very small numbers breed in Park Woods.

**Collared Dove** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Cuckoo** – summer visitor, possible breeder.

**Barn Owl** – resident, confirmed breeder; noted at Toberonochy and Black Mill Bay. Has nested in a cave.

**Tawny Owl** – resident, possible breeder.

**Long-eared Owl** – resident, confirmed breeder; 3 young found in Spruce wood at Ardlarach in 2004.

**Short-eared Owl** – scarce visitor.

**Swift** – scarce visitor; small numbers seen in summer, occasionally larger groups.

**Kingfisher** – scarce visitor; single seen Cullipool quarry, 9 November 1993 (J Dickson).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** – scarce visitor, one frequented Toberonochy village in the harsh winter 2009.

**Skylark** – resident, confirmed breeder; a wintering flock of 80 was noted in February 2006 (Fleming & Fleming 2007).

**Sand Martin** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder.

**Swallow** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder.

**House Martin** – summer visitor, breeding not yet recorded.

**Meadow Pipit** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Rock Pipit** – resident, probable breeder.

**Grey Wagtail** – passage visitor.

**Pied Wagtail** – resident confirmed breeder; small numbers of White Wagtails occur on passage.

**Waxwing** – scarce winter visitor; noted in gardens at Toberonochy and at Ardlarach.

**Wren** – resident; probable breeder.

**Dunnock** – resident; confirmed breeder.

**Robin** – resident; confirmed breeder.

**Whinchat** – summer visitor, breeding not yet recorded.

**Stonechat** – resident; confirmed breeder.

**Wheatear** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder.

**Blackbird** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Fieldfare** – winter and passage visitor.

**Song Thrush** – resident, confirmed breeder. A juvenile ringed near the Dornoch Firth (Highland) in July was found dead on Luìng the following March.

**Redwing** – winter and passage visitor.

**Mistle Thrush** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Grasshopper Warbler** – summer visitor, probable breeder.

**Sedge Warbler** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder.

**Blackcap** – summer visitor, possible breeder.

**Common Whitethroat** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder.

**Chiffchaff** – passage and winter visitor.

**Willow Warbler** – summer visitor, confirmed breeder; a young bird ringed on Luìng in August 1983 was found dead at Ifrane, Morocco the following April.

**Goldcrest** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Spotted Flycatcher** – summer visitor, breeding not yet recorded.

**Pied Flycatcher** –scarce visitor, migrant noted in 2004.

**Long-tailed Tit** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Blue Tit** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Great Tit** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Coal Tit** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Treecreeper** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Chough** – *historical record; the Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99) for the parish of Kilbrandon & Kilchattan notes that 'the jackdaw, with the red bill and feet, hatches' in the area, but it is unclear whether this refers to Luing or the neighbouring island of Seil.*

**Jackdaw** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Rook** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Carrion Crow** – resident, presumed breeding.

**Hooded Crow** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Raven** – resident, confirmed breeder; at least 3 pairs breed.

**Starling** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**House Sparrow** –resident, confirmed breeder.

**Tree Sparrow** – vagrant, one was seen in a garden at Toberonochy on 30 March 2013.

**Chaffinch** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Brambling** – passage visitor; small numbers were seen flying over Cuan on 20 October 2012.

**Greenfinch** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Goldfinch** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Siskin** – regular spring migrant occurring at garden feeders, smaller numbers occur some winters.

**Linnet** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Twite** – resident, confirmed breeder; flocks of up to 40 regularly seen on track to Lochan Iliter

**Lesser Redpoll** – resident, breeding not yet recorded.

**Bullfinch** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Snow Bunting** – scarce winter visitor; up to 12 have been noted on Loch Iliter track.

**Yellowhammer** – resident, probable breeder.

**Reed Bunting** – resident, confirmed breeder.

**Endnote** – during the preparation of this paper it became clear that there are no recorded occurrences for a number of species which are regularly found in Argyll and could reasonably have been expected to occur on Luing. These species are Pintail, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Black-throated Diver, Osprey, Grey Plover, Little Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Skua, Tree Pipit, Redstart and Crossbill. Any records of these species or others not included above should be submitted to the Argyll Bird Recorder.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Paul Daw and Jim Dickson, Bird Recorders for Argyll for their support with details of earlier records and Clive Craik for details of the terns on Fladda.

## References

- Argyll Bird Club (1983 – 2013) *Argyll Bird Reports 1980-2012*.
- Balmer D E, Gillings S, Caffrey B J, Swann R L, Downie I S & Fuller R J (2013) *Bird Atlas 2007-11: the breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland*. BTO Books, Thetford.
- Baxter E V & Rintoul L J (1953) *The Birds of Scotland*. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.
- Bowler J & Hunter J (2007) *Birds of Tiree and Coll*. Paircwood Publishing, Tiree.
- Elliott R E (1989) *Birds of Islay*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Fleming A & Fleming Z (2007) Biodiversity: Life on and around Luing. Argyll & Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership.
- Forrester R W, Andrews I J, McInerny C J, Murray R D, McGowan R Y, Zonfrillo B, Betts M W, Jardine D C & Grundy D S (eds) (2007) *The Birds of Scotland*. Scottish Ornithologists' Club, Aberlady.
- Galbraith A (no date) Birds of Loch Melfort, Craobh Haven, Isles of Seil, Luing and Surrounding areas. 16pp.
- Haswell-Smith H (1996) *The Scottish Islands*. Canongate.
- Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99) Parish of Kilbrandon & Kilchattan <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Argyle/Kilbrandon%20and%20Kilchattan/>
- ap Rheinallt T, Craik J C A, Daw P, Furness R W, Petty S J & Wood D (eds) (2007) *Birds of Argyll*. Argyll Bird Club, Lochgilphead.
- Sexton D & Snow P (2012) *Birdwatching on Mull and Iona*. Brown & Whittaker.
- Waite G & Waite V (1985) *Island*. Mainstream Publishing.

### Authors:

**David C Jardine**, The Old Schoolhouse, 26 Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RN.

**Col MacDougall**, 36 Toberonochy, Isle of Luing, Argyll, PA34 4UE.

## Black Stork at Fanmore and Dervaig, Mull on 26 May 2013: first record for Argyll

*Jim Dickson*

Fortunately large birds tend to get noticed! This was certainly the case for a Black Stork that passed over NW Mull on 26 May 2013 and was seen by three different lots of visiting observers. As is often the case with birdwatchers on holiday to Mull it is not always apparent who they should report an unusual sighting to. The first sighting was at Fanmore (north across from of Ulva island) by Paul Toner and Gerard Daly who saw this bird fly over them in a north-easterly direction and reported their sighting to staff at Visit Scotland in Craignure the next day and left their contact details. Also near Fanmore, the bird was seen by a 'German guy' and he told John Clare while on one of John's walks the next day, saying he had seen a 'wood stork' and knew this species well from his native Germany. Unfortunately no contact details were taken and his

account has been lost. Before it seemed this bird was about to depart Mull to the north it was seen once more, this time high over Dervaig by Dave Parsons and his son Toby who were on holiday from Bedfordshire. They were unsure of the bird's identity at the time but had the sense to take some photographs as it circled high and then away.

Paul Toner had noted that the bird was, 'very large with a very big wing span showing prominent primary feathers. It showed a long slender neck and a sharp border between white body feathers and the black neck. Trailing legs were noted and it was being mobbed by crows which it was trying to avoid'. It is maybe debatable whether the BBRC would have accepted on this evidence alone and therefore it was very fortunate that later that afternoon Dave Parsons made a chance sighting of it. He was in the garden of a holiday cottage in Dervaig with telescope set up on a tripod and had been watching for ducks and waders on Loch Chumhainn. This was just their second day on the island and they had already seen several species of raptor and were keeping a watchful eye on the sky above. While scanning Dave noticed a small dark spot high above Dervaig village which at first he thought was going to be another White-tailed Eagle, as through binoculars it looked like a large winged bird. At this point the bird looked completely dark or black and through his telescope could see it was not an eagle but a heron like bird with a straight neck. He had just been reading the previous year's Mull Bird report which mentioned Glossy Ibis and made him think about that species. Being unsure he decided to grab his camera and get some photos of the bird which by now was circling even higher and drifting off to the north. Enlarging the images on his camera did not help much but could now see it had white underparts a short fan like tail and trailing legs.

Once home a week later they were able to look at the photos on their computer. They concluded that the bird was either a crane or stork and not a Glossy Ibis as first thought and sent them to Alan Spellman on Mull. From this time on parts of the jigsaw were coming together. We were able to identify the bird as a Black Stork from their photographs. So, a week after the sighting it looked like Black Stork was now destined to become a new species for Argyll and not just drift away from the records books. The details noted above were sent to the BBRC and the record was later accepted as the first of this species in Argyll.

*Note: There were 18 records in the UK during 2013 with six per year being the average and there have been about 20 Scottish records in total. This bird was seen again in Highland the same day at Gruinard Bay (ca 150 km north). Although the Mull bird was not aged, the sighting in Highland was recorded as an adult. It is known that adult birds can overshoot on spring migration from Central Europe and records later in the summer often involve wandering non-breeding adults or immature birds.*

## **Ascension Frigatebird at Bowmore, Islay on 5 July 2013: second record for Argyll**

*Jim Dickson*

The first known sighting of this bird was made by Tor Egil Matre during breakfast at the Harbour Inn Hotel, Bowmore, Islay about 8.10 am on 5 July 2013. He noticed a bird with a very large wingspan land on the harbour wall. Tor and his brother-in-law Dr. Vernon Bonarjee, both on holiday from Norway, collected their cameras and went out and took some photos. The bird was being mobbed by some gulls but stayed put until it flew off around 8.40 am. At the time

Vernon thought it could be some kind of large juvenile seabird, perhaps an albatross! The following day they showed their photos to people at an RSPB stand on the Arran ferry. At about 8.25 am on 5 July, two Islay fishermen, Tom Redman and Jim Brown also saw this bird sitting on the harbour wall. Realising that it was something quite different they called over to Jim Sim who was also on the pier. Jim was on holiday from Renfrewshire however not being a birdwatcher was unsure what he was looking at but had his camera and he managed to take six photos. These were shown later that morning to Mary McGregor the manager at RSPB Gruinart reserve who in turn emailed them to other RSPB staff. Shortly afterwards John Bowler, the RSPB conservation officer on Tiree, emailed back to confirm the identity as a juvenile plumaged Ascension Frigatebird.....almost 60 years to the day since the bird on Tiree!

The difficulty with identification arises from the fact that there are five species within the genus *Fregata*: Ascension (*aquila*), Magnificent (*magnificens*), Great (*minor*), Christmas Island (*andrewsi*) and Lesser (*ariel*) which all have similar immature plumages. As birds age from juvenile over several years to breeding plumage each stage can look quite different and as birds wander the oceans before returning to breed as adults some of the plumages have not been well studied until fairly recently. Important features to help with immature frigatebird identification are: size, head colour, shape and extent of the breast band and white-belly patch and the presence or absence of a white extension onto the axillaries and underwing coverts.

After identifying this Islay bird to genus the main features confirming the specific identity were sorting out the very similar juvenile Great from Ascension and also consider Magnificent. This was done by looking at the position, extent and shape of the breast band; absence of any russet on the head; the presence of an axillar spur and a sharp cut off between the white of the head and the dark mantle. All these features appeared spot on for the Islay bird to confirm it's identification as a first-stage juvenile Ascension.

It was not long until various groups of Islay birders were on the trail trying to relocate the bird. However it was last seen flying off into Loch Indaal being mobbed by gulls some four hours earlier. Despite a couple of unconfirmed reports from local Islay folk the bird was not seen again that day. This caused a dilemma for the potential 1,000+ UK twitchers who would almost certainly descend on Islay should the bird settle somewhere. With the bird not 'settled' and by all accounts 'gone', nevertheless the following day, around 30 birders arrived in hope on the early ferry, with most having driven overnight from the south of England. Apparently a few more also arrived by plane! There was no great sense of optimism due to the fact that some Islay birders had been out searching for the bird from early morning without any luck and as the day went on all reasonable hope of seeing this bird faded.

With South Atlantic populations of Lesser and Great Frigatebirds on Trinidad and Martin Vaz islands in Brazilian Waters now seriously threatened or extinct the only likely species to occur in British waters are Magnificent or Ascension. Until the re-identification in 2003 of the 1953 Tiree individual it was generally assumed that Magnificent was the only species capable of reaching British waters from the Caribbean. This species with a worldwide population of around 200,000 individuals and apparently increasing has much smaller numbers in the Caribbean which are threatened and decreasing. The population of Ascension Frigatebird on Boatswainbird Islet 250 metres off Ascension is around 25,000 to 30,000 individuals.

To put this record into context, other than the previous juvenile on Tiree in July 1953, there has only been one confirmed record more than a few hundred miles from Ascension Island and that

was from western Africa, however post fledging dispersal out at sea is poorly documented. The journey to Islay would be over 4,000 miles for this species not normally known as an ocean wanderer. There have been several other reports of frigatebirds from the UK and Ireland before with just a handful unidentified to species and two with their identity confirmed as Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) in 1998 and 2005.

Without the excellent photographs, including flight shots, this sighting would surely just have gone down as another 'unidentified frigatebird' in British waters.....once the birding community were convinced a frigatebird had been involved! So well done to a sufficiently interested group on 'non-birdwatchers' for taking an interest and 'obtaining' the evidence!

*This record has now been accepted by the BBRC as only the second record for the Western Palearctic.*

## **Cedar Waxwing at Vaul, Tiree, on 23-29 September 2013: first record for Argyll**

*John Bowler*

On the afternoon of Monday 23 September 2013, I received a phone message from a Tiree resident at Vaul describing an unusual bird that had briefly visited their garden around midday. They had been unable to name the bird from their bird-book and were at a loss as to what it might be. It had allowed a very close approach and had fed on the berries of a Berberis bush, which it subsequently regurgitated. The mention of eating berries plus a yellow-tipped tail suggested Waxwing to me, but the date seemed oddly early for one, whilst the description of a greyish body colour sounded wrong, so I headed over to Vaul to seek it out. After two hours of checking the gardens and with the light beginning to fade, it seemed that the bird had gone, but at 1650hrs I relocated an oddly grey looking waxwing feeding in a Cotoneaster bush in a mature garden belonging to another island resident, who allows me access to look for birds there.

A quick study of the bird revealed that this was clearly not just an early Bohemian Waxwing. The flight feathers were a rather uniform bluish-grey colour with paler edgings on the primaries and there was a rather bold white line down the inner edge of the tertials. The overall body colour was a cold greyish-brown, paler on the rump and belly, with slight yellowish tones apparent on the belly and vent, when viewed in good light. The tail was a darker bluish grey with a narrow yellow tip, whilst there was a bold black mask, bordered white, giving the impression of white spectacles when viewed head on. The bird showed a rather weak crest, which was rarely raised, whilst the bill and legs were blackish-grey, although the bill base looked paler as a result of an accumulation of berry skins. Rather incredibly, these features all proclaimed the bird to be a juvenile Cedar Waxwing, a species I had dipped on in Nottingham back in 1996 and which I had last seen in Texas in February 2011.

The bird was sometimes quite confiding although it often disappeared from view and upon taking flight occasionally called a weak high-pitched trill. I took some digi-binned record shots of the bird and made some notes in my note-book. From discussion with the house-owner, it transpired that the bird had first arrived in the garden on Saturday 21 September, or possibly

Friday 20 September, and had been present more or less continuously thereafter, always feeding in the same berry-laden Cotoneaster bush.

Unfortunately, the low bush the bird frequented was blocked from the public road by the house and from the field behind by a tall hedge and taller bushes in between. Thus, the bird could only be viewed from either inside the house or from within the garden itself, which was accessed via a gated door-way. I discussed the great rarity of the bird with the house-owner (a lady in her 90s) and she was visibly shaken at the prospect of potentially large numbers of birders wanting to come and see it, and therefore I decided not to put the news out that evening, which is something I would otherwise automatically do. I returned the following morning to review the situation with Jeremy Wilson, Head of Research at RSPB Scotland, who also happened to be birding on the island that week. The bird was still present in its favoured bush, there was no obvious means of viewing it from out-with the house or garden and the house-owner reiterated that she did not want us to broadcast the news more widely. It was therefore agreed that we could not put the news out of the bird in its current location and that instead we should await its movement to a more accessible site.

I continued to monitor the bird over the following days, together with Jeremy and also Jim Dickson, who had arrived in the meantime for his annual autumn birding week on the island. Frustratingly, the Cedar Waxwing remained entirely loyal to the hidden Cotoneaster bush, despite attempts to lure it out into a more accessible area with cut-up apples. When first seen, the bird appeared tired and often seemed to fall asleep after a feeding bout. However, as the days progressed it appeared to become fitter and more wary, whilst the berry supply became ever more depleted. It was last seen by the house-owner on Sunday 29 September but not subsequently, despite further searches made of adjacent gardens and it is assumed that it headed off the island on the Sunday night.

*This record has been accepted by the BBRC as the second record for Scotland and third for the UK. The earlier records concerned single birds on Noss, Shetland on 25-26 Jun 1985 and at Nottingham on 20 Feb -18 Mar 1996.*

## **Water Pipit at Vaul, Tiree on 19 November 2013: first record for Argyll**

*John Bowler*

On 19 November 2013, I was conducting a goose count around West Tiree. At about 0930hrs, I approached the road-end turn-around at West Hynish in my Land Rover and scanned the crofts ahead for geese through the windscreen using my binoculars. A pipit caught my eye in front of my position that was feeding amongst watercress along a rocky stream just above where it entered the storm beach. It looked quite striking, with warm brown upperparts contrasting with whiter underparts, like a boldly marked Meadow Pipit, except that it was Rock Pipit sized and had an obvious bold pale supercilium. Unsure what to make of this, I pulled into the turning space to get a better look and as I did so, the bird flew up and landed on a nearby pile of straw and dung that had recently been put out at the top of the beach there. Through the opened window it called a short slightly upwards call "Seest!" in flight that to my ears seemed typical of Rock Pipit, although perhaps slightly shorter and thinner. However, it appeared to show very white outer-tail feathers in flight and on the ground it proved to be a much more warmly toned



and more contrasting bird, with shockingly pale pink legs, a rather weak, mostly yellowish bill and two rather bold whitish wing bars.

Knowing this was an interesting bird I quickly grabbed by camera and took some digi-binned shots. The dark lores, bold supercilium, pale legs and mostly pale bill appeared to rule out Buff-bellied Pipit, leaving Water Pipit as the most likely contender. Scandinavian Rock Pipit is not supposed to be so different from Rock Pipit in winter plumage and this bird was clearly too warmly brown above and too pale below with sparser and more distinct streaking, plus it had pale pink legs, a largely pale bill and a bold supercilium. It was too close for the 'scope, so instead I watched the bird for the next 8 minutes or so through binoculars as it actively fed on flies coming out of the straw in the sunshine, taking shots and sketching the bird in my notebook.

Even accounting for the rather strong sunlight, this was a boldly marked pipit with essentially warm mid-brown upperparts and white underparts bearing distinct sharp-edged dark streaks. The unmarked fore-crown was a little darker brown than the hind-crown and nape, which were paler and slightly greyer than the fore-crown and mantle. The mantle was warm mid-brown and bore a few indistinct dark lines. The rump and upper-tail coverts were brighter still, being an unmarked, almost gingery-tinged, warm brown. There was a bold whitish supercilium running from the bill over the eye and then flaring above the ear coverts. The lores were dark as a result of a dark line running to the eye and continuing a little less boldly behind the eye. There was also an extensive dark malar patch with a line running thinly upwards from this towards, but not quite reaching, the bill. A complete pale eye-ring encircled the dark eye, but this was less obvious in the upper half than on Rock Pipit as it was lost against the pale supercilium. The lower half of the eye-ring contrasted more strikingly with a dark line that ran under the eye from the front section of the eye-stripe leading onto the paler brown ear coverts.

The closed wing had a mainly warm-brown background like the mantle, with two distinct whitish wing-bars formed by broad pale edgings to the median and greater coverts contrasting with darker centres to these feathers. The closed primaries and tertials also showed fairly conspicuous paler edges with darker centres. The underparts were much paler and whiter than on nearby Rock Pipits with much more distinct and finer cleaner dark streaks. The unmarked throat and belly were boldly white, whilst the background to the breast and flanks was also white but with a hint of a very slight buffy wash. The breast and flanks were boldly and cleanly streaked darker, with fine sharp-edged streaks, which were most numerous on the chest, thinning down the flanks. The streaks on the flanks were largely clean and fine, although could look "messier" and more extensive when the flank feathers were fluffed up. The mid belly and vent were an unstreaked white. In flight the tail was paler brown centrally, much darker towards the edges and then showed contrastingly clean white outer tail feathers. The legs were a shockingly bright pale pink, most unlike the all-dark legs of nearby Rock Pipits, whilst the rather short and weak bill was largely pale orangey-yellow with a darker line along the top edge of the upper mandible.

At about 0940hrs, the bird flew up again and landed back further inland along the small stream, where it disappeared from view. It repeated a thin Rock Pipit like call in flight and revealed what appeared to be cleanly white outer-tail feathers. I had to leave the bird to continue my

count but returned the following day and on several other occasions to look for the bird but without success, finding only Rock Pipits on the shore and Meadow Pipits above the strand line.

*This record was accepted by the ABRC and becomes the first record for Argyll.*

## **Testing the influence of distance to cover on use of garden bird feeders**

*Euan N. Furness*

### **Introduction**

Garden birds are at risk from cats and Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* (Barnard 1979). It is generally understood among ornithologists that garden birds will try to avoid predation by exploiting nearby cover, even going so far as to trade off food quality for the sake of remaining in or close to cover (Allen and Harper 2000). However, the influence that this cover has on feeding habits has rarely been measured (Cowie and Hinsley 1988) and when it has been, interspecific competition resulting from limited feeding locations can result in unclear results (Cowie and Simons 1991).

In this study I sought to demonstrate the assumed link between distance to cover and feeding activity in one particular species of bird, the Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*, by designing a study that eliminated interspecific competition as a factor in the birds' choices of feeding locations. The results should serve to give a clearer indication of Siskin behaviour in general as well as providing an approximation of the fundamental niche of other species of garden bird whose behaviour in the absence of interspecific competition is difficult to determine.

### **Methods**

The experiment was carried out in a garden on the west side of Loch Lomond. No other bird feeders were present in the garden at the time of experiment. A row of experimental feeders was set on poles in a lawn, perpendicular to a line of large bushes in the garden.

The feeders were occasionally checked with binoculars to observe which species were using them as feeding locations. Nyjer seed was used in the feeders and, locally, only Siskins and Goldfinches, *Carduelis carduelis*, would be likely to feed on Nyjer seed. The experiment was carried out in July 2014, when large numbers of juvenile and adult Siskins were present but there were no Goldfinches in the area, effectively reducing the sample species to Siskins only.

The feeders used were transparent cylindrical plastic tubes. Each was 25cm in height, 6cm in diameter and edged with four vertical feeding slits with accompanying perches at 0cm and 10cm up the body respectively. Each feeder sat atop a metal pole approximately 2m in height. Consumption was measured by taking the distance from the top of the feeder to the current seed line, then refilling the feeder to the top. The feeders were placed in the open over short grass, at 1, 3, 5 and 7 metres from dense cover respectively.

Consumption readings were taken over the course of a week with daily averages calculated for each feeder.

**Results**

Seed consumption decreased significantly as distance from cover increased. However, the rate of decrease of consumption also decreased with distance from cover (Figure 1).

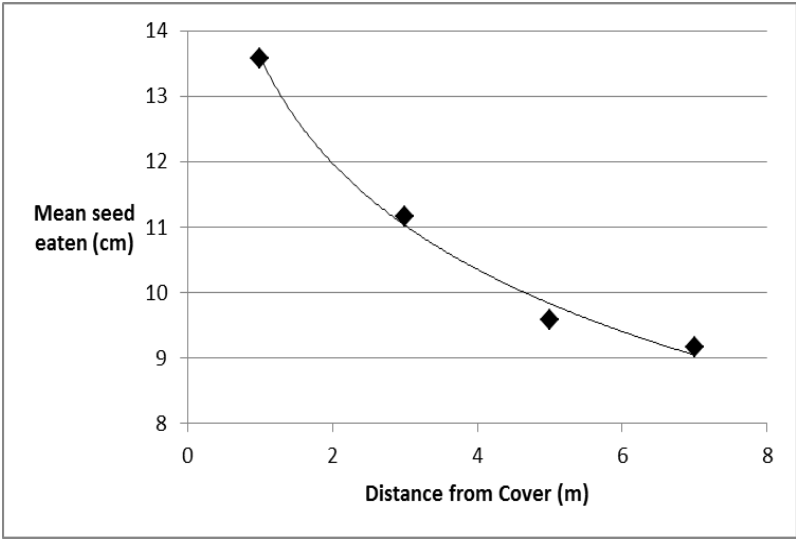


Figure 1. Average consumption (cm) of Nyjer seed at each distance from cover.

Additionally, comparing among results on different days, the slope of the relationship between seed consumption and distance from cover decreased significantly as the total seed consumption increased.

**Discussion**

The results of the experiment clearly show a correlation between the distance of bird feeders from cover and the use of the feeders by Siskins. It is reasonable to think that this is caused by birds attempting to avoid predators (Todd and Cowie 1990) such as Sparrowhawks, rather than by other factors such as energy conservation. Although the only birds to be found feeding at the feeders were Siskins it seems reasonable that other, similar, birds would produce a similar pattern in the absence of interspecific competition.

The decrease in the slope of the relationship between seed consumption and distance from cover with increasing amount of seed consumed was unexpected. However, it could be caused by any combination of multiple factors: Large numbers of birds would necessarily require large numbers of feeding ports in order to all be feeding at any one time, therefore, in the presence of large numbers of birds any correlation created by the birds' desire to remain close to cover could

become less noticeable due to the high levels of feeding at all feeding ports. Siskins are known to form flocks, especially outside the breeding season (Copete 1990), and flocking could account for daily changes in numbers of birds. When large numbers are present, birds may be more willing to use feeders further from cover, or may be displaced off the preferred feeders closest to cover.

In addition, leaving the feeders for longer than average between refilling increases the chances that seed levels in one or more feeders will drop below one or more of the feeding ports on those feeders. If this occurs, the rate of seed consumption at the affected feeders will be reduced regardless of their locations as the number of birds that can feed at the feeder at any one time will be reduced. As the initial rate of consumption is, by definition, highest at the most sought-after feeders, the feeders will experience this drop in rate of consumption in order of the birds' preference for feeding at them, which will reduce the significance of the results.

These problems could be solved by modification of feeder design; a large number of feeding ports on each feeder would make the effects of larger numbers of birds less noticeable, and restricting feeding ports to the lower sections of a feeder and/or increasing the cross-sectional area of the feeder would increase the mass of seed that could be eaten before any of the feeding ports became unusable. The problem of feeding ports becoming unusable can also be solved by increasing the frequency with which the feeders are measured and refilled, as the seed would not have time to drop to a level at which a port became unusable.

The results provide strong evidence that Siskins prefer to feed close to cover, suggesting that risk of attack by Sparrowhawks influences how they use the garden. Further evidence of this being a real hazard was provided by patches of Siskin feathers and partial remains below the feeder furthest from cover, indicating kills by a Sparrowhawk. In conclusion, placing feeders close to bushes is likely to provide conditions that make the feeders more attractive to birds because they can reduce predation risk by remaining close to cover.

## References

- Barnard, C.J. 1979. Interactions between house sparrows and sparrowhawks. *British Birds* 72: 569-573.
- Cowie, R.J. and Hinsley, S.A. 1988. The provision of food and the use of bird feeders in suburban gardens. *Bird Study* 35: 163-168.
- Cowie, R.J. and Simons, J.R. 1991. Factors affecting the use of feeders by garden birds: 1. The positioning of feeders with respect to cover and housing. *Bird Study* 38: 145-150.
- Allen, A.J. and Harper, D.G.C. 2000. Foraging blue tits *Parus caeruleus* may trade-off calorific value of food items and distance from cover. *Bird Study* 47: 232-234.
- Todd, I.A. and Cowie, R.J. 1990. Measuring the risk of predation in an energetic currency: field experiments with foraging blue tits (*Parus caeruleus*). *Animal Behaviour* 40: 112-117.
- Copete, J.L. 1990. Watching a roost of Siskins (*Carduelis spinus*). *Catalan Ringing Group Bulletin* Volume 7.

# ARGYLL RINGING RECOVERIES

## SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2013

The individuals and groups that are involved in ringing birds in Argyll are many and varied, and there is no single Argyll Ringing Group to co-ordinate and collate ringing activities and the data generated. The information below is gleaned from the BTO on-line ringing report for 2013, which is a tiny selection from the vast quantity of information held on the national ringing database <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>. Birds included in the report may include records from previous years that only found their way into the BTO database in 2013, and had not previously been reported. Details for Argyll are found listed under the 'county' of Strathclyde. It is from these that birds ringed, or later found in Argyll are selected. Criteria for selection include foreign recoveries, interesting movements within the British Isles, and age of bird. Distances are from point of original ringing, not where previously seen, if there were multiple sightings. Please report rings found to [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac)

Species/ Ring No.	Age Finding Details	Date ringed Date found	Location /distance/direction/ time difference
----------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	---

### MUTE SWAN

<b>Z88540</b>	Adult Male	30-12-1999	<i>Widespread resident. 13 yr old bird</i> Oban Bay North Argyll
	Alive (ring read in field)	04-10-2013	Oban North Argyll 0km 13y 9m 4d

### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

<b>1302363</b>	Adult Male	12-12-2012	<i>Greenland race, breeds in Greenland, winters in UK</i> Ballinaby Islay
	Alive (neck collar seen)	04-05-2013	Skipagerdi, West-Landeyjar, Rangarvalla: <b>Iceland</b> 1,167km NW 0y 4m 22d
<b>1302366</b>	Adult Female	12-12-2012	Ballinaby Islay
	Alive (neck collar seen)	24-04-2013	Felagslund, Gaulverjabaer Floi, Arnes <b>Iceland</b> 1,200km NW 0y 4m 12d
<b>1302367</b>	Adult Male	12-12-2012	Ballinaby Islay
	Alive (neck collar seen)	04-05-2013	Skipagerdi, West-Landeyjar, Rangarvalla: <b>Iceland</b> 1,167km NW 0y 4m 22d
<b>1302369</b>	Adult Female	12-12-2012	Ballinaby Islay
	Alive (neck collar seen)	04-05-2013	Skipagerdi, West-Landeyjar, Rangarvalla: <b>Iceland</b> 1,167km NW 0y 4m 22d
<b>1302377</b>	Adult Male	12-12-2012	Ballinaby Islay
	Alive (neck collar seen)	04-05-2013	Skipagerdi, West-Landeyjar, Rangarvalla: <b>Iceland</b> 1,167km NW 0y 4m 22d

### GREYLAG GOOSE

<b>5211939</b>	Adult Male	11-07-2000	<i>Some breed in UK, some breed Iceland &amp; winter in UK</i> Loch An Eilein Tìree
	Freshly dead (shot)	21-07-2012	Barrapol, Tìree: 4km 12y 0m 10d
<b>5227081</b>	First-year Male	09-07-2002	Cnoc Bhirceapol Tìree

<b>5227071</b>	Freshly dead (shot)	30-08-2012	Barrapol, Tiree: 3km 10y 1m 21d
	Adult Female	09-07-2002	Cnoc Bhirceapol <i>Tiree</i>
	Dead (hit wires)	30-10-2010	Moss, Tiree: 2km 8y 3m 21d
<hr/>			
<b>BARNACLE GOOSE</b>	<i>Breeds Greenland, winters UK –three 19 year old birds</i>		
<b>1098144</b>	First-year	12-04-1994	Aoradh, Loch Gruinart <i>Islay</i>
	Freshly dead (shot)	06-12-2013	Site Confidential <i>Strathclyde</i> 9km ENE 19y 7m 24d
<b>1281740</b>	Adult Male	12-11-1993	Grainel, Loch Gruinart <i>Islay</i>
	Freshly dead (shot)	14-03-2013	Eorabus <i>Islay</i> 58km N 19y 4m 2d
<b>1097732</b>	First-year	15-11-1994	Aoradh, Loch Gruinart <i>Islay</i>
	Freshly dead (shot)	06-12-2013	Site Confidential <i>Strathclyde</i> 9km ENE 19y 0m 21d
<b>1287815</b>	Adult Female	14-04-1998	Eorrabus, Bridgend <i>Islay</i>
	Dead	(28-8-2013)	Hurry Fjord, Scoresby Sund, <b>Greenland</b> 1,982km NNW 15y 4m 14d
<hr/>			
<b>MANX SHEARWATER</b>	<i>30 year old bird</i>		
<b>FR46132</b>	Adult	03-05-1983	Skomer Island <i>Dyfed</i> , Wales
	Dead	18-08-2013	Vaul Bay, <i>Tiree</i> 542km N 30y 3m 15d
<hr/>			
<b>STORM PETREL</b>	<i>Long-lived breeding birds, site fidelity &amp; between colony movements</i>		
<b>2506173</b>	Adult	03-08-1999	Brough of Birsay, Brough Head <i>Orkney</i>
	Caught by ringer	26-06-2013	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 347km SSW 13y 10m 23d
<b>2556279</b>	Adult	10-08-2004	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	13-08-2013	Calf of Man <i>Isle of Man</i> 144km SSE 9y 0m 3d
<b>POL D14332</b>	Adult	14-06-1995	Ponta de Almadena, Faro, Algarve <b>Portugal</b>
	Caught by ringer	24-06-2003	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 2,165km N 8y 0m 10d
<b>2571976</b>	Adult	23-07-2005	Fife Ness <i>Fife</i>
	Caught by ringer	26-06-2013	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 238km W 7y 11m 3d
<b>2571603</b>	Adult	04-08-2012	Porth Iago, <i>Gwynedd</i> , Wales
	Caught by ringer	17-07-2013	Ailsa Craig <i>Ayrshire</i> 268km N 0y 11m 13d
<b>2624465</b>	Adult	27-06-2013	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i>
	Caught by ringer	29-07-2013	Eilean Nan Ron <i>Highland</i> 262km NNE 0y 1m 2d
<b>2672013</b>	Adult	04-08-2012	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	06-08-2013	Isle of May, Fife 215km ENE 1y 0m 2d
<b>2672025</b>	Adult	04-08-2012	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	25-07-2013	Nolsoy, Torshavnar Kommuna, <b>Faeroes</b> 751km N 0y 11m 21d
<hr/>			
<b>GANNET</b>	<i>2 long-lived birds</i>		
<b>1221672</b>	Nestling	29-09-1985	Ailsa Craig <i>Ayrshire</i>
	Freshly dead	03-08-2013	Ardnave, <i>Islay</i> 104km NW 27y 10m 5d
<b>1137103</b>	Nestling	29-06-1980	Ailsa Craig <i>Ayrshire</i>
	Long dead	21-08-2013	Crossapol Bay, <i>Coll</i> 176km NNW 33y 1m 23d
<hr/>			

---

**CORMORANT**

<b>5248708</b>	Nestling	13-06-2010	Glas Eilean, Port Ann, Loch Fyne, <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Long dead	09-04-2013	Port Patrick, <i>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</i> 133 km S 2y 9m 27d
<b>5248876</b>	Nestling	05-06-2012	Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of <i>Jura</i>
	Freshly dead	07-03-2013	Site confidential <b>N Atlantic</b> 1170 km 0y 9m 2d
<b>5248855</b>	Nestling	03-07-2011	Corr Eilean, Sound of <i>Jura</i>
	Unknown - ring only	04-06-2013	St Ninians Point <i>Bute</i> 39km ESE 1y 11m 1d

---

**SHAG**

<b>1418839</b>	Nestling	07-07-2006	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Unknown	02-08-2012	Site confidential (UK) 214 km ESE 7y 1m 2d
<b>1445602</b>	Adult female	28-06-1995	Lunga, Treshnish Isles, <i>Mull</i>
	Alive – colour rings seen	09-05-2013	Longa Island, Gairloch <i>Highland</i> 142 km NNE 3y 10m 11d
<b>1455665</b>	Nestling	25-06-2012	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Long dead	04-07-2012	Oban, <i>N Argyll</i> 128 km 0y 9m 30d

---

**WHITE\_TAILED EAGLE**

<b>ZY3210</b>	Nestling	06-06-2012	Site confidential, <i>Mull</i>
	Long dead	11-08-2013	Loch Nevis <i>Highland</i> 64 km NNE 1y 2m 5d

---

**GOLDEN EAGLE**

<b>ZZ1823</b>	Nestling	09-06-2013	Site confidential <i>Colonsay</i>
	Freshly dead	01-11-2013	Poll Gorm, Oronsay 6 km SSW 0y 4m 23d

---

**OSPREY**

<b>1421529</b>	Nestling	10-07-2012	Site Confidential, near Loch Awe, <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Alive - colour rings	31-01-2013	Janjanbureh Camp, <b>Gambia</b> 4830 km S 0y 6m 21d
	Alive - colour rings	08-05-2013	Sine Saloum, Toubakouta <b>Senegal</b> 4827 km SSW 0y 9m 28d

---

**MERLIN**

<b>ET89441</b>	Nestling	18-06-2012	An Criap, Glendaruel Forest, Strachur, <i>Cowal</i>
	Long dead, disease	08-11-2013	Cathkin Marsh SWT Reserve, Carmunnock, <i>Glasgow</i> 67 km ESE 1y 4m 21d

---

**OYSTERCATCHER**

<b>FA71871</b>	Adult male	14-09-2004	Dawlish Warren, <i>Devon</i>
	Alive - colour rings	17-06-2005	Garvard <i>Colonsay</i>
	Alive - colour rings	29-04-2013	Garvard <i>Colonsay</i> 632km NNW 8y 7m 15d
<b>FP79184</b>	Adult	02-10-2004	Whiteford Sands, Gower, <i>Glamorgan</i>
	Freshly dead	10-06-2013	Vaul Bay <i>Tiree</i> 570 km NNW 8y 8m 8d

---

**REDSHANK**

<b>DD11500</b>	Adult	08-09-2010	Levington Creek, R Orwell, Suffolk
	Alive - colour rings	24-04-2012	Uiskentuie, L Indaal, Islay 651 NW 0y 10m 29d

---

### BLACK-HEADED GULL

<b>EW39679</b>	Nestling	02-07-2011	Black Rock, Crinan, Sound of <i>Jura</i>
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2013	Strathclyde Country Park <i>Lanarkshire</i> 102 km 1y 6m 6d

---

### COMMON GULL

<b>EW39821</b>	Nestling	24-06-2012	Kilmaranaig Islands, L Etive <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Long dead, hit car	07-06-2013	Muff, Donegal, <b>Eire</b> 196 km SW 0y 11m 14d
<b>EW43674</b>	Nestling	22-06-2006	Kilmaranaig Islands, L Etive <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Freshly dead	10-07-2013	Lamlash <i>Ayshire</i> 105 km S 7y 0m 18d

---

### HERRING GULL

<b>GG86462</b>	Nestling	2-07-1993	Eilean Nan Caorach, Lismore <i>North Argyll</i>
	Dead	23-7-2013	Bunree <i>Highland</i> 21km NE 20y 0m 21d
<b>GA21308</b>	Nestling	21-06-1998	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Freshly dead	28-03-2013	Links of Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 21km NNW 14y 9m 7d
<b>GN00343</b>	Nestling	11-07-2000	Sgeir Nan Gobhar, Sound of <i>Mull</i>
	Freshly dead	16-05-2013	Craignure <i>Mull</i> 2km 12y 10m 5d
<b>GR03300</b>	Nestling	19-06-2012	Inbhir Ghil, Rum, <i>Highland</i>
	Freshly dead (bird of prey)	25-01-2013	Trench Point, Campbeltown <i>Kintyre</i> 176km SSE 0y 7m 6d

---

### GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

<b>MA02842</b>	Nestling	28-06-2005	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Freshly dead	07-05-2013	Dindinnie Reservoir <i>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</i> 49km SE 7y 10m 9d

---

### GUILLEMOT

<b>X49766</b>	Nestling	21-06-1998	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Dead	25-06-2013	North Beach, Ardrossan <i>Ayrshire</i> 64km NE 15y 0m 4d
<b>X49413</b>	Nestling	06-07-2001	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	06-07-2013	Puffin Island <i>Anglesey</i> 239km SSE 12y 0m 0d
<b>R87517</b>	Nestling	03-07-2010	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Freshly dead	18-12-2013	Littlehampton <i>Sussex</i> 600km SE 3y 5m 15d
<b>R47819</b>	Nestling	02-07-2003	Puffin Island <i>Anglesey</i>
	Freshly dead	20-04-2013	Tywyn <i>Gwynedd</i> 314km SSE 9y 9m 18d
<b>R51693</b>	Adult	22-06-2004	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i>
	Long dead	07-06-2013	Loch Na H-Uidhe, Taransay <i>Western Isles</i> 160km NNW 8y 11m 16d
<b>R08669</b>	Nestling	25-06-2003	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Long dead	16-03-2013	Port Mooar <i>Isle of Man</i> 136km SE 9y 8m 19d
<b>R62137</b>	Nestling	04-07-2005	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Alive (ring read in	13-07-2013	Heimoya, Leka, <i>Nord-Trondelag Norway</i>

---



	field)		1,428km NE 8y 0m 9d
<b>RAZORBILL</b>			
K00086	Nestling	29-06-2009	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Freshly dead	18-02-2013	Lydstep Haven, near Tenby: 51°39'N 4°46'W <i>Dyfed</i> 406km S 3y 7m 20d
K04544	Adult	29-06-2009	Port Ban, <i>Colonsay</i>
	Freshly dead	18-02-2013	Rhosneigr Anglesey 335km SSE 1y 3m 11d
K03378	Nestling	22-06-2004	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	20-06-2013	Puffin Island <i>Anglesey</i> 239km SSE 8y 11m 29d
K05998	Nestling	26-06-2005	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Dead (storm)	03-04-2013	Dysart, Kirkcaldy, Fife 181km ENE 7y 9m 8d
M97776	Nestling	24-06-1999	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Unknown	06-04-2000	Port de Ghazaouet: <b>Algeria</b> 2,259km S 0y 9m 13d
K05747	Nestling	28-06-2009	Sanda Island, Kintyre
	Freshly dead (in net or cage)	05-01-2013	off Cap Ferret (At Sea) <b>Bay of Biscay</b> 1,216km SSE 3y 6m 8d
<b>PUFFIN</b>			
EF75398	Adult	23-06-1976	Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i>
	Dead	23-06-1976	Site Confidential <i>Tayside</i> 158km E 35y 0m 8d
EL52803	Adult	24-06-2005	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i>
	Caught by ringer	28-06-2013	Garbh Eilean <i>Western Isles</i> 158km N 8y 0m 4d
<b>TAWNY OWL</b> <i>Forestry Commission nest box study</i>			
GN48059	Nestling	14-05-2003	Glenbranter Forest, Strachur, Cowal
	Caught by ringer	13-12-2012	Loch Eck, Cowal 7km SE 10y 0m 2d
<b>SAND MARTIN</b>			
FRP 6999641	First-year Femal	11-08-2012	Pointe D'offoy, Cayeux-Sur-Mer (Somme) <b>France</b>
	Caught by ringer	07-08-2013	Garra Eallabus <i>Islay</i> 820km NW 0y 11m 27d
IAB 6A82863	Full-grown Female	20-04-2012	Canton Magistris, Verbania (Novara & Vercelli) <b>Italy</b>
	Caught by ringer	07-08-2013	Garra Eallabus <i>Islay</i> 1,512km NW 1y 3m 18d
<b>WILLOW WARBLER</b> <i>Spring migration movement</i>			
ENP842	Adult Female	16-05-2013	Kilnsea <i>Humber</i> <i>side</i>
	Caught by ringer	28-05-2013	Aros Moss <i>Kintyre</i> 425km WNW 0y 0m 12d
<b>SEDGE WARBLER</b> <i>Interesting foreign movements</i>			
Y912444	First-year Male	06-08-2012	Pett Level <i>Sussex</i>
	Caught by ringer	08-06-2013	Aros Moss <i>Kintyre</i> 657km NW 0y 10m 2d
FRP6901882	First-year	08-08-2012	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges <b>France</b>
	Caught by ringer	21-05-2013	Scalasaig <i>Colonsay</i> 1,013km NNW 0y 9m 13d
FRP6886673	First-year	07-09-2012	Trunvel, Treogat, Finistere <b>France</b>
	Freshly dead (cat	20-06-2013	Auchnasaul Farm, Ardmaddy <i>Mid-Argyll</i>

		938km N 0y 9m 13d
<b>FRP6371952</b>	Full-grown	09-02-2010 Tiguet: <b>Senegal</b>
	Freshly dead (cat)	03-07-2011 Moss, <i>Tiree</i> 4,711km N 1y 4m 24d
<hr/>		
<b>BLACKBIRD</b>		<i>Recovery of foreign ringed bird</i>
<b>NOS7485820</b>	First-year Female	09-10-2007 Utsira, Rogaland) <b>Norway</b>
	Freshly dead	10-03-2013 Barachander, Kilchrenan <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 679km
	(hit by car)	WSW 5y 5m 1d
<hr/>		
<b>GOLDFINCH</b>		<i>Interesting movement and a foreign movement</i>
<b>L878189</b>	Adult Male	11-12-2012 Temple Mead, Roydon, <i>Herts</i>
	Freshly dead	19-05-2013 Tarbert, <i>Jura</i> 605km NW 0y 5m 8d
<b>Y828031</b>	Full-grown	21-04-2012 Campbeltown <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	13-03-2013 Oud Turnhout, Antwerpen <b>Belgium</b>
		837km SE 0y 10m 20d
<hr/>		
<b>SISKIN</b>		
<b>D377339</b>	First-year Female	26-02-2013 Chestfield, Whitstable <i>Kent</i>
	Freshly dead	19-05-2013 Succoth, Arrochar <i>Cowal</i> 661km NW 0y 2m
	(hit glass)	23d
<b>Y484186</b>	First-year Male	20-09-2012 Lagganbeg, Kilninver, Oban <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Caught by ringer	31-03-2013 Alderton <i>Suffolk</i> 656km SE 0y 6m 11d
<b>Y410712</b>	Adult Male	17-01-2013 Kingsteignton <i>Devon</i>
	Caught by ringer	06-04-2013 Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 631km N 0y 2m 20d
<hr/>		
<b>TWITE</b>		<i>Interesting movements and site fidelity</i>
<b>D284817</b>	Full-grown Female	26-09-2013 North Erradale, Gairloch <i>Highland</i>
	Caught by ringer	13-11-2013 Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 262km S 0y 1m 18d
<b>L999175</b>	First-year Male	21-09-2012 Machrihanish B O <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	27-11-2012 Heysham <i>Lancashire</i> 240km SE 0y 2m 6d
<b>V879412</b>	First-year Female	21-09-2012 Machrihanish B O <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	04-01-2013 Heysham <i>Lancashire</i> 240km SE 0y 3m 14d
<b>V879496</b>	Adult Male	06-10-2012 Machrihanish B O <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	04-01-2013 Heysham <i>Lancashire</i> 240km SE 240km SE
		0y 2m 29d
<b>V879489</b>	First-year Female	06-10-2012 Machrihanish B O <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	10-11-2013 Heysham <i>Lancashire</i> 240km SE 1y 1m 4d
<hr/>		
<b>LESSER REDPOLL</b>		<i>Interesting movements and a foreign movement</i>
<b>D250025</b>	First-year	08-02-2013 Baldwins Hill, East Grinstead <i>Sussex</i>
	Freshly dead (cat)	14-05-2013 Lochgilphead <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 651km NNW 0y
		3m 6d
<b>Y970220</b>	First year	03-01-2013 Culford School <i>Suffolk</i>
	Dead	02-06-2013 Port Ramsey, Lismore <i>North Argyll</i> 616km
		NW 0y 4m 30d
<b>X414219</b>	Adult Male	02-02-2013 Thetford Norfolk
	Freshly dead	01-05-2013 Balure of Shian <i>North Argyll</i> 607km NW 0y
		2m 29d
<b>Y107769</b>	First-year Male	23-07-2011 Aros Moss <i>Kintyre</i>

## Recent Literature on Argyll birds

*Bob Furness and Blair Urquhart*

Here we present a brief bibliography in alphabetical order by author name, of recent publications that relate to birds in Argyll, with a short description where considered appropriate. This bibliography adds to the one in Argyll Bird Report Volume 24. It includes new material not listed in the previous report but published by the end of 2014. Web pages where publications can be accessed are listed where appropriate.

**Burcote Wind. 2013. Creggan Wind Farm** <http://cregganwindfarm.com/> and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Infrastructure/Energy-Consents/Applications-Database/Wind/cregganwindfarm>

**Bordjan, D. and Tome, D. 2014. Rain may have more influence than temperature on nest abandonment in the great tit *Parus major*. *Ardea* 102: 79-85.** *Residents of Argyll will understand why this paper is of local interest despite the fact that the research was carried out in Slovenia. The authors found that 35 out of 160 nesting attempts by great tits were abandoned, mostly during incubation at times of high rainfall. One wonders if birds in Argyll are better adapted to cope with wet weather.*

**Bowler, J.M. 2014. Cedar waxwing: Isle of Tiree, Argyll, 23-28 September 2013. *Scottish Birds* 34: 55-58.** *The article describes the occurrence of a cedar waxwing on Tiree, with several excellent photographs of the bird.*

**Bowler, J.M. 2014. Collared flycatcher on the Isle of Tiree, 27 May 2014 – the first record for SW Scotland. *Scottish Birds* 34: 278-279.** *An exceptionally good spring migration passage through Tiree in May 2014 including red-rumped swallow, rustic bunting, marsh warbler, common rosefinch and red-breasted flycatcher was made even better by a male collared flycatcher in stunning plumage with characteristic large white wing flashes and white neck collar (shown in photographs of the bird perched and in flight).*

**Bowler, J.M. 2014. The status of breeding seabirds on the Isle of Tiree, Argyll, 2004-13. *Seabird* 27: 72-86.** *Provides details of the fortunes of thirteen different breeding seabirds on Tiree over the last decade and compares this with other west coast populations.*

**Brown, D. 2014. American herring gull, Kilmichael, Kintyre, February-March 2014 – second mainland Scotland record. *Scottish Birds* 34: 266-267.** *Describes finding a first-winter American herring gull near Campbeltown which was seen regularly over the following few weeks at Campbeltown harbour and in flooded fields nearby by over 300 birders visiting Argyll to see the bird from all over the UK.*

**Dickson, J.M. and Callan, T. 2014. White-throated sparrow, Cowal peninsula, 19 June 2014 – first record for Argyll. Scottish Birds 34: 263-265.** *Superb photographs accompany this description of a white-throated sparrow in Tom and Shirley Callan's garden.*

**EDF Energy. 2014.** Cruach Brenfield Windfarm. *A wind farm on an area of forestry near to Ardrishaig has been submitted to Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit. Further details can be found at*

<http://www.edf-er.com/OurProjects/Proposed/CruachBrenfield/ProjectOverview.aspx>

**Etheridge, B., Riley, H., Wernham, C., Holling, M., Stevenson, A., Roos, S. and Stirling-Aird, P. 2013. Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Report 2012. ISSN 2054-0027. 48pp.** Pdf available from [http://www.scottishraptorstudygroup.org/SRMS\\_Report12.pdf](http://www.scottishraptorstudygroup.org/SRMS_Report12.pdf) *This report presents summary data on territory occupation and breeding success for each breeding raptor species in Scotland in 2012, with Argyll presented as one of 11 defined areas covered by Scottish Raptor Study Groups. This is the latest (the 10<sup>th</sup>) in a series of Annual Reports and the report for 2013 is likely to appear soon on the same web site. In 2012, 275 breeding attempts by 13 species of raptor were monitored in Argyll. White-tailed eagles fledged 22 chicks from 18 monitored sites (the most chicks fledged in any Scottish area), golden eagles fledged 22 chicks from 62 monitored sites, ospreys fledged 39 chicks from 19 monitored sites.*

**E.On. 2014. AlltRubha Wind Farm.**

<https://www.eonenergy.com/About-eon/our-company/generation/planning-for-the-future/wind/onshore/allt-rubha> and <http://pa2.argyll-bute.gov.uk/online-applications/> Planning Application Reference - 14/00258/PAN. *An application has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for a wind farm development near Ardrishaig (previously known as Inverneill Wind Farm)*

**Fraser, E.J., Macdonald, D.W., Bryce, R. and Lambin, X. 2014. Controlling invasive species by empowering environmental stakeholders: ecotourism boat operators as potential guardians of wildlife against the invasive American mink. Oryx doi: 10.1017/S003060531300046X.** *Survey of ecotourism boat operators in west Scotland, including Argyll, concluded that many would be keen to participate in a programme of trapping American mink to reduce the impact of this alien predator on native wildlife.*

**Hayhow, D.B., Eaton, M.A., Bladwell, S., Etheridge, B., Ewing, S.R., Ruddock, M., Saunders, R., Sharpe, C., Sim, I.M.W. and Stevenson, A. 2013. The status of the Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, in the UK and Isle of Man in 2010. Bird Study 60: 446-458.** *This paper reports results of a national survey in 2010 to assess changes in hen harrier numbers since previous surveys in 1998 and 2004. Numbers in Scotland declined by 20% from 2004 to 2010, with a significant decline in use of plantation forest as a nesting habitat, and evidence of illegal persecution. Argyll was apparently included in an area defined as 'West Highlands' in this analysis, although boundaries of named regions are not clearly presented in the paper.*

**Insley, H., Hounscome, M., Mayhew, P. and Elliott, S. 2014. Mark-recapture and playback surveys reveal a steep decline of European storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* at the largest colony in western Scotland. Ringing & Migration 29: 29-36.** *Although not in Argyll, this study is of local interest because it suggests a possible large decline in storm petrel numbers in western Scotland. Using mark-recapture from ringing data collected from 2001 to 2012 and tape playback survey at Priest Island, the largest European storm-petrel colony in western Scotland, it was estimated that breeding numbers in the study area fell from 8472 birds in 2001 to 3,854 in 2012. Reasons for the decline are not known, but the data suggest that it has been a persistent trend over the study period. It is unclear whether a similar trend has occurred elsewhere in western Scotland, but evidence from Treshnish Isles suggests that this may well be the case.*

**Johnston, A., Cook, A.S.C.P., Wright, L.J., Humphreys, E.M. and Burton, N.H.K. 2014. Modelling flight heights of marine birds to more accurately assess collision risk with offshore wind turbines. Journal of Applied Ecology 51: 31–41.** *Includes survey data from Argyll waters (the proposed Argyll Array site and surroundings). The paper presents a model to approximately describe the distribution of flight heights of seabirds of a range of species. These data can be used to assess how many seabirds are likely to be flying at heights that put them at risk of collision with turbines at offshore wind farms.*

**McKenzie, R. 2014. Islay Sustainable Goose Management Strategy October 2014-April 2024. Draft Version 2 (11/6/14).** <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1320860.pdf> 68 pp. *A ten year strategy is outlined with the aim to meet the UK's nature conservation obligations for geese, minimise economic losses experienced by farmers and crofters in Islay as a result of the presence of geese, and maximise the value for money of public expenditure. Details of how this might be achieved, to increase the numbers of Greenland white-fronted geese but reduce damage to pasture by barnacle geese (by scaring from sensitive areas, use of diversionary feeding, and if necessary by reducing numbers wintering in Islay), are set out in the draft strategy document.*

**Nautricity 2013. Environmental Appraisal (EA) for the Argyll Tidal Demonstrator Project (December 2013).**

[http://www.nautricity.com/docs/014\\_036\\_argylltidal\\_environmentalappraisal\\_dec13\\_lores\\_3\\_1392661149.pdf](http://www.nautricity.com/docs/014_036_argylltidal_environmentalappraisal_dec13_lores_3_1392661149.pdf) 207pp. *The document describes plans to install a tidal stream turbine (a single unit of Nautricity's CoRMaT technology) close to Mull of Kintyre lighthouse. Marine ornithological interest in the area is described and any likely impacts on birds assessed in Section 11 Marine Birds. The broad conclusion is that seabird numbers in the area tend to be relatively low, and that the impact on seabird populations of a single tidal turbine at this site is likely to be negligible.*

**PNE Wind UK. 2014. Cowal and Trossachs Forest District Wind Farm – Bachan Burn.** <http://www.pnewindukforestry.co.uk/projects/current-projects/bachan-burn/> *This web page provides up to date information on the planned Bachan Burn wind farm, for up to 20 wind*

turbines SW of Dunoon, Cowal. The Environmental Statement and planning application are anticipated to be published in late 2014. The area appears to be of relatively low ornithological interest although barn owls breed nearby and there are occasional records of golden eagle, hen harrier and osprey passing the area. The main red-listed bird occurring there is herring gull, which has a much-used breeding season flight line of adults commuting between feeding areas around Dunoon and the large colony on the Burnt Islands, Kyles of Bute.

**RES 2014. Blary Hill Wind Farm Environmental Statement, Chapter 8 Ornithology.** <http://www.blaryhill-windfarm.co.uk/> and <http://publicaccess.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> Blary Hill wind farm, file number 21060920 Black grouse, Greenland white-fronted goose, grey-lag goose, pink-footed goose, golden eagle, hen harrier, short-eared owl, curlew, red-throated diver, whooper swan, merlin and peregrine are recorded in the area where this wind farm planning application is being made, but the Environmental Statement assesses that impacts of the wind farm on these birds would be negligible, and that red-throated divers could benefit from installing a nesting raft on the nearby loch, while hen harrier, short-eared owl, black grouse and curlew could all benefit from habitat enhancement associated with the proposed development.

**Roberts, R.J. 2014. Mass mortality of starlings. Veterinary Record 174: 101-102.** This presents a brief anecdotal account of a collision between a car driving between Campbeltown and Machrihanish on the B843 and a flock of wheeling starlings. About 40 starlings were killed when the flock flew directly into the path of the car and collided with the windscreen. The author points out that he is unaware of any similar incident affecting anyone else in that area in recent years so it appears to have been a freak occurrence.

**Roy, S., Milborrow, J., Allan, J. and Robertson, P. 2012. Pine martens on the Isle of Mull – Assessing risks to native species. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Research No. 560. 32 pp.** Pine martens are thought not to be native to Mull. They were apparently first introduced to Mull by accident in 2004, possibly on timber boats. They are now widespread in eastern Mull near Craignure. They are likely to spread across the island and to affect bird populations, including game birds and poultry. Impacts on birds of conservation concern are uncertain but can be expected to be negative.

**RWE npower renewables. 2013. Ardchnonnell Wind Farm.** The planning application for Ardchnonnell Wind Farm was refused by Argyll and Bute Council in May 2014 and the applicant has challenged the decision. Further details can be found at <http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/1477090/rwe-innogy/sites/wind-onshore/united-kingdom/in-development/ardchnonnell/> and details of the appeal can be found at <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/casesearch.aspx?T=1> DPEA Case Reference: PPA-130-2045.

**SSE Renewables. 2014. Tangy III Wind Farm.**

<http://sse.com/whatwedo/ourprojectsandassets/renewables/TangyThree/> SSE Renewables propose to extend the Tangy wind farm near Campbeltown, and to repower with larger turbines. Bird species of conservation importance in the area of this development include Greenland white-fronted goose, red-throated diver, merlin, peregrine, hen harrier, short-eared owl and herring gull. This web page updates about the project development. A link to the Environmental Statement supporting the planning application for Tangy III is likely to be published on this web page soon.

**Sròndaire Wind Farmers LLP. 2013.** *A three turbine extension to the operational Allt Dearg Community Wind Farm, near Ardrishaig, has been recently consented by A&B Council. The ornithology chapter can be viewed at* <http://pa2.argyll-bute.gov.uk/online-applications/> and search the Application Reference - 13/01427/PP

**Swann, R. 2013. Marine Protected Area and Marine Renewable-related Black Guillemot Surveys. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 612.** Downloadable from SNH web site <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/?q=commissioned%20report> This report presents counts of black guillemots at five sites selected for designation as Marine Protected Areas with breeding black guillemot as a feature. One of these sites (Clyde Sea Sill pMPA) is partly within Argyll, and the black guillemot feature within this MPA is at Sanda Islands which are entirely within Argyll. Around the Sanda Islands, 349 black guillemots were counted on 5 May 2013 during ideal weather. This represents a small decline from the previous count (406 birds in 2001 during Seabird2000 survey). Sanda was the only population of the five surveyed in 2013 that showed a decrease in numbers of black guillemots, suggesting a need for further counts in 2014 to check on the status of that population.

**Swann, R. 2014. Marine Protected Area – related Black Guillemot Surveys 2014. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report 792.** <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=2196> This report presents results of counts of black guillemots at two important proposed Marine Protected Areas, East Caithness Cliffs pMPA, and Clyde Sea Sill pMPA. The black guillemot population in the latter site is at Sanda Islands. The survey around Sanda Islands on 11 April 2014 was during ideal weather, but found only 232 black guillemots. This is dramatically fewer than the 349 found in 2013, and raises concern that the population may be decreasing rapidly, possibly as a consequence of depredations by American mink which were seen on the islands in 2012.

**Ward, R.M. 2014. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group Report for 2013. 30 pp.** [http://www.tiarg.org/annual\\_reports/2013.pdf](http://www.tiarg.org/annual_reports/2013.pdf) The report presents observations and data collected in 2013 in this annual series. A team of 8 people were on the Treshnish Isles from 22-29 June 2013 in the 35<sup>th</sup> expedition. Where relevant, data from this expedition are included in this bird report under individual species accounts. The expedition report also includes records of mammals and Lepidoptera, details of a seabird census, ringing totals for 2013, recent ring

*recoveries, a list of the 35 expeditions and of ring sequences used, and a summary of a project carried out to assess the effects of human disturbance on breeding seabirds on the islands.*

**Weston, E. 2014. Juvenile dispersal behaviour in the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).** PhD thesis, University of Aberdeen. Available online as a pdf from Aberdeen University Library. *The research included deployment of transmitters on juveniles to track their ranging behaviour after fledging. This work has particular relevance to understanding risk of collision of young eagles with wind turbines. Several of the birds tagged were from nests in Argyll.*



## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to all those who submitted records. A full list of contributors appears below and with more than 250 this is well up on average and very promising. Apologies to anyone whose name may have been inadvertently omitted.

The production of the report was very much a team effort and thanks go to John Bowler, Neil Brown, Malcolm Chattwood, Paul Daw, Bob Furness, Mike Harrison, David Jardine, Nigel Scriven and Andy Robinson for writing the species accounts. Grateful thanks are due to Tom Callan and Morag Rea who sifted through thousands of records and placed them onto the database. Malcolm Chattwood manages the database allowing me to spend time on the increasing demands of a bird recorder and also time to work with the Argyll Bird Records Committee which comprises John Bowler, Roger Broad, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson. Many thanks also to Katie Pendreigh for her past contributions to the bird report. She is also standing down as club secretary, so on behalf of the club, I wish to thank her on an excellent job done over the past few years.

Robin Harvey continued as assistant editor this year and David Jardine also made a significant contribution double checking database information and text. Many thanks again to Ian Brooke for coordinating so many records from Islay, Alan Spellman for many records from Mull and Eddie Maguire for the records from the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory in Kintyre.

Paul Daw continues to coordinate the WeBS counts and John Armitage, Arthur Brown and Nigel Scriven are the BTO representatives for Islay, Mull and Argyll mainland (inc. Bute and Gigha) respectively. Use of BTO BirdTrack information is increasing year on year and many thanks to all who use this system. Information from the RSPB is invaluable and many thanks go to James How and his team on Islay, John Bowler on Tiree, Ben Jones on Coll, Mike Peacock and his team on Oronsay and to Andy Robinson as Argyll RSPB Conservation Officer. Roger Broad, David Jardine et.al. have provided high quality data from the Argyll Raptor Study Group and other rare breeding species. David Jardine also provided information regarding his long running surveys on Colonsay. Richard Wesley provided records for Seil Island and Tracey Johnson et.al. at SNH provided Goose count data. Clive Craik kindly provided data again on information from breeding seabird colonies. Robin Ward of the Treshnish Isles Ringing Group kindly provided their annual trip report and David Fotheringham provided the Cruachan Power Station biodiversity review.

Many thanks to the following who gave permission for their photographs to be used to enrich this report: John Bowler, Neil Brown, Keith Gillon, Robin Harvey, Eddie Maguire, Tor Egil Matre, Dave Parsons, Bryan Rains, Andy Robinson and Jeremy Wilson. Thanks also to John Bowler, Euan Furness, David Jardine, Col MacDougall and Nigel Scriven for their articles and the ringing report section and to Bob Furness and Blair Urquart for providing the recent literature update.

Jim Dickson

# Contributors

Contributors to this report (with apologies to any whose names have been omitted):

R. Allan, W. Allan, G. Allwood, Anand Prasad, Argyll Raptor Study Group, D. Anderson, P. Antrobus, M. Archer, J. Armitage, M. Armstrong, A Baird, I. Baker, J. C. Barty, K. Bennett, M. E. Bird, S. Bird, Birdguides, V. Bonarjee, R. Bowe, S. Bowie, J. Bowler, C. Bradshaw, J. Bray, A Bright, R.A. Broad, C. A. Brock, I. & M. Brooke, D. Brown, J. B. Brown, A. & P. Brown, N. Brown, N. G. Brown, D. Bryant, J. Budd, T. Burkinshaw, B. Burrell, E. Burrell, H. Butler, A.M. Cage, G. Caldwell, J. R. Calladine, T. Callan, D. Campbell, R. Catalano, G. Carr, J. Chandler, M. & S. Chattwood, A.P. Chick, G. & D. Clark, J. Close, M. Coath, S. Cobb, S. H.Cohen, C. N. Connolly, M. D. Convery, J. Cook, M.J. Cook, R.J. Cook, A. Cooper, J. Cowan, J. Coyle, J. C. A. Craik, L. Cregeen, R. Critchlow, A. Cross, Cruachan Power Station staff, E. Crutchfield, S. A. Crutchfield, T. Dalton, R. Davison, P. Daw, S.L. Dean, R. Devine, A-L. Dickie, J. M. Dickson, T. Dingwall, K. Donnelly, E. Douglas, I.S. Downie, S. Drake, N. Dunn, R.A. Eades, G. Edmondson, A. Everingham, M. Finn, M. Finnigan, R. Flemming, R. Flint, N. Forbes, L.W. Fortune, S. Foster, T. & S. Fouracre, S. French, R. Furness, A. Galbraith, B.C. Gallivan, C. Gibson, S. Gibson, K. Gillon, J. Gooding, J.R. Goodspeed, M.G. Grant, A. Gray, T. Green, M. Gregory, R. Grove, D. Hall, J. Halliday, J.M. Harrison, R. Harvey, D. & L. Hatfield, R. Helliwell, S. Henderson, R. Hewitt, P. Hogan, R.H. Hogg, J. Hogg, J. Hogson, J.P. Holland, J.R. How, C.W. Hudson, J. Hunter, N. Huss, R.J. Irvine, I. Baker, D.C. Jardine, R.N. Jenkins, D. Jenkins-Jones, S. Jennings, B. John, C. & T. Johnson, B. Jones, D.C. Jones, E.L. Jones, N. Judson, A.G. Kennedy, D. Kent, N. Keogh, J. Knightbridge, T. Laidler, A.W. Lauder, C.E. Laurie, R.A. Little, E. J. Maguire, D. Marks, D. Mason, T.E. Matre, C. Maw, J. Maxwell, M.J. May, D. Mayfield, D. McBeth, L. McBrien, P. McDermot, N. McDonald, M. McGregor, D. & S. McGregor, C.R. McKay, M. MacIntyre, B. McMillan, I. McMillan, R. & G. McQuaid, G. McWhirter, D. Mellor, D. Menzies, L. Miller, S.P. Milligan, C.H. Mills, S. D. Millward, C. Mitchell, R. Morton, S. Mott, L. Muir, S.W. Murkin, G. Murray, R.D. Murray, J. S. Nadin, C. Nash, J. Neil, G. Newall, M.A. Newell, H. Nicol, M. A. Ogilvie, D.S. Omand, D.C. Orr-Ewing, D. Palmar, D. Parsons, D. Payne, M. Peacock, V. Peacock, K. Pendreigh, M. Phillips, S. Pinder, K. Pickles, R. Piper, J. Pitchford, E. Platt, D. Pollard, R. Powell, RAFOS, B. Rains, J. Randall, M. F. & N. Rea, C. Reavey, M. Redman, H. Ream, A.J. Reid, P. & P. Roberts, D. Robertson, K. Robertson, A. Robinson, P.A. Robinson, RSPB & volunteers, K. Rylands, M.S. Scott, J.V. Scott-Mandveille, N.J. Scriven, D. Shackleton, D. Shapley, M. Shaw, R. Shaw, M. Shields, J. Sim, M. Shrimpton, SNH Staff, A. Spellman, Speyside Wildlife Group, C.J. Spray, T. & M. J. Staley, J. Stead, S. Stebbings, A. Stevenson, R.W. Stewart, H. Stockdale, J. Strickland, G.E. Strugnell, M. Sur, A.Taylor, C. Taylor, I.D. Teesdale, G. Thomas, B.J. Thompson, D. Thorn, M. Thornton, P. Toner, Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Grup, (TIARG), G. Todd, G. Toplis, J. Towill, A.E. Turner, B. Urquhart, J.H. Vines, S. Walker, P.W. Walton, D. Warden, C. Watson, S. Welch, S. Wellock, T.J. Wells, V. Wells, S. Weir, R.J. Wesley, R.C. Whytock, A. Williams, R.D.R. Williams, B. Williamson, N. Willits, J. Wilson, M.A. Wilson, A. Winnington, J. Witts, D. Wood.

# Species Index

Albatross, Black-browed	38	Curlew, Stone-	57
Auk, Little	87	Dipper	106
Avocet	57	Diver, Black-throated	37
Bea-eater, European	91	Diver, Great Northern	37
Bittern, American	18	Diver, Red-throated	36
Bittern, Eurasian	43	Diver, White-billed	39
Blackbird	106	Dotterel	59
Blackcap	101	Dove, Collared	88
Bluethroat	109	Dove, Rock	88
Brambling	116	Dove, Stock	88
Bullfinch	120	Dove, Turtle	89
Bunting, Black-headed	122	Dowitcher, Long-billed	67
Bunting, Cirl	18	Duck, Black	28
Bunting, Corn	122	Duck, Ferruginous	29
Bunting, Lapland	121	Duck, Harlequin	31
Bunting, Little	121	Duck, Long-tailed	31
Bunting, Ortolan	121	Duck, Mandarin	25
Bunting, Reed	122	Duck, Muscovy	123
Bunting, Rustic	121	Duck, Ring-necked	29
Bunting, Snow	120	Duck, Ruddy	35
Bunting, Yellow-breasted	121	Duck, Tufted	29
Buzzard, Common	48	Duck, Wood	123
Buzzard, Honey-	46	Dunlin	65
Buzzard, Rough-legged	49	Duncock	112
Capercaillie	36	Eagle, Golden	49
Chaffinch, Common	115	Eagle, White-tailed	47
Chiffchaff, 'Siberian'	101	Egret, Cattle	43
Chiffchaff, Common	100	Egret, Great White	43
Chough, Red-billed	93	Egret, Little	43
Coot, Common	55	Egret, Snowy	43
Cormorant, Great	41	Eider, Common	30
Corncrake	54	Eider, King	31
Cowbird, Brown-headed	122	Eider, 'Northern'	31
Crake, Corn	54	Falcon, Gyr	53
Crake, Little	18	Falcon, Peregrine	52
Crake, Spotted	54	Falcon, Red-footed	52
Crane, Common	54	Fieldfare	106
Crossbill, Common	119	Finch, Zebra	123
Crow, Carrion	95	Firecrest	96
Crow, Hooded	95	Flycatcher, Pied	110
Crow, Hybrid	95	Flycatcher, Red-breasted	109
Cuckoo, Black-billed	89	Flycatcher, Spotted	108
Cuckoo, Common	89	Frigatebird, Ascension	42
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	89	Fulmar	38
Curlew, Eurasian	70	Gadwall	26

Gannet, Northern	41	Gull, Laughing	79
Garganey	28	Gull, Lesser Black-backed	80
Godwit, Bar-tailed	69	Gull, Little	78
Godwit, Black-tailed	68	Gull, Mediterranean	79
Golderest	96	Gull, Ring-billed	80
Goldeneye, Common	33	Gull, Ross's	79
Goldfinch	117	Gull, Sabine's	77
Goosander	34	Gull, Yellow-legged	81
Goose, Bar-headed	123	Harrier, Hen	47
Goose, Barnacle	23	Harrier, Marsh	47
Goose, Bean	19	Harrier, Pallid	48
Goose, Brent	24	Hawk, Harris's	123
Goose, Cackling	22	Hawfinch	120
Goose, Emperor	123	Heron, Grey	43
Goose, European White-fronted	21	Heron, Night-	43
Goose, Greater Canada	22	Hobby	53
Goose, Greenland White-fronted	20	Honey-buzzard	46
Goose, Greylag	21	Hoopoe	92
Goose, Lesser Canada	22	Ibis, Glossy	44
Goose, Lesser White-fronted	21	Jackdaw, Western	94
Goose, Pink-footed	21	Jay, Eurasian	93
Goose, Red-breasted	24	Kestrel, Common	52
Goose, Ross's	123	Killdeer	59
Goose, Snow	22	Kingfisher, Common	91
Goose, Swan	123	Kite, Black	46
Goshawk, Northern	48	Kite, Red	46
Grebe, Black-necked	46	Kittiwake	77
Grebe, Great Crested	45	Knot, Red	62
Grebe, Little	45	Lapwing, Northern	60
Grebe, Pied-billed	45	Lark, Shore	98
Grebe, Red-necked	45	Lark, Short-toed	97
Grebe, Slavonian	45	Lark, Sky	97
Greenfinch	116	Linnet	118
Greenshank	73	Magpie	94
Grouse, Black	35	Mallard	27
Grouse, Red (Willow)	35	Martin, House	99
Guillemot, Black	86	Martin, Sand	98
Guillemot, Brunnich's	86	Merganser, Red-breasted	34
Guillemot, Common	85	Merlin	52
Gull, American Herring	81	Moorhen	55
Gull, Black-headed	78	Munia, White-rumped	123
Gull, Bonaparte's	78	Night-heron	42
Gull, Common	79	Nightingale, Common	109
Gull, Glaucous	82	Nightjar, European	91
Gull, Great Black-backed	82	Nuthatch, Eurasian	104
Gull, Herring	81	Oriole, Golden	92
Gull, Iceland	81	Osprey	51
Gull, Ivory	77	Ouzel, Ring	106
Gull, Kumlien's	82	Owl, Barn	89

Owl, Eagle	123	Redshank, Spotted	72
Owl, Eurasian Scops	90	Redstart, American	122
Owl, Long-eared	90	Redstart, Black	110
Owl, Short-eared	90	Redstart, Common	110
Owl, Snowy	90	Redwing	107
Owl, Tawny	90	Robin	109
Oystercatcher	56	Roller, European	92
Parula, Northern	122	Rook	94
Partridge, Grey	36	Rosefinch, Common	120
Partridge, Red-legged	36	Ruff	66
Peafowl, Indian	123	Sanderling	62
Peregrine	53	Sandgrouse, Pallas's	18
Petrel, European Storm-	40	Sandpiper, Baird's	64
Petrel, Leach's Storm	40	Sandpiper, Broad-billed	65
Phalarope, Grey	75	Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	66
Phalarope, Red-necked	75	Sandpiper, Common	71
Pheasant, Common	36	Sandpiper, Curlew	64
Pheasant, Golden	36	Sandpiper, Green	72
Pheasant, Green	123	Sandpiper, Pectoral	64
Pheasant, Reeve's	123	Sandpiper, Purple	64
Pigeon, Feral	88	Sandpiper, Semipalmated	63
Pigeon, Wood	88	Sandpiper, Spotted	72
Pintail	28	Sandpiper, White-rumped	63
Pipit, American Buff-bellied	115	Sandpiper, Wood	73
Pipit, Meadow	114	Scaup, Greater	30
Pipit, Red-throated	115	Scaup, Lesser	30
Pipit, Richard's	114	Scoter, Common	32
Pipit, Rock	115	Scoter, Surf	32
Pipit, Tree	114	Scoter, Velvet	32
Pipit, Water	115	Shag	42
Plover, American Golden	58	Shearwater, Balearic	40
Plover, European Golden	59	Shearwater, Cory's	39
Plover, Grey	60	Shearwater, Great	39
Plover, Little Ringed	57	Shearwater, Macronesian	40
Plover, Pacific Golden	58	Shearwater, Manx	39
Plover, Common Ringed	57	Shearwater, Sooty	39
Pochard, Common	29	Shelduck, Common	24
Pochard, Red-crested	19	Shelduck, Ruddy	123
Ptarmigan	35	Shoveler	28
Puffin	87	Shrike, Brown	92
Quail, Common	36	Shrike, Great Grey	93
Rail, Water	53	Shrike, Lesser Grey	93
Raven, Common	95	Shrike, Red-backed	93
Razorbill	86	Shrike, Woodchat	93
Redpoll, 'NW Greenland'	119	Siskin	117
Redpoll, Common	119	Skua, Arctic	76
Redpoll, Arctic	119	Skua, Great	77
Redpoll, Lesser	119	Skua, Long-tailed	76
Redshank, Common	74	Skua, Pomarine	75

Skylark	97	Tit, Blue	96
Smew	33	Tit, Coal	97
Snipe, Common	67	Tit, Crested	97
Snipe, Great	18	Tit, Great	96
Snipe, Jack	66	Tit, Long-tailed	99
Sora	18	Tit, Willow	97
Sparrow, House	112	Treecreeper, Eurasian	104
Sparrow, Tree	113	Turnstone	74
Sparrowhawk, Eurasian	48	Twite	118
Spoonbill, Eurasian	45	Vireo, Red-eyed	92
Starling, Common	105	Wagtail, Citrine	113
Starling, Rose-coloured	105	Wagtail, Grey	113
Stint, Little	63	Wagtail, Pied	113
Stint, Temminck's	63	Wagtail, White	114
Stonechat, Common	111	Wagtail, Yellow	113
Stone-curlew	57	Warbler, Barred	102
Stork, Black	44	Warbler, Blyth's Reed	103
Stork, White	44	Warbler, Booted	103
Storm-petrel, European	40	Warbler, Garden	102
Storm-petrel, Leach's	40	Warbler, Grasshopper	102
Storm-petrel, White-faced	18	Warbler, Greenish	99
Storm-petrel, Wilson's	18	Warbler, Icterine	103
Swallow, Barn	98	Warbler, Marsh	104
Swallow, Red-rumped	99	Warbler, Melodious	103
Swan, Bewick's	18	Warbler, Reed	104
Swan, Black	123	Warbler, Sedge	103
Swan, Mute	18	Warbler, Subalpine	102
Swan, Whooper	19	Warbler, Western Bonelli's	100
Swift, Alpine	91	Warbler, Willow	101
Swift, Common	91	Warbler, Wood	100
Teal, Blue-winged	29	Warbler, Yellow-browed	100
Teal, Cinnamon	123	Waxwing	104
Teal, Eurasian	26	Waxwing, Cedar	104
Teal, Green-winged	27	Wheatear, 'Greenland'	111
Tern, Arctic	84	Wheatear, Northern	111
Tern, Black	83	Whimbrel	70
Tern, Bridled	83	Whinchat	110
Tern, Caspian	83	Whitethroat, Common	102
Tern, Common	84	Whitethroat, Lesser	102
Tern, Forster's	84	Wigeon, American	26
Tern, Gull-billed	83	Wigeon, Eurasian	25
Tern, Little	83	Woodcock	68
Tern, Roseate	85	Woodpecker, Great Spotted	92
Tern, Sandwich	83	Woodpecker, Green	92
Tern, Whiskered	83	Wren	105
Tern, White-winged Black	83	Wryneck	116
Thrush, Blue Rock	110	Yellowhammer	121
Thrush, Mistle	108	Yellowlegs, Greater	73
Thrush, Song	107	Yellowlegs, Lesser	73



**THERE ARE EASIER WAYS  
TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS**



To advertise your business  
on these pages  
please contact us on  
[meg@jdickson5.plus.com](mailto:meg@jdickson5.plus.com) or  
[bob.furness@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:bob.furness@glasgow.ac.uk)