

**The Twenty Ninth  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the year  
2017**

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# Introduction

We hope you will enjoy this 29<sup>th</sup> Argyll Bird Report and encourage you to become more involved with the birdlife of our region, from simply enjoying observing the species we have, to perhaps taking part in survey work or other studies.

During 2017 some 225 species were recorded, one of which was new – a record of Sooty Tern in early June, and a write up appears in this report. Generally, numbers of rare species noted were less than recent years, however records of single Red-rumped Swallow and a singing Greenish Warbler were both third occurrences for Argyll. A remarkable record of a returning male Pied-billed Grebe from previous years found paired with a Little Grebe, and then producing a single hybrid young, was a first for Scotland. Other rare and scarce species included, an American Wigeon, three Ring-necked Duck, an American Golden Plover, a Little Ringed Plover, a Ring-billed Gull, a Wryneck, a Subalpine Warbler and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. Reflecting the trend further south in the UK we saw a continued increase in Great White and Little Egret numbers, as well as a ‘mini-invasion’ of Glossy Ibis at the year end. The fact that numbers of Nearctic waders and ‘eastern’ drift migrants were down is more a reflection of unsuitable weather patterns this year rather than reduced observer effort. This was particularly noticeable for Yellow-browed Warbler with only three reports compared with at least 23 birds in 2016 when easterly winds prevailed. Higher than average numbers were noted for Quail, Garganey and Hawfinch, whereas declines in species including Velvet Scoter, Spotted Crake and Coot were noted, and for reasons that are unclear, only one Mediterranean Gull was recorded.

Recent trends, as shown by the BTO Breeding Bird Survey in Scotland, indicate that decreases continue for Lapwing, Rook, Wheatear and Greenfinch, and there were notable increases for Jay, Chiffchaff, Grey Wagtail, Stonechat, Spotted Flycatcher, Song Thrush, Bullfinch and Lesser Redpoll. Specific data for Argyll since 2016 indicates a notable decline in Corn Crake and an excellent breeding season for Barn and Tawny Owl. There has been a general decline in our wintering wildfowl and waders after 2009 in part due to milder winters. For many species our data is sparse with a relatively low number of observers to cover our region therefore volunteers are always very welcome to take on BBS squares and participate in other BTO survey work.

Jim Dickson (Jan 2019)

# Bird Recording in Argyll

## Submitting your bird records

The Argyll bird recorders maintain the Argyll bird database on behalf of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Argyll Bird Club and in recent years have been receiving in excess of 30,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under Bird Recording which gives threshold guidelines on what to report. The recorders are happy to input casual reports however when larger volumes of records are submitted we recommend that these are sent in *Excel* spreadsheet format compatible with the Argyll bird database. We can send you a template or for regular record providers we can send an automated input form. Please email [abcrecorder@outlook.com](mailto:abcrecorder@outlook.com) for more details. Records sent to the BTO's BirdTrack and WeBS can be accessed by the recorders as well as records sent to Birdguides.

## Rare birds

Details and photographs of all rare bird sightings should be sent in (preferably emailed) as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF. Tel: 01546 603967 E-mail: [Argyllbirder@outlook.com](mailto:Argyllbirder@outlook.com) Please use the standard form (available from Jim). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (ABRC) whose members are listed on p. 2, sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), depending on the species/level of rarity.

The list below is made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those marked #) 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 of the bird and if possible, photographs and field notes.

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 the recorder), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different.

Species for which descriptions are required by the Argyll BRC and the Scottish BRC (#). A full list of BBRC species can be found at [www.bbrc.org.uk](http://www.bbrc.org.uk)

Bewick's Swan  
Taiga Bean Goose  
Tundra Bean Goose  
European White-fronted Goose  
(race *albifrons*)  
Egyptian Goose  
American Wigeon  
Green-winged Teal  
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)  
Red-crested Pochard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Lesser Scaup #  
Surf Scoter (except adult males)  
Smew  
Ruddy Duck

White-billed Diver  
Cory's Shearwater #  
Great Shearwater #  
Balearic Shearwater  
Great Cormorant (race *sinensis*)  
Eurasian Bittern  
Night-heron #  
Cattle Egret #  
Great White Egret  
Purple Heron #  
White Stork  
Glossy Ibis  
Eurasian Spoonbill  
Red-necked Grebe  
Black-necked Grebe

Honey-buzzard	Short-toed Lark #
Black Kite #	Wood Lark #
Montagu's Harrier #	Shore Lark
Goshawk	Red-rumped Swallow #
Rough-legged Buzzard	Cetti's Warbler #
Red-footed Falcon #	Greenish Warbler #
Hobby	Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Spotted Crake	Yellow-browed Warbler
Common Crane	Radde's Warbler #
Avocet	Dusky Warbler #
Black-winged Stilt #	Barred Warbler
Stone Curlew #	Lesser Whitethroat
Little Ringed Plover	Dartford Warbler #
Kentish Plover #	Subalpine Warbler #
American Golden Plover	Icterine Warbler
Temminck's Stint	Melodious Warbler #
White-rumped Sandpiper #	Blyth's Reed Warbler #
Pectoral Sandpiper	Marsh Warbler #
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Reed Warbler
Spotted Redshank	Rose-coloured Starling
Red-necked Phalarope (away from traditional breeding areas)	Common Nightingale
Long-tailed Skua (imms only)	Bluethroat
Sabine's Gull	Red-flanked Bluetail #
Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Yellow-legged Gull #	Tree Sparrow
Caspian Gull #	Yellow Wagtail (all races)
Black Tern	Citrine Wagtail #
White-winged Black Tern #	Richard's Pipit
Roseate Tern	Olive-backed Pipit #
Little Owl	Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race <i>littoralis</i> )
Nightjar	Water Pipit
Alpine Swift #	European Serin #
European Bee-eater	Common Redpoll (all races other than Lesser)
Wryneck	Arctic Redpoll #
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #	Scottish Crossbill #
Red-backed Shrike	Parrot Crossbill #
Great Grey Shrike	Common Rosefinch
Woodchat Shrike #	Hawfinch
Firecrest	Cirl Bunting #
Crested Tit	Ortolan Bunting #
Willow Tit	Little Bunting #
Marsh Tit	Corn Bunting
Bearded Tit	

# Sighting Highlights of 2017

*Jim Dickson*

*~ January ~*

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A drake from 2016 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* remaining there until 28 Apr. **WAXWING** One was at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 1 Jan, four at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 4 Jan, one at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and 20 at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan. **LITTLE GULL** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, with three adults there on 13 - 14 Jan. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** Two were off Ardentiny *Cowal* on 12 Jan to 13 Mar. **CACKLING GOOSE** Four were in the Loch Gruinart and Bridgend areas *Islay* Jan to Mar. **LITTLE AUK** One was found dead at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan and two flew past Hynish *Tiree* on 25 Jan. **KUMLIEN'S (ICELAND) GULL** One was at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* from 17 Jan to 14 Feb. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** Two drakes were on *Tiree* on 17 Jan (one from 2016) with one remaining until 15 Feb. **PIED-BILLED GREBE** The long staying male at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* was noted again from 20 Jan. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Loch Laich *North Argyll* from 23 Jan. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Jan.

*~ February ~*

**VELVET SCOTER** Two were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Feb. **COMMON POCHARD** Four were at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 10 Feb. **RING-BILLED GULL** A 2CY was at Craigns *Islay* on 15 Feb until 5 Mar. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Points Sands *Kintyre* from 22 Feb. **LITTLE GULL** An adult and a 2CY bird were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** One was at Bridgend *Islay* from 28 Feb until 29 Mar.

*~ March ~*

**CACKLING GOOSE** One was at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 3 Mar. **COMMON POCHARD** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Mar. **MANDARIN DUCK** Two were at Hunter's Quay *Cowal* on 25 Mar and two were at Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar. **BLACK SWAN** One was at The Laggan *Kintyre* from 29 Mar.

*~ April ~*

**'SCANDINAVIAN' ROCK PIPIT** One was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Apr and a different bird there on 8 Apr. **COMMON POCHARD** One was at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 15 Apr. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** One was at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 18 - 19 Apr. **LITTLE GULL** A 2CY bird was at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Apr. **MANDARIN DUCK** One was at Stronmilchan *North Argyll* on 19 Apr. **DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr. **VELVET SCOTER** A drake was at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 20 Apr. **GARGANEY** A drake was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr - 26 Apr and one was at Breachacha *Coll* on 25 Apr.

~ May ~

**LITTLE EGRET** One was at Ardtun *Mull* on 1 May. **POMARINE SKUA** One was off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 May. **COMMON POCHARD** Two were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 May. **TREE SPARROW** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 - 12 May and one was at Octomore *Islay* on 7 May. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was near Southend *Kintyre* on 5 May and one was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 6 May. **BLACK SWAN** One was at Lochdon *Mull* on 7 - 8 May. **SUBALPINE WARBLER** One was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 7 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 10 May. **TURTLE DOVE** One was at Kintra *Mull* on 11 May. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 14 May. **GARGANEY** One was at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 May. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 May. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 15 - 16 May. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** Two were at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 - 19 May. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A drake was at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 16 May to 29 Jun. **GARGANEY** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 May. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** One was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 May. **POMARINE SKUA** One was off NW *Tiree* on 17 May. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 May, one was at Iona *Mull* on 21 May, one at Castleton *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May, one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 May, one at Knock *Mull* on 24 May and one at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May. **GREEN WOODPECKER** One was at Loch Buie *Mull* on 22 May. **COMMON QUAIL** One was heard at Glenastle *Islay* on 23 May and one at Totronald *Coll* on 25 May. **LITTLE GULL** An adult and two 2CY birds were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May. **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** One was at Gott *Tiree* on 24 May. **GARGANEY** A pair was at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 25 May. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Hunter's Quay *Cowal* on 25 - 30 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Aros *Mull* on 26 May. **HAWFINCH** A group of four were at Peninver *Kintyre* on 27 May. **DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 May. **BLACK REDSTART** A female was at Heylipol *Tiree* on 28 May. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 29 May.

~ June ~

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun. **LITTLE GULL** A 2CY was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun. **SOOTY TERN** One flew past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** One was at the Green *Tiree* on 3 Jun. **COMMON QUAIL** One was at Uragaig *Colonsay* on 15 Jun with other birds on *Colonsay* on 19 Jun and 27 Jul. **GREENISH WARBLER** One was in song at Loch Turraman *Colonsay* on 15 Jun. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** An adult male was at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun. **LITTLE GULL** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Jun. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jun - 28 Jul. **ROSY STARLING** One was at Laphroaig *Islay* on 21 - 26 Jun. **HONEY BUZZARD** One flew over Strachur *Cowal* on 30 Jun.

~ July ~

**LITTLE GULL** An adult was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jul. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 28 Jul - 1 Aug. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Milton *Tiree* on 28 - 30 Jul. **EURASIAN REED WARBLER** One was at Arvergnish *Mull* on 31 Jul and 3 Aug.

~ August ~

**LITTLE EGRET** One was at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 1 Aug - 26 Sep and one was at Arrochar *Cowal* on 6 Aug. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 5 Aug. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 6 Aug. **LITTLE GULL** A 2CY was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** Three were off Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Aug. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Aug. **POMARINE SKUA** One was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Aug. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Slockavuillin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 28 Aug. **EUROPEAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** One was at Ruaig *Tiree* on 28 Aug. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** Two were off The Oa *Islay* on 31 Aug.

~ September ~

**LITTLE EGRET** One was at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 2 Sep. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Sep. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** One was at Vaul *Tiree* on 2 - 4 Sep. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was at Kilbrannan Sound, off Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 3 Sep and two off The Oa *Islay* on 6 Sep. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** One was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 6 Sep. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** One was at Greenhill *Tiree* on 6 Sep and two were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Sep. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Sep and two were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep. **POMARINE SKUA** Two were off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep, one there on 11 Sep and singles off Aird *Tiree* on 9 and 11 Sep. **SABINE'S GULL** A 1CY was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep and singles off Aird *Tiree* on 14 Sep and off Hynish *Tiree* on 23 Sep. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** A 1CY bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 - 12 Sep. **GREY PHALAROPE** One was off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Sep. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** A 1CY bird was off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Sep. **TURTLE DOVE** One was at Treshnish farm *Mull* on 15 Sep. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** Singles were at the Manse *Tiree* on 17 - 18 and 25 Sep. **WRYNECK** One was at Gribun *Mull* on 21 Sep. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Sep. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 22 - 24 Sep. **GREY PHALAROPE** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 23 Sep. **AMERICAN WIGEON** A 1CY male was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep - 29 Oct. **MANDARIN DUCK** Seven were at Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Machir Bay *Islay* on 26 Sep. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A 1CY male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Sep - 6 Oct. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** A 1CY was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Sep.

~ October ~

**GREY PHALAROPE** Two were off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and one off Aird *Tiree* on 2 Oct. **LEACH'S PETREL** Twelve passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Oct. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Scarinish *Tiree* on 2 - 5 Oct. **DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 and 23 Oct. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 6 Oct. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Kenovay *Tiree* on 6 Oct. **POMARINE SKUA** Several singles were off *Tiree* in Oct with up to three off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Oct and singles off Point of Knap *Mid-Argyll* and Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* in Oct. **LITTLE STINT** One was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Oct. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 - 19 Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** Three 1CY birds were off Aird *Tiree*

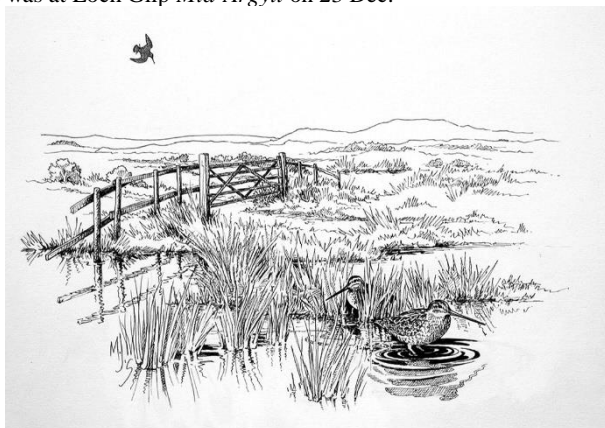
on 17 Oct. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** A 1CY bird was off Aird *Tiree* on 17 Oct. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at the Mull of Kintyre *Kintyre* on 18 Oct. **CACKLING GOOSE** First of the autumn was noted at Gruinart *Islay* from 20 Oct. **LITTLE GULL** A 1CY was at Claddich and then Saligo *Islay* on 21 - 24 Oct. **COMMON POCHARD** A female was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Oct. **'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF** Two were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Oct. **VELVER SCOTER** One was at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Oct. **HAWFINCH** One was at Octofad *Islay* on 27 Oct. **LEACH'S PETREL** Fifty-two passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct. **MANDARIN DUCK** Five were at Loch Eck *Cowal* on 30 Oct. **LITTLE EGRET** One was at Milton *Tiree* on 31 Oct.

~ November ~

**RING-NECKED DUCK** A new 1CY male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 - 5 Nov. **LITTLE GULL** One was seen from the *Islay* ferry on 1 Nov. **HAWFINCH** Four different singles (2mm, 2ff) were at Balephuill *Tiree* between 3 - 25 Nov. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 5 Nov. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Gruinart floods *Islay* on 7 Nov. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Glenegedale *Islay* on 7 Nov - 14 Dec. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 8 Nov. **COMMON POCHARD** A pair were at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 14 Nov. **LITTLE EGRET** Singles were at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 7 Nov, Kennacraig *Kintyre* and Holy Loch *Cowal* on 14 Nov and two at Foreland *Islay* and elsewhere from 21 Nov. **LITTLE AUK** Six flew past Aird *Tiree* on 16 Nov. **POMARINE SKUA** One was off Aird *Tiree* on 16 Nov. **DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** One was at Kinnabus *Islay* on 28 Nov.

~ December ~

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Nov and into 2018. **LITTLE EGRET** Singles were at Appin *North Argyll* on 10 Dec and at Arrochar *Cowal* on 13 Dec. **COMMON POCHARD** Two were at Finchairn, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec. **GLOSSY IBIS** One was at Ardnacross *Mull* on 21 Dec and into 2018, also a group of five were at Fidden *Mull* on 25 Dec and into 2018 and one was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 24 Dec and into 2018. **LITTLE GULL** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.



## 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
b/3 <i>etc</i>	brood of 3 <i>etc</i>
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
<i>cf</i>	<i>confer</i> = compare
CBC	Common Birds Census
<i>et al.</i>	et alia = and others
ff, mm	females, males
imm.	immature
inc.	including
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
NEWS	None Estuarine Wader Survey
NNR	National Nature Reserve
n/r	not recorded (in tables of counts, where no count was made)
nr.	near
pr	pair
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
2CY, 3CY <i>etc</i>	Bird ages: second-calendar year, third calendar year <i>etc</i> .

**Birds of Conservation Concern.** (BoCC 4) was published in *British Birds* (December 2015 Vol.108) and the updated species status has been applied to this report.

**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.

# Systematic List for 2017

The following systematic list includes entries for 225 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2017 (*cf.* average 222 species during the years 1993- 2016) and is well down on the recent higher average of 235 species (2009-2016). One new species was added to the Argyll list in 2017 (Sooty Tern, *see page 122*), which stood at 355 species seen up to the end of 2017. Two category E species were recorded, Black Swan and Muscovy Duck. 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, 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. Gaelic names are included wherever possible. For description rarities the observer's names are given with the finder noted first.

## MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Eala

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread and fairly common breeding species on the mainland and Tiree; scarcer on the other large islands. Not recorded recently 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 52 at the 4 main freshwater lochs on *Tiree* during the WeBS Count on 15 Feb including a count of 37 at Loch a' Phuill. Peak counts in double figures elsewhere were peak counts of 18 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 16 Jan, 12 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 12 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Feb. At Ulva Lagoons 2 were found dead in May and most likely hit power lines.

**Breeding/summer** On *Tiree* a min. of 10 nesting prs at 8 sites with larger broods noted; b/6 on 5 Jul and a b/6 on 29 May. Elsewhere a pr at Ballyhough Loch *Coll*; a pr with b/6 at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 Jun, 5 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* produced 15 young; on *Jura* a b/5 at Ardfin and b/2 Feolin noted on 27 Dec; in *Mid-Argyll* a pr with cygnets at Loch na Cille on 29 Jun and a pr with b/3 at the Add Estuary Jul-Aug.

**Autumn/winter** The highest count reported was 57 on the four main freshwater lochs on *Tiree* including 31 at Loch a' Phuill on 17 Jul. Peak counts elsewhere included: 38 at the Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct, 25 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 3 Nov and 13 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Oct.

## BEWICK'S SWAN (TUNDRA SWAN) *Cygnus columbianus* Eala-bheag

**AMBER LIST** *Formerly more frequent, mainly on Islay and in Kintyre but now a very rare autumn and spring migrant: Only two records since 1996: three adults at Ardnave Loch Islay in Nov 2003 and four birds at Stewarton Kintyre in Mar 2005.*

No records.

## WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Eala-fhiadhaich

**AMBER LIST A** *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** Records from all areas except *Jura*. On *Colonsay* a max of 11 at Gortain on 24 Apr. In *Cowal* a max of 40 at The Kyles of Bute on 13 Mar. On *Islay* peaks of 13 at Ardnave on 16 Jan, 29 at Gruinart on 15 Mar and 60 at Loch na Cadhan (Ballygrant) on 26 Mar. In *Kintyre* a max of 6 at The Laggan in Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* movement N through Loch Gilp during Mar with a peak of 18 on 13 Mar, also a peak of 32 at Loch Ederline on 18 Mar. On *Mull* only single birds

noted in this period. In *North Argyll* 60 flew W over Barcaldine Forest on 1 Mar and a max of 4 at Loch Tulla on 12 Apr. On *Tiree* peak all-island counts gave 136 on 17 Jan, 147 on 15 Feb, 306 on 21 Mar and 35 on 5 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** On *Islay* 4 remained in the Gruinart flats area in summer with a peak of 9 on 22 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* a pair were at Loch Dubh-ghlas (Eredine Forest) on 8 Jul. In *North Argyll* 1 was at Kilcheran Loch (Lismore) on 5 Aug. On *Tiree* 5 birds remained at Loch a' Phuill during the summer.

**Autumn/winter** Early arrivals included 12 at Gartbreck (Bowmore) *Islay* on 15 Sep and 7 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Sep. Records from all areas except *Jura* and *North Argyll*. On *Colonsay* a max of 68 on *Oronsay* on 15 Oct. On *Islay* a total of 452 passing down the west coast on 17 Oct with heavy passage between 16-25 Oct then numbers generally less than 30 until year end. In *Kintyre* numbers increased at The Laggan from 19 Oct with 80 rising to 211 on 26 Oct then only 5 or less until year end. In *Mid-Argyll* first arrival of 5 at Braevallich (Loch Awe) on 4 Oct and max of 105 at Ulva Lagoons on 29 Oct then 24 on 18 Nov and singles to year end. On *Mull* 25 seen from Oban-Mull ferry on 28 Oct and 12 at Caliach (NW Mull) on 17 Oct. On *Tiree* first arrival of 7 on 4 Oct and a max of 238 on 16 Oct and all-island counts of 125 on 20 Nov gave 19.2% cygnets and 107 on 11 Dec gave 13.1% cygnets.



**Whooper Swans** *Mid-Argyll* March 2017 (Jim Dickson)

#### **BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis* Muir-ghèadh

**AMBER LIST** 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.*

No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc records on page 117).

Please note: From Jan 2018 the above races will be treated as separate species. The nominate *A. f. fabalis* becoming **Taiga Bean Goose** and *A. f. rossicus* becomes *A. f. serrirostris* or **Tundra Bean Goose** and is part of the 'Eastern Bean Goose group' *A. f. johnnanseni/ middendorffii/ serrirostris*.

#### **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** Only small numbers of 1-3 birds were reported from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. No reports from *Coll*, *Jura* or *North Argyll*. Passage was noted from

Carradale *Kintyre* with flocks of 80 and 300 moving N on 18 Apr. On *Tiree* 8 were at Kilmoluaig on 17 Jan and 5 at Balinoe on 22 Jan.

**Summer** A single was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 16 May and presumably the same bird at Loch Bhirceapol on 9 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The first reports were from *Kintyre* with 120 in off the sea at Machrihanish SBO on 15 Sep and 200 over Campbeltown on 16 Sep. On *Islay* 6 were at Loch Gruinart on 29 Sep and the highest island count was 30 at Loch na Cachie (Loch Gorm) on 19 Oct; in *Kintyre* 20 were at the Laggan on 19 Oct; on *Mull* 25 over Caliach Point on 18 Sep, 60 at Calgary Bay on 13 Oct and 5 were at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 18 Dec. Elsewhere 1-2 birds were noted from *Colonsay* and *Mid-Argyll*.

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

**RED 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 highest area count was on *Islay* where 6,141 birds on 14-15 Mar. The SNH co-ordinated count produced an Argyll total of 9,768 birds (Table 1). In *Kintyre* higher counts included 1,446 at the Laggan on 15 Mar and 677 at Tayinloan on 15 Mar. In *Mid-Argyll* the highest count was 168 at Danna/Keills combined (Loch Sween) on 13 Mar. On *Mull* 23 were at Bunessan on 12 Mar and 25 at Loch Pottie on 21 Mar. In *North Argyll* 28 were at Appin on 14 Jan. On *Tiree* an all island count peaked at 951 on 13-14 Mar. A flock of 90 flew over Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr. The last spring report was of 2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first report was of 62 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Sep. A notable passage of 178 birds on *Tiree* on 19 Oct. The SNH co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 9,050 birds in Argyll (Table 2). The highest area counts were on *Islay* with 5,351 birds on 19-20 Dec. Higher counts elsewhere included: *Coll* with 152 on 18 Dec; *Kintyre* with 1,882 at the Laggan on 20 Dec and 596 at Tayinloan on 20 Dec; *Mid-Argyll* with 152 were at Danna/Keills on 18 Dec; *North Argyll* with 25 at Appin on 20 Nov and *Tiree* with 597 on 18-19 Dec.

Table 1. Number of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in spring (per SNH).  
March 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,380	174	n/c	23	n/c	951	99	0	6,141	0

There were also 130 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

Table 2. Numbers of White-fronted Geese in Argyll areas in winter (per SNH).  
December 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
2,717	155	0	32	152	597	18	5	5,351	23

There were also 130 on Bute, which is outwith the Argyll recording area.

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

**The European race *A. a. albifrons* is a scarce visitor in small numbers.**

**Summer/autumn** An adult was with Greylags was at Ruaig Tìree on 28 Aug [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

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

**A vagrant: 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 Tìree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.**

**Winter/spring** Highest numbers were on Tìree and a peak all-island count of 1,948 birds on 16-27 Jan. Peak counts in other areas included: Cowal with 55 at Otter Ferry on 8 Jan; Islay with 433 all-island count on 14 Mar; Jura with 32 at Keils on 24 Jan; Mid-Argyll with 496 at Ballymeanoch on 12 Feb; Mull with 150 at Killiechronan on 18 Jan and North Argyll with 207 at Balcreen on 12 Feb. In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count recorded a total of 4,114 birds in Argyll (Table 3).

**Breeding/summer** On Colonsay 44 broods gave a total of 169 young. The first young were noted on Tìree on 15 May and counts there on 29 Aug showed from 1,810 birds aged (680 – 37.6 were juvs) mean brood = 2.4 (N = 277 broods). Reports of breeding birds were noted in all areas except Kintyre.

**Autumn/winter** The peak all-island count on Tìree was 2,039 on 29 Aug. Peak counts in other areas included: Coll with 41 at Breachacha on 11 Sep; Colonsay with 92 on 19 Dec; Cowal with 38 at Glendaruel on 7 Nov; Islay with 880 island count on 22 Nov; Kintyre with 690 at the Laggan on 19 Nov; Mid-Argyll with 179 at Toberonochy (Luing) on 28 Oct; Mull with 42 at Loch na Keal on 18 Dec and North Argyll with 133 at Loch Etive on 6 Oct. The SNH co-ordinated count in Dec produced a total of 4,507 birds in Argyll (Table 4).

Table 3. Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in spring (per SNH).

Mar 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tìree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,640	241	n/c	6	n/c	1,544	130	24	433	96

Table 4. Numbers of Greylag Geese in Argyll areas in winter (per SNH).

Dec 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Lorn	Mull	Coll	Tìree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
1,416	86	n/c	0	375	1,671	92	2	837	28

**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.**

**All year** Just 12 birds remain in the Arileod/Breachacha area of *Coll* and no young were produced.

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

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

**Winter/spring** The largest flock reported was 246 at Barsloisnoch (Moine Mhor area) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb. Highest counts from each region included: *Colonsay* with 62 on 15 Feb, 44 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 6 at Kinnabus *Islay* on 3 Apr and in *Mid-Argyll*; 128 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) on 12 Feb, 109 at Ulva Lagoons on 17 Mar, 107 at Loch Crainish on 10 Feb, and 105 at Loch Feochan on 3 Jan; and *North Argyll* with 106 at Inveresragan on 12 Feb. On *Tiree* 2 were at Loch a' Phuill on 20 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Broods of young or other evidence of breeding was reported from all regions apart from *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Tiree*. The first brood noted was at Knipoch (Loch Feochan) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May. Breeding was noted as most widespread around the sea lochs of *Mid-Argyll*. Flock sizes generally built up from mid-Jul onwards. 2 on The Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 25-28 Jun was only the second record for these isles, the first was in 2016.

**Autumn/winter** The largest flock was of 348 birds at Barloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* higher counts also included: 137 at Loch Craignish on 22 Jul, 159 at the Add Estuary on 23 Jul and 298 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) on 6 Oct. Elsewhere peak counts included; on *Colonsay* 44 at East Loch Fada on 8 Oct; in *Cowal* 45 at Sandbank (Holy Loch) on 18 Dec; in *Kintyre* 214 at The Laggan on 19 Nov; in *North Argyll* 316 at Loch Laich on 8 Aug and 269 at Ardach (Loch Etive) on 6 Oct; and on *Mull* 64 at Killiechronan (Loch na Keal) on 26 Dec.

## **LESSER CANADA and TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** *Branta c. interior/parvipes* **Lesser Canada B. c. parvipes and Todd's Canada B. c. interior are races considered by the BBRC. The race parvipes breeds W Alaska, E to Yukon Territory and most winter Washington and Oregon. The race interior breeds NE Canada from Hudson Bay to Baffin Island and NW Greenland wintering in SE USA. There is however some overlap in breeding ranges and variability in size and plumage of races, therefore separation is not always possible.**

**1986** A description for a *B. c. interior* type at Kilchoman *Islay* on 24 Oct to 3 Nov was recently submitted to the BBRC as small transatlantic Canadas were not considered by them at the time, and this is now thought to be the first documented accepted occurrence in the UK [The late Prof Jimmy Steele, John Nadin *et al*].

**2011-12** One *B. c. interior* type was at Balephetrish, Kenovay and Cornaigmore between 26 Oct 2011 and 26 Mar 2012 [John Bowler *et al*]. The record was accepted by the BBRC.

## **ACKLING GOOSE** *Branta hutchinsii/minima*

**This species group has recently been accepted by the BOURC as a split from other 'Lesser Canada Goose' types. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these hutchinsii birds being from the Canadian High Arctic. The first accepted Argyll record was in 1984 and many subsequent records are still under consideration by the BBRC.**

**Winter/spring** A single was noted at Emeraconart (Ballygrant) *Islay* on 29 Jan to 5 Feb, 4 between Port Charlotte and Bridgend (Loch Indaal) *Islay* during Jan – Mar, and 1 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 5 Apr. These records are still under consideration by the BBRC.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of birds from Islay included singles at Gruinart from 20 Oct, at Kinnabus (The Oa) from 22 Nov, 2 at Rockside on 14 Nov and 2 at Carnain on 2 Dec.

*Note: not all of these records have been submitted to BBRC however are presented here for completeness of what were frequently reported and photographed birds.*

## **BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis* Cathan

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

**Winter/spring** In Mar, the SNH co-ordinated goose count (Table 5 below) recorded a total of 50,705 birds in Argyll and is lower than peak of 53,585 (Mar 2013). Highest count was 41,721 for Islay on 14-15 Mar and peak counts in other regions of Argyll included: *Colonsay* with 2,006 on Oronsay on 13 Mar; *Mid-Argyll* with 650 at Danna on 13 Mar; *Mull* with 140 at Fidden on 18 Jan and *Tiree* with 4,674 on 15 Feb. The last report was of 1 at Ardnave Islay on 30 May. No reports were received from Cowal, Jura or North Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning birds were 2 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 8 Sep, with the first mass arrivals there on 3 Oct with 4,674 birds then the main arrival on 17 Oct with 25,735 at Loch Gruinart. First arrivals elsewhere were widespread from the islands and *Kintyre* in smaller numbers on 3 Oct. The SNH co-ordinated goose count over 13-15 Dec recorded a total of 50,705 birds in Argyll with regional totals given below in Table 6. The Islay all island total for 19-20 Dec gave 43,351 however numbers peaked on 22 Nov with 48,336 birds with most being in the Gruinart area. Highest counts elsewhere are given in Table 6 below and in addition 141 were at Toberonochy (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct and 610 over Treshnish Farm (NW Mull) *Mull* on 15 Oct. No reports were received from Cowal, Jura or North Argyll.

*Under the SNH 'Sustainable Goose Management Strategy' to reduce crop damage and improve habitat for Greenland White-fronted Geese, culling (shooting) of Barnacle Geese has been used as a management tool on Islay in recent years. In winter 2016/17 the bag limit was set at 2,790 and 2017/18 at 3,600. This bag limit was reached in both these winters. This practice has been controversial (feedback from local and visiting birdwatchers to Islay) due to the shooting of a protected species while landowners also benefit significantly financially through compensation for grass damage.*

Table 5. Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in spring. (per SNH).  
Mar 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
0	650	0	n/c	4,644	1,654	2,006	41,721	0

Table 6. Numbers of Barnacle Geese in Argyll areas, in winter. (per SNH).  
Dec 2017.

Kintyre	Mid-Argyll	Mull	Coll	Tiree	Colonsay	Oronsay	Islay	Jura
9	488	0	1,039	5,042	15	1,804	43,351	0

## **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla* Gèadh-got

**AMBER LIST** *A passage migrant, in varying numbers: few in winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the Pale-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla have occurred, mainly on Islay and Tiree, with less than 20 records. There has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans on Islay in winter 1989/90.*

### **'PALE-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE** (*B. b. hrota*)

**Winter/spring** Reports from all regions except *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Kintyre* and *North Argyll*. Higher counts noted were from: *Islay* with up to 72 at Loch Indaal Jan-Apr; *Mid-Argyll* with 9 at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) on 31 Jan and a grounded flock of 200 at Loch Gilp on 2 Apr where unusually high passage counts noted on 22 Apr with 128 birds in the morning, 104 appeared at 18.40 hrs, then 200 at 20.50 hrs followed by 200 at 21.10 hrs; *Tiree* with 131 all-island count on 4 Apr, 122 at Sorobaidh on 20 Apr and 30 flying N on 27 Apr.

**Summer** On *Tiree* 1 was at Traigh Bhaigh and Loch a' Phuill between 8 Jun and 14 Aug. On *Islay* 1 was at Gruinart on 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** The first of autumn was a very early record of 11 passing Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 8 Aug. On *Tiree* 1 was at Balephetrish Bay on 4 Sep then peaks of 15 at Balephetrish on 25 Sep, 26 at Traigh Bhi on 29 Sep, 30 at Traigh Bhaigh on 16 Oct with the last report of 2 at Salum Bay on 4 Nov. On *Colonsay* 3 were on Oronsay on 15 Oct. On *Islay* first 2 were at Gruinart on 8 Sep then peaks of 125 there on 29 Sep, 217 on a 2 hr seawatch at Frenchman's Rocks on 29 Sep, 48 at Loch Indaal and 50 at Loch Gruinart, with movement between both areas to the end of the year. On *Jura* 7 were at Craighouse on 27 Dec. In *Kintyre* all reports were from Machrihanish SBO with first 4 on 8 Sep then peaks of 77 on 30 Sep, 22 on 2 Oct and 14 on 26 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 were at Loch Gilp on 19 Oct and 1 at New Danna on 29 Oct. On *Mull* 16 were off Caliach Point on 2 Oct, 23 off NW Mull on 6 Oct, 47 passing Loch na Keal on 15 Oct and 1 was on Iona on 15 Oct. No reports from *Coll* or *North Argyll*.

### **'DARK-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE** (*B. b. bernicla*)

**Winter/spring** One was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr and noted again on 20 May.

**Autumn/winter** One was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 and 23 Oct. One was at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 28 Nov.

### **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** *Branta ruficollis*

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

No records.

### **EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

**An introduced species that has naturalised and breeds as a feral species in England, Denmark and the Netherlands: One record; an adult at Strath Farm, Kintyre on 22 May 2015**

No records.

### **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** On *Coll* a max of 9 noted at Arinagour on 23 Mar. On *Colonsay* a max of 17 at the Strand on 16 Jan. In *Cowal* 1-6 birds noted at 7 locations Jan-Mar. On *Islay* peak counts at Loch Gruinart of 112 on 16 Jan and 124 on 12 May and at Loch Indaal 60 on 12 Feb, also a feeding group of 32 at Loch na Cachie (Loch Gorm) on 5 Jan and 60 were at Loch Skerrols on 13 May. In *Kintyre* noted at 8 locations with most reports from Machrihanish SBO where a total of 24 recorded during Mar, also 11 were at Gigha on 15 Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* peaks included 12 at Ulva lagoons on 22 Jan, 24 at Loch Craignish on 11 Mar, 8 at Loch Crinan on 12 Mar and 8 at Loch Gilp on 19 Apr. On *Mull* 1-6 birds were noted at 11 locations. In *North Argyll* 1-3 birds noted at 5 locations. On *Tiree* 1-8 birds noted at 11 locations and 20 were observed flying in from the S at Traigh Bhi on 14 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** A total of 32 pairs were found on *Colonsay* with 8 fledged broods totalling 50 young found. On *Islay* breeding confirmed at Gruinart and Ardnave with the first duckling noted at Gruinart on 5 May. A pr with b/10 was at Carnain (Loch Indaal) on 16 May. In *Kintyre* nesting activity with females at Rabbit burrows noted on 9 May and a first b/9 noted on 22 May. A total of 6 broods in the MSBO area produced 37 ducklings (mean brood = 6.1). In *Mid-Argyll* 11 prs were at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan on 21 May. On *Tiree* prs were widespread in May and b/3 and b/8 noted on 31 May and single late juvs were still at Loch a' Phuill on 21 Aug and at Middleton on 15 Sep, with the first returning adult at Ruaig on 31 Oct.

**Autumn/winter** No reports from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura* or *North Argyll*. On *Colonsay* only report was of up to 4 birds on Oronsay in Dec. On *Islay* low numbers during Aug-Sep with peak of 4 at Gruinart in Sep, numbers increasing there in Oct with 16, then peaks of 70 on 5 Nov and 11 on 11 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* 6 at Loch Gilp on 19 Oct remaining there until at least 16 Dec and 9 at New Danna on 24 Dec. On *Mull* only report was 1 at Corran View on 22 Dec. On *Tiree* a peak of 8 at Miodar on 4 Dec and a single at Gott Bay on 18 Dec.

### **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.**

**All year** Noted in six areas of *Cowal* with highest count of 5 at Loch Eck on 30 Oct, in four areas around and near Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* with highest count of 7 at Braevallich on 26 Sep and at Duilletter (Glen Strae) *North Argyll* with a high count of 3 on 22 Jun.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Many sites held up to 50 birds. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 7 included: 330 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 180 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 51 at Aros *Mull* on 29 Jan and 54 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 7 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Up to 4 prs were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in May with probable breeding but not confirmed. Up to 7 birds at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* in May however breeding not confirmed. Up to 3 birds at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in May with no evidence of breeding. A single was at Duilletter *North Argyll* on 22 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Early returning birds included 1-2 on *Tiree* from 10 Aug, 1 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Aug, 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug and 1 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug. Sites with counts of 50 or more, other than those listed in Table 7, included: 57 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep, 84 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Oct rising to 116 on 30 Dec, 110 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 23 Oct rising to 142 on 16 Nov and 51 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 24 Oct.

Table 7. 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 Gilp, *Mid-Argyll*; Holy Loch, *Cowal* and on *Tiree*.

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart*	126	205	223	80	1					118	193	199
Indaal**	90	60	186	2			1		7	1	64	465
Crinan	81	121							56	165	93	54
Gilp	75	68	49						12	246	188	182

Etive	85	78	87						4	6	111	76
Holy Loch	37	129	141						2	43	40	115
Tiree***	327	238	154	60	9			1	60	83	203	222

\* Including L. Gruinart Floods \*\*Bowmore to Gartbreck \*\*\*Loch a' Phuill and L. Riaghan.

### AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana*

**A rare visitor: 14 or more records.**

**Autumn/winter** A first-winter male was with the Eurasian Wigeon flock at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep to 29 Oct [Jim Dickson, David Jardine *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

A hybrid adult male American x Eurasian Wigeon was seen and photographed at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 1 Apr [Alistair McGregor, George Newall].

### GADWALL *Mareca 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** On Oronsay *Colonsay* 1 on 18 Apr, a f + 3 mm on 1 May and 6 on 23 May. On *Islay* 1-2 at Loch Gruinart between 4 Mar and 29 Apr with 4 on 28-29 Apr. In *Kintyre* 2 mm were at Westport Marsh on 20 Jan. On *Mull* a male was at Bunessan on 11 May. In *North Argyll* a pr was at Ardtur (Appin) on 6 Apr. On *Tiree* 2-3 were present Jan-May, with 5 in Apr and 11 in May.

**Breeding/summer** No evidence of breeding at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (1 pr bred last year). On *Tiree* 2 prs were noted at Loch Bhasapol/Kilmoluaig during May and a pr at Heylipol on 1-9 May. A f with a b/1+ was observed at Loch na Faing on 7 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** On *Islay* a group of 7 were new in at Loch Gorm on 13 Sep, 1 was at Ardnave Loch on 6 Oct and 2 at Loch Gruinart on 25-28 Oct. In *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO flocks of 8 on 12 Sep and 7 on 17 Oct passed S. In *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp a m + 2 ff there on 17 Oct and 2 mm + 1 f on 19 Oct. On *Mull* 1 was at Knock (Loch na Keal) on 7 Oct and 2 there on 16 Nov. On *Tiree* 1-4 were noted on the island between 11 Aug and 11 Dec.

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

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

**Winter/spring** The only counts of 50 or more birds away from the sites listed in Table 8 below were: 90 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 72 at Appin *North Argyll* on 14 Jan and 111 there on 12 Feb, 120 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Jan and 62 there on 4 Apr, and 64 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 28 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** At least 38 pairs at 12 likely breeding sites on *Tiree* in late Apr. On *Islay* 9 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 2 pairs at Ardnave Loch. A b/2 noted on *Tiree* on 15 May and b/4 on 19 May with fledged broods of 7 and 6 noted in the first half of Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in Table 8, included: 56 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 2 Dec, 70 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 Dec, 57 at Appin *North Argyll* on 10 Dec and 100 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 7 Nov.

Table 8. *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*	700	336	229	158	4				15	410	710	624
Indaal	95	67	2						6	6	42	430
Crinan	92	86	36						26	55	61	64
Holy L.	120	190	59						23	20	24	54
Tiree	497	234	150	67	40	3	11	38	70	190	180	225

\* Including Loch Gruinart Floods.

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

*A rare visitor: 26 or more records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.*

**Winter/spring** A male remained at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 22 Nov 2016 until at least 28 Apr. Single males were on *Tiree* at Loch Bhasapol (bird from 2016) on 14 and 17 Jan, and a new bird was at Loch a' Phuill on 17 Jan, 10 and 15 Feb [John Bowler].

**Winter** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Nov [James How] and a male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Dec into 2018 [John Bowler].

*It is difficult to accurately work out how many records involve returning birds from previous winters.*

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

*A common breeding, passage and wintering species*

**Winter/spring** Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in Table 9, included: 59 at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 5 Jan, 55 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan, 51 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan also 58 there on 11 Feb and 94 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** Pairs were noted at breeding sites from early Mar and first b/4+ noted at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 27 Apr and Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 30 Apr. On *Islay* there were 61 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Breeding was noted in all areas of Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** Counts of 50 or more birds, other than those listed in Table 9, included: 68 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, also 72 there on 5 Dec, and a peak of 164 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Dec.

Table 9. Maximum monthly counts of Mallards at RSPB Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal, Islay, Loch Crinan, Loch Etive, Holy Loch and Tiree freshwater lochs (i.e. all regularly monitored sites which held 50+ birds in the winter months).

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart *	10 1	117	60	23	67	60	4	3		85	67	139
Indaal**	45	4	11	4	6	8	8		7		16	91
Crinan	27	14	8	6				2		26	16	32
Etive	14 6	110	55						37	91	61	116
Holy Loch	88	48	26						68	56	32	60
Tiree	92	52	29	25	26	38	9	21	26	45	124	69

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

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

**A vagrant: One record; at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree on 15 Jun 2001.**

No records.

## **NORTHERN 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** On Islay a peak count of 53 at Loch Gruinart on 16 Jan decreased to 34 by 7 Apr then last single there on 12 May, and a count of 27 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) on 22 Jan. In Kintyre 2 were at The Laggan on 20 Jan. In Mid-Argyll a female was at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) on 14 Jan to 7 Feb and another female was on the Crinan canal at Crinan on 6 Feb. 8 (4mm + 4ff) were at Loch Gilp on 27 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Up to 8 pairs were present on Tiree during the breeding season with at least 4 broods seen in Jun-Jul.

**Autumn/winter** On Islay 3 imms were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 Sep. A count there of 14 on 6 Oct increased to 25 on 31 Oct, 53 on 17 Nov and peaked at 69 on 29 Dec. In Kintyre birds passing S at Machrihanish SBO with 2 on 2 Sep, 4 on 2 Oct and 3 on 14 Oct, also 1 there with Mallards on 31 Dec and 1 was at the Laggan on 24 Nov. On Tiree 1-6 birds were at Loch a' Phuill during Aug-Dec.

## **GARGANEY** *Spatula 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** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 21 Apr to 22 May. A male was at the Canal Loch (Breachacha) Coll on 25 Apr. A male was on Oronsay Colonsay on 15 May. A pair was at Strath Farm (the Laggan) Kintyre on 25 May.

*A better than average show of records.*

## **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** *Spatula discors*

**A vagrant: Three or four records; all adult males with, one on Tiree in May/Jun 1986, one on Tiree in May 1998 and (possibly the same) one on Islay, also in May 1998, and one on Mull on 1 May 2010 with presumably the same bird off Gigha, Kintyre on 2 May 2010.**

No records.

## **NORTHERN SHOVELER** *Spatula 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** On Oronsay Colonsay 1-3 birds were present 27 Feb-23 May. On Islay most records were from RSPB Loch Gruinart where 10 on 16 Jan gradually rising to a peak count of 27 on 9 Apr and 18 on 12 May. In Kintyre a male was at Balloch (the Laggan) on 10-20 Jan and a male was at Westport marsh on 29 Jan. On Tiree island total counts peaked at 34 on 17 Jan decreasing to 6 by 10 Apr as birds spread out to breed on smaller wetlands.

**Breeding/summer** On Coll 1 was at Bousd (NE Coll) on 12 Jun. On Islay up to 18 prs were noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In Kintyre 4 displaying males were at Westport marsh (where breeding occurred last year) however no breeding outcome noted this year. On Tiree up to 14 prs were noted across 7 sites with several fledged broods in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* counts of 9 on 6 Oct rising to 16 on 31 Oct and a peak of 21 on 11 Dec. In *Kintyre* 1 m was at Strath (the Laggan) on 23-26 Oct. On *Tiree* peak counts of 16 at Loch a' Phuill on 28 Sep and 18 at Loch Riaghain on 20 Nov.

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

**RED LIST** *An increasingly scarce 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.*

**Winter/spring** On *Islay* 2 were at Loch Skerrols on 1 Jan, 4 were at Ardnave Loch on 10 Feb with 2 remaining 27 Feb. 1 was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Mar and 1 was at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 15 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** On *Tiree* a pair were at Heylipol on 23 Apr, with possible breeding at Loch a' Phuill on 3 May and the male seen again at Heylipol on 28 May and Loch na Faing on 29 May.

**Autumn/winter** A female was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 23 Oct. A pair were at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 14 Nov, and a pair were at Finchairn (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec.

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

*A rare visitor: 21 previous records.*

**Winter/spring** A returning adult male was at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* with reports from 15 May to 29 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A 1CY male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Sep to 6 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson, Robin Lyon Sinclair] and another 1CY male was there on 1 to 5 Nov [John Bowler].

All records were accepted by the ABRC.

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca*

*A vagrant: one record; 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** On *Islay* peak counts at freshwater lochs were; 26 at Ardnave on 15 Feb, 22 at L. Ballygrant on 29 Jan, 19 at L. Finlaggan on 29 Jan, 8 at L. Gorm on 12 Mar, 14 at L. Kinnabus on 21 Apr and 22 at L. Skerrols on 28 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* peak counts gave; 5 at Ardencaple (Seil) on 3 Jan, 18 at Loch Leathan on 1 Apr and 19 at Loch Seil on 10 Feb. On *Tiree* 80-90 were on the four main lochs in Jan-Mar peaking at 94 on 15 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** On *Islay* breeding birds were noted at Ardnave Loch and RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Cowal* a pr was at Loch Melldalloch in Jun. On *Tiree* breeding birds were at Loch Bhasapol and Loch an Eilein with 2 broods noted at the later site in Jun and Jul.

**Autumn/winter** On *Colonsay* a peak of 6 at Loch Fada on 20 Dec. On *Islay* freshwater lochs; peak counts of 12 at Ardnave on 20 Nov, 16 at L. Ballygrant on 26 Oct, 30 at L. Finlaggan on 9 Nov, 24 at L. Gorm on 22 Oct, 4 at L. Kinnabus on 21 Dec and 9 at L. Skerrols on 23 Oct. In *Kintyre* 1 flew S on 23 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* peaks of 5 at Loch Leathan on 8 Sep, 10 at Loch Ederline on 17 Nov and 11 at Loch nan Druimnean (Kilmelford) on 5 Dec. In *North Argyll* a peak of 5 on Lismore on 14 Apr. On *Tiree* a peak count of 136 at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Nov.

## **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** Highest counts came from Loch Indaal *Islay* with a peak of 73 between Jan-Mar. Last report there of 19 on 30 Mar. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 ff were at Ballachuan Loch (Seil) on 22-25 Mar with 1 there on 13 Apr. On *Tiree* a female was at Loch a' Phuill and also at Loch an Eilein between 1 Jan-10 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** First autumn reports were 2 mm at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Sep and 2 ff there on 13 Sep. 3 flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Sep and 10 S past there on 10 Oct. 3 were at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 15 Oct. Most reports were from Loch Indaal *Islay* with 43 by the 21 Oct rising to a peak of 69 in Nov and birds remaining to year end. On *Tiree* 1 was at Loch Bhasapol on 17 Sep, 6 flew W past Aird on 5 Oct and 1 was at Loch a' Phuill during Oct-Nov peaking at 3 in Dec.

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

**A vagrant: Five records; Islay in Nov 1998, Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2006, Loch Skerrols, Islay in Jan 2009 and Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2015.**

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** The only counts of 50 or more birds, other than those at sites listed in Table 10, were: 190 off West Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Jan, 105 off Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 16 Jan, 190 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 165 off Bowmore (Loch Indaal) on 9 Apr and 100 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 17 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** The first brood noted was 4 prs with 6 small ducklings off Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May. A b/5 was first noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 May. A pr with a b/4 was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 May followed by a b/2 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 26 May. At the MSBO *Kintyre* 6 broods with 23 ducklings gave a mean brood size of 3.8, whilst at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 11 Jun 4 broods with 15 ducklings gave the same mean brood size of 3.8. Larger counts in summer included; 100 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 14 Apr, 100 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 2 Jun increasing to 430 on 30 Jul and 610 by 22 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** The 2017 co-ordinated count of Eider in the Firth of Clyde in Sep (data from C Waltho) gave a total of 2,061 for the Argyll part of the area made up of; 810 L. Goil to Toward Point, 167 L. Riddon and L. Striven, 966 L. Fyne and 118 E. *Kintyre* – Skipness to Southend. Away from the sites listed in Table 10, counts of over 50 included: 822 off Otter Ferry and 81 at Kilfinan Bay both *Cowal* on 15 Sep, 60 off West Hynish *Tiree* on 17 Sep and 145 there on 26 Nov, 125 off Ballure *Kintyre* on 23 Oct, 60 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec, 120 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 2 Dec and 90 off Hough Bay *Tiree* on 14 Dec.

Table 10. *Maximum monthly counts of Eiders at Holy Loch and Loch Long (Cowal), Loch Creran (North Argyll) and Sound of Gigha (Kintyre).*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holy L.	82	74	58					37	96	64	41
Craignish	52	52	40	27	24	14	8		46	47	14
Creran	30	5	53	13				24	9	n/c	n/c
Long*	99	85	74	8			32	3	15	57	42
Sound of Gigha	108	166	n/c	1		16			125	n/c	n/c

\* Ardentinn to Strone Point

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

**A vagrant: At least 14 Argyll records; all single males. The most recent was in Kintyre in Feb/May 2008.**

No records.

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

**A vagrant: One record; 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** On *Islay* a peak count of 19 at Loch Indaal on 28 Jan with the last report there of 2 on 26 Mar. In *Kintyre* 3 were at Rhunahaorine Point (Sound of Gigha) on 2 Jan, with 1 remaining to at least 5 Feb. In *Mid-Argyll* a long staying bird inland at Lochan Ceann a' Choin (Ford) on 11 Feb-28 May. On *Tiree* a peak count of 12 at Hough Bay on 10 Feb.

**Summer** A m + 2ff were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jun and 1 was at Lagganulva *Mull* on 30 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** First report was of 1 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Sep, then 1 past Aird *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 3 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Oct. A peak of 3 were at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 6 Oct and 14 Nov. Singles past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* between 17 Oct and 31 Dec. A f/w was at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 22 Oct. A long staying m was at Loch Ederline (Ford) *Mid-Argyll* between 12 Oct and 31 Dec. On *Tiree* 1 past Aird on 18 Oct and 2 there on 20 Oct but none at their former favoured wintering site at Hough Bay.

### **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** Regular sightings were received from two sites throughout the year (Table 11) with the highest counts were 76 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Feb and 7 May and 60 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 9 May however no counts made there in Jun or Jul when numbers usually peak. Elsewhere peaks included; 19 S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Jun, 7 at Killiechronan (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 7 Feb, 6 at the mouth of Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and 3 off Hynish *Tiree* on 26 Jan and 2 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Two pairs bred in the Loch Gorm area of *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** On *Colonsay* 4 flew S past Port Mor on 7 Oct. On *Islay* a peak count of 61 at Loch Indaal on 6 Oct. In *Kintyre* a peak count of 16 at the Sound of Gigha on 23 Oct also a peak of 3 at Machrihanish SBO on 4 Oct and 3 at West Loch Tarbert on 26 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Loch na Cille on 19 Nov. On *Mull* 14 were at Loch Scridain on 7 Aug.

Table 11. *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
Loch Indaal	74	100	40	33	100	11	n/c	n/c	36	61	25	15
Sound of Gigha	28	15	39	n/c	60	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	16	n/c	n/c

**SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata*

*A rare visitor: At least 19 previous records.*

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on pages 117).

**VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca* Lach-dhubh

**RED 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.*

**Winter/spring** Two were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 5 Feb. One was at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 20 Apr.

**Summer** A male paired with a female Common Scoter was at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 2 and 12 Jun and was also off Port Charlotte (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 24 Jun. Presumably the same pair involving an ‘escaped’ Velvet Scoter from the nearby Easter Ellister ponds in recent years.

**Autumn/winter** A male (same?) was again off Port Charlotte *Islay* on 27 Oct.

*A continued reduction in numbers.*



**Common Goldeneye** *Mull* December 2017 (Jim Dickson)

## **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** The highest count was 80 at Ormsary (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan. Counts generally lower than in previous years. A peak of 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Apr. In *Kintyre* a peak of 61 off Machrihanish on 5 Mar and 7 at West Loch Tarbert on 29 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* higher counts away from Loch Caolisport included 11 at Loch Leathan on 11 Feb, 18 at Loch Etive on 11 Mar and 9 at Loch Gilp on 12 Mar. On *Mull* a peak of 25 at Loch na Keal on 22 Mar. On *Tiree* a peak of 55 at Loch a' Phuill Jan-Mar.

**Autumn/winter** An early report of 1 at Appin *North Argyll* on 9 Sep then singles at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Oct and the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct. Highest counts included 43 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Nov, 28 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Dec, in *Kintyre* 26 at Machrihanish SBO on 5 Dec, 17 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 18 Nov and 12 at West Loch Tarbert on 26 Dec. Smaller counts elsewhere with 1-6 birds.

## **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus* Siolta-bhreac

*A rare winter visitor: About 10 records since 1954; 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** The highest count was of 70 birds at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 May. Generally widespread around coasts with numbers less than 20. On *Islay* higher counts included 25 at Loch Indaal on 16 Jan, 23 on 13 Feb, 44 on 9 Apr and 35 on 19 Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* 25 at Loch Craignish on 10 Feb. On *Mull* 20 at Loch na Keal on 8 Apr. In *North Argyll* 18 at Appin on 8 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** The breeding population on *Tiree* was estimated to be 10 pairs located at five different sites and broods were noted at Loch a' Phuill in Jul and at Gott Bay in Aug. Presumed breeding around most coasts and some inland waters however few data obtained.

**Autumn/winter** No counts received of post breeding flock at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*. The only other counts of more than 40 birds included 52 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 58 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Oct and 44 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Dec.

## **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** During this period reports were of 1-8 birds from *Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull* and *North Argyll*. The largest counts reported were 6 at Eorsa *Mull* on 8 Jan, 6 at Garmony *Mull* on 14 Mar, 6 at Glen Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr and 8 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 11 May.

**Summer/breeding** A female with 18 small ducklings (perhaps 2 broods combined) was at Ardanaiseig (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May.

**Autumn/winter** Post breeding gatherings of moulting females (redheads) were noted in *Cowal* with 27 at Kames on 13 Jun, 87 at Loch Riddon on 26 Jul increasing to 95 on 4 Aug and 13 at Holy Loch on 12 Sep. Most reports elsewhere involved 1-4 birds mainly from *Mid-Argyll, Mull*

and *North Argyll* with higher counts including 17 at Loch Beag *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 7 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct, 9 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 6 Oct, 9 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 14 Nov and 5 at Killiechronan (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 13 Sep. 1-2 birds were also on *Islay* Nov-Dec. No reports from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* or *Tiree*.

**RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

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

No records.

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

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

*Summer* Single (unless stated) calling birds were reported from Glenastle (The Oa) *Islay* on 23 May, Totronald *Coll* on 25 May, at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 15 Jun, 2 near the Strand *Colonsay* on 19 Jun, 2 at Balloch *Kintyre* on 21 Jun, at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Jul and on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Jul.

*A better than average year.*

**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.*

*Winter/spring* Most reports were of small numbers (1-3 birds) from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay* and *Kintyre* with a pair displaying at Ardentinn *Cowal* on 25 Mar.

*Autumn/winter* No reports of large scale releases which occurred last year. Records refer to smaller scale releases focused on shooting related areas in *Cowal* and *Islay* with the highest counts at Balliemore (L. Striven) *Cowal* with 10 on the 24 Oct and 33 at Knockdon *Islay* on 23 Oct.

**RED GROUSE (WILLOW GROUSE)** *Lagopus lagopus scotica* Coileach-fraoic

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

*Winter/spring* Records received involved low numbers (up to 7) from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*.

*Breeding* Widespread reports in low numbers with most from *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Mull*.

*Autumn/winter* Few records were received with most reports from *Islay* and *Mull*. A max. count of 11 at Kilninian *Mull* on 27 Aug.

**PTARMIGAN (ROCK PTARMIGAN)** *Lagopus muta* Tàrmachan

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

*Spring* Only one report: recorded as present on Ben Lui *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr.

*Summer/autumn* Three reports: 4 at Coire Reidh *North Argyll* on 26 Sep, 1 at Beinn Ime (E) *Cowal* on 25 Oct and another single at Beinn a' Ghraig (Knock) *Mull* on 4 Dec.

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

**RED LIST A** *scarce, localised, resident breeder. Numbers still likely to be declining at a slower rate after a steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas: with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.*

**Spring/breeding** Two males noted at Craighendive (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on the 9 Jan; good records of 6 near Feorlin (Minard) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Feb and 5 seen flying over Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* in a snow storm on 21 Mar, then 1-2 birds present at Loch Tulla (Blackmount) *North Argyll* in Apr, single birds from Blarbuie Burn (Kilmichael Forest) *Mid-Argyll* in Apr and Jun, Moine Mhor (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and Stiallag Bheag (Loch Striven) *Cowal* on 4 May. RSPB lek surveys (relies on volunteers, SNH & FES staff to repeat a sample of core leks) recorded a total of 90 displaying males at 38 lek sites throughout Argyll. The sample of repeat monitoring of sites was so low that if felt any statistics to try and indicate change could be misleading. The largest leks recorded was 9 in the Lorne area *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reported as present from Clachadow (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug and a single at Spion Kop (Whitehouse) *Kintyre* on 13 Oct.

## **WESTERN CAPERCAILLIE** *Tetrao urogallus* Capall-coille

**RED LIST A** *once 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.

## **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 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.*

Recorded in small numbers usually in single figures from throughout the area during the year. Many of the records came from *Islay* and *Mull* with fewer reported from other areas but a good geographic spread with the highest number of 25 reported from Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 18 Jun. No reports of large scale releases.

## **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

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

**Winter/spring** Reported widely on the sea 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: 15 between Port Charlotte and Bruichladdich *Islay* on 13 Feb and 21 there on 12 Mar, 34 off Uiskentuie *Islay* on 12 Mar and 11 there on 9 Apr, 17 at Bruichladdich Pier *Islay* on 2 May, 18 at Post Office (Lochbuie) *Mull* on 5 May.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported at breeding sites from Apr until late Aug. BTO Atlas data suggest there may be around 100 pairs in Argyll (Wilson *et al.* 2015 SWBSG Report 1504), especially at small lochs in *Kintyre*, but there is a lack of recent monitoring data from breeding sites. 10 birds at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 11 Jun is an unusually large number of birds for the time of year and may have been summering immatures rather than breeding adults. There was also an unusual movement of 14 birds flying S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 4 hrs on 24 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Small numbers were reported from all coastal areas apart from innermost sea lochs throughout autumn and winter. Numbers seen on the sea increased in Aug and peaked in Sep-Oct. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported 14 flying S in 5 hrs on 14 Aug but much smaller numbers most dates in Aug, 84 flying S on 11 dates through Sep, and 85 flying S on 12 dates in Oct. There were 25 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Sep, 11 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 29 Sep, 55 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Oct, 9 at Bruichladdich Pier *Islay* on 29 Oct, 7 off Aird *Tiree* on 16 Nov, 17 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Nov, and 10 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Dec.

### **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. Breeding has been confirmed at 13 sites between 1985- 2016 and an average of 2.7 chicks fledged annually. 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 small numbers around islands, in sea lochs, and along the mainland coast. There were 11 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 12 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 21 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb and 13 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 5 Feb. Some birds were reported to be in breeding plumage from the start of Apr while some remained in winter plumage until midsummer.

**Breeding/summer** All known breeding sites were monitored in 2017. Only 6 summering pairs were found plus a non-breeding single that summered on another breeding loch. Additional non-breeding birds were recorded on several other lochs. Six breeding attempts were confirmed (5 on rafts, 1 natural site) and 2 were successful each rearing single chicks to at least 7 weeks old.

**Autumn/winter** Single birds were seen at many sites, especially around *Islay, Kintyre, Mull* and *Tiree*. Larger groups included: 10 in Claonaig Bay *Kintyre* on 2 Sep, 6 in Kilfinan Bay *Cowal* on 15 Sep, and 20 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Oct.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Birds were reported from all coastal areas, especially sea lochs and coasts of: *Colonsay, Gigha, Islay, Kintyre, Mull*, and *Tiree*. Highest numbers often seem to be reported in spring, although this may in part relate to better conditions for counting and more birdwatching activity. Highest counts in Jan were 36 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 14 Jan and 326 in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 31 Jan. Highest counts in Feb were 127 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 5 Feb, 140 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 7 Feb, 81 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Feb, 74 at Loch Tuath *Mull* 28 Feb. Highest counts in Mar were 59 in Lochs Beg and Scridain *Mull* on 1 Mar, 52 in inner Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Mar, 49 in outer Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Mar, 74 on inner Loch Scridain and Loch Beg *Mull* on 23 Mar, 93 at Eorsa (Loch na Keal) *Mull* on 24 Mar, 148 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 25 Mar. Highest counts in Apr were 50 at Acharonich *Mull* on 8 Apr, 100 around *Tiree* on 10 Apr, and 160 off Balemartine *Tiree* on 19 Apr. Smaller numbers were reported in May but with some in full breeding plumage, the largest count after mid-May being 34 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 17 May. During Jun, numbers fell further, mostly to just the occasional one or two birds widely distributed off *Kintyre* and the Argyll islands, but with 20 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9-11 Jun.

**Summer** There was no indication of breeding in Argyll, but non-breeders, some apparently in full summer plumage, were present throughout the summer at many sites. Records came especially from *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree* where mostly single birds were reported in Jun-Aug, with the fewest (one record of 4 birds) in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Several individuals were reported in Sep, but numbers began to build up in Oct, counts of 10 to 50 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. Largest numbers included: 110 in outer Loch Indaal *Islay* on 19 Nov, 131 at Laggan Point *Islay* on 22 Nov, 90 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Dec, 67 at Loch Tor *Mull* on 6 Dec, and 67 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 10 Dec.



**Great Northern Diver** *Tiree* April 2017 (Richard Whitson)

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

*A vagrant: Eleven records; all since 1986, most recently on Mull in 2009, off Tiree in Oct 2011 and off Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre in Mar 2013.*

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on pages 117).

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

*A vagrant: one record; an adult flew north past Machrihanish SBO, 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** All Jan-Mar records came from the western fringes of Argyll, mostly from *Tiree* with a few from *Islay*. Large numbers attended nest sites somewhat erratically from Jan onwards, mostly on calm days. For example, there were 600 on sites at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 17 and 28 Jan, and >1000 there on 7 Apr. Only three were seen passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, all during Apr, but 100 or more per hr passed the coast of *Tiree* on many dates in Feb-Apr.

**Breeding** At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 987 occupied sites (AOSs) with some birds incubating eggs on 18 May, 834 AOSs with many birds incubating but no visible chicks yet on 16 Jun (slightly higher numbers than in 2016), 531 AONs most with mid-sized chicks on 1 Jul, suggesting a fairly successful breeding season. Also on *Tiree*, there were 50 AOSs in the quarry on Balephetrish Hill on 20 May, the same number as in the previous two years. Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) reported that there were 269 AOSs on Lunga plus Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, a very slight decline of that population from last year, but a continuing

declining trend from nearly 700 AOSs in 1994. On *Colonsay* sample sites had 172 AOSs at Urugaig, 13 at Kiloran, 12 at Port Lobh and 38 at Lamallum, similar numbers to the previous year though slightly down at Urugaig.

**Autumn/winter** Numbers seen at sea in Aug and Sep were highest off *Tiree*, with tens and occasionally hundreds passing per hr on different dates. There were also good numbers off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, with 10-60 per hr passing on various dates in Aug-Sep. As usual, very few were seen in Oct, the only records that month being 4 off Aird *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 3 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Oct. However, 115 passed Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 16 Nov. There were >500 back at the colony at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 17 and 19 Dec, but there were no records in Argyll away from *Tiree* in Nov-Dec.

### **CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris borealis*

**A rare passage migrant: Nine records; mostly in Aug or Sep. Last report was off Tiree in Aug 2005.**

No records.

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

**A rare passage migrant: Mostly in autumn with last reports from Sep 2007.**

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** Rather few reported in 2017. The first report was 3 off Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Aug. 2 were off Cnoc Carrach (The Oa) *Islay* on 31 Aug. Singles were seen at Kilbrannan Sound *Kintyre* on 3 Sep, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Sep, and Hynish *Tiree* on 8 Nov.

### **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 came from Carradale *Kintyre*, where one was found grounded in a garden on the exceptionally early date of 8 Feb (but photos confirmed the identification). The first seen at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was on 16 Mar. There were 50 between *Mull* and *Coll*, and 920 between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 4 Apr. Hundreds were seen on many dates in Apr-May off *Tiree* especially but also off *Coll*, *Islay*, and *Mull*. There were 100 off Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May, a less usual location for this species. There were 1,000 off Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 27 May.

**Breeding/summer** There were no data on breeding at Sanda Islands *Kintyre* or Treshnish Isles *Mull*. Large numbers were seen at sea throughout the summer, but probably originate mostly from colonies outside Argyll. In 1 hr on 1 Jun, 5,880 passed Hynish *Tiree*. Other peak counts were 1,749 passing Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 24 Jun, 620 passing Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* in 1.5 hrs on 8 Aug, 1,530 passing Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr on 16 Aug, and 1,435 passing Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* in 1 hr on 19 Aug; these are large numbers but generally fewer than reported in 2016. Since breeding birds should have eggs in Jun and early Jul, and chicks in the nest in late Jul and Aug, it seems probable that birds from the huge colony on Rum, and probably other colonies, must commute into or through Argyll waters to feed while breeding. Two juveniles were attracted after fledging to artificial lights at Ruaig and the airport *Tiree* on 16 Sep, grounded on land, and were rescued and released to the sea.

**Autumn** Numbers seen in Sep (many counts of hundreds but none exceeding 1,000) were mostly lower than peak numbers in Jun-Aug, suggesting that migration from the massive colony on Rum (where chicks fledge in Sep) may occur less through Argyll waters than foraging activity of chick-rearing adults. Counts in Oct were rarely above 20 birds, the exceptions being 69 at Aird *Tiree* in 2 hrs on 2 Oct, and 80 off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct. The last record of the year was of 2 birds passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Oct and 3 birds passing Aird *Tiree* – both on 17 Oct. A dead bird found on the beach at Machir Bay *Islay* on 4 Sep had been ringed on Bardsey Island, Wales, on 5 Sep 2004.

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

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

**Autumn** Singles headed SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Aug and 22 Sep. One headed S off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Sep and was the first there for many years.

**MACARONESIAN SHEARWATER** *Puffinus baroli*

**A vagrant: One record; one off 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. (See list of rejected, pending etc records on pages 117).

**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** There were unusually many sightings during May; 1 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 May, 15 at sea off NW *Mull* on 23 May, 10 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 24 May, 5 off Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 27 May, 1 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 28 May, 1 between *Coll* and *Mull* on 28 May, 5 off Balemartine *Tiree* on 29 May and 5 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 31 May. There were also numerous records through Jun-Jul, mostly of small numbers off *Islay*, *Mull* or *Tiree* or from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Largest counts were of 32 off *Tiree* on 1 Jun and 31 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Jul during light rain and poor visibility.

**Breeding** TIARG reported that, as usual, many birds were heard churring in burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. Although no counts were made at the colonies, TIARG caught 278 birds in one 18m mist net set for 2 hrs 20 mins on the boulder beach, and 185 birds in three 18m nets set at the Village over two nights for just under 4 hrs in total. These are very similar catch rates to those reported in 2016. Storm Petrels caught at the Treshnish Isles are providing an estimate of survival rates of this species; data suggest a small long-term decline in adult survival, as found at other colonies where this is monitored, but with the survival rate apparently slightly higher and declining less at Treshnish (averaging around 80-82% per annum). No information was available from Sanda Islands *Kintyre*, the other main breeding site.

**Autumn** Small numbers were reported in Jul-Sep from shore-based seawatching and ferries from *Coll*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. The last records were 1 off Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Sep, and 2 off *Jura* on 15 Oct.

## **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** While there were only two records in 2016, this species was much more numerous in 2017. Most records were of single birds, between 9 Sep and 16 Nov, mainly from *Tiree* or Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, but also two records from *Islay*; 1 off Sanaigmore on 26 Oct and 1 off Frenchman's Rocks on 28 Oct, and an exceptional inland record of 1 past Braevallich (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov. The largest numbers reported were 12 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* during a gale on 2 Oct, and 52 there in 5 hrs, also during a gale, on 28 Oct. The last from *Tiree* were 2 passing west off Aird on 16 Nov.

## **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** As usual, only small numbers were reported on a few dates in Jan with all records from *Tiree*, apart from 3 seen off *Coll* on 23 Jan, and including a peak of 74 heading SW off Hynish in 1 hr on 25 Jan. Slightly larger numbers were seen in Feb, again mostly off *Tiree* with the highest count of 113 off Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 22 Feb. Numbers increased further in Mar with records from *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, and *Tiree*. There were more reports and larger numbers during Apr, from a wider range of areas, including most of coastal Argyll. The highest single count in Apr was 240 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Apr.

**Summer** Perhaps surprisingly, gannets do not (yet) breed in Argyll. Birds were reported from all marine areas of Argyll in May-Jul but mostly in small numbers, with very few flocks exceeding 10 birds except in offshore areas. There were feeding aggregations of up to 50 regularly seen off *Tiree*. On 15 May, during a gale, 149 passed Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr, and one adult crash-landed in a field at Kirkapol *Tiree* (and was safely returned to the sea). On 1 Jun, 405 flew SW past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr. On 3 Jun there were 50 at Eilean Musdile *North Argyll*. There were 200 foraging off Machrihanish Point *Kintyre* on 11 Jun, while 570 passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 8 hrs of gale force winds on 12 Jun. Observations from Campbeltown *Kintyre* showed adults regularly flying overland from east to west across *Kintyre* during May to Sep to take a short cut, presumably breeding birds commuting from Ailsa Craig to feeding grounds west of *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Hundreds per hour flew past seabird hotspots such as Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and Aird *Tiree*, on various dates from Aug to Oct, but the only count exceeding 1,000 birds was of 1,380 in 2 hrs passing Aird *Tiree* on 2 Oct. There were fewer reports from Nov, but those included 465 off Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 16 Nov. Few were seen in Dec, all from *Tiree* apart from 1 (most unusually, a juvenile) at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Dec. Tracking studies indicate that these midwinter birds are more likely to be from Icelandic colonies than from Scottish ones (Garthe et al. 2016, Marine Biology).

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

**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: 11 at Blackrock (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 4 Jan, 19 there on 16 Jan, 33 at Salum *Tiree* on 16 Jan, 13 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 12 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 18 Jan, 12 at The Ringing Stone *Tiree* on 7 Feb, 26 in

Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Feb, 52 at Soa Island *Tiree* on 2 Mar, and 21 at Blackrock *Islay* on 12 Mar.

**Breeding** The only colony count reported this year was ‘at least’ 5 AONs at Reidh Eilean (Iona) *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were fairly well dispersed throughout the sea lochs and sheltered coasts of Argyll in autumn and winter. The largest recorded groups were: 40 at Eilean Traighe (West Loch Tarbert) *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug, 50 at Sgeir na Sgarbh (Ardnave Point) *Islay* on 7 Nov, 22 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 11 Nov, and 19 at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* (at a fish-farm) on 18 Dec.



**Great Cormorant** *Mid-Argyll* October 2017 (Jim Dickson)

**GREAT (Continental) CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

*A rare but increasingly frequent visitor to Scotland. Increasing as a breeder at inland sites in England where some hybridisation occurs with nominate Atlantic Great Cormorant. One was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 13 Oct 2014.*

No records.

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

**RED LIST** *A 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. The largest numbers reported were: 160 at Soa Island *Tiree* on 18 Jan and 280 there on 24 Jan, 42 passing Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr on 25 Jan and 45 in 1 hr on 6 Feb, 36 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar, 60 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 4 Apr, 70 feeding off The Green *Tiree* on 30 Apr, and 1,100 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* in mid-May.

**Breeding/summer** John Bowler reported that at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 84 AONs on 18 May, by which time most nests held eggs, but some birds were still nest-building while a few had large chicks. By 16 Jun there were 75 AONs, with most nests holding small chicks. On 18 Jul, most nests had large chicks close to fledging with 69 AONs in total. There were 9 AONs at the monitoring plot at Urugaig *Colonsay*. TIARG reported that there were 231 AONs on Lunga, and 8 on Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. TIARG have been carrying out a colour ringing study of this population to assess survival rates as part of the BTO 'RAS' programme. Re-sightings data suggest adult survival in this population has varied from year to year mostly within

the range 80 to 100% per year, averaging 83% for males and 89% for females, somewhat higher survival rates than reported at some other colonies.

**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 900 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 1 Sep, on 24 Sep, and again on 2 Nov. There were 102 at Lismore Jetty *North Argyll* on 1 Sep. On 23 Sep, 95 passed Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr. There were 114 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 7 Oct. On 6 Nov, 156 passed Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr.

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

*A vagrant: Two records; an immature bird was found exhausted at Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) on 9 Jul 1953 and died later and remarkably another juvenile was seen briefly at Bowmore harbour, Islay on 5 Jul 2013. These are the only records for the Western Palearctic.*

No records.

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

*AMBER LIST A rare visitor: Six 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, at Craobh Haven, Mid-Argyll Dec 2009 to Feb 2010 which later died in care and at Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll on 19 Mar 2013 killed by a vehicle.*

No records.

#### **BLACK-CROWNED 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 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. This remains the only British record to date.*

No records.

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

*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.*

**Winter** At least one bird frequented the Lochs Laich and Creran *North Argyll* between 23 Jan and 20 Apr. One was near Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 31 Jan and probably the same nearby at Point Sands (Rhunahaorine) on 22 Feb.

**Spring/summer** Singles on *Mull*, possibly involving the same bird were at Ardtun on 1 May, Iona on 21 May and Knock on 24 May. In *Cowal* singles were at the head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 15-16 May, Holy Loch on 28 Jul -1 Aug and possibly same at Arrochar on 6 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Castleton (nr Lochgilphead) on 22 May and possibly the same at the Add Estuary on 25

May and Loch Craignish on 19 - 20 Jun with possibly the same nearby at Loch Beag on 28 Jul. On *Islay* 1 was at Loch Gruinart on 21 May. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Machrihanish SBO on 22 May and 2 were at Kennacraig (West Loch Tarbert) on 1 Aug, thereafter 1 there until at least 22 Aug. **Autumn/winter** In *Cowal* singles were at the Holy Loch and possibly the same at Arrochar on 13 Dec. On *Islay* 2 were at the Bridgend merse (Loch Indaal) on 7-21 Nov. In *Kintyre* 1 probably same as from early Aug again from 15 Sep to 14 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Ardfert on 7 Oct and 1 was at Loch Gilp on 17 - 21 Oct. On *Mull* 1 was at Fishnish on 22 Oct - 15 Nov. In *North Argyll* one was at Loch Creran on 10 Dec. On *Tiree* 1 was at Milton on 31 Oct and 2 Nov. *A good series of records after 8 or 9 birds in 2014, 3 in 2015 and only 1 in 2016. However, as individuals tend to wander, the total number of birds involved may be only 10 or less.*

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

**A rare visitor: Ten records between 1986 and 2015. This species is increasing as a breeding in the Netherlands and France, and also England since 2012.**

**Spring** Two, an adult and a non-breeding/imm, were at the Holy Loch *Cowal* between 15 and 19 May [D Gilmour, B Ferguson *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** A non-breeding plumaged bird was at Loch Cuin (Dervaig) *Mull* on 4 Nov [A&H Mortley, C Callow, M Murphy *et al*].

All records were accepted by the ABRC.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Birds were widely distributed in small numbers, especially along the Argyll sea loch coasts, with larger counts including: 18 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 14 Jan, 17 at Duine (Loch Craignish) *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 25 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 11 at Keils *Jura* on 24 Jan, and 11 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb.

**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. There are few large heronries in Argyll, but there were 27 AONs at Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 6 Apr, 24 AONs at Ballachuan Hazel Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar, 9 AONs at Aros Park *Mull* on 27 Apr, 22 AONs at 4 sites on *Colonsay*, 6 AONs at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May, 13 AONs at Eilean Eoghainn (West Loch Tarbert) *Kintyre* on 3 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were widely distributed in small numbers, especially along the Argyll sea loch coasts. WeBS counts in Aug-Dec mostly gave totals between 5 and 25 individuals on each of the Holy Loch *Cowal*, Loch Gruinart *Islay*, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll*, and Loch Etive *North Argyll*. Elsewhere, there were 20 at Craignure Jetty *Mull* on 3 Aug, 20 roosting at high tide at the NATO jetty at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 6 Aug, and 17 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Dec. A bird visiting a garden in Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* was watched on at least three occasions in Aug (and photographed) catching and swallowing voles.

### **BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra*

**A vagrant: One record; a bird seen flying over NW Mull on 26 May 2013.**

No records.

## **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.

## **GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

**A vagrant: Nine records since 1901; the most recent being one at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll on 25 and 26 Sep 2009, Colonsay from 27 Dec 2013 to 5 Feb 2014 and Tiree on 13 Jan 2014.**

**Winter** A non-breeding/imm. was at Ardnacross farm (SE of Tobermory) *Mull* on 21 Dec until 5 Jan 2018 [Mike & Jacqui Murphy, Jim Dickson, David Jardine *et al.*]. A 1CY bird was in a muddy field at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 24 Dec and into 2018 [Pat & Judith Boyd, John Bowler *et al.*]. A group of 5 were at Fidden farm and occasionally seen on Iona *Mull* on 25 Dec until 6 Jan 2018 [Jimmy Campbell *et al.*]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

## **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: Three records; one at Loch Peallach, Mull in Jun 1998, one at Salen Bay, Mull on 22 Mar to 6 Apr 2011 and one at Loch Feorlin, Mid-Argyll on 30 May to 6 Jun 2014.**

**All year** The long staying adult male at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* first seen in 2014, but not reported in 2015, was there again from at least 20 Jan until 5 Dec. It was again heard calling (singing) and paired with a Little Grebe with a nest noted on 3 May. A single hybrid young was noted on the 28 Jun and was roughly 2/3 fully grown on 12 Jul and appeared healthy although no observation of it thereafter [David Jardine, Jim Dickson *et al.*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

## **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* or *Jura*. Most records were of one or two birds, with largest numbers: 28 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan, 16 there on 12 Feb, and 10 there on 11 Mar.

**Breeding** Breeding was reported from many sites throughout much of Argyll, often with 2 pairs present rather than just one, while 3 pairs bred successfully on Balnagown Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll*. Eight pairs were located on *Colonsay*. A female was paired with the Pied-billed Grebe on Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* through Mar to Jun.

**Autumn/winter** There were records from all areas of Argyll, including one from *Jura* where 2 at Glas Eilean on 27 Dec. Highest counts were from Eilean Traighe (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* with 19 on 6 Oct, 25 on 22 Nov, and 23 on 14 Dec.

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

**An uncommon winter and passage visitor: with 1-8 records annually since 1984 and recorded in all months except Jun**

**Winter/spring** There were four records: 2 off Ardentinnay *Cowal* on 12 Jan, 1 on 28 Feb and 2 (displaying) on 3 Mar, and 1 bird near Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 13 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** Only one record: 1 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 18 Dec.

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

**RED LIST** A scarce winter and passage visitor: Most records are in Sep-Mar; at least 45 records.

No records.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Counts at the best known sites (Loch Indaal Islay, Loch na Keal Mull and the Sound of Gigha Kintyre) are summarised in Table 12. Elsewhere, the largest count was 6 at Eilean Fada (Loch Caolisport) Mid-Argyll on 29 Jan, while singles were seen at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll and Holy Loch Cowal.

**Autumn/winter** Counts at the three main sites are in Table 12. Elsewhere, singles were seen at Loch Riaghain Tiree on 20 and 21 Nov, and at Loch 'a Phuill Tiree on 11 Dec, while there were 5 at Loch Beg Mull on 11 Dec and 4 in West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 26 Dec.

Table 12. Maximum numbers of Slavonian Grebes counted in 2017 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	23	6	6	11	2	n/r	n/r	n/r	1	17	n/r	4
L. na Keal	n/r	15	37	17	1	1	n/r	n/r	5	n/r	n/r	45
S. of Gigha	18	72	23	2	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	20	n/r	n/r

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

**AMBER LIST** A rare passage migrant and winter visitor: Fourteen records since 1936, with decreasing reports, the last records were in 2003.

No records.

**EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

**AMBER LIST** A rare passage migrant: Twelve records since 1980.

**Spring/summer** One, and perhaps a second bird, were seen over Strachur Cowal on 30 Jun [Clive McKay]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*

**A vagrant:** Four records; one at Vaul, Tiree on 16th May 1997, one near Dalmally, North Argyll on 31 May 2010, one at Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll on 3 May 2014 and one near Machrihanish, Kintyre on 11 May 2016.

No records.

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

**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.**

**Autumn** The only sighting of the year was of one on Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct.

**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.

339 records were received in 2017, a 40% increase since 2016, which reflects the increasing population of this species in Argyll. The majority were from *Islay* and *Mull*, although in the former case this probably reflects the numbers of birders rather than birds present. As in 2016 birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas.

On *Cowal* a sub-ad was at Strachur Bay on 22 Sep and another sub-ad at Lephinmore on 28 Dec. On *Kintyre* an adult was over Machrihanish SBO on 11 Mar; 2 imms were on Sanda on 13 Apr, with one still present on 16 Apr. Another unaged bird was soaring high over Davaar Is, Campbeltown Loch on 17 May. The total sightings reported for the other recording areas increased in most areas: *Coll* (13), *Colonsay* (including *Oronsay*) (10), *Islay* (110) *Jura* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (37), *Mull* (141), *North Argyll* (9) and *Tiree* (7). There were reports of 3 or more birds on 28 occasions [15 in 2016], most of which were on *Mull*, however 5 were on *Jura* on 1 Feb, 4 on *Islay* on 3 Mar, 4 at Lagalochoan (nr Loch Avich) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr and 3 on *Lismore North Argyll* on 1 Sep. 8 were on *Ulva Mull* on 6 May and 7 were over Beinn Talaidh *Mull* on 8 Apr and then nearby at Loch Ba *Mull* on 27 Apr.

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

**Breeding** 34 territories were checked and 33 were occupied by pairs. 27 breeding attempts were monitored; 22 laid eggs and produced 22 large or fledged chicks from 17 successful nests (1.3 young per successful nest, 0.8 young per occupied territory). (R Broad, D Sexton, RSPB Scotland, Argyll RSG).

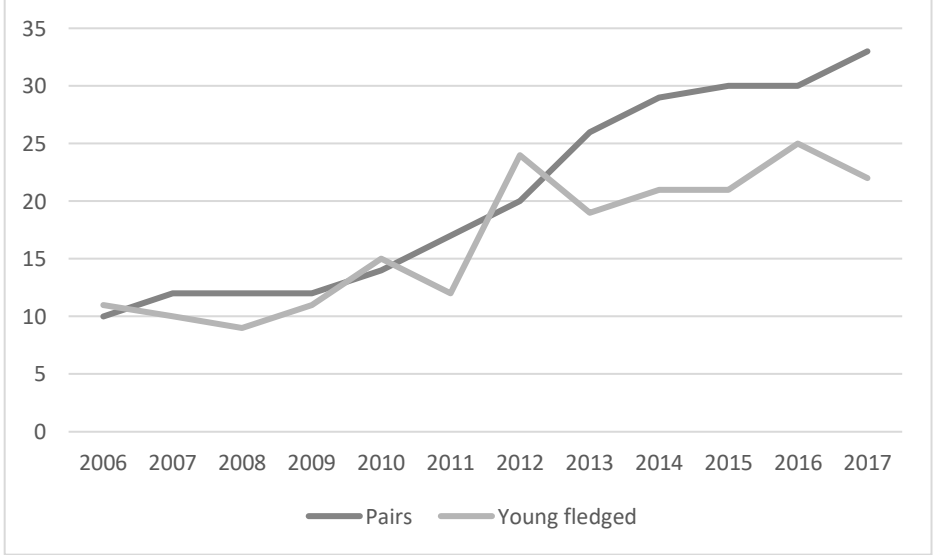


Figure 1: *White-tailed Eagle* – number of breeding pairs and fledged young in Argyll, 2006-2017

# **WESTERN 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/summer** Three migrants were reported; the first was at Loch Gruinart Islay on 1 Apr, followed by a male there on 4 May and a 2CY bird at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 6 May. A 2CY bird was at Ardtun Mull on 27-28 Jun.

**Autumn** A 1CY bird seen around the Add Estuary and Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll on 12-18 Aug was the only record.

# **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.*

There was a slight increase in sightings with around 620 received during the year [580 in 2016], from all Argyll recording areas. On 24 Feb there were 4 FF at Gruinart Islay, and 4MM were there on 15 Jun and then 4 juvs on 27 Jul; however, the maximum count was 6 there on 26 Jun. On Tiree, where it does not breed, 5 were noted on 23 and 28 Aug.

**Roosts** No details of roost counts were received.

**Breeding** Following the National hen harrier Survey in 2016, monitoring returned to a lower level and breeding productivity was lower with only 2.71 young/successful nest [3.15 in 2016].

Table 13. *Outcome of monitored Hen Harrier territories in Argyll in 2017 (ARSG/Paul Haworth).*

Area	Sites checked	Sites occupied	Sites where eggs laid	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min no. large young	Young per successful site
Colonsay	9	4	4	2	0	2	7	3.50
Cowal	17	10*	5	4	1	1	11	2.75
Kintyre	2	1	0	0	0	1	?	?
Mid-Argyll	2	2	2	0	0	2	?	?
Mull	45	30	29	15	9	5	39	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2.71</b>

\* Includes a mixed ad/imm pair and territories with only an adult male and an adult female

# **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.

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

**A sporadic visitor of uncertain status: last confirmed records were at Glen Creran, North Argyll in Jan 2010 and in Mid-Argyll in Apr 2015.**

No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on pages 117).

**EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus* Speireag

*A widespread, resident, breeding species.*

During 2017 birds were reported from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. Regularly seen in gardens where the prey species noted included a Blackbird. One was seen during a sea-watch at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 28 Aug.

**Breeding** 19 sites were checked in 2017 (*Colonsay* 5, *Cowal* 14). 12 sites were occupied (3 on *Colonsay*) at which at least 11 had eggs laid. The outcome was known of 9 breeding attempts; 8 were successful to the large young stage, which had 27 young (ARSG).



**Common Buzzard** *Tiree* September 2017 (Richard Whitson)

**COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

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

During 2017 numerous records were received from all Argyll recording areas. The following counts give some idea of the numbers present: 28 were noted during the goose count on *Tiree* 18/19 Dec [18 in Jan 2016]. 7 were at *Finlaggan Islay* on 10 Mar, 8 at *Loch Tarrant Islay* the following day. 6 at *Eilean Traigh (Loch Etive) Mid-Argyll* on 12 Mar, 6 at *Aird of Kinloch Mull* on 6 May and 5 at *North Dallans North Argyll* on 21 Sep.

**Breeding**

Table 14. Outcome of monitored Common Buzzard territories in Argyll in 2017 (ARSG / I Hopkins). **NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.**

			Sites where breeding proven				
Area	Sites checked	Sites Occupied	Sites failed	Sites successful	Outcome unknown	Number fledged*	Large young per successful site
Colonsay	58	15**	0	5	4	9	1.80
Cowal	8	8	0	7	1	10	1.42
Kintyre	8	7	1	5	1	11	2.20
Mid-Argyll	4	4	0	0	4	?	?
Tiree	13	13	0	0	13	?	?
Bute	39	23***	0	13	7	25	1.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	130	70	1	30	30	55	1.83

\* Large young on last visit assumed to have fledged. \*\*\* Includes 3 sites with single birds.

\*\* Includes 6 sites with a single bird.

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

*A rare visitor: Thirteen records since 1963 and several older reports. Lastest records were on Tiree on 17 Sep 1997 and at Gleann Mor, Islay on 11 and 19 Nov 2014.*

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 from all Argyll recording areas except *Coll* and *Tiree*. 4 were seen together in Glen More *Mull* on 5 Jan, 10 were noted throughout *Jura* on 1 Feb and 6 were at The Oa *Islay* on 27 Aug. Otherwise sightings were of 1-3 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding performance was very slightly better than in 2016, with 45% of monitored territories producing young and the number of young known to have fledged being the highest since 2008.

Table 15. *Golden Eagle Breeding performance by area 2017 (ARSG / RSPB).*

	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
Argyll islands	37	33	20	13	39.39	13	1.0
Mainland	34	29	19	15	51.72	15	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45.16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Table 16. *Golden Eagle Summary Information 2008-2017.*

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
2017	71	62	39	28	45.16	28	1.00
2016	62	60 prs +1	40	27	44.26	27	1.00
2015	105	92	57	18	19.56	18	1.00
2014	71	70	41	20	28.57	20	1.00
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

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

## **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* Iolaire-iasgaich

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

**Spring** Arrival was around two weeks later than 2016 with the first reported at Campbeltown Kintyre on 16 Mar. It was followed by birds at Island Add bridge *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, Bridgend *Islay* on 16 Apr, Victoria Bridge *North Argyll* on 22 Apr and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Apr. The first on *Mull*, at Lochdon, was noted on 28 Apr [a day earlier than 2016], when the first was noted in *Cowal* at Loch Melldalloch.

**Breeding/summer** 26 sites were checked, 14 sites were occupied by pairs and single birds were present at a further four sites. The outcome was unknown at five sites. At least 15 young fledged from 7 nests (average = 2.14 young/successful nest), although 20 large young present in the nest/ringed were assumed to fledge (ARSG/ John Taylor). Birds were reported regularly from *Islay* in May and Jun.

Table 17. *Osprey Summary Information 2008-2017.*

Year	Sites occupied	Sites successful	No. large young	Young per successful site
2017	14 prs + 4 singles	9 (5 outcome unknown)	20	2.22
2016	18 prs+3 singles	10	21*	2.10
2015	17prs+3 singles	10	17	1.70
2014	18	16	34	2.12
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

\* excludes breeding information for one pair where outcome unknown

**Autumn** Departure was also around two weeks later than 2016, with a single at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep the last noted from an inland site; other singles were reported from the Tarbert-Portavadie ferry *Cowal* on 14 Sep, at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 27 Sep and the last at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 29 Sep.

## **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** The only records from the mainland involved 1 at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* and 2 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* in Jan with singles at the latter site in Feb and Mar, plus 1 at Barnakill *Mid-Argyll* beside a Moorhen in Feb. There were more regular reports from the islands with sightings or calling birds on: *Islay* (4 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (sites on Luing and Seil) and *Tiree* where at least 3 birds called regularly from reedbeds at Balephuill.

**Summer/breeding** Birds were heard calling at 7 sites on *Tiree* during the summer. In Apr-Aug, birds were also recorded calling at Ballyhaugh Loch *Coll*, at 2 sites on *Mull*, at 2 sites on *Colonsay*, at 2 sites on *Oronsay Colonsay*, at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* (at least 4 calling birds), at 2 sites in *North Argyll*, at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* and at Gigha Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre*. One calling near the village on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* on 25 Jun-2 Jul was the fourth year birds have

been recorded there by TIARG, and another bird was heard calling below the southern slopes of Cruachan *North Argyll*. There were no confirmed breeding records although an injured juvenile was found at Treshnish *Mull* on 3 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were more widespread with records from Creag an Uisgean (The Oa) *Islay* in Oct, Port-na-Luing *Coll* in Nov, 2 sites on *Oronsay Colonsay* in Sep-Dec including regular records from Oronsay Farm, 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll* including Balvicar Lagoons (Seil) in Sep and Loch Ederline in Nov and 6 sites on *Tiree* including a group of at least 5 birds squealing at Balephuill from Sep through Dec with regular sightings there of up to 2 birds.

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

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

No records.

## **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 has being reversed, although numbers still fluctuate annually.*

**Spring/summer** Three very early calling birds were reported from *Tiree* on 2 Apr, but these may all have referred to mimicry by Starlings, as there were no further records on the island for another 3 weeks. The first confirmed bird was one seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Apr, followed by singles calling at RSPB Totronald *Coll* on 19 Apr, at Hynish *Tiree* and at Gortain *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and on *Iona Mull* on 29 Apr, with calling birds more widespread in May. The overall Argyll total was over 100 birds down on 2016, with a major decline in all the core areas (see Table 18). However, a bumper 3 birds were heard calling most nights on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* in the last week of Jun by TIARG, plus possibly a different male called on one night only from the saddle of Cruachan, Lunga. Unlike in 2016, there were no mainland records. The first brood was noted at Machir Bay *Islay* on 17 Jun and a juvenile was at The Reef *Tiree* on 13 Aug.

**Autumn** The final male birds stopped calling as usual in the first 2 weeks of Aug with the last 2 noted calling at Hough, *Tiree* on 13 Aug and most birds had left by mid-Sep with the last observed at Balemartine *Tiree* on 22 Sep.

**Breeding** Table 18 below summarises the results of surveys of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll in 2017 and shows earlier years for comparison. The reduction in the Argyll totals after 2007-12 is due in part to a re-assessment of the numbers on *Coll*.

Table 18. *Number of calling Corn Crakes in Argyll areas, 2008-2017 (RSPB/ Andy Robinson).*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Coll	118	122	116	121	103	64	91	78	89	49
Tiree	413	392	391	385	371	348	396	333	346	315
Iona	50	46	34	24	31	25	28	32	28	15
Mull	8	2	7	6	2	3	3	3	6	3
Colonsay/ Oronsay	67	61	72	58	71	53	86	55	52	36
Islay	82	84	81	85	86	87	98	102	84	75
Smaller islands*	n/r	2	2	12+**	2	1	4	2	5	4
Mainland		5	3+				2		3	

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>497</b>
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\* 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.

### **COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc-uisge

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

**Winter/spring** Birds were well scattered early in year. On *Tiree* an immature was at Loch a' Phuill in Feb-Mar, an adult was at Heylipol in Mar and another was at Sandaig in Apr. There were no records from *Mull* throughout the year but up to 2 birds were present at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* in Mar-Apr, 7 birds were on pools at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* in Jan and at least 2 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Apr, 1 was at Loch Loskin *Cowal* in Jan and 2 were at Knockdow *Cowal* in Mar, whilst a surprising gathering of 9 birds was at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* in Apr. Records from *Mid-Argyll*, included 1 on the Lusragan Burn, Connel in Jan-Mar, 1 at Loch Barnluasgan in Jan, an adult and an imm at Bellanoch (Crinan Canal) in Feb and 1 at Feorlin in Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Confirmed breeding involved up to 4 pairs with 9 young at Knockdow *Cowal* in Jul, a pair with 1 young on the Crinan *Mid-Argyll* in Sep and a pair with 1 fledged young at Sandaig *Tiree* in Oct. An immature bird at Kilcheran Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* in Aug could have been produced locally, whilst possible/probable breeding pairs were at Killkenneth *Tiree* in Jul, at Ballyhogh Loch *Coll* in May, at Port Charlotte *Islay* in May and at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* in Aug, whilst at least 3 pairs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Birds remained scattered later in the year. On *Islay* at least 4 remained at RSPB Loch Gruinart in Jul-Oct and there were singles at Loch Indaal and at Port Charlotte in Oct-Nov. On *Tiree* there were singles at Balinoe and Cornaigmore in Aug and 3 birds remained at Sandaig in Oct, whilst on *Coll* there were 5 birds at Ballyhough Loch in Oct and up to 2 at the Canal Loch (Breachacha) in Sep-Dec. Elsewhere, 1 was at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct.

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

**A former scarce and irregular breeder and an uncommon winter visitor.**

**Winter/spring** This remains a very scarce bird in Argyll with just two singles recorded at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 12 Jan and at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 29 Jan.

**Summer** One was at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 12 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* (a former regular wintering site) on 30 Sep before moving to Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Oct. Last bird of the year was 1 at Loch Nell *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct.

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

**AMBER LIST A rare visitor: eighteen records; some records of up to three together between 1966-2013. Up to nine individuals were recorded in 2012.**

No records.

### **EURASIAN STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus oediconemus*

**RED LIST A vagrant: One at Loch Gruinart Flats, Islay on 23-24 May 1997.**

No records.

## PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

AMBER LIST A *vagrant: Four records; at Loch Seil, Mid-Argyll in 1936, Mull in 1977 and Kintyre in 1986 and 2002.*

No records.

## EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille-Brighde

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

**Winter/spring** Counts were received on a regular basis throughout the year from 10 sites (see Table 19). Other notable winter records were 79 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 4 Jan, 56 at Ceann Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 47 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 25 Feb. Whole island counts on *Tiree* found 383 on 22 Feb and 310 on 6 Mar. These included four colour-ringed birds from Dublin Bay, and individuals from Pembrokeshire and from Bangor Harbour, N Wales.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding behaviour was noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 9 Mar, but the first inland birds at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* were not until on 2 May and 11 were at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 14 May. The first chicks seen were on 25 May on *Tiree*. 131 pairs were found in a full survey of The Reef *Tiree*, while on *Islay* 8 prs were found at RSPB Gruinart and 24 prs at RSPB Ardnave. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, 10 prs were found on Lunga, 4prs on Sgeir an Eirionnaich, 3prs on Fladda, 2 prs on Sgeir an Caisteal and one pr on Sgeirean na Giusaich. Elsewhere breeding was proved at Blackrock, Traigh an Luig and Bridgend bay (all *Islay*), Otter Ferry, Killail (both *Cowal*), and Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll*. Possible breeding was noted at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* (2 prs) and Eilean Mor *Jura*. Non-breeding flocks of 55 were at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 22 May and 68 at Port Lobh *Colonsay* on 11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Away from the regularly counted sites (Table 19) the larger counts were 210 on *Tiree* on 10 Jul, with 354 flying south in 3 hrs Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Jul and 530 flying south there on 1 Aug. 72 were at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 8 Aug, 227 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 31 Aug, 150 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Sep, 320 Otter at Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 13 Nov and 48 at Calgary *Mull* on 26 Dec.

Table 19. *WEBS monthly counts of Oystercatchers at The Strand (Colonsay), Blairmore Loch Long and Holy Loch (Cowal), Loch Gruinart, Loch Indaal, Gartbreck (Islay), Loch Craignish, Loch Crinan, Loch Gilp, (Mid-Argyll), Loch Creran and Loch Etive (North Argyll) in 2017.*

Lochs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	154	219	232	112	155	145	304	62	265	116	156	147
Indaal	58	51	33	114	63	154	34	53	62	6	6	41
Gartbreck	90	66	50	78	74	50	54		62		52	84
L. Long	82	85	67	41				170	86	76	32	67
Holy L	313	311	163						229	194	461	198
L. Craignish	27	44	45	49	42	15	18	6	4	10	11	4
L. Crinan	12	32	28	32			37		19	34	18	20
L. Gilp	205	228	184	141	104				378	264	468	348
L. Creran	74	61	41	47	19				70	66		15
L. Etive	11	16	54						2		17	25
The Strand	33	74		49	28						43	57

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

**A rare autumn visitor: 22 records; all 2001-2014.**

**Autumn** A juvenile was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Sep [John Bowler, Robin Lyon Sinclair]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

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

**A vagrant: Five records all on Tiree; in Oct 2000, in Aug/Sep 2006, in Oct 2008 in Aug/Sep 2009 and Sep-Oct 2016.**

No records.



**European Golden Plover** *Tiree* April 2017 (Richard Whitson)

## **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** Perhaps surprisingly there were no reports throughout the year from *Jura* and *North Argyll*. The largest numbers were reported from *Tiree* and *Islay* (see Table 20), where a peak count of 9,650 was noted during an all-island count of *Tiree* on 13 Apr; none were seen there during May following a large rapid migration. Larger counts elsewhere included 28 at Aird-Luing (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 100 at Killichronan *Mull* on 14 Jan, 180 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 110 at Fidden *Mull* on 3 Mar, 291 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Mar, 280 at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 14 Apr, 69 at Gleann Cul Bhurg (Iona) *Mull* on 26 Apr and 35 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 1 May.

**Breeding/summer** Family parties were reported on Cruach Mhor *Mid-Argyll*, Beinn Bhearnach South and Beinn Bheag (both *Mull*) and alarm calling from Maol Meadhonach *Mid-Argyll*, Maol nan Damh, Mainnir nam Faidh and Dun da Gaoithe (all *Mull*). Three territories were found at Lochan Breach-liath *Mid-Argyll* and one was on Ben Ime *Cowal* on 25 May.

**Autumn/winter** Five birds were back at Sandaig *Tiree* on 25 Jun, but the numbers reported were low until the autumn when 140 migrants flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep. Other notable counts away from the core wintering areas included 60 at Ruanaich (Iona) *Mull* on 18 Oct, 800 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 12 Nov, 50 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 20 Nov, 219 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Nov and 36 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Dec.

Table 20. *Maximum monthly day-counts of Golden Plovers on Tiree and Gruinart Islay in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	J	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	1200	2710	2450	9650	0	5	150	438	1000	935	3800	3550
Gruinart	1610	850	30	400	570	-	-	-	-	2000	2240	1925

**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** During winter, sightings were largely confined to the southern islands, with 11 at Ardlarach Islay on 14 Jan, 2 at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 8 Feb and one at Loch Gruinart Islay on 22 Feb. The only report elsewhere was of one at Tayinloan Kintyre on 26 Feb.

**Spring** The first firm evidence of spring migration was of 1 at Mannal Tiree on 5 Apr. 4 were at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 30 Apr, a single at Gott Bay Tiree on 2 May, a sum plum individual at Rhunaharoinne Point Kintyre on 9 May and 2 were at Druim Mor Oronsay Colonsay on 12 May. 1-4 lingered at the wintering sites on Islay into May.

**Autumn/winter** The first returning bird in autumn was one flying south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Sep, followed by 3 at Ardlarach Islay on 15 Sep and a juv at Gott Bay Tiree on 18 Sep. 4 were at Loch Indaal Islay on 27 Sep and 2 juvs at Loch a' Phuill Tiree from 30 Sep -1 Oct. Later 5 were at Loch Gruinart Islay on 6 Oct, increasing to 9 there on 4 Nov. 2 more flew south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 17 Oct. In Dec the only sightings were of 4 at Ardlarach Islay on 10 Dec, and singles on Oronsay Colonsay on 15 Dec and at Caolas Tiree on 21 Dec.

**NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus* Curracag

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

**Winter/spring** Large numbers were reported throughout the year at Gruinart Islay and Tiree (see Table 21). Elsewhere notable counts were 19 at Ballure Kintyre on 5 Jan, 65 at Westport Marsh Kintyre on 20 Jan, 120 at Breachacha Coll on 13 Feb, 18 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Feb and 22 at Lagganulva Mull on 22 Feb. The first noted inland was at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 23 Feb and 3 were at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 27 Feb. 30 were at Ballard Coll on 8 May, 30 at Glengorm Mull on 17 May, 10 at Fidden and 10 on Iona (both Mull) on 18 May.

**Breeding** Birds were on eggs and territory on Tiree from mid-Mar. The first broods on Tiree were noted at The Reef on 28 Apr and at Gruinart Islay on 10 May. A full survey at the Reef Tiree found 315 prs. At RSPB Loch Gruinart there were 212 pairs [cf 202 in 2016], 57 pairs were present at RSPB Ardnave and 7 prs at the RSPB Oa reserve (all Islay). 68 pairs were noted on Oronsay Colonsay and 26 pairs were found on Colonsay. Elsewhere breeding was confirmed at Ardbeg Burn and Octomore (both Islay) and Kilchatton (Luing) Mid-Argyll and probable breeding at Breachacha Coll, Westport Marsh and West Tarbert (Gigha) (both Kintyre), S Connel Mid-Argyll and Ardencross Mull.

**Autumn/winter** During the later part of the year notable counts included 160 at Breachacha Coll on 11 Sep, 70 at Kiloran Bay Colonsay on 7 Oct, 31 at Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 23 Oct, 800 at the Laggan Kintyre on 25 Oct, 45 on Oronsay Colonsay on 24 Nov, 97 at Ardlarach Islay on 10 Dec and 500 at Westport Marsh Kintyre on 19 Dec. During the year there were no reports from Jura.

Table 21. *Monthly Maximum counts of Lapwings at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	500	364	187						295	332	700	260
Tiree	2835	2970	1500				710	4060	900		3180	3350

N.B. These counts exclude breeding pairs.

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

**A vagrant: Five records; on Islay in May 1983, May 2013 and May 2016, at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre in Jul 2007 and Jul 2009.**

**Spring** One was on Oronsay Colonsay on 18-19 Apr [Amy Millard, Morgan Vaughan *et al*].

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

**RED 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** Reports throughout the year were received from Tiree, where large counts are regular, and from Gruinart, Bruichladdich-Blackrock, and Gartbreck (all Islay) (see Table 22). 21 were noted on Eorsa (Loch na Keal) Mull on 23 Feb. Spring migration on Tiree peaked with 680 on 5 May, including 500 between Vaul and Caolas. Elsewhere, during migration 69 were at Ardminish Bay (Gigha) Kintyre on 15 Apr, 10 at Lochdon Mull on 24 Apr, 100 at Ardnave Islay on 8 May, 100 at Arnabost Coll on 11 May, 29 at Blackmill Bay (Luing) Mid-Argyll on 13 May, 26 at New Danna Mid-Argyll on 14 May, 42 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 19 May and 100 at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 20 May.

**Breeding** The first hatched young were reported on 15 May at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre; this pair reared a second brood on 27 Jul. 42 prs were noted on the Reef Tiree and on Islay 2 prs bred on the Ardnave RSPB reserve and one on the Gruinart RSPB reserve. Two pairs were confirmed breeding on Iona Mull, and on the Treshnish Isles Mull, 1-2 pairs bred on Lunga and one pair probably bred on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. On Colonsay confirmed breeding was reported at Balnahard Bay, Colonsay Golf Course, An Rubha and Rubha Dubh. 4 were inland at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 12 Mar, with 2 still present there on 9 Apr, suggestive of breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Away from the regularly counted areas notable included 100 at The Strand Colonsay on 10 Jul, 24 at Dalrannoch North Argyll on 4 Aug, 40 at Breachacha Coll on 14 Aug, 39 at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 20 Aug, 150 at Bridgend Islay on 30 Aug, 100 at Otter Ferry Spit Cowal on 20 Sep, with 100 there on 24 Oct. 70 flew south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 25 Sep and migration continued late into the year with 50 flying south there on 7 Nov. Towards the end of the year 73 were at Bridgend Islay on 30 Oct, 11 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 21 Nov, 31 at Killiechronan Mull on 10 Dec, 20 at Glas Eilean Jura on 27 Dec and 26 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 27 Dec.

Table 22. *Maximum monthly day-counts of Ringed Plovers on Tiree, Gruinart, Bruichladdich-Blackrock and Gartbreck (all Islay) in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	160	140	130	210	680	84	15	140	152	225	308	195
Gruinart	40	82	5	3	179	8	2		409	147	49	21
Bruichladdich - Blackrock	62	60	24	31	43	88	31	51	106	33	26	22
Gartbreck	2	2	11	19	91	20	5		19	25	26	22

### **KILLDEER** *Charadrius vociferus*

**A North American vagrant: Three records; on Colonsay in Jan 1984, Oronsay, Colonsay in Oct 2006 and Islay in Jan 2011.**

No records.

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mòintich

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

**Spring** The only migrant noted was one on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May.

**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/spring** One was at Ardlussa Bay *Jura* on 30 Jan, and presumably the same bird was at Lussagiven *Jura* on 1 Feb. It is not clear whether one at MacDougall's Bay *Jura* on 16 Mar was this bird or a migrant, but the first clear migrants were 2 at Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Mar and 1 at Lochdon *Mull* on 29 Mar. Larger numbers were not noted until late Apr, when 20 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, 22 at Corran View *Mull* on 22 Apr, 32 at Greenhill machair *Tiree* on 23 Apr and 80 Blackpark *Islay* on 26 Apr. Good numbers continued in early May, with most birds moving through by mid-month: 22 were at Lagganulva *Mull* on 1 May, 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May, 50 at Blackrock *Islay* on 2 May, 42 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 May, 56 at Salum cross-roads *Tiree* on 3 May, 24 at Caolas Dunes *Coll* on 4 May, 100 at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 May, 40 at Fidden *Mull* on 10 & 11 May, 8 at Blackmill Bay (Luìng) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 May and 38 at Saligo *Islay* on 13 May. 2 at Ardtur *North Argyll* on 25 Apr and one at Otter Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 24 May, were notable for this species which is scarce in these parts of Argyll.

**Summer** There were a few reports in Jun: 1 at Ardfin *Jura* on 8 Jun, 5 at Arinagour *Coll* on 12 Jun and 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 & 25 Jun, and 1 was at The Ringing Stone *Tiree* on 6 Jul.

**Autumn** Most sightings in autumn were of 1-3 birds from late Jul to mid-Sep; 1 flying south on 15 Jul at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was the first returning bird. Larger groups noted included 18 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Aug, 6 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 10 flying west at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, 60 in off the sea at The Green *Tiree* on 1 Sep and 14 Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep. One was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Oct, may have been the same bird as one at Ardentinny *Cowal* on 24 Oct, followed by the last at Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct.

**EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

**RED LIST** *An increasingly rare breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter. All breeding records of this declining species are welcome.*

**Winter/spring** Regular counts were received throughout the year from Loch Gruinart and Gartbreck (both *Islay*), Holy Loch *Cowal*, Loch Creran, Loch Crinan, Loch Gilp and Loch Etive (all *Mid-Argyll*) (see Table 23). Other interesting reports during winter were 102 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Jan, 80 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 28 Jan, 41 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 14 Feb and 20 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 19 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** 18 pairs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* [16 in 2016]. Confirmed breeding was reported from Linne nan Clach Glas *Islay*, and Alain Abhainn Lirein, Gleann Lirein, Allt a' Chonnaidh, Strath Bearnach, Loch Bearnach, An Eiligeir and Cnoc nan Tobhaichean (all *Mull*). 6 pairs were present at Sior Loch *Mid-Argyll*. Small numbers of non-breeding birds were seen on other islands during the summer e.g. 14 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 6 Jun, later there were 65 at Gartmain *Islay* on 19 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Post breeding flocks of 157 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 2 Aug, 65 at Dalrannach *North Argyll* on 4 Aug, and 251 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 31 Aug. Elsewhere 87 were at Loch

Riddon Cowal on 19 Sep, 125 on Tiree on 28 Sep, 100 at Carnain Islay on 3 Oct, 35 at The Strand Colonsay on 13 Oct, 50 at Otter Ferry Spit Cowal on 24 Oct, 49 at Breachacha Coll on 9 Nov and 50 at Loch Laich North Argyll on 9 Nov.

Table 23. *Monthly WEBS counts of Curlews at Loch Gruinart and Gartbreck (Islay), Holy Loch (Cowal), Loch Creran, Loch Crinan and Loch Gilp (Mid-Argyll), and Loch Etive (North Argyll) in 2017.*

<i>Loch</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	106	117	102	54	11	11	177	294	197	259	193	112
Gartbreck	57	53	76	13	9	9	65		55		38	111
Holy L	125	131	137						103	83	95	101
Creran	35	44	15	20	1				17	19		12
Crinan	26	71	16	8			47		51	26	13	36
Gilp	39	47	20	23					24	12	26	19
Etive	2	25	20						8	17	35	29

### **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).*

**Spring** There were no winter records; nor were there any records throughout the year from Jura and North Argyll. The first migrants were 18 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 5 Apr, followed by 1 at Ardlarach Islay on 9 Apr. Later in the month numbers increased with weather conditions which were adverse for onward migration with 45 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 20 Apr, 100 at Lochdon Mull on 21 Apr and 40 on Oronsay Colonsay on 21 Apr. However, it was on Tiree where the largest flocks were found; 693 were there on 24 Apr rising to 2,270 the following day, including 15 colour-ringed birds. This is a record count for Scotland and included 1,750 at Kilmoluaig. Many had departed the following day with only 722 still present. 300 were at Ardnave Islay on 26 Apr and 270 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 27 Apr. The last spring migrant was one at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 26 May.

**Summer** 28 were at Ardnave Point Islay on 6 Jun and 40 at Carnain Islay on 29 Jun, followed by 19 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 9 Jul.

**Autumn** 7 were seen flying south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 11 Jul and 4 on Oronsay Colonsay on 29 Jul, but it was not until Aug that larger numbers of migrants were noted. 5 ads were at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 11 Aug, 60 were on Tiree on 21 Aug, rising to 86 on 29 Aug and then 82 on 5 Sep. Elsewhere, 41 were at The Laggan Kintyre on 22 Aug, 21 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 30 Aug, 8 at Totronald Coll on 1 Sep, 9 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 12 Sep and then 50 at Loch Indaal Islay on 18 Sep. Only small nos. were seen in Oct, with 5 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 31 Oct and 2 there on 29 Nov the last noted.

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

**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** Away from Islay, where large numbers were seen and counted regularly (see Table 24), smaller numbers were noted elsewhere: 27 were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 14 Jan, 16 at Sorobaiddh Bay Tiree on 20 Jan, 14 at Killail Cowal on 10 Feb, 5 at Loch na Cille Mid-Argyll on

12 Feb, 21 on *Tiree* on 6 Mar, 21 *Lochdon Mull* on 29 Mar, 67 at *Ardnave Islay* on 5 Apr and 42 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 12 May.

**Summer** On *Islay* 28 were at *Ardnave* on 6 Jun, while 4, including one in full summer plumage, were at *Soa Point Tiree* on 28 Jun and 4 summering birds were at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The peak counts were again on *Islay* (Table 24), with smaller numbers reported in other areas: 1 at *Breachacha Coll* on 10 Sep, 8 flying south at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 12 Sep, 11 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 27 Sep, 11 on *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 6 at *Otter Ferry Spit Cowal* on 31 Oct, 4 at *Loch Laich North-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 14 at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec and 5 at *Aros Estuary Mull* on 23 Dec. Two 1CY birds with leg-flags on *Tiree* in Sep and Oct had been marked at *Makkevika, More & Romsdal Norway* in the previous month.

Table 24. *Maximum monthly counts of Bar-tailed Godwits at Loch Gruinart and Loch Indaal Islay in 2017.*

<i>Lochs</i>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	39	142	106	170	147	26	35	7	30	106	67	97
Indaal	40	127	234		65	65	70	41	130	40	50	5

## **RUDDY 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 received throughout the year from *Oronsay Colonsay*, *Dunoon Cowal*, *Loch Gruinart Islay* and *Tiree* (see Table 25). Other counts during winter included 23 at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, 21 at *Bruichladdich Islay* on 13 Feb, 22 at the *Holy Loch Cowal* on 15 Feb and 45 *Loch na Keal Mull* on 22 Mar. During spring passage 15 were at *Loch Creran North Argyll* on 8 Apr, 7 at *Ardminish Bay (Gigha) Kintyre* on 15 Apr, 43 at *Garmony Point Mull* on 22 Apr, 2 on *Eilean Mor Jura* on 5 May and 27 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 25 May.

**Summer** Only modest numbers were noted during Jun and Jul: singles at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 1 Jun, *Vaul Tiree* on 2 Jun, *Salen Mull* on 11 Jun and *Ardlarach Islay* on the same day. 15 were at *Killail Cowal* on 9 Jun and 1 was at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 9 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn arrivals were noted in late Jul, when 55 flew south at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 28 Jul, 6 were on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 29 Jul, the first 6 back on *Tiree* were at *Gott Bay* on 30 Jul, when there were also at least 50 at *Otter Ferry Spit Cowal*. Numbers built up there with 100 on 20 Sep & 24 Oct. 70 were at *Campbeltown Loch Kintyre* on 24 Sep, with 94 there on 8 Oct. Elsewhere 35 were at *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 2 at *Breachacha Coll* on 9 Nov, 14 in *Oban harbour Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 36 at *Knock Mull* on 22 Dec and 26 at *Ardfin Jura* on 27 Dec.

Table 25. *Maximum monthly counts of Turnstones at Loch Gruinart (Islay), Oronsay (Colonsay), Dunoon (Cowal) and Tiree in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	8	30	15	2					9	65	48	48
Oronsay	30	1	2	10			6		26	3		
Tiree	95	60	153	220	35	2	6	107	85	45	30	45
Dunoon	38		17									51

**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** Numbers were relatively low in mid-winter with 12 at Blackrock, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Jan, 14 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan and 5 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan the largest groups noted. 48 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Mar and 32 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 13 Mar. The spring migration was light with 1 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 30 Apr, 1-2 on *Tiree* between 25 Apr and 5 Jun and a peak count at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* of 9 flying north on 19 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first autumn migrants were 4 at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Jun, and the first at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were 3 flying south on 8 Jul [2 Aug in 2016]. 8 were at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul and singles at The Strand *Colonsay* on 18 Aug and Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 23 Aug. Migration increased in Sep, with 4 juvs on *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 1 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 7 Sep, when 10 flew south past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, then 15 flew south there on 10 Sep. On 23 Oct 12, were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* and 50 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Later 42 were at Killail *Cowal* on 23 Nov and 40 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 10 Dec.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan

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

**Spring** During spring migration the first was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 May, followed by 1 at Mannal *Tiree* the following day. The *Islay* bird, or another, lingered there until 25 May.

**Breeding** Five males and a female were present at the same site as 2016 from late-May to mid-Jun. Display was noted from late May to mid-Jun and while juveniles were seen in this area in mid-Aug the possibility of passage birds cannot be ruled out.

**Autumn/winter** Migrants were noted from late-Jul when 3 were at Ardlarach *Islay* on 23 Jul and small numbers were seen during Aug. However, passage peaked in late Sep when 20 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Sep and 33 were also on *Tiree*, including 22 at Hough. 18 were still at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Oct, when there were on 3 at Scarinish *Tiree*. The only sightings elsewhere were 6 at Breachacha *Coll* on 11 Sep, with 3 still there on 28 Sep and singles on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 & 15 Sep, and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep. A single was reported at Gruinart *Islay* on 4 & 5 Nov, with 2 there on 10 Dec the last reported.

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

*A vagrant: Two records both on Tiree; one in May 1994 and one in May/June 2005.*

No records.

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

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

**Spring** All the spring records were on *Tiree*, where a red bird was seen at Gott Bay on 2 Jun, followed by singles at Loch a' Phuill on 5 and 22 Jun.

**Autumn** Numbers were well down on the excellent passage in 2016. A 1CY (juv) bird was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, was the first noted. Another 1CY was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 5-7 Sep and 2 1CY's were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Sep. A 1CY was at Aird Luig (Luig) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep. 1 past Machrihanish SBO on 17 Sep was the only record from *Kintyre*, while on *Islay* 1 was at Machir Bay on 20 Sep and 2 at Loch Gruinart on 29 Sep were the last noted.

## TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

**RED LIST** A rare passage migrant: Five records; one at Machrihanish, Kintyre in Jul 1974, one at Fidden, Mull in Sep 1985, one at An Fhaodhail, Tiree in Aug 1992, one at Loch Gruinart, Islay in May 2000 and one at RSPB Loch Gruinart, Islay on 22-23 May 2014.

No records.

## SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan-glas

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

**Winter** Tiree remained the stronghold of this species (see Table 26); no records were received from Jura. Other than Tiree, 72 were reported at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Feb, 40 at The Strand Colonsay on 14 Feb and 60 flew south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 14 Mar.

**Spring** Spring migration counts on Tiree peaked at 2,115 on 17 May, when 1,700 were at Gott Bay; it was protracted there with 130 being seen on 3 Jun and the last 31 on 12 Jun. Elsewhere, 4 were at Rhunahaorine Pt Kintyre on 9 May and 2 at Toward Point Cowal on 11 May (the only record during the year from Cowal). 40 were at Crossapol Coll on 17 May, 120 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 13 May, 80 at Ardnave Islay on 30 May and one at Benderloch North Argyll on 30 May (the only record during the year from North Argyll).

**Autumn** Six at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 9 Jul were the first noted in autumn, followed by 1 at Gott Bay Tiree on 10 July. At Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, 30 flew south on 30 Jul, 70 on 25 Aug and 170 on 17 Oct. On Tiree, the proportion of juvs peaked at 18% on 11 Sep, declining to 12% on 25 Sep and 6-8% during Oct. Elsewhere, 5 were at Breachacha Coll on 23 Aug, 120 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 30 Aug and 40 at The Strand Colonsay on 13 Sep.

**Winter** There were 8 wintering colour-ringed/flagged individuals on Tiree from Iceland, one of which was ringed in 2010. Away from there, notable counts were 70 flying south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 7 Nov, 105 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 11 Dec and 11 at the Laggan Estuary Islay on 28 Dec.

Table 26. Maximum monthly counts of Sanderlings on Tiree in 2017. Counts from Tiree are not always of the whole island.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tiree	280	326	398	436	2,115	130	263	404	424	402	514	140

## DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Graillig

**AMBER 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 undertaken at two sites on Islay and on Tiree, where the largest concentrations occur (Table 27). Numbers elsewhere during winter were generally low with 31 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 11 Feb notable. The spring migration peak on Tiree reached 2,580 on 2 May, slightly earlier than elsewhere, although 280 were on Oronsay Colonsay on 1 May. Other large spring counts included 30 at Lochdon Mull on 6 May, 350 at Ardnave Islay on 8 May, 40 at Arnabost Coll on 11 May, 1,510 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 12 May, 210 Bridgend Merse Islay on 13 May, 65 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 13 May and 187 at Ardlarach Islay on 14 May.

**Breeding/summer** It was a slightly poorer breeding season at The Reef (wetland compartments) Tiree where 46 singing males were found [51 on 2016]. Three pairs were breeding at RSPB Loch

Gruinart *Islay* and 7 prs were at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*. 8 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 14 May may have been local breeders.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn passage was first noted when a returning adult was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Jun and 110 flew south there on 25 Jul, while during Aug 323 were noted flying south on 7 dates. 47 were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug and 200 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 30 Aug. 50 at Otter Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 13 Nov was the largest count elsewhere towards the year end. Throughout the year no records were received from *Jura*.

Table 27. *Maximum monthly counts of Dunlin at Loch Gruinart Islay and on Tiree in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	340	91	65		1,510	5	200	620	512	1	6	256
Tiree	135	105	85	130	2,580	15	18	105	43	40	35	65

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

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

**Winter/spring** During winter, the maximum counts of wintering birds were 28 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 2 Jan, 2 at Duncuan Is Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 10 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 16 Jan, 12 at Hynish *Tiree* on 17 Jan, 1+ at Laine Sgeirr *Mull* on 19 Jan and 40 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 10 Feb. Later in the spring migrants were reported from a wide range of sites: 10 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Apr, 15 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 24 Apr, 22 on Staffa *Mull* on 5 May, 1 on Eilean Mor *Jura* on 6 May, 6 at Gunna Is *Coll* on 13 May and 1 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 26 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first autumn record was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* were 2 on 29 Sep [29 Sep in 2016]. No more were reported until 1 was at Cornaig Bay *Tiree* on 3 Oct. The main migration however, was not until later when 20 flew south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Oct and 42 past on 5 Nov. Numbers reported towards the year end were low: 6 were at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 7 Nov, 7 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 12 Dec and 23 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 18 Dec. During the year, there were no reports from *Colonsay* or *North Argyll*.

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

**A vagrant: Ten records; four on Islay (in Jun 1979, Sep 1999, Sep 2005 and Sep 2011), five on Tiree (in May/Jun 2007, Sep 2009, Sep 2011, Sep 2013 and Sep 2015) and one at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Sep 2008.**

No records.

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

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

**Spring** The first bird was one found at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 29 May with Sanderling; it, or another was reported with a Dunlin at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 and 5 Jun.

**Autumn** The first of the autumn was a 1CY (juv) at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Sep, which was followed by 2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* the following day and a 1CY at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 11 Sep. Later one was on Traigh a Mhachaire *Islay* on 26 Sep, a 1CY at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 6 Oct, and 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Oct was the last reported.

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

*A vagrant: Six records of singles; on Islay in Aug 2000 and Oct 2005 and on Tiree in Aug and Sep 2011, Aug 2012 and Aug 2014.*

No records.

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

*A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor: 36 records of up to 48 birds since the first in 1971.*

*Autumn* A juvenile was at Greenhill Tiree on 6 Sep [Keith Gillon] and 2 juvs were at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 11 Sep [John Bowler]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

*(See list of rejected, pending etc. records on pages 117).*

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

*A scarce mainly autumn visitor: At least 54 records.*

*Summer* A 2CY+ was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 1 Jun and another at Loch a' Phuill on 6 Aug was judged to be a different individual [John Bowler].

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

*A vagrant: Six records (nine birds); two each on Tiree in Sep 1999 and Sep 2016 and Islay in Sep 1999, and singles on Tiree in Sep 2012 and Sep 2013, and on the Isle of Luing, Mid-Argyll in Sep 2013.*

No records.

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

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

*Spring/summer* One was at sea between Iona and Staffa Mull on 22 Jun [Ashley Saunders *et al*].

*Breeding* Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 20 May and 20 Jul. Up to 23 birds were present during Jun - Jul with up to 10 nesting males.

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

*Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring none in Apr-May, single records in Jun and Jul.*

*Autumn* Five records of six birds. The first noted was 1 flying west past Aird Tiree on 11 Sep, and another went south-west past Hynish Tiree on 23 Sep. 2 flew south past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in a NW gale on 2 Oct and 1 flew west off Aird Tiree on the same day. The last noted was 1 flying south at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 5 Oct.

### **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 record was of 1 on 3 Mar at Loch nan Torran Mid-Argyll, but there were no further reports until 3 Apr at Aoradh Islay. First records from other regions were at Loch Beg Mull on 8 Apr, Claonaig Bay Kintyre on 12 Apr, Port Appin North Argyll on 16 Apr, Riasg Buidhe Colonsay on 21 Apr, Loch Striven Cowal on 28 Apr, Balevuillin Tiree on 30 Apr and Loch Eatharna Coll on 9 May. Most records in spring were of 1-2 birds, but 16 were at Loch Ba Mull on 1 May, 11 at Loch Kinnabus Islay on 10 May, 11 at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 14 May and 10 at Loch na Keal Mull on 19 Jun.

*Breeding/summer* Breeding was confirmed at An Rubha Colonsay, Black Rock and Machir Bay (both Islay), and Kilmartin and Loch a' Bharain (both Mid-Argyll). 12 prs were noted at The Oa

*Islay* on 10 May and on *Colonsay* 25 Ters. were found [22 Ters. in 2016]. On the Treshnish Is *Mull*, single breeding pairs were noted on Lunga and Fladda. One pair was present at Cruachan Power Station *North Argyll*. It was a bumper year on *Tiree* where 4 Ters. were noted including at Mannal, Milton and West Hynish.

**Autumn** There were no reports of larger post-breeding /migrating groups in Jun/Jul. A total of 165 were recorded moving south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* between 2 Jul and 11 Aug [175 in 2016], with peak daily counts of 18 on 9 Jul, 19 on 24 Jul. The last noted on *Tiree* was at Balinoe on 19 Aug. There were only four records during Sep when singles were at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 2 Sep, Salen Bay *Mull* on 4 Sep, Brenfield Point *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep, with the last at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Sep.

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

**A vagrant:** *Three records; at Loch Indaal, Islay in Jun 1984, at Heylipol, Tiree in Aug 2009 and Balephetrish, Tiree in Aug 2016.*

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** There was a single spring record of 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 May.

**Autumn** The only autumn record was of 1 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug.

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

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce passage migrant, almost annual in autumn.*

No records.

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

**A vagrant:** *Two records; on Islay, in Oct 1985 and May 2002.*

No records.

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

**AMBER LIST** *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** A total of at least 26 different wintering birds were found during Jan. 1 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Jan, 1 at Arinagour *Coll* on 4 Feb, 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Jan, 1 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 5 Jan, 3 at Ardenacple *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb and 3 at Caol Scottish *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb, 6 at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 26 Jan and 3 at Loch Laich *North-Argyll* on 17 Feb were the largest groups in the areas where they were reported.

**Spring** The first on *Tiree* was at Loch a' Phuill on 18 Apr [14 Apr in 2016]. Singles were reported in several locations during Apr and May on *Islay* and *Mull* and 6 were at West Carrabus *Islay* on 26 Mar, with 3 late birds at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun.

**Breeding/summer** Five were reported close to a breeding site in *North Argyll* on 9 Apr and 2 were in the same area on 14 May.

**Autumn/winter** The first migrants noted were 2 in off the sea at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Jul [30 Jun in 2016], 6 were at Salen Bay *Mull* on 7 Jul and 1 was seen passing at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 19 Jul. During Jul numbers increased with 5 on *Tiree* on 30 Jul. Sightings of 1-2 were regular from the islands later in the autumn, including 1 at Ben Feall *Coll* on 1 Aug and

another at Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 23 Aug. Elsewhere, 7 were at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 15 Aug, 3 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug, 6 at Ardencaple (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep and 6 Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Oct. During Nov-Dec, at least 20 wintering birds were reported from *Colonsay* (5 on the Strand on 12 Dec), *Islay* (6 at Loch Gruinart on 17 Nov), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3+), *Mull* (max 5 at Loch Cuin on 11 Nov) and *North Argyll* (1). There were no records throughout the year from *Cowal* or *Jura*.

### LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

**A vagrant:** *Nine records; at North Argyll in 1951, Mid-Argyll in Oct 2000, Islay in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2016 Islay, Colonsay in Sep 2005 and Tiree in Oct 2011 and Oct 2015.*

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** Three were noted in spring, 1 was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 May, another at Kilmoulaig *Tiree* on 10 May, followed by 1 at Aros *Mull* on 26 May.

**Autumn** Four reports of singles. A 1CY (juv) was at Milton *Tiree* on 28-30 Jul, at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 5 Aug, a 1CY at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 28 Aug and at Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Sep.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Regular counts were made at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and on *Tiree* (Table 28). Slightly higher numbers were reported during winter than in 2016, with 30 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 12 at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 12 Feb, 64 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Feb, 17 at Loch Crinan *Cowal* on 12 Mar, 16 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 2 Apr and 10 at Ardmish Bay (Gigha) *Kintyre* on 15 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Most breeding populations had slight increases since last year. 55 pairs were noted in the wetland compartments at the Reef *Tiree* [42 in 2016]. 6 Ters. were found on *Colonsay* [10 in 2016] and 16 pairs on Oronsay *Colonsay* [17 in 2016]. 141 pairs were noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* [134 pairs in 2016] and 17 pairs at RSPB Ardnave and one pair at The Oa (both *Islay*). At least 3 pairs were found with young at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* and display was noted at Breachacha *Coll*. The first young were seen on 19 May at Miodar *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Autumn migration was noted from 6 Jul when 19 flew south at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, where 375 were recorded flying south that month including 136 in 36hrs on 26 Jul. 402 flew south there in Aug, with 126 past on 4 Aug and 100 on 25 Aug. 28 were at Otter Ferry Spit *Cowal* on 6 Aug, 27 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug, 17 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 9 Sep and 64 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Sep. Later in the year 16 were at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 9 Nov, 35 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 48 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 2 Dec, 10 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 10 Dec, 12 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 12 Dec and one at Feolin on 27 Dec, the only record during the year from *Jura*.

Table 28. *Maximum monthly counts of Redshanks at Loch Gruinart (Islay), and on Tiree in 2017.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	23	53	30	77	26	27	37		76	21	51	46
Tiree	1	25		104	98	135	12	59	32	28		1

**JACK SNIPE** *Limnocyptes 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** Only five were reported in spring. Singles were at Callich Point *Mull* on 19 Jan, The Oa *Islay* on 23 Jan, Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jan, at Traigh an Luig *Islay* on 18 Mar and on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Mar.

**Winter** Highest count was of 5 at Caliach *Mull* on 2 Nov, otherwise singles at Baugh *Tiree* on 5 Oct (first autumn report), at the Reef *Tiree* on 17 Oct and 11 Dec, at Ardtalla *Islay* on 22 Oct, at Culbuie *Islay* on 23 Oct, at Ardlarach (Luig) *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct and on *Colonsay* on 3 Nov.

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

*A vagrant: Three records; on Islay in June 1986, Apr 2009 and May 2013. There are also four acceptable records (1891-2009) of unidentified to species (Long or Short-billed).*

No records.

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

**RED 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.*

*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 2007-11).*

**Winter/spring** The first record of the year was of 3 at Airleod *Coll* on 3 Jan, with most records early in the year of 1-2 birds including one at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 22 Jan. Late in the month higher numbers were reported from *Islay* with 40 at An Curran on 27 Jan, 100 at Carn Mor Laphroaig on 28 Jan and 40 at Octomore on 31 Jan. 6 were on *Colonsay* on 11 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** An adult with b/4 was found at Kildalton *Islay* on 2 May. Roding birds were reported at Arderachanmor *Cowal* on 7 Jul, Bridgend *Islay*, Craignure and West Ardhru (both *Mull*). At Colonsay House *Colonsay*, there were 8 registrations in 75 minutes during the national Woodcock Survey on 2 May [cf 15 in 2016] and 16 and 21 registrations on 24 May and 14 Jun respectively. By comparison, a similar survey in Knapdale Forest *Mid-Argyll* had no registrations on 14 May, 3 on 31 May and none on 30 Jun. Other breeding season records were from Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* and the head of Loch Creran *North Argyll*. Other Jul records were from Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Jul and Ardchoirk *Mull* on 24 Jul. There were no reports in Aug or Sep.

**Autumn/winter** The first report in autumn was of one at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 15 Oct [a week later than 2016]; there were no further records until singles at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* and Lealt *Jura* on 25 Oct. Records of 1-2 birds were widespread to the end of the year with the following more notable records; one at Druim Buidhe *Coll* on 7 Nov, 4 at Octomore *Islay* on 14 Nov and 8 at Braevallich *Mid Argyll* on 17 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 winter most sightings were of fewer than 5 birds on the islands. 9 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 28 Jan and 34 at Cuin (Dervaig) *Mull* on 15 Feb were notable. 45 in small groups on the Reef *Tiree* on 28 Apr were thought to be migrants.

**Breeding/summer** A nest (c/4) was found at Lothead (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. Drumming was noted on *Tiree* from 18 Mar. Drumming was also reported at Ballard and Breachacha Castle (both *Coll*), Glendaruel (4 birds) *Cowal*, the Add Estuary, Connel, Poltalloch

and Ulva lagoons (all *Mid-Argyll*). Breeding was confirmed at the Reef *Tiree*, where there were 142 displaying birds in the wetland compartments during May [80 in 2016] and an increase was also reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* to 64 displaying males [from 48 in 2016]. 13 displaying birds were found at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* and at least 9 breeding pairs were noted on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* and 6 birds, including 2 chicks were found on Fladda (Treshnish Isles) on 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** The largest wisps recorded in the autumn were on *Tiree* where 100 were at Vaul on 2 Sep, 80 at Sandaig on 7 Sep, 60 there on 21 Sep and 120 on 21 Oct, and 50 at Loch Bhasapol on 16 Sep. 25 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep, with 80 there on 14 Oct. 12 were at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 23 Oct. Later in the year counts were much lower with 11 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Dec and 8 at Glenastle *Islay* on 11 Dec the highest counts.

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

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

**Spring** One 'pale-phase' was off SW Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May, and 1 off NW *Tiree* on 17 May.

**Autumn** Sixteen reports involving 19 birds between 19 Aug-16 Nov: On *Islay* 1 was off Frenchman's Rocks on 25 Oct. In *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO 1 on 19 Aug, 2 on 8 Sep, 1 on 11 Sep, 1 on 3 Oct, 3 on 17 Oct and 1 on 28 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was off Point of Knap on 18 Oct. On *Mull* 1 was at Caliach Point on 3 Aug. On *Tiree* singles were off Aird (north coast) on 9 and 11 Sep, 5 between 2 and 17 Oct and 1 on 16 Nov.

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

**RED LIST** *Previously the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies, this species has become scarce. The small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll have been in serious decline in recent years. Passage birds can be widespread in spring and especially autumn, but variable in numbers from year to year.*

**Spring** The first bird was seen off Hynish *Tiree* on 15 May, a relatively late date for spring arrival. 1 or 2 birds were seen on various dates during late-May to Jul off *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. Two-thirds of the birds where colour phase was reported were dark phase, suggesting that these birds were from the local population rather than migrants to Arctic regions.

**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*. In view of the rapid decline in breeding numbers at Argyll colonies, it would be good to know if any are still breeding in Argyll.

**Autumn** Small numbers were seen off *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* but especially *Tiree* in Aug-Oct. About half of the autumn birds where phase was reported were pale phase, suggesting presence of more birds from higher latitude than in spring. The peak count was 8 (4 pale, 4 dark) off Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 5 Oct. The last record of the autumn was 1 off Vaul *Tiree* on 25 Oct.

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

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

**Autumn** An adult flew E past Ardmores Point *Mull* on 16 Sep. A juv flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Sep. A juv flew W past Aird *Tiree* on 17 Oct [John Bowler]. Records submitted (for immatures) were accepted by the ABRC.

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

**AMBER LIST** *Previously an uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing summer visitor which now breeds or holds territory in very small numbers on: Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Staffa.*

**Winter/spring** The first spring records were 1 between *Coll* and *Mull* on 4 Apr and 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Apr. There were then reports for many dates from 12 Apr through to autumn, but primarily from breeding sites, as all reports were from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull*, or *Tiree* or from ferries travelling to/from those islands.

**Breeding** TIARG recorded 4 AOTs on *Lunga*, 4 on *Fladda* and probably several on *Bac Mor* (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. At least one pair bred on *Colonsay*, and two pairs on *Oronsay Colonsay*. Three pairs held territory on *Tiree* and at least one bred successfully. No data were received on the current breeding status at *Coll*, *Islay*, *Staffa Mull*, or *Iona Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Small numbers (mostly single birds) were seen on passage on most days Aug to Oct from a variety of coastal sites but especially *Tiree*. The peak counts were 10 off *Aird Tiree* in 1 hr on 19 Aug, 25 off *Aird Tiree* on 11 Sep and 33 there on 2 Oct. The last records of the year were 1 passing *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 9 Nov, 1 off *Aird Tiree* on 7 Dec, and 1 off *Duntrune Castle (Loch Crinan) Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec.

## **ATLANTIC PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid

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

**Winter/spring** There were only a handful of sightings in Jan-Apr, all off *Coll*, *Islay*, *Jura*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Reports increased during May from these same areas plus one record from *Mid-Argyll*.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, the estimated breeding population was 3,349 Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOBs) on *Lunga* plus *Sgeir a' Chaisteil*, the highest estimate since 2004. There were 200 near *Fingal's Cave (Staffa) Mull* on 8 May.

**Autumn/winter** Puffins disperse rapidly in late Jul and early Aug. In 2017, only one was seen after 31 Jul: 1 off *Hynish Tiree* on 16 Aug.

## **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 MPA.*

**Winter/spring** Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers. Larger counts included: 18 at *Hynish Tiree* on 25 Jan, 21 in the Sound of *Islay Islay* on 4 Feb, 11 in *Cornaig Bay Tiree* on 22 Feb, 47 seen from the *Kennacraig Kintyre to Islay* ferry on 26 Feb, 181 around the *Sanda Islands Kintyre* on 2 Apr, 20 at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 7 Apr, 16 at inner *Loch Indaal Islay* on 9 Apr, 10 at *Inveraray Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, 14 in *Oban Bay Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr, 18 at *Druim Mor (Oban) Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr, and 20 at *Caol Ila Islay* on 30 Apr. Because Black Guillemots are believed to 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. Black Guillemots are highly susceptible to mammalian predators such as mink and rats, so tend to avoid breeding in areas accessible to these predators. However, they will use artificial sites. At least 3 pairs nested in nest boxes on the tern rafts at *South Shian (Loch Creran) North Argyll*, and several pairs bred in drainage pipes along the *Oban Mid-Argyll* waterfront. (see paper on page 119)

**Autumn/winter** Birds were widely distributed along Argyll coasts in small numbers, with no reports of groups exceeding 12 birds.

## **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** Relatively small numbers (mostly groups of fewer than 30 birds) were reported in Jan, off *Coll, Islay, Kintyre* and *Tiree*. Numbers increased in Feb, and further in Mar, although only in the same areas. On 7 Apr there were 400 feeding off the coast at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*. On 12 Apr, 210 flew past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 3 hrs.

**Breeding** At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* there were 186 birds on the cliff on 18 May with some birds on eggs and large numbers feeding at sea around the island. On 16 Jun there were 252 birds on the cliff, most with eggs. By 18 Jul many chicks had fledged but 129 adults remained on the cliff, many with large chicks ready to fledge. At *Colonsay* there were 35 individuals at the Uragaig sample site. TIARG counted a total of 569 adults on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*, suggesting a slight further increase in numbers at that colony compared to totals in the last few years. There were 1,440 flying past Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr on 1 Jun, a date which would imply that these were likely to be breeding adults commuting between breeding and feeding sites.

**Autumn/winter** After post-breeding dispersal in Jul-Aug, reports were mostly of small numbers. However, there were 500 off Glengorm *Mull* on 5 Sep, 250 in the narrows at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 150 off SW *Coll* on 14 Nov and 1,560 flew west off Aird *Tiree* on 16 Nov. However, there were no records in Dec other than small numbers off *Tiree*.

## **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle* Colcach-bheag

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

**Winter** There were two reports in Jan; 1 dead bird was found at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, and 2 flew past Hynish *Tiree* on 25 Jan. At Aird *Tiree* 1 flew past on 22 Feb and 6 on 16 Nov.

## **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** Mostly small numbers (groups of <20) were reported in Jan-Mar, especially from *Coll, Islay*, and *Tiree*. About 1,000 were back on nesting ledges at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr and birds were then also widespread around the coasts of *Coll* and *Tiree*. Smaller numbers were around the *Mull* coast by early Apr.

**Breeding/summer** At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree*, 1,776 were on ledges on 18 May with a few eggs visible. On 16 Jun there were 2,560 on ledges, many on eggs but no chicks yet present. By 18 Jul many chicks had fledged from the colony, but 367 adults were present brooding about 40 large chicks. It was estimated that about 600 chicks fledged from this colony. At Uragaig sample site *Colonsay* there were 102 birds. Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* reported that the first bird seen flying past carrying fish was on 18 Jun and birds were seen daily from then to the end of Jun commuting past with fish. The first adult with a chick on the sea at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was seen on 16 Jul. At the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, 8,463 birds were counted at Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (c.f. 6,434 in 2014). A bird breeding at Lunga had been ringed as a chick at Canna in July 1980.

**Autumn/winter** Although most autumn records were from *Coll, Islay, Kintyre, Mull*, and *Tiree*, there were also reports in Sep of small numbers at the heads of sea lochs in *Cowal, Mid-Argyll*, and *North Argyll*. These mostly involved tens of birds, in the process of dying, in areas such as the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* and the head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll*, probably being juveniles

that failed to find food. As usual, there were very few reports in Nov and Dec, indicating that birds had generally moved offshore from Argyll by early winter.

**BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT** *Uria lomvia*

*A vagrant: One record; found dead at Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll on 11 Oct 1969.*

No records.

**SOOTY TERN** *Onychoprion fuscatus*

*Breeds and wanders in the tropical seas and oceans. No previous Argyll records.*

*Summer* One was seen briefly and photographed as it flew S past the Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 2 Jun [Eddie Maguire]. Accepted by the BBRC and is only the third record for Scotland. (*see article on page 122*).

**BRIDLED TERN** *Onychoprion anaethetus*

*A vagrant: One record; present on Tiree on 30 Jun to 9 Jul 1994 and was 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 record was 2 at Salum Bay Tiree on 10 Apr. Almost all spring records were from Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Outwith those areas, there was 1 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 12 Apr, and 7 at Oronsay Colonsay on 5 May.

*Breeding* On Tiree, there were about 40-50 pairs in total, spread across several sites, but several pairs failed (in part due to heavy rain in early Jun) and moved. About 25 pairs nested at sites on Coll. None were seen in the Sound of Gigha Kintyre where a colony had been present in the past. Six pairs bred at RSPB Ardnave Islay, and small numbers nested at various other sites around Islay.

*Autumn* Many birds had already left breeding areas during Jun. Three passed Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 18 Jul. The last autumn record was of 2 at Balinoe Tiree on 7 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 usually in Sep; 20 records (24 birds) since 1980.*

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** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Sàrnag-mhòr

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

**Winter/spring** The first record of the spring was on 27 Mar, when 1 was seen at Bruichladdich Islay. Records were frequent but involving small numbers (mostly 1-3 birds) throughout Apr. The largest counts in Apr were 20 at Bruichladdich Islay on 14 Apr, and 22 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 15 Apr. In May the highest count was 66 passing Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in 2 hrs on 14 May.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were present throughout Jun-Jul at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre. A juvenile was seen there on 6 Jul and several were there on 11 Jul. Small numbers (mostly 1-3 birds) were seen in Jun-Aug elsewhere in Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mull, and Tiree.

**Autumn/winter** Records came mainly from Kintyre and Tiree. The largest group was 11 at Bruichladdich Islay on 13 Sep. The second last report was from Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 1 Oct, but a much later record was 2 adults there on 20 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

**AMBER LIST 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** There were only two reports from Apr; 2 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 24 Apr, and 3 at Ardnave Islay on 30 Apr. The species was seen regularly throughout May 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 17 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 14 May.

**Breeding/summer** A pair attempted to nest at Tayvallich Harbour Mid-Argyll but apparently deserted around hatching time, possibly due to human disturbance. Clive Craik noted reports of good numbers at Glas Eileanan (Sound of Mull) Mull, and counted about 30 pairs at Airds Islet (Loch Etive) Mid-Argyll, 20 pairs at Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) Mid-Argyll, at least 11 pairs on the tern rafts at South Shian (Loch Creran) North Argyll but no young produced there, 2 pairs at Eilean an Ruisg (Loch Feochan) Mid-Argyll, but apparently none at Abbot Isles or Ardachy Islets (Loch Etive) Mid-Argyll. Two pairs bred at RSPB Ardnave Islay. At least 3 pairs bred at Ardarnock Bay (Loch Fyne) Cowal. About 150 pairs at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) Mid-Argyll fledged at least 30 chicks, probably many more (difficult to see in long grass).

Clive Craik provided additional data to update and correct Argyll Bird Report for 2015: "*In the area monitored by Clive Craik in 2015, a total of 12 sites held c 266 pairs. Sites with more than 20 pairs were: 95 pairs at South Shian tern raft, L Creran N Argyll (none fledged after repeated Peregrine predation), 55 pairs at Glas Eileanan Mull (54 large young were ringed and expected to fledge), 33 pairs at Duncuan, L Gilp Mid-Argyll, and 29 pairs at Ardachy Islets, L Etive N Argyll.*"

**Autumn** Birds were reported only in very small numbers in Aug with no records in Sep. Last records were: 1 at Oronsay Colonsay on 15 Oct and 2 at Bruichladdich Islay on 19 Oct.

**ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* Steàrnag-stiùireach

**RED LIST** *A rare migrant; prior to 1980 it occasionally bred in Argyll. The most recent records were from Kintyre in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2012.*

No records.

**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 birds reported were 2 in Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Apr, and 2 at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 23 Apr. Reports came from several locations from 1 May onwards, mostly from *Islay*, *Mull*, and *Tiree*. The largest group was 160 birds at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 19 May.

**Breeding** There were 295 pairs (=AONs) nesting at 13 sites across *Tiree* in early Jun, with at least 235 chicks fledged. There were 830 apparently non-breeding birds, including about 600 in first-summer plumage, at Soa Point *Tiree* on 28 Jun. There were 120 birds at Eilean Ghaoidemal (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 20 Jun. There were 30 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, 20 pairs at Leth Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll*, and at least 6 pairs at Big Scone Island (Machrihanish) *Kintyre*. TIARG reported that c.20 pairs bred on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (Treshnish Isles) *Mull*. About 50 pairs nested at Sgeir an Eith (Oban) *Mid-Argyll*, but no chicks survived.

**Autumn** Birds were widely distributed in more marine areas of Argyll in early Aug, including a flock of 150 at Craignure Jetty *Mull* on 3 Aug, but only very small numbers remained after mid-Aug. There were many records during Sep but almost all of only one or two birds and mostly from *Tiree* or Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. The last records were 1 at Rubha na Faing *Islay* on 7 Oct, 1 off Hynish *Tiree* on 18 Oct and 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Oct.

**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** *Xema sabini*

*A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.*

**Autumn** A juvenile flew S past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Sep [Eddie Maguire]. On *Tiree* a juv flew W past Aird on 14 Sep, a juv flew SW past Hynish on 23 Sep and 3 juvs flew W past Aird on 17 Oct [John Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

**RED 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** Numbers were generally low and mostly reported from *Coll*, *Islay*, and *Tiree* in Jan-Mar, although there were 216 passing Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr on 6 Feb, 2,000 flying north past Lismore *North Argyll* on 25 Feb, and 240 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 5 hrs on 20 Mar.

**Breeding** At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* over 100 birds were back on ledges on 7 Apr, when increasing numbers were also noted offshore, and on 18 May there were 281 AONs but mostly still nest building activity and no obvious eggs. There were 290 AONs on 16 Jun, and 155 AONs on 18 Jul with 1.6 chicks/nest (n=94 nests), the chicks being close to fledging. TIARG reported that at the

Treshnish Isles *Mull* there were 514 AONs on Lunga (cf. 325 in 2015). In addition, there were up to 371 birds roosting on intertidal rocks, including at least 10 2CY plumage birds. At the Urugaig Colonsay sample site there were 16 AONs. There were 1,000, mostly 2CY birds roosting at Ruadh Sgeir (Sound of Jura) *Mid-Argyll* on 11 and 18 Jul and up to 600 mostly 2CY birds roosting on skerries at Greenhill *Tiree* on 10 and 16 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** The first juvenile at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* was seen on 14 Aug. During Aug to Oct, large numbers flocked at various sites or passed sea watching sites; there were 2,000 at Eilean Musdile *North Argyll* on 25 Aug, 1,500 at Glas Eileanan (Sound of Mull) *Mull* on 25 Aug, 1,200 (of which 30% were juveniles) passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 7 hrs on 8 Sep, 1,550 passing west off Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 17 Oct. Numbers reported dropped during Nov, but there were still flocks of up to 200 birds off *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on a few dates during Dec.

### **BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

*A vagrant: Eight or nine records; Islay in Jun and Sep 1975, Tiree in Apr 2010, the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Aug 2012, Traigh nan Gilean and Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Jun 2013, a first-winter at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll in Jan 14 with an adult there in Dec 14 and possibly the same adult at Loch Caolisport, Mid-Argyll in Mar 14, again Mar-Apr 2015 and a first-winter at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree in Mar 2015.*

No records.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus 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** Generally scarce but widespread in most of Argyll during winter, but there were 310 at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 120 in Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 73 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 16 Jan. 300 around east *Tiree* on 13 Mar were returning birds.

**Breeding** On *Tiree*, maximum numbers of AONs were: 119 at The Reef, 35 at Greenhill, none at Loch Bhasapol, none at Loch a' Phuill, 120 at Heylipol Church pool, 110 at Barrapol, 16 at Loch an Eilein, 10 at Hough Dunes, 3 at Balevullin Pools, 6 at Loch Riaghain, 11 at Loch Aulaig and 60 at Soa Point. Productivity was generally fairly good on *Tiree* but rather variable among colonies. Two pairs bred at Ardnave *Islay* and 1 pair at RSPB Gruinart *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed in autumn and winter, though mostly in small numbers. However, there were 85 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 320 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Nov, 115 in Loch Melfort S of Kames *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Dec, and 200 at Knock *Mull* on 22 Dec.

### **LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* Crann-fhaoileag

*An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year.*

**Winter/spring** As in recent years most records came from Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* with at least five birds between 10 Jan and 16 Jun. Most reports were of singles however 3 adults on 13 Jan, an ad and a 2CY on 22 Feb and two 2CY and an adult on 22 Mar. A 2CY was at Blackrock Bay *Islay* on 18 Apr. A 2CY was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A moulting 2CY (second-winter) was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jul and 6 Aug. A 2CY was at Claddach *Islay* on 22 Oct then Saligo *Islay* on 23-24 Oct. An adult was seen from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry *Islay* on 1 and 11 Nov. An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

## **ROSS'S GULL** *Rhodostethia rosea*

*A vagrant: Four records; a first-summer 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** *Leucophaeus atricilla*

*A rare visitor: Ten records; all between 1974 and 2015.*

No records.

## **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter.*

**Winter** Only one report. An adult at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 23 Dec [Jim Dickson].

*This is the lowest number of reports for many years.*

## **COMMON GULL (MEW 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** Widely distributed in winter across Argyll with largest numbers reported from Tiree, including: 250 in Sorobaidh Bay on 13 Jan, 1,490 on Tiree on 16 Jan, 235 in Sorobaidh Bay on 20 Jan, 1,210 on Tiree on 14 Feb, 650 in Sorobaidh Bay on 8 Mar. Elsewhere, high counts included: 232 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Feb, 120 at Ardlarach Islay on 12 Feb, 114 at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 12 Feb, 120 at Raineach Mhor Islay on 12 Feb, 216 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 9 Mar, 140 at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 12 Mar, 219 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) Islay on 9 Apr.

**Breeding** Widely distributed, mostly in small numbers. On Tiree, breeding numbers (AONs) were: 92 at Loch a' Phuill, 84 at The Reef, 46 at Heylipol Church pools, 46 at Barrapol, 60 at Greenhill, 31 at Druimbuidhe, 40 at Crossapol, 13 at Loch Aulaig, 16 at Happy Valley, 4 at Loch Bhasapol, 10 at Soa, 8 at Loch na Faing, 7 at Balinoe, 12 at Balevullin, 20 at Hough Dunes, 5 east of Salum, 5 at Mannal, 2 at Hynish. Productivity on Tiree was good, with the first fledglings from 20 Jun and most fledged by early Jul. There were 45 AONs at Gunna Island Coll. Two pairs nested at Big Scone Island and 1 pair beside the observatory (Machrihanish) Kintyre. About 20 pairs nested at Sanaigmore Islay. Clive Craik monitored 7 sites. At Eilean Inshaig (Loch Craignish) Mid-Argyll where mink were controlled, there were 60 pairs in mid-May, and they had 41 fledglings on 4 Jul. At Sgeir an Eitich (Ganavan) Mid-Argyll there were 10-20 pairs on 2 May, but these deserted by late Jun, possibly due to presence of White-tailed Eagles. At Eilean an Ruig (Loch Feochan) Mid-Argyll there were 20 pairs on 16 May, with about 17 fledglings in late Jul. At the Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) Mid-Argyll, where mink were controlled, about 150 pairs fledged about 90 young. At Tucker's Islet (Loch Craignish) Mid-Argyll, Sgeir na Caillich (Loch Melfort) Mid-Argyll and the tern rafts at South Shian (Loch Creran) North Argyll 1 or 2 pairs attempted to breed but probably failed. About 20 pairs bred on the Treshnish Isles Mull.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed, but often in small numbers. Large counts included: 235 in Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 8 Aug, 300 at Raineach Mhor Islay on 15 Sep, 210 at Balephetrish Tiree on 11 Oct, 300 at Ardlarach Islay on 15 Oct, 190 at Loch Laich North Argyll on 24 Oct, and 280 on Tiree on 19 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** A 2CY (first-winter) was at Craighens (Gruinart) *Islay* on 15 Feb to 8 Mar [Tom Lowe *et al*]. Record was 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 but numbers have since declined greatly.*

**Winter/spring** Only 1 was seen in Jan, at Ballinaby *Islay* on 12 Jan. There were 7 reports in Feb; *Tiree* (3) *Islay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1) all of individuals apart from 3 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 21 Feb and 3 ads at Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* on 28 Feb. A count of 11 at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 3 Mar was followed by almost daily reports from many parts of Argyll, the largest numbers that month being 56 on *Tiree* on 21 Mar and 63 passing Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in 5 hrs on 23 Mar. Numbers increased further in Apr, highest count being 90 on *Tiree* on 10 Apr.

**Breeding** On *Tiree*, there were at least 70 pairs nesting in at least 7 sites, with chicks fledging from mid-Jul but in fairly small numbers. There were 8 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*, 2 at Glas Eilean *Jura*, 1 pair on the Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll* and about 4 pairs on Treshnish Isles *Mull*. No doubt this species breeds at many other sites in Argyll, but typically in very small numbers, often associated with other species of gull.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed in small numbers across Argyll during autumn, but records especially from *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, and *Tiree*. Numbers reported declined in Oct and Nov. There were no records in Dec.

## **EUROPEAN 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, fish farms and on pasture land near the coast. There were: 950 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 400 there on 14 Jan and 330 there on 11 Feb. 238 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 200 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 12 Feb, 200 at Raineach Mhor *Islay* on 12 Feb, 368 at Druim na Claidh (Appin) *North Argyll* on 13 Mar, and over 150 feeding behind a fishing boat off Glengorm *Mull* on 23 Mar.

**Breeding** On *Tiree*, numbers of breeding pairs were: 40 at Milton, 10 at Rubha Chraiginis, 15 at The Ringing Stone, 2 at Ceann a' Mhara, 5 at Balevullin. There were 35 AONs at Glas Eilean (Mucraidh) *Jura*. There were 180 pairs at Bach Island (Kerrera) *Mid-Argyll*. There were at least 19 pairs on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* but that represents a very large decline from peak numbers in the 1990s. Clive Craik monitored 7 colonies, reporting numbers and productivity to be much as usual. There were 100 pairs at Eilean Mor (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, at least 100 pairs at Eilean Beag (Dunstaffnage) *Mid-Argyll*, and at least 50 pairs at Kilmaronag Islands (Loch Etive) *Mid-Argyll*. 26 pairs bred at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*. At least 8 pairs nested on rooftops in Campbeltown *Kintyre*, with chicks fledging from most of those nests.

**Autumn/winter** Widespread, with highest counts: 143 at Crois Mhor (Loch Gruinart) *Islay* on 24 Jul and 219 there on 8 Sep, 274 in Machir Bay *Islay* on 15 Aug, 322 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 9 Sep, 295 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 26 Sep, 300 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 500 there on 18 Nov and 380 there on 21 Dec, 550 at Eilean Mor (Loch Gorm) *Islay* on 25 Oct,

400 at Loch Clach a' Bhuaille *Islay* on 30 Oct, 200 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 6 Nov, 300 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 2 Dec, and 235 in Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 11 Dec.

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

**AMBER LIST A** *vagrant: Two records; one at Loch Gruinart, Islay on 1-7 Sep 2002 (in this case the race/sub-species 'atlantis' was not ruled out) and an adult at Drumlemble, Kintyre on 21-22 Feb 2014.*

No records.

**AMERICAN HERRING GULL** *Larus smithsonianus*

**A vagrant: Two previous records; a first-winter bird on Tiree in 2007 and a first-winter near Campbeltown, Kintyre on 6 Feb-27 Mar 2014.**

No records.



**Iceland Gull** *Kintyre* April 2017 (Eddie Maguire)

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides glaucoides* Faoileag-liath

**AMBER LIST 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** No records from *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Cowal* or *Jura*. On *Islay* an adult was at Machir Bay on 7 Jan and 1 was at the Sound of Islay on 2 Feb. In *Kintyre* at least 5 2CY and 1-2 adults in this period with most in the Machrihanish, Laggan and Campbeltown Loch area, however 2 2CY were between Tayinloan and Rhunahaorine on 2 Mar. A 2CY remained at Campbeltown Loch from May or earlier until the end of the year. In *Mid-Argyll* a 2CY was at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) on 14 Jan to 14 Feb, a 2CY was at Dunollie (Oban) on 20 Mar, a 2CY was in Oban Bay on 28 Apr and (same?) 2CY was on Kerrera on 3 May. On *Mull* 2 2CY were at Loch na Keal between 5 Jan and 29 Mar, then a report of 1 'unaged' from the Sound of Ulva on 11 May. A 2CY was at Loch Scridain on 7-13 Jan, then this or another was near Buessan on 1 May and again on

1 Jul, a 2CY was at Tobermory on 27 Feb and a 2CY was off Glengorm (NW Mull) on 4 and 23 Mar. In *North Argyll* a 2CY was at Loch Laich on 17 Jan and a 2CY was at Kilcheran Loch (Lismore) on 14 Apr. On *Tiree* a 3CY (long stayer from 2016) was around the west of the island until 22 Jan, a 2CY was at Traigh Bhi on 4 Feb and this or another at Loch Bhasapol on 23 Feb and a 2CY at Hynish on 30 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** No records from *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal, Jura, Mid-Argyll* or *North Argyll*. On *Islay* 1 was at Nearabus on 28 Oct. In *Kintyre* a new 2CY was at Machrihanish SBO on 25 Sep, with the long staying bird still present there until year end, a 1CY (juv) was at Campbeltown Loch on 24 Oct and a different 1CY there on 18-21 Dec. On *Tiree* a 1CY was at West Hynish on 14 Nov.

**‘KUMLIEN’S’ ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

*A sub-species of Iceland Gull, from arctic NE Canada, with no Argyll records prior to 2011 however an influx of eleven birds during late winter 2011/12 reflected record numbers in the UK and Europe.*

**Winter** One was at Eilean Traighe (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan to at least 14 Feb.

**THAYER’S GULL** *Larus glaucooides thayeri*

*The Canadian High Arctic race of Iceland Gull, breeding from Banks Island to S Ellesmere and Baffin Island, south to N Southampton Island and NW Greenland. Winters on the Pacific coast of North America from British Columbia S to California and New Mexico.*

*A vagrant: One previous record; a 2CY on Islay Feb to Apr 2014.*

No records.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* Muir-mhaighstir

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

**Winter/spring** No records from *Colonsay, Cowal, Jura* or *North Argyll*. On *Islay* 2 2CY birds were around Loch Indaal (Gartmain to Port Charlotte) on 1 Jan to 9 Apr, then 1 until 9 Jun and a report of an adult at Blackpark on 20 Jan. In *Kintyre* a 2CY was at Campbeltown Loch on 16 Jan to 16 Feb, an ‘unaged’ was at Bellochinty on 16 Jan, a 2CY was at Tarbert on 1 Mar and an ‘unaged’ was at West Loch Tarbert on 31 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult was at the Lington landfill site (Loch Gilp) on 16 Jan, a different adult was at the head of Loch Gilp on 19 Jan, a 3CY was at the head of Loch Fyne on 21 Jan, a 2CY was on the front green at Lochgilphead on 27 Jan and an adult and a 2CY were at West Loch Tarbert on 31 Jan. On *Mull* a 2CY was at Loch Beg (Inner Loch Scridain) on 11 Jan, a 2CY was at Knock (Loch na Keal) on 14 Jan to 29 Mar and a 2CY was at Bunessan on 30 Apr. On *Tiree* 2 2CY birds in Jan, a min. of 6 in Feb were all 2CY except an adult on 20 Feb, in Mar a min. of 10 2CY, in Apr up to 4 2CY birds, in May a 2CY and a 3CY bird and last report of 1 was on 22 Jun. On *Coll* 2CY birds were at Cliad on 1 Jan, at Sloc na Luinge on 7 Jan and between Cornaigmore and Struan on 22 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** No records from *Coll, Colonsay, Cowal, Jura, Mid-Argyll, Mull, North Argyll* or *Tiree*. On *Islay* a 1CY (juv) was at Saligo on 20 Dec. In *Kintyre* a 2CY flew past Macrihanish SBO on 17 Oct.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus* Farspag

**AMBER LIST A** *a common resident: breeding widely but in small numbers on small islands along the coast.*

**Winter/spring** Records were mostly of small numbers, from all coastal areas of Argyll. Largest counts were: 35 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 33 at Gartmain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 18 Jan,

74 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Feb, and 50-70 there through Feb-Mar and 30-40 through Apr. There were 12 feeding on a dead sperm whale at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 16 May.

**Breeding** On the Treshnish Isles *Mull*, breeding was confirmed on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (14 pairs), Lunga (14 pairs), Sgeir an Fheoir (6 pairs) and Sgeir na h'Iolaire (1 pair), Sgeir a' Chaisteil (1 pair), Bac Mor (4 pairs), Fladda (28 pairs), overall representing a continuing decline in numbers from peaks in the late 1990s. On *Tiree*, there were 3 pairs at the Ringing Stone, 2 at Bhirceapol, 2 at Milton, 2 at Hough Dunes, 1 at Ceann a' Mhara, 1 at Rubha Chraiginis. There were 4 pairs at Glas Eilean *Jura*, and 2 pairs at RSPB Ardnave *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Widely distributed on coasts of Argyll in small numbers. Larger groups included: 26 on the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 36 there on 27 Aug, 54 on 31 Aug, and 217 on 3 Sep, 52 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Oct, 67 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Oct and 82 there on 15 Oct, 65 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 36 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, 31 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Nov with 38 there on 19 Dec, 42 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 2 Dec, and 80 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Dec.

### **ROCK DOVE** *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** On *Islay*, 96 were at The Monument (The Oa) on 24 Jan, 55 at Kinnabus (The Oa) on 23 Jan, 39 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 31 May. The highest mainland count was of 15 birds at Balvicar (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan. Birds were reported from all areas except *Jura* and *Kintyre* but no other counts greater than 10 birds were noted.

**Summer/breeding** Birds were reported to be present during the breeding season in all areas except *Coll*, *Cowal*, and *Jura* but breeding was only confirmed from *Colonsay*. 40 were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Jun, 20 were at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jun, 145 were at Crossapol *Tiree* on 7 Aug, 30 were at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 12 Aug, 16 were at Cullipool (Luing) *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug and 100 were at Knock *Mull* on 26 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reported winter flocks were of modest numbers compared to previous years with none exceeding 100 birds. 65 were at Ruaig *Tiree* on 11 Sep, 42 were at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 13 Oct, 20 were at Coillabus on 2 Nov and 90 at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 22 Nov, 78 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 19 Dec, and 60 at Corran View *Mull* on 22 Dec.

**FERAL PIGEON** Reported only from *Mid-Argyll*. The girders of Connel Bridge *Mid-Argyll/North Argyll* boundary host a colony, but breeding performance is unknown. At least 70 birds were loafing on the south end of the bridge on 21 Dec.

### **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. All records required please.*

**Winter/spring** Two were at Knockdow *Cowal* on 9 Feb. Singles were reported from *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar at Poltalloch and nearby at Slockavullin on 26 Mar. One was at Killellan Park *Kintyre* on 14 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 22 Oct.

### **COMMON 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** Highest counts reported in the spring were 14 at Barraholm (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 30 at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, and 15 at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 29 Mar. The first migrant was noted on *Tiree* on 9 Apr with 6 more to 24 Jun including 3 on 27 May.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was not confirmed although 5 pairs were reported from at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, one pair was at the Lodge *Coll*, and birds were noted in all areas except *Jura* and *Kintyre*. 10 birds were at An Caorachan (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May, at least 20 were seen on *Colonsay* on 20 May and 20 were at Rashfield *Cowal* on 17 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A flock of 50 was at Octomore (Port Charlotte) *Islay* on 1 Oct and 200 were at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 13 Nov. 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Oct was an unusual autumn record for the island.

### **EURASIAN 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 however is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.*

**Winter/spring** Eight were at Toberonochy (Luining) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and 24 were at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 Jan. There were 8 on *Tiree* during Jan and Feb, while smaller numbers were reported from *Colonsay* and *Mull*.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported from all areas except *Jura*. An occupied nest (which subsequently failed) was reported from the airport on *Tiree* on 22 Jun and fledged young were reported at Glassard *Colonsay* on 12 Aug. 12 birds were at The Lodge *Coll* on 12 May, 14 were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 May, and 21 were at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Higher counts included: 14 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 11 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 22 Oct, 20 at Crinan and 12 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct, and 18 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Dec. Up to 12 remained on *Tiree* throughout the period.

### **EUROPEAN 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 Kintra *Mull* on 11 May.

**Autumn** A single bird was at Treshnish Farm *Mull* on 15 Sep.

### **COMMON CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag

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

**Spring** The first confirmed reports were at: Clachan *Kintyre* on 7 Apr, Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, Lochdon *Mull* on 16 Apr, and Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 17 Apr. Widespread arrival followed with birds reported from *Cowal*, *Colonsay* and *North Argyll* on 19 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported from all areas. 5 were at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, 3 were at Gleann Salach *North Argyll* on 3 May, 3 were at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 12 May, 3 were around Rhuvaal Lighthouse *Islay* on 16 May, 3 were at the Paper Cave (Loch Eck) *Cowal* on 17 May, 3 were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 May, 4 were at Coir a' Mhaim (Glen More) *Mull* on 25 May, and 6 were spread out along the east side of *Jura* on 7 Jun. 25 singing males/Ters

were located on *Colonsay* and 6 singing males at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. A Cuckoo egg was found in a Reed Bunting nest at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 23 May.

**Autumn** Young birds were reported in Jul and Aug from *Colonsay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Tiree* – the latter being the first confirmed successful breeding records for the island.

### **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

**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.**

Over half of the year's records came from *Islay*: there were no records from *Coll*, *Colonsay* or *Jura*. Most records were of single birds, although 4 were Ardchoirk *Mull* on 21 Jul, 3 at Aoraidh *Islay* on 25 May, and 2 were reported several times on *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. The only report from *Tiree* was of one at Barrapol on 7 Jan.

**Breeding** An excellent breeding season. Of 125 sites were checked, 12 sites were occupied by single birds, 4 sites were occupied by pairs which did not breed, and 71 sites had breeding pairs. The fledging outcome was known at 49 sites, where 85.7% of nests were successful. The mean young per successful nest was 4.71 [2.54 in 2016]. The mean clutch was 5.71 (n=45), the mean brood 4.31 (n=55) and the mean number of young fledged 4.04 (n=49) (ARSG).

### **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:** *Seven records; a male on Coll on 27 Jan 2007, an immature female on Tiree on 29 Jan 2007 and an adult male in mountains NW of Tyndrum, North Argyll on 27 Feb 2016. Four old records between 1870 and 1892 are also considered acceptable.*

No records.

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* Comhachag-dhonn

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

Birds were reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Four birds were at calling at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec and three Oban Seil (Seil) *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan; all other records were of 1 or 2 birds. This is a still a much under-recorded species and all records are welcome.

**Breeding** It was an excellent breeding season. Out of 77 sites checked breeding pairs were found at 42 sites. The fledging outcome was known at 22 sites, where 68.2% of nests were successful.

The mean no of young per successful nest was 3.13. The mean clutch was 3.18 (n=28) and mean brood 2.42 (n=36) and the mean number of young fledged 2.14 (n=22) [1.59 in 2016] (ARSG).

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus* Comhachag-adharcaiche

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

**Spring** One hit wires at Hough Tiree on 17 Feb, which unfortunately was trampled by cows and did not survive.

**Breeding** A pair were displaying at Mishnish Lochs Mull on 12 Feb. A pair with young were reported at Freisland Coll on 25 May, while on Colonsay three territories were located with two fledged broods with 6+ young (ARSG).

**Summer/autumn** Single birds were reported all from Mull at Lochdon on 18 Jun and 8 Aug, at at another site on Mull on 17 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*).**

This year there were only 67 records of this species, which was reported in all areas except Kintyre and North Argyll with most records referring to one or two birds. The majority of sightings (53) were from Mull.

**Winter/spring** The first report was not until 18 Mar when one was seen at Balinoe Tiree; this was followed by 2 at Loch Don Mull on 29 Mar. 3 birds were together on Mull at Glen More on 8 Apr and 4 there on 11 May.

**Breeding** In a good breeding season for owls, six sites which were checked (3 each in Cowal and Mid-Argyll) were all occupied. At three of these sites at least 8 young were fledged (ARSG). No monitoring was carried out on Mull, but pairs were noted in at least six locations (Glen More (2+ pairs), Fiddon, Glen Rainich, Grass Point, Dervaig and Kilfinichen).

**Autumn/winter** One was reported near Portnahaven Islay on 8 Jul and others were at Totronald Coll on 24 Jul and on Oronsay Colonsay on 20 Aug. Only reports during Sep - Nov was 2 at Lochdon Mull on 7 Sep. Singles were on Oronsay Colonsay on 12 Dec and at Bolsay Islay on 14 Dec.

### **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraiacheag-oidhche

**AMBER LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal. Last accepted record was at Glen Forsa, Mull on 3 Aug 2010.**

No records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on page 117).

### **COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus* Gobhlan-mòr

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

**Spring** Two very early sightings were reported from Kintyre where 3 were seen in Campbeltown on 19 Apr and a single bird on 23 Apr. At Kilmichael Glassary Mid-Argyll a single bird was seen around a known nest site on 1 May with numbers rising to 7 on 12 May. Other early records included: singles at Loch Indaal Islay on 5 May, Oban Mid-Argyll on 6 May and St Catherine's Cowal on 8 May, 5 at Connel Mid-Argyll and 8 at Dunoon Cowal, both on 11 May. More widespread arrivals noted from 13 May. Higher counts included 14 at Campbeltown Kintyre on 19 May and 9 at Oban Mid-Argyll on 27 May.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed in nest boxes at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* where up to 10 birds were regularly seen through the summer. Other sites where breeding was confirmed or suspected included: Campbeltown *Kintyre*, Connel, Oban and Portsonachan (Loch Awe), all *Mid-Argyll* and Salen *Mull*. Counts of 10 or more birds included: 26 at Island of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul, 15 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug and 28 on 8 Aug, 11 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug and 28 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 8 Aug. The last mainland record was at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug and the last island records were from Ballard *Coll* on 23 Aug, Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Aug and The Reef *Tiree* on 25 Aug.

**ALPINE SWIFT** *Tachymarptis 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.

**EURASIAN HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* Calman-cathaidh

*A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.*

No records.

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster*

*A rare migrant: Seven or eight records since the first in 1981. Latest records being: two birds on Mull on 24 to 26 Apr 2010, one in Glen Aros Mull on 27 May 2014 and up to four on Islay on 26 Jun and 1 Jul 2015.*

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.

**COMMON KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis* Biorra-crùidein

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

**Winter/spring** Sightings of single birds were widespread including: Dervaig *Mull* on 14 Jan and 16 Feb, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, Sutherland's Grove (Barcaldine) *North Argyll* on 17 Jan, Aird's Bay (Taynuilt) *North Argyll* on 17 Jan and 12 and 27 Feb and in Cowal at Ardkinglas (Cairndow) on 21 Jan and at the head of Loch Striven on 1 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** No reports of confirmed breeding but a pair was present at Glen Shira (Inveraray) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul. Single birds were recorded at Arinagour *Coll* on 16 Jul and Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 18 and 30 Aug. A single bird was at the Crinan Canal in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** There were numerous reports of single birds from many areas including: Holy Loch (Dunoon) Cowal, Bridgend *Islay*, Ardfarn, Ardrishaig, Connel, Lochgilphead and Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll*, Dervaig *Mull* and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*.



**Common Kingfisher** *Cowal* September 2017 (Alistair McGregor)

**EURASIAN WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* Geocair

**RED LIST A** *rare and irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn; eleven records since 1969. Last record was at The Oa, Islay in Aug 2013.*

**Autumn** One was seen and photographed at Gribun (Ardmeanach) *Mull* on 21 Sep [Mark Appleton, Kerry & Tony Tiller]. Record was 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.**

**Spring** Only one report. One was at Lochbuie *Mull* on 22 May.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major* Snagan-daraich

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

**Winter/spring** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in all mainland areas except *Kintyre*. In *North Argyll* 2 birds were heard drumming at Barcaldine on 29 Jan and 3 heard drumming at Appin on 21 Mar. Island records of 1-3 birds included: Gruinart, Bridgend and Ballygrant *Islay* and on *Mull* at Acharonich (Ulva Ferry).

**Breeding/summer** Reported from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll*. Sightings of juveniles were reported from Otter Ferry *Cowal*, and in *Mid-Argyll* from Bridgend (Lochgilphead) and Tayvallich.

**Autumn/winter** Sightings of 1-3 birds were reported from: *Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll and Mull*.

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

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread, but declining, breeding bird. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.*

There were 115 reports of this once very common raptor [113 in 2016]: records were received from all Argyll recording areas. It is notable that for the second year in succession fewer records were received for Kestrel than Merlin and all records of this declining species are welcomed. As usual sightings increased noticeably in most recording areas from late summer onwards. Most records involve 1-2 birds, but on *Mull* 4 were at Laggan Bay on 8 Apr, 5 at Lochbuie on 5 May,

and 4 at Dun da Gaoithe on 20 Jun. Elsewhere 3 were near Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul, at Cnoc na Croise *Islay* on 18 Oct and 3 singles in *Kintyre* on 22 Oct.

### **Breeding**

Table 29. *Outcome of monitored Kestrel territories in Argyll in 2017 (ARSG). 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
Misc Islands <sup>1</sup>	2	2	2	0	0	2+	1+
Cowal	7	3	3	0	4	10+	3.33
Kintyre	1*	1	0	0	1	-	-
Bute	4**	3	3	0	2	6+	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18+</b>	<b>2.25</b>

<sup>1</sup>Misc islands include Colonsay, Seil, Lismore and Kerrera

\* in addition one site occupied by a single bird

\*\* in addition one site occupied by a single bird

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

*A vagrant: Three records; one at Macharioch, 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

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

Of around 165 records [175 in 2016], around half were from *Islay*, where birds were seen regularly throughout the year. Around a fifth of the records also came from *Tiree* where there were records from throughout the year apart from May until late Aug. There were 15 records from *Mull*, 8 from *Colonsay* (incl. *Oronsay*), four from *Coll*, *Cowal* and *Kintyre*, two from *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*, but none from *Jura*.

**Breeding** The only reports of breeding were of a pair that fledged at least 3 young in *North Argyll*, and another of a pair in *Cowal* where the breeding outcome was not known (ARSG). There were also reports of birds in *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Mull* during May -Jul.

**Autumn** The first bird back on *Tiree* was on 21 Aug, but on *Oronsay Colonsay* was not noted until 27 Sep. Four different birds were seen at *Kilchoman Islay* on 9 Oct and 3 at *Gleann na Rainich Islay* on 23 Oct. Singles were reported passing *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 23, 26 and 31 Oct.

### **EURASIAN HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

*A rare visitor: Mostly in spring and autumn.*

No records.

### **GYRFALCON** *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag-mhòr-na-seilg

*A rare visitor: Several records prior to 1950 but only eight recent records, between 1973 and 2015 with last record on Islay in 2010.*

No accepted records. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on page 117).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus* Seabag

*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.*

Around 275 records were received, including records from all recording areas except Jura. Around 135 were from Islay, followed by 61 from Tiree, 27 from Colonsay (inc Oronsay) but only 21 from Mull. During the TIARG visit 24 Jun - 1 Jul, a female was seen at a plucking post on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) Mull on 26 Jun. Attacks were reported on Fulmar, Dunlin, gulls and Raven.

**Breeding**

Table 30. *Peregrines in Argyll and Bute 2017 (ARSG). NB: includes data for Bute, which is outwith the Argyll Recording area.*

Area [no. of known sites]	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>	10	4	4	3	0	1	6	2.0
Mainland (excl. Cowal)	1	1	1	1	0	0	2+	2+
Cowal	14	6*	6	6	0	0	11	1.83
Bute	11	2	2	1	1	0	2+	2+
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21+</b>	<b>1.91</b>

<sup>1</sup> Colonsay, Islay, Lismore Seil & Tiree. \* Including one site occupied by a single bird

**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.

**EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus*

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

**Autumn** An imm/female was seen briefly and photographed at Vaul Tiree on 2-4 Sep [Keith Gillon].

**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: 18 records between 1954 and 2014.**

No records.

**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, at Slockavullin, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2009 and near Dalmally, Mid-Argyll in Oct 2015, Grasspoint, Mull in Oct 2016 and Moine Mhor, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2016.*

**Winter** One frequented the Carnain, Springbank and then Avonvogie areas of Islay between 28 Feb and 29 Mar.

*A well-watched bird however the original finder is unknown. Record was accepted by the ABRC from photographs provided by Gary Turnbull.*

## **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator*

*A vagrant: Two records; a juvenile near Port Ellen, Islay on 16 Sep 1996 and a female at Balephuil, Tiree on 19-21 May 2013.*

No records.

## **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 Islay 35 were at Ardnave on 2 Jan and 43 were at Kilchoman on 9 Feb. Elsewhere 8 were found on coastal survey at The Oa on 27 Mar. On Colonsay most reports were from the Oronsay RSPB Reserve where counts exceeded 10 birds on 7 occasions with a maximum of 14 on 13 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** 48 pairs bred on Islay [46 in 2016], although 15 pairs failed. There were 33 successful pairs [36 in 2016] which had 80 young (SCSG). This includes six pairs at Ardnave [5 in 2016] and one pair at Gruinart [1 in 2016]. Elsewhere on Islay a flock of 39 non-breeders were at Kilchoman on 19 May, a flock of 55 was reported on 23 Jun, 13 birds were at Upper Killeyan on 14 Jul and 47 were at Ardnave on 25 July. On Colonsay 7 pairs were confirmed breeding, with 2-3 other sites possibly occupied [9-10 pairs in 2016]. Five pairs fledged at least 13 young, another pair was known to have failed and failure was suspected at two further sites. There were large young in the final nest, but the outcome was unknown. There were at least two non-breeding birds on Colonsay.

**Autumn/winter** Records from Colonsay generally referred to flocks in single figures although 15 birds were noted on Oronsay on 25 Oct and 9 on 5 Nov. On Islay the largest flock noted was 45 at Machir Bay on 22 Oct. 41 were at Ardnave on 20 Oct and 40 were there on 3 Nov. Around The Oa, 9 at the Monument on 30 Sep was the highest count reported.

## **EURASIAN 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.*

**Winter/spring** Unsurprisingly, most records came from Cowal. Three were in the Dunoon bays on 21 Jan, 2 were at the Little Eachaig River on 24 Feb and 1 was at Kilmun on 4 Mar. Elsewhere, 1 was at Carradale Kintyre on 27 Feb, 1 was at Carn Breugach (Kerrera) Mid-Argyll on 5 Mar and 1 was at Taynish Mid-Argyll on 17 Mar. One was found dead at Cliad Coll on 6 Apr and 1 was at Laphroaig Islay on 9 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Occupied nests were recorded in Cowal on 17 Apr at Sandbank, Dunoon, Innellan (2) and Garhallow Burn, but no young were reported. Sightings in May came from a wider area, with singles at The Oa Islay on 5 - 8 May, Loch Gruinart on 8 May, Easter Ellister Islay on 17 May, Arrochar Cowal on 22 May, Garmony Point Mull on 28 May and Lussa River Mull on 7 Jun. The highest count during the summer was 3 from Sandbank Cowal on 2 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** All records were of single birds; at Lagstoban *Islay* on 1 Sep, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov – 20 Dec, Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec with possibly same Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Dec and on *Mull* at Loch Assapool on 5 Sep Ardtun on 7 Sep.

### **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** Early records included singles at Glenreasdell Mains *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, Dervaig *Mull* on 19 Jan, Loch Caolisport and Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan and Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb. Two were at Dervaig *Mull* on 13 Feb and 2 at Little Eachaig River *Cowal* on 24 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** Possible breeding activity was reported from Toward Quay *Cowal* on 17 Apr, but there were no other reports of breeding activity. Single birds were recorded from most mainland areas including Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 11 Apr, Benmore Botanic Garden *Cowal* on 8 May, Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May, Danes Leap *Cowal* and Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 30 May, Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 4 and 12 Jul, Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jul, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 1 and 13 Aug, and Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 8 Aug. Up to 3 birds were seen on 7 dates from 30 May to 26 Aug at Otter Ferry *Cowal*. Island records were restricted to *Mull* with singles at Torosay Castle on 2 Apr, Lochdon on 13 Apr, Ardura on 6 May, Grasspoint on 12 May and Corrynachenchy (Fishnish) on 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Highest counts were 7 at Upper Succoth *Cowal* on 30 Jul, a group of 14 at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep and 4 at Bishop's Glen *Cowal* on 12 Nov. One or occasionally 2 birds were seen around Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 4 dates between 19 Sep and 8 Nov, and up to 4 birds were at Braevallich *Mid Argyll* on 18 dates between 1 Sep and 22 Dec. Two birds were at Gleann Dubh reservoir *North Argyll* on 17 Sep, 2 were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct, and 2 were at Caol Scotnish *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov. The only *Kintyre* record was a single bird from Cour on 13 Oct. The last sightings of the year were 1 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 28 Dec and 1 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 30 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** Records came from all mainland areas with the exception of *Cowal*. Once again, the largest flock of around 500 was reported from *Kintyre*, this time at Kilkivan Quarry on 15 Mar. Other notable sightings were 50 at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 41 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 29 Jan, 110 at Barsloisnach *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb, 1 at Treshnish *Mull* on 18 Mar, 190 at Leth Uillt mouth (West Coast Salmon) *Kintyre* on 6 Mar, 33 at Beinn an Sgoiltaire *Colonsay* on 13 Mar, 50 at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 22 Mar, 50 at West Carrabus *Islay* on 26 Mar and up to 2 in the Heylipol/Crossapol area of *Tiree* in Jan-Feb

**Breeding/summer** Only breeding reports noted were 30 birds at occupied nests at Ardyne *Cowal* on 17 Apr and fledged young at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 21 May. Other reports were of 4 at Iona *Mull* on 7 Jun, 18 at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 18 Jun, 12 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 22 Jun, 40 at Loch Clach a'Bhuaile (Machrie) *Islay* on 23 Jun, 250 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 28 Jun, 50 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 6 Jul and 7 at Ardachy (Loch Etive) *North Argyll* on 28 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** There were 160 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 7 at Iona *Mull* on 18 Oct, 30 at Ormsary *Kintyre* on 23 Oct, 150 at Loch Clach a'Bhuaile *Islay* on 29 Oct, 40 at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 25 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov. There were more records from *Islay* than any other area, many coming from Birdtrack, but recorded only as 'present'. Single birds were reported from Oronsay *Colonsay* between 15 and 21 Oct. The only record for *Cowal*

was of 2 at Sandbank on 22 Dec. There were no records from *North Argyll*, the most northerly report being of 2 at Connel *Mid Argyll* on 11 Nov.

### **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** Records were restricted to *Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll*. The largest flocks were 70 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 50 at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 2 Jan. There were 40 at Achuaran (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 7 Jan, 18 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 27 Feb and 31 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar. *Mull* provided a single record of 30 at Ardtun on 20 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** 2017 saw the club conduct a rookery census, the first since 1975 (see Argyll Bird Report 28 for detailed results). *Kintyre* again held the most rookeries, followed by *Islay*. Overall the number of rookeries in Argyll remained about the same (67 in 2017 versus 71 in 1975), but the number of nests had declined by around 20%. Many old rookeries had disappeared but 33 new ones were located. The importance of *Kintyre* is emphasised by a count of 1,671 birds at the refuse disposal site on 31 May. 1,471 nests were counted in *Kintyre* which is 41% down since the last count in 1996. Three rookeries at Connel *Mid-Argyll* held at least 68 birds between 27 Mar and 4 Apr. There were 50 at Iona *Mull* on 18 May, 30 at An Sailean (Benderloch) *North Argyll* on 30 May, 70 at Ardnave *Islay* on 14 Jun and 53 at the source of the River Euchar *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Most records came from *Islay*, again many from Birdtrack recorded only as 'present'. The highest counts were of 60 at the Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Sep and 70 at Loch Clach a'Bhuaille (Machrie) *Islay* on 30 Oct. Elsewhere, there was 1 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 12 Sep, 4 at Iona *Mull* on 18 Oct, 145 at Ormsary *Kintyre* on 23 Oct, 4 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov and 44 at Millhouse *Cowal* on 21 Dec.

### **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** Records were widespread, with the majority of records coming from 6 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and 4 on *Mull*. Most of these were of singles or pairs but there were 4 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb and 12 on the north shore of Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 10 Feb. An unusual record was of a single bird at Moss *Tiree* on 23 Feb. The only count from *Cowal* was also the highest for this period with 30 at Hunter's Quay on 25 Mar. 4 were at Glen Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr, 1 at Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 11 Apr and 1 was at Balerominmore *Colonsay* on 23 Apr.

**Summer/autumn/winter** Two were at An Speireachan (NW of Tobermory) *Mull* on 5 May, 1 at Castle Stalker *North Argyll* on 16 May, 2 at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May, 4 at Rashfield *Cowal* on 17 Jun, and 20 at the source of the River Euchar *Cowal* on 10 Aug. A series of 43 records of single birds, probably the same one, came from Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* between 29 Aug and 22 Dec.

### **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.***

Under-recorded, particularly in overlap zone from *Cowal* to *Mid-Argyll*.

**Winter/spring** *Mid-Argyll* provided most of the early records with up to 4 at Loch Caolisport between 14 Jan and 7 Feb. Four were at Loch Gilp dump on 8 Feb and 8 at Glen Ralloch (Tarbert) on 26 Feb. Elsewhere, 1 was at the Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 20 Apr.

**Summer/autumn/winter** Two were at Glendaruel *Cowal* on 14 May and 8 were at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May. Two newly fledged birds were seen nr Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 3 Jun while 3 juvs were with a mixed pair of adults near Cruachan Power Station *North Argyll* on 24 Jul. The last records of the year were 4 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct and 1 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 2 Dec.

## **HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix* Feannag-ghlas

**A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.**

**Winter/spring** Larger counts included 40 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 Jan, 19 at Coshandrochaid (Ulva Lagoon) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 53 at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 2 Feb, 54 at Eilean Traighe (Loch Caolisport) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Feb, 36 at Lingerton landfill (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb, 64 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb, 51 at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Feb and 32 at Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 3 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** On *Colonsay* 44 prs were located with 24 broods and 50 young. On *Tiree* 21 birds including families with young were at Balephuill on 29 Jul. Higher counts included 30 at Aird of Kinloch *Mull* on 6 May, 63 at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May, 51 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and 50 at Craignure jetty *Mull* on 3 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Higher counts included 60 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Sep, 26 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct, 32 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct and 50 at Keills *Islay* on 4 Nov.

## **NORTHERN RAVEN** *Corvus corax* Fitheach

**A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter.**

**Winter/spring** Higher counts included 10 at the Monument (The Oa) *Islay* on 27 Jan, 14 at Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Mar, 10 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 Apr and 120 at Crossapool *Coll* on 19 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Nest building was reported at Rockmountain *Islay* on 4 Jan and early occupied nests noted on 12 Feb at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* and 23 Feb at Beinn Hough *Tiree*. On *Tiree* there were 11 active prs at 10 sites in Mar, 12 occupied sites in Apr and 13 occupied sites in May with 11 fledged young. Higher counts included 10 at Dun Urganul *Mull* on 3 May, 22 at Caoles dunes *Coll* on 4 May and 11 at Glean Lean *Cowal* on 6 May.

**Autumn/winter** Generally 1 - 4 birds reported however a high count of 60 at Ardmore *Mull* on 13 Sep.

Table 31. *Outcome of Common Raven territories in Argyll in 2017. NB: the table includes data for Bute which is outside the Argyll Recording Area.*

### **Raven**

Area	Sites Checked	Sites Occupied	Breeding Proven	Sites successful	Sites failed	Outcome unknown	Min. No. fledged	Young per successful nest
Bute	23	16*	12	11	1	0	34	3.09

Colonsay	22	9	9	5	4	0	15	3
Kilmartin	6	6	6	5	1	0	11	2.2
Luing	5	4	3	3	0	0	5	1.66
Mid-Argyll	2	2	2	1	0	1	3	3
Seil	2	2	2			2	n/k	n/k
Scarba	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	3
Kintyre	11	8*	6	4	2	0	13	3.25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2.74</b>

\*Includes 1 single adult

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* Crìonag-bhuidhe

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

**Winter/spring** Mainland records were from: *Mid-Argyll* (8) and *North Argyll* (2) whilst reports from the islands included: *Coll* (2), *Islay* (10), *Mull* (7) and *Tiree* (10). Counts included: 9 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 12 Mar and 30 at *Clachaig (Dunoon) Cowal* on 28 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Sightings were reported from all mainland and island areas including *Jura* and *Coll*, although those on *Tiree* related to non-breeding migrants involving a single bird at *Carnan Mor* and *Balephuill* on 8 and 13 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Counts in single figures were evident from a number of sites across *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*, with higher counts of 10 at *Poltalloch (Kilmartin) Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct and 10 at *Bridgend Islay* on 26 Oct. First autumn migrant on *Tiree* was on 28 Aug with the last on 28 Nov.

### **COMMON FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla* Crìonag

***A rare migrant/visitor: Twelve records between 1980 and 2015.***

No records.

### **EURASIAN BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus* Cailleachag-cheann-ghorm

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

**Winter/spring** Reported in low numbers from many locations including: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (16), and *North Argyll* (6). There was a high count of 19 at *Tayvallich Mid Argyll* on 30 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from locations in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (22) and *North Argyll* (2). Breeding was probably widespread but there were only four records of fledged young: from *Cowal* at *Otter Ferry*, *Mid-Argyll* at *Tayvallich* and *Kilmichael Glassary* and *Loch Spelve Mull*. 5 Ters were recorded in the *Cruachan Power Station Biodiversity Survey Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from locations in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (18), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (7) and *Mull* (8).

### **GREAT TIT** *Parus major* Currac-bhaintighearna

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

**Winter/spring** Reported from locations in: *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (20) and *North Argyll* (9). The only count in double figures was 19 at Tayvallich *Mid Argyll* on 30 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding was confirmed with sightings of fledglings from *Cowal* at Otter Ferry and *Mid-Argyll* at Cruachan, Tayvallich and Kilmichael Glassary. Records also came from locations in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (22), *Mull* (32) and *North Argyll* (3).

**Autumn/winter** Reported from locations in *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Mull* (5). The only count of 10 or more was 17 at Braevallich (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep.

### **EUROPEAN 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 Oct to Nov 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: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (5). No reports from *Coll* or *Tiree*. The largest count was of 7 in Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* and up to 4 birds were regularly present in a garden in Connel *Mid-Argyll* for 81% of the observed weeks through the year.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from: *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (21).

**Autumn/winter** Reported from: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (1). Notable island records were at Arinagour *Coll* on 13 Sep and up to 2 at Menigie/Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 30 Sep-1 Oct.

### **WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montanus* Currac-ghiuthais

**RED LIST A vagrant: One record; near Water of Tulla, North Argyll on 1 Jun 1991.**

No records.

### **EURASIAN SKYLARK** *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 sites at *Tiree* (2), *Mull* (10), *Colonsay* (6), *Islay* (19), *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *North Argyll* (4). Unusually, the highest counts were not on *Islay*, where the largest flock was 60 by the monument (The Oa) on 2 Mar, with higher counts instead of 90-93 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb-11 Mar and 90 at Langamull *Mull* on 17 Mar. Elsewhere, 50 were at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 8 Mar, 40 were at Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 3 Mar and 40 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Feb. Birds were first noted singing on *Tiree* on 17 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from sites at: *Tiree* (4), *Coll* (8), *Mull* (58) including birds singing on Staffa and 3 males singing on Lunga at the end of Jun, *Colonsay* (4), *Jura* (1), *Islay* (18), *North Argyll* (6) although none from the Cruachan Power Station study site, *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *Cowal* (1). There were no records from *Kintyre*. High counts included: 28 on a survey at Cnoc Carrach (The Oa) *Islay* on 10 May, 20 at Fidden *Mull* on 19 May, 10 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 10 Jun and 10 at Tarbert *Jura*.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from sites at: *Tiree* (7), *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (13), *Cowal* (1) and *Kintyre* (2). Higher counts of 30 or more included: 300 at Ard Mor *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 100 at Rockside *Islay* on 30 Sep, 80+ at Strath Farm (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 16 Nov, 39 at Drochaid Ath a' Chardaigh *Islay* on 22 Oct and 35 at RPSB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Dec.

**SHORE LARK (HORNED LARK)** *Eremophila alpestris*

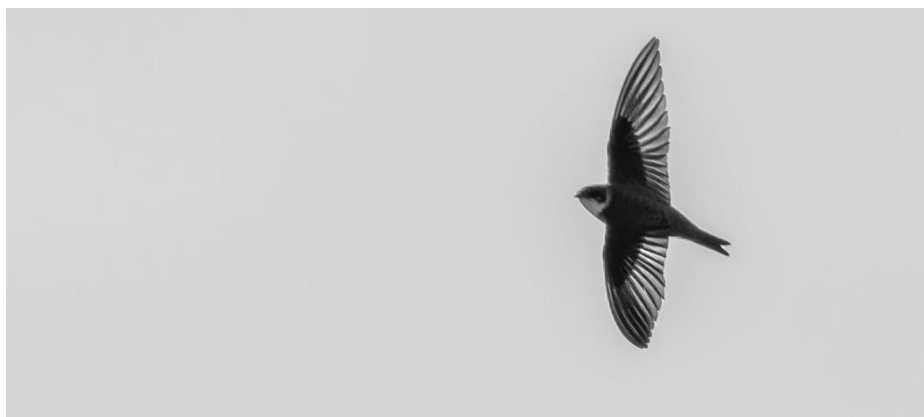
**A vagrant:** *One record of three birds; on Islay on 18 to 19 Oct 1976.*

No records.

**GREATER 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.



**Sand Martin** *Tiree* April 2017 (Richard Whitson)

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan-gainmhich

**AMBER LIST A summer visitor:** *localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

**Spring** The first bird was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Mar followed by 2 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, 1 at Loch Tor *Mull* on 26 Mar and 3 at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar. Birds were reported from *Tiree* on 1 Apr and *North Argyll* on 4 Apr. The first large flock, 100 birds, was at Killellan (Ardyne) *Cowal* on 17 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** More than 80 pairs nested at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* with a further 44 pairs at other sites on *Tiree*. Other colony counts reported included: 13 AOB at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay*, 90 at Ormidale *Cowal*, 23 at Machir Bay *Islay*, 8 at the Add Estuary and 5-10 at Teatle Water Mouth (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll*, 35 at Knockvologan *Mull* and 5 at Achacha (Barcaldine Forest) *North Argyll*. Large flocks seen in Jun and Jul included: 50 at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal*, 20 at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, 35 at Lochan an Doire Dharaich *Mull*, and 150 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*.

**Autumn** On *Tiree*, a total of 150 were seen on 14 Aug across Lochs Riaghain, a' Phuill, an Eilein and Bhasapol and 70 were still at Balephuill on 23 Aug. Numbers quickly declined in Sep with 20

at Loch a'Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Sep, 10 at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 11 Sep, and the last bird was seen on 13 Sep at the Reef *Tiree*.

### **BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan-gaoith

*A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.*

**Spring** The first arrivals were 3 at Knock *Mull* on 29 Mar followed by singles at: Rockside *Islay* and Barrapol *Tiree* on 30 Mar, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Apr, and Daltote Cottage (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr. Birds reached Benmore Botanic Garden *Cowal* on 10 Apr and Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 12 Apr. Numbers then started to build with 7 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr. No large flocks were reported but: 16 were at Traigh Ghruineart *Islay* on 30 Apr, 20 were at The Monument (The Oa) *Islay* on 2 May, 14 were at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May, and 21 were at Cornaig *Tiree* also on 14 May.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed only from: *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*. The first fledglings were noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun and late broods were still fledging on *Tiree* in mid-Sep. A flock of 100 was feeding over the exposed mud of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jul and 60 were at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul.

**Autumn** Post-breeding flocks started to build in Aug with: 30 at Craignure Jetty *Mull* on 3 Aug, 25 at Am Barr (Glen Lonan) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, 100 at The Reef *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 56 at Abhainn a' Chuirn *Colonsay* on 26 Aug, 85 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, 40 at Strath Farm (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 21 Sep, 50 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 24 Sep, and 90 at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep. Numbers dropped rapidly through Oct with the last bird reported from Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 8 Nov.

### **COMMON 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** The first arrival was at Arinagour *Coll* on 15 Mar followed by 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Mar. The next arrivals were not until 1 Apr when 9 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and singles were at Kilchiaran *Islay* and Heylipol *Tiree*. One was at Tayvallich Harbour *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr, 2 were at Loch a'Chumhainn *Mull* on 10 Apr, 1 was at Achnacroish (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 15 Apr after which birds were widespread. The largest flock reported was 12 at Killiechranan *Mull* on 22 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was reported from: *Cowal*, *Islay*, and *Mid-Argyll*. Although a pair built a nest at Crossapol *Tiree* they then failed to breed. 28 were at the Little Eachaig River *Cowal* on 8 Jun, and flocks of at least 20 were at: Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Jul, and Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

**Autumn** Twelve were at Craignure *Mull* on 3 Aug, 12 were at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, and 15 were at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 9 Sep. Single figure reports in Sep were received from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull*, *North Argyll*, and *Tiree*. A late brood at Otter Ferry *Cowal* fledged on 30 Sep and, after two reports in Oct, the last bird was at Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov.

### **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Cecropis daurica*

*A vagrant: Two records; one at Loch Tuath, Mull on 5 Jul 2011 and one at Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree on 20 May 2014.*

**Spring** One was seen and photographed at Gott *Tiree* on 24 May [Mike & Ann Harrison, John Bowler, Graham Todd]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

### **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan

*A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reported from locations in: Cowal (1), Islay (5), Mid-Argyll (5) and Mull (4). No reports from Colonsay, Coll, Jura, Kintyre, North Argyll or Tiree. Higher counts included: 10 at Clachan (Seil) Mid-Argyll on 3 Jan and 12 at Lochdon Mull on 15 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from locations in: Colonsay (1), Cowal (3), Islay (2), Jura (1), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (5) Mull (5) and North Argyll (1). Higher counts included: 40 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 12 Jun and 20 on 6 Jul, 10 at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 12 Jun and 34 near Lochdon Mull on 9 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from locations in: Coll (1), Colonsay (1), Cowal (5), Islay (12), Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (2) and North Argyll (2). Reported numbers were generally in single figures but counts of 12 or more included: 15 at Otter Ferry Cowal on 8 Oct and in Mid-Argyll, 15 at Lochgilhead on 10 and 15 Oct and 18 in Connel on 18 Oct.



**Long-tailed Tit** *Mid-Argyll* December 2017 (Jim Dickson)

### **‘NORTHERN’ LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*

*The nominate race of this species from Scandinavia and NE Europe occasionally occurs in late autumn in the ‘Northern’ Isles and east coast of Britain.*

*A vagrant: One record; two birds at Loch Beg, Mull on 7 Nov 2016.*

No records.

### **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 Jul 1987.*

**Spring/summer** One photographed and song recorded at Loch Turrann Colonsay on 15 Jun [David Jardine, Ian Fisher et al]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

*(see article on page 125)*

### **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Ceileiriche-buidhe

*A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 73 records between 1954 and 2016, the majority on Tiree.*

**Autumn** After a record showing with at least 23 birds in 2016, only three reports this year. On Tiree 1 was at Balephuill and Carnan Mor on 22-24 Sep [John Bowler, Janet Hunter] and 1 was at The Glebe (Scarinish) on 2-5 Oct [Jim Dickson, John Bowler]. One was at Balnamoil cottage

(Mull of Kintyre) *Kintyre* on 18 Oct [Chris Brown]. All records were accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on page 117).

**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.

**BONELLI'S WARBLER (EASTERN or WESTERN)** *Phylloscopus bonelli* or *P. orientalis*

*A vagrant: one record; a singing male on Islay in May 1976, was not 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 noted were at Dalvore wood *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr (same arrival date as last year) then a gap to next at Pennyghael *Mull* on 2 May. On *Coll* 1 singing male was at The Lodge on 12 May. In *Cowal* at nine sites between 2 May and 9 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* at 14 sites between 19 Apr and 26 Jun, notably with 8 singing males at Taynish NNR on 4 May. On *Mull* at 10 sites between 1 May and 24 Jun. In *North Argyll* at two sites in May. On *Tiree* single migrants at Mannal on 10 May and at Carnan Mor on 22 May. No reports from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Jura* or *Kintyre*.

**Summer/autumn** Last report was of 1 at Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 12 Jul.

**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** First arrival was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Mar (same date as last year and earliest ever on *Tiree*). Most arrivals were after 24 Mar. No reports received from *Jura*. On *Coll* 1 was at Totronald on 19 Apr. On *Colonsay* 7 Ters. were noted. In *Cowal* at 13 sites between 25 Mar and 16 Jun. On *Islay* at 16 sites between 28 Mar and 20 Jun. In *Kintyre* at 3 sites between 8 Apr and 18 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* at 17 sites between 24 Mar and 9 Aug. On *Mull* at 13 sites between 27 Mar and 21 Jul. In *North Argyll* at 4 sites in May. On *Tiree* noted between 14 Mar and 20 Jun with a peak of 3 on 22 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports decreased during Aug and noted at only 5 locations in Sep, 9 in Oct and 3 in Nov. Last reports were of singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 Dec and at Claddach *Islay* on 8-10 Dec.

Birds showing features of the 'Scandinavian' race *abietinus* were noted on *Tiree* at Balephuill with 3 in Nov and the last single there on 5 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** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27- 30 Oct, joined by a second bird on 29 Oct [John Bowler].

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Ceileiriche-giuthais

**AMBER LIST** A *widespread and abundant summer visitor*.

**Spring/breeding** The first arrivals were notably earlier than usual with the first at Tayinloan Kintyre on 24 Mar then at Port Appin North Argyll on 25 Mar. Arrivals were more widespread after 4 Apr. Records from all Argyll regions. On *Coll* reports from 10 sites and notably 5 Ters. at The Lodge on 13 May. On *Colonsay* reported as 'widespread'. A brood of 5 was noted on 9 Jun. In *Cowal* at 17 sites and notably 30 at Kilbride on 2 May and 38 at Corrachaive (Glen Lean) on 6 May. On *Islay* at 30 sites and notably 20 in song at Bridgend Woods on 1 May and 18 at Glenastle (The Oa) on 11 May. On *Jura* reports from only 2 sites. In *Kintyre* reports from only 3 sites. In *Mid-Argyll* at 50 sites from 4 Apr. On *Mull* at 95 sites from 8 Apr. In *North Argyll* at 15 sites from 25 Mar. On *Tiree* from 8 Apr and notably at least 12 in song in May.

**Summer/autumn** Some birds still in song in early Sep and widespread records of juveniles. Most birds had departed by early to mid-Sep and records thereafter were from *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree* with last reports of singles at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct, Caolas *Tiree* on 12 Oct and The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 13 Oct.

**EURASIAN 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** Only one report, a male on Kerrara *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar.

**Spring/breeding** Records from all areas except *Jura* and *North Argyll*. First arrivals were single males in song at Kilmartin and at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and at Acharonich *Mull* on 8 Apr, thereafter more widespread arrivals. On *Coll* 3 singing males at 2 sites in May. On *Colonsay* 11 Ters. were recorded. In *Cowal* at 8 sites between 10 Apr and 7 Jul. On *Islay* at 17 sites between 9 Apr and 24 Jun. In *Kintyre* reported from only 1 site. In *Mid-Argyll* at 31 sites between 8 Apr and 4 Sep. On *Mull* at 19 sites between 8 Apr and 3 Sep. On *Tiree* single migrants from 15 Apr then a peak of 3 at Balephuill on 21 Apr and 8 across the island on 8 May, with last single on 14 May.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug and last mainland records of singles at Cairnbaan and Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Sep, thereafter all records were from singles on *Islay* and peaks of 4 on *Tiree* on 9 and 22 Oct. Last reports were singles at Kilchoman *Islay* on 17 Nov and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Nov.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche-garaidh

A *scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats*.

**Spring/breeding** First arrivals were singing males at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and at Kyles of Bute viewpoint *Cowal* on 2 May. On *Coll* 1 was at The Lodge on 12 May. In *Cowal* at 5 sites between 2 May and 9 Jun, notably 3 in song in Glendaruel. In *Mid-Argyll* at 14 sites between 1 May and 10 Jul, notably 3 in song between Cainbaan and Barnakill. On *Mull* at 3 sites between 3 May and 21 Jun. On *Tiree* a migrant was at Balephuill on 3 May.

**Autumn** No reports.

**BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*

A *rare passage migrant: 17 previous records: all have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree*.

No records.

## **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* Gealan-coille Beag

***A rare/scarc passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.***

**Spring/summer** One was at Carnan Mor Tìree on 6 May and another there on 14 May [John Bowler]. One was singing at Machrimore (Southend) Kintyre on 7 Jun [Neil Hammatt].

**Autumn** One was at The Manse (Scarinish) Tìree on 17-18 and 25 Sep [John Bowler] and 1 was at Kenovay Tìree on 6 Oct [Jim Dickson, John Bowler]. (*See list of rejected, pending etc records on page 117.*)

## **‘SIBERIAN’ LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca blythi*

***Recently reinstated as a race and not currently assessed. DNA analysis can be used to separate from the Central Asian race S. c. halimodendri. One showing characteristics of this race was at Balephuill Tìree in Oct 2014 and possibly two more on Tìree in Oct 2016.***

**Autumn** One showing characteristics of *blythi* visited a garden at Glenegedale Islay on 5 Nov and last noted there on 14 Dec [Martin Armstrong *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC but not assigned to race.

## **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 arrival was a male at Glen Fyne Mid-Argyll on 30 Apr followed by widespread arrivals on 2-3 May. Records from all areas except North Argyll. On Coll singles noted on 13 May and 17 Jul. On Colonsay 29 Ters. were recorded. In Cowal at 7 sites between 17 May and 2 Aug. On Islay at 20 sites between 4 May and 22 Jul, notably 13 Ters. at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On Jura noted at only 1 site. In Kintyre at 3 sites between 9 May and 7 Jun. In Mid-Argyll at 24 sites between 30 Apr and 24 Jun. On Mull at 34 sites between 3 May and 11 Jul. On Tìree singles at Balephuill on 3-6 May and 5 Jun.

**Autumn** Most birds had departed by 24 Aug and the last birds recorded were singles at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 5 Sep, at Crossapol Tìree on 6 Sep, at Lower Killeyan (The Oa) Islay on 8 Sep and at Balvicar (Seil) Mid-Argyll on 9 Sep.

## **SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*

***A vagrant: A first-year male, probably ‘western race’ was at Kinnabus, Islay on 16 May 2016.***

**Spring** A male, showing characteristics of ‘western race’ but not sub-specifically accepted was at Carnan Mor Tìree on 7 May [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the SBRC as generic ‘Subalpine’.

## **‘EASTERN’ SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans cantillans/albistrata*

***A vagrant: one accepted record of this sub-species group was at Balephuill, Tìree on 28 May 2012.***

*For BBRC acceptance under this ‘cantillans/albistrata group’ needs to be confirmed by plumage and/or T5 pattern. S. c. cantillans – confirmed by DNA, supported by call, plumage and T5 pattern and for S. c. albistrata confirmed by DNA and/or call and/or wing length, supported by plumage including T5 pattern.*

## **‘WESTERN’ SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans iberiae/inoranta*

***No accepted records of this sub-species group, although see above.***

*For acceptance of the ‘iberiae/inoranta group’ BBRC acceptance needs to be confirmed by plumage and T5 pattern and supported by call. For S. c. inoranta records should be confirmed by*

ringing recovery (genetic material is not currently available for comparison) and for *S. c. iberiae* should be confirmed by DNA, supported by call, plumage and T5 pattern.

**COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche-leumnac  
**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** The first arrival was a singing male at the Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr followed by singles at Minard Mid-Argyll on 17 Apr and at Claddach Islay on 23 Apr. On *Coll* only 2 noted, at Airleod on 31 Jul and at Totronald on 2 May. On *Colonsay* 9 Ters. noted between 29 Apr and 26 Aug. In *Cowal* at 9 sites between 28 Apr and 14 May, notably with 10 Ters. at Corrachaive (Glen Lean) on 6 May. On *Islay* at 22 sites between 24 Apr and 30 Jul, notably at RSPB Loch Gruinart with 9 Ters. In *Mid-Argyll* at 14 sites between 16 Apr and 2 Aug, notably min. of 6 Ters. at the Moine Mhor. On *Mull* at 11 sites between 30 Apr and 7 Jun. In *North Argyll* only noted at 1 site with 2 on 1 May. On *Tiree* at 3 sites between 4 May and 18 Jul.

**Autumn** Last record was of a juv at Balephuill *Tiree* on 20-21 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: Five records; on Islay 28 Aug 1976; at Taynuilt in Jun 1984; on Tiree in Jun 1987, on Islay on 4 to 5 Sep 1993 and on Tiree on 9 Jun 2016.*

No records.

**MELODIOUS WARBLER** *Hippolais polyglotta*

*A vagrant: Two records; one at Totronald, Coll on 8 Jun 2012 and one at The Glebe, Scarinish, Tiree on 18 Sep to 4 Oct 2014.*

No records.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uiseag-oidhche

*A locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.*

**Spring/breeding** The first arrivals was a single at Keills *Islay* on 13 Apr. Most reports were after 26 Apr and widespread arrivals after 1 May. No reports were received from *Jura* or *North Argyll*. On *Coll* at 5 sites between 8 May and 17 Jul. On *Colonsay* noted as 'widespread'. On *Islay* at 22 sites between 13 Apr and 30 Aug. In *Kintyre* reports from only 3 sites. In *Mid-Argyll* at 11 sites between 3 May and 31 Jul. On *Mull* at 18 sites between 21 Apr and 12 Aug. On *Tiree* 'widespread' between 1 May and 7 Sep, with most arrivals in late May.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug, with reports from only 4 sites and the last reports were on *Tiree* with a single at Balevullin on 7 Sep, 4 at Balephuill on 13 Sep and last 2 there on 21 Sep.

**BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

*A vagrant: Two records; one at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 3 Jun 2008 and one at Balephuill, Tiree in Sep 2011.*

No records.

**MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*

**RED LIST A rare passage migrant: Four records; all on Tiree with one at Balephuill on 8-10 Jun 2007, one at Carnan Mor on 28 May 2012, one at Mannal, Tiree on 28 May 2014 and one at The Glebe, Scarinish on 4 Jun 2016.**

No records.

**EURASIAN REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**A rare visitor in spring and summer: Thirteen records; eleven from the islands and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.**

**Summer/autumn** One was seen at Ardvernish (Loch Beg) Mull on 31 Jul and 3 Aug [Hedley Wright, Pete Hall]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc records on page 117).

**CEDAR WAXWING** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

**A vagrant: Two records; a juvenile was at Vaul, Tiree on 21 to 29 Sep 2013 and an adult male at The Glebe, Tiree on 10 Jun 2015.**

No records.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulous* Canarach-dearg

**An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.**

**Winter/spring** Five reports: 1 at Barcaldine North Argyll on 1 Jan, 4 near Kilfinan Cowal on 4 Jan, 1 at Connel Mid-Argyll on 14 Jan, 20 at Minard Mid-Argyll on 21 Jan, and 1 at Ardentinnny Cowal on 28 Feb.

**EURASIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north and west in Scotland.**

**Winter** Singles noted in two areas of Cowal, however 3 were at Ardkinglass Woodland Cowal on 21 Jan. Singles at Dalmally Mid-Argyll on 3 Jan and Barcaldine forest North Argyll on 1 and 21 Jan.

**Spring/breeding** Noted in three areas of Cowal, five areas of Mid-Argyll, three areas of Mull and two areas of North Argyll. Juvs were seen and one was caught and ringed at Grendon North Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** Singles were noted in three areas of Mid-Argyll, 1-2 birds in two areas of Cowal and up to 3 birds including juvs at Grendon (Barcaldine) North Argyll 1 Sep -18 Nov and a juv caught and ringed there on 18 Nov.

**EURASIAN TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear

**A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.**

**Winter/spring** Single birds or pairs were recorded from sites at: Cowal (1), Islay (5), Mid-Argyll (4), Mull (5) and North-Argyll (2).

**Summer/breeding** There were no records of breeding, but sightings included locations in Colonsay (1), Cowal (3), Islay (3), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (2), Mull (7) and North Argyll (2). There were no records from Coll, Jura or Tiree.

**Autumn/winter** Low numbers were reported from sites in: Cowal (1), Islay (3), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (1) and Mull (1).

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathann-donn

**A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters; additional birds winter on the islands.**

Birds were recorded in all areas, although on some of the more remote islands the low frequency of records in winter may be related more to the absence of observers rather than birds.

**Breeding** Territorial behaviour was recorded through the presence of singing males in all areas, sometimes at significant densities including: 24 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May, 14 at Glenastle (The Oa) *Islay* on 11 May and 24 at 11 sites on *Tiree* on 31 May. Birds can be found on remote islands where habitat is suitable with 17 probable Ters. identified on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* during the annual survey. Records of fledged young included: Na Badain (Lochdon) *Mull* on 21 Jun, Cruachan (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun, Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 29 Jun, Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Jul and Keills (Loch Sween) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jul.

**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/spring** Widely reported from most areas but no records received from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura* and *North Argyll*. The largest flock was reported from The Laggan (Stewarton) *Kintyre* where a flock greater than 2,000 was regularly seen throughout Mar. Other larger flocks (200 or over) were confined to the islands including: 565 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Jan, 250 at Ardnave *Islay* on 3 Feb and 700 at Fidden (Fionnphort) *Mull* on 9 Feb. At Heylipol *Tiree* there were 800 on 17 Jan, 900 on 12 Feb, 600 on 22 Feb and 1,200 on 4 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** From Apr to Jun breeding birds were widely reported from all areas. Fledglings were seen being fed at Bridgend (Lochgilphead) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May whilst at nearby Kilmichael Glassary young birds were being fed in nest boxes intended for swifts on 10 May but had fledged 4 days later. At the same site a flock of 40 juvs were seen on 31 May. Three nests with young were seen at Oronsay Farm *Colonsay* on 23 May. Following the first fledglings seen on 25 May the mass fledging across *Tiree* started on 30 May with increasing flock sizes noted on 1 Jun reaching 550 at The Reef and 950 at Heylipol on 5 Jul. A flock of 40, including many juveniles, was regularly seen on Lunga (Treshnish Isles) *Mull* during the annual survey between 24 Jun and 1 Jul and on *Islay* the largest flock was 575 birds recorded at Loch Gruinart on 8 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Moderate flocks of up to 100 birds in autumn were recorded from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. From Sep onwards, some substantial flocks built up, mainly on the islands, with some notable examples including: 300 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 17 Sep, on *Islay* with 650 at Kilchoman on 23 Sep and 700 at Loch Gorm on 29 Oct. On *Tiree* numbers remained high until the end of the year with 1,050 at Heylipol on 13 Dec. On the mainland the largest recorded flock was in *Kintyre* with a flock in the Stewarton area exceeding 700 on 21 Dec.

**ROSY STARLING (ROSE-COLOURED STARLING)** *Pastor roseus* Druid-dhear

**A rare summer and autumn visitor: More frequent in recent years.**

**Spring/summer** A 2CY male was at Hunter's Quay and Kirm *Cowal* on 25 May remaining in the area to at least 30 May. A second bird was claimed but no supporting details given [Paul Thallon *et al*]. An adult female was at The Green *Tiree* on 3 Jun [Ian MacDonald]. An adult male was at Laphroaig *Islay* on 21-26 Jun [Jack Dunford *et al*]. All submitted records accepted by the ABRC.

**WHITE-THROATED DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha –uisge

**AMBER LIST** A *widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.*

**Winter** Most reports related to 1-2 birds well spread in suitable habitat on *Islay, Mull* and mainland Argyll.

**Breeding** Birds were present at sites with suitable habitat: in *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (13) and *North Argyll* (2).

**Autumn/winter** Most reports were of 1-2 birds again throughout *Islay, Mull* and mainland Argyll with highest count of 5 birds at *Loch Tulla North Argyll* on 15 Dec.

**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** *Catharus ustulatus*

*A transatlantic vagrant more or less annual in Scotland in autumn. One record, at Balephuill Tiree on 22-23 Sep 2016.*

No records.

**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 please.*

**Spring/summer** Three records: 1 singing at Beinn Buidhe (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr, a male near Hynish *Tiree* on 4 May and 2 at An Caorachan (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May.

**Breeding** No reports of breeding. Please submit all summer records as valuable to monitor this decreasing breeding species.

**Autumn** Eight reports: a female at Coire -airigh pass (Killimore) *Mull* on 3 Aug. On *Islay* 1 was at Bruichladdich on 22 Oct, 1 at Carnain and 3 at Loch Gruinart on 23 Oct, 1 at Lagstoban (Coullabus) and another at Risabus (The Oa) on 24 Oct and 1 at Kilchomanoch on 28 Oct. On *Tiree* a single first year bird was at Carnan Mor (Balephuill) on 29 Oct.

**COMMON 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 small numbers from all areas. The only counts of 10 or more were all on *Islay* with; 22 at Rockside, 10 Bruichladdich Pier and 21 Loch Clach a' Bhuaile (Kilchoman) *Islay* all on 2 Jan.

First singing bird was noted on 18 Jan in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* and nest building was reported on 1 Apr at Connel *Mid-Argyll* and first nest with eggs in early Apr. A male was again present in a garden in Connel *Mid-Argyll* from 2 Feb - 6 Mar that was present 2015-16 winter and had been ringed in Stavanger, Norway on 15 Apr 2013.

**Summer/breeding** Birds were noted breeding from all areas of Argyll. The first fledglings were reported from *Tiree* on 6 May.

**Autumn/winter** Throughout this period birds were widely reported in small numbers. Groups of 10 or more included: 16 at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 18 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Oct, 20 at Kilchoman *Islay* on the 29 Oct, 12 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on the 31 Oct, also 21 there on the 1 Nov and 20 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov.

**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** Widely reported in low numbers with only one report of 50 or more birds (*cf* 13 in 2016); this was a flock of 75 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb. Flocks of over 40 included: 42 at Glen Massan *Cowal* on 9 Jan, 42 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 41 at Baluacharig *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 40 at Barnakill *Mid-Argyll* 10 Feb. The last flock was 28 at Eas a' Ghuaillich (Glendaruel) *Cowal* on 20 Apr and the last report was a single bird at Knock *Mull* on the 24 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** The first five reports were of low numbers from 30 Sep to mid-Oct with records scattered from *Coll, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull* and *North Argyll*. First birds on *Tiree* were on 22 Oct. A further 34 reports from 18 - 30 Oct included 6 flocks of 100 or more birds, with the most notable arrivals involving 1,000's of birds as follows: 250 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on the 19 Oct, 135 passing over Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* and 1,000 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 21 Oct, 2,000 at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on the 23 Oct and 600 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on the 25-26 Oct. Fewer (25) reports in Nov included 100 (with 50 redwings) at Kilfinan *Cowal* on the 18 Nov. Five reports in Dec, all fewer than 40 birds.

### **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* Smeòrach

**RED LIST A** *widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.*

**Winter/spring** Widely reported in low numbers. The only group over 10 was 14 at Kilchoman *Islay* on the 2 Jan. The first singing bird noted was in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** There were over 250 records of breeding or presumed breeding birds across all areas of Argyll. The first c/4 noted was at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr and the first fledged young noted at Badan Tomain (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr. *Tiree* held c.30 singing males.

**Autumn/winter** Reported in single figures apart from 20 at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct and 12 at Meningie *Tiree* on 12 Dec.

### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath-dhearg

**RED LIST A** *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

**Winter/spring** There were regular reports during Jan to Apr with 11 reports of 50 or more and just a few of 100 or more including: 100 at Scarinish *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 1,000 around *Tiree* on 16-17 Jan and at least 500 there in mid-Feb and c.200 around *Tiree* in mid-Mar. Late spring records involved small numbers in early May from *Cowal, Mull* and *Tiree*. Singing birds were heard at Balephuill *Tiree* in late Apr. A mid-summer record may perhaps relate to a compromised bird which did not migrate rather than an early return, at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** The first report was of 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Sep followed by more widespread arrivals during Oct. Main arrivals occurred from mid-Oct into Nov with 26 reports of flocks over 200 birds. Flocks of 1,000 or more included: 1,000 at Killiechranon *Mull* on the 22 Oct, 2,300 at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on the 23 Oct with 3,000 on 24 Oct. At this time, there were 900 at the Laggan *Kintyre* and 1,000 noted around *Tiree* by early Nov remaining into Dec with generally much smaller numbers elsewhere.



**Mistle Thrush** *Mid-Argyll* November 2017 (Jim Dickson)

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* Smeòrach-mhòr

**RED 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** During Jan to Feb, reports of 10 or less came from 9 areas across Argyll except *Coll* and *Jura*, however the largest flock was 25 at Inveresragan *North Argyll* on the 12 Feb. Singles were at 4 sites on *Tiree* from mid-Jan until early Mar. First reports of singing males were 2 at Duntrune (Loch Crinan) and 1 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb.

**Breeding/summer** Pairs were noted and territories held at sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (27) and *North Argyll* (6). Higher counts included: 14 at Keills Hill (Loch na Cille) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun and 9 at Bealachdrach (Loch Lossit) *Islay* on 16 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Generally low numbers, with higher counts including: 12 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, 25 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep, 12 at Glen Aros *Mull* on 15 Sep, 20 Achaleven (Connel) *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct and 10 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 30 Oct. Singles at Caoles and Balephuill *Tiree* and at Garden House *Coll* in mid-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** The first arrivals were noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May, followed by birds at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 May and at Bunessan *Mull* and The Lodge *Coll* on 12 May. Birds were more widespread from 14 May with additional May records from sites on: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (8).

**Breeding/summer** Possible, probable or confirmed breeding birds were recorded in Jun-Aug from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (6) including 2 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart, *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (3), and no birds were recorded at the Ben Cruachan study area *North Argyll* for the first time since 2012. There were no records from *Coll*. A nest at

Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* fledged 5 young from 5 eggs on 18 Jun, whilst fledglings were noted at Kilmahumaig *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun, at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun, at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul, at Loch Lossit *Islay* on 16 Jul and at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul. Presumably local-breeding birds were still at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 3 Aug, 4 were at Croggan (Loch Spelve) *Mull* on 4 Aug, at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug, at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Aug, at Lochan Ceann a' Choin *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug, at Am Barr, Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug and at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* on 15 Aug.

**Autumn** There were just six autumn passage birds noted: 1 was at Totronald *Coll* on 23 Aug, singles were at Ardachy (Loch Etive) and Achnaba *North Argyll* on 28 Aug, 1 was at Beinn nan Gudairean *Colonsay* on 2 Sep and the last bird was at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep.

## **EUROPEAN 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 overwintering.**

**Winter/spring** In late winter, birds were widespread in all areas but there were no counts above 3 birds.

**Breeding/summer** Records of possible to confirmed breeding were from sites in: *Coll* (5), *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (22) including 19 territories at the Taynish NNR CBC site, *Mull* (46) and *North Argyll* (8), the latter including a high total of 7 singing males at the Cruachan Power Station study site on 12 May. The first fledged brood was noted at Arinagour *Coll* on 12 May and other early breeding records included an adult with a juvenile at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May, a fledged juvenile at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun, adults feeding young at Lochgilphead Caravan Park *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun and at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 8 Jun. Later broods included new families of young at Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jul and at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 6 Jul. An elusive pair summered in gardens at Balephuill *Tiree* throughout May but only 1 bird remained in Jun-Aug and no breeding was recorded.

**Autumn/winter** Birds were widespread in all areas in winter. Apart from the lone summering bird at Balephuill, the first returning passage bird on *Tiree* was a second adult at Balephuill on 18 Aug, with scattered birds widespread thereafter including a high count of 8 at Balephuill on 6 Oct. Elsewhere, high counts included 12 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 26 Oct, 8 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 31 Oct, 6 at Easdale Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep, 5 at Port Chill Bhraonain *Mull* on 17 Oct, 5 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 2 Nov and 5 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 13 Dec.

## **COMMON NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag

**RED 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: Eleven records; on Islay in Nov 1974 and Oct 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010, two singles on Tiree in Oct 2012, two in Jun and two Sep/Oct on Tiree in 2014 and one on Tiree in Oct 2016.*

**Autumn** An early first-winter was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10-12 Oct [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Tiree* September 2017 (John Bowler)

**COLLARED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula albicollis*

*A vagrant: An adult male was at Carnan Mor Tiree on 27 May 2014.*

No records.

**EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan-glas

**RED 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 the 1990s-2000s was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers have since declined; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes, with no confirmed breeding records in recent years. Rare but near-annual on passage on the islands, especially Tiree.*

**Spring** The only reports were of 3 birds at Glenbranter *Cowal* on 19 May followed by a female at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 22 May.

**Breeding** For the first time in many years, breeding was confirmed in Argyll when a pair with 4 chicks was recorded at Glenbranter *Cowal* around 18 Jun. A single bird was at An t-Inbhur (Loch Awe) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun.

**Autumn** Typical autumn passage records came from *Tiree* involving single first-winter birds at Balephuill on 9 Sep and at Carnan Mor / Balephuill on 20-22 Sep.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochuros* Ceann-dubhan

**RED 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 female was feeding from bushes around Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 28 May.



**Common Redstart** *Mid-Argyll* April 2017 (Jim Dickson)

**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 Dalvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr and at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Apr. These were followed by records at Auchenbreck and Kilbride Farm *Cowal* on 2 May, at Cnoc Carrach (The Oa) *Islay* on 2 May and at Lower Killeyan *Islay* on 3 May, with many scattered records in the rest of May.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were fairly widespread at likely breeding locations in May-Jun with records from sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (1). A male was still singing at Tayness (Kilmartin) *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul and 2 females were reported 500m apart at Ardacheranmor *Cowal* on 7 Jul, but there were no confirmed breeding records. A female at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 27 May was clearly just a late passage bird.

**Autumn** Three reports of migrants: a fem/juv north of the Airport *Tiree* on 29 Aug, an immature male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 20 Sep and a very late fem/imm foraging in a tree at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 6 Nov.

**BLUE ROCK THRUSH** *Monticola solitarius*

**A vagrant: One record; a first summer male present at Skerryvore, Tiree on 4 to 7 Jun 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

**RED LIST A** *sparse but widespread, summer visitor*

**Spring** Arrivals were later than in 2016, with the first at Kilfinichen *Mull* on 29 Apr, followed by birds at Croggan (Loch Spelve) *Mull* on 30 Apr and at West Ardhru *Mull* on 1 May. *Islay* saw its first birds on 2 May with 2 at Killinallan, 1 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 2 at Corra-Ghoirtein. The first mainland record was at Dalvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and birds were more widespread thereafter. By the end of May further records had also been received from additional

sites in: *Coll* (3), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (1) but none from *Tiree*, *Colonsay* or *Kintyre*.

**Breeding/summer** The first brood was noted at Killinallan *Islay* on 8 Jun and breeding was also confirmed at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*, where juvs were seen from 13 Jun and a high total of at least 10 pairs were noted. Out of an impressive 20 occupied sites visited on *Mull* on 21-24 Jun, 12 pairs had families. Other family parties were noted at Linne na Clach Glas *Islay* on 3 Jul and 3 family parties were seen at Ardacheranmor *Cowal* on 7 Jul. Possible or probable breeding was recorded at further sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4) including a high total of 10 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart, *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Mull* (27). There were no breeding season records from *Coll*, *Kintyre*, *North Argyll* or *Tiree*.

**Autumn** Small numbers of birds were seen at or close to breeding locations in Aug at 5 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Aug. A family party remained at the Add E stuary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep and lingering birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9-14 Sep, whilst the very last was a lone bird at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Sep.

## **EUROPEAN STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus* Clacharan

*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: *Colonsay* (5), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (5). There were no records from *Coll*, *Jura* or *North Argyll*.

**Breeding/summer** In what appears to have been a good year, presumed breeding pairs were recorded at sites in: *Coll* (7), *Colonsay* (2) where 37 Ters. located, *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (29) including a high total of 23 pairs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 7 pairs at Ardnave, *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (28), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (8+ sites involving 10+ pairs). The first fledglings were noted on 10 May near the Calmac pier at Arinagour *Coll*. Successful broods were also noted at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 14 May where there were 3 broods on 20 May, at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May, at Gott *Tiree* on 31 May, at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun, at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun, at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun, at The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 28 Jun, at Linne nan Clach Glas *Islay* on 4 Jul, at Eas Mor (Torosay) *Mull* on 9 Jul, at Baugh *Tiree* on 10 Jul with a further new family there on 28 Aug and at Cruachan Power Station *North Argyll* on 25 Jul. 10 birds were counted at the Add Estuary along the road towards Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 14 (mostly juvs) were at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Sep, whilst 18 were at Carnan Mor / Balephuill *Tiree* on 10 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** From Oct to Dec birds were recorded at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (69), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1) and *Tiree* (scattered singles and pairs at 10+ sites around the island) including 2 at Balephuill on 31 Dec. There were no unusually high counts with the highest being of 12 birds at Loch Clach a' Bhaile *Islay* on 29 Oct.

## **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Brù-gheal

*A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

**Spring** First arrivals were earlier than in 2016, with the first at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 15 Mar, followed by birds at Gribun *Mull*, Caliach Point *Mull* and Eorsa, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 18 Mar, at Lington Landfill site *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, and at Machir Bay *Islay*, Saligo *Islay*, Totronald *Coll* and Killiechranon *Mull* on 22 Mar. Elsewhere first arrivals included singles at Gott *Tiree* and Oronsay airstrip *Colonsay* on 25 Mar. Birds were noted more generally thereafter to the end of Apr at sites in: *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (29), *North Argyll* (6) and *Tiree* (7). Higher counts involved 30 in West *Tiree* on 23 Apr and 15 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** From May to end Aug records of possible/probable breeders were noted at sites in: *Coll* (16), *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (13), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (52), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (13). Numbers remained high at the Ben Cruachan study area *North Argyll* with at least 6 breeding pairs present, compared to 8 pairs in 2016 and 5 pairs in 2013-15. The first fledged young were noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Jun and at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 16 Jun. Elsewhere fledged birds were noted at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul and at many sites around *Tiree* in Jul-Aug. At least 5 families were on Lunga *Mull* at the end of Jun (TIARG) and a juv was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug.

**Autumn** Only small numbers (3 or less) were seen in Sep to the third week of Oct at sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (8), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1). The last report was 1 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26 Oct.



**Northern Wheatear** *Kintyre* September 2017 (Eddie Maguire)

**'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

**A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.**

**Spring** The first reports of spring were early with 2 at Saligo Bay *Islay* on 22 Mar and 4 at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Mar, followed by scattered records of 1-12 birds at 7 sites around *Islay* on 26 Mar to 13 Apr including 12 at Ardnave on 5 Apr. There were no more records until 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Apr followed by singles at 4 sites on *Tiree* on 28 Apr-6 May and of 1-2 birds at 4 sites on *Islay* from 5 May with the last of the spring at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26 May.

**Autumn** An early autumn juvenile was reported at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 30 Jul. More typical arrivals were 2 at The Reef *Tiree* on 22 Aug with a further 9 birds at 8 sites on *Tiree* to the end of Aug and singles at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Aug and at Oronsay Airstrip *Colonsay* on 28 Aug. In Sep-Oct, there were regular sightings at sites around *Tiree* (20) although the peak day count was just 5 birds on 6 Sep and *Islay* (17), with just a single mainland record at Ardyne Point *Cowal* on 14 Sep. The last were 3 singles on 25 Oct at Vaul Bay, Sorobaidh Bay and Milton *Tiree* and 1 at Langamull *Mull* on 25 Oct.

**ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe isabellina*

*A vagrant from SE Greece to Turkey and eastwards with no previous Argyll records. One record, at Machir Bay, Islay on 27 Nov to 3 Dec 2016.*

No records.

**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, 1-3 birds were reported from all areas except *Coll, Jura, Kintyre and Mull*. First song noted was on 1 Jan at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll*.

**Breeding** Birds were recorded in all areas except *Jura*, and probably bred in all areas except *Tiree* where birds were present at 3 sites in late May but not thereafter. First confirmed breeding in *Mid-Argyll* with fledged young at Bridgend and Kilmichael Glassary, both on 10 May. Juveniles first seen at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 23 May.

**Autumn/winter** From Aug-Dec 1-4 birds were reported from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*.

**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** Reports from all areas except *Coll, Jura* and *Kintyre*. Higher counts included 52 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 Jan, and on *Colonsay* 42 were at Oronsay Farm on 10 Jan, and 42 at Gortain on 16 Jan. On *Tiree* at Balephuill there were 50 during Jan, dropping to 35 in Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Reported from all areas. Some sizeable late flocks around early on, with 150 at Lochgoilhead *Cowal* on 11 Apr and 50 at Caorachan (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. First fledglings reported were at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May (cf. 25 Apr at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* in 2016), followed by Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 May (9 May in 2016). Thereafter post-breeding flocks then began to build, with 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun, 20 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 5 Jul, 20 at Arinagour *Coll* on 17 Jul, 47 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 20 Jul and 60 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from Aug onwards from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. The largest autumn flocks were on *Tiree*, peaking at 140 at Whitehouse on 6 Sep, and a count of 75 at Balephuill on 8 Dec. A flock of 60 were at Keills *Islay* on 4 Nov. The flock at Oronsay *Colonsay* peaked at 33 on 11 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* a flock of 50 by Cullipool (Luing) on 9 Aug was matched by 50 on Easdale Island on 9 Sep.

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* Gealbhonn-nan-craobh

**RED LIST** *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding was recorded on Islay in 2009.*

**Spring** Only two reports. One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4-12 May and one was at Octomore *Islay* on 7 May.

**WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flavissima* Breacan-buidh

**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).*

**Spring** One, possibly a *M. f. thunbergi* was at Machrihanish Kintyre on 16 May [Bob Relp]. Accepted by the ABRC as ‘Yellow’, possibly Blue or Grey-headed.

### **CITRINE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla citreola*

**A vagrant: One record; a first-winter bird was at Loch a’ Phuill, Tiree on 27 to 29 Sep 2012.**  
No records.

### **GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan-baintighearna

**RED LIST** *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Birds were recorded in: Cowal, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll, with singles in Jan and Feb followed by reports of up to 3 birds in Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding was confirmed at: Mill Wood Colonsay, Connel, Dalvore, Slockavullin and Ballymeanoch in Mid-Argyll, the Aros Estuary Mull, and Cruachan Power Station North Argyll. Pairs were also reported from Islay.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1 or 2 birds were received from all areas except Coll, Jura and Kintyre. There were 3 birds at Loch Gruinart Islay on 21 Sep, 4 at Otter Ferry Spit Cowal on 27 Sep, and 3 at Bunnahabhainn Islay on 17 Oct. On Tiree, where this species has become increasingly scarce on passage, three singles were recorded 18 Sep – 8 Oct compared with only one last year.

### **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** Recorded from all areas except Jura. Larger groups included: 18 at Lochan Luing Kintyre on 2 Jan, 13 at Tralee Beach North Argyll on 27 Feb, 20 on Tiree on 13 Mar, 78 at a reedbed roost at Cuin (Dervaig) Mull on 26 Mar, and a flock of 185 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) Islay on 21 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Recorded in all areas with breeding confirmed in: Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull, North Argyll, and Tiree. Notable gatherings included: 20 at Fidden Mull on 18 May, 30 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) Colonsay on 29 Jul, and 40 at Toberonochy (Luing) Mid-Argyll on 2 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Passage gatherings from Aug through to Sep included: 120 at Kilchatton (Luing) Mid-Argyll on 22 Aug, 60 at Strath Farm (The Laggan) Kintyre on 14 Sep, 40 at Balephuill Tiree on 17 Sep, and 50 in shoreside vegetation at Otter Ferry Cowal on 26 Sep. After 18 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) Islay on 3 Oct and 24 at Gruinart Flats Islay on 25 Oct numbers tailed off, although birds were seen right through until 23 Dec.

### **‘WHITE’ WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

**A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring: extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.**

**Winter/spring** Reported from all areas except Cowal, Jura and North Argyll. First arrivals were 2 on 23 Mar at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre where passage continued almost daily from 27 Mar. One was at Bunnahabhainn Islay on 2 Apr and 3 were at Loch a’ Phuill Tiree on 9 Apr. One was at Gigha Bay (Gigha) Kintyre on 15 Apr and 2 were at Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Apr. Numbers increased from mid-month with 15 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 19 Apr and 50 on 22 Apr. Similarly, on Tiree 12 were at Loch a’ Phuill on 18 Apr and 32 along the north coast on 23 Apr. Elsewhere: 12 were at Camas Cuil an t-Saimh (Iona) Mull on 19 Apr, 15 were at Carnain (Loch Indaal) Islay on 21 Apr, 20 were at Ardskenish Colonsay on 29 Apr, and 1 was at Drissaig (Loch

Avich) *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May. Apart from 36 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 May only small numbers were then reported up to 15 May.

**Autumn/winter** First report was of 1 at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 12 Aug followed by 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Aug and 1 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug. Reports of up to 8 birds continued during Aug and Sep from *Colonsay, Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. The final record was from Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 25 Oct.

#### **RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi*

**A vagrant: Three records; singles on Islay, on 28 Sep 1971 and 10 Sep 1973 and on Colonsay on 18 Oct 2013.**

No records.

#### **TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag-choille

**RED LIST** *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

**Spring** First reports were on Apr 17 when 1 was in Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* and 2 were in Glen Aros *Mull*, followed by 1 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 18 Apr and 1 singing at Dalvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. One had reached Victoria Bridge (Loch Tulla) *North Argyll* by 20 Apr and 3 were on the Little River Eachaig *Cowal* on 28 Apr. Most reports were from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* but: 2 were at Kilchoman *Islay* on 2 May and 1 was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 6 May.

**Breeding/summer** Two Ters. were recorded at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* and 3 at Cruachan Power Station *North Argyll*, where breeding was confirmed. Breeding was also confirmed at Ardacheranmor *Cowal*. A bird at Point Sands Holiday Park *Kintyre* on 9 May showed a brood patch.

**Autumn** Last report was 1 at Benmore Lodge *Mull* on 8 Jul.

#### **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: 45 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 37 at The Monument (The Oa) *Islay* on 27 Mar, 60 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 30 Mar, 30 at Inverawe *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr, 60 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 10 Apr, 50 at Cattadale *Islay* on 14 Apr, and 50 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported during the breeding season from all areas. Breeding was confirmed from: *Colonsay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, North Argyll*, and *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Flocks began to build up in Jul with up to 50 on *Tiree*, then: 160 at Dalvore (Moine Mhor) *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug, 60 at The Reef *Tiree* on 23 Aug, 130 at Strath Farm (The Laggan) *Kintyre* on 9 Sep, 100 at Rockside *Islay* on 30 Sep, 100 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 Oct, and 90 at Craighs (Gruinart) *Islay* on 2 Nov. Flock sizes generally decreased thereafter making 31 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec a notable record.

#### **RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*

**A vagrant: One record; at Tobermory, Mull on 7 May 1975.**

No records.

**EURASIAN 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** Single figure reports were received from all areas. Larger counts included: 16 at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 20 at the Isle of Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, 16 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 23 Feb, and 9 at Gruline House *Mull* on 12 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Birds were reported from all areas, but breeding was confirmed only from Kintyre and Mull. 7 were at Rhuvaal lighthouse *Islay* on 3 Jun, 10 were at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 29 Jun, 6 were at Craignure *Mull* on 3 Aug, and 7 were at Oban Harbour *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports included: 8 at Blairmore Farm (Loch Long) *Cowal* on 26 Sep, 33 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 3 Oct, 8 at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 13 Oct, 40 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 23 Oct, 15 at Kilbride Farm *Cowal* on 25 Oct, 7 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 7 at Calgary *Mull* on 22 Nov, and 20 at Carnain (Loch Indaal) *Islay* on 11 Dec.



**'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit** Kintyre April 2017 (Eddie Maguire)

**'SCANDINAVIAN' ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

*A Rock Pipit sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll is still unclear. Only three accepted records, from Mull on 13 May 2011, at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre on 18 May 2014 and the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll on 1 Apr 2015.*

**Spring** Two birds showing the characteristics of this race were at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 2 Apr and on 8 Apr [Eddie Maguire]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

*There have been several previous claims in Argyll that were not accepted due to not showing all the recognised features of this race. As some individuals of 'littoralis' do not show all these features the ABRC will judge birds that show some features if a well marked 'A. p. petrosus' can be ruled out. As such records will be accepted as birds "showing the characteristics of littoralis".*

**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*

**AMBER LIST A** *vagrant: One record; at West Hynish, Tiree on 19 Nov 2013.*

No records.

**BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT** *Anthus rubescens*

*A vagrant: One record; a first-winter bird at Ruaig, Tiree on 27 Sep 2012.*

No records.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* Breacan-caorainn

*An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.*

**Winter/spring** Another poor show with few reports and from only 3 areas. Singles were at Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 1 Jan, at Bishop's Glen (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 12 Jan, then 2 at Stonefield *Mid-Argyll* the same day. Elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll* singles were at Ardrishaig on 28 Jan, at Cairnbaan on 12 Feb and at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) on 16 Feb. Late singles were at Bishop's Glen (Dunoon) *Cowal* on 1 Apr and at Cuin (Dervaig) *Mull* on 2 May.

**Autumn/winter** First report was of 2 at Homeston *Kintyre* on 8 Oct. Most reports came from *Islay* (13 sites) with the first at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 19 Oct. Most sightings there of 1-3 birds, however 4 were at Kinnabus (The Oa) on 23 Oct-22 Nov and 6 at Octofad on 1-4 Nov. On *Coll* a single was at Totronald on 1 Nov. On *Colonsay* a single was on Oronsay on 27 Oct -2 Nov. In *Cowal* a single was at Bishop's Glen on 11 & 14 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* singles were at Ardrishaig on 19 Oct & 16 Dec, at Connel on 19 Oct, at Dunstaffnage on 28 Nov and at Cairnbaan on 31 Dec. On *Mull* 1 was at Treshnish Farm 18-20 Oct and 3 were at Craignure on 24 Oct. On *Tiree* first arrival was a single at Balephuill on 16 Oct increasing to 6 there on 20 Oct, 3 were at Milton on 22 Oct and 2 still at Balephuill on 6 Nov.



**Common Chaffinch** *Mid-Argyll* February 2017 (Jim Dickson)

**COMMON CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan-beithe

**An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather out with the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.**

**Winter/spring** Reported from all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Kintyre*. The largest count came from *Mid-Argyll*, with 250 at Eilean Traighe (Ormsary) on 16 Jan, followed by 160 at Cairnbaan on 22 Jan, and 97 at Ardrishaig on 28 Jan. On *Islay* 200 were at Sunderland Farm on 2 Jan, 125 at Kilchoman on 29 Jan and 50 at Caol Ila on 30 Mar. In *Cowal* 31 were by Little Eachaig River on 24 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread and recorded in all areas, except *Jura*. Still some flocks including 20 at Dervaig *Mull* on 10 Apr and 50 at An Caorachan (Glen Fyne) *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. First confirmed breeding, with young seen in *Mid-Argyll* at Kilmichael Glassary on 9 Jun, and fledglings seen at Tayvallich on 13 Jun. From then on flocks including juveniles began to build, with 20 at Ardchoirk (Loch Don) *Mull* on 20 Jul, 30 at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 26 Jul and 45 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul.

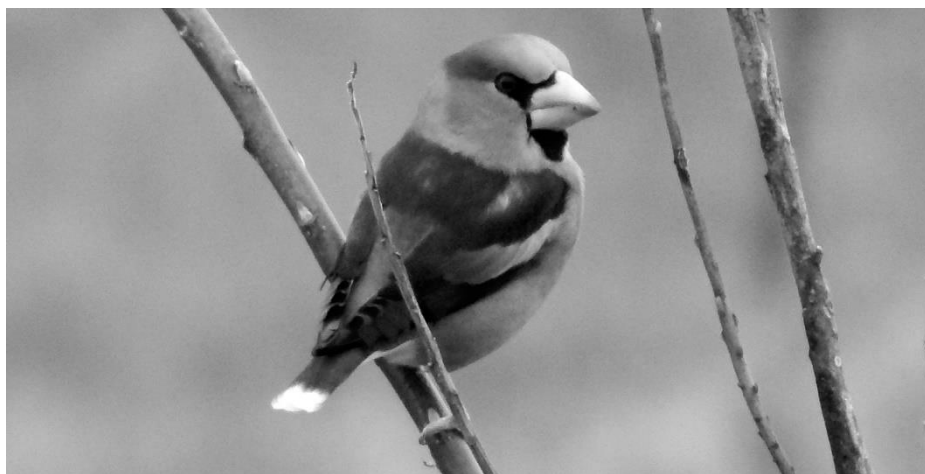
**Autumn/winter** Reports were widespread, and from all areas except *Coll* and *Jura*. The highest numbers were from *Islay*, focussed on the barley stubbles around Bridgend: 100 at Newton on 22 Oct increased to 160 on 3 Nov, and 150 were at Loch Skerrols on 10 Nov, 80 at Rockside on 15 Nov and 60 at Kilchoman on 4 Dec. In *Kintyre* Strath Farm (The Laggan) held 120 on 4 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* Cairnbaan numbers increased from 60 on 13 Oct to 105 by 29 Dec. On *Tiree* only single figures and a peak of 6 in Nov.

**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

**RED LIST** A rare visitor: 26 records between 1953 and 2016.

**Spring** A group of 4 visited a garden in Peninver *Kintyre* on 27 May [Christine Russell *et al*].

**Autumn** On *Tiree* 4 single birds visited a garden at Balephuill; a female there on 3 Nov, a male on 5 Nov, a different male on 15-18 Nov and a different female on 22-25 Nov [John Bowler]. Records were accepted by the ABRC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on page 117). Unprecedented numbers arrived in the UK from central and eastern Europe in late autumn, most being recorded in England with 2,000+ birds noted.



**Hawfinch** *Tiree* November 2017 (John Bowler)

### **COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Erythrina erythrina*

*A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 25 records between 1989 and 2016, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

**Spring/summer** An adult male was at Crinan Wood (by the Crinan Canal) *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun [Robin & Rachel Hamilton]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

### **EURASIAN 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 *Mid-Argyll* (7 sites), *Cowal* (1 site), *Mull* (4 sites) and *Islay* (6 sites) were all in single figures, with the highest being 7 at Aros Park *Mull* on 15 Jan.

**Breeding** Presence noted across all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *Tiree*. Reports of fledged young were from *Mid-Argyll* at Kilmartin on 23 Jun, and Tullochgorm on 28 Jun, from *Cowal* at Otter Ferry on 1 Jul, and from Kilcheran Loch (Lismore) *North Argyll* on 5 Aug.

**Autumn** Nearly all reports in single figures from *Cowal* (2 sites), *Islay* (9 sites), *Kintyre* (2 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (6 sites), *Mull* (2 sites) and *North Argyll* (2 sites). Highest count was 12 at Ardahoe Loch *Islay* on 22 Dec.

### **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH** *Chloris 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** The few sightings were all in single figures (max 5), and mostly from *Mid-Argyll* (8), with 1 report from *Colonsay*, 2 from *Tiree* and 4 from *Islay*.

**Breeding** Reported as present in all areas except *Jura*. First confirmed breeding (fledged young) reported again from Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun, then fledglings at The Glebe (Scarinish) *Tiree* on 28 Jun, at Kilchoman *Islay* on 13 Jul and at Corra Farm *Cowal* on 23 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported present in all areas, except *Colonsay* and *Jura* nearly all single figures, the highest being 5 at Port na Luig *Coll* on 4 Dec. A single female at Grendon (Barcaldine) *North Argyll* on 16 Nov was only report from this area. This decline in numbers is consistent with the Scottish BBS continuing downwards trend.

### **COMMON LINNET** *Linaria 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 with most reports from Colonsay, Islay and Kintyre.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except *Cowal*, *Jura* and *Kintyre*. Most reports were from *Islay* higher counts including 15 at Ballinaby and 20 at Loch Clach a'Bhuaille (Kilchoman) on 2 Jan, 15 at Saligo on 10 Jan and 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 13 Jan and 24 Mar. On *Tiree* there was a rare winter record of 2 at Traigh Bhaigh on 22 Jan with main arrivals there from early Apr. On *Colonsay* 5 were on Oronsay on 7 Feb.

**Breeding** Recorded as present, mostly in single figures, from all areas except *Cowal* and *Jura*. Some flocks were still about, not having settled to breed. On *Islay* there were 70 at Airigh Ghlas (Gruinart) on 2 Apr and 45 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 22 Apr, and 35 at Druimbuidhe *Tiree* on 21 Apr. First fledged young reported on 19 Jun at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*, and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports came from all areas except *Jura*. Substantial flocks grew throughout Aug, declined in Oct and disappeared during Nov, following last year's pattern. The biggest flock was on *Tiree* where numbers increased rapidly in Aug to peak at 400 at The Glebe (Scarinish) on

12 Sep and peaking again at 325 on The Reef on 11 Oct, before rapidly decreasing. Numbers on Oronsay *Colonsay* increased rapidly to 250 on 24 Aug, reaching 300 on 2 Sep and 3 Oct, dropping to 110 by 7 Oct, then disappearing. Numbers on *Islay*, centred on RSPB Loch Gruinart peaked there at 180 on 2 Nov then fell throughout to Dec. On *Mull* 40 were at Port na Ba on 21 Aug. On *Coll* there were 35 at Port na Luing on 9 Oct. In *Cowal* there were 40 at Drum Farm (Kilfinan) on 17 Sep. In *Kintyre* 28 were at Machrihanish SBO on 1 Sep.

**TWITE** *Linaria flavirostris* Gealan-beinne

**RED LIST A** *local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

**Winter/spring** Reported from all areas apart from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura*, *Mull* and *North Argyll*. As usual, greatest numbers are from *Islay*, although the 2016 peak of 500 was not matched by a large margin. First of the year were 38 at Upper Killeyan (The Oa) *Islay* on 2 Jan. Numbers on The Oa rose rapidly, peaking at 260 at Kinnabus on 23 Jan and high numbers remained with 200 at Cnoc Carrach on 26 Mar. Elsewhere on *Islay*, there were 80 at Uiskentuie (Loch Indaal) on 29 Jan, and 120 at Bridgend Merse on 2 Mar. On Oronsay *Colonsay* 42 on 7 Jan increased to 58 on 30 Jan peaking at 67 on 7 Mar. *Tiree* held several scattered coastal groups of up to 20 in Jan, but there were 30 at Meningie on 13 Jan, 60 at Kenovay on 16 Jan and 35 at Greenhill on 25 Feb. In *Kintyre* the first noted were 5 at Machrihanish SBO on 9 Mar increasing to 15 on 25 Mar.

**Breeding** Reported in all areas except *Jura*, mostly in single figures. A few small flocks were still around throughout Apr, with 15 at Ardtur (Appin) *North Argyll* on 6 Apr, 20 at Lagstoban *Islay* on 18 Apr, and 12 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 29 Apr. A nest with 2 eggs was found at Gortain *Colonsay* on 22 May (which was later predated). The first juvenile was seen at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun. After this, family groups containing juveniles formed into small flocks, with up to 20 seen on *Tiree* in Jul, and 28 at Kilnave *Islay* on 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reported in all areas except *Cowal*, *Jura* and *North Argyll* with the largest flocks on *Islay*, where the best area is The Oa, where numbers grew from 30 on 12 Sep to peak at 400 on 30 Oct (well below 2016 peak of 1,114), remaining over 300 through to Dec and still 210 on 20 Dec. Elsewhere on *Islay* notable flocks included 95 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 29 Sep and 150 at Ardnave on 3 Nov. On *Colonsay* the Oronsay numbers increased from 60 on 24 Aug to peak at 350 on 11 Sep declining to 45 on 13 Dec. On *Mull* 20 were at Ardalanish Bay on 2 Aug and 10 were at River Forsa mouth on 4 Sep. On *Tiree* numbers increased from 20 at Crossapol on 7 Aug to a peak on The Reef of 255 on 24 Oct, holding up into Nov with 190 on 7 Nov, declining to scattered groups of up to 30 into Dec. On *Coll* the 60 on the Port-na-Luing peninsula on 9 Oct increased to 200 on 4 Dec, remaining until at least 13 Dec. In *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO none recorded in Aug and only 4 birds by 6 Sep, then peaking at 25 on 30 Sep and 29 birds were trapped on 5 Oct as part of the **Machrihanish SBO Twite Study** showing a ringed bird from 2014 had travelled each year since to Connah's Quay (Flintshire) 298km SSE of MSBO and back giving a total of 1,788km.

**LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis 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** Only report during Jan-Mar was of 6 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan, then 1-2 birds at several sites on *Islay* in early Apr, followed by more widespread Argyll records from mid-Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread reports noted as present or in single figures in all areas except *North Argyll* but only as a non-breeding migrant on *Tiree* where 2 at Balephuill on 6 May. Successful breeding must have taken place widely, but none was confirmed, except for juveniles

reported from Inverlussa (Loch Spelve) *Mull* on 7 Jul. Larger numbers, reflecting family groups, more common at this time, such as 15 at Tarbert *Jura* on 22 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reported from all areas, except *Jura* and *Tiree*, in single figures until 25 Sep when 50 were seen between Ardilistry and Claggain Bay *Islay*, followed by 30 in the same area on 20 Oct. On *Colonsay* 40 were seen at Urugaig and 60 at East Loch Fada on 8 Oct, and 28 were at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct, then single figure counts, with the last report of 1 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 13 Dec.

### **COMMON REDPOLL** *Acanthis 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. Mealy has bred on *Tiree* and also suspected of breeding on other islands.

**Spring** Birds showing features Common included 1-2 birds at Tayvallich on 14 Apr to 2 May and 4 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr-8 May. A single was noted at Loch nan Gilleann (The Oa) *Islay* on 11 May. On *Mull* 1 was at Treshnish Farm on 1-3 May. On *Tiree* first report of 1 at Carnan Mor on 22 Apr increasing to 7 by 8 May.

**Breeding** A pair were showing signs of breeding at Treshnish Farm *Mull* on 1 Jun. On *Tiree* breeding activity with 2 pairs at Balephuill in May. A brood of 2+ at Balephuill and a pair with young at The Glebe (Scarinish) in Jun.

**Autumn/winter** On *Coll* a report of 10 at Breachacha on 9 Oct. On *Tiree* up to 19 birds noted across the island on 18 Sep then reports decreased during Oct, none in Nov however a late bird at Balephuill on 3 Dec.

*The reports given here are for birds that were showing some good characteristics of this species as well as more distinctive classic examples. Ideally good photographs are required, particularly for worn birds in late spring when 'Lessers' can be quite pale and look very similar to 'Mealies'.*

### **ARCTIC REDPOLL** *Acanthis 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 Tiree 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.

### **COMMON CROSSBILL (RED CROSSBILL)** *Loxia curvirostra* Cam-glob

**An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.**

**Winter/spring** Remarkably few, with the first report from Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jan. Also, in *Mid-Argyll* 11 were at Eilean Traighe (Loch Coalisport) on 5 Feb and 1 at Glen Nant on 22 Mar. On *Mull* 3 were at Benmore Lodge (Loch Ba) on 19 Mar and on *Islay* 10 were at Benvorlich on 28 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** In *North Argyll* there were 2 at Stronmilchan on 19 Apr, 12 at Victoria Bridge on 20 Apr and 14 at nearby Blackmount on 14 May. In *Mid-Argyll* singing was heard at Cairnbaan on 30 Apr, but no other evidence of breeding was recorded, though they were widely found: regular in Barnluasgan area and the Lochgilphead- Blarbuie area in May-Jul (with a peak of 15 on 2 Jun at Blarbuie), a count of 25 at Fernoch (Loch Awe) on 30 May, and 1 at Ardcastle Point on 20 Jul. In *Kintyre* singing was heard and an immature seen at Point Sands (Rhunahaorine) on 9 May, and 1 at Conie Glen (Southend) on 7 Jun. In *Cowal* present at Otter Ferry on 2 Jul and Corra Farm on 23 Jul. On *Islay* noted at Kilchoman on 2 May and Avenvogie Cottage on 26 May.

Most records were from *Mull* and regular around the Gruline-Benmore Lodge area, but also found in sites as widespread as Bunessan, Pennyghael, Lochbuie, Strathcoil, Craignure and Tobermory. **Autumn/winter** On *Mull* higher numbers included 8 at Loch Ba on 8 Jul, 5 at Loch Beg on 4 Oct and 20 at Aros Park on 13 Oct. In *North Argyll* the only report was 1 at Gleann Dubh reservoir (Barcaldine) on 17 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* regular reports from conifer areas around Minard-Feorlin peaking at 6 on 14 Oct, highest count was 14 near Salachary on 12 Sep, and last report of year was 2 singing birds at Loch Leathan on 18 Dec. In *Cowal* only report was 5 at Kilbride Farm (Millhouse) on 25 Oct. On *Islay* reports from the Rhinns with 6 at Gleann na Rainich (Portnahaven) on 26 Oct, and 1 at Gearach on 1 Dec. Also reported at Finlaggan from Aug to Dec.

## **EUROPEAN 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** No reports from *Coll*, *Cowal*, *Jura* and *Mull*. Flocks of 10 or more included; 12 at Stonefield *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan and 11 at Meningie *Tiree* on 17 Jan, otherwise most sightings of 1-4 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Reported present from all areas except *Jura*. Some movements still taking place in Apr e.g. 69 were trapped/ringed at Machrihanish SBO feeding station *Kintyre* during Apr and none bred on *Tiree* following scattered migrants there to 20 May. First fledged young were reported from Kintallen (Tayvallich) *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun, with juveniles also reported from Craignure *Mull* on 8 Jul, and Garden House (campsite) *Coll* on 1 Aug. Thereafter small flocks reported as family groups joined together, such as 40 at Loch Clach a Bhuaile (Kilchoman) *Islay* on 17 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** As usual, autumn flocks were much larger and more numerous than earlier in the year, and birds were noted in all areas except *Jura*. Flocks over 40 were common through Aug to Oct. On *Coll* a count of 20 at Breachacha on 9 Sep. On Oronsay *Colonsay* the peak was only 8 on 3 Oct this year. On *Islay* the largest flock was 70 at Coulerach (Saligo) on 4 Sep with smaller numbers elsewhere. In *Kintyre* there were 50 at Machrihanish village on 21 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* there were 55 at the Add Estuary on 22 Aug, and 58 at Cairnbaan on 13 Oct. In *North Argyll* 50 were at Ganavan on 13 Sep and 20 at Grendon (Barcaldine) on 2 Nov. On *Tiree* numbers at Balephuill peaked at 40 on 18 Oct, with other smaller numbers across the island. Smaller flocks were widespread elsewhere to the end of the year.

## **EURASIAN SISKIN** *Spinus 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** Few reports, mostly in single figures, from *Colonsay*, *Cowal*, *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll*. Larger flocks were noted in *Mid-Argyll* with 14 at the Moine Mhor on 15 Jan and 30 at Cairnbaan on 28 Mar. There were 20 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Jan and 20 at Octomore *Islay* on 12 Apr.

**Breeding/summer** Widely reported in single figures from all areas. Singles at Balephuill on 22 Apr, 27 May, 27 Jun and 8 Jul were the only *Tiree* summer records. Fewer larger counts in May this year: 30 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May included juveniles, confirming breeding evidence. After this, young birds were present in flocks across Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Jura*. All records in single figures except 15 at Achabraid (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec, 40 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 25 Oct, 20 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 26 Oct, and 12 there on 1 Nov. On *Tiree* a max of 7 were at Balephuill on 1 Nov.

**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** First report was in *Mid-Argyll* with 3 at the Allt Dearg wind farm (Knapdale) on 16 Jan. On *Islay* 1 was at Monument (The Oa) on 17 Jan, with another there on 7 Feb, 1 at Bridgend Merse on 2 Mar and 2 at Machir Bay (Kilchoman) on 15 Apr. On *Mull* 1 was on Eorsa (Loch na Keal) on 14 & 17 Feb. On *Tiree* 1 was at Traigh nan Gilean on 22 Feb.

**Autumn/winter** Two reports of singles in Sep; at The Reef *Tiree* on 19 Sep and on Beinn Fhionnlaidh in *North Argyll* on 26 Sep. In Oct, a max of 7 at Ardnave *Islay* from 13 to 30 Oct, also 3 at Bolsay *Islay* on 14 Oct, 1 at Druim Mor (Oronsay) *Colonsay* on 15 Oct, 1 at Monument (The Oa) *Islay* on 17 Oct, 1 at Ruanaich (Iona) *Mull* on 18 Oct, 1 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 30 Oct and 1 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 30 Oct. In Nov on *Islay* 1 was at Traigh an Luig (Loch Indaal) on 3-30 Nov, 1 at Bruichladdich on 4 Nov and 2 at Machir Bay from 14 Nov. On *Tiree* an influx with 34 birds on 27 Nov of which 19 at Traigh Bhaigh and 15 at Gott Bay, and 26 were at Traigh Bhaigh on 29 Nov. In Dec 8 were at the Allt Dearg wind farm (Knapdale) *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec, 3 remained at Machir Bay *Islay* on 10 Dec and 2 at Carnain *Islay* on 12 Dec, and on *Tiree* 6 were at Balephuill on 3 Dec, 15 at Sorobaidh Bay on 11 Dec and last report of year was 1 at Ruairig on 15 Dec.



**Lapland Bunting** *Coll* March 2017 (David Andrews)

**LAPLAND BUNTING** (LAPLAND LONGSPUR) *Calcaeus lapponicus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.*

**Winter/spring** First of the year was on *Tiree* with 1 at Clachan Mor on 12 Feb, with another sighting at Barrapol on 15 Feb. On *Islay* singles were at Bridgend Merse and The Oa on 2 Mar, and 3 were at Ardnave on 31 Mar. On *Coll* 1 was at Sorisdale on 28 Mar. On *Tiree* up to 6 were at Sorobaidh Bay to Loch an Eilein between 17 and 29 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** On *Tiree* singles were at Gott Bay on 4-5 Sep, at Greenhill and Gott Bay on 6 Sep, at The Reef on 19 Sep, at Carnan Mor on 24 Sep, at Barrapol on 6 Oct, at The Reef on 1 Nov

and at Balephetrish Hill on 16 Nov. On *Islay* singles were at Blackpark on 17 Oct and at Dun Chroisprig (Kilchoman) on 23 Oct.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** *Zonotrichia albicollis*

*A North American vagrant: Two records; one was near Otter Ferry, Cowal on 19 Jun 2014 and one was at Vaul, Tiree on 10 Jun 2016.*

No records.

**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** Most reports came from *Mid-Argyll* (6 sites) with 1-3 birds: Toberonochy and Blackmill Bay (Luing), Tayvallich, Rowanfield, Kilmartin and Connel. In *Kintyre* (2 sites); at Hillside farm (Campbeltown) with 5 during Jan then up to 12 until 11 Apr, and at Southend with 4 in Jan then 8-10 to 7 Apr. *Islay* (3 sites); with 10 at Kildalton House on 2 Jan, 6 at Sunderland Farm on 19 Jan and 10 at Scarrabus on 25 Mar. On *Mull* (2 sites); with 1 at Dervaig on 19 Jan and 12 at Lochdon on 27 Jan.

**Breeding** Present in small numbers at: *Islay* (6 sites), *Kintyre* (3 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (4 sites) and *Mull* (10 sites). Sole evidence of confirmed breeding were 3 fledglings at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 16 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** In *Mid-Argyll* (4 sites) with singles at Easdale on 23 Aug, Ardencaple House (Luing) on 6 Sep, Kilmartin on 25 Oct, and Connel on 19 Oct and 14 Nov. On *Mull* 1 was at Ulva Ferry on 7 Sep. In *Kintyre* there was 1 at Southend on 5 Nov, 3 at Campbeltown on 5 Nov and 2 at Slavonga (Muasdale) on 28 Dec. On *Islay* there were 2 at Kintra on 24 Oct, 1 at Kinnabus (The Oa) on 27 Oct and 1 at Keills on 4 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: Five records; at Easter Ellister, Islay on 23 May 1980, at Hynish, Tiree on 4 Jun 1987, at Balephuill Tiree on 21 May and another 2-3 Jun 2014 and one on Iona, Mull on 27 May 2014.*

No records.

**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*

*A vagrant: Two records; one found dead at Skerryvore Lighthouse (about 15 km south-west*

No records.

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola*

*A vagrant: One record; at Kenovay, Tiree on 5 Sep 1981.*

No records.

**COMMON REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag-lòin

**AMBER LIST A** *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

**Winter/spring** Most widespread and numerous on *Islay* (13 sites), being regular on The Oa and at RSPB Loch Gruinart, with a peak count there of 41 on 5 Jan. Elsewhere reports were few.

**Breeding** Reported from all areas, though mostly from *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* where reports were widespread. First fledged young seen on *Tiree* from 26 May and on *Mull* from 21 Jun. On *Colonsay* 44 Ters. were located.

**Autumn/winter** Reports came from all areas except *Mull*. Most were in single figures from *Islay*, and those mostly on The Oa, although 15 were at Loch Clach a Bhuaile, (Kilchoman) on 29 Oct. On *Tiree* at scattered sites through Sep, highest count of 12 at Caolas on 4 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* there were scattered reports with a peak of 10 at the Moine Mhor on 4 Dec. Elsewhere single figures from widespread locations, the last being 1 at Ardfin *Jura* on 27 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

**RED LIST A** *former resident on Tiree and Coll but has recently become extinct. Last accepted report was 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 and was the first Scottish record.*

No records.

#### **NORTHERN PARULA** *Parula americana*

**A vagrant:** *One record; a first-winter at Balephuill, Tiree on 25-29 Sep 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. 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 Duck, 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*

*Winter/Spring* One was at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 29-30 Mar, then at Kilkivan Quarry (Drumlemble) on 1-8 Apr and one was at Lochdon *Mull* on 7-8 May.

### **MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*

**Category E.** *Probably widespread in Argyll as farmyard birds, but often survive independently, but under-recorded.*

*Spring* One was at Stinky Hole (Campbeltown Loch) *Kintyre* on 26 Jun.



**Black Swan** *Kintyre* March 2017 (Eddie Maguire)

## 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 found ‘not proven’ since the publication of ABR 28.

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Northern Goshawk	<i>Kintyre</i>	30/04/17	ABRC
Northern Goshawk	<i>Kintyre</i>	04/05/17	ABRC
Nightjar	<i>Mull</i>	08/08/17	ABRC
Gyrfalcon	<i>Tiree</i>	04/01/17	BBRC
Reed Warbler	<i>Mull</i>	03/08/17	ABRC
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Kintyre</i>	05/05/17	ABRC
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Mull</i>	19/04/17	ABRC

Most records are rejected not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

The following records of species on the BBRC, SBRC or ABRC for 2017 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
Macronesian Shearwater	<i>Kintyre</i>	07/09/2000	BBRC

Details of the following claimed 2017 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Cackling & Todd’s Canada Geese	Various	<i>Islay</i>	Various 2015-2017
Bean Goose	Sunderland	<i>Islay</i>	02/01/17
Surf Scoter	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	12/06/17
White-billed Diver	Iona	<i>Mull</i>	16/04/17
Rough-legged Buzzard	Tyndrum	<i>North Argyll</i>	14/09/17
Northern Goshawk	Ardbeg	<i>Islay</i>	21/10/17
Sabine’s Gull	Crinan	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	29/08/17
Gyrfalcon	Crossapol	<i>Tiree</i>	04/05/17
Yellow-browed Warbler	Arileod	<i>Coll</i>	14/10/17
Hawfinch	Dalavich	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	03/11/17

## Getting Involved

**Argyll Bird Club** The ABC is a registered charity with membership open to all. The club aims to promote an interest in birds in Argyll. We are a friendly club for anybody interested in wild birds, living in, or visiting, Argyll, irrespective of their level of knowledge, experience or skill. Visitors are more than welcome to our two annual indoor meetings which are all-day events held on a Saturday in spring and autumn. The club produces a quarterly magazine, '*The Eider*' and also has a website with sections on 'Recent Sightings' with photographs, News with details of upcoming meetings and trips, 'Publications' and 'Surveys'. Volunteers are always welcome to help with committee matters, bird recording and the website and to contribute to *The Eider*.

**Scottish Ornithologists Club** The SOC exists to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds and their habitats across Scotland and is a birdwatching club with 15 local branches across the country and a growing membership of over 3,000. Like-minded individuals with a passion for birds, nature and conservation are brought together through a programme of talks, outings, conferences and via the Club's quarterly members' journal, *Scottish Birds*. The SOC acts as the umbrella organisation for bird recording in Scotland, managing the network of recording birds in Scotland, or the Local Recorders' Network and the Scottish Birds Records Committee, the latter of which maintains the official Scottish List on behalf of the Club. The database of information Local Recorders collect is an extremely important archive of local bird information – a critical tool for their future conservation.

**British Trust for Ornithology** Through the efforts of volunteers participating in BTO surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment. Volunteer surveyors, members and staff work in partnership to provide unbiased information about birds and their habitats.

In Argyll we have many volunteers who participate in the following surveys and you can get involved by contacting the bird recorder or any of the BTO representatives given on page 2:

**BirdTrack** is an exciting project, through a partnership between the BTO, the RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society, that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. BirdTrack provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these to support species conservation at local, regional, national and international scales.

**Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)** is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important indicator of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

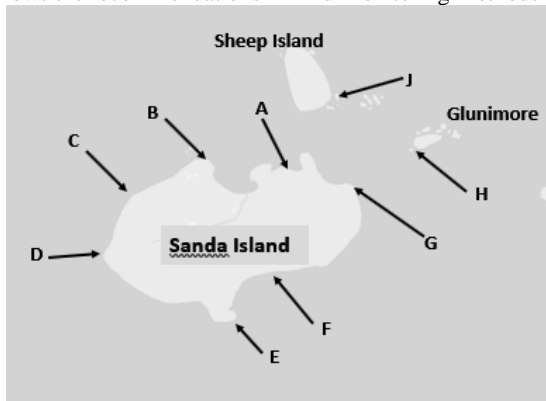
**The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)** monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

# Surveys of Black Guillemots in the Sanda Island Group 2013 – 2018

*Rab Morton and Nigel Scriven*

Clyde Sea Sill was designated as a Marine Protected Area in 2014. It stretches from the Mull of Kintyre to Corsewall Point on the Rhins of Galloway. The sea bed here shallows where the North Channel becomes the Firth of Clyde. This causes the cooler, saline waters of the North Channel to mix with the warmer, less saline waters of the Firth of Clyde. This front can concentrate nutrients and plankton and create higher densities of fish and other higher marine predators. The Black Guillemot population of the Sanda group of islands is amongst the features for which the MPA is designated.

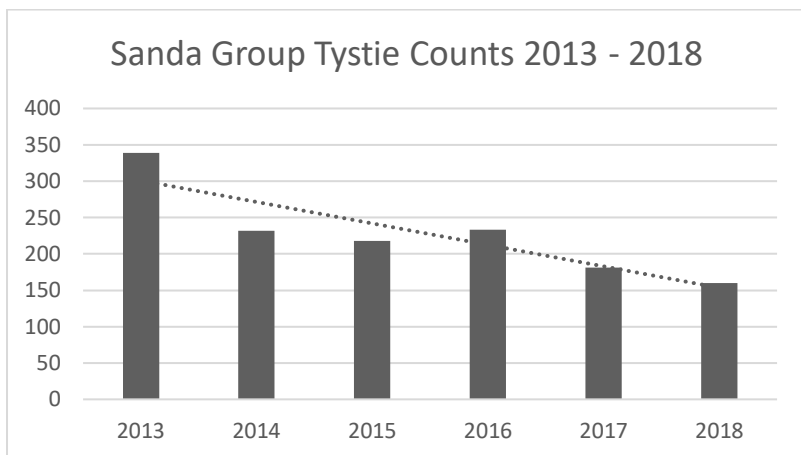
In 2013 a survey was commissioned by SNH to count the numbers of Black Guillemots in the Sanda Island Group, and this was carried out by Rab Morton, by boat on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Funding for this has continued and the count has been repeated by the same observer each April from 2014 to 2018, when the count has been divided into separate sectors. The methodology of the count follows the recommendations in Bird Monitoring Methods (Gilbert *et al* 2011).



*Survey sections  
around the  
Sanda Island Group*

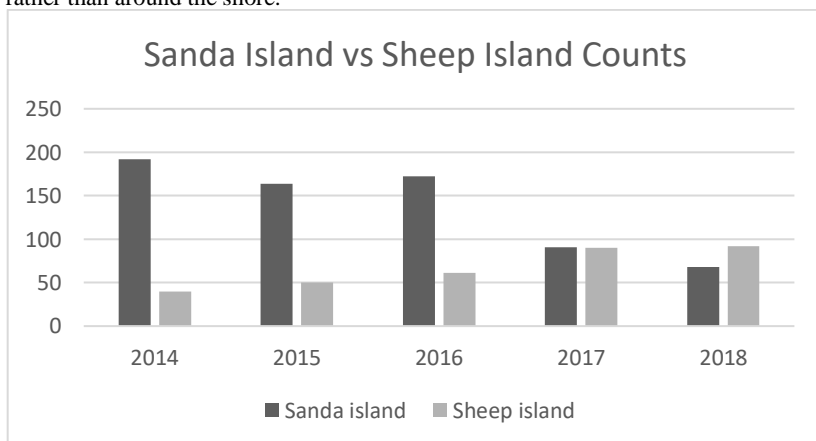
## Results

Section	Description	Year of Count					
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
A to B	Sanda Bay	339	20	44	18	14	8
B to C	Pier to auk colony		60	0	0	5	6
C to D	Auk colony to corner		40	58	80	12	10
D to E	Corner lighthouse to		28	0	0	0	6
E to F	Lighthouse bay		26	14	10	8	0
F to G	Razorbill colony		18	14	64	22	20
G to A	Back to Sanda Bay		0	34	0	30	18
H to H	Glunimore		0	4	0	0	0
J to J	Sheep island		40	50	61	90	92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>160</b>

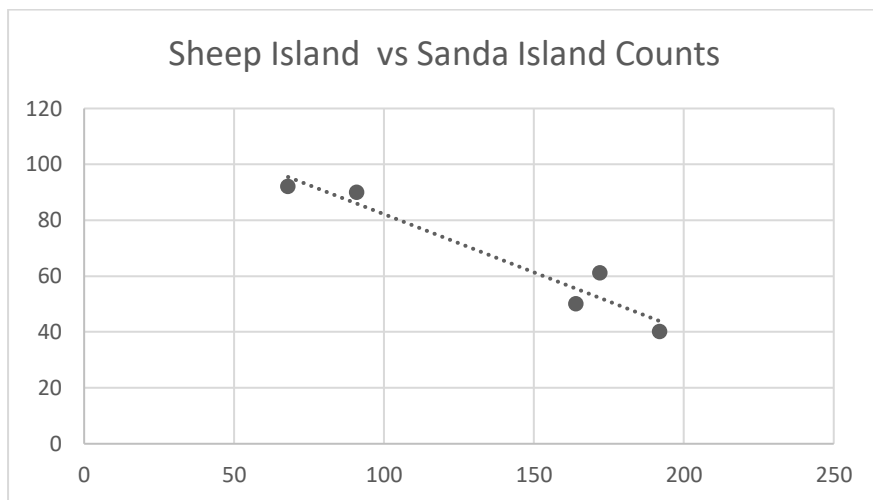


After 6 years of survey, it is becoming clearer that there is a trend of decline in the overall numbers counted. The regression of counts against year gives a Pearson Correlation coefficient of  $-0.86$  which is significant at  $p=0.02$  with 5 degrees of freedom. Over the six years of survey, counts have dropped by 55%. Should this decline be sustained, it can be estimated that Black Guillemots could disappear in 5 to 6 years' time. While not systematically counted, observations have also noted a notable decline in breeding gulls, shag and razorbills around the Sanda Island shores, and a decline in Shags and Razorbills on Sheep Island, but not on Glunimore.

A closer look at the sectional Black Guillemot counts over 2014-2018 confirms that this decline is far from uniform. It reveals a pattern of changes around the island group, suggesting a redistribution. It seems likely that this change is a response to probable predation pressure, most likely by American Mink *Neovison vison*. Those areas losing the most birds are possibly where predation has had greater effect, and those losing the least are likely where mink find the Black Guillemot burrows least accessible. Those birds left on Sanda Island are nesting in holes in the cliffs rather than around the shore.



The chart above seems to confirm that as the Sanda Island count has dropped, that for Sheep Island is has risen, but shows signs of flattening out between 90 and 100. This is consistent with mink predation reducing the Sanda Island birds, together with some displacement taking place to Sheep island, where mink predation may not be a factor, as yet.



A plot of Sheep Island counts against Sanda Island counts demonstrates a negative relationship between the Sanda numbers and the Sheep Island numbers (Pearson Correlation coefficient = -0.96, significant at  $p=0.01$  with 4 degrees of freedom). If the decline in numbers on Sanda continues, the population for the group may drop to the Sheep Island population level, which the trend line suggest is around 125 to 130, provided that the Sheep Island can host that number. The decline in shag and razorbills on Sheep island also suggests mink predation there but alternatively could relate to other factors such as food supplies as these species have declined at some sites without mink e.g. Colonsay (D Jardine *pers comm.*), but the increase in Black Guillemots may have occurred at nest sites inaccessible to mink. Availability of these sites will limit any further expansion of Black Guillemots, should mink be present.

It would be a very positive step for the conservation of Black Guillemots and other seabird species if it could be confirmed that the decline is due to mink predation, and if so, that mink could be eradicated from the Sanda Island group.

### Acknowledgements

This work would not have been carried out without the encouragement and financial support of Scottish Natural Heritage, and the seamanship skills of Mike Taylor of Mull of Kintyre Seatours.

### Reference

Gilbert G., Gibbons D.W. & Evans J. (2011) *Bird Monitoring Methods: a manual of techniques for key UK species*. Pelagic Publishing.

## **Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscata*) in South Kintyre on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017**

### **A new species for Argyll**

*Eddie Maguire*

No one could have foreseen that the rarest seabird to visit the SW coast of Kintyre would do so on a relatively calm sunny day, but...that's what happened!

At 11:00hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> June entries in the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory (MSBO) log sheet revealed little movement over the sea. The best of what was really a mind-numbing morning included 50+ Sanderlings, a loose group of 25 2CY Kittiwakes passing south, the very regular and now bleached-looking 2CY Iceland Gull, and intermittent fly-by Sandwich and Arctic Terns.

At 11:04hrs a small to medium-sized black and white seabird appeared ca. 150m to the north. It was some 20m or so above the sea and approaching the point ca.100m from the Observatory. From its very direct flight jizz, my initial impression was that it was a pale morph skua but when I looked at it more closely it was obviously a black and white tern that, suspiciously, had an alarming, for me, 'non-European' look about it. This was an extremely neat looking bird with very dark/black upperparts including a complete black cap engulfing the eye, clean-white forehead with narrow black loreal stripes extending from the black cap to the gape, clean-white underparts, a longish thin tail and a very precise undeviating flight with steady wingbeats (very skua-like).

I grabbed the camera and rattled off a dozen or so shots. As the tern vanished to the south, I looked at the images on the camera screen and was stunned when I realised, incredibly, that I had photographed a fly-by vagrant Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*.

Since 1993 we have found some notable birds at MSBO including Black-browed Albatross, Pallid Harrier, Ross's Gull and Whiskered Tern to name a few however this mega beauty from tropical oceans will take some thrashing! Jim Dickson (Argyll SOC Recorder) was quickly informed and described the appearance of this species in Argyll as...

*"Quite an astonishing record for the west of Scotland and an excellent UK record".*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> June will long be ranked as one of the most exciting days I have experienced at MSBO when an adult Sooty Tern, a species that breeds in the tropics, and a 2CY Iceland Gull that will eventually breed either in the Arctic regions of Canada or Greenland (but not in Iceland as its name suggests) were both on my patch at the same time.

This record has now been accepted by the BBRC and is a new species for Argyll, being only the third Scottish occurrence and the first sighting of the species in Britain / Ireland for 12 years.



**Sooty Tern** off MSBO Kintyre at 11:04 hrs on 2 June 2017 (Eddie Maguire)

Scotland's first record was of a bird found dead at Myatt Hill, near Denny *Forth* in late May 1939 and is now at the National Museums of Scotland. The only other record was a one-day bird on the *Isle of May*, Fife on 14th July 1989. The most recently accepted British record was of an adult found at Rhosneigr, Anglesey, on 5th July 2005. This bird was re-found at a number of different sites over that summer, on The Skerries (Anglesey) as well as off Skerries (Co. Dublin) on the opposite side of the Irish Sea.

*Birdguides* review of the week 31<sup>st</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 provided information on other possible sightings of this individual prior to passing MSBO...

*"This Sooty Tern is presumably the bird seen in France in early May, which was widely speculated to be the bird also seen (in chronological order) off Cape Verde, Lanzarote and mainland Portugal in March and April. If it is the same individual, and of course there'll be no way of proving it is, it's a casual 4,600 km (in a straight line) between Raso and Uisaed Point. Quite impressive"* (Josh Jones).

## **Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) at Gott Bay, Tiree on 24 May 2017: the third record for Argyll**

*Mike Harrison*

Although forecast to improve later in the day, the weather was so dreich as *MV Clansman* rumbled up the Sound of Mull that my wife Ann and I retreated to the saloon and did not venture outside again until we were turning into Loch Eatharna for the brief stop at Coll. The drizzle had stopped by now although the weather was still grey and overcast and remained that way for most of the day. Our plan was to spend our six hours on Tiree walking either westwards towards the Reef or eastwards round Gott Bay before returning to Scarinish for the evening ferry back to Oban.

We had arranged to meet John Bowler on the pier to deliver some copies of the Argyll Bird Report for sale on Tiree and, after hearing that there were plenty of waders along Traigh Mhor, we set off up the road from the pier and turned towards Gott. A cattle grid marked the start of the open ground behind the beach and we walked down off the road to look at some waders where the burn, the Abhainn Ghott, was flowing across the beach, the tide being well out at the time. The area between the road and the fence is close-cropped grassland and the fence runs along the edge of this pasture. Beyond the fence the ground falls away approx. 5-10m in a mixture of sandy cliffs and grassy slopes down to the burn. The wind was roughly at right angles to the fence line, blowing off the pasture and creating an eddy below. One or two Barn Swallows were flying around the locality and were entering the stone shed in the corner of the pasture close to where we were standing. We noticed several Sand Martins feeding above the burn further along to our left and, having observed the waders and with the intention of continuing our walk round the bay, we walked along the fence line towards them.

Having walked only about 40m we noticed another bird also feeding in the eddy above the burn. This bird was considerably larger than the Sand Martins, had a dark back with a very obvious light rump, and long tail streamers. The birds were flying along the cliff face below us and banking up above the cliff top to turn in the wind at the end of each pass, so presenting good views of both the under- and upper-parts, albeit that they were passing at speed and were obscured for part of the time by the shape of the cliff. The underparts of the light-rumped bird were mainly white but with black under the tail. When the Barn Swallows joined in, the light-rumped bird appeared as large as, if not larger than, the Barn Swallow. At this point I made some brief notes while Ann referred to our field guide and we provisionally identified the bird as a Red-rumped Swallow. I did not know the status of this bird in Argyll but, suspecting that it was a description species, I set about taking some photographs. Subsequently, we checked the relevant identification features noted in the guide: *pale rusty coloured rump, narrow nape band, pale chin, and jet black undertail coverts* and were reasonably confident of the identification. We had watched the bird for about half an hour by the time I texted John Bowler with the species and location and we continued our walk round Gott Bay.

When we returned about two hours later, on our way back to the ferry the bird was still feeding in the same area. John subsequently texted to say that he had also seen and photographed the bird at the same location later that afternoon. Despite the wide-angle point-and-shoot technique necessary to photograph the fast-moving birds I had enough pictures to support our report to the SBRC, which accepted the record.

## **Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*) at Loch Turraman, Colonsay on 15 June 2017: the third record for Argyll**

*David C Jardine & Ian A Fisher*

A group of us were returning from a vantage point watch from one of the central hills on Colonsay, down the old track from Scalasaig to Loch Turraman, when DCJ drew attention to strong song which he did not recognise coming from an area of dense Eared Willow. It had been a dull morning, but the sun had just started to shine and the bird had not been singing on our ascent; resembled the start of a song of a Wren, but did not have the trill at the end. IAF did not immediately recognise it either and we decided to investigate further.

As the bird was not visible DCJ went around to the other side of the bush to try to see it when a small green bird, obviously a Phyllosc, or similar, flew across the track into another area of willow bushes. On this brief sighting IAF, who had heard this species sing previously, ‘called’ it as a Greenish Warbler. Using his mobile phone (on video mode) he was able to make a short recording of its song, but it remained hidden in the bush. A short playback from the phone brought it closer and DCJ was able to see it low in the bush and saw a clear single pale fawn wing-bar, before it disappeared back into the bush. As the volume on the phone was low and we were 300m from the car, DCJ returned to the car to get his iPod and speaker.

Before DCJ returned the other members of the group were able to get brief views of the very active bird and IAF managed to rattle off a few photographs (see colour photo section) when it briefly sat out in some heather scrub. A comparison of the song on IAF’s phone and DCJ’s iPod of that of a Greenish Warbler, along with the plumage features confirmed the identification. On DCJ’s return the bird was observed on the lower branches of the bush before it flew across the track into another large area of dense willow scrub as it clouded over and a short shower started. Despite lingering in the area for another half hour waiting for the sun to re-appear the bird was not seen again. In total the bird was under observation for 15-20 minutes, but views of the bird were short, and the bird would undoubtedly have been overlooked had it not been singing. The main features were noted, or confirmed from the few photos as:

### **Description**

*Structure – a small warbler similar in size to a Chiffchaff, with a small fine bill (slightly stouter than Chiffchaff).*

*Plumage - Forehead, crown, nape and mantle a uniform olive green / greenish fawn. Supercilium bright cream, extending well beyond eye and curving down past ear coverts to a narrower tip. It was reasonably broad in front of the eye and extended right to the bill, but it is not clear from the photographs whether these met above the bill. Lores and eyestripe darker fawn. No obvious eye-ringing. Ear coverts greenish fawn near eyestripe and nape, fading to pale creamy white with greenish tinge of underparts. Primaries, secondaries and wing coverts a uniform olive green / greenish fawn except for the tips of the greater coverts which had narrow cream tips giving an obvious single wing-bar. No pale tips to tertials or median coverts. Throat, chest, belly, flanks and under tail-coverts were a clean pale creamy white with a greenish tinge, palest on the flanks. The tail was not seen well, but from photos appeared similar to the upperparts.*

*Bare parts - Bill upper mandible dark brown/black, lower mandible paler, palest at the base, becoming darker orangey horn closer to the tip. No details of the legs were gained during observation.*

The long clear supercilium, clean pale underparts, single wing-bar and the distinctive song, which is identical to those of published Greenish Warbler (and not like published Green and Two-barred Greenish Warblers) (Xeno-Canto website), were sufficient to eliminate other Phylloscs conclusively. Green Warbler has also been eliminated because of the lack of yellow in the supercilium and on the throat. On the basis of the detail gained on this short sighting, the bird was not aged, but was sexed as a male as it was singing.

*Up to the end of 2016 there have been 258 records of Greenish Warbler in Scotland, the bulk of which have occurred in the Northern Isles. In 2016 only one of the 17 birds recorded was noted in the spring (McGowan & McNerny 2018). There are two previous records in Argyll; one in spring, the other in autumn: the first was found dead at the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse on 27 May 1983, having been caught there on 25, 26 and 27 May. The other, aged as a first-winter bird, was trapped on Sanda on 31 July 1987 (Ap Rheinallt et al. 2007).*

## **References**

Ap Rheinallt, T., Craik, J.C.A., Daw, P., Furness, R.W., Petty, S.J. & Woods, D. (eds). 2007. *Birds of Argyll*. Argyll Bird Club. Lochgilphead.

McGowan, R.Y & McNerny, C.J. (on behalf of the Scottish Birds Records Committee). 2018. Scottish Birds Records Committee report on rare birds in Scotland, 2016. *Scottish Birds* 38: 99-121.

# Argyll Ringing Recoveries

Selected Highlights From 2017

*Nigel Scriven*

The individuals and groups that are involved in ringing birds in Argyll are many and varied, as is the range of birds ringed. 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 2017, which is a tiny selection from the vast quantity of information held on the national ringing database:

[www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports](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 2017 and had not previously been reported. Details for Argyll are found listed under the 'area' of Argyll. 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. *If you find a dead bird, please check the legs for any rings, and report all rings found, with finding details, to [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac)*

There are now also many colour marking schemes using a variety of marking methods, from colour leg rings, leg flags, wing tags and neck collars, which nowadays also have number and letter combinations. These increase reporting rates enormously, generating much greater knowledge of movements. These are also co-ordinated and recorded by the BTO, and should also be reported at [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac)

Species/ Ring No.	Age & finding details	Date ringed date found	Location /distance/direction/ time difference
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## **BARNACLE GOOSE** *Two migrants on their way south, and one back near its breeding grounds in Greenland*

<b>1295146</b>	Adult Male Caught by ringer	27-10-2014 26-03-2017	Gruinart Farm, <i>Islay</i> Balnakeil Bay, Durness <i>Highland</i> 321km NNE 2y 4m 27d
<b>1291243</b>	Adult Freshly dead	10-11-2001 12-11-2017	Gruinart Farm, <i>Islay</i> Newton, North Uist <i>Western Isles</i> 211km NNW 16y 0m 2d
<b>1501602</b>	Adult Male Freshly dead (shot)	22-11-2013 17-05-2016	Aoradh, Loch Gruinart <i>Islay</i> Hurry Fjord, Sermersooq Kommune, Illoqqortoormiut <b>Greenland</b> 1,827km NNW 2y 5m 25d

## **GREYLAG GOOSE**

*Resighting of an Icelandic neck-collared migrant*

<b>ISR</b>	Adult Fem	18-07-2016	Blonduos (Austur-Húnavatnssýsla) <b>Iceland</b>
<b>141599</b>	Alive (neck collar seen)	26-11-2016	Highfield, <i>Gigha</i> 1,788km SW 0y 4m 8d

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**EIDER** *Two long-lived & site-faithful birds*

<b>HT91674</b>	Adult Female	20-05-2003	Burnt Islands <i>Cowal</i>
	Caught by ringer	10-05-2017	Burnt Islands <i>Cowal</i> 0km 13y 11m 20d
<b>HT91676</b>	Adult Female	20-05-2003	Burnt Islands <i>Cowal</i>
	Caught by ringer	10-05-2017	Burnt Islands <i>Cowal</i> 0km 13y 11m 20d

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**STORM PETREL** *Some movements of Treshnish birds*

<b>2664548</b>	Adult	26-06-2016	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i>
	Caught by ringer	25-07-2017	Fair Isle <i>Shetland</i> 442km NE 1y 0m 29d
<b>2707400</b>	Adult	26-08-2014	Fair Isle <i>Shetland</i>
	Caught by ringer	26-06-2016	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 442 SW 2y 10m 0d
<b>2602854</b>	Adult	02-08-2005	Porth Iago, Llyn Peninsula, <i>Gwynedd</i>
	Caught by ringer	01-07-2017	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 419km NNW 11y 10m 29d
<b>2719492</b>	Adult	26-07-2016	Bewan, North Ronaldsay <i>Orkney</i>
	Caught by ringer	01-07-2017	Lunga, Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 401km SW 0y 11m 5d

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**FULMAR** *East coast to west coast movement*

<b>FH24254</b>	Nestling	08-08-2010	Craigleith, Firth of Forth <i>East Lothian</i>
	Long dead (bird of prey)	27-09-2017	nr Craignure <i>Mull</i> 191km WNW 7y 1m 19d

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**MANX SHEARWATER** *Long lived bird*

<b>FB17781</b>	1st-year	05-09-2004	Bardsey Island <i>Gwynedd</i>
	Freshly dead (storm)	04-09-2017	Machir Bay <i>Islay</i> 355km NNW 12y 11m 30d

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**SHAG** *Interesting movements, staying on the west coast*

<b>1221453</b>	Nestling	08-06-1985	St Patricks Island, Skerries <i>Dublin</i>
	Long dead (in building)	15-04-2017	Lochbuie <i>Mull</i> 308km N 31y 10m 7d
<b>1483435</b>	Nestling	03-06-2015	Isle of May <i>Fife</i>
	Long dead	18-10-2017	Sanaigmore <i>Islay</i> 243km W 2y 4m 15d

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**CORMORANT** *Interesting movements, staying on the west coast*

<b>5269594</b>	Nestling	03-07-2015	Puffin Island <i>Anglesey</i>
	Long dead	25-11-2017	Port Mor <i>Islay</i> 308km NNW 2y 4m 22d
<b>5174019</b>	Nestling	16-06-1996	Eilean Buidhe, Loch Fyne <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Unknown (ring only)	31-10-2017	Lough Inchin, <i>Cavan</i> 245km SSW 21y 4m 15d

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**SPARROWHAWK** *Within Cowal juvenile dispersal*

<b>EX76257</b>	Nestling	03-07-2017	An Criap, Glendaruel Forest, Strachur <i>Cowal</i>
	Freshly dead (injury)	10-08-2017	Innellan, Dunoon <i>Cowal</i> 20km SE 0y 1m 7d

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**OYSTERCATCHER** *Movements to Walees and Ireland*

<b>FJ06103</b>	Adult	14-03-2016	The Gann <i>Pembrokeshire</i>
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13-03-2017	Sorobaidh Bay <i>Tiree</i> 540km NNW 0y 11m 27d
<b>FH65774</b>	Nestling	12-06-2016	Balerominmore <i>Colonsay</i>
	Unknown natural causes	14-11-2017	Tramore <i>Waterford</i> <b>Eire</b> 436km S 1y 5m 2d
<b>FH67860</b>	Adult	19-01-2014	Bangor Harbour <i>Gwynedd</i>
	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-05-2017	Loch A Phuill <i>Tiree</i> 404km NNW 3y 4m 7d
<b>FH67695</b>	First-year	01-12-2013	Pen-Y-Parc, Beaumaris <i>Anglesey</i>
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02-04-2017	Oronsay <i>Colonsay</i> 335km NNW 3y 4m 1d
<b>FH29324</b>	Adult	17-01-2010	Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris <i>Anglesey</i>
	Long dead- bird of prey	21-06-2017	Saligo Bay <i>Islay</i> 319km NNW 7y 5m 4d

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**CURLEW** *Finnish breeding bird passes through Mull for second year running*

<b>SFH</b>	Adult Male	31-05-2015	Muhos, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa <i>Oulu</i> <b>Finland</b>
<b>CT179132</b>	Alive (colour rings seen)	04-03-2016	Loch Don <i>Mull</i> 1,946km WSW 0y 9m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28-03-2017	Loch Don <i>Mull</i> 1,946km WSW 1y 9m 25d

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**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Norwegian migrants staging on Tiree*

<b>NOS</b>	1st-year	09-09-2017	Makkevika, Giske <i>More og Romsdal</i> <b>Norway</b>
<b>K01175</b>	Alive (colour rings seen)	26-09-2017	Balinoe <i>Tiree</i> 990km SW 0y 0m 17d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	25-10-2017	Sorobaidh Bay <i>Tiree</i> 988km SW 0y 1m 16d
<b>NOS</b>	1st-year Fem	26-09-2017	Makkevika, Giske <i>More og Romsdal</i> <b>Norway</b>
<b>K01321</b>	Alive (colour rings seen)	21-10-2017	Gott Bay <i>Tiree</i> 981km SW 0y 0m 25d

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**BLACK-HEADED GULL**

<b>EW39319</b>	Nestling	13-06-2009	Black Rock, LCrinan, <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Alive (ring read in field)	24-12-2017	Antrim Baptist Church, Antrim Town: <i>Antrim</i> 157km SSW 8y 6m 11d

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**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**

<b>MA42756</b>	Nestling	05-07-2016	Eilean Mhuire, Shiant Is, <i>Western Isles</i>
	Long dead	19-03-2017	Treshnish Isles <i>Mull</i> 158km S 0y 8m 14d

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**HERRING GULL** *Long lived bird*

<b>GF95434</b>	Nestling	24-06-1998	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Dead-leg only	08-08-2017	Kings Cave, Arran <i>N Ayrshire</i> 32km NNE 19y 1m 15d

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**COMMON TERN**

<b>ST08307</b>	Nestling	07-07-2012	Abbot's Isle, Loch Etive <i>Mid-Argyll</i>
	Sick (in net or cage)	18-12-2017	Joal Fadiouth, Saly <b>Senegal</b> 4,804km SSW 5y 5m 11d

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**ARCTIC TERN**

<b>SR32527</b>	Nestling	10-07-2005	Glas Eileanan, Sound of Mull <i>Mull</i>
	Alive-ring read in field	08-07-2017	Seaforth Nature Reserve, Crosby <i>Merseyside</i> 378km SSE 11y 11m 28d

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**GREAT SKUA**

<b>ISR</b>	Nestling	19-07-2003	Kvisker, Oraefi, Austur Skaftafells <b>Iceland</b>
<b>257481</b>	Dead	26-06-2017	Cliad Beach <i>Coll</i> 978km SSE 13y 11m 7d

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**COMMON GUILLEMOT**

<b>T51816</b>	Nestling	22-06-1988	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	25-06-2017	Puffin Island <i>Anglesey</i> 241km SSE 29y 0m 3d
<b>R08102</b>	Nestling	29-06-2002	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Long dead	10-12-2017	Beer <i>Devon</i> 535km SSE 15y 5m 11d

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**RAZORBILL**

<b>M97938</b>	Nestling	25-06-2001	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Long dead (pollution)	22-06-2017	St Tudwals Island West <i>Gwynedd</i> 284km SSE 15y 11m 28d
<b>K00295</b>	Nestling	03-07-2010	Sanda Island <i>Kintyre</i>
	Alive (ring read in field)	11-06-2015	Bardsey Island <i>Gwynedd</i> 283km S 4y 11m 8d
	Alive (ring read in field)	19-06-2016	Bardsey Island <i>Gwynedd</i> 283km S 5y 11m 16d
	Caught by ringer	13-06-2017	Bardsey Island <i>Gwynedd</i> 283km S 6y 11m 10d

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**SAND MARTIN**

<b>S357109</b>	Juvenile	21-07-2016	Oakley, nr Martin Hussingtree <i>Worcestershire</i>
	Caught by ringer	01-07-2017	Langa Quarry, Kilkenzie <i>Kintyre</i> 426km NNW 0y 11m 10d

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**BLACKCAP**

<b>BLB</b>	1st-year Fem	21-09-2016	Tienen, Vlaams <i>Brabant</i> <b>Belgium</b>
<b>14680340</b>	Freshly dead (hit by car)	23-05-2017	Glendaruel <i>Cowal</i> 888km NW 0y 8m 2d

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**HOODED CROW** *A new British longevity record*

FC36607	Nestling	20-05-2007	Ardskenish Colonsay
	Freshly dead	25-05-2017	Ardskenish Colonsay 0km 10y 0m 5d
	(trapped)		

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**GOLDCREST**

HCP113	1st-year Male	29-11-2014	Duckley Plantation <i>Staffordshire</i>
	Caught by ringer	01-04-2017	Calliburn Croft <i>Kintyre</i> 381km NW 2y 4m 3d

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**BLACKBIRD** *More movements of this annual visitor*

NOS	Full-grown Male	15-04-2013	Knapstad, Hobol <i>Ostfold Norway</i>
7476431	Alive (ring read in field)	21-12-2015	Connel <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 1,027km WSW 2y 8m 6d
	Alive (ring read in field)	02-02-2017	Connel <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 1,027km WSW 3y 9m 18d
	Alive (ring read in field)	06-03-2017	Connel <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 1,027km WSW 3y 10m 19d

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**PIED WAGTAIL**

D235058	First-year	11-09-2013	East Kilbride <i>South Lanarkshire</i>
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19-03-2017	Benmore Lodge, Loch Ba <i>Mull</i> 135km NW 3y 6m 8d

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**CHAFFINCH**

L317080	1st-year Fem	17-09-2013	Cnoc Tarbet, <i>Loch Lomond</i>
	Caught by ringer	02-01-2017	Kilchoman, <i>Islay</i> 119km WSW 3y 3m 16d

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**TWITE** *More great movements from this colour-marking scheme*

L586170	Full-grown Male	08-10-2014	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	18-02-2015	Connah's Quay <i>Flintshire</i> 298km SE 0y 4m 10d
	Caught by ringer	12-02-2016	Connah's Quay <i>Flintshire</i> 298km SE 1y 4m 4d
	Caught by ringer	28-09-2016	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 0km 1y 11m 20d
	Caught by ringer	20-01-2017	Connah's Quay <i>Flintshire</i> 298km SE 2y 3m 12d
	Caught by ringer	07-04-2017	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 0km 2y 5m 30d
	Caught by ringer	05-10-2017	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 0km 2y 11m 27d
Z522590	First-year Male	03-02-2016	Clachtoll, Lochinver <i>Highland</i>

	Caught by ringer	09-03-2016	Clachtoll, Lochinver <i>Highland</i> 0km 0y 1m 6d
	Caught by ringer	25-10-2016	Clachtoll, Lochinver <i>Highland</i> 0km 0y 8m 22d
	Caught by ringer	03-12-2017	The Oa <i>Islay</i> 293km SSW 1y 10m 0d
<b>L974657</b>	First-year Male	28-09-2016	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	16-11-2016	Point of Ayre <i>Isle of Man</i> 144km SE 0y 1m 19d

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**LESSER REDPOLL** *Widespread movements of this highly mobile species*

<b>Z903645</b>	First-year Female	29-12-2015	near Hollesley Heath <i>Suffolk</i>
	Alive (ring read in field)	21-04-2017	Kilchoman <i>Islay</i> 662km NW 1y 3m 23d
<b>Z944359</b>	First-year Male	03-03-2016	Halstead <i>Essex</i>
	Caught by ringer	20-08-2017	Calliburn Croft <i>Kintyre</i> NW 1y 5m 17d
<b>Z332732</b>	First-year Female	15-02-2015	Brierley <i>Gloucestershire</i>
	Caught by ringer	23-04-2017	Calliburn Croft <i>Kintyre</i> 453km NNW 2y 2m 8d
<b>S595413</b>	1st-year Male	09-10-2016	Drum, Peterculter <i>Aberdeenshire</i>
	Caught by ringer	23-07-2017	Fishnish <i>Mull</i> 222km WSW 0y 9m 14d
<b>Z656081</b>	Adult Female	09-07-2015	Aros Moss <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	06-11-2017	le Marais, Larchant, <i>Seine-et-Marne France</i> 976km SE 2y 3m 28d

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**GOLDFINCH** *Widespread movements of this highly mobile species*

<b>Z948480</b>	First-year Female	16-12-2016	Daisy Bank, Walsall <i>West Midlands</i>
	Caught by ringer	07-04-2017	Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> NNW 0y 3m 22d
<b>L586437</b>	Full-grown Male	09-04-2016	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i>
	Caught by ringer	17-12-2016	Village Way, Farndon <i>Nottinghamshire</i> 412km SE 0y 8m 8d
<b>S176207</b>	Adult Male	26-11-2016	Broadwath, Carlisle <i>Cumbria</i>
	Caught by ringer	19-04-2017	Corry Meadows <i>Mull</i> 261km NW 0y 4m 24d
<b>Z195768</b>	Adult Male	26-12-2015	Dunmurry <i>Antrim</i>
	Caught by ringer	05-11-2016	Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 178km N 0y 10m 10d
	Caught by ringer	24-04-2017	Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 178km N 1y 3m 29d
<b>S896213</b>	1st-year Female	17-04-2017	Cnoc Tarbet, <i>Loch Lomond</i>
	Caught by ringer	01-05-2017	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 109km SW 0y 0m 14d

<b>FRP</b>	Full-grown Fem	11-02-2017	Les Roberts, Liart <i>Ardenne</i> <b>France</b>
<b>8158019</b>	Caught by ringer	19-04-2017	Machrihanish <i>Kintyre</i> 925km NW 0y 2m 8d
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<b>SISKIN</b>	<i>Widespread movements of this highly mobile species</i>		
<b>Z844025</b>	First-year Male	21-02-2016	Straight Mile, near Romsey <i>Hampshire</i>
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	19-06-2017	Laggan Wood, Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 630km NNW 1y 3m 29d
<b>Y991459</b>	Juvenile Male	27-06-2013	Colwell, Honiton <i>Devon</i>
	Caught by ringer	02-04-2017	Kilmartin <i>Mid-Argyll</i> 615km NNW 3y 9m 6d
<b>S199070</b>	Adult Male	13-03-2016	Cockley Cley, Swaffham <i>Norfolk</i>
	Freshly dead natural causes	01-07-2017	Gruline <i>Mull</i> 607km NW 1y 3m 18d
<b>D563567</b>	Adult Male	06-03-2016	The Lodge, Sandy <i>Bedfordshire</i>
	Freshly dead	26-06-2017	Stairchaol, Benderloch <i>N Argyll</i> 593km NNW 1y 3m 20d
<b>Z663232</b>	First-year Fem	19-02-2016	Healy's Bridge, nr Ballincollig <i>Cork Eire</i>
	Freshly dead cat	17-03-2017	Dunoon <i>Cowal</i> 506km NNE 1y 0m 26d



**Sanderling Tirit** (Richard Whitson)

# Recent Literature on Argyll birds

David Jardine

This is a continuation of the series of articles which provides a brief bibliography, in alphabetical order by author name, of recent publications that relate to birds in Argyll (or are studies elsewhere of ecology of birds of conservation importance in Argyll), with a short description where considered appropriate. It adds to previously published bibliographies and includes new material not listed in previous reports but published by the end of 2018.

**Broad, R.A. 2018. Breeding Black-throated Divers benefit from rafts in Argyll but their numbers fall. *Scottish Birds* 38: 208 – 216.** *This paper summarises the results of the long-term monitoring of Black-throated Divers in Argyll since 1985. The review indicated that the Argyll breeding population has declined despite improved breeding success as a result of the provision of breeding rafts.*

**Challis, A., Wilson, M.W., Holling, M., Roos, S., Stevenson, A. & Stirling-Aird, P.K. 2018. *Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Report for 2017*. BTO Scotland, Stirling.** Available on line at [http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SRMS\\_Report17.pdf](http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SRMS_Report17.pdf) and [http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/All-SRMS-Species\\_2017.pdf](http://raptormonitoring.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/All-SRMS-Species_2017.pdf) *Presents raptor monitoring results for Scotland in 2017; includes 698 sites checked and 307 breeding attempts monitored for 14 species in Argyll.*

**Furness, R.W., Hallgrímsson, G.T., Montevecchi, W.A., Fifield, D., Kubetzi, U., Mendel, B. & Garthe, S. 2018. Adult Gannet migrations frequently loop clockwise around Britain and Ireland. *Ringling & Migration* 33: 45 – 53.** *Geolocators on adult Gannets from the Bass Rock and Skruor (Iceland) showed that many passed through Argyll waters during the spring migration but returned south via the North Sea.*

**Geary M., Haworth, P.F. & Fielding A.H. 2018. Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* nest sites on the Isle of Mull are associated with habitat mosaics and constrained by topography. *Bird Study* 65: 62 – 71.** *This paper develops and tests a model based on the analysis of 102 known Hen Harrier sites on Mull. The model confirms that Hen Harrier nests are found in habitat mosaics below 200m above sea level. Nest intensity is positively associated with increasing proportions of moorland and scrub, open canopy forestry and closed canopy forestry, but negatively associated with increasing proportions of grazed land.*

**Gibb, K., Wilkinson, M. & Morrison, D. 2018. ‘Thayer’s Gull on Islay, Argyll, March 2014 – the first Scottish record. *Scottish Birds* 38: 182 – 188.** *The first accepted record of Thayer’s Gull in Scotland was on the shores of Loch Indaal from 2 March to 25 April 2014.*

**Hayhow, D.B., Eaton, M.A., Stanbury, A.J., Douse, A & Marquiss, M. 2018. The first survey and population estimate of Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. 2018. *Bird Study* 65: 36 – 43.** *A survey carried out in 2011 estimated a Scottish breeding population of a minimum of 60 territories, but the sites surveyed on the North Argyll border did not locate any birds.*

**MacGillivray, F.S., Gilbert, G. & McKay, C.R. 2018. The diet of a declining Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* population on Islay, Scotland. *Bird Study* 65: 422 – 425.** *The diet of Chough on Islay was quantified using faecal samples. Dung invertebrates formed the majority of prey biomass in dune pasture, Crane fly larvae in mixed pasture. Dung-feeding beetles (Aphodius) were scarce in the diet, whereas they had been a major component in the 1980s.*

**O'Hanlon, N.J., McGill, R.A.R. & Nager, R.G. 2017. Increased use of intertidal resources benefits breeding success in a generalist gull species. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 574: 193 – 210.** *This study, which included samples from three sites in the southern Inner Hebrides, found that different colonies were using different habitats to provide food for young. Colonies on Oronsay and Jura had a high proportion of inter-tidal food and such colonies had higher breeding success than those utilizing terrestrial or offshore food sources.*

**O'Hanlon, N.J. & Nager, R.G. 2018. Identifying habitat-driven spatial variation in colony size of Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus*. *Bird Study* 65: 306 – 316.** *This study looking at Herring Gull colonies, in southwest Scotland (including much of Argyll) and Northern Ireland, found that changes in colony size were spatially clustered. The changes were related to coastline exposure and the amount of farmland within the foraging range. At the end of the census period, colonies with the greatest availability of intertidal prey and farmland habitat were larger compared to those that were not.*

**Wilkinson, N.I., Eaton, M.A., Colhoun, K. & Drewitt, A. 2018. The population status of breeding Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* in the UK in 2013. *Bird Study* 65: 174 – 188.** *This survey found that Scotland contains 98% of the UK Twite population of an estimated 7831 pairs. This represents a non-significant decline of 21% since the 1999 survey of this species. Mainland Scotland was estimated to have 3154 pairs (at a density of 0.10 pairs/km<sup>2</sup>) and the Inner Isles (which comprises the Inner Hebrides and Clyde Islands) a total of 1818 pairs (at a density of 0.30 pairs/km<sup>2</sup>).*

**Wilson, M.W., Balmer, D.E., Jones, K., King, V.A., Raw, D., Rollie, C.J., Rooney, E., Ruddock, M., Smith, G.D., Stevenson, A., Stirling-Aird, P.K., Wernham, C.V, Weston, J.M. & Noble, D.G. 2018. The breeding population of Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Channel Islands in 2014. *Bird Study* 65: 1 – 19.** *This paper presents the results of the 2014 National Peregrine Survey. There was an estimated population of 53 occupied territories in Argyll, a decline of 23% since 2002. Of 30 territories monitored in 2014, 77% were successful rearing 1.7 chicks per nest. In 2002 55% of monitored nests were successful, rearing 2.2 chicks per nest.*

**Wotton, S.R., Bladwell, S. Mattingley, W., Morris, N.G., Raw, D., Ruddock, M., Stevenson, A. & Eaton, M.A. 2018. Status of the Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* in the UK and Isle of Man in 2016. *Bird Study* 54: 145 – 160.** *This paper presents the results of the 2016 National Hen Harrier Survey. An estimated 175 territorial pairs were found in West Scotland (mainly Argyll, but also including Morvern and Upper Forth), with an estimated 2.9 pairs per 100 km<sup>2</sup> of suitable habitat. This is a decline of 9.8% since the 2010 Survey. West Scotland now contains 40% of the Scottish population.*

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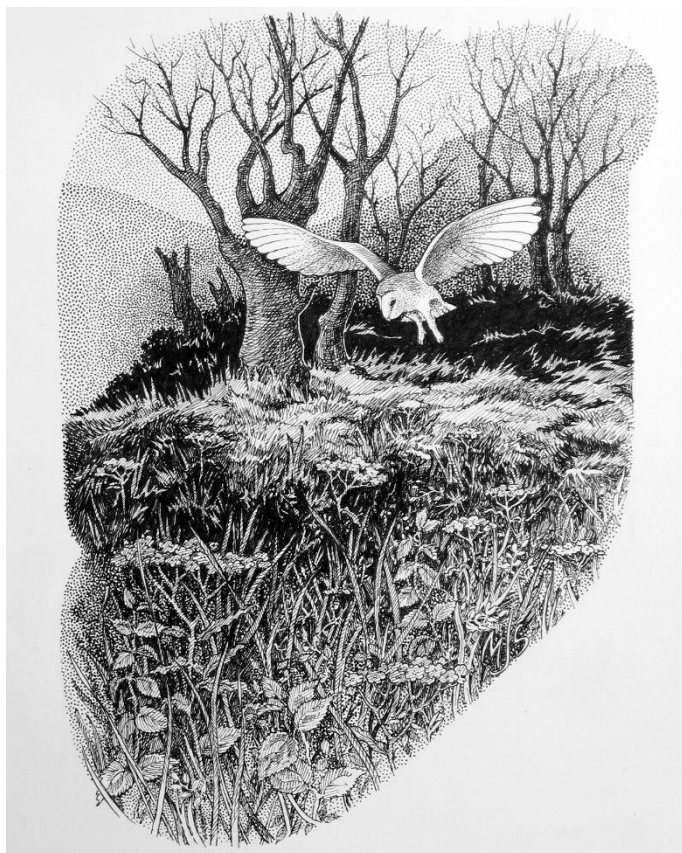
Jim Dickson (Jan 2019)

# Contributors

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***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**

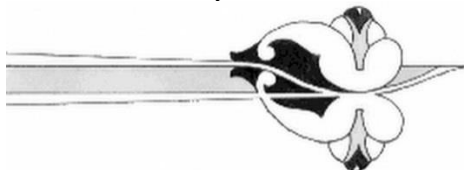
The annual journal of the Club is the *Argyll Bird Report*, containing the Systematic List of all species recorded in the county during the year, together with reports and articles. The less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Eider*, gives details of forthcoming events and activities, reports of recent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

**Website**

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

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[www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)  
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To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary

Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XN

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