

Argyll Bird Report 2018

published by the
Argyll Bird Club 2019





Sedge Warbler *Mid-Argyll June 2018 James Lehmann*

Front cover: Common Redshank *Tiree May 2018 Jim Dickson*

**The Thirtieth
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2018**



Editor, layout & design: Jim Dickson on behalf of the Argyll Bird Club

ISSN 1363-4386 Copyright: Argyll Bird Club Aug 2019

Argyll Bird Club Officials as at 1st Aug. 2019

Chairman	Nigel Scriven, 14 Taylor Ave., Kilbarchan, Johnstone PA10 2LS
Vice-Chairman	David Jardine, The Old Schoolhouse, 26 Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RN
Secretary	Anne Archer, Sealladh Breagha, Gallanach Road, Oban, PA34 4PD
Treasurer	Peter Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray PA32 8XN
Committee	Malcolm Chattwood, Gordon Holm, Alistair McGregor, Dr Steve Petty, Dr Alun ap Rhisiart and Andy Robinson
Membership Secretary	Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray PA32 8XN
Argyll Bird Records Committee	Dr John Bowler, Dr Stuart Crutchfield, Jim Dickson (Secretary), David Jardine, Dr Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson
Editor of <i>The Eider</i> (newsletter)	Dr Steve Petty, Cluaran Cottage, Ardentinnny, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TR

S.O.C. Recorder for Argyll and Editor of the Argyll Bird Report:

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

E-mail: Argyllbirder@outlook.com

Assistant Recorder:

Malcolm Chattwood, 1 The Stances, Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8QA

E-mail: abcrecorder@outlook.com

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Organisers: for *Argyll mainland & Mull*: **Nigel Scriven**, 14 Taylor Ave., Kilbarchan, Johnstone PA10 2LS E-mail: chairman@argyllbirdclub.org For *Tiree and Coll*: **John Bowler**, Pairc na Coille, Balephuill, Isle of Tiree, Argyll, PA77 6UE E-mail: john.bowler@rspb.org.uk For *Islay, Jura and Colonsay*: **David Wood**, Kinnabus, The Oa. Islay, Argyll. E-mail: david.wood@rspb.org.uk

B.T.O. Representatives: For *North Argyll, Mull, Coll, Tiree & Morvern*: **Ewan Miles**, E-mail: ebm.gww@gmail.com For *Islay, Jura and Colonsay*: **David Wood**, E-mail: david.wood@rspb.org.uk For *Argyll Mainland, Bute and Gigha*: **Nigel Scriven**, E-mail: chairman@argyllbirdclub.org

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

Contents

Introduction	6
Bird Recording in Argyll	7 - 8
Sighting Highlights in 2018	9 - 10

Systematic List for 2018

Geese	12 - 15
Swans	15 - 16
Ducks	16 - 22
Game birds	23
Divers	23 - 24
Fulmar, shearwaters, petrels	24 - 26
Grebes	26 - 27
Herons, egrets, gannet, cormorants	27 - 31
Raptors	31 - 34
Rails, crakes, crane	34 - 35
Waders	35 - 46
Gulls	46 - 51
Terns, skuas	51 - 53
Auks	54 - 55
Pigeons & doves	55 - 56
Cuckoos, owls, nightjar	56 - 57
Swifts, kingfisher, woodpeckers etc.	58 - 59
Falcons	59 - 60
Shrikes, vireo, oriole	60 - 61
Crows	61 - 63
Waxwing, tits	63 - 64
Larks	64
Swallows, martins & long-tailed tit	64 - 66
Warblers, crests	66 - 70
Wren, nuthatch, treecreeper, starlings	70 - 73
Thrushes	73 - 75
Flycatchers, robin, nightingale, chats	76 - 78
Dipper, sparrows & dunnock	79 - 80
Wagtails & pipits	80 - 82
Finches	82 - 88
Buntings, American vagrants etc.	89
Escapes & Introductions	90
Rejected and Pending records	90 - 91
Getting Involved	91 - 92
Acknowledgements	92

Introduction

Welcome to the 2018 Argyll bird report which is now the 30th published by the Argyll Bird Club. There have been a number of changes to the style and format of the report which first appeared as a slim A4 document in the 1980's and laterally as a more substantial A5 edition. Some past reports covered two-year periods in order to 'catch up' after falling well behind in production, a problem that many bird recording regions are facing as the amount of data to sort through steadily increases and often with less people available to take on the task.

A decision was taken by the bird club committee during 2018 that future Argyll reports should be produced as a simplified PDF to enable quicker completion and allow it to be made more widely available online. Colour photos are now included within the species accounts, and as an 'e-report' expensive print runs are now eliminated, allowing the club to keep membership rates low, save on the use of paper and provide more assistance towards local conservation projects. Feedback from some club members indicated that, it was not only important to have the report produced quickly but that it should not be overly detailed. As such this report is a more simplified systematic summary of species for the year. Papers, articles etc will now appear in the club's 'Eider' or other suitable journals. For individuals, researchers and planning bodies *etc* who require more detailed species accounts for specific sites or regions it should be noted that this data is still available from the Argyll bird database. We therefore advise anyone requiring such information to contact the bird recorders.

Changes have also been made to the sequence of species occurring in the systematic list. This is a consequence of bringing the competing world taxonomies into alignment, with the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) adopting the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) list as of 1st January 2018. Some changes you may notice e.g. the list now starts with Brent Goose rather than Whooper Swan, Bean Goose is now split into two separate species and a few other species being moved around a bit!

Records within the systematic list are presented for each season, and their occurrence in each of the ten Argyll regions. It should be noted that for many species there may be no note of occurrence in under watched areas such as Cowal, Jura or North Argyll. This is usually a reflection of no reports having been submitted rather than indicating that such species do not occur there. For all the species with twenty or less reports during the year all the submitted sightings are listed. Hopefully you will feel encouraged to submit records, particularly from under watched areas, as well as submit photographs to enhance future reports.

Jim Dickson (Aug 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 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 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. 4, 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

Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
European White-fronted Goose
(race *albifrons*)
Bewick's Swan
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 #	Arctic Warbler #
Stone Curlew #	Barred Warbler
Little Ringed Plover	Lesser Whitethroat
Kentish Plover #	Dartford Warbler #
American Golden Plover	Subalpine Warbler
Temminck's Stint	Icterine Warbler
White-rumped Sandpiper #	Melodious Warbler #
Pectoral Sandpiper	Blyth's Reed Warbler #
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Marsh Warbler #
Lesser Yellowlegs #	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 2018

~ January ~

A drake **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** from 2017 was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 1 Jan, also one was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 2 Jan. A **GLOSSY IBIS** from 2017 was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* from 3 Jan, and five remained at Fiddon *Mull* with another at Tobermory *Mull* on 6 Jan. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** was at Loch Scridain *Mull* from 10 Jan and remained into Apr. A 2CY **RING-BILLED GULL** was at Barrapol *Tiree* from 26 Jan.

~ February ~

A drake **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Feb. Two 'Scandinavian' **ROCK PIPITS** were at Lochbuie *Mull* on 25 Feb.

~ March ~

A drake **AMERICAN WIGEON** was the Laggan *Kintyre* on 7 Mar. The **PIED-BILLED GREBE** was reported back again at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* from 24 Mar. A **GLOSSY IBIS** appeared again on *Tiree* from 25 Mar after a gap since early Feb. A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Mar.

~ April ~

A **CACKLING GOOSE** was at Ruaig *Tiree* on 5 Apr. A **HAWFINCH** was in a garden at Port Weymss, a drake **GREEN -WINGED TEAL** at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and a male **BLACK REDSTART** was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* all on 11 Apr. A 2CY male **BLACK REDSTART** was at Killiechronan *Mull* on 19 Apr. Two **HAWFINCH** were at Ardtun *Mull* on 22 Apr and one was at Fionnphort *Mull* on 23-25 Apr. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Upper Killeyan *Islay* on 23 Apr. A pair of **GARGANEY** were at Heylipol pools *Tiree* on 26 Apr. Two drake **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** were on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 28 Apr.

~ May ~

A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 May. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 10 May. Two **HAWFINCH** were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 10-14 May. A **BLACK REDSTART** was at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 13 May. A 2CY **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May. A drake **RING-NECKED DUCK** was back at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 19 May. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 May. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 26 May. A 2CY **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 May. A pair of **GARGANEY** were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 May. A **HOOPOE** was in Tighnabraich *Cowal* on 29 May. A 2CY **BONAPARTE'S GULL** was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 31 May.

~ June ~

A **MARSH WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Jun. A **ROSY STARLING** was at Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Jun – the first of an Argyll summer influx with up to nine individuals reported. A **EURASIAN REED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Jun. A **SUBALPINE WARBLER**

was at Torsa *Tiree* on 8 Jun. A sick **HONEY BUZZARD** was picked up at Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 24 Jun.

~ July ~

A moulting **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** was at Sandaig *Tiree* from 18 Jul. A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was at Bolsay *Islay* on 31 Jul.

~ August ~

A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was just south of Airdrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Aug. An adult **RING-BILLED GULL** was at the Maze *Tiree* on 14 Aug. An adult **LONG-TAILED SKUA** was off Tobermory *Mull* on 23 Aug. A **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** was off Hynish *Tiree* on 26 Aug.

~ September ~

A **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** was at Sandaig on 1-5 Sep, another two at Vaul on 12 Sep and one at Loch a' Phuill on 21 Sep – all *Tiree*. An **ICTERINE WARBLER** was near Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Sep. Two adult **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** were at Sandaig *Tiree* on 12 Sep. A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was on Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep. A 1CY **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** was at Treshnish farm *Mull* from 21 Sep and another was at Heylipol *Tiree* from 23 Sep. A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep. A 1CY **BARRED WARBLER** was at Cornaig *Tiree* on 30 Sep.

~ October ~

A **DOTTEREL** was at Scarinish *Tiree* from 2 Oct. A **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3-4 Oct. A **CATTLE EGRET** was at Calgary *Mull* on 10 Oct -13 Nov. A **HOOPOE** was at Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 13 Oct. A **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct, with another there on 16 Oct and at Iona *Mull* on 17 Oct. A **CAKCLING GOOSE** was on Oronsay *Colonsay* from 16 Oct. An adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct. A **COMMON CRANE** flew over Oronsay *Colonsay* on 31 Oct.

~ November ~

A 'Siberian' **CHIFFCHAFF** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Nov. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov with possibly the same individual at The Oa *Islay* on 21 Nov and Aros Farm, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 23 Nov. Five **WAXWING** were in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov. A 2CY **RING-BILLED GULL** was at Sandaig *Tiree* from 11 Nov. Three **RING-NECKED DUCK** were at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* from 13 Nov.

~ December ~

A drake **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 3 Dec. A drake **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 23 Dec. Sixteen **WAXWING** were at Inveraray *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
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
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
<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
NNR	National Nature Reserve
nr.	near
pr	pair
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
SRMS	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme
Ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
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 2018

The following systematic list includes entries for 226 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2018 (*cf.* average 222 species during the years 1993- 2017). This is one more than last year but well down on a record 240 species in 2014. No new species were added to the list in 2018.

All records are listed where 20 reports or fewer. Observers names are given for description rarities.



Pale-bellied BRENT GOOSE Kintyre Nov Eddie Maguire

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*
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 (Islay/Mull/Tiree) Jan until 10 May with a max of 420 on Tiree on

24 Apr and 61 at Bridgend Islay on 2 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree) between 11 Sep to end Dec. Max of 84 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 23 Sep.

‘DARK-BELLIED’ BRENT GOOSE (*B. b. bernicla*)

Autumn/winter One was at Glen Cannel Mull on 17 Nov and one was at Rockside Islay on 22 Nov.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

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.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. A max of 217 at Poltalloch Mid-Argyll on 10 Feb.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (Coll/Islay/Jura/Tiree).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. A max of 480 at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 10 Feb.

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.

Spring One well watched bird was reported from Islay at Kinnabus, The Oa on 6 Jan – 1 Mar but no submission as yet to the BBRC.

Autumn One well watched bird was reported from the Gruinart area Islay from 10 Oct but no submission as yet to the BBRC. One at Caoles Tiree from 15 Nov is under consideration by BBRC.



CAKCLING GOOSE *Colonsay* October Patrick Styles

CAKCLING 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.

Spring One was at Ruaig Tìree on 5 Apr in a flock of around 1,200 Barnacle Geese [John Bowler].

Autumn One was at the Oronsay RSPB reserve *Colonsay* on 16 Oct – 8 Dec [Andy Knight, Patrick Styles]. Both these records were accepted by the BBRC.

Other reports from Islay have either not yet been submitted or await acceptance by the BBRC.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

AMBER LIST *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tìree 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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). Most on *Islay* with max count 37,487 on 18 Jan and *Tìree* with 5,126 on 20 Mar. An Argyll total in Mar of 44,047 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

Summer One-three birds noted on (Coll/Colonsay/Islay).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Most on *Islay* with max count 22,146 on 14 Oct and *Tìree* with 3,989 on 10 Dec. An Argyll total in Dec of 40,837 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

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

All year Resident flock present on *Coll* and decreasing in recent years with now only 11 adults and no new young during the year.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max count of 1,956 on *Tiree* on 20 Mar. An Argyll total in Mar of 4,527 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

Breeding Reported breeding in all areas except *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts 1,710 on *Tiree* (all island) on 10 Dec and 1,270 on *Islay* (max single flock size) on 29 Oct. An Argyll total in Dec of 5,181 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

AMBER LIST *A scarce winter visitor and less than annual. Split from Tundra race Bean Goose in 2018 and now treated as a separate species.*

Reported however no accepted records in 2018.



PINK-FOOTED GEESE *Kintyre* December *Eddie Maguire*

175 over *Tobermory Mull* on 20 Sep.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*) Jan until 29 May. Max count of 80 over *Tobermory Mull* on 10 Apr.

Summer One was at *Saligo Islay* on 19 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max count of

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser serrirostris*

AMBER LIST *A rare winter visitor and less than annual with fewer records than Taiga birds. Tundra Bean Goose is part of the 'Eastern Bean Goose group' A. f. johanseni/ middendorffii/ serrirostris.*

Reported, however no accepted records in 2018.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

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.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 5,077 on *Islay* on 18 Jan (all island) and 2,619 in *Kintyre* on 7 Mar. Argyll total counts in Mar of 8,412 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

Summer One was at Salen Bay *Mull* on 18 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Max counts of 2,448 in *Kintyre* on 13 Dec and 5,847 on *Islay* on 11 Dec and an Argyll total in Dec of 9,449 (Int. Goose counts per SNH).

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

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

No reports in 2018.



'Greenland' WHITE-FRONTED GEESE *Kintyre March Eddie Maguire*

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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 Reports from all areas. Max count of 38 on *Tiree* on 19 Feb.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max count of 51 on *Tiree* on 12 Sep.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 394 roosting at *Bridgend Islay* on 1 Jan and 192 at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 23 Mar.

Summer/breeding Up to 10 on *Tiree* and 3 on *Islay* during the summer.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 500 at *Craigens Islay* on 21 Oct and 182 on *Tiree* on 12 Dec.



WHOOPER SWAN *Islay* May *Jim Dickson*

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 176 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 19 Mar and 34 at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 19 Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports received from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max count of 47 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 28 Oct.

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.

Winter/spring Several reports from *Loch Awe* with a max of 8 at *Braevallich Mid-Argyll* on 6 Feb. Four at *Benmore Cowal* on 28 Jan and 2 at *St Catherines Cowal* on 4 Apr.

Breeding Breeding reports in the *Loch Awe* area *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter One at *Loch Ederline Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep was the only report and a max of 8 at *Braevallich Mid-Argyll* on 12 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.



GARGANEY *Tiree* April John Bowler

Spring A pair were at Heylipol church pool, and also at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26-28 Apr, and a pair were at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 30 May.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*

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 Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll).

Max counts of 32 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Apr and 30 on *Tiree* on 30 Apr.

Breeding Breeding reported on *Islay* and *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll). Max counts of 39 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Nov and 19 on *Tiree* on 4 Dec.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera*

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 Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). A fem was at Knock Mull on 13 Jan and 5 Apr. Four were on Oronsay Colonsay on 19 Apr. Prs noted at three locations on *Tiree*. Up to 3 were at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* and a pr was at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 29 Apr.

Breeding Two eclipse males were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Jun - 2 Jul. Up to 5 prs on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). A max count of 11 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 12 Oct.



EURASIAN WIGEON *Mid-Argyll* November Jim Dickson

EURASIAN WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 590 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Feb, 391 on *Tiree* on 19 Feb and 180 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 23 Jan.

Breeding Likely breeding prs were noted on *Tiree* and inland *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. The first returning autumn birds noted at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* from 29 Jul. Max counts of 349 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Oct, 312 at Kilmichael floods *Kintyre* on 13 Nov and 260 on *Tiree* on 9 Dec.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana*

A rare visitor: 15 or more records.

Autumn/winter A first-winter male was at Strath Farm, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 7 Mar [Eddie Maguire]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 115 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Jan, 81 on *Tiree* on 29 Jan and 61 at Ballure *Kintyre* on 7 Jan.

Breeding Reports from all areas.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 254 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Nov, 140 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov and 85 on *Tiree* on 9 Dec.



MALLARD *Mid-Argyll* August Jim Dickson

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

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 Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max counts of 99 at Loch Gruinart on 19 Mar and 10 on *Tiree* in Apr.

Breeding Up to 6 prs on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). At the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* a fem on 14 Oct and a male on 17 Oct. On Oronsay *Colonsay* one on 13 Dec. Max count of 65 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 8 Nov.

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 720 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 19 Mar and 486 on *Tiree* on 19 Feb.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 2,150 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 8 Nov, 320 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Dec and 219 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 8 Nov.

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 Gruinart reserve *Islay* from Nov 2017 until at least 25 May. A male remained at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 10 Dec 2017 until 19 Feb [John Bowler]. Two males together were at Port na Blathach, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Apr [D Jardine, A & S Knight] then a male (prob same) at Ardskenish Point *Colonsay* on 6 May [T & S Baker, Paul Handcock] and a male (prob same) at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 7 May [A Davis, T Baker]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

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 Only one report – a male at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Feb.

Autumn/winter A male and female were at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 8-15 Nov and 2 mm + 1 f at Loch Gorm on 1 Dec. A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct then same at Loch Bhasapol on 15-18 Oct and presumed same at Loch a' Phuill on 1 Nov-31 Dec.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

A rare visitor: 23 previous records.

Winter/spring A returning adult male was at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* with reports from 4 May to 11 Jun [Mike Peacock, Gary Turnbull *et al*] and presumed to be the same bird also at Gruinart floods on 10 Feb [Bob Davison, David Barr].

Winter Three birds – adult male and female with a 1CY male, frequented Loch Bhasapol and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 12 Nov and in to 2019. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts on *Tiree* with 115 on 19 Feb. 25 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 17 Mar.

Breeding Breeding reported on *Tiree* (less than 10 prs) and at least one pr at Gruinart *Islay* and at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll*.

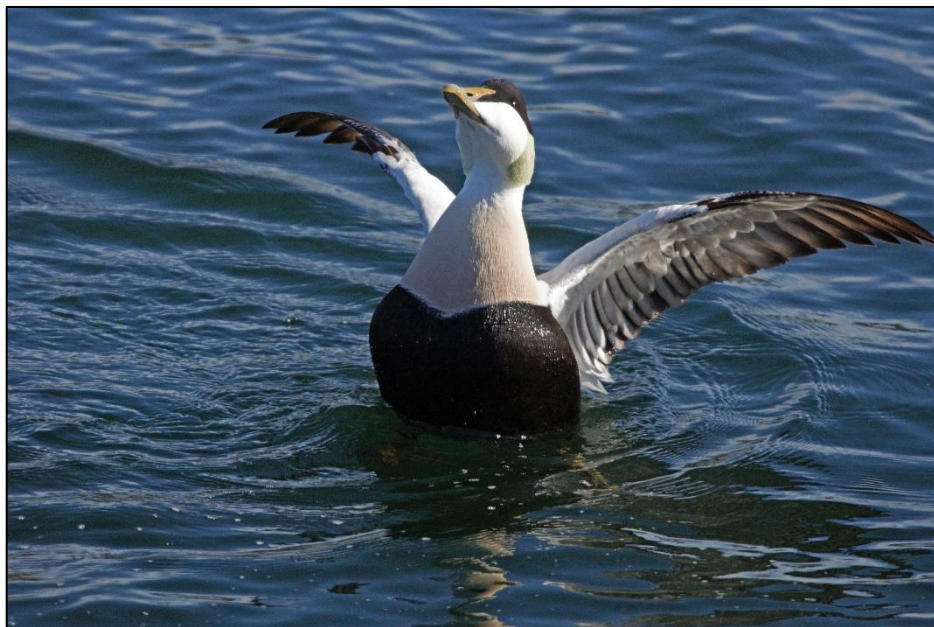
Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 112 on *Tiree* on 9 Dec and 41 at *Loch Gorm Islay* on 2 Sep.

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

RED LIST *A winter visitor and passage migrant with most winter reports at Loch Indaal, Islay but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn sea-watches.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Max count of 53 at *Loch Indaal Islay* on 15 Jan. Four on *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* Jan -Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max count of 52 at *Loch Indaal Islay* on 22 Oct. 12 flew past *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 15 Sep.



COMMON EIDER *Kintyre March Jim Dickson*

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 250 off *Gigha Kintyre* on 7 Jan and 214 on *Tiree* on 31 Jan.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 191 at *Loch Indaal Islay* on 10 Dec, 166 at *Campbeltown Loch Kintyre* on 23 Dec and 128 at *Ormsary Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

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 8 Apr. A male was at Loch Indaal (off Port Charlotte) Islay on 22 May – 31 May with possibly the same long staying male at Easter Ellister (a previously captive bird) on 4 -21 Jun and seen paired with a female Common Scoter. A male was at Ardmucknish Bay North Argyll on 4 Jun.

Autumn/winter A male was at Ardmucknish Bay North Argyll on 3 Sep (most likely the same male from Jun).



COMMON SCOTER Kintyre June Eddie Maguire

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

AMBER LIST *Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal, Islay and in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre - a scarce winter visitor elsewhere and very rare breeding reports.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll) Max counts of 200 at Loch Indaal Islay on 30 Jan, 164 at the Sound of Gigha

Kintyre on 8 Apr and 97 flew past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Apr.

Summer/breeding Max counts of summering birds with 51 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 26 Jun and 31 at Loch Indaal Islay on 4 May. No breeding reports from Islay.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 63 at Loch Indaal Islay on 28 Oct and 25 past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 25 Oct.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

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 Max count of 8 on Loch Indaal Islay on 2 Feb. Elsewhere 1-3 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre Jan-Apr, 1 at Loch Ederline Mid-Argyll Jan- Apr, 4 at West Loch Tarbert Mid-Argyll on 3 Feb, 2 at Glean Dubh reservoir North Argyll on 29 Mar and a max of 3 at Hough Bay Tiree on 30 Jan.

Autumn/winter Max count was of 7 at Loch Indaal Islay on 28 Oct. Elsewhere 2 at Lochan Luing Kintyre on 11 Nov, 1 at Gott Bay Tiree on 11 Sep and 1 at Loch Riaghan Tiree on 4 Dec.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). Max counts of 112 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 1 Jan, 60 at Toberonochy, Luing Mid-Argyll on 17 Mar and 57 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 19 Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 48 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 28 Dec and 47 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 9 Dec.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

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 Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Tiree). Generally, only 1-5 birds reported. Mid-Argyll had most reports then Mull.

Summer/breeding Most reports from Mull then Mid-Argyll. Max counts of 12 at Shellfield Cowal on 3 Jun. No reports submitted of the usually large post breeding moulting flock at Loch Riddon Cowal.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/North Argyll/Tiree). Reports of only 1-6 birds noted mostly in Cowal, Mull then Mid-Argyll.



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Kintyre March Jim Dickson

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

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 Reports from all areas except (Jura). Max counts of 48 on Tiree on 2 Feb, 40 at West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 31 Mar and 30 at Loch Indaal Islay on 2 Feb.

Breeding Breeding reports received from (Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max count of 260 post breeding flock at Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 26 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 352 at Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 20 Aug, 93 at Loch Indaal Islay on 28 Oct and 45 on Tiree on 9 Dec.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

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.*

Winter/spring Max count of 6 at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar.

Summer/breeding A total of 101 displaying males were recorded at 34 lek sites throughout Argyll in 2018. The same leks are not necessarily counted each year so this figure cannot be compared with 2017, and this is by no means all of the black grouse or leks that are present in Argyll but represents the individual leks that have been surveyed/reported to RSPB Scotland in 2018.

Autumn/winter Max count of 9 seen in flight nr Loch Arail *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus muta*

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

Winter Three were on Ben More *Mull* on 25 Feb.

Summer/autumn A female with 4 very small young were on N side of Beinn Udlaigh (Glen Orchy) *North Argyll* on 30 May. Three were on Stob Coir' an Albannaich *North Argyll* on 5 Aug. Two were on Bealach a' Mhargaidh *Cowal* on 13 Oct.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

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

All year Reports from upland moorland areas on (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Only 16 reports in total received from across Argyll, with a max count of 9 near Loch Dochart *North Argyll* on 26 Jun. Most reports came from *Islay*.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

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.

All year Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Only seven reports received and a max count of 18 Redhouses *Islay* on 2 Nov.

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Summer Three reports of four birds. One was calling at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 May, two calling in the Arileod area *Coll* on 27 Jun and one calling at Kinnabus (The Oa) *Islay* on 9 Jul.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

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

All year Reports from all areas. No information received on large scale releases.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max count of 22 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 31 Mar and 16 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 30 May.

Summer/breeding Reported breeding at hill lochans in *Mid-Argyll*.



RED-THROATED DIVER Mid-Argyll May Jim Dickson

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 67 at the Sound of Islay on 28 Oct and 33 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 14 Sep with a total of 125 >S in Sep over 12 dates.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

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- 2017 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 Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 21 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 4 Feb and 8 off Tayinloan Kintyre on 8 Apr.

Breeding A few prs noted breeding in Mid & North Argyll and an attempt in Kintyre.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max count of 18 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 28 Dec.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal). Max counts of 107 around Tiree on 11 Apr,



GREAT NORTHERN DIVER Kintyre May Eddie Maguire

94 at Loch na Keal Mull on 28 Mar and 53 at West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 31 Mar. Several sea lochs on Mull held more than 50 birds.

Summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Generally, 1 -4 birds at locations but a max count of 30 around Tiree on 2 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Max counts of 61 at Loch Indaal Islay on 28 Dec and 32 off Aird Tiree on 23 Oct.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

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/summer/autumn Reported between 24 May and 16 Oct with 22 reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). A max count of 60 in waters off NW Mull on 6 Jun, 8 were tape-lured for ringing at Corphin Bridge Kintyre on 4 Aug and 8 were off Hynish Tiree on 26 Aug.

Breeding In Jul, a complete census of Lunga, Sgeir a Chaisteil and Fladda (Treshnish Isles Mull) estimated a breeding population of 3,251, 262 and 5,151 apparently occupied nest sites (AONs) (per TIARG). No data was obtained from Sanda Isle Kintyre.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

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 Singles were seen off The Oa Islay on 20 Sep and from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 9 Oct. A single >S off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 12 Sep and 21 >S there on 16 Sep. Singles on Tiree were off Hynish on 19 Sep, off Aird on 2 Oct and close in at Gott Bay on 29 Oct.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

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 Only reports during Jan-Mar from (North Argyll/Tiree). One was at Lismore North Argyll on 27 Jan. On Tiree numbers increased to 600+ at Ceann a' Mhara by the end of Jan.

Spring/breeding Only breeding reports received from (Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 907 at Ceann a' Mhara Tiree, 563 on Colonsay and 335 on Treshnish Isles Mull.

Autumn/winter All reports Sep-Dec were from (Tiree). A max island count of 610 on 18 Dec.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

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 One was off Cliad Bay Coll on 28 Aug. One was seen from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 6 Aug and 2 seen on 17 Aug, also 2 past Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 20 Sep. One was off Uisken Mull on 16 Oct. On Tiree there were 11 reports; off Hynish and Aird between 14 Jul and 7 Oct, mostly 1-7 birds with peak counts, both Hynish, of 12 on 26 Jul and 17 Sep.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

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/summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). First report of 10 past Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 22 Mar. Max counts all off Tiree with a peak 3,820 >W in 1 hr past Aird on 14 Jun.

Breeding In May, a complete census of Lunga, Treshnish Isles Mull by TIARG estimated a breeding population of 1,992 pairs based upon AOSs. This is a 55% increase from the previous population estimate of 1,283 pairs in year 2000.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 1,929 >SW past Hynish Tiree in 1 hr on 31 Jul, 1,000 off NW Mull on 18 Aug and 800 off Ardmore Point Islay on 11 Aug.

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 Only one report – a single off Hynish Tiree on 26 Aug.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree). Most reports from Mid-Argyll however 5 prs were located on Colonsay in Apr.

Breeding Breeding reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura).



PIED-BILLED GREBE *Mid-Argyll* May Steve Gantlett

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 a long stayer/returning male at Loch Feorlin, Mid-Argyll from at least 2014 until 2017 and paired with a Little Grebe producing one young in 2017.

All year The long staying adult male at Loch Feorlin Mid-Argyll was there again from at least 24 Mar until at least 6 Nov [David Jardine *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

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

Winter A non-breeding plumaged bird, later moulting into breeding plumage was off Pennyghael, Loch Scridain *Mull* on 10 Jan until 7 Apr [Steve Hiscock, Bryan Rains *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



RED-NECKED GREBE *Mull* March Steve Hiscock

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Spring/summer One was off Tayinloan, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, one was off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May and one was at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jul.

Autumn/winter One was off Gairletter *Cowal* on 30 Nov, one was off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 2 Dec, and one was off Bowmore *Islay* on 11 Dec.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

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 Reports only from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 36 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 7 Mar, 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Feb, 20 at Salen *Mull* on 1 Apr and 12 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports only from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull*). Max counts of 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 28 Oct and 9 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 5 Oct.

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 Three reports relating to birds from late 2017: A non-breeding/imm was at Ardnacross farm (SE of Tobermory) *Mull* on 21 Dec 2017 until 5 Jan. A 1CY bird was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 24 Dec 2017 until 4 Feb and again from 25 Mar until last seen on 19 Apr. A group of 5 were at Fidden farm and occasionally seen on Iona *Mull* on 25 Dec 2017 until 6 Jan. A single bird was seen in flight at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Jan [David Wood]. All records accepted by the ABRC.



GLOSSY IBIS *Tiree* April John Bowler

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.

Autumn/winter A non-breeding bird was in the area of Garth's field, Calgary *Mull* on 10 Oct until at least 13 Nov [William McPhail, Anand Prasad *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 30 on *Tiree* island count on 29 Jan.

Breeding Breeding data only received from (Colonsay/*Islay*/Mid-Argyll/*North Argyll*). Max count was of 16 AONs (apparently occupied nests) at Ardachy *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 19 at Milton Teree on 11 Aug, 18 at Ballachuan, Seil, *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov and 16 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Sep.



CATTLE EGRET Mull October Anand Prasad

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

A rare visitor: Thirteen records between 1986 and 2017. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.

Winter Three reports which could all relate to the same non-breeding plumaged individual. At Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov then flew west [Sue & Pete Creech]. At Laphroaig then later at The Oa *Islay* on 21 Nov then flew towards *Kintyre* [David Wood *et al*]. At Aros Farm, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 23 Nov [Kevin Hamilton]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.



LITTLE EGRET Cowal November Alistair McGregor

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

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 Only two reports – one at Lochan Luing, Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 25 Jan – 24 Mar and one at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar

Spring/summer Four reports of singles; at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 18 Apr, at Bridgend

merse *Islay* on 29 May, at head of Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 2 May and (same?) at Kames Bay *Cowal* on 4 Jun.

Autumn/winter Probably up to 8-9 birds. In *Cowal* one at the Holy Loch Aug-Dec with 2 there on 17 Dec. On *Islay* 2 at Bridgend merse on 2 Oct then singles between Port Charlotte and Gruinart during Oct – Dec. In *Kintyre* singles at Campbeltown Loch on 10 Oct, Waterfoot on 31 Oct – 1 Nov and at West Loch Tarbert on 9-12 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* singles at the Add Estuary on 27 Oct – 24 Nov with 2 there on 18 Nov, at Taynuilt on 15 Nov and at Danna/Ulva Lagoon on 16 -20 Nov. On *Mull* singles at Buinessan on 11-14 Oct and Loch Cuin on 21 Oct. On *Tiree* one at Loch Aulaig on 12 Nov.

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*

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, often seen high up sea lochs and some birds travel inland to cross between Machrihanish and Campbeltown. They are also reported in small numbers Nov to Mar.



NORTHERN GANNET *Kintyre* May Eddie Maguire

Birds recorded in all months of the year with most seen Apr to Oct. Regular monitored overland movements in *Kintyre* between Machrihanish and Campbeltown (8km) counted total 1,221 birds on 161 days Mar-Oct (per MSBO/Eddie Maguire).

Winter/spring Max count of 120 passing West Hynish *Tiree* in 30 mins on 26 May.

Summer/breeding No breeding records. Max count of 120 passing Hynish *Tiree* in 1hr on 26 Aug.

Autumn/winter Max count of 674

passing Aird *Tiree* in 1hr on 23 Oct.

EUROPEAN SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

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.

Winter/spring Records from all areas. Max counts of 706 on *Tiree* all island count on 29 Jan and 297 passing Hynish *Tiree* in 1 hr on 12 Jan.

Summer/breeding Breeding data only from (*Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 87 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* and 95 AONs on *Colonsay/Oronsay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,250 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 3 Sep.

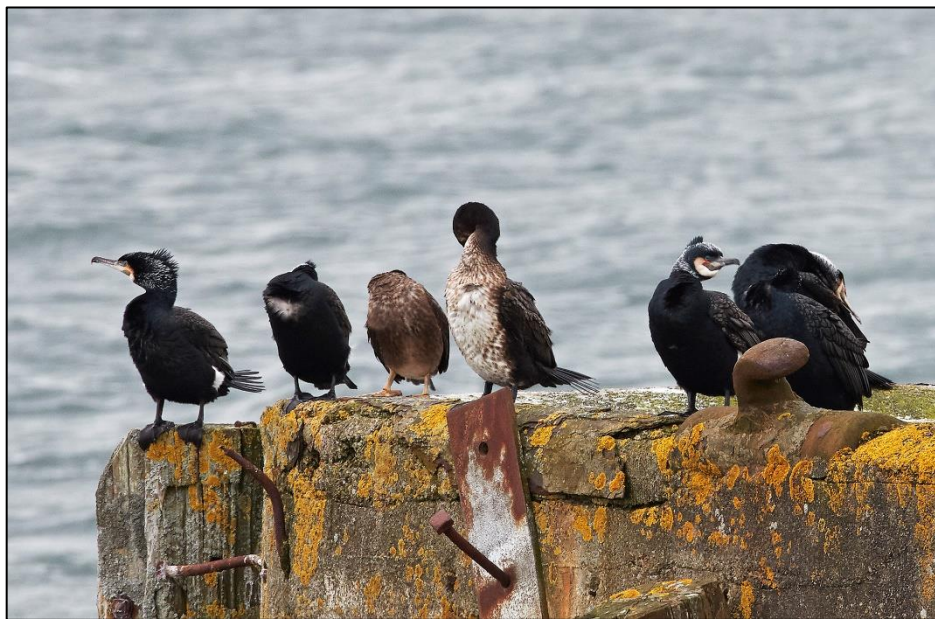
GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 94 on *Tiree* coastal count on 29 Jan, 24 at Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* and 20 at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jan.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 18 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 9 Oct, 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Nov and 10 at Lochan Luing *Kintyre* on 11 Nov.



GREAT CORMORANTS Cowal March Ian Giles

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). First arrival of one at Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr. Poor weather in Mar is thought to have delayed arrival of birds. Most reports from *Mid-Argyll*.

Breeding Of 27 *Argyll* sites checked 17 sites were occupied by prs and 2 more by single birds. 12 prs hatched young and 12 prs went on to produce 24 large young, of which 10 were known to have definitely fledged (per SRMS/ARSG).

Autumn Single birds reported at six locations in Sep and one report in Oct of a single at Haunn *Mull* on 5 Oct.

EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

AMBER LIST A rare passage migrant: Thirteen records since 1980.

Spring/summer One, an exhausted adult female, was picked up by the roadside on west Loch Awe nr Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun, however later died in care. Record was accepted by the ABRC. Note – a National census of this species is being planned for 2020.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

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

All year Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). Most reports of 1-2 birds however 5 birds at Uluvalt *Mull* on 5 May and 4 birds from two locations each on *Islay* and *Mull*.

Breeding Full breeding data still awaited. Of 50 sites checked – 24 hatched eggs and a min of 22 fledged young (per SRMS/ARSG).



GOLDEN EAGLE *Mull* October *Mike Murphy*

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

A widespread, resident, breeding species.

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer sightings noted during May and Jun. Majority of reports relate to single birds. Max count of 4 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Sep and 10 birds noted across *Mull* on 30 Oct.

Breeding 19 sites were checked, 10 of which had nests with adult pairs. Six nests had young from which 19 young fledged (per SRMS/ARSG).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

A sporadic visitor of uncertain status.

No officially accepted records in 2018 however satellite-tagged birds in central Scotland are now being tracked into Argyll.

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

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 Only one report – a female at Sandaig *Tiree* on 24 Jun.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

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.*



HEN HARRIER *Kintyre January Eddie Maguire*

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Most reports from *Islay* then *Kintyre*. Largest roost counts of only 6 at a site on *Islay* in Nov and 4 at a site in *Kintyre* in Feb. Max counts in the field of 5 in *S Jura* on 24 Mar and 6 on 15 Jun. On *Tiree* 5 different birds there in Oct.

Breeding For 27 sites checked – 6 prs laid and 5 prs raised a min of 7 chicks (per SRMS/ARSG).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

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.

Spring Single birds were at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 29 Mar, Oakfield, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr and at Tioran *Mull* on 28 Apr. Three were at Balnabraid Glen *Kintyre* on 27-28 Apr.

Autumn In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was over Tayvallich on 25 Sep, 1 over Achnacloich on 17 Oct, 3 over Loch Gilp on 29 Oct and 1 over Lochan Shira on 29 Oct. Two were at Kindrochid *Islay* on 29 Oct. Some of these reports may relate to the same wandering birds.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

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.

All year Reports from all areas with most from *Mull* and *Islay*. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Max count of 5 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* in Apr.

Breeding Of 34 occupied home ranges checked, 17 prs fledged a min. of 19 young (per SRMS/ARSG).

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

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

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer reports received in Dec. Max counts of 15 at Glen Cannel *Mull* on 17 Nov, 10 at Ardmore Bay *Mull* on 7 Sep and 8 at Cruachan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct.

Breeding Reports from all areas. On *Colonsay* of 58 sites checked, with 13 Ters occupied (8 prs and 5 singles), 4 nests were successful with 7 young fledged.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

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 Reports from all areas at 15 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts (birds heard) with 6 on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*, 4 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 29 Apr, 3 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar and 3 at Balephuill *Tiree* during Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeding reported (*Colonsay/Islay/North Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 6 Ters on *Colonsay* (incomplete survey) and 6 Ters at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas at 12 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 5 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Oct and 5 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 1 Dec.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

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 been reversed, although numbers still fluctuate annually.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First report was from Totronald *Coll* on 21 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding calling male counts gave: *Tiree* (322), *Coll* (53), *Mull* (2), *Iona* (10), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (41), *Islay* (60), 'other' *Argyll* (2). Total (490). Total in 2017 (495) (per RSPB)

Autumn/winter Only 7 reports in Aug and 2 in Sep. The last report was one taken by a cat on *Tiree* on 23 Sep.

COMMON COOT *Fulica atra*

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

Winter/spring/summer No reports.

Autumn/winter One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 7 Aug. Two were at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 2 Oct until 24 Dec with 3 on 3-18 Dec. One was at the Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. One was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 12-15 Dec.

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 6 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 13 Apr and 4 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 9 Feb.



MOORHEN *Mid-Argyll* September *Jim Dickson*

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Mull*). At total of 19 birds (4 broods) at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* on 2 Aug and 6 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Reports from 11 sites of 1 -5 birds.

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.*

Autumn An adult was seen flying in from the west then heading north late afternoon past Oronsay farm *Colonsay* on 31 Oct [Ryan Woodcock, Patrick Styles]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 499 on *Tiree* all island count on 29 Jan, 295 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan, 260 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Jan and 207 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all Argyll areas. First chick hatched on 29 May (*Tiree*) and 6 Jun (*Kintyre*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 411 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct, 391 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Sep, 264 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep and 214 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 25 Nov.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 2,490 on *Tiree* all island counts on 15 Jan, 640 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 6 Jan and 525 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). At RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* 186 prs, on *Tiree* 45 prs in monitored wetland compartments and on *Colonsay* (except Oronsay) 28 prs noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) Max counts of 2,848 on *Tiree* all island counts on 16 Nov, 800 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 26 Oct and 477 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Oct.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

AMBER LIST *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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 6,500 at The Reef *Tiree* on 24 Apr, 1,525 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan and 750 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 6 Jan.

Summer/breeding In *North Argyll* 25+ Ters noted at 12 upland sites, in *Mid-Argyll* 8 Ters noted at 6 upland sites, and in *Cowal* 2 Ters noted at 2 upland sites. No breeding data from *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Max counts of 2,935 on *Tiree* all island count on 15 Nov, 1,560 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Nov and 1,110 at Westport Marsh *Kintyre* on 12 Nov.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare autumn visitor: 23 records; all 2001-2017.

Autumn Two adults on *Tiree*. One, in moult, was at Sandaig on 18 Jul and remained in the Sandaig/Barrapol/Loch a' Phuill areas until 24 Sep [Toby Green, John Bowler, Keith Gillon *et al*]. It was joined by a second adult at Sandaig on 12 Sep only [John Bowler, Keith Gillon]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.



AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Tiree* July Toby Green

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Winter/spring One was on Oronsay Colonsay 9 Jan-16 Apr. On Tiree a max island coastal count of 7 in mid-Jan. At Bowmore to Gartbreck Islay 1-2 during Jan-Feb.

Summer On Tiree 1 was at Gott Bay on 4 Jun and adults were at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 17 Aug and Vaul on 22 Aug. One was at Gruinart Islay on 4 Jun.

Autumn/winter On Islay 1 was at Loch Gruinart on 20 Oct -14 Dec and at Carnain on 20 Oct - 30 Oct. On Tiree 1 was at Gott Bay on 23 Oct and 2 at Miodar on 1 Nov.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

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 from all coastal areas. Max counts of 799 on Tiree island count and several flocks of up to 240 at several sites in May, 256 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 Apr and 90 on Oronsay Colonsay on 5 Feb.

Breeding Limited data with reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/North Argyll/Tiree). First full clutch of eggs noted on 22 Apr (Kintyre).

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 428 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Aug, 250 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 31 Dec, 206 at Loch Indaal Islay on 10 Dec, 140 on Gigha Kintyre and 112 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 29 Nov.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

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



EURASIAN DOTTEREL Tiree October Jim Dickson

Spring One was at Kinnabuss, The Oa Islay on 2 May.

Autumn A 1CY bird was at Scarinish Tiree on 2 Oct - 19 Nov – the latest ever in Argyll.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). Singles in Jan at Salen Mull and

Loch Indaal Islay. First single on Tiree on 26 Mar and at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 6 Apr. Most passage from 17 Apr onwards. Max counts of 163 in N Islay (80 at Ardnave Loch) on 3 May and 43 >N at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 5 May.

Summer At sites in (Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree) 1-6 birds noted in Jun -Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Return passage from 26 Jul with 6 >S at Hynish *Tiree* and 30 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Jul (max autumn count), 30 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* in Aug with a peak of 15 on 16 Aug. Only 1-3 birds at several sites in Sep-Oct and last reports of singles on *Mull* on 6 Nov and on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Nov.



WHIMBREL *Kintyre* April Eddie Maguire

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 730 on *Tiree* all island count on 29 Jan, 202 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Jan, 131 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Jan and 120 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited data. On *Islay* 17 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve, with another pr reported on the island. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 prs in one upland area, and 1 pr noted at one site on *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 235 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep, 125 on *Tiree* (2 sites) on 16 Nov and 122 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Sep.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

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/summer Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 157 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Feb, 148 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Jan and 49 on *Tiree* on 31 Jan. On *Tiree*, *Islay* and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* 1-4 non-br birds remained during Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First returning birds, with 1-16 from first week of Aug on *Tiree*, *Islay* and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. Max counts of 208 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Dec and 21 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 29 Dec.



BAR & BLACK-TAILED GODWITS *Kintyre August Eddie Maguire*

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa islandica*

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

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). First report of a single winter adult at Kilmichael floods *Kintyre* on 9 Mar. Max counts of 338 on *Tiree* on 19 Apr and 33 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Colonsay/Cowal/Jura). First returning report of 11 ads at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Aug. Max counts of 205 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 28 Aug, 67 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Aug and 21 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug. Last report was of 2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Dec.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

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/summer Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts from *Tiree* where 734 all island count on 29 Jan. Elsewhere 81 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Jan, 43 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Jan and 34 at Knock Mull on 12 Jan. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 22 on 20 May with some males in song.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 108 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 9 Dec, 92 at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 10 Dec, 88 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Dec and 44 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Dec.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus*

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/summer Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 26 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Jan, 23 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 May (inc. 4 red adults) and 5 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First returning birds past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* with 11 during Jul, also 31 >S during Aug and 41 >S in Sep. On *Islay* max 41 at Loch Indaal on 7 Sep. An unusual late winter count of 43 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 27 Dec.



RUFF *Tiree* June Keith Gillon

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

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

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay*). At Loch Gruinart 1-2 birds present Jan- May with 3 in early Feb.

Summer/breeding Up to 6 males and a female were at one site from mid-May until late Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). On *Islay* 1 was at Loch Gruinart on 4 Aug, 2 Sep and then 2 on 18 Sep. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Machrihanish links on 12 Aug and singles at Machrihanish SBO on 16 and 28 Aug. On *Tiree* 1-2 birds were seen at three sites from 31 Jul to 12 Oct.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Spring A 2CY was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 25 May and 2 there on 29 May, also 2 adults at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 May and an adult there on 26 Jun.

Autumn Unusually no reports.



CURLEW SANDPIPER *Tiree* June John Bowler

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

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/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Max counts of 731 on Tiree on 31 Jan, 442 there on 7 May, 200 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 19 Jan, 169 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 30 Jul (tot 558 >S in Jul) and 63 at the Strand Colonsay on 22 Jan.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 538 on Tiree on 6 Aug, 270 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 2 Aug (tot of 658 >S in Aug), 150 at Machir Bay Islay on 4 Aug and 125 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Aug.



DUNLIN Tiree June Keith Gillon

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

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/summer

Reports from all coastal areas except (Jura). Max counts of 2,000 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 8 May, 880 on Tiree on 7 May and 100 on Oronsay Colonsay on 14 Apr.

Breeding On Tiree 34 singing males at the Reef, at least 5 prs at two sites in North Argyll and on Islay 4 prs at RSPB Ardnave

and 3 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas except (Jura). Max counts of 2,375 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Aug, 410 on Tiree on 31 Jul, 247 at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 2 Aug and 220 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 12 Aug.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Jura/ North Argyll). Max counts of 196 on Tiree coastal count on 29 Jan, 35 at Arinagour Coll on 2 Feb and 34 at Dunoon Cowal on 1 Apr. Last report of one on Tiree on 15 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). First report of 10 on Oronsay Colonsay on 5 Sep. Max counts of 24 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Nov and 18 at Vaul Tiree on 10 Dec.



PURPLE SANDPIPER Cowal February Alistair McGregor

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

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

Spring Singles, perhaps some reports involving the same bird on *Tiree* at Gott Bay on 27-28 May, Vaul Bay on 30-31 May and Loch a' Phuill on 31 May.

Autumn Only one report – a 1CY (juv) at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Aug.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*



A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor: 38 records of up to 51 birds since the first in 1971.

Autumn At least 3 juvs on *Tiree*: one was at Sandaig on 1- 5 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler] and 2 at Vaul golf course on 12 Sep [Keith Gillon] these later seen at Kenovay the same day [John Bowler] and one of these or another was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Sep [John Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tiree* September Keith Gillon

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce mainly autumn visitor: At least 56 records.

Spring One was at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 27 Mar [Tim Wallis] and one was at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 May [James Butcher, Mark Shields].

Autumn A juv was at Iona golf course *Mull* on 18 Sep [L. Potter, K. Smith, C. Plaice, B. Harrington] and a juv was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep [John Bowler]. All records accepted by the ABRC.



EURASIAN WOODCOCK *Tiree* March John Bowler

EURASIAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Generally, 1-5 birds noted and a max count of 12 across Moine Mhor road section *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb.

Summer/breeding Limited data. On *Colonsay* 24 'registrations' during a survey. Elsewhere, 1-4 birds noted from 9 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Reports of 1-3 birds from end of Oct -Dec at 19 sites, and a max count of 12 at Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Nov.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*

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

Winter/spring On *Islay* singles were at Carnain on 18 Jan and at Machir Bay on 3 Mar. On *Mull* singles were at Quinish on 19 Jan, at Sunipol on 24 Feb and on Ben More on 21 May. On *Tiree* 1 was at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Jan, an all island coastal count of 3 on 29-31 Jan and 1 was at The Reef on 28 Feb. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Loch Scammadale on 21 Jan and 1 at Braevallich on 3 May.

Autumn/winter All reports of singles – on *Tiree* at Hough Bay on 2 Oct and at The Reef on 1 Nov; on *Colonsay* at Ardskenish on 18 Oct and Oronsay on 20 Oct, at Caliach Point *Mull* on 11 Oct, at Totronald *Coll* on 5 Nov and at Bridgend merse *Islay* on 7 Nov.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

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.*



COMMON SNIPE *Mid-Argyll* March Jim Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 90 on *Tiree* all island coastal count on 29 Jan, 29 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 19 Apr and 19 at Point Sands *Kintyre* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited data but presumed widespread. On *Islay* 84 singing males at RSPB Gruinart reserve and 85 singing males at monitored Reef wetland compartments on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,000+ across *Tiree* on 8

Oct, 500 on 17 Sep and out with *Tiree* highest count of 64 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 7 Nov.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

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

Breeding Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 14 May and 24 Jul. Up to 26 birds were present during Jun - Jul and up to 11 nesting males.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring.

Autumn Only two reports of singles, both on *Tiree*, off Hynish on 16 Oct and at Gott Bay on 29 Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas Apr-Jun. First arrival at Loch na Keal Mull on 12 Apr. Max counts of 6 at Rhunahaorine Kintyre on 18 Apr, 6 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 12 May and 7 at Loch Long Cowal on 28 Jun.

Breeding Limited data. Breeding noted (Coll/Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll/Tiree). On Colonsay 21 Terns noted.

Autumn/winter No reports from (Coll/Jura). Max counts total of 33 >S at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre in Aug, with peak of 7 on 2 Aug. In Mid-Argyll 5 at the Add Estuary on 8 Aug. Last report of one at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 11 Sep.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

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

Autumn Only reports were singles on the Bolsay track Port Charlotte Islay on 31 Jul and just south of Ardrishaig Mid-Argyll on 4 Aug.



COMMON REDSHANK Kintyre July Eddie Maguire

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 302 on Tiree island coastal count on 29 Jan, 129 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 13 Apr and 76 at Holy Loch Cowal on 20 Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeding data received: 88 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve Islay, 42 prs at The Reef wetland compartments Tiree and 6 prs on Colonsay (except Oronsay). Reports from all areas. Max counts of 112 at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 2 Aug, 97 >S past Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Aug and 85 at Loch Laich North Argyll on 2 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 214 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 10 Dec.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glar*

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

Spring Only one report – a single at RSPB Gruinart reserve Islay on 19 Jun.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

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 regular winter records in some localities.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Counts generally 1-4 birds at coastal sites but max counts of 5 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 19 Feb and 5 at Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr.

Summer/breeding At least 10 prs in *North Argyll* and 1 pr in *Mid-Argyll*. No breeding data from *Mull*. Max counts of 9 *Tiree* on 16 Jul, 8 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug, 8 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 3 Aug and 6 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, 1-5 birds at sites however 5 at 4 sites and max counts of 11 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep and 9 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 15 Oct.



COMMON GREENSHANK Kintyre March Jim Dickson

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 500 off Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May, 445 from Oban to Tiree Ferry on 23 Jan and 430 off Duart Castle *Mull* on 23 Jan.

Summer/breeding Only breeding data from *Mull* and *Tiree*. The estimated breeding population on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* was 522 AONs, a 34% decrease from the 786 AONs counted by

Seabird 2000 in 1999. At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 198 AONs with 313 chicks close to fledging on 13 Jul. On *Colonsay* 19 AONs at Urugaig.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 1,570 >W past *Aird Tiree* in 1 hr on 26 Oct, 900 from Oban to *Tiree* ferry on 19 Nov and 460 >S in 5 hrs past *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 30 Nov.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

A vagrant: Eight or nine previous records.



BONAPARTE'S GULL *Mid-Argyll* October *Jim Dickson*

Spring A 2CY bird was in the Black-headed Gull colony at *Heylipol Tiree* on 31 May – 1 Jun [Ben Steel, John Bowler].

Autumn An adult was at the head of *Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct [Jim Dickson]. Both records were accepted by the BBRC.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of at 420 *Loch Bhasapol Tiree* on 29 Apr, 101 at *Ballure coast* and 100 at *Gigalum Bay, Gigha* both *Kintyre* on 7 Jan and 90 at *Loch Melfort Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb.

Summer/breeding Most breeding data from *Tiree* where *ca* 320 prs and good breeding success.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts in *Mid-Argyll* with 180 at *Loch Caolisport* on 28 Dec, 170 at *Loch Gilp* on 15 Dec and 130 at the *Add Estuary* on 23 Jul. Also 129 at *Loch Long Cowal* on 14 Oct and 89 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 6 Sep.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

Winter/spring In *Cowal* an adult was off *Dunoon* on 22 Mar. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult was at *Loch Gilp* on 17 Feb and on 5 May. On *Mull* singles (age not given) were at *Loch Scridain* on 18 Jan and 23 Feb, at the *Sound of Mull* on 8 May, an adult off *Caliach Point* on 24 May and a 2CY at *Grasspoint* on 30 Jun. On *Tiree* 2 adults flew past *Hynish* on 29 May and a 2CY was at *Loch a' Phuill* on 31 May.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 1 was at *Carnain* on 27 Sep and a 1CY was at *Gortan* on 19 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult was at *Loch Gilp* on 9 Nov -18 Dec.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

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

Spring A 2CY was at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 22 May and an adult was there on 1 Jun.

Autumn/winter In *Kintyre* a 1CY was at *Machrihanish SBO* on 19 Aug and a different 1CY there on 20 Aug. A 1CY flew past there on 12 Sep and further sightings of 1CY birds there on 18 Sep and 3 dates in Oct. Also, a new 1CY at *Machrihanish links* on 20 Oct and an adult was there on 9

Nov and a 1CY was at Carradale Bay on 12 Nov. On *Islay* 4 birds comprising two 1CYs (juvs moulting into first-winter) and two 2CYs were at Loch Indaal from 1-6 Sep and a report of 2 birds off Port Charlotte on 28 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* two 1CYs (juvs moulting into first-winter) were at Loch Crinan on 23 Aug, a 1CY at the Add Estuary on 12 Sep and an adult was at Blackmill Bay, Luing on 3 Oct.



MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Islay* September *Jim Dickson*

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,490 *Tiree* on 19 Feb and 300 Machair Bay *Islay* on 22 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data apart from *Tiree* where *ca* 600+ prs. Max counts of 557 on *Tiree* on 6 Aug and 186 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 500 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 12 Sep and 300 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Oct.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

A scarce to rare visitor: Almost annual and records for every month of the year.



RING-BILLED GULL *Tiree* January John Bowler

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 195 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Apr and 45 at Holy Loch Cowal on 23 Jan.

Summer/breeding Breeding data only from (*Islay/Mull/Tiree*). The estimated breeding population on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* was 53 pairs, an 85% reduction from the 342 pairs counted by Seabird 2000 in 1999. On *Tiree* ca 21+ AONs, and on *Islay* 7 AONs at RSPB Gruinart reserve.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 321 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep and 104 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Dec.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

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



GLAUCOUS GULL *Cowal* January Neil Hammatt

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). A better than average period with numbers of birds in each area approx. Jan-Jun: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (2); *Islay* (8) in Jan (7) in Feb, (4) in Mar, (3) in Apr/May with last (1) in Jun; *Kintyre* (3); *Mid-Argyll* (5); *Mull* (7); *Tiree* (20) in Jan, (15) in Feb, (5) in Mar, (2) in Apr and (1) in May.

Summer No reports Jul/Aug/Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports only from (*Islay/Tiree*) with fewer noted than average. Singles on *Islay* on 26 Oct, *Tiree* on 28 Oct and on *Islay* on 6 Dec were only reports.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides glaucooides*

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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). A better than average period with numbers of birds in each area Jan-May approx: *Coll* (1), *Islay* (6+); *Kintyre* (3); *Mid-Argyll* (up to 9); *Mull* (up to 10); *Tiree* (10) in Jan, (12) in Feb, (3) in Mar, (2) in Apr and (3) in May.

Summer In Jun, singles (*Colonsay/Kintyre/Mull*) and on (*Colonsay*) in Jul -Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports of singles from *Islay* in Oct and Dec, *Kintyre* in Sep and Dec and 2 from *Cowal* in Oct and *Islay* in Nov.



ICELAND GULL *Kintyre* January *Eddie Maguire*

'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/spring A juv at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan to at least 14 Feb.

Autumn/winter A juv was at West Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Dec.

EUROPEAN HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 364 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Mar, 330 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan and 220 at head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* ca 66 AONs noted, 26 AONs at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*, 8 nests on roof tops in Campbeltown *Kintyre* and ca 19 prs on Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,000 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 19 Nov, 446 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Dec and 370 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Sep.

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.

Spring A 2CY bird was at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May [Jim Dickson]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.



YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Mid-Argyll* May Jim Dickson

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

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 Reports from all areas. First report was one at Innellan *Cowal* on 30 Jan. Max counts of 150 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May and 73 on *Tiree* on 22 May.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* ca 67 AONs noted, 7 AONs at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* and 7 prs on Treshnish Isles *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 18 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Aug and 17 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul. Last report was of a 1CY at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival was one at Machir Bay *Islay* on 16 Mar. Max counts of 48 at the Doirinn, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 29 Apr, 28 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 May and 22 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 May.

Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding reports. At Bruichladdich *Islay* 2 prs in courtship and mating on 2 May and 2 ads with a fledged juv at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 15 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Mull/North Argyll*). Max counts of 36 at Toward Point *Cowal* on 4 Aug and 12 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Jul.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

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

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). First report of one at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 9 Apr. Most reports from *Tiree* otherwise up to 22 at the Strand *Islay* on 25 Apr and a max of 4 *Colonsay* and 2 in *Kintyre*.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports only from *Tiree* with 34 AONs and *Islay* with 8 AONs, *Coll* with 9 AONs and *Gunn Coll* with 5-6 AONs.

Autumn Only one report in Aug with 2 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Aug – the last report.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

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.*

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas except (*Jura*). First reports of one at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr and 3 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 22 Apr. Max counts of 15 off *Iona Mull* on 4 May and 10 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding on many off-shore islands for which little data. The estimated breeding population on the Treshnish Isles *Mull* was 17 pairs, a 180% increase from the 6 pairs counted by Seabird 2000 in 1999. In *Kintyre* 10 AONs at West Loch Tarbert. On *Tiree* at least 10 AONs.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal/Colonsay*). Max count 10 off south tip of *Lismore North Argyll* on 25 Aug. Last reports were 4 off *N Tiree* on 6 Sep and a late report of 1 off Port Charlotte *Islay* on 11 Oct.



ARCTIC TERN *Tiree* June Keith Gillon

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

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.*

Winter/spring Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North*

Argyll). First report was 2 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 20 Apr. Max counts were 425 on *Tiree* on 22 May, 21 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 May, 16 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 2 May and 16 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 May and 30 Jun.

Summer/breeding Incomplete data. On the Treshnish Isles *Mull* ca 127 pairs, an 18% reduction from the 154 pairs counted by Seabird 2000 in 1999. On *Tiree* 245+ fledged young counted from ca 226 AONs. On *Islay* 5 AONs at Claddich and 31 AONs at Ardnave. In *Kintyre* 8 AONs at Machrihanish.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal/Colonsay*). Max counts from mid-Aug of 12 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 19 Aug. At Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* an ad and 3 juvs arrived after a storm on 19 Sep. Last report was 2 at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Oct.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

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 One flew past Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan and one was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 29 Jan. Generally, more reports of 1-4 birds from coastal areas early Apr except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*).

Summer/breeding Breeding reports of 1-4 prs received from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Max counts of 5 off NW *Mull* on 18 Aug and 1 Sep, 5 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Sep and 7 off Aird *Tiree* on 30 Sep. Last report was of 3 off Aird *Tiree* on 26 Oct.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Winter/spring Three adults were at Gunna Sound *Coll/Tiree* on 4 May and 5 ads at Hynish *Tiree* on 4 May.

Autumn/winter Single immature birds were seen from Oban to *Tiree* ferry on 20 Oct, passing Aird *Tiree* on 23 Oct and 26 Oct, and off Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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.*

Winter/spring First report of one at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 16 Apr then 23 reports of 1-2 birds Apr to Jun from coastal sites in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*).

Summer/breeding Displaying birds seen on Treshnish Isles *Mull* but no evidence of breeding. No data received on breeding from *Coll*.

Autumn/winter Max count of 6 passing Hynish *Tiree* on 7 Oct and 5 Gunna Sound *Coll/Tiree* on 19 Aug. Other reports of 1-2 birds from (*Coll/Islay/Jura/Kintyre*). Last 2 (juvs) past Hynish *Tiree* on 16 Oct.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Autumn An adult was seen from Tobermory *Mull* on 23 Aug [Nancy Somerville].

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*



LITTLE AUK Mull January Bryan Rains

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

Winter Singles were off Ardnave Point Islay on 3 Jan, Loch Scridain Mull on 18 Jan and found dead at the Ringing Stone Tiree on 31 Jan. Three were off Hynish Tiree on 14 Feb and 10 were at Loch na Keal Mull on 23 Feb.

Autumn/winter A summer plumaged adult >W off Aird Tiree on 30 Sep, with 2 there on 26 Oct and 3 off Inverneill, Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll on 29 Nov.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

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.*



COMMON GUILLEMOT Mid-Argyll June James Lehmann

Winter/spring Reports from all coast areas and generally less than 150 birds.

Summer/breeding Birds back at breeding colonies from early Apr. Breeding data received from (Colonsay/Mull/Tiree). On Colonsay 19,302 all island count. On Treshnish Isles Mull 10,495 birds where an average breeding season (per TIARG). On Tiree 1,836 birds brooding 150 chicks and noted as poor breeding season.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coast areas. Max counts of 311 passing Aird Tiree in 1 hr on 30 Sep, 175 off Breachacha Coll on 3 Dec and 80 off Inverneill, Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll on 29

Nov. One was feeding well inland at Braevallich fish farm Loch Awe Mid-Argyll on 28 Sep.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

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 Reports only from (Coll/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max count of 355 off Hynish Tiree on 14 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). On Colonsay an island count of 2,428 breeding birds. On Treshnish Islands Mull an estimate of 673 birds (per TIARG). On Tiree 372 birds at Ceann a' Mhara.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (North Argyll). Max counts of 1,065 passing Aird Tiree on 26 Oct and 500 off NW Mull on 5 Sep.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*

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 Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 23 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 9 Apr, 18 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 24 Mar, 18 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 24 Mar and 12 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Sanda Island *Kintyre* count (SNH) of 160 on 30 Apr. On Treshnish Isles *Mull* an estimated total of 54 birds. Max counts of 31 at the Sound of *Islay* on 7 Jul, 16 from Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 6 Aug and 13 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all coastal areas. Max count of 10 at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct.



BLACK GUILLEMOT *Kintyre* March Jim Dickson

ATLANTIC PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

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

Winter/spring No reports from (Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll). One was off NW *Mull* on 25 Jan, only 2 reports in Feb and 1 in Mar. Max counts of 600 off the Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 30 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On Treshnish Isles *Mull* an estimated breeding population was 2,583 AOBs, a 45% increase from the 1,788 AOBs counted by Seabird 2000 in 1999 (per TIARG).

Autumn/winter Max count of 56 past Hynish *Tiree* on 31 Jul. Last 2 birds at Gunna Sound *Coll/Tiree* on 8 Sep.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields out with 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 Reports from all areas except (North Argyll). Max counts of 45 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 20 Apr, 32 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 13 Mar and 23 at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Jan.

Summer/breeding Only breeding data received - of 24 fledged young at Cuan Point, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal). Max counts of 300 on *Tiree* (2 sites) on 8 Oct, 240 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 8 Nov and 50 at Caliach Point *Mull* on 11 Oct.

COMMON WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

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 Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max counts of 50 nr Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 24 Mar, 16 at Ballimore *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar and a record 12 on *Tiree* at Carnan Mor on 29 May.

Summer/breeding On *Islay* 5 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve was only breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll/*Tiree*). Max counts of 60 at Glean Mor *Islay* on 4 Sep, 60 at Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov, 55 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 8 Nov and 12 at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

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.



COLLARED DOVE *Mid-Argyll* October Jim Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Numerous counts of less than 10 birds. Max count of 15 on *Tiree* during Jan.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 28 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 24 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 8 Oct and 18 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

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

Spring Reports from all areas. An early report of one at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 23 Mar with next nr Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 10 Apr. Widespread arrivals after 18 Apr.

Breeding Noted calling at sites *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (42), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (21), *Kintyre* (16), *Mid-Argyll* (30), *Mull* (26), *North Argyll* (8) and *Tiree* (4).

Autumn Juveniles were noted from six sites across Argyll between 20 Jun and the last report on 29 Aug on *Iona Mull*.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

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.

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/*Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll*. Reports mainly of singles in all months with more reports during Nov-Dec.

Breeding 121 sites were checked. 39 sites were occupied by prs and 19 by single birds. 17 prs fledged a min. of 30 young (per SMRS/ARSG).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

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

All year Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). More frequent reports Oct-Jan.

Breeding 70 sites were checked. 15 sites occupied by prs with 6 prs fledged a min. of 8 young (per SMRS/ARSG).



TAWNY OWL Cowal April Alistair McGregor

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

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

All year Only reports received: 2 at Uluvalt Mull on 13 Mar, 1 at Aoradh Islay on 24 May, 1 at Dervaig Mull on 2 Jul and 2 at Balephuill Tiree on 5-6 Nov.

Breeding Reports were received from six sites which were checked. Evidence of occupation was found at one site, but breeding was not confirmed (per SMRS/ARSG).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

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).*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Jura/Mull*). No reports during Jan-Feb. Most reports from Mull (9 sites) of 1-3 birds and a max count of 6 at Reudle on 7 May. Singles were on *Jura* on 29 Apr and *Islay* on 23 May.

Summer/breeding Five sites were checked, one pr was found but did not lay eggs (per SMRS/ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull*). No reports in Sep. Only single birds from Oronsay *Colonsay* in Aug, *Islay* in Oct, *Mull* in Nov and *Kintyre* in Dec.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

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

Spring/summer Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 4 over Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 8 May and 2 at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May. Max counts of 20 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 21 Jul, 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Jun, 10 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jun and 10 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul.

Breeding Limited data. Nests noted in Campbeltown *Kintyre* and at Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* where a pr was using a nest box.

Autumn Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 21 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 6 Aug, 7 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and 12 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 18 Sep – which was also the last report.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

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 Reports of single birds from sites in: Cowal (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Mull* (2).

Summer/breeding Only one report of confirmed breeding; a pr nested in *Cowal* and young had dispersed by 5 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3). All reports of singles apart from 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov.



COMMON KINGFISHER *Cowal* May Alistair McGregor

EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

Spring One was in a garden at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 29 May.

Autumn One was at Lower Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 11 Oct.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

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



GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Mid-Argyll* March Jim
Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Generally, 1-2 birds from 20+ sites. Drumming heard from early Apr.

Summer/breeding Up to 4 birds at sites in mainland Argyll and on *Islay*. Juvs first noted from mid-Jun.

Autumn/winter No reports in Sep – possibly due to birds being in moult. Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* with 1-4 birds. One report at Craighouse *Jura* on 24 Oct and one at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* in Nov.

GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

Rare: infrequent 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 at River Eachaig, Benmore *Cowal* on 2 Jun.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/North Argyll*). All reports of singles apart from 2 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Mar. Reports from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (2). Most frequent reports were in Mar and May.

Summer/breeding 17 sites were checked, 8 sites were occupied, and 19 large young were raised at 7 sites (per SRMS/ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Colonsay/North Argyll*). Reports generally of singles however 3 birds reported from 4 locations. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Islay* (25), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (15).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most reports of single birds and 2 noted on *Tiree* on several dates. Reports from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (18), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (9).

Summer/breeding A pair fledged at least 2 young in *North Argyll*. A report in *Cowal* suggests there may have been a Ter and a pr were at a Ter in S *Kintyre*. Very few (8) reports during May-Jul.



MERLIN Kintyre January Eddie Maguire

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Most reports of singles and max counts of up to 6 on *Tiree* in Oct. Most reports in Oct-Nov. Reports from sites in: *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (37), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (5) and *Tiree* (21).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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.

All year Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from *Islay*.

Breeding 28 sites were checked, 11 sites were occupied and raised a min. of 16+ large young.



RED-BACKED SHRIKE Mull September Anand Prasad

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

RED LIST *A rare passage migrant: 18 records between 1954 and 2014.*

Autumn A 1CY was at Treshnish Farm NW *Mull* on 21 – 24 Sep [Anand Prasad]. Another 1CY was at Heylipol church *Tiree* on 23 Sep – 10 Oct [John Bowler, Jim Dickson, Richard Whitson *et al*]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

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 Reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Generally, 1-2 birds at sites however up to 8 regularly visited a garden in Dunoon *Cowal* in Feb-Mar.

Summer/breeding All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with 1-2 birds at sites and a report of a pr with 2 fledged young in *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Generally, 1-3 birds at mainland sites however reports from *Mull* (6 sites) late Sep – Oct, up to 6 birds at Treshnish Farm NW *Mull* on 5 Oct, with presumably birds having dispersed from the mainland.

EURASIAN MAGPIE *Pica pica*

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 Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Most reports from *Cowal* however only up to 2 birds noted at sites. Only noted at 2 sites in *Kintyre* and *Mid-Argyll*. On *Islay* a wandering individual was seen 10-12 Apr at Gruinart, Kilchoman and Easter Ellister.

Summer/breeding Reports from only (*Cowal/Kintyre*) with up to 2 birds at sites in *Cowal* and a long stayer in Campbeltown *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). No reports in Aug. The Campbeltown *Kintyre* single was last reported on 6 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* one in Cairnbaan on 13 Oct and 2 at Balvicar, Seil on 4 Nov.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

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 Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts of 40 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 17 Feb and 10 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 17 Feb.

Summer/breeding On *Islay* 43 occupied sites were found. At least 29 sites reared young (65 young were ringed at 23 sites). On *Colonsay* six occupied sites were found; breeding was confirmed at five where 10 young were reared.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts of 50 at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Oct, 9 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Sep and 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Sep.

WESTERN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 700 at Bleachfield *Kintyre* on 2 Feb, 220 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 32 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 4 Feb.

Summer/breeding Reports all less than 30 birds and generally 1-6 birds. On *Tiree* a single was at Balephuill on 22 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Max count of 120 at Treshnish Farm NW *Mull* on 27 Oct and 60 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov. A group of 16 remained on *Tiree* in Nov-Dec.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

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.



ROOK Mid-Argyll April Jim Dickson

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

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 Reports from only (Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). No reports from usual strong hold areas of Cowal. In Kintyre at 3 sites with max of 6 at Carradale on 12 Apr otherwise only singles seen in Mid-Argyll and Mull.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Only single birds reported apart from 2 in Campbeltown Kintyre during Dec.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 98 on Oronsay Colonsay on 26 Jan, 50 at Tiroran Mull on 12 Jan and 48 at Kilninver Mid-Argyll on 19 Feb.

Summer/breeding Only breeding data received: 38 Ters on Colonsay and first fledged on Tiree on 30 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 53 at Knock Mull on 11 Oct, 37 on Oronsay Colonsay on 8 Dec and 34 at Kinnabus Islay on 4 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.

All year Reports from (Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll). Up to 8 birds reported from 6 sites.

NORTHERN RAVEN *Corvus corax*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 57 at Blackpark *Islay* on 20 Mar, 35 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 19 Apr and 24 at Bloody Cliffs *Mull* on 6 Feb.

Summer/breeding Displaying bird noted from Feb in *Kintyre*. On *Tiree* 10 active nests at 9 sites in Mar increasing to 11 nests by May. On *Colonsay* 8 prs located rearing 32 young. Across Argyll 79 sites checked, 55 sites occupied, 38 were successful rearing 106 young. (per ARSG/SRMS).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max count was a flock of 200+ nr Kilmory Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Sep and elsewhere numbers less than 50 birds and generally of 1-10 birds.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulous*

An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.



Winter/spring Only two reports, both involving singles, at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 6 Jan and at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb.

Autumn/winter Again only two reports, with 5 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 8-12 Nov and 16 at Inveraray Castle grounds *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING *Mid-Argyll* November Jim Dickson

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially conifers.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll/Tiree*). Generally, 1-3 birds noted however 12 nr Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, 1-6 birds noted however 20 at Fishnish *Mull* on 15 Sep.

EURASIAN BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Generally, 1-6 birds at sites and a max flock of 32 in Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan. One was at Milton *Tiree* on 10 Mar.

Summer/breeding Generally, 1-8 birds noted at sites and first fledgling noted on 1 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, 1-7 birds at sites and a max flock of 25 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). All reports of 1-6 birds. One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Mar.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). All reports of 1-6 birds.



EURASIAN SKYLARK *Tiree* May Jim Dickson

EURASIAN SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 120 at Appin *North Argyll* on 8 Mar, 85 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Mar and 77 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Mar.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data. More records from the islands than mainland *Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 230 at Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 100 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 27 Oct.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

AMBER LIST *A summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals of singles noted at Salen *Mull* on 2 Apr and the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited data on breeding colonies received. On *Tiree* 116 prs at 8 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 125 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 Aug and 70 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Aug. Last report of a single at Vaul *Tiree* on 14 Sep.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.



BARN SWALLOWS *Mid-Argyll May Jim Dickson*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals at 5 sites across Argyll on 7 Apr. Max counts of 30 at Loch Cholla *Colonsay* on 2 May and 27 at Braevallich, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. First fledged on *Tiree* on 28 Jun. Post breeding flocks building up from late Jul-early Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 150 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Aug and 150 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Aug. Last reports were 2 at Ardbeg and 1 at Laggavullin both *Islay* on 24 Oct.



COMMON HOUSE MARTIN *Kintyre May Eddie Maguire*

COMMON HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbicum

AMBER LIST A
common summer
visitor on the
mainland: less
numerous on the
islands with only one
recently recorded
breeding attempt on
Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). First report was a single at Carnain *Islay* on 30 Mar. Max

counts of 8 at sites on *Islay* and in *Cowal*.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. A pr nested on *Tiree* but attempt failed.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max count of 40 at Bunesan *Mull* on 22 Jul. Last reports of 20 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep and 30 >S over the sea at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Sep.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.



LONG-TAILED TIT *Mid-Argyll* March Jim Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Max count of 18 nr Bowmore *Islay* on 25 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 20 at Treshnish Farm NW *Mull* on 5 Oct and 18 at Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug.

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

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/summer/breeding Reports

from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Islay/Jura*). First reports from *Mid-Argyll* at Dalavich on 22 Apr and Dalvore on 23 Apr. Singing males reported from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (5). Some sites in *Mid-Argyll* held several prs e.g. 5 at Barnluasgan, 4 at Glen Nant and 3 at Bellanoch and Millside. A migrant was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 6 May. Last report was one at Aros Park *Mull* on 28 Jun.

Autumn No reports.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 76 records between 1954 and 2016, the majority on Tiree.

Autumn One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct with another nearby at Carnan Mor on 16 Oct [John Bowler]. One was in woods by the Heritage Centre, Iona *Mull* on 17 Oct [Tony Disley]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was a very early bird at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar with the next not until one at Carsaig Bay *Mull* on 5 Apr.

Summer/breeding Singing males widespread across Argyll from mid-Apr. Max counts of 27 in song at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr and 10 in song at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 21 Apr. A few birds still in song in late Aug.

Autumn/winter Number of reports reduced sharply during Aug. Most reports of 1-3 birds in Sep-Oct were from sites on *Tiree*. Last report was of one at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Oct.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. No winter reports. First arrival of one at Point of Knap *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar. Max count of 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Reports from breeding sites (singing males): *Colonsay* (6), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (5), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (3).

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Max count of 3 on *Tiree* on 27 Sep and 3 on *Iona Mull* on 17 Oct. Last report was of 2 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 29 Dec. Several single birds on *Tiree* during Oct-Nov were of the Scandinavian race *abietinus*.

'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 2 Nov.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals of 2 at Ardlarach, Moss Road *Islay* on 19 Apr and one at Lingerton, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. Max counts of 8 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 23 Apr, and 5 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received of this widespread species. Many fledglings noted from mid-Jul onwards.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Most birds departed during Aug. Max count of 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Aug and last report was of 3 there on 12 Sep.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A rare visitor in spring and summer: Fourteen records; 12 from the islands and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.

Spring One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Jun [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

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.*

Spring One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Jun [John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

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.



ICTERINE WARBLER *Tiree* September Keith Gillon

Autumn A ICY bird was at Meningie, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Sep [Keith Gillon, John Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON GRASSHOPPER

WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

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 Reports from all areas. First arrival of one at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr and 8 males in song at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr then widespread arrivals noted after 21 Apr.

Summer/breeding Most reports of singing males; 14 at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*, 8 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* and 6 on *Colonsay*.

Autumn Only two reports in Aug-Sep from *Islay* and *Tiree* where last report of one at Hynish *Tiree* on 3 Sep.

EURASIAN BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A common summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Winter reports of singles at Hunter's Quay Cowal on 9 Feb and at Carradale *Kintyre* on 1 Mar. Widespread spring arrivals after 5 Apr. Max counts of 13 in song on *Colonsay* on 29 Apr, 7 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 May and 5 at Ardbeg *Islay* on 28 Apr.

Summer/breeding Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas, also *Islay* and *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-3 birds across Argyll with an increase in records during Oct-Nov. Last report of one at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 20 Nov.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First arrival of one nr Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May. Four singing males along Crinan canal from Cairnbaan to Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* and a further 5 singing males elsewhere across *Mid-Argyll* and single reports of singing males from *Cowal*, *Mull* and *North Argyll* during May-Jun. A male still in song at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun.

Autumn One at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Sep was the last report.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

A rare passage migrant: 17 previous records: all have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.

Autumn A ICY bird was at Cornaig *Tiree* on 30 Sep [Neil Hammatt, Jim Dickson]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

A rare/scarse passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.



LESSER WHITETHROAT *Tiree* October John Bowler

Spring/summer One was heard at Upper Killeyan, The Oa *Islay* on 23 Apr, one was heard and seen north of Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 10 May, one was seen at Rockside *Islay* on 16 May and one was at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 26 May.

Autumn Three reports of singles from *Tiree*; at The Glebe (Scarinish) on 1-3 Oct, at Balephuil on 1-6 Oct and at Cornaig on 5 Oct. One was in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). First arrival of one at Ardtalla *Islay* on 22 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 28 Apr.

Summer/breeding Reports of singing males/breeding from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). On *Colonsay* 42 Ters were recorded and at RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay* 19 Ters. A count of 9 birds at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jul. A pair fledged 2+ young at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 30 Jun.

Autumn Reports decreased during Aug and only one report in Sep of one at Coullabus *Islay* on 3 Sep.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

A vagrant: An "Eastern" was at Balephuill, Tiree on 28 May 2012 and a probable "Western" was at Kinnabus, Islay on 16 May 2016.

Spring A male (race not confirmed) was at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 8 Jun [Keith Gillon]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

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



GOLDCREST *Kintyre* October *Jim Dickson*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-3 birds from sites and max counts of 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr and 7 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 17 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Singing birds noted from mid-Apr. A fledged family group at Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally low nos of 1-5 birds and a max count of 10 at Fishnish *Mull* on 15 Sep.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters; additional birds winter on the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On *Tiree* 23 males in song at 12 sites in Apr with first fledged group of 6 noted on 30 Jun, and at Dalvore BBS site *Mid-Argyll* 6 males in song in May where fledged juvs noted from 22 Jun. Nearby 8 birds on BBS site at Rhudle on 26 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-6 birds noted at sites.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*



EURASIAN NUTHATCH *Mid-Argyll* February Joan Thomson

A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north and west in Scotland.

All year Now well established in Cowal (6 sites), *Mid-Argyll* (10 sites) and *North Argyll* (3 sites). No reports from *Kintyre* or *Mull* this year.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.

Winter/spring Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*). All counts of only 1-2 birds. Birds noted in song from 24 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited data. A pr at a nest in Benmore Gardens *Cowal* in May.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*). Only single reports in Jul, Aug and Sep, however 5 reports in each of Oct, Nov, Dec and a max count of 4 birds at Skipness *Kintyre* on 31 Dec.



EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Cowal* November Alistair McGregor

ROSY STARLING

Pastor roseus

A rare summer and autumn visitor: More frequent in recent years.

Spring/summer An adult was seen briefly at Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Jun [Keith Gillon]. An adult was at Clabhach *Coll* on 6 Jun [reported by a visitor to RSPB] and possibly the same bird again at Sorisdale



ROSY STARLING *Tiree* August John Bowler

Coll on 21-22 Jun [Iain Fergus, Ben Jones]. An adult was at a private garden in Bunessan *Mull* on 7 Jun [per Alan Spellman (*Mullbirds*)]. An adult was at Ardnave headland *Islay* on 12 Jul until at least 4 Aug [Jack Fleming *et al*]. On *Tiree* an adult (prob female) was at Meningie on 17 Jul [Andy Robinson, John Bowler, Toby Green *et al*], also 3 different birds at Traigh Bhi dunes 23-31 Jul with a female remaining 1-2 Aug and probably same female at Kenovay on 14 Aug-3 Sep [Sue Atkins, John Bowler *et al*]. An adult was at Leckuary, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug [Rob & Christine Blackwell] and an adult was at Ardfarn *Mid-Argyll* on 23-26 Jul [Colin Smith, Ju Randall]. All records accepted by the ABRC.

A good run of records this year with up to nine birds. Some reports may relate to the same wandering birds.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

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 Reports from all areas. Largest flocks generally noted on *Tiree* and in *Kintyre* and notable flocks on *Islay* and *Oronsay Colonsay*. Max counts of 1,200 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 31 Jan, 700 at the Laggan *Kintyre*. Large flocks decreased considerably during Apr.

Summer/breeding Nesting during late Apr-Jun with fledged birds noted in *Colonsay, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree* from end of May. Flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun. Max counts of



COMMON STARLING *Mid-Argyll February Jim Dickson*

500 at Balepuil *Tiree* on 21 Jun, 1,500 at West Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 18 Jul, 1,000 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 Aug and 1,200 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 7 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 2,200 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 1,500 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 5 Nov.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

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 Two reports with one at Port Weymss *Islay* on 24 Apr and a male was at Beinn na Lus *North Argyll* on 1 Jul.

Breeding A pair at Ben Cruachan *North Argyll* reared at least one young.

Autumn A 1CY was at Balepuil *Tiree* on 14 Oct.

COMMON BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

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 Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-4 birds. Max count of 8 at Bishop's Glen Cowal on 8 Mar. Birds noted in song from early Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited data. First fledglings noted from mid-May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-8 birds. Max count of 200 on *Tiree* on 17 Nov across the island after a fall of thrush species.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

RED LIST *A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or passing through in spring.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 400 at Octomore *Islay* on 8 Apr and 220 at Killinochonoch, nr Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar. Many flocks of 10-90 birds across Argyll during Jan-Mar. Last report of one on *Tiree* on 3 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrival was a flock of 200 at Southend *Kintyre* on 28 Sep. Max counts of 300 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Oct and 300 at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 27 Oct. Several flocks of 10-100 across Argyll with most on *Islay* and in *Mid-Argyll*.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

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.*



REDWING *Tiree* October Jim Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Good numbers on *Tiree* Jan -Mar with upto 500 across the island, while elsewhere in Argyll reports of only up to 30 birds. An influx in early Apr across Argyll with max counts of 1,000 at Loch Beg *Mull* on 7 Apr, 500 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 7 Apr and 280 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 7 Apr and several reports of 10-100 birds elsewhere during Apr. An injured bird remained on *Tiree* during May to 2 Jun and a last report there of one on 12 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrival of one at Scarinish *Tiree* on 25 Sep however main influx across Argyll between 5 Oct to early Nov although generally smaller numbers than average. Max counts of 1,200 across *Tiree* on 17 Nov, 800 at Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 27 Oct and 400 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 21 Oct. Several flocks of 50- 300 across Argyll noted from most areas except (*Cowal/Jura*).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

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.*



SONG THRUSH *Mid-Argyll March Jim Dickson*

increased from mid-Sep with 5-10 birds at several sites. Max counts of 60+ around *Tiree* on 17 Nov during a fall of thrush species.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

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.*



MISTLE THRUSH *Mid-Argyll April Jim Dickson*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-2 birds across Argyll however an influx noted in Mar with a max count of 29 at Paltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar. Singing males noted from early Feb.

Summer/breeding Limited data reported. A nest with a b/4 noted in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr; first fledged birds noted from *Tiree* on 28 May where 30 Ters across the island recorded during May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Size of groups

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll/Tiree*).

Generally, sightings of 1-2 birds. Max counts of 12 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb and 8 at Inveroaden *Cowal* on 2 Feb.

Summer/breeding Limited data reported. A brood of 3 fledged nr Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/North Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 57 nr Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, 25 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 3 Aug, 20 at

Torloisk *Mull* on 23 Aug and 19 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 11 Oct.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

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.*



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Mid-Argyll* July *Jim Dickson*

Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants over-wintering.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, only 1-4 birds at sites. Max count of 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Four males in song around Arinagour and the Lodge *Coll* in May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-5 birds. Max counts of 16 at Bunesan *Mull* on 14 Oct and 12 on Iona *Mull* on 18 Oct.

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). First arrival at St Catherines *Cowal* on 30 Apr and next report not until 13 May from several areas.

Summer/breeding Probable breeding reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll*). Prs noted feeding young from 22 Jun. First fledged birds noted on 3 Jul.

Autumn Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Last report of one at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug. Unusually no report of migrants noted on *Tiree* in Sep/Oct.

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree.



PIED FLYCATCHER *Tiree* May *John Bowler*

EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula hypoleuca

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 singles on *Tiree* at Scarinish on 30 Apr, Hynish on 28 May, Carnan Mor on 5 Jun with prb

same at Balephuill on 9 Jun, and in *Kintyre* with single males at Torrisdale Castle on 13 May and at High Ugadale, nr Saddle on 15 May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros*

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 An adult male was at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 11 Apr, a 2CY male was at Killiechchronan *Mull* on 19 Apr and a fem was at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 13 May.



BLACK REDSTART *Tiree April John Bowler*

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

AMBER LIST *A summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First report later than average; one at Loch Ba *Mull* on 7 May. Only five other reports during May including a migrant male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 May.

Autumn/winter Only autumn report was one nr Birdfield *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jul.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

RED LIST *A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrival of one at Inverlussa *Mull* on 21 Apr. Most breeding reports from *Islay* where 17 prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve and *Mid-Argyll* where a min of 9 prs around the Moine Mhor NNR area. A count of 7 birds at Maolachy, Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jun. First juvs noted from mid-Jun.

Autumn Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Noted at only 8 sites with last report of 5 birds at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep.



WHINCHAT *Mid-Argyll May Jim Dickson*

EUROPEAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites. Max count of 5+ Druim Bhuidhe *Coll* on 8 May.

Summer/breeding On *Colonsay* (except *Oronsay*) 28 Ters located, 18 Ters at RSPB *Gruinart* reserve *Islay* and 11+ Ters on *Tiree*. First fledged young noted on 22 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-6 birds from numerous widespread sites. Max count of 8 at *Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival of one at *Ardnave Point Islay* on 12 Mar. More widespread arrivals from 17 Mar. Max counts of 10+ on *The Oa Islay* on 7 May and 8 at *Quinish Mull* on 7 May.

Summer/breeding Widespread breeding mainly on the islands in low numbers. First fledglings at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 1 Jun and on *Tiree* on 15 Jun with widespread fledglings noted on *Tiree* during Jul. Max count of 20+ birds on *Sgeir na Giusaich, Treshnish Isles Mull* on 10 Jul.

Autumn No reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 7 at *Ardnave Point Islay* on 4 Aug and 6 on *Tiree* on 14 Oct. Last report of one at *Sanaigmore Islay* on 28 Oct.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Noted at 16 sites in total where 1-2 birds.

Breeding First nest building noted on 14 Mar and food being brought to a nest from 15 Apr. Max counts of 4 at Gruline Mull on 16 May and 7 at Aros Mull on 4 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). No reports during Aug – Sep and 1-2 birds at 8 sites Oct -Dec.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

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.*

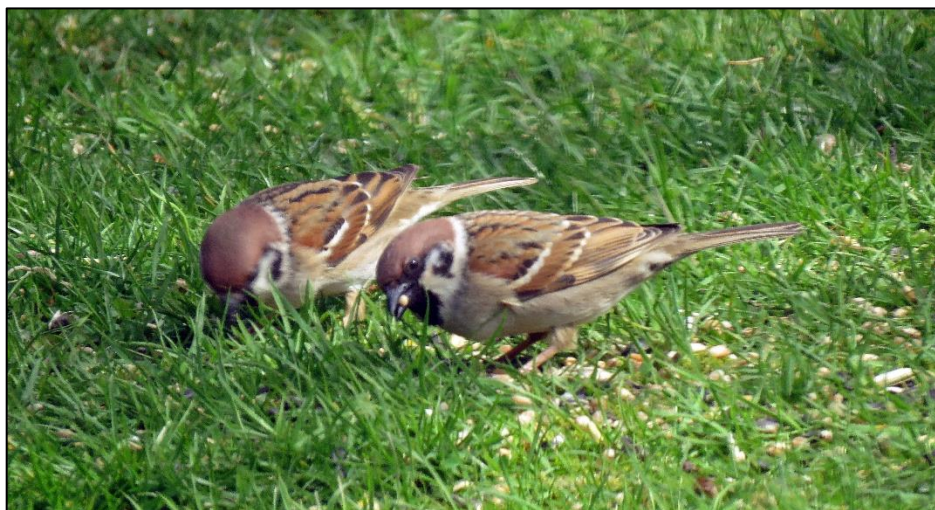
Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Largest counts all on Tiree where several groups of 30- 50 birds. Elsewhere max count of 14 in Furnace Mid-Argyll on 13 Apr.

Summer/breeding First fully-fledged birds at Dalvore Mid-Argyll on 28 Apr. Max count of 100+ on Iona Mull on 16 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Largest counts all on Tiree where several groups of 40- 120 birds.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

RED LIST *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding was recorded on Islay in 2009.*



TREE SPARROWS Kintyre April Alasdair Patterson

Spring Small groups on Islay perhaps involving same birds moving around with 5 at Caol Ila on 25 Apr, 4 at Kilchoman on 11 May and 4 Jul with 8 noted there on 14 May. In Kintyre 3 were at

Port Righ, Carradale on 28 Apr. On *Mull* 2 were at Treshnish Farm on 15-16 May and on *Tiree* 1 was at Balephuil on 15-16 May.

Autumn Two were at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 16 Nov.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

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/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted and a max count of 6 at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Jan.

Summer/breeding Singing birds noted from early Jan. First fledglings noted from early Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas with most reports from *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Mull* generally of 1-4 birds.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

RED LIST *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*



GREY WAGTAIL *Mid-Argyll* August Jim Dickson

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-2 birds but 4 birds at Craignure *Mull* on 13 Mar and 4 at Barnakill, Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr. Prs noted on rivers from early Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Fledged juvs noted at 2 sites on Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun. Max count of 6 birds at Inver Cottage east *Jura* on 25 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal*). Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* and *Islay* of 1-2 birds. Max count of 3 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 40 at Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Feb, 25 at Point Sands *Kintyre* on 2 Jan and 18 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar.

Summer/breeding Fledged juvs noted on *Tiree* from 28 May. Family groups noted from Jun and widespread Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max count of 90 at Dervaig *Mull* on 7 Aug. Across *Argyll* flocks of 18-70 noted at 9 sites.

‘WHITE’ WAGTAIL *Motacila alba alba*

A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring and extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll). First report was of 4 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 3 Mar. Reports from a total of 22 locations. Max counts of 32 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, 24 on *Tiree* on 24 Apr, 15 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Apr, 12 at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* on 7 May and 8 at Langamull *Mull* on 8 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll). Reports from only 7 locations. First report of one at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Aug where max counts in Aug of 96 birds on 6 dates with peak of 34 on 27 Aug, 299 in Sep on 21 dates with daily peak of 50 on 10 Sep. Elsewhere, max counts of 21 on *Tiree* on 27 Aug, 14 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 Sep and 10 at Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Sep. Last reports of 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Sep and one at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 6 Oct.



WHITE WAGTAIL *Kintyre* April Eddie Maguire

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

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 Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted during Jan-Feb. Max count of 100 birds in a field on Gigha *Kintyre* on 7 Jan, then 40 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb. Several flocks of 20-40 birds across Argyll Jan-early Apr.

Summer/breeding Good numbers and widespread. Often the main host species of Common Cuckoo. Large numbers of active nests on *Tiree* during May with many fledglings noted during Jun. Several flocks of up to 50 across *Tiree* in Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 500 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 4 Aug, 185 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 120 >N (in small groups) over the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 27 Oct and 70 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

RED LIST *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

Spring Reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). First reports of singles at Gribun Mull on 7 Apr and at Glen Masson Cowal on 20 Apr. Most arrivals from 21 Apr onwards with reports from 21 sites.

Summer/breeding Birds in song from first arrivals in Apr. Max count of 5 singing males at Strath Brenfield Mid-Argyll on 21 Apr, 5 at Rhudle Mid-Argyll on 26 May and 4 at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 6 May. A juv was noted at Grasspoint Mull on 30 Jun and an adult feeding a fledgling at Inverliever Forest Mid-Argyll on 7 Jul, which was the last report of the year.

Autumn No autumn migrants noted.

EURASIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus petrosus*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 194 during Tiree coastal count on 29 Jan and 53 at Scarisdale Mull on 31 Mar. Counts elsewhere in the range 1-18 birds.

Summer/breeding First fledglings noted from 24 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 27 at Ardnave Point Islay on 28 Oct and 20 at north Iona Mull on 18 Oct. Counts elsewhere in the range 1-18 birds.

ROCK PIPIT Kintyre November Eddie Maguire

'SCANDINAVIAN' ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

A Rock Pipit sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll is still unclear. Only five accepted records; from Mull on 13 May 2011, at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre on 18 May 2014, also two there in Apr 2017 and the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll on 1 Apr 2015.

Spring Two birds showing the characteristics of this race were at Loch Buie Mull on 24 Feb [Stuart Gibson].

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".

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

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 Reports from all areas. Max counts of 145 birds at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 29 Jan, 46 at Gruinart Islay on 18 Jan and 31 at Ballure Kintyre on 7 Jan. Most reports of 1-10 birds across Argyll.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. Birds present in breeding areas throughout Argyll although no confirmed nesting on *Tiree* however 1-3 birds present Apr-Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 450 at Octovullin *Islay* on 8 Nov, 260 at Sunderland farm *Islay* on 4 Nov, 80 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 1 Dec, 70 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 15 Dec and 65 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec.



BRAMBLING & CHAFFINCH *Kintyre* April Jim Dickson

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers; there have been a few summer records.

Winter/spring Reports from only (Cowal/*Islay*/*Kintyre*/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*/*Tiree*). Max counts of only 4 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* in Apr and 3 at Dervaig *Mull* on 24 Feb. Elsewhere only 1-2 birds at 10 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Colonsay/*Cowal*/*Islay*/*Kintyre*/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*/*Tiree*). Max counts of 11 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, 8 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 30 Oct, 6 at Keills *Islay* on 9 Nov and 5 birds each at a further three sites on *Islay* Oct-Nov. Elsewhere 1-3 birds from 27 sites.



HAWFINCH *Tiree* May John Bowler

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RED LIST *A rare visitor: 31 records between 1953 and 2017.*

Spring A male was at Port Weymss *Islay* on 11 Apr [David Clugston, Val Wilson *et al*]. A male and female were at Ardtun *Mull* on 22 Apr [Jonathan & Janet Lloyd]. A female was at Fionnphort *Mull* on 23-24 Apr [Carol Marshall]. Two females were at Balephuill *Tiree* one on 10-14 May and one on 13-14 May [John Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of only 4 birds; at Finlaggan *Islay* on 1 Feb, Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb, Gruline *Mull* on 5 Apr, Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr, Skerrols *Islay* on 26 Apr and Brenfield *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr. Elsewhere 1-2 birds at 16 sites.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Noted prs and likely breeding mainly from mainland *Argyll* and *Mull*. A fem feeding 3 small fledged young at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of 8 at Crinan Wood *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 7 at Loch Charn *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Dec and 5 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep. Elsewhere 1-4 birds at 24 sites, mostly *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll*.



COMMON ROSEFINCH *Tiree* October John Bowler

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Erythrura erythrura*

A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 26 records between 1989 and 2017, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.

Spring/summer A 2CY male was seen and in song briefly at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 May [John Bowler].

Autumn A 1CY bird was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3-4 Oct [John Bowler]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.



EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Mid-Argyll* February Jim Dickson

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 13 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, 12 at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Jan and 10 at Octomore *Islay* on 29 Jan. Elsewhere counts of 1-8 birds at sites in: *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (3).

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Fledged birds noted at two sites on Lismore *North Argyll* on 5 Aug with b/4 and b/5. An ad feeding a fledgling in *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Aug thought to be from second brood.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 13 at Port Rìgh, Carradale, *Kintyre* on 15 Dec and 9 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Dec. Counts of 1-8 birds at sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (6).

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

RED LIST *A local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 203 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 11 Jan, 150 at Middleton *Tiree* on 1 Feb and 67 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Jan. Most reports of large flocks on *Islay*, *Tiree* and *Colonsay* (Oronsay) with smaller nos in *Kintyre*. Single figure counts at nine sites on *Mull* and two sites in *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding Prs noted and heard singing at sites from early Apr. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 29 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). First returning birds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 7 Aug. Max counts of 542 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 30 Nov, 250 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Aug, 200 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 6 Sep, 160 at Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct. Most reports from both *Islay* and *Tiree* where large flocks noted at several sites. In *Kintyre* 30 at Dunaverty on 1 Sep and peak count of 30 at Machrihanish SBO on 8 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* 80 were at Aird-Luing, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug and on *Mull* single birds at two sites only.



COMMON

LINNET *Linaria cannabina*

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/North Argyll*).

COMMON LINNET *Kintyre* May Eddie Maguire

Max counts of 81 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 1 May, 44 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 21 Apr and 43 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Feb. Elsewhere counts of 1-12 with most reports from *Islay* and *Kintyre*. **Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data however birds present in all areas during the summer. Fledged birds noted at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* from 2 Jun and on *Tiree* from 23 Jun. Flocks (up to 30 birds) noted on *Islay* from 4 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 240 at Gruinart flats *Islay* on 1 Nov, also flocks of 120 to 220 at six sites across *Islay* and 160 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 6 Oct. Generally, peak counts from late Aug to early Nov and reduced nos through 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/summer Confirmed reports only from (*Tiree*). First arrival of a single on 20 Apr at Balephuill *Tiree* with a max of 6 birds at Balephuill/Carnan Mor and 1-2 birds infrequently from The Glebe, Gott, Hynish, Caoles, Kenovay and Vault.

Breeding Prs thought likely to be nesting at Balephuill/Carnan Mor, Vault and The Glebe in Jun. At Balephuill 3+ fledged juvs on 21 Jun, at Heylipol a pr feeding fledged young on 29 Jul and at Balephuill 4 ads with 3+ young on 1-13 Aug then a new nest there with 4 large young on 19-21 Aug.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* 1-2 birds noted Sep until 30 Oct with peak counts of 12+ birds at Balephuill on 22-30 Sep and 20 birds on 1-9 Oct. Larger 'Greenland' *rostrata* type birds noted at Carnan Mor with 2 on 15 Sep, 2 at Balemartine on 6 Oct and singles at The Reef on 8 Oct and Balephuill on 9-10 Oct.



LESSER REDPOLL *Mid-Argyll* July Jim Dickson

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Only one report in Jan – a bird at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 5 Jan. No reports in Feb. One report in Mar – at Fearnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar and three reports in Apr from *Mid-Argyll*. An influx of birds during early May generally of 1-6 birds, with max counts of 20 at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May and 15 at The Lodge *Coll* on 18 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Prs noted from suitable areas across Argyll with max count of 7 birds late May-early Jul then larger groups noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Mull/North Argyll*). Flocks from mid-Jul with max counts of 80 at Inver *Jura* on 25 Aug and 70 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 31 Aug. Elsewhere counts of 1-20 birds and smaller numbers from mid-Oct then only single reports in Nov and Dec from *Islay*.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.

Winter/spring Records from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Max counts of 17 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 20 Mar, 15 at Ardmarnock *Cowal* on 14 Apr and 11 at Eleraig *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10 birds from 28 sites.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Birds noted in song from early Jan. A pr with a fledged brood of 3 at Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr. A flock of 20 in Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* of mostly juvs on 25 May.

Autumn/winter Records from only (*Mull/Tiree*). No reports in Aug, Sep or Dec. Only reports of singles: in Jul from Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Jul, in Oct from Bunessan *Mull* on 14 Oct and in Nov from Glen Cannel *Mull* on 17 Nov.



EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Mid-Argyll* May Jim Dickson

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

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 (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 46 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 9 Apr, 37 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 24 Mar and 25 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan. Flocks dispersed after early May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Fledged juvs noted from early Jul. A probable breeding pr at Balephuill *Tiree* in late May. Widespread across Argyll except (*Tiree*). First flocks noted on *Islay* from end Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Flocks sizes increased during late Aug and peak counts during Sep then decreasing to year end. Max counts of 200 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 20 Sep, 100 at Saligo *Islay* on 13 Sep and 80 at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Sep.



EURASIAN SISKIN *Mid-Argyll* February Jim Dickson

EURASIAN SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

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 Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Reports in Jan (4) of 1-22 birds, Feb (10) of 1-20, in Mar (12) of 1-50 and Apr (20) of 1-80 with max count of 80 birds at Loch Coille-Bharr *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Reports from all areas. Flocks dispersed by early May increasing again (with lots of juvs noted) from late Jul. On *Tiree* 1-2 birds noted Apr-Jun including a male in song. On *Coll* a male was at Arinagour on 15 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts of 50 at Lily Loch *Islay* on 2 Aug and 30 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep. Sightings reduced towards year end and only three reports in Nov and one in Dec with 2 birds at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.*

Winter/spring On Mull 2 were at Glen More on 11 Apr and 1 was at Ardvernish on 28 Apr. On Tiree 1 was at Sorobaidh Bay on 17 Apr.

Autumn/winter On Tiree 2 were at Sandaig on 23 Sep.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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 Reports from only (Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max counts of 18 at Daill Loch, Knapdale Mid-Argyll on 13 Feb, 17 at Benmore Lodge, Loch Ba Mull on 13 Feb and 8 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 13 Jan. Some groups lingered e.g. 5-7 birds at Carnain Islay 5 Jan – 11 Mar and 6-8 birds at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree 13 Jan – 8 Feb. Last report of one at Traigh Bhaigh Tiree on 4 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First arrival of 1 at Hough Bay Tiree on 1 Oct, then 1 at Totronald Coll on 15 Oct, 1 at Ardnave Point Islay on 28 Oct, 8 at Gott Bay Tiree on 10 Nov, 2 at Rubha Chraiginis Tiree on 18 Nov, 11 at Kilchiaran Islay on 29 Nov and 5 at Knapdale Mid-Argyll on 14 Dec.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

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 Reports from only (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Max counts of 12 at Loch na Cadhan, Ballygrant Islay on 7 Apr, 10 at Kildalton Islay on 12 Feb and 8 at Southend Kintyre on 3 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-7 birds from 14 sites.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received. Reported in suitable habitat from (Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Max count of 6 at Ardnahoe Loch Islay in May.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Max counts of 10 nr Keills Islay on 20 Nov and 6 on Iona Mull on 14 Oct. Counts of 1-5 from only six other sites Aug-Nov. No reports in Dec.



COMMON REED BUNTING Kintyre February Eddie Maguire

Gruinart reserve Islay.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 15 at Balephuill Tiree on 8 Oct and 11 at Machir Bay Islay on 28 Oct. Widespread counts of 1-10 birds at 17 sites.

COMMON REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

AMBER LIST *A locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 30 at Aird Luing, Luing Mid-Argyll on 6 Jan, 19 on Oronsay Colonsay on 20 Jan, 13 Sandaig Tiree on 20 Feb and 12 Danna Mid-Argyll on 20 Jan. Counts elsewhere: 1-10 birds from 30 sites.

Summer/breeding Singing males noted from early Apr. On Colonsay (excluding Oronsay) 42 Ters located late Apr and 40 Ters at RSPB

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.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Answer canagica*

Summer One was at Small Isles Bay *Jura* on 4 Jul [Louise Bacon, Vince Lea].

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 29.

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Firecrest	<i>Mull</i>	29/03/18	ABRC
Firecrest	<i>Mull</i>	09/04/18	ABRC
Cirl Bunting	<i>Kintyre</i>	11/04/18	SBRC
Montagu’s Harrier	<i>Kintyre</i>	12/05/18	SBRC

Most records are found ‘not proven’ 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 2018 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
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Kintyre</i>	07/09/2000	BBRC
Todd’s Canada Goose	<i>Tiree</i>	15/11/18 - 2019	BBRC

Details of the following claimed 2018 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Todd's Canada Goose	Kinnabus, The Oa	<i>Islay</i>	06/01-1/03/18
Todd's Canada Goose	Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	10/10/18 on
Black Tern	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	15/06/18
Long-tailed Skua (juv)	Islay Ferry	<i>Islay</i>	23/08/18
Tundra Bean Goose (5)	Kilmichael	<i>Kintyre</i>	11/11/18
Yellow-browed Warbler	Port Uisken	<i>Mull</i>	20/11/18
Corn Bunting (6)	Fidden	<i>Mull</i>	18/11/18

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.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to all those individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack, the Argyll recording system or to the Argyll bird recorders directly. Also, to the various organisations including; the RSPB, BTO, SNH, SOC, Forestry Commission/Land Scotland, Scottish and Argyll raptor monitoring schemes, Treshnish Auk ringing group, Lorn Natural History Group and Cruachan Power Station. Grateful thanks to the following who placed records onto the Argyll bird database; Morag Rea (from Eddie Maguire's Machrihanish SBO and John Bowler's Tiree monthly reports), Ian Brooke (who maintains the Islay Bird Blog and provides these records for the database) and Peter and Dorothy Hogbin (for Mull records from Alan Spellman's Mullbirds website). Many thanks also to Malcolm Chattwood who ably manages the database and to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2018 comprised: John Bowler, Stuart Crutchfield, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson. John Bowler provided Tiree reports and checked Tiree bird data, and David Jardine provided raptor study group and Chough data as well as Colonsay breeding bird data.

Many thanks to the following who gave permission for their photographs to be used to enrich this report: John Bowler, Steve Gantlett, Ian Giles, Keith Gillon, Toby Green, Steve Hiscock, James Lehmann, Eddie Maguire, Alistair McGregor, Mike Murphy, Alasdair Patterson, Anand Prasad, Bryan Raines, Patrick Styles and Joan Thomson.

Jim Dickson (Aug 2019)

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

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB Membership Application Form

www.argyllbirdclub.org
Scottish Charity number SC008782



To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary
Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XN

Tel: 01499 500665 e-mail: membership@argyllbirdclub.org

I/we wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone number(s) _____

e-mail: _____

Please pay by bank transfer to Argyll Bird Club

Sort code 80-08-86 account number 00121406

or by cheque payable to Argyll Bird Club and post to the above address

or by standing order – please complete the form and return to the Membership Secretary

Annual subscription (please tick box)

Ordinary	£10	[]
Junior (25 and under)	free	
Family	£15	[]
Corporate	£25	[]

Main Argyll Birdwatching Sites

Listed under the ten regions of Argyll (see map, next page)

COLL 1.Tottronald RSPB Reserve

TIREE 2.Balephetrish Bay 3.Balephuill & Carnan Mor 4.Gott Bay 5.Loch a' Phuill 6.Loch an Eilein 8.Sorobaidh Bay 9.Traigh Bhagh/The Reef

COLONSAY 10.Colonsay House Woodlands 11.Loch Fada (East, Middle & West) 12.Oronsay 13.The Strand & Garvard

COWAL 14.Benmore Gardens 15.Holy Loch & Dunoon coast 16.Loch Eck & Glenbranter Forest 17.Loch Long, Strone Point to Ardentinnny 18.Otter Ferry & Loch Fyne 19.Tighnabruaich, Kames & Kyles of Bute

ISLAY 20.Ardnave Loch & Point 21.Bridgend Woods & Loch Skerrols 22.Frenchman's Rocks 23.Loch Gorm 24.Loch Gruinart 26.Machir Bay 27.The Oa peninsula

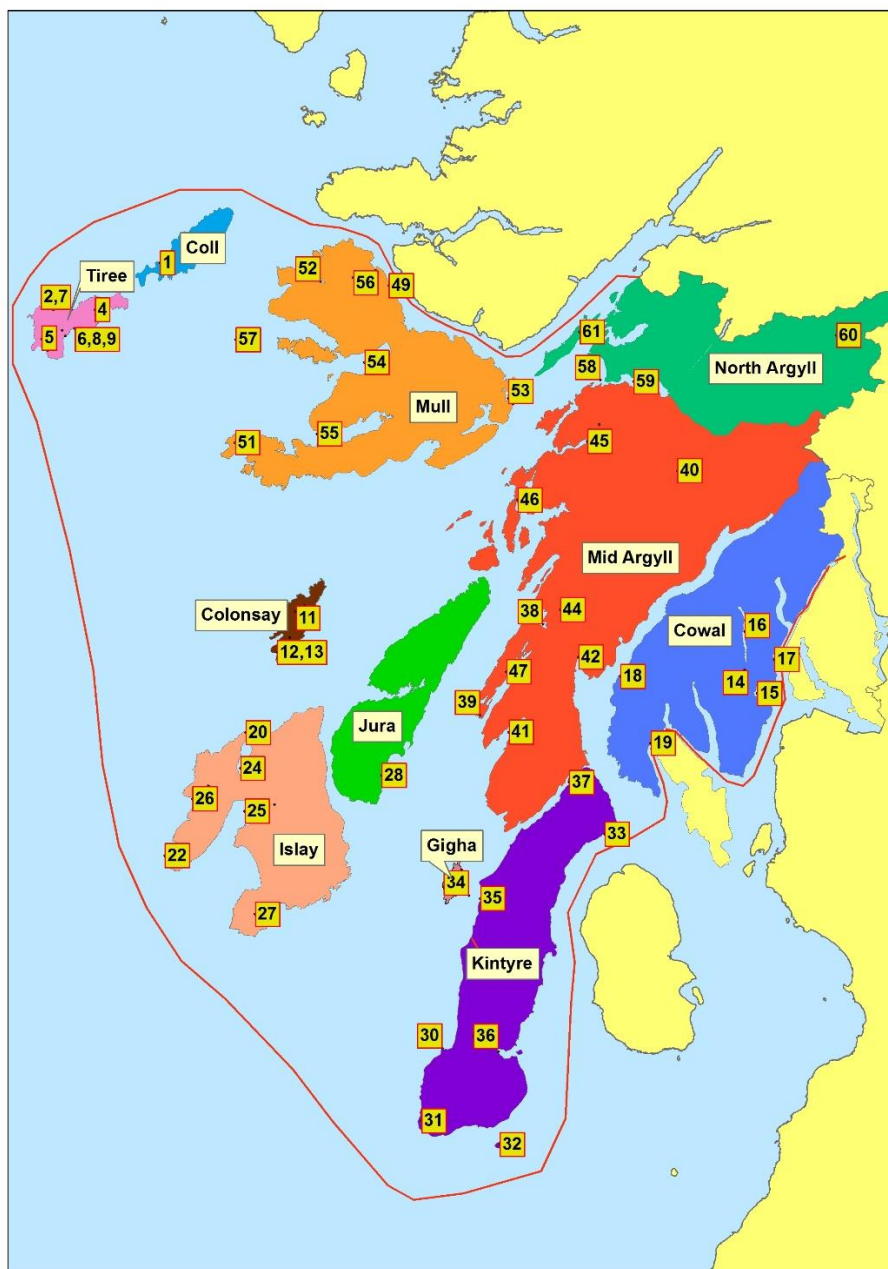
JURA 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

KINTYRE & GIGHA 29.Campbeltown Loch 30.Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory) 31.Mull of Kintyre 32.Sanda Islands 33.Skipness & Bay 34.Sound of Gigha 35.Tayinloan & Rhunahaorine Point 36.The Laggan 37.West Loch Tarbert

MID-ARGYLL 38.Add Estuary & Loch Crinan 39.Loch Sween, Danna & Ulva Lagoons 40.Loch Awe 41.Loch Caolisport 42.Loch Gilp 43.Loch Nell 44.Moine Mhor NNR (National Nature Reserve) 45.Loch Feochan 46.Seil Island & Isle of Luing 47.Taynish NNR

MULL 48.Aros Park & Tobermory 49.Calgary & Treshnish 50.Grasspoint 51.Iona 52.Loch a' Chumbahainn ('Loch Cuin') 53.Loch Don 54.Loch na Keal 55.Loch Scridain 56.Mishnish Lochs 57.Treshnish Isles

NORTH ARGYLL 58.Ledaig Point & Ardmucknish Bay 59.Loch Etive 60.Loch Tulla 61.Lismore 62.Loch Creran & Loch Laich



Ten regions of Argyll and main birdwatching sites