

THE FIRST  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
(INCLUDING RECORDS 1980-83)



**Black Grouse**

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Argyll

# ARGYLL BIRD REPORT 1983

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### ARGYLL BIRD REPORT 1983

Argyll has much to offer the birdwatcher, whether you are only visiting for a few days or have stayed here for years there is always something new to see or another area to explore. You can visit a tremendous variety of habitats, each with its own particular community of invertebrates, mammals and birds. The coastline, indented by long sealochs has populations of seaduck and many waders, both breeding and overwintering. Inland there are many areas of woodland, both deciduous and coniferous. The Forestry Commission has planted much of Argyll under conifer plantation. These areas do, however, still hold large numbers of birds. Siskins, chaffinches, redpolls and common crossbills can all usually be seen on a walk through a well grown plantation. Large areas of heather and grass moorland still remain, each containing their own bird community. It is over this type of habitat that the Golden Eagle does much of its hunting in Argyll. The higher hills provide habitat for Ptarmigan and other hardy species. North Argyll holds most of our higher hill area, much of it relatively uncovered as far as bird recording is concerned.

Argyll has many islands to be explored, each offering a different set of habitats and birds to the visitor. Islay is probably the best known, being famous for the large numbers of geese that overwinter. Jura, Mull, Tiree, Coll and the other smaller islands are all well worth a visit with much to tempt the professional ornithologist as well as the casual watcher.

With this wealth of bird life to be observed, it is perhaps surprising that no-one has organised an Argyll Bird Report before now. This does, however, appear to be the first attempt at such a report. In the past, much valuable information on species numbers and distribution within Argyll has undoubtedly been lost due to lack of organisation and some means to collect and publish results. Large numbers of tourists visit Argyll, collect information on birds and then take it home with them. Hopefully now more information collected will reach the pages of subsequent Argyll Bird Reports. We have included a section at the end of this report for you to submit your records to the local recorder. (Richard Coomber, Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull for 1984 records. All records for 1985 and subsequent years should be sent to David Stroud, Kindrochid, Sanaig, Bruichladdich, Islay).

This report aims to do several things. Firstly we have attempted to summarise the distribution of all species within six areas of Argyll. This is based on recent records and should be regarded as a general guide rather than a precise statement of fact. As more records are received and future reports produced, then our knowledge of species numbers and distribution will improve. A general statement on each species status is also given e.g. Breeder, winter visitor, passage migrant etc. All records from 1980-83 are then included in the species list. This has been made as complete as possible. If, however, some records have been missed we would welcome details.

The report also gives details of Bird Ringing activities within Argyll. These studies have greatly added to our understanding of bird movements within Argyll and further afield in recent years. Again, any details of future projects would be gratefully received. Details of other scientific research currently underway in Argyll is also given. This covers a surprising variety of species and aspects of their biology. These studies should help us understand and possibly even help us protect these species in future years. Clearly the more we know and understand about our local birds the better.

Finally, we include a small section on clubs and societies active in Argyll at present. In some ways this is the most important section of the report. It is probably through these clubs that most help for the birds of Argyll come. (Although individuals can do a great deal by themselves). Why not join one or more of these clubs and become actively involved in helping the areas wildlife. In this way you can do 'your bit' to ensure that people will be able to visit Argyll and enjoy its birds and other wildlife for many years to come.

Production of the 1984 report is already underway, this will include a species list, ringing and research reports. Hopefully some of these reports will extend beyond a mere paragraph or two and so form mini scientific papers or reports.

If you have any reports of research, articles or notes concerning any aspect of Avian biology in Argyll, which may be included in the 1984 report, please contact the Editor, C.A. Galbraith at 4 Achagoil, Minard, Argyll. Further copies of this report can also be obtained by writing to this address.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Production of this, the first bird report for Argyll, would not have been possible without the help given by many people over the past year.

Richard Coomber and Mike Gregory, deserve special thanks for their compilation of the 'Species list', as does Clive Craik for his production of an excellent ringing report. Thanks are also due to Eilidh Keith who allowed some of her beautiful sketches to be used to brighten up the main text, and to Sandra Johnston who spent many hours typing preliminary drafts of the report. Eric Bignal and Arthur Jennings have been particularly enthusiastic and supportive throughout production. To them, and all those people who sent in reports of their research, ringing activities or records used in the species list, I extend my thanks. Finally I wish to thank the N.C.C. who have given considerable help in the production of this report.

C.A. Galbraith,  
October 1984

A list of all those who helped with the report is given below.

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SPECIES LIST 1980-83

The species list includes all records as far as is known for the period 1980-83.

The following format is used to give details for each species.

- 1 Species Common Name: followed by the species Latin name
2. Letters:
  - B - Occurs as a breeding species
  - S - Occurs as a non breeding Summer visitor
  - W - Occurs in Winter
  - P - Occurs as a regular passage migrant
  - V - Occurs only as a vagrant - very rare

For migrant species dates when they are present in Argyll are given at the end of this line eg April-September.

- 3 Numbers: The numbers 1-6 appear as an indication of the area in Argyll in which a species is most likely to be seen
  - 1 Kintyre ie South of West Loch Tarbert - Tarbert Line
  - 2 Islay, Jura and Colonsay
  - 3 Cowal
  - 4 Mid Argyll
  - 5 Mull, Coll and Tiree
  - 6 North Argyll

See maps on following page for a picture of the area boundaries.

Maps of separate areas of Argyll are distributed throughout the species list.

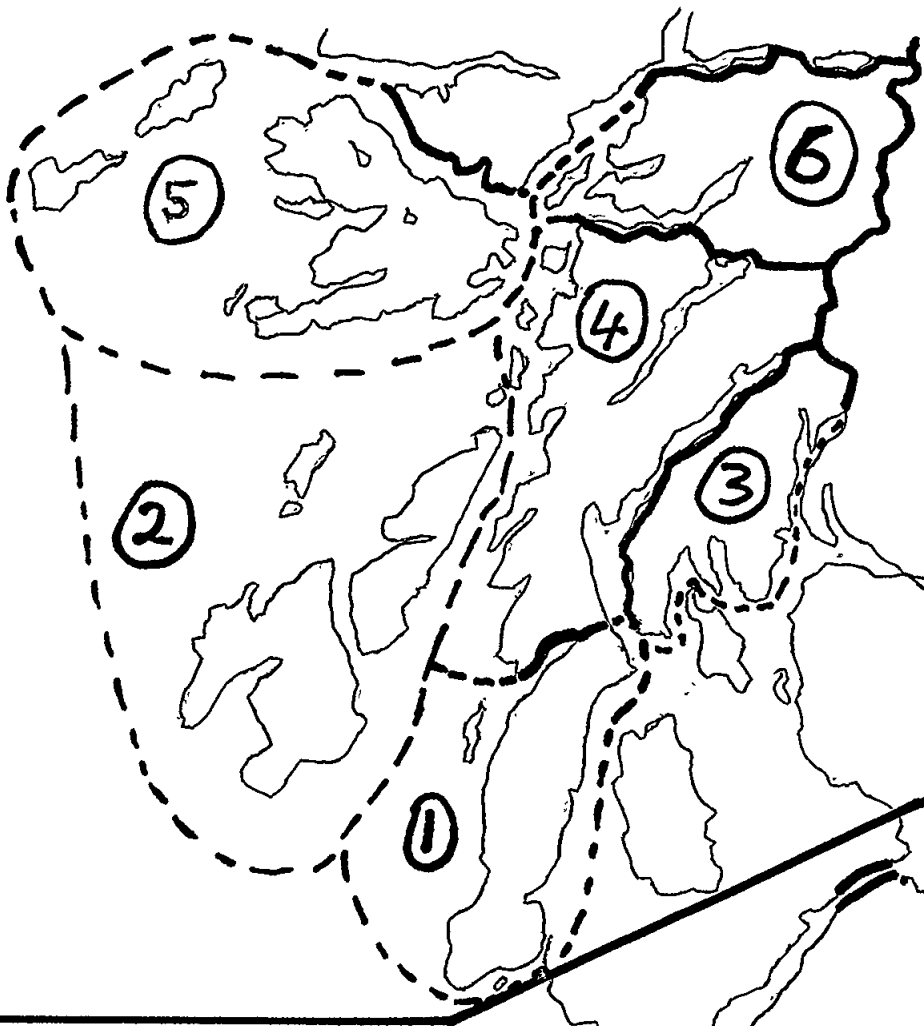
A general statement on numbers then appears for some species where this is thought necessary or indeed where present knowledge allows it.

Records for 1980-83 then follow. Each year being reported separately. Detailed descriptions of rarities are not given, however anyone wishing details of any sightings should contact the local recorder: R Coomber, Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll.

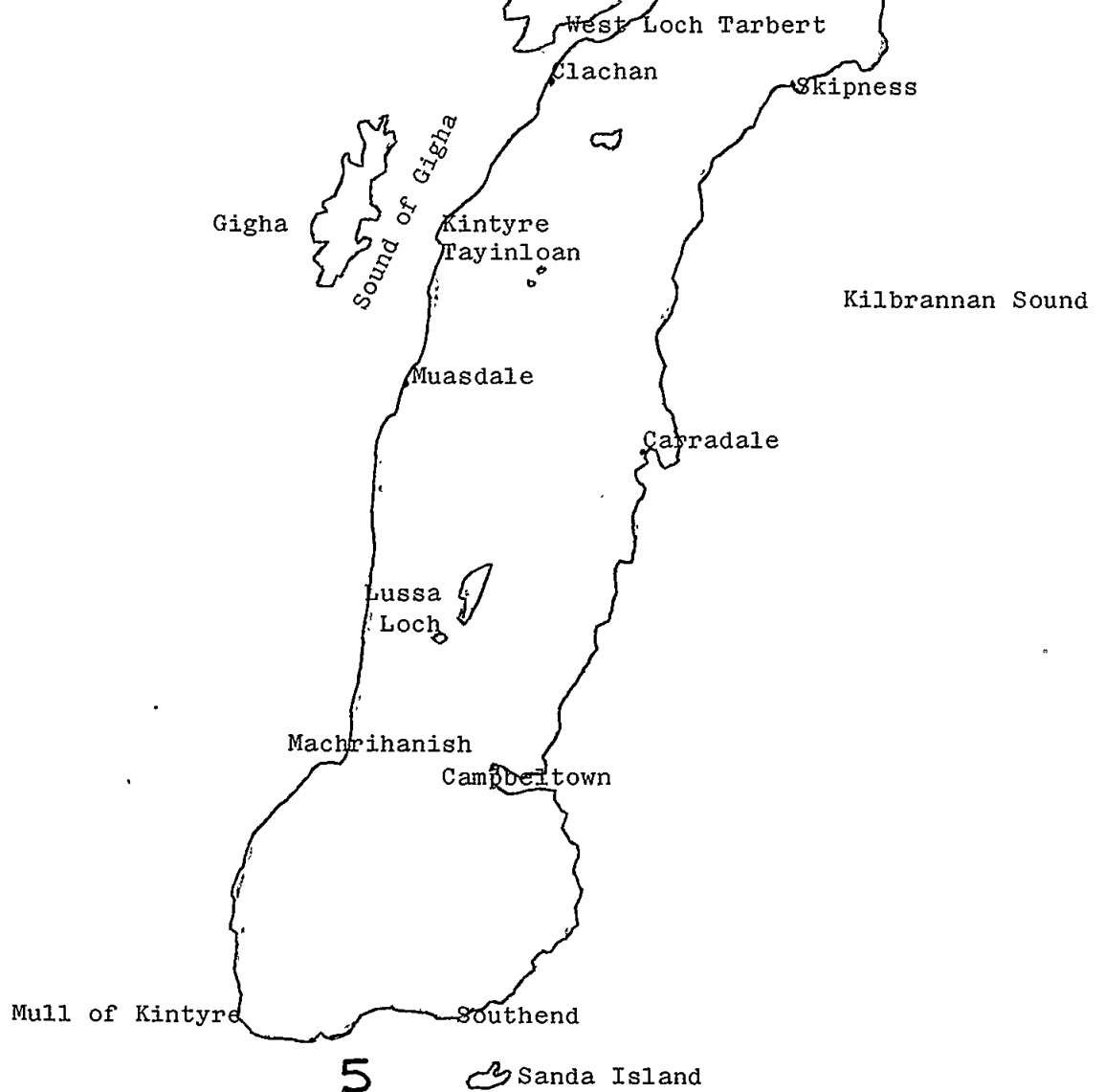
ARGYLL

AREAS:

1. Kintyre
2. Islay, Jura & Colonsay
3. Cowal
4. Mid Argyll
5. Mull, Coll & Tiree
6. North Argyll



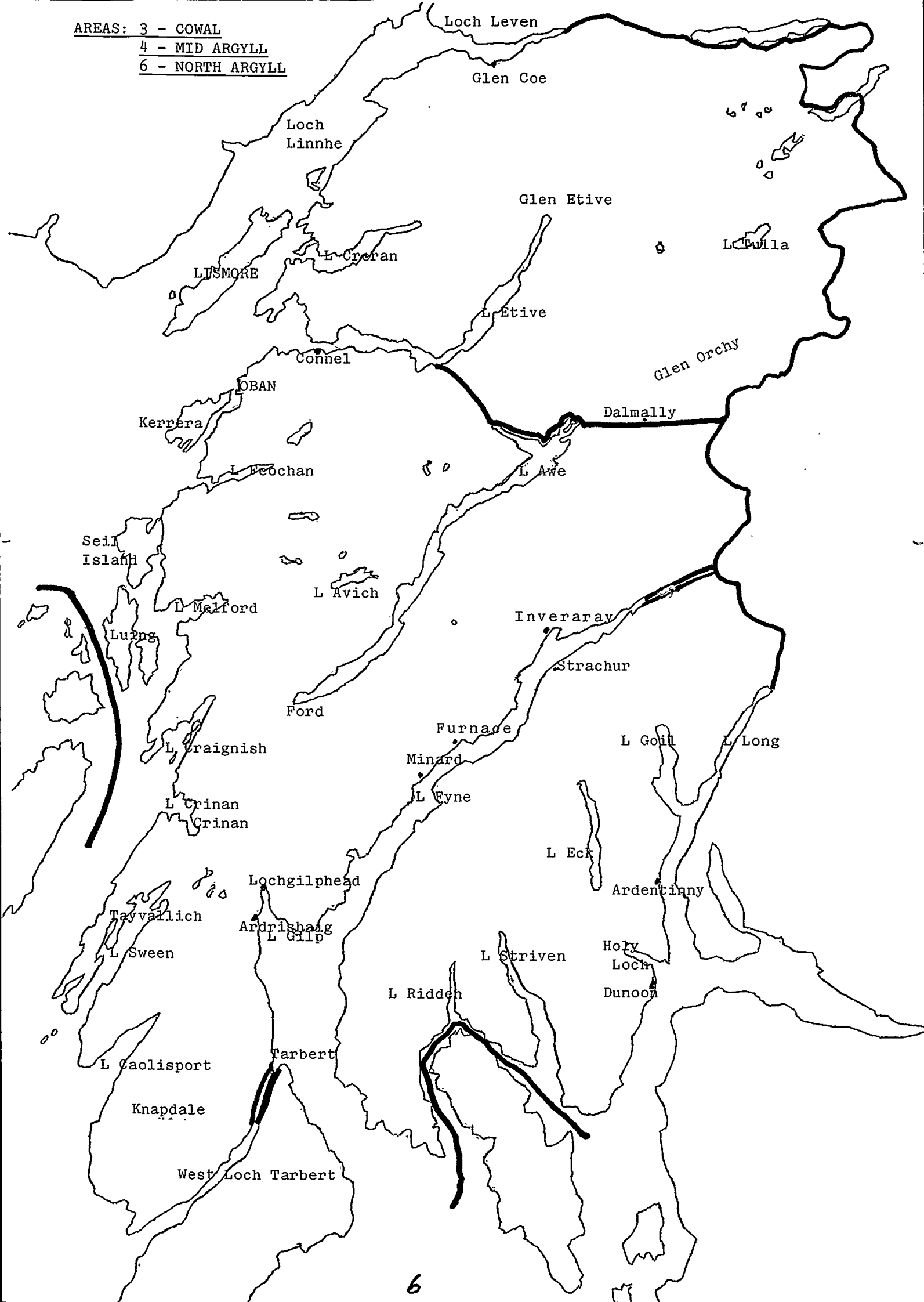
AREA 1: KINTYRE



AREAS: 3 - COWAL

4 - MID ARGYLL

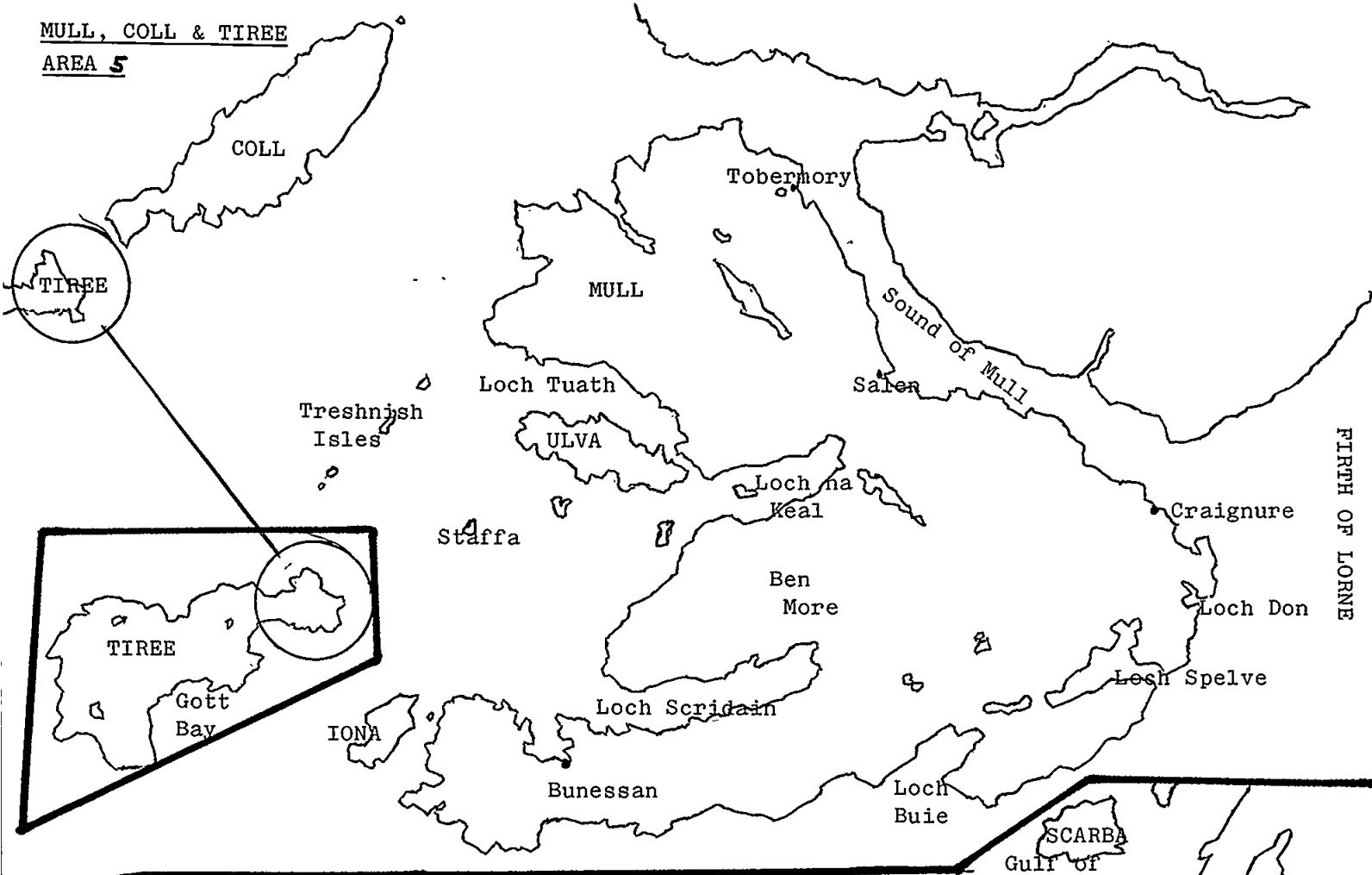
6 - NORTH ARGYLL



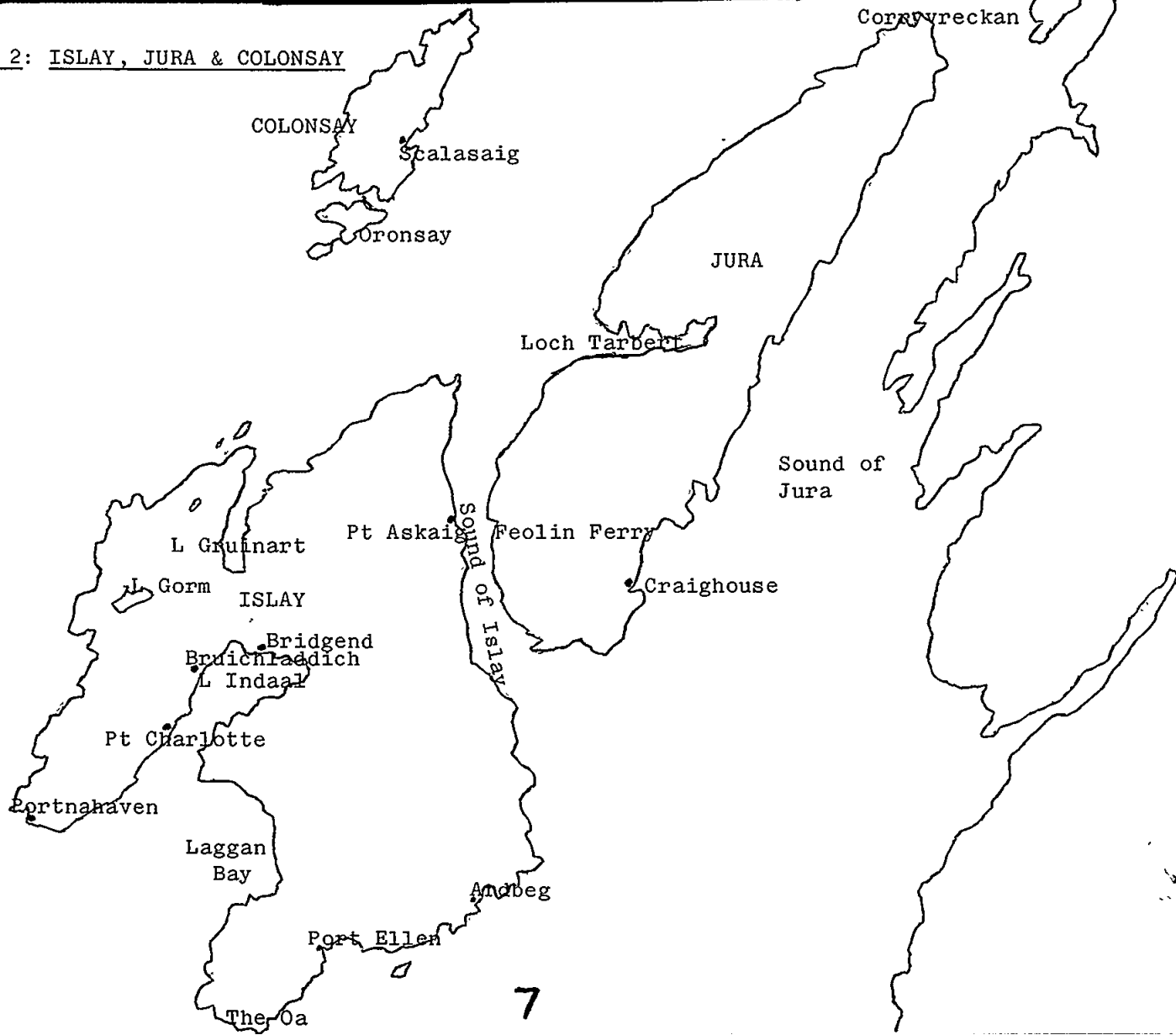


MULL, COLL & TIREE

AREA 5



AREA 2: ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY



There is no page 8 in the original copy of this Bird Report, nor in any available copies.

RED-THROATED DIVER    Gavia stellata    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread nesting on small upland lochs. Particularly vulnerable to disturbance and fluctuations in water levels.

- 1980    Poor breeding season due to weather. 10 Loch Buie (Mull) 14th April.
- 1981    Maximum reported 31 from West Loch Tarbert to Gigha and later 20 in Sound of Islay in March show true importance of this area.  
30 Tayinloan 29th November.
- 1982    Maximum reported in first winter period - 17 Loch na Keal (Mull) 17th January and 10 West Loch Tarbert 31st March. In second winter period 11 Loch na Keal 14th November. No reports of breeding success.
- 1983    Maximum reported in first winter period - 10 Clachan 18th February.  
11 Scallastle Bay (Mull) with considerable display activity 15th April.  
Birds with fledged young seen in Loch Fyne at Ardrishaig, Minard and Furnace.
- NOTE    West Loch Tarbert and Sound of Gigha appear to be the most important areas for wintering divers. In summer Red-Throats can be seen in many sea lochs and bays around our coasts.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER    Gavia arctica    B + W + P    1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Scarce, preferring larger lochs. As with Red-Throated Diver very susceptible to human disturbance and water level fluctuations.

- 1982    6 in Loch na Keal (Mull) 14th November - was unusually large number.
- 1983    Breeding reported from five areas, but success not known. Up to six birds present on the loch pre-breeding season. One washed up dead on Colonsay in October.

There is some indication of a reduction in numbers over recent years.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER    Gavia immer    W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
September - late May

Wintering birds mainly on Atlantic coast and islands. Newly arrived adults in summer plumage September and October and again in April and May. Larger numbers in migration periods. Some may summer.

- 1980    Count around 16th/17th April produced 51 birds.  
21 seen from Islay Ferry crossing on 11th January.
- 1981    50 + Tayinloan 29th November.  
48 on Islay Ferry crossing 22nd March.  
30 Mull on 16th April.
- 1982    35 Gigha to West Loch Tarbert.  
Mull - numbers on spring migration considered to be lower than usual.  
2 seen Loch na Keal 20th July. First for Autumn seen 7th September,  
but main influx was 13 on 15th October in waters where none on 14th  
October.
- 1983    Main counts. Mainland 17 off Clachan 19th February. Islay 8 Laggan  
Bay 13th January. Colonsay 23 off north and east coasts 14th  
February. Mull 28 Loch na Keal 3rd February. Coll 62 Crossapol Bay  
18th November was particularly interesting possibly being migrants  
prior to local winter dispersal.

LITTLE GREBE    Tachybaptus ruficollis    B + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Breeds on many of the more fertile lochs especially Kintyre and Mid-Argyll.  
In winter widespread along sheltered coasts of many sea lochs.

- 1982    Maximum reported in first winter period 6 Ulva Ferry (Mull)  
24th January and 10 in second winter period 10 Lochdon (Mull)  
14th October. Breeding Mull nest at Mishnish Lochs still  
occupied 15th August - late.
- 1983    Breeding records show to be plentiful in Kintyre and Mid-Argyll.  
Also found on Colonsay, Islay and Mull. Maximum figures 5 Loch  
Etive in August and 7 Lochdon (Mull) 16th October.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE    Podiceps cristatus    P    1, 2, 4

Irregular.

- 1980    Islay - Singles in October and November and an adult Scallastle Bay (Mull) 23rd September.
- 1981    West Loch Tarbert - One in February and an immature Loch na Keal (Mull) 21st October.
- 1982    One Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne 21st November.
- 1983    One Skipness 10th August.

RED NECKED GREBE    Podiceps grisegena    P + W    1

Irregular.

- 1981    One West Loch Tarbert 8th February.
- 1983    One Clachan 18th February.

SLAVONIAN GREBE    Podiceps auritus    W + P    1, 2, 5

Regular in winter in some sea lochs especially around Mull and Loch Indaal (Islay).

- 1980    Maximum first winter period 9 Loch na Keal 8th March. One on 25th August there in full summer plumage was early. One in summer plumage Loch na Keal 25th August - early. Maximum reported second winter period 8 Loch na Keal 12th October. 3 Loch Indaal (Islay) 26th October.
- 1981    Maximum reported 12 Loch Indaal (Islay) 21st March. 6 Loch Spelve (Mull) 10th February. 10 Tayinloan 25th February. 12 Loch Indaal (Islay) 21st March and 13 Tayinloan 29th November.
- 1982    Maximum reported first winter period. 10 Loch na Keal 24th January. 12 Loch na Keal 14th November and 12 Loch Indaal 11th December.

BLACK NECKED GREBE    Podiceps nigricollis    W + P    1, 2, 5

Irregular.

1981    One West Loch Tarbert 10th April.

1982    Mull - One Loch Cuin 20th January. One West Loch Tarbert 31st March. One Islay 11th December.

FULMAR    Fulmarus glacialis    B + W    1, 2, 5

Apparently still increasing and extending range in Argyll.

1980    Sanda (Kintyre) 225 pairs breeding.

1981    Islay 21 occupied inland ledges at Kilchonan in April. Seawatch produced 227 south in 2 hours off Coul Point.

1982    Islay increase to 25 occupied sites at Kilchonan. 313 birds present Treshnish Point 22nd February. Mull to Tiree 500 20th September.

1983    Breeding reported from West Kintyre coast at Bellochantry and Muasdale area where the birds can be seen from the main road to Campbeltown. Breeding also reported from Islay, Colonsay, Mull, Iona, Staffa, the Treshnish Isles, Coll and Tiree.

CORYS SHEARWATER    Calonectris diomedæ P    2

1981    Only one record of 2 going north at Coul Point, Islay on 30th May.

GREAT SHEARWATER    Puffinus gravis    P    5

Irregular on passage in late summer.

1980    Single bird reported between Coll and Mull 19th July.

1981    6 between Coll and Mull 5th September and 5 of Tiree 6th September.

1983    One off west coast of Mull 13th August. Another seen in same area late August.

SOOTY SHEARWATER    Puffinus griseus    P    1, 2, 5

Regular in late summer off the Atlantic coasts in varying numbers as the species heads south to breed in South Atlantic. Spring records from British waters are exceptional.

- 1980    Islay 36 seen offshore 10th September and 32 on 17th September. Single off Coll 5th July. Coll and Tiree 3 on 15th September. Single off Sanda (Kintyre) 7th and 15th September.
- 1981    Tiree 2 flying south 13th July. Islay 5 offshore 30th August and 1 off Coll 5th September. Generally scarce this year.
- 1982    Oronsay 2 north 16th July. Mull - Tiree 13 seen from ferry 6th September. One off Gigha 10th October.
- 1983    Colonsay. One in a flock of c20 maximum off north-east Colonsay 29th April. This is exceptional as at this time of the year the species should be heading north up the western side of the Atlantic. 19 Mull to Coll 13th August. 37 Mull to Tiree 15th August. 47 Mull to Tiree 19th September. One off Iona 30th August. 5 on crossing to Colonsay 16th September and up to 3 most days off Colonsay to 23rd September.

MANX SHEARWATER    Puffinus puffinus    B + P    1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Breeds in small numbers, but the majority of records come from birds off West Coast including Firth of Lorne and Loch Linnhe.

- 1980    Sanda (Kintyre) 12 pairs. Counts 100 Sound of Mull 15th April c1500 Firth of Lorne 8th August. Passage south 720 per hour off Sanda 20th August and 1650 per hour on 7th September.
- 1981    Davaar Island (Kintyre) birds ashore, but no breeding. Counts: c1500 to Coll and Tiree 13th May. c1000 Sound of Mull 5th August. 200 + at head of Loch na Keal (Mull) 18th August. 646 in 2 hours Coul Point (Islay) 26th August.
- 1982    Mull of Kintyre - birds ashore in July. Counts 31 in 1 hour Coul Point (Islay) 8th April. 2000 + Mull-Tiree 25th August. One off Islay 4th December was exceptionally late.
- 1983    Burg (Mull) - birds ashore in July. Treshnish Isles. Many more than usual predated by j.b.b. gulls including one ringed Finistere (France) 12th September 1966 (see Ringing Report). Counts one Sound of Mull 5th February - unusually early. c3450 Mull to Tiree 13th August, 12 wrecked in gales Tobermory mid-September.

STORM PETREL    Hydrobates pelagicus    B + P    1, 2(?), 5

Breeding birds come ashore late May/June. Passage August-October.

- 1980    First heard Lunga, Treshnish Isles 6th June. First egg found 13th June, c25 seen off Treshnish Point (Mull) on foggy day 4th August. Colony 100-500 pairs Sanda. First birds trapped 26th May, 1451 birds ringed by 29th September.
- 1981    First heard Lunga, Treshnish Isles 25th May, 30 + seen from sea-angling boat off Caliach Point (Mull) 27th July, 7 south off Coul Point (Islay) 24th August. 834 adults ringed, Sanda (Kintyre) 21st June - 30th September. 2 chicks ringed Sanda 17th October.
- 1982    Breeding Lunga.
- 1983    First heard Lunga 8th June. Colonsay 3 birds trapped and ringed using tape lure 29th August. 7 Mull to Tiree 19th September. 12 seen off Colonsay in October, one Bowmore (Islay) in Loch Indaal 17th October. One plucked from sea and killed by hooded crow Loch Scridain (Mull) 17th October. One Loch Craignish 30th December - exceptionally late.

LEACH'S PETREL    Oceanodroma leucorhoa    P    1, 2, 5

Passage birds recorded off Kintyre and Atlantic coasts, generally seen after gales.

- 1980    Two Sanda (Kintyre) 6th September.
- 1981    One McKormacks Isle 24th October.
- 1983    One at sea off Coll 24th August, 11 seen from Cal-Mac ferry between Tobermory and Tiree 19th September. One West Loch Tarbert - Islay 14th September.

GANNET    Sula bassana    S + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- 1980    1200 South Sanda (Kintyre) 7th September in two hours.
- 1981    270 South Coul Point (Islay) 29th September in two hours.
- 1982    4400 South in 2 hours off Mull of Kintyre 19th June.
- 1983    Maximum winter counts from Mull of Kintyre 96 on 29th January, 200 on 26th February. Summer counts 3400 South in 1 hour off Mull of Kintyre 6th May, c350 Loch Lyne 10th - 14th August, 246 Mull to Tiree 19th September.



CORMORANT     Phalacrocorax carbo     B + W     1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Much less plentiful than shag around our coasts, also occurs in small numbers on some fresh water lochs.

1983     Reported from all major islands and sea lochs. Fresh water records from Loch Shira (Mid-Argyll), Aros Park, Mishnish Lochs, Loch Assapol (Mull).

SHAG     Phalacrocorax aristotelis     B + W     1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common around all coasts.

1980     430 nests Sanda (only 138 in 1979).

1981     1200 pairs on McKormack Isles (Knapdale).

1983     Breeding reported from Lorne, Loch Fyne (50 pairs), Colonsay, Jura, Islay, Mull, Staffa, Treshnish Isles, Coll and Tiree.  
Maximum count 330 Claggin Bay (Islay) February.

BITTERN     Botaurus stellaris     V     1, 5

1982     One Dervaig (Mull) 14th January to 22nd March.  
One flushed from small reed bed south of Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre) 4th December.

GREY HERON     Ardea cinerea     B + W     1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread on mainland and islands.

1983     Breeding reported all areas.

WHITE STORK      *Ciconia ciconia*

v

2

1981 Only one individual reported, seen on Islay 16th May.

MUTE SWAN      'Cygnus olor

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Widespread breeding species.**

1983 B.T.O. census for Argyll reported 144 individuals of which 112 were as territorial pairs and 32 non-breeders. Estimated total population of 165. Of territorial birds 39 pairs nested and 19 broods reared. Latest estimate of brood size (August/October) was 2.8 cygnets per pair.

Moult flocks, 45 birds on Loch Etive at Taynuilt on 3rd August and 15 on Loch Craignish on 4th August.

BEWICKS SWAN      *Cygnus columbianus*

W

1. 2

1981 Two Tayinloan (Kintyre) 24th December.

1983 Two Loch Indaal (Islay) 2nd November.

WHOOPER SWAN      Cygnus cygnus

 $W + P$ 

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

September – May

Majority of birds seen are on passage. Smaller numbers winter throughout area and occasional non-breeding birds may summer.

1981 116 Islay 13th October, 50 Campbeltown 20th October.

1982 Immature Glen Gorm (Mull) 30th May, c40 Isle of Danna (Mid-Argyll)  
20th November.

1983 Spring passage 32 Loch Spelve (Mull) 1st April. One present Loch Ba (Mull) until at least end of May. Autumn passage - first arrivals 6 Loch Shira (Mid-Argyll) 1st October, 54 Colonsay 13th October, 48 Loch Gruinart (Islay) arrived from Colonsay 14th October, 63 Loch Gorm (Islay) 16th October, 140 Dervaig (Mull) 19th October. 16

BEAN GOOSE     Anser fabalis

V

2

1981     13 of Western race Carrabus Islay 14th - 15th November.

PINK FOOTED GOOSE

Anser brachyrhynchus

P + W

2, 5

September - May

Mainly seen on Spring and Autumn migration flying over, but occasionally birds stop-off for a few hours or days. Singles wintering with Barnacle geese on Islay are not unusual.

1980     One Loch na Keal (Mull) 15th July.

1981     90 on mud Lochdon 27th September.

1983     One Colonsay 23rd - 30th March. One Lochdon (Mull) 11th May. Skeins seen over Colonsay and Mull in September and October in addition to 13 on Loch Fada (Colonsay) 6th October and 6 at Ulva Ferry (Mull) with Greylags 19th October. On Islay singles present from 20th October until end of the year.

GREENLAND WHITE FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons

W

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

September - May

Argyll is the most important wintering area for this race in Scotland with some 70+% of Scottish population.

1980     700 Tayinloan 8th November. 400 Machrihanish 8th November.

1981     Mid-November count of 3645 on Islay, slightly down on 1980/81, with 9 - 10% juveniles (poor); Mid-March count incomplete at 2665, Jura, 22 Lowlandmans Bay (end November), 13 on West Coast at Airligh Mhic-Ille Mhoire (end January). Mull, 56 Bunessan area, 26 Loch Assapol, and 27 Iona (all mid-October.) 100 around Lismore Island (October); 50 Loch Creran (mid-January); 55 - 60 Danna (early November); 450 Machrihanish 15th January and 510 Tayinloan 24th December.

1982     First co-ordinated count in Scotland. Total of 5587 counted in Argyll during November representing 78% of total Scottish population. 13.36% of these were first year birds; mean brood size was 2.91 indicating moderate to poor breeding season.

1983     First birds of winter at Loch Gruinart, Islay, on 11th October when 12 birds were seen. 150 seen Lorne area over winter. 55 survived winter 1982-83 on Colonsay with 58 being seen there on 23rd - 30th March 1983.

LESSER WHITE FRONTED GOOSE    Anser erythropus    V    2

1980    One Loch Indaal 15th March ,

GREYLAG GOOSE    Anser anser    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Large numbers seen on passage; occurs in winter mainly in Cowal Mid-Argyll and some islands, of these Coll and Tiree appear to be strongholds with a declining wintering population on Islay. Breeds Coll and Tiree and occasionally elsewhere.

1980    Winter flocks, Tayinloan 500 Machrihanish 300, Kilfinan (Cowal) 150, Kilberry 300.

1981    Counts 1178 Toward Point in mid-January possibly birds from Bute. 350 Lochgilphead area Mid-March. Maximum figure from Islay 116 First arrivals in Autumn Lochgilphead 27th September.

1982    Counts - maximum on Argyll mainland 100 in December. Islay 64 at Bridgend roost shows continued decline of number as a wintering species on the island. 80 on Coll 27th May, but no indication of number of breeding pairs. 110 present there in mid-November and a further 92 on Tiree at the same time.  
Migrants c110 Loch Spelve (Mull) 7th April.

1983    Counts - 444 mainland mid-March. 36 Colonsay at the same time. A single injured bird was present on the island 30th April - 6th May. 61 Coll 15th November. c90 Islay November was an increase over recent years.  
Breeding - no information from Coll, but a pair was found with nest in North Argyll, but success unknown.  
Migrants - 3 stopped off at Loch Don Mull 3rd April and were still present 27th April. c60 Loch Spelve 18th April.

SNOW GOOSE    Anser caerulescens                      B + W                      2, 5

A feral flock of snow and "blue" snow geese was established on Treshnish Estate, Mull in 1950s and persists. Wanderers from this free-flying population might well be responsible from some of the other records in our area.

- 1980    Treshnish Point count 33 adults and 15 goslings.
- 1981    12 Jura 20th January. 57 Treshnish Point on the same day.
- 1982    Birds present as usual Treshnish Estate.
- 1983    Treshnish flock counted 15th September and consisted of 39 birds and 6 goslings. During October they moved to Coll and established themselves at Friesland Farm. A count on 19th November produced 43 birds including 9 blue geese and 6 goslings. Additionally 2 were seen flying across Coll towards Clìad on the west coast in February. A single adult was present with 45 greylags on 8th October, but disappeared shortly after. Could this have been the adult that reached Islay in mid-October and stayed until the end of the year? A juvenile arrived on Islay with Whooper Swans on 14th October and stayed until 27th November.

CANADA GOOSE    Branta canadensis                      B + W + V                      1, 2, 4

Winter visitor with the possibility of genuine trans-Atlantic migrants occurring on Islay. Small breeding population on Colonsay.

- 1980    One on Sanda 9th June.
- 1981    Odd singles of large races in flocks of other geese on Islay. One, Peninver (Kintyre).
- 1982    Colonsay - 15th October 47 Loch an Sgotaire 11th July.
- 1983    Colonsay - 24 present 23rd - 30th March. 8 birds (3 + nests) Loch an Sgotaire 1st May. Up to 20 Kiloran in September.  
           Islay - large birds present throughout the year, but the following were thought to be genuine vagrants: An extremely small bird present 13th - 18th February was thought to be Branta canadensis minima and a very small goose 15th November - 4th December was possibly Branta canadensis travemeri.  
           Mainland - 2 Loch Etive 24th - 28th May. Single in flock of Greylags, Crinan.

BARNACLE GOOSEBranta leucopsisW 1, 2, 4, 5  
October - April

Common on Islay during winter, rarely in excess of 500 elsewhere.

- 1980 c70 Inch Kenneth, Mull January - April.  
One Treshnish Isles in June.  
20,500 on Islay November census.
- 1981 Islay November census 14,800 with only 7% juniors reflecting a poor breeding season. Elsewhere 120 Kilberry 4th January, c40 Treshnish Estate 20th January, 24 Fiddon 22nd January, c150 Inch Kenneth 14th February, 600 + Treshnish Isles 20th April. Mainland 650 Danna 21st November.
- 1982 Islay March census 17,300 includes birds from elsewhere. November census 12,800 with only 6% juvs.  
Mull 161 Inch Kenneth 17th January. c400 Treshnish Isles 12th April and a single there 8th June.
- 1983 Islay April census 14,000. November 15,400 with 9.5% juvs.  
Wildfowl Trust aerial survey March/April produced c170 on Staffa, c150 Lunga and c270 on Dutchman's Cap, 283 on Coll and 336 on Tiree.  
Other counts - Mull c130 Fiddon 14th January, 69 Inch Kenneth 13th February, c400 Treshnish Isles 5th April, but down to c300 by 28th April. Mainland 395 Danna January. First returned 41 Loch Gruinart 11th October.

BRENT GOOSEBranta berniclaW + P 1, 2  
September - May

The majority of birds seen in Argyll are the light-bellied race. Branta bernicla horta, which breeds in north-east Greenland and Arctic Canada. Most birds are reported from Islay and are birds passing to or from their winter quarters in Ireland. One seen on Islay in May 1979 wore a neckcollar and originated Bathurst Island, Canada 76° North 99° West, where it was marked in July 1975. In 1975 and 1976 it was seen in Ireland. Much less frequently seen are dark-bellied brents B. b bernicla from Arctic Russia. All records are on light-bellied birds except where stated.

- 1980 One at mouth of River Forsa, near Salen, Mull 14th April.  
Islay flocks of 19 and 49 were seen at Ardnave and Bowmore respectively in September and a further 57 at Loch Gruinart in October.
- 1981 Islay 62 in September.
- 1982 25 Loch Gruinart, Islay 7th April, 1 dark-bellied Tayinloan 14th May, 2 (Light) Peninver 10th October.
- 1983 Islay 2 at Loch Indaal 20th April and 1 Sanaigmor Bay 15th June.  
69 were at Loch Gruinart 19th and 20th September, but gone the following day. Colonsay 1 on 23rd September. Mull - a juvenile in Salen Bay on 16th October. Dark-bellied race Islay - 1 at Bowmore 9th January and 3 there 9th February. 20

SHELDUCK    Tadorna tadorna                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread as a breeding species around suitable coasts and sealochs. Most birds have left by late July and begin to return in November. Occasionally one or two birds remain throughout the Autumn.

- 1980    Mull - 89 on the monthly Wildfowl count with 71 at Lochdon 17th February.
- 1981    Islay - 210 Loch Gruinart 19th February; Mull - 57 Lochdon 14th February.
- 1982    Islay - 238 Loch Gruinart 2nd April; Mull - maximum 73 14th February.
- 1983    Islay - 193 Loch Gruinart 20th February and 122 there 17th December;  
Colonsay - 21 on 25th March and 25 in May. Mull - maximum 78 13th February.

WIGEON    Anas penelope                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Scarce or irregular breeding species. Common in winter, mainly by salt water.

- 1980    First returned c15 Lochdon, Mull 8th September. 146 there 16th November.
- 1981    First returned Keills Peninsula 5th September.  
Counts - peak numbers throughout the County in November Islay (1150); Keills (92); Loch Crinan, Gilp and Inverneil Bay area (390); Mull (323).
- 1982    Counts - Again peak numbers in November - Keills (421); but highest ever Wildfowl count figure for Mull of 379 with 315 at Lochdon on 15th October.
- 1983    Successful breeding reported from Mid and North Argyll.  
Counts - 197 Loch Indaal, Islay 21st January and 209 there 18th December; 186 Lochdon 13th November.

GADWALL    Anas strepera                      W + P                      5

- 1980    A female at Loch Assapol, Mull 16th April.
- 1983    Probably breeding on Tiree in May and a single bird there 26th October. A drake at Ellary Estate 19th November.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Widespread breeding species. Plentiful on fresh and salt water in winter.**

- 1980 First returned 11 Lochdon 19th August. Maximum 85 there on Wildfowl count 16th November.
- 1981 First returned 2 Aros River mouth, Mull 25th August.  
Counts - 127 Holy Loch mid-January; 57 Keills mid-February;  
240 Lochdon 25th September; 500 on Islay October-December  
with up to 450 at Loch Gruinart.
- 1982 First returned 23 Lochdon 16th August.  
Counts - High numbers in January - Keills (140); Loch Indaal, Islay (157);  
Ardnave Loch, Islay (155), but only 45 Lochdon. 183 Lochdon 15th October.
- 1983 Breeding reported from Kintyre, Cowal, Mid and North Argyll.  
First returned 5 Lochdon 2nd August.  
Counts - Islay (242) 17th December; Mull (154) 13th November.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common and widespread as breeding and wintering species. Broods seen end April onwards.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1980 | Mull - maximum on Wildfowl count 169 with 83 at Lochdon 14th September.   |
| 1981 | Peak numbers: Islay 460 (October); Mainland 432 (November); Mull 140 (September). Highest total number in Argyll during November. |
| 1982 | Highest concentration on Mainland 146 Loch Gilp and Loch Crinan area in January.  |
| 1983 | Wildfowl count figures peaks Loch Indaal, Islay 217 21st January and 235 14th November; Mull 123 20th September.                  |



PINTAIL    Anas acuta

B + W

2, 3, 4, 5

One or two pairs may breed annually. In winter records are very few and far between away from Islay.

- 1980    Four females and two broods reported.
- 1981    Only records - 2 Holy Loch mid-January and from Islay where birds seen at Loch Gruinart and Ardnave Loch with maximum 15 in December.
- 1982    Up to 8 Loch Indaal, Islay in winter periods.
- 1983    Breeding suspected from one island.  
Islay - 7 at Bridgend 21st January and 11 there 9th December.  
Coll - One Arinagour 26th November.

SHOVELER    Spatula clypeata

(B) + W

2, 4, 5

Distribution of shoveler is very similar to pintail with possible annual breeding and wintering birds mainly on Islay. Occasional migrant elsewhere.

- 1980    No reports.
- 1981    A female at Loch Poit, Mull 21st September.
- 1982    19 Loch Indaal, Islay 17th January.  
A drake, Loch na Keal, Mull 6th April.
- 1983    Breeding suspected from one island.  
More records than usual - 18 Loch Indaal 19th February and 29 there 11th December; Tiree 5 at Loch a' Phuill 26th October.  
Singles at Loch Etive and Inveraray (December).

POCHARD     Aythya ferina

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Very scarce breeding species and generally wintering flocks are small.

- 1980     16 on the loch at top of Rest-and-be-Thankful 9th January.  
          11 Loch Uisg, Mull.
- 1981     Islay - Up to 150 Loch Skerrols in November.  
          Mull - 25 Loch Uisg 24th January; One flew round Tobermory Bay  
          and headed south 9th September. 4 Loch Poit 1st December.  
          Mainland - 10 at Rest-and-be-Thankful Loch 5th January were  
          still present 13th March, but only 6 on 20th March.
- 1982     Islay - 9 on salt water, Loch Indaal during severe weather in  
          January. Mull - 6 Loch Poit 23rd February and 8 there 13th  
          November; 27 (mostly drakes) Loch Assapol 13th November.  
          Mainland - c40 Loch Awe 4th January; 6 Loch nam Drumain  
          27th January; 22 Loch Awe 15th December.
- 1983     Islay - 128 Loch Ballygrant in January; 108 Loch Skerrols 22nd  
          November. Mull - 70 Loch Assapol 14th January; 15 Loch Poit  
          14th January; 2 Loch Torr 24th February. Breeding reported  
          from one loch in Mid-Argyll.

RING-NECKED DUCK     Aythya collaris     V

4

- 1981     A drake, Ford 7th - 8th March (D Barber, H Robb, M J P Gregory).
- 1982     A drake was present on Loch Leathan, Kilmichael 6th - 14th March  
          (D Thorogood, M J P Gregory). (? same bird as 1981 re-appearing  
          at the same time.  
          A drake Loch Ba, Mull 15th - 17th May (the late P Tullett,  
          S Woodfall, R F Coomber).

TUFTED DUCK    Aythya fuligula

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding species, but most plentiful on Kintyre and Cowal. In winter in varying numbers on suitable lochs.

1980

- 1981    Resident and winter visitor to Islay - up to 50 on freshwater lochs.  
Mull - scarce - drake Loch Torr 23rd January to 1st March; an immature drake appeared there on 27th November and a pair was present from 2nd December until the end of the year; pair at Mishnish Lochs 25th May; 14 Loch Poit 1st December.
- 1982    Mull - 3 Loch Torr until at least 14th March; a drake at Aros Park, Tobermory was unusual 5th April; female Loch Assapol 24th May; 7 Loch Poit 23rd September; 7 Loch Assapol 13th November. Up to 2 present on Loch Torr from 7th November until end of year. One south at sea Nr. Coll 6th September.
- 1983    Islay - Small numbers on Ardnave Loch and 50 Loch Ballygrant in January. Colonsay - Up to 6 seen throughout the year.  
Mull - 2 on Loch Torr present to at least 6th March; 15 Loch Assapol 14th January; 17 Loch Poit 27th November.

SCAUP    Aythya marila

W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Large numbers winter Loch Indaal, Islay. Scarce, by comparison elsewhere.

- 1980    Mull - rather more records than usual during second half of the year starting with female on Mishnish Lochs 29th July to 4th August. Remainder also singles except for 2 at mouth of River Forsa 12th October.
- 1981    Islay - 800 Loch Indaal 18th February.  
Mull - drake seen flying south, north of the Aros River on 15th May was presumed to be the same bird present in Salen Bay 17th May.  
Mainland - Mid-January found 32 West Loch Tarbert and 11 Loch Fyne.
- 1982    Islay - 315 Loch Indaal 2nd April and c1200 there 3rd November. Only 785 11th December.
- 1983    Islay - 628 Loch Indaal 21st January and 770 there 12th November.  
Tiree - Drake in Gott Bay 19th September.  
Loch Etive - Single female 19th December.

EIDER    Somateria mollissima

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding and wintering species. See also "Research in Argyll" for further details.

- 1980    Mull - maximum on Wildfowl count 305 on 14th September with 133 in Scallastle Bay and c100 in Loch na Keal and Inch Kenneth areas.
- 1981    Most populations seem to be fairly sedentary, with maxima generally in September. However there is a marked decrease in numbers around Mull between September and October counts. Distinct movements occur through the Sound of Islay: 114 flying south in 10 minutes on 31st October and 300 north also in 10 minutes on 23rd January. (Both these observations made early in morning). Other counts of flocks 41 West Loch Tarbert (mid-January); 50 Toward Point, Innellan; 126 Scallastle Bay, Mull 13th September; 270 off Port Ellen, Islay in November was unusually large there; 124 Loch Creran (mid-December).
- 1982    Total numbers highest in September - 88 Scallastle Bay, Mull 12th September; c70 off Lismore Lighthouse 15th November; 250 Loch Indaal, Islay in December.
- 1983    Most sea lochs hold birds for most of the year. Main breeding colonies appear to be Lochs Fyne, Etive, Linnhe, Sween and at the mouth of Loch Ridden. 1983 appears to have been a poor breeding season. Winter flocks c350 Loch Gilp in November; 150 Loch Shira.

LONG-TAILED DUCK    Clangula hyemalis

W + P

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

An uncommon winter visitor, with Loch Indaal, Islay being the only regular wintering site.

- 1981    Islay - 3 in Loch Indaal, off Bowmore from November to March 1982; One off Portnahaven in December.
- 1982    Islay - 6 Loch Indaal 11th December and another two at same time Loch Gruinart.  
Mull - Singles Ulva Ferry 24th January; Loch Cruin 16th December.
- 1983    More records than usual:  
Islay - 5 Loch Indaal 13th February and 8 there 15th December.  
Mainland - One Loch Linnhe 28th February; one Loch Leathan (freshwater) 5th March; one Barnacarry, by Kilmillar 15th November.  
Colonsay - Singles 26th to 28th March and 4th April.  
Tiree - 2 drakes in summer plumage in Gott Bay 26th April.  
Mull - A drake in eclipse in Calgary Bay 24th June.  
Coll - 29 including 18 adult drakes with full tails in Feall Bay on 16th November - increased to 36 birds by 18th November, but the new-comers were all females and immatures.

COMMON SCOTER     Melanitta nigra                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Rare breeding species and generally a scarce wintering species. Most birds to be found Tayinloan and Islay.

- 1980     Pair present in Loch na Keal, Mull 16th to 23rd June, but only drake seen 3rd July.
- 1981     Two pairs in Scallastle Bay, Mull 8th - 9th June; c20 Loch Indaal, Islay October - November; 200 off Tayinloan 29th November.
- 1982     Breeding proved with female and 2 young seen on a loch 9th August.  
Islay - 94 off Port Charlotte 2nd April.  
Coll - 5 flying south down east coast 20th September.  
Mull - one in Calgary Bay 24th November.
- 1983     West Loch Tarbert - 29 5th February. 11 off Tayinloan 14th October.  
Islay - 15 Loch Indaal 1st January; 20 there 12th September and up to 26 by 18th December, with 8 in Loch Gruinart on the same date.  
Tiree - 2 drakes in Gott Bay 26th April.  
Colonsay - one flying south off Machrins 5th May and 3 in Kiloran Bay 22nd September.  
Mull - one Ardalanish Bay 29th September.

SURF SCOTER     Melanitta perspicillata                      V                      2, 5

- 1982     An adult drake was in Loch Indaal off Port Charlotte 4th October (P Ellis).
- 1983     An adult drake, Tiree April. (No details have been reported to Recorder - these details taken from "Recent Reports" in Scottish Birds Autumn 1983).

VELVET SCOTER     Melanitta fusca                      W                      1, 2

Very scarce winter visitor.

- 1981     18 off Tayinloan 29th November.
- 1982     2 Loch Gruinart, Islay 2nd April.
- 1983     One Clachan, West Loch Tarbert 20th February.

GOLDENEYE    Bucephala clangula

W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
August - April

Common winter visitor to both sea and freshwater lochs. Possibly becoming more plentiful in recent winters. Display frequently seen from February to departure in April.

- 1980    First returned to Mishnish Lochs, Mull 22nd August, but no real build-up in numbers until October.
- 1981    First returned on Keills Peninsula 17th October - 69 Machir Bay, Islay (end December); 30 Loch Creran (mid-December).
- 1982    Mull c150 in January following severe weather. Last one at Lochdon 6th May and first for Autumn at Mishnish Lochs on 13th October. Mull appears to be a stronghold.
- 1983    Some birds late departing in the Spring and early returning bird at Lochdon, Mull on 28th July; maximum Wildfowl count on Mull - 52 with 19 in Loch na Keal on 13th February.

SMEW    Mergus albellus

W                      5

A very rare wintering species.

- 1982    Mull - A red-headed bird was present on Aros Park Loch, Tobermory from at least 14th December until the end of the year. The first Mull record of this species.
- 1983    Mull - one ♂ present on Aros Park Loch until at least 2nd January, but by 16th January what is considered to have been the same bird was present on the Mishnish Lochs until at least 6th March.

RED BREASTED MERGANSER    Mergus serrator    B + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding and wintering species. Moulting flocks of up to 200 are sometimes encountered in mid-Summer. These flocks are mainly drakes, but include some non-breeding ducks.

- 1980    Mull. Moulting flock in Scallastle Bay moved up to Fishnish Bay where there were 119 on 2nd September.
- 1981    Mull. Moulting flock in Fishnish Bay/Scallastle Bay areas peaked at 210 on 11th August. Wintering flocks found Loch na Keal, Mull; West Loch Tarbert; Loch Creran.
- 1982    Moulting flocks 120+ Rhunahaorine Point 9th June and 224 Scallastle Bay, Mull 13th August. Winter counts 64 Loch na Keal, Mull 17th January; 38 West Loch Tarbert (January); 23 Loch Creran (January). Peak numbers in September with 53 in North Argyll, 40 in Lochs Gilp and Creran and 61 Fishnish Bay, Mull.
- 1983    Largest flocks include 50 Loch Sween in March; 50+ on Colonsay in October; 64 Loch Gilp in October; 111 Loch na Keal 13th November.

GOOSANDER    Mergus merganser    B + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

A scarce breeding species generally confined to the larger rivers on the Mainland. Small numbers in winter months are rarely away from freshwater.

- 1980    Mull - larger than usual numbers present on Mishnish in early Spring peaking at 13 21st March to 4th April. First Autumn birds were 2 eclipse drakes on sea north of Fishnish Bay on 2nd September, increasing to 4 on 3rd September.
- 1981    Mull - maximum Spring figure 8 Loch Torr 25th February. A female with 5 newly hatched young was in south-east Mull on 15th June and this constitutes first confirmed breeding in recent years. By 7th July only 2 young were surviving. First returning birds were 4 at mouth of Aros River 24th August. Elsewhere the only birds reported were a pair on the Rest and Be Thankful Loch on 20th March and a single on Isle of Danna in mid-November.
- 1982    Mull - up to 8 present on Mishnish Lochs from January to March, but not seen here until Autumn after 1st April. Again breeding proved in same area as 1981, with female seen with 5 ducklings on 4th June, but by 15th June only one survived and this was not seen after 29th June. Elsewhere 5 Loch Awe Barrage 4th January. Pair on Loch Awe 19th November and one at the Rest and Be Thankful on 17th December. Islay - three records of singles in February.
- 1983    Mull - Spring and Autumn records fell into the usual pattern, although there was no evidence of breeding this year. Elsewhere birds were seen Islay - pair Loch Indaal in late January; River Awe - pair in June; a single on River Shira and a pair on Loch Fyne at Minard in August. Glen Orchy produced 3 on the river 20th November.

HONEY BUZZARD    Pernis apivorus

V

6

- 1983    One flew over observer at Connel 20th August (A R Jennings). The only other recent record in our area was one at Pennygheal, Mull on 18th April 1979 (Mrs E Knight).

SEA EAGLE    Haliaeetus albicilla

Formerly bred

This magnificent predator is currently the subject of a re-introduction programme by the NCC on Rhum, where birds are being released from Norway. All birds are ringed and those up to and including 1981 were also fitted with colour rings. However, these become brittle with continual immersion in the sea and are lost. Birds released in 1982 have been fitted with orange wingtags and those released in 1983 wear yellow tags.

1980 onwards - Wandering birds have been reported from most of the major islands and from the Mainland north of Kintyre. Details of all sightings received will be forwarded to the NCC.

MARSH HARRIER    Circus aeruginosus

V

2

- 1980    A male Balinkelly, Islay 13th May.

HEN HARRIER    Circus cyaneus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread - preferring young forestry plantations and moorland. Some Autumnal movement off islands such as Mull.

- 1983    Breeding reported from Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Islay and Mull.  
Colonsay - a ringtail Milbuie 30th April - migrant.



GOSHAWK    Accipiter gentilis    V    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- 1980    Mull - One Gruline 4th April.  
Mainland - One Minard 31st May.
- 1981    Mull - One Tobermory 3rd March.  
One Dalmally 1st August.
- 1982    Islay - One Tallant Wood 7th April.  
Mull - Two records of singles - Glen More 23rd July; Tobermory 19th September.
- 1983    Islay - Singles Skerrols 14th May; Easter Ellister 5th June; Bridged 12th September; Sunderland 16th September.  
Mull - One Dervaig 16th November.

SPARROWHAWK    Accipiter nisus    B + W + P    1m 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread, but as it can be secretive is more plentiful than might at first appear.

- 1983    Breeding reported from Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Colonsay, Islay and Mull.  
Migrants - Mull of Kintyre - One 4th February and then on six dates between 28th March and 30th April.

BUZZARD    Buteo buteo    B + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

The most abundant raptor in our area and frequently misidentified by visitors - hence "the Tourist Eagle".

- 1981    More than usual seen on Islay in October and on Mull 52 were counted between Tobermory and Fionnphort on the Ross of Mull on 5th October.
- 1983    Many reported throughout Argyll.



Buzzard

ROUGH LEGGED BUZZARD

Buteo lagopus

W + P

4, 5, 6

A very rare Autumnal migrant and winter visitor. Sometimes Common Buzzards are misidentified as this species as they can be frequently seen hovering or hanging in the wind.

- 1982 Mull - One Croggan 14th October (R.F.C. et al); One Dervaig 8th - 18th November (Mrs E Knight et al). Mainland - An adult Glen Lochy 15th November (R.F.C.)
- 1983 Mainland - One by roadside Loch Fyne near Inveraray 2nd March (P Shimmings and I Alexander). Presumably a bird that came in during the previous Autumn.

GOLDEN EAGLE

Aquila chrysaetos

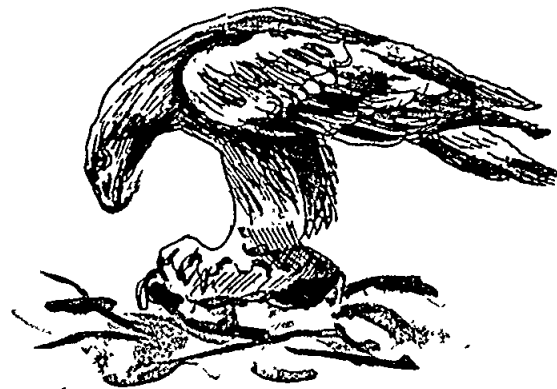
B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread. Golden Eagles are very susceptible to disturbance, which should be avoided throughout the breeding season. Some wandering by immatures during Autumn and Winter. Figures from Argyll Study Area:-

- 1980 Of 14 pairs that laid, 8 pairs successfully reared 13 young. (Sample of population only).
- 1981 Of 19 pairs that laid, 13 pairs reared 17 young.
- 1982 Of 15 pairs that laid, 10 pairs reared 13 young.  
Islay - immatures frequently seen over northern part of the Island  
January - March.
- 1983 A very poor breeding season throughout.

In the Study Area 18 pairs laid, but only 9 pairs reared 13 young.



Eagle

OSPREY    Pandion haliaetus

P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Migrant, could be seen in any area on occasion.

- 1980    Islay - Single 18th August and two at Loch Gruinart 15th - 16th September.
- 1981    Islay - One Ballygrant 3rd March; two there 1st April and one 26th August.
- 1982    Islay - One flew out to sea Loch Kinnabus, On 18th April.  
Mull - One Lochdon 10th April.  
One Loch Torr 18th June and this was presumably the same bird that was seen at a number of places in the north of the Island. Last seen in mid-July Loch Cuin.  
Mainland - One Crinan Moss in June; one Loch Feochan 22nd July.
- 1983    Mull - One Loch Friza during August.  
Mainland - One Crinan area 27th April - 12th May.

KESTREL    Falco tinnunculus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread, with an increase in Autumn due to passage birds passing through.

- 1981    Mull - Plentiful in Autumn 21 counted during Wildfowl count on 21st October.
- 1982    Mull - Scarce throughout the year especially in Autumn with only 5 counted where 21 recorded in 1981.
- 1983    General increase in Autumn throughout Argyll.

MERLIN    Falco columbarius

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Scarce breeding species and decline as elsewhere in the country. Passage birds in Autumn and Spring.

- 1982    Coll - Breeding attempted but was probably unsuccessful.
- 1983    Breeding reported from Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and Islay. Singles elsewhere.

HOBBY    Falco subbuteo                      P                      4, 5

Rare migrant in Autumn down west coast.

1980    Mull - One seen from Croggan flying south out over Firth of Lorn  
22nd September.

1981    One immature Loch Scridain, Mull 16th September.

1982    Mainland - One hunting pipits Oban/Kerrera 13th September.

1983    Mull - Immature Grasspoint 30th September.

GYRFALCON    Falco rusticolus                      V                      2, 5

1981    Single Loch Spelve 5th April.

PEREGRINE    Falco peregrinus                      B + W + P                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread, but not common.

1983    Colonsay - Juvenile killed a snow bunting Balnahard 21st September.  
Islay - Widespread in winter.

RED GROUSE    Lagopus lagopus                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Fairly common, but locally distributed.

- 1981    Very low numbers reported from Islay.
- 1982    Some recovery on Islay with greater densities of territorial males than expected even on unsuitable moors.
- 1983    Decrease noted in several areas. In one study area in Mid-Argyll where 12 pairs bred in 1977 only two pairs were found in 1982 and the species was entirely absent in 1983.

PTARMIGAN    Lagopus mutus                      B + W                      3, 4, 5, 6

Local on mountains generally above 2,400' above sea level. Possibly under-recorded by bird watchers.

- 1981    Mull - birds seen on three hills in southern part of the island.
- 1983    Mainland - reported from 4 hills in North Argyll.  
Mull - female and young seen on one hill in July.

BLACK GROUSE    Tetrao tetrix                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Widespread breeding species.

- 1981    Jura - pair seen 3rd August.
- 1982    Islay - maximum reported 30 Gruinart 5th December.
- 1983    Possibly some reduction in recent years. Active leks reported from Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and Islay. No recent records from Mull.

CAPERCAILLIE    Tetrao urogallus                      B + W                      3, 4, 6

Previous records from Loch Awe and Cowal. Records in BTO Breeding Atlas from Forest Lodge area.

- 1983    Forest Lodge - no trace in area during Winter Atlas survey in November.

PARTRIDGE    Perdix perdix                      ? B + W                      1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Most records probably relate to birds put out for shooting, but these introductions may not produce viable populations. Few birds seen most years.

1983    No records received. Considered now to be extinct on Coll.

PHEASANT    Phasianus colchicus                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common especially in vicinity of estates where put out for shooting. Very common on Islay and Coll.

1983    Reported from all areas.

GOLDEN PHEASANT    Chrysolophus pictus                      B + W                      5

A small feral population exists in the grounds of estates near the head of Loch na Keal, Mull.

1983    Only records received came from Mull.

WATER RAIL    Rallus aquaticus                      ? B + W                      2, 5, 6

Rare migrant and winter resident. Some may stay to breed.

1981    Mull - One wintered in a small marsh from January to March at Croig. It used to join hens and ducks in a garden at feeding time.

1982    Islay - One on merse at Bridgend January to March.  
Mull - wintering bird seen again at Croig in January. One found dead at Gruline in November.

1983    Colonsay - pair present late April and early May, with male still calling until late into the month.  
Mull - One near Bunessan 10th November.  
Coll - One Arinagour 15th November.

SPOTTED CRAKE    Porzana porzana    S    6

Very rare summer visitor.

1982    One calling frequently 5th - 20th June at Dalington, Benderloch  
(P Wormell).

CORNCRAKE    Crex crex    B    1, 2, 5

Corncrakes were once common in our area and many people still tell tales of being kept awake by the persistent 'crekking'. The species had declined dramatically through changes in farming practice i.e. early grass-cutting for silage, and from the spread of power and communication cables in Western Europe. The corncrake is a low-flying migrant and suffers accordingly.

1980    Tiree - 116 birds reported calling.  
Mainland - One calling from nettlebed by Oban Glassworks 7th June.

1981    18 calling birds on Islay. Single near Campbeltown, June.

1982    Birds reported from Coll, Tiree, Mull, Colonsay, Islay.

1983    Tiree - still present in good numbers.  
Coll - first heard 27th April and birds still present until at least 29th August.  
Colonsay - up to 6 calling birds and two broods seen.  
Islay - still in moderate numbers Port Charlotte to Bruichladdich, but has decreased elsewhere on the Island since mid-70's.

MOORHEN    Gallinula chloropus                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Absent as breeding species on some islands.

- 1981    Mull - one at Loch Buie 2nd October and another at Tobermory in late December were first records since 1977.
- 1982    Mull - more records than usual with a spate of records from Aros Park, Tobermory - immature 7th - 14th January; an adult 6th October and 2 immatures from 25th November until end of year. Another fed with ducks and chickens at Ardura in November.
- 1983    Breeding reported from Colonsay, North Argyll and Mid-Argyll, where it appears to be commoner than elsewhere. A pair also bred on an island in Loch Fyne.  
Mull - the birds present in December 1982 were still present in January.

COOT    Fulica atra                                      B + W                      1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Uncommon breeding and wintering species.

- 1982    Mainland - 3 Loch Leathan 22nd November; One Nr. Oban 15th December.
- 1983    Breeding reported from Kilmartin and Kilmelford in Mid-Argyll and also on Colonsay.  
Mull - One on Loch Assapol 14th January and two on Loch Poit 24th September were first reported since 1979.

OYSTERCATCHER    Haematopus ostralegus                      B + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common around coasts. Inland breeding takes place along some rivers and larger lochs with gravel and pebble shorelines.

- 1981    571 Loch Indaal on 14th November and 172 on Loch Gruinart on 22nd July.
- 1982    465 Loch Indaal on 19th March and 312 on Loch Gruinart on 5th April.
- 1983    Counts from Loch Gilp in May 100 +, August 200 + and December 400 +. Other important wintering areas are Loch Shira and Loch Ridden.



RINGED PLOVER    Charadrius hiaticula    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding species around coasts with suitable habitat, but unfortunately suffered badly in places through disturbance from tourists and their dogs. Inland nesting around reservoirs reported.

1982    Maximum reported 100 Ledaig Point 11th September.

1983    Counts - Tiree c100 Gott Bay 27th January; c300 on passage in May.  
Colonsay - 119 Traighnam Barc/Strand 17th September.  
Islay - 94 Loch Gruinart 20th January; 94 Loch Indaal 16th August.  
Mainland - 42 Loch Gilp 3rd August.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER    Charadrius dubius    V    2

1983    Islay - One watched at close range on Mull of Oa 16th May,

DOTTEREL    Charadrius morinellus    B + P    1, 6

May breed some years on high tops.

1982    2 pairs seen 16th May and male with 2 young on 10th July.  
One migrant at Mull of Kintyre 2nd August.

1983    Male flushed off nest with 2 eggs by hillwalker 18th June.  
2 migrants at Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse 0200 hours 2nd May.

GOLDEN PLOVER    Pluvialis apricaria    B + P + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Southern race breeds in upland areas in small numbers, but may be decreasing through forestry encroaching on suitable habitat. Passage birds in coastal areas in Spring are often of Northern race. Uncommon during winter months and most of these before first snows and frost hit lowlands.

- 1981    Mull - 44 of Northern race Fidden 16th April.  
          Islay - 2000 Killinallen 2nd November.
- 1982    Mull - 5 on suitable breeding habitat in patchy snow near Loch Dearg  
          19th November. 59 Northern race Fidden 4th May.
- 1983    Breeding reported from all areas.  
          Migrants - Mull - 13 Northern race Scallastle Bay 4th April.  
          Colonsay - 13 30th April.

GREY PLOVER    Pluvialis squatarola    P + W    1, 2, 5, 6

Uncommon passage migrant in Autumn. Rare in winter or on Spring passage.  
 Probably under-recorded.

- 1980    Islay - One Bowmore 19th September.
- 1981    1 Danna Knapdale 12th September.  
          8 Fidden 21st September; 3 still present there 1st December.  
          One Lochdon 27th September.
- 1982    Mull - 2 Fidden in flock of 59 Northern Golden Plover. One was in full  
          breeding plumage 4th May.  
          An immature Loch Spelve 27th September.  
          One Lochdon 27th September and two there 15th October.  
          Islay - two Loch Indaal 11th December.
- 1983    More records than usual.  
          Mainland - One Appin 17th July; 4 Connel 16th August.  
          Mull - 3 Fidden 16th September.  
          Colonsay - 8 in Traigh Nam Barc/Strand area 17th September.  
          Islay - 6 Loch Gruinart 14th October; 3 Loch Indaal 18th December.

LAPWING    Vanellus vanellus                      B + W + P                      1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding and wintering species. Many birds move out of area on onset of hard weather.

- 1981    884 Loch Indaal, Islay 27th August.
- 1982    Breeding - Mull - slight reduction in population following severe winter.  
Islay - maximum 480 Loch Indaal 14th February.
- 1983    Breeding - decrease reported from Mid-Argyll and Kintyre may be due to increased drainage in breeding areas. Certainly the mild winter of 1982/83 could only have helped the species.  
Counts - Mainland 74 Clachan 29th December. Islay 1098 Loch Indaal 28th February. Colonsay c300 in September.

KNOT    Calidris canutus                      W + P                      1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Occurs mainly as an Autumn migrant with fewer records from Spring passage and in winter.

- 1980    Treshnish Islands - 3 in summer plumage on Lunga 4th August.  
Mull - One Loch na Keal 12th September; 10 Lochdon 14th September.
- 1981    Mull - c75 in full summer plumage during an unprecedented fall of migrating waders following low cloud and mist coming in overnight 7th May. c40 Glen Forsa, Mull 12th August.  
Mull - in addition to a number of records of single records, the following were also reported - 3 Aros River 18th August; Migrating flock 'lost' in mist over Tobermory 2300 hours 18th September; 4 Fidden 21st September.  
Staffa - one 13th August.
- 1982    Mull - 5 Lochdon 24th August.  
Mainland - 5 Ledaig Point 11th September.
- 1983    Spring - only record - One Colonsay 31st May.  
Autumn - Colonsay - One 1st September; 3 Kiloran Bay 19th September.  
Islay - 90 Bowmore 15th September; 85 Loch Indaal 18th December.  
Coll - Two Arinagour 17th November.  
Mull - 7 Lochdon 23rd August.  
Mainland - 2 Barcaldine 12th September; 12 Ledaig Point 4th September.

SANDERLING    Calidris alba                      W + P                      1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Mainly passage migrant with some wintering birds and occasionally summer (non-breeding).

1980    Islay - 40 28th July.  
         Mull - 7 on mud at Aros Estuary 8th September.

1981    Tiree - 230 Gott Bay 29th April.

1983    Passage birds reported from Tiree and Colonsay.  
         w) Sinter - Islay 94 Loch Gruinart 20th February; Coll - 29 Cliad Bay  
         17th November; 5 Ardrishaig during December.

LITTLE STINT    Calidris minuta                      V                      2, 5

Rare in autumn passage.

1980    5 Loch Indaal, Islay 6th March.

1981    Tiree - 42 at Gott Bay 5th September is exceptional.

1983    Islay - 9 Gruinart 23rd September.  
         Mull - Three immatures - Kinloch 21st September; Fidden 23rd September;  
         Lochdon 30th September. These are thought to be the first three records  
         for the Island.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER    Calidris melanotos                      V                      2, 5

1981    Islay - One Loch Gruinart 22nd June (S F Newton, Miss J M Warnes).

1983    Tiree - Two An Fhaodhail 24th October, but only one remaining 25th  
         October (R A Broad).

PURPLE SANDPIPER    Calidris maritima    W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Almost certainly far more plentiful and widespread than records suggest. Very much a bird of rocky shores and skerries.

- 1980    Tiree - 6 Gott Bay 15th April.  
Treshnish Islands - 2 in summer plumage 4th August.  
Mull - One Scallastle Bay 11th December.
- 1981    Treshnish Islands - One on Sgeir an Eirionnaich 12th May.  
Mull - 6 Loch Tuath 27th November.
- 1982    Tiree - 5 Gott Bay 30th March.  
Mull - 2 Caliach Point 24th November; c20 Loch Tuath 24th November.  
Islay - 29 Bruichladdich 10th March.
- 1983    Tiree - birds reported in May.  
Mull - Caliach Point 12th January; One Scallastle Bay on gravel 15th April.  
Treshnish Isles - One Lunga 5th April.  
Coll - 5 Port na Luing 16th November; 14 Calgary Point 18th November;  
3 Crossapol 18th November.  
Islay - 28 Loch Indaal 21st January.  
Colonsay - 5, 17th October.

DUNLIN    Calidris alpina    B + P + W    Breeds    2, 5, 6

Majority of dunlin seen are passage migrants. Small numbers winter in all areas.

- 1981    Mull c400 summer plumaged birds present in morning at Scallastle Bay on 7th May had left north by afternoon.  
c1500 summer plumaged birds present at Lochdon on 7th May, decreased to 500 by 8th May and to 60 by 10th May.
- 1982    Islay - maximum 274 Loch Gruinart 15th January.  
Mull of Kintyre Light c1000 south in fog 2nd August.
- 1983    Tiree - 100 + on passage in May. Small numbers reported breeding.  
Colonsay - 19 north off Machrins 5th May. Probably breeding.  
Islay - maximum figures 203 Loch Indaal 9th September; 179 Loch Gruinart 15th November.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER    Tryngites subruficollis    V    5

- 1983    Coll - One on beach south of Arnabost feeding with ringed plover and dunlin on the hightide line 31st May (J Strowger). (This is an unusual habitat for this normally grassland wader from North America that is most frequently an Autumnal vagrant to the British Isles. The record is supported by photographs).  
 Mull - One feeding on machair with a ruff at Fidden 21st - 24th September (R F Coomber, Miss J Olorenshaw et al). (A typical habitat and date).

RUFF    Philomachus pugnax    P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Irregular Autumnal migrant. Liable to turn up on suitable habitats anywhere.

- 1981    Mainland - One Craignish 10th - 11th February - unusual date. One dead, Gruinart, Islay 3rd April; 4 Tiree 4th September; Mull - One Fidden 21st - 25th September - first island record. Jura - One present in late October.  
 1982    Mull - One Fidden 23rd September - 2nd island record.  
 1983    Islay - 3 Gruinart 20th - 21st September, but only two present 22nd September. Mull - One Fidden 21st - 24th September - 3rd island record. This was even more confiding than the buff-breasted sandpiper that accompanied it and this raised the question of its origin - could it have also come from the same part of the world? (Note the dates of the three Mull records!).

JACK SNIPE    Lymnocyrtus minimus    W + P    2, 4, 5

Undoubtedly under-recorded species.

- 1981    Mull - One Loch Torr 1st March.  
 1982    Islay - 2 Port Charlotte 10th January; One Loch Gorm 18th January.  
 1983    Mainland - One Loch Caolisport 10th December.  
           Islay - One Loch Gruinart 13th November.  
           Jura - One 25th November.  
           Mull - One Fidden 17th October.

SNIPE    Gallinago gallinago    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and locally common throughout in suitable habitat.

- 1983    Breeding in all areas.

WOODCOCK    Scolopax rusticola    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Locally common in suitable breeding habitat. Large numbers can occur during severe cold weather. Under such conditions birds even come into feed in gardens.

1982    Numbers in excess of 50 counted on several days near Tayvallich in January.

1983    Breeding reported from all areas. First roding mid-March.  
Migrants on Coll in November.

BLACK TAILED GODWIT    Limosa limosa    P    2

Birds seen on Spring and Autumn passage. Possibly under-recorded or under-reported.

1981    Islay - 4 Loch Gruinart 31st March.

1982    Islay - 2 Ardnave Loch 9th August.

1983    Islay - 2 Loch Indaal 3rd May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT    Limosa lapponica    P + W    1, 2, 4, 5

Regular passage migrant. Only a few birds winter away from Islay and Tiree. Non-breeding birds on Islay during summer months.

1981    Islay - 95 Loch Indaal 24th December.

1982    Islay - 240 Loch Indaal 17th January; 60 there 6th August.

1983    Reported from all major islands.

WHIMBREL    Numenius phaeopus

P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Passage birds through areas with majority records in April - May.

- 1980    Mull - 13 Loch Ba 19th May. Treshnish Isles - 2 flying south over Lunga 12th August.
- 1981    Mainland - 2 Minard 12th May  
Islay - 50 Loch Indaal 11th May.  
Mull - c15 north from Scallastle Bay 7th May; One Gribun 29th September.  
Treshnish Isles - Two Carnaburg 12th May.
- 1982    Mull - One Kintallen 2nd May; c20 'lost' in fog over Tobermory about midnight 1st August. Last Lochdon 26th September.
- 1983    Mainland - Passage birds recorded at Connel in May.  
Islay - 9 on 9th May.  
Colonsay - One Ardskenish 30th April; One Oronsay 22nd September.  
Mull - Two Bunessan 12th April.  
Tiree - One Gott Bay 26th April.

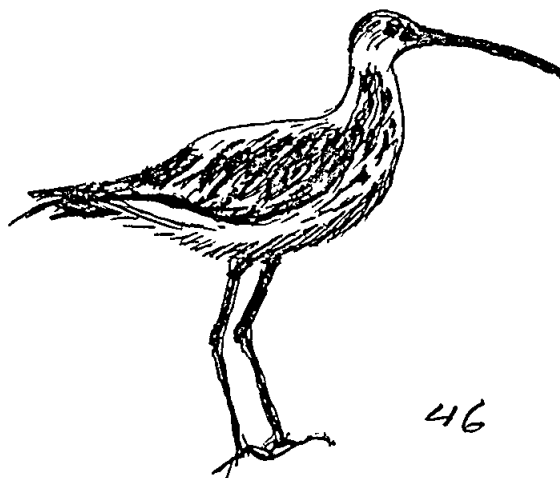
CURLEW    Numenius arquata

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common around coasts and breeding in suitable habitat. Numbers continually declining as a breeding species through improvement in agricultural land and loss of habitat to afforestation.

- 1981    1086 Loch Indaal, Islay 15th September.
- 1983    Mainland - Mull of Kintyre Passage between 7th March and 20th March with peaks 240 north 12th March and 700 north 14th March.  
40 Loch Etive 4th August; 150 Loch Gilp 5th December.  
Islay - maximum figures 832 Loch Indaal 21st January; 676 there 18th December.  
Colonsay - 50 Strand 22nd September.



Curlew



SPOTTED REDSHANK    Tringa erythropus    P    2

Rare migrant

1982    Islay - One Loch Gruinart 13th August (K S MacGregor).

REDSHANK    Tringa totanus    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding species with wintering birds to be found in small numbers on muddy and rocky shores.

1980    Treshnish Isles - 7 Lunga 4th August.

1983    Mainland - 31 Holy Loch 22nd January.  
Islay - maximum 34 Loch Gruinart 15th November.

GREENSHANK    Tringa nebularia    B + W + P    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Breeds in very small numbers. Majority of records are from migrants with a few birds being reported in winter.

1980    Mull - Up to 3 migrants reported from Loch Beg, Fishnish Bay, Bunessan, Lussa River, Dervaig, Wintering bird. One Dervaig during December.

1981    Mainland - Migrant Minard April.  
Mull - Migrants Scallastle Bay, Lochdon, Dervaig.  
Wintering bird - One Lochdon during December.

1982    Colonsay - One Oronsay 16th July.  
Treshnish Isles - One Lunga 12th July.  
Mull - Migrants from the usual areas.  
Wintering birds - Jura - One Tarbert Bay 23rd January;  
Mull - 6 during severe cold spell in January at Lochdon; one Dervaig 15th February; Singles at three sites November and December.  
Islay - 4 Loch Gruinart 15th December.

1983    Migrants reported from usual sites Islay, Colonsay, Mull and also North Argyll.  
Wintering birds - Islay - Loch Indaal 20th February and 18th December, Loch Gruinart 17th December.  
Colonsay - 3 20th November.  
Mull - Singles January, February and December.

GREEN SANDPIPER    Tringa ochropus    P    1, 2, 5

Very scarce migrant.

- 1982    Mainland - Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - Singles calling at night 22nd August and 18th September; Dunaverty 28th July.  
Coll - One Crossapol 28th May.
- 1983    Islay - One Gruinart 20th - 22nd September.

COMMON SANDPIPER    Actitis hypoleucos    B + P + W    1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding wader throughout our area arriving mid-April and leaving again by September. Winter records are unusual in this part of Britain.

- 1980    Mull - First chicks found near Pennygown 3rd June.
- 1981    Mull - First Loch na Keal 16th April; last Scallastle Bay 27th August.
- 1982    Mainland - 2 West Loch Tarbert 16th January - unusual.  
Mull - First Croggan 7th April; last there 26th November.  
Migrants - Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse had heavy passage from 23rd July to 10th August with maximum 40 0200 hours 2nd August.
- 1983    Mull - First Aros River 15th April.  
Colonsay - Population estimated at 25 pairs.

TURNSTONE    Arenaria interpres

W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread along rocky coasts and seaweedy areas of tidal flats. Almost certainly under-recorded along less accessible coastlines. Some summering birds recorded in most years.

- 1980    Treshnish Isles - 5 Lunga 4th August.  
         Mull - 15 mouth of River Forsa 19th August; 30 Scallastle Bay 19th August; 30 Loch na Keal 23rd September.
- 1981    57 Loch Gruinart, Islay 31st March; 90 Loch Indaal, Islay 1st April.
- 1982    Mainland - 60 Ledaig Point 11th September.  
         Jura - 22 Glengarrisdale 23rd January.  
         Mull - 28 Scallastle Bay 15th March; c35 there 7th April; 25 Loch na Keal 14th April.  
         Tiree - 12 Gott Bay 30th March.
- 1983    Mainland - 89 Holy Loch 15th January; 40 + Minard 3rd November to end of year; 25 Carradale 14th November; 24 Nr. Clachan 29th December.  
         Islay - 58 Loch Indaal 21st January and 57 there 18th December.  
         Colonsay - 24 Oronsay 22nd September; 50 + 17th October.  
         Mull - 5 migrants flying south inland up Glen Forsa from Pennygown 22nd August.  
         Coll - 37 Port na Luing 16th November.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus lobatus

? B

No details received.

GREY PHALAROPE    Phalaropus fulicarius

V

Rare migrant during gales in Autumn.

- 1980    Islay - One Bowmore 19th September.
- 1981    Islay - One Easter Ellister 23rd September
- 1982    One at sea east of Tiree 20th September.
- 1983    Islay - Adult and juvenile Kentraw, Loch Indaal during gale 13th October.

Mainly in Autumn off west open sea coasts but a few Spring records from Firth of Lorne and Sound of Mull including 4 adults together flying north up this route 28 April 1979. Possibly under recorded.

- 1980 Singles between Mull and Tiree on 19 July and 15 September.
- 1981 More records than usual but some might relate to the same bird.  
Islay - singles Sound of Islay 9 May and off Coul Point 29 September.  
Mull - singles on 11 June and 27 July off Treshnish Point and Caliach Point respectively might have been the same bird.  
Tiree - one 1 September.
- 1982 Mull - A dark phase bird in the Sound of Mull, off Fishnish 2 May.
- 1983 Islay - 3 at North end of Loch Indaal during gale 13 October.  
Mull - 3 off Ardmore Point 10 May.

ARCTIC SKUA Stercorarius parasiticus

B + P

1, 2, 5

Breeds Jura 6 pairs and Coll 30+ pairs but thorough census required. Passage birds in Spring and Autumn off west sea coasts and through Firth of Lorne and Sound of Mull.

- 1980 Treshnish Isles. Up to 5 off Harp Rock which is a frequent hunting area for birds from Coll 10 June.
- 1981 Counts from Jura and Coll showed 6 and 20 breeding pairs respectively.  
Mull - in addition to a number of records of birds off shore one was flying inland over moorland in the north of the island 17 July.
- 1982 Mull - a dark phase bird flew north inland from head of Loch na Keal in misty conditions 14 April. Last date in Sound of Mull 20 September.
- 1983 Colonsay - singles 5 and 29 May and 2 on an unspecified date in September.  
Mull - Usual offshore records.  
Mull/Tiree counts - 11 on 1 August; 12 on 15 August; 19 on 24 August.

LONG-TAILED SKUA Stercorarius longicaudus

V

Very scarce migrant, usually well out to sea and therefore possibly under recorded.

- 1981 Off east side of Tiree - adult with a full tail seen at 50 yards range from MV Columba on 6 June.
- 1983 Off Mull - an adult heading west out of Sound of Mull from MV Columba off Glengorm on 13 August.

GREAT SKUA Stercorarius skua

P

1, 2, 5

Passage migrant off west sea coasts, firths and sounds - almost certainly under recorded.

- 1980 Sanda - singles 22 August, 25 September, 3 and 5 October.  
Islay - 2 offshore on 10 September.  
Mull - one off Treshnish Point on 27 June; 2 Scallastle Bay on 19 August; one Treshnish Point on 22 August.  
Staffa - one on 12 August.  
Treshnish Isles - one off Harp Rock, Lunga on 29 July.
- 1981 Islay - 2 off Coul Point on 23 August.  
Mull - singles off Caliach Point 27 July and Grasspoint 18 and 27 September.

- 1981 Mull - 4 North up Sound of Mull from Pennygown 27 September.  
Mull/Tiree - 2 13 May; one 13 July; 2 15 September; 2 1 October.
- 1982 Mull - singles off Grasspoint 2 May and 23 July; singles in Sound of Mull 25 and 30 August; Scallastle Bay 26 August and 12 September; Last recorded was single Calgary Bay 24 November.  
Mull/Tiree - singles 11 and 25 August; three 6 September and four 20 September.
- 1983 Mull/Tiree - one 13 August; two 24 August, five 19 September; four 4 October.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus P 4,5

Rare passage migrant - under recorded.

- 1980 Mull - immature in Scallastle Bay on 3 September.
- 1981 Knapdale - one at Danna on 16 February.
- 1983 Mull - a first Summer bird off Salen Bay on 10 May.  
Oban - immature in Bay with other gulls on 14 November.

SABINES GULL Larus sabini V 2

- 1983 Off SE Islay - a second winter bird seen from ferry.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species, although apparently absent from some likely areas eg Mull.  
More widespread out of breeding season.

- 1983 Colonsay 40-50 pairs bred.  
Loch Fyne - 120 pairs bred at Minard.

RING-BILLED GULL Larus delawarensis V 5

- 1983 Tiree - an adult at the pier with other gulls at Gott Bay on 27 January (First record for Argyll and Inner Hebrides).

COMMON GULL Larus canus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common breeding species with smaller numbers wintering generally on farmland.

- 1980 Kintyre - heavy passage of Sanda in September - counts 600 on 15, 700 on 17, 550 on 28.
- 1982 Firth of Lorne - c700 off Lismore 15 November.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common summer visitor. March-October but the majority present in our area April-September. Winter records irregular.

- 1980 Kintyre - 106 pairs breeding on Sanda.
- 1983 Mull - 1st winter bird at Tobermory 28 January.

Breeding reported from all areas and often in mixed colonies with herring gulls.

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding bird with numbers increased by birds from NE England and the Clyde. (Colour ringed birds).

1980 Kintyre - 1900 pairs bred on Sanda.

1983 First eggs laid during first week of May.

ICELAND GULL Larus glaucooides

W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Regular winter visitor, especially in fishing harbours. Particularly common in early 1983.

1981 Kintyre - 2 sub-adults at Campbeltown 18 January.  
Islay - one Coull Point 28 October.  
Mull - 1st winter bird present in Tobermory Harbour from 17-28 February.  
- 1st winter Tobermory Harbour 9 November.

1982 Mull - 2nd winter bird present Tobermory Harbour 6 February.

1983 Large numbers present after severe gales after New Year. Up to 22 individuals.  
Cowal - one Ardentinn 6 February and possibly same bird 27 February.  
Kintyre - 4 East Loch Tarbert 5 March.  
Islay - 1st winter 5 January.  
Oban - up to 4 during January and early February peaking at 5 on 14 February. One Connell 18 December.  
Oban to Colonsay - 3 adults 14 February.  
Mull - one Loch Tuath 12 January, a 2nd Winter Bunessan 14 January, up to 6 in Tobermory Harbour 28 January (3x1W, 2x2W, 1xAD) 1st winter Tobermory Harbour 12 November.  
Tiree - adult 27 January.

GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus

W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Regular winter visitor in small numbers and until January 1983 generally outnumbering Iceland Gull. Most frequently found in harbours.

1980 Islay - a 2nd winter bird present Kintyre February-March.  
Mull - an immature first seen as 1st summer on 13 June 1979 was present throughout the year. Additionally sub-adult was present 8 February and a 3rd summer on 12 May. 1st winter in Scallastle Bay 11 December.

1981 Kintyre - maximum 7 Campbeltown 30 January.  
Mull - resident bird present at Tobermory throughout the year.  
Lismore - 1st winter bird off the Lighthouse 5 March.

1982 Islay - ad inland at Ballygrant 18 March, 1st winter Port Ellen 19-22 March, up to four 1st winter birds Loch Indaal late March - early April.  
Mull - resident bird now a full adult present throughout year at Tobermory Harbour. A 1st winter bird was present there 6 February-5 March and another was in Loch na Keal 17 January.

1983 Kintyre one Campbeltown 20 February.  
Oban area - 4 Oban Harbour 1 February, one inland at Portsonachan, Loch Awe during February, one Kilmelford 28 February. One Oban 2 November.  
Islay - at least one 1st winter Loch Indaal late February and early March and a dead adult found Duich R on 5 March.  
Mull - resident adult present throughout year except May-July. Additional single birds - 2nd winter Scallastle Bay 16 January, 2nd winter Arle 26 January, 1st winter Tobermory.  
Tiree - one 10 November.

Common.

1980 Kintyre - 28 pairs on Sanda.

1983 Colonsay - breeding in three areas. Count - 32 Traigh nam barc 17 September.  
Loch Fyne - Up to 5 pairs breeding around herring gull colony.

KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

B + P

1, 2, 4, 5

Breeds mainly Islay, Colonsay, Tiree and Treshnish Isles. Can generally be seen off west sea coasts and in firths and sounds, where large numbers can sometimes be seen. Quite often found bathing and preening at mouths of rivers out of breeding season and in winter a few birds join the other gulls in fishing harbours.

1980 Kintyre - 18 pairs bred on Sanda and 4390 south off island on 5 October  
but duration of count not given.  
Mull - c500 off Duart Point 8 August.  
Treshnish Isle - c2500 to east of Lunga 28 August.

1981 Islay - 1072 south in 1hr off Coul Point 29 September.  
Mull - c100 fishing off Caliach Point 11 October.

1982 Treshnish Isles - 2000+ on 21 July.  
Coll - c1000 on 11 August.  
Firth of Lorne - c200 off south end of Lismore 15 November.  
Knapdale - c150 Keills 21 November.  
Loch Gilp - 150 on 21 November.

1983 Colonsay - 630 south in 10 minutes at dusk Machrins 30 April; 210 Beinn  
Riabhach 4 May.

CASPIAN TERN Sterna caspia

V

1

1981 One off Ardpatrik Point, South of Gigha 6 June.

SANDWICH TERN Sterna sandvicensis

P

1, 5, 6

Irregular passage migrant. Possibly under recorded.

1980 no records.

1981 Kintyre - one West Loch Tarbert 10 April.  
Mull - one at mouth of Aros R in winter plumage was joined by a second  
bird (wearing ring on right leg) on 5 August.

1982 Kintyre - 4 Carskey Bay 8 May.  
Tiree - one Gott Bay 25 August.

1983 Mull - two in Sound of Mull 15 May and in one Loch Na Keal 10 July.  
Tiree - two off Reef 13 May.

ROSEATE TERN Sterna dougallii

B

5, 6

Annual status is unknown due to lack of records but may occasionally breed in  
'comic' tern colonies in Firth of Lorne and Loch Linnhe.

Widespread in fluctuating numbers. Subject to increased pressures from tourism getting into more inaccessible areas.

1980 Mull - c50 Scallastle Bay.

1983 First birds reported from Mull - Loch Spelve on 3 May and Colonsay 6 May.

ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common but as with Common Tern coming under increased pressure from tourists.

1980 Coll - 2 on 12 May.

Tiree - 8 on 12 May. The birds on Coll and Tiree seemed to have settled and were displaying but the same day 42 migrants were seen heading north off the islands.

Lismore - immature on 27 September.

1981 Islay - c90 pairs breed in Loch Indaal with 30% success rate.

Tiree - one on 5 May - first recorded.

Mull - last recorded - 2 Salen Bay and one Scallastle Bay 27 September.

1983 Colonsay - 85 pairs bred in spite of human disturbance.

Loch Fyne - colony now completely displaced by gulls.

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons

B

1, 2, 5

Scarce breeding species mainly confined to Islay, Coll and Tiree. Subject to considerable human disturbance at some sites.

1980 Tiree - two near the Pier 12 May.

Islay - 20 pairs at one site shows steady increase from 12 pairs in 1977.

1981 Tiree - No thorough census made.

Islay - increase at main site continues with 26 present.

1982 Breeding reported from Coll and Islay where up to 40 pairs present at main site.

1983 Breeding reported from Islay, Coll and Tiree.

Kintyre - one Tayinloan 25 June.

Islay - one Port Charlotte on 21 September - last record for the year.

Tiree - one Gott Bay 26 April - first record for the year.

GUILLEMOT Uria aalge

B + W

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Breeds on suitable cliffs. Largest colony Harp Rock, Lunga, Treshnish Isles.

1980 Kintyre - 135 pairs bred Sanda

1981 Islay - count showed 1962 birds mainly on Rhinns with a few on Mull of Oa. Bridled rate 10%.

1982 Mull/Tiree - Hundreds dotted all over the sea across to the islands 30 March. Mull - scarce off Caliach Point with under 25 offshore compared with 100+ razorbills.

1983 Colonsay - bridled rate 10% on colony on west coast.

Coll/Tiree - over 1600 badly oiled birds washed up after severe oiling incident in mid October.



RAZORBILL Alca torda

B + W

1, 2, 5, 6

Common breeding species on suitable cliffs. Can be found well up sea lochs in late winter.

- 1980 Kintyre - 1200 pairs breeding on Sanda.  
Treshnish Isles - first chicks Lunga 6 June.  
Mull - c100 Calgary Bay 4 August.
- 1982 Mull - commonest offshore auk with 100+ off Caliach Point 24 November.
- 1983 Colonsay - 'large' numbers breeding on west cliffs.

BLACK GUILLEMOT Cephus grylle

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and frequently further up sea lochs than other auks. First birds in summer plumage in January and some adults already in winter plumages by late August.

- 1980 Kintyre - 140 individuals on Sanda 6 May. Breeding population 48 pairs.  
Mull - first independent juvenile in Sound of Mull 30 July.
- 1982 Mull - 30 Loch na Keal 14 November.
- 1983 Oban - found breeding on Northern Lighthouse Pier.  
20 pairs bred Eilean Aoghainn, Loch Fyne.

LITTLE AUK Alle alle

W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Irregular winter visitor in varying numbers and generally associated with severe gales.

- 1980 Kintyre - one Sanda on 3 October - an exceptionally early date.  
Islay - 2 seen on 11 January.
- 1982 Kintyre - singles Tarbert 7 February and Mull of Kintyre 19 February.
- 1983 Kintyre - Tarbert 25 December; two there 26 December; Loch Fyne 18 November.  
Mid Argyll - two Oban 16 February; one Achnamara in November was released successfully.  
Islay - one dead on tideline Machair Bay 6 March; one Gruinart in December.

PUFFIN Fratercula arctica

B + P

1, 2, 5

Scarce away from main colonies except on passage. Reliable winter reports very few. Birds arrive at colonies during April but main build up appears to take place in early May. Numbers start to fall away as breeding finishes in late July - early August and most colonies completely vacated by 10 August. Only a few records offshore before mid September when species has left colonies for another year. Largest colony on Treshnish Isles.

- 1980 Kintyre - 235 pairs bred on Sanda.
- 1981 Knapdale - 4 pairs bred MacCormaig Isles.  
Islay - none bred.  
Coll/Mull - last at sea 15 September.
- 1982 Coll/Mull - last reported 25 August.
- 1983 Breeding reported from Kintyre, Mull (a very few pairs in NW) and on Treshnish Isles (many Lunga and smaller numbers on Fladda and Carn a Burg).  
Coll/Mull - last seen 19 September.

ROCK DOVE Columba livia

B + W

1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Pure birds are widespread in the Inner Hebrides and on remote coasts on the Mainland. Only a few feral birds occur in these areas. Sometimes collects in large flocks on stubble in late Autumn and Winter.

- 1980 Mull - c40 in stubble at Gruiline 25 August.
- 1981 Islay - 83 Bruichladdich 21 March.
- 1982 Islay - one observer thought that there were fewer present than in recent years.  
Mull - a flock of 107 at Kintallen 31 December.
- 1983 Good breeding populations on Kintyre, Colonsay and Tiree.  
Iona - 73 on 25 February.  
Coll - 83 on 17 November.

STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Status uncertain

1, 4, 5

Few reliable reports generally from Kintyre and Mid Argyll. Only accepted record from Mull in recent years was a presumed migrant in March 1976.

- 1981 One West Loch Tarbert on 22 March.
- 1982 One Kilbride Bay on 28 March.
- 1983 Four Innellan 22 January.  
One reported from Mid Argyll during April but no further details received.

WOOD PIGEON Columba palumbus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species throughout mainland and major islands in suitable habitat though absent from Coll and Tiree.

No significant counts received.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Now well established in Argyll. Migrants in June suggest continued colonisation.

- 1980 Mull - first signs of recovery at Tobermory after sudden population crash in 1978.
- 1982 Mull - a migrant at Croggan on 7 June.  
Treshnish Isles - a migrant on Lunga on 8 June.
- 1983 Colonsay - one Uragaig on 2 May.  
Treshnish Isles - a migrant on Lunga 6 June.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Most records refer to migrants in late Spring and Autumn but occasionally birds may breed. Note exceptional Winter record in 1983.

- 1980 Kintyre - one on Sanda on 28 September.  
Islay - two Risabus on 18 June.
- 1982 Kintyre - one Ugadale 16 April; one Campbeltown 18 May; one Carskief 9-12 June.  
Mull - one Croggan on 7 June; one Tobermory 13 October

1983 Mid Argyll - one found freshly dead at Kilmichael Glassary in January.  
Islay - one Kildalton Woods 13 May; one Nereabolls 13 October.  
Colonsay - two in early May, no further details received. One 17 May.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common throughout area with Meadow Pipit being the main host species.

1980 Late arrival. First reported 1 May.

1981 First reported 17 April. Fewer heard Mid Argyll and Mull.

1982 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - 7 on 8 May.

1983 First arrivals Mull and Colonsay 26 April; North Argyll 30 April. Last near Dalmally 15 September.

BARN OWL Tyto alba B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Possibly under recorded but nowhere common. Increase in records during mid Winter.

1981 Mull - singles February, July and November.

1982 Islay - bred May.  
Mull - recorded April and November.

1983 Islay - bred.  
Records from Kintyre, Mid and North Argyll, Cowal.  
Mull - more records than usual.

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread in suitable habitat but absent Coll and Tiree. Not uncommonly seen in daylight.

1983 Nests found in Glen Shira, Glen Aray and Minard (Mid Argyll).

LONG EARED OWL Asio otus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very scarce breeding species but undoubtedly under recorded.

1981 One Machrihanish 18 June.

1982 One Bruichladdich 4 October.

1983 One seen on several occasions hunting at dusk on Mull in June.  
Unconfirmed breeding report from Loch Awe.

SHORT EARED OWL Asio flammeus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread, fluctuating numbers from year to year. Some emigration from Argyll after the breeding season.

1981 Islay - scarce this year.  
Mull - c20 flushed from a roost in Plantation nr Ardnacross 11 January.  
Otherwise few Winter records.

1982 & 1983 No significant reports received.

NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europaeus

B

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

A declining species with no records after 1981. May no longer occur annually.

1981 Heard at three sites in Mid Argyll - Achnamara 29 May, Lochgilphead 15 June and Furnace 'during the Summer' but no further details received.

SWIFT Apus apus

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Fairly common in towns with suitable breeding sites. Birds use natural sites on Kintyre. Absent as a breeding species from most islands where only occurs as a migrant in varying numbers.

1980 Kintyre - counts from Sanda 14 on 7 July; 51 on 28 July and single on 22 August.  
Treshnish Isles - migrants or non breeding wanderers - 3 Lunga 10 June, one Fladda 7 July and two near Carnaburg on 29 July.

1981 Kintyre - six pairs on cliffs.  
Mull - migrants on four dates 7 July - 3 August.

1982 Mid Argyll - c10 pairs bred Inveraray.  
Islay - migrants reported.

1983 Breeding reported Inveraray, Kilmichael Glassary and Oban.  
First arrival Inveraray 5 May.  
Mull - late birds in September. Singles at Scallastle B on 9 September and Salen on 29 September.

KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

V

2, 4, 5

Most records probably relate to wandering juvenile birds.

1980 one on R Sorn, Islay in late July and also October and November.

1981 one on R Sorn, Islay on 9 September.  
one Lochgilphead October and November.

1983 one High Carse 11 June.  
one Aros R, Mull during August.

BEE EATER Merops apiaster

V

2

1981 two Knoclearach Farm, Islay on 3 June.

ROLLER Coracias garrulus

V

2

1983 Adult Loch Gorm, Islay 25 September - 12 October.

HOOPOE Upupa epops

V

2, 6

Occasional

1981 one Glen Kinglas, Loch Etive 7 September.  
one Nerabus, Islay 10 October.

1983 one Gruinart Flats, Islay 22 April.

Green Woodpeckers are slowly expanding northwards in Scotland but have yet to become permanently established in Argyll.

- 1980 Mull - birds were present at two sites in North Mull during the Summer and apparently been at one site for two or three years previously.
- 1981 Mull - no records from the above areas in this or the two subsequent years.
- 1982 Coll - one Arinagour 7 June.
- 1983 Mid Argyll - one seen at Port Ann, Loch Fyne during May.  
Mull - one Killiechronan Wood, Loch na Keal 23 August.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos major

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread in suitable woods. Sometimes coming to bird tables in Winter. Great Spotted Woodpeckers are comparatively recent colonisers of Argyll. Breeding was first reported from Ardentinny in 1921. Oban had been reached by 1945 and Mull by 1946.

- 1982 Islay - one Kildalton Wood on 18 April.
- 1983 No significant reports received.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common and widespread through area but is one species losing out with increasing spread of forestry. Many birds are entirely Summer visitors to the area, moving South in late Summer/Autumn.

- 1983 Only significant count reported were 47 on Iona 25 February.

SAND MARTIN Riparia riparia

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common where there are suitable sites. Decreasing in places due to human disturbance generally through commercial exploitation of sand. This does not take into account the dramatic crash through the Sahel drought 1983/84.

- 1980 First Sanda, Kintyre on 13 April.
- 1981 First 31 March, last 21 September (neither locations supplied).
- 1982 First 4 Kilbride Bay 28 March.
- 1983 Late arriving this Spring. First reported Aros Bay, Mull on 13 April.

SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- 1980 First Sanda, Kintyre on 7 April; last Islay on 3 November.
- 1981 First 11 April (no location given); last Islay on 4 November.  
Heavy passage through South Kintyre 17-25 May.
- 1982 First 3 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse 24 March.
- 1983 First Mull 14 April; last - an immature - Tobermory, Mull on 7 November.  
Presumed Swallow x House Martin or partial albino showing a perfect white rump at Lochdon, Mull 13 and 23 June.  
Last 20 October at Ledaig Point, Mid Argyll.

Common breeding species where there are suitable nesting sites that are undisturbed.  
No reports of birds using natural sites.

- 1980 First Gribun, Mull on 13 April.  
1981 First on 11 May, last on 11 September (no locations given).  
Mull - scarce.  
1982 First reported on Mull 19 May, last on 20 September.  
1983 First Arduanie, Mid Argyll on 25 April.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common in suitable breeding habitats. Benefits from cleared forestry plantations.

- 1980 First Glen Aros, Mull on 18 April.  
1981 First on 6 April  
1982 Late arriving - first reported Mull on 26 April.  
Passage at Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse 3 August - 15 September with maximum  
40 birds on 6 September.  
1983 First Glen Aros, Mull on 21 September.  
Passage Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse 29 April - 8 May with maximum 30 birds  
on 2 May.  
Autumn passage heavier than usual at North Connel during August with 17  
ringed c/f 5 in 1982 (see Ringing Report).

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common breeding species in upland and lowland moors. Flocks in Autumn with many  
birds leaving Argyll for Winter.

- 1980 Very large movement South through Mull of Oa, Islay on 11 September.  
1981 No significant reports received.  
1982 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - passage heavier than usual in Autumn with 1000  
ringed in September.  
1983 North Connel - heavier than usual passage in Autumn with 441 ringed c/f  
84 in 1982.

ROCK PIPIT Anthus spinoletta

B + W (V Water Pipit)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common Breeding species around all coasts.

ssp Anthus spinoletta spinoletta (Water Pipit)

- 1982 One on flat stoney moorland with snow patches at 400m Speinne Mor, Mull  
19 February.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

P

2, 5

Irregular passage migrant not recorded annually.

- 1981 Islay - male flava ssp 7 May  
Mull - immature Fidden 25 September and two there 26 September.  
1983 Kintyre - one Cloanaig 20 August.

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea B + W + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding species with many birds leaving Argyll in Autumn. Particularly vulnerable to a severe Winter.

1980 Passage through Sanda, Kintyre 7 August - 1 October.

1982 Mull - very scarce during breeding season following severe Winter.  
Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse passage from 10 July - 22 September, heavy from 16 - 19 September with up to 20 per day.

1983 Mull of Kintyre passage from 8 March - 5 April with maximum 6 on 27 March.

\*\*\* PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL - See erratum at end of Species List

WAXWING Bombycilla garrulus W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Irregular Winter visitor in varying numbers.

1980 Islay - 3 Bunnahabhain on 17 March.

1981 Mid Argyll - One Tayvallich in December.  
Islay - One Easter Ellister on 4 November.

1982 Mull - One Dervaig on 7 January.

1983 Mid Argyll - One Minard in December.

DIPPER Cinclus cinclus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread along rivers and burns with many birds moving down to tidal river mouths and loch sides in Autumn. Perhaps less common than one would expect. Absent Coll and Tiree. No significant reports received.

WREN Troglodytes troglodytes B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common and found in virtually all habitats from sea level to 200m+. Remarkably resilient to severe Winters. Do Wrens roost communally in Argyll?

1982 Mull - survived severe Winter well.

1983 No significant reports received.

DUNNOCK Prunella modularis B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common

1983 Treshnish Isles - a pair established themselves on Lunga after the mild Winter. Breeding success not known.

ROBIN Erithacus rubecula B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common throughout the area. Autumn numbers augmented by passage birds.

1980 Kintyre passage through Sanda 7 August to end September with peaks of 40+ on 23 August, 30 on 25 August, 20 on 9 September and 80 on both 15 and 18 September.

1982 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse Autumn passage from 15 August to 6 November with 60+ at light on 16 September.

1983 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse Spring passage 7 on 14 March with 70+ at light on 9 March and 60+ on 11 March; slight passage of 6 on 28 April.

Irregular passage migrant.

- 1981 Kintyre - male trapped and ringed at Lighthouse on 14 April.  
Islay - one Brahunisary 31 March.
- 1983 Kintyre - male trapped and ringed at Lighthouse on 4 November.

REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species in oakwoods etc. Passage birds could turn up everywhere.

- 1980 Kintyre - one Sanda 30 April; last Barr Glen, Campbeltown 1 November.
- 1981 Kintyre - singles at Mull 15 April and 17 May.  
Mull - less plentiful during breeding season. Last two reported birds  
Fishnish 21 September.
- 1982 Mull - last reported Croggan 14 October.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - 24 April - 10 May with maximum 3 on 28 April.  
Mull - first bird holding territory 25 April.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species benefitting from the early years of a forestry plantation and again after timber has been cleared.

- 1980 Kintyre - first Sanda 26 April and last there 30 September.
- 1981 Mull - first reported 7 May. Less plentiful on island this year. Last there 5 October.
- 1982 Mull - first 27 April; last 30 September.
- 1983 Mull - first 24 April.  
Mull of Kintyre - low numbers on passage 2 May - 6 June maximum 3 on 3 May.  
Islay - last of year 2 on 26 November - exceptionally late.

STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread but numbers can fall dramatically after severe winters and can take 2 to 3 good breeding seasons to recover. Many breeding birds Winter south of Argyll leaving during Autumn, comparatively few overwintering.

- 1980 Kintyre - 3 pairs bred Sanda; Autumn passage there during August and September with maximum 20 on 30 August.  
Mull - numbers still low after severe Winter in early 1979.
- 1981 Mull - at last showing signs of recovery.
- 1982 Mull - again very scarce after another severe Winter.  
Islay - survived well.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - breeding population of 10 pairs back to normal.  
Mull - an excellent breeding season with some pairs getting three broods away.



Common breeding species throughout frequently using rabbit burrow sites where rock and wall sites not available. Birds of Greenland race frequently seen on passage especially in Spring.

- 1980 Mull - significant fall on 4 April with 12+ being seen in SE corner of Island last seen 17 October.  
Kintyre - passage at Sanda 40+ on 5 May, 20 on 31 August.
- 1981 Mid Argyll - first Ardrishaig 21 March.  
Mull - last records of one Scallastle Bay and two Fidden on 5 October were of Greenland Birds.
- 1982 Islay - first on 27 March.  
Mull - good numbers by 28 March. Last 29 September.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - 10 birds of Greenland race 2 May.  
Colonsay - first of year 27 March, Greenland bird found injured Milbuie on 2 May.  
Mull - birds of Greenland race Gribun 10 May, Loch Spelve 17 May. Last of year - 3 on Ross of Mull on 12 November.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Not as common as one would expect with all the upland areas in Argyll.

- 1980 Islay - singles 13 April and 28 October.
- 1981 Mull - single in flock of migrant thrushes Loch na Keal 26 September.
- 1982 Mid Argyll - first of year one at Kilmelford on 28 March.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - migrant 3 April, 2 pairs bred.  
Colonsay - male The Strand 20 June.  
North Argyll - bred in Glens Coe, Creran and Etive.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common breeding species and passage migrant in considerable numbers in November.

- 1980 Kintyre - passage through Sanda 40+ on 6 April, 20 on 15 September.
- 1982 Mull - abundant in mid November with 30 at Loch Assapol on 13 November and 83 in Salen 10km sq in 2hr 20 min on 14 November.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage at Lighthouse - 6 to 14 March with maximum 60+ on 14 March.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Mainly occurs on passage with smaller numbers wintering.

- 1980 Mull - particularly heavy passage during October peaking on 16 October.
- 1981 Mull - first 22 September. Only 50 amongst thousands of Redwings at Ardnadrochit 30 September. Last 9 at Loch Assapol on 4 May.
- 1982 Mull - one Calgary on 6 June.  
North Argyll - peak movements through Connel 1500-2000 in 1hr 8 October, 2000-2500 in 1hr on 9 October.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - 160 on 14 March.  
North Argyll - 500 on 31 October.  
Mull - Last Loch Torr on 29 April.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and very common throughout area with passage through Argyll in Spring and Autumn.

1982 Mull - some local reduction after severe Winter.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage 2 to 14 March maximum 50+ on 6 March.  
Islay - passage noted during March.

REDWING Turdus iliacus

W + P ?B

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Most Redwings pass through Argyll sometimes in spectacular numbers with comparatively few wintering. Spring passage birds can be quite late, although one should always be aware of the possibility of birds staying to breed. One was singing and holding territory nr Dalmally in 1978.

1980 Mull - last seen in Spring on 14 May, first for Autumn 27 September.

1981 Mull - last Spring 27 April, first for Autumn 27 September. Very heavy passage down East side of island on 30 September with c5000 at Ardnadrochit.

1982 Mull - last reported 21 March and 3 October.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - hundreds at Lighthouse light on night of 6/7 March.  
Connel - 500 heading SE on 29 October.  
Mull - more records than usual in April with the last being flock of 30 singing Tobermory 20 April. Late arrival in Autumn 17 October.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species throughout areas, although absent on Coll and Tiree where only passage birds seen. Flocks of up to 30 regularly seen from late June onward, but 300 on Mull 28 September 1978 would be exceptional. Few winter and remainder return February onwards.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - 2 migrants at lighthouse (one trapped) 11 March.  
Colonsay - 2 or 3 pairs bred.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Scarce in Argyll as a whole but locally common in places. Could be seen anywhere as passage migrant.

1981 First reported 2 May.

1982 Locally common in Mid Argyll.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - one at Lighthouse on 29 April.  
Islay - singing birds at Bridgend and Gleann Tuath in May.  
Mull - one singing Torrallachan 22 June and a migrant Pennygown 16 August.  
Common in young forestry plantations, Mid Argyll.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common but local. Passage birds could turn up virtually anywhere.

1980 Mull - Birds singing at 6 sites.

1981 Mull of Kintyre - maximum on passage 10 on 9 May.  
Islay - singing bird at Kilchonon on 3 April was unusually early.

1982 No significant records received.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage birds regular in small numbers 2 May to 2 June maximum 5 on 8 May.  
Colonsay - 5 singing Loch Fada 6 May. Island population put at 10 pairs with 3 nests found.

REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus P 2

Very rare on passage, possibly under recorded.

1980 One Bridgend, Islay 'early August'.

1981 One Loch Gorm, Islay on 26 June.

BARRED WARBLER Sylvia nisoria V 4

Vagrant on Autumn passage.

1983 1st year bird trapped and ringed North Connel on 21 August.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca P 1, 4

Very rare passage migrant that might be under recorded.

1980 Kintyre - One trapped and ringed on Sanda 11 May.

1983 Mid Argyll - One at Connel on 26 August.

WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common throughout area.

1980 Mull - first Tobermory on 4 May, last Loch Buie on 3 September.

1981 Islay - scarce this year.  
Mull - not as plentiful as usual but this also applied to a number of other Summer migrants this year. First reported 10 May, last 1 September.

1982 Mull - last 22 September.

1983 Mull of Kintyre - very small passage from 11 to 25 May with maximum of only 6 on 19 May.  
Mull - first 11 May, last 13 September.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Scarce breeding species which can turn up almost anywhere on passage.

1980 Kintyre - one trapped and ringed Sanda on 25 August.  
Mull - singing at two sites in May. Migrant feeding on elder berries at Tobermory on 17 September.

1981 First 25 April last 24 August but no locations given.

1982 Mull - 4 Calgary on 6 June.

1983 Colonsay - one in June.  
Mid Argyll - singles at Kilmartin and Inveraray on 16 August.  
Mull - one Dervaig on 22 September.  
Coll - singles at Breachacha and Totamore 20 August.  
First reported Connel 23 May.

Scarce breeding species, passage migrant with some Winter throughout area. It is unlikely that all survive severe cold weather conditions.

- 1980 Kintyre - passage birds on Sanda were one 27 July, 3 on 9 September and one 27 September.  
Islay - one Bridgend on 26 October.  
Mull - one eating elder berries Tobermory 17 September.
- 1981 Mull of Kintyre - migrants - two 9 May, one on 4 October.  
Mull - first reported singing male Tobermory 17 April; three singing birds in June; one at bird table, Tobermory 10 December. One coming to bird table regularly at Dervaig from 26 November until 4 January 1982.
- 1982 Mull - wintering bird at Dervaig last seen 4 January.
- 1983 More records than usual.  
Mull of Kintyre - singles 31 May and 4 June; Kilchenzie 4 (including 3 males) feeding on apple at bird table 14 and 15 November.  
Islay male Glean Tuath 12 May.  
Colonsay - male and female during November.  
Mid Argyll - One Glen Scammadale 14 November; one Oban from 12 December until end of year.  
Mull - pair Dervaig 22 September, one Bunessan 17 October, one Croig 12 November, one Tobermory 27 November.  
Tiree - one 10 November.

GREENISH WARBLER Phylloscopus trochiloides

V

1

- 1983 One found dead at Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse on 25 May (subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee).

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and common in suitable woodland.

- 1980 Kintyre - one trapped and ringed on Sanda 9 August.
- 1981 Mull - first singing Tobermory 4 May but seemed less in evidence than usual.  
Kintyre - one at Mull of Kintyre 10 to 12 May.  
Islay - birds singing at three sites.
- 1982 Colonsay - bred successfully.  
Mull - first singing Loch Spelve on 6 May.
- 1983 Colonsay - one 20 April was earlier than usual.

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Scattered throughout area. Records as late as November are not unusual.

- 1980 Kintyre passage through Sanda 12 April to 5 May with maximum 20 on 16 April. Small numbers recorded from 19 August to 4 October.  
Mull - last bird Tobermory 9 and 12 November.
- 1981 Mull - first Tobermory 1 April and last there 1 November.
- 1982 Islay - first 1 April.  
Mull - fewer recorded than recent years.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - small numbers on passage 26 March to 2 June maximum 6 on 25 April.  
66. Colonsay - birds singing in Colonsay Gardens and Beinn Sgoltaire Woods 1 May.

Mull - singing at 4 sites in Spring.  
Coll - one Arileod 16 November.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

The commonest breeding warbler in Argyll.

- 1980 Kintyre - passage through Sanda 4 April to 2 June. Highest counts 65 on 16 April, 60 on 5 May Autumn passage maximum 80+ on 7 August.  
Mull - first singing bird Aros R on 14 April.
- 1981 Mull of Kintyre - passage from 13 April to 20 May, maximum 100 on 9 May.
- 1982 Islay - main arrival on 7 April.  
Mull - first arrivals 16 April.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage from 8 April to 7 June with maximum 40+ on 4 May.  
Coll - one Arnabost was satisfactorily identified 28 November - exceptionally late.

GOLDCREST Regulus regulus B + W + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species and one of the few species to have benefited from mass forestry.

- 1981 Mull of Kintyre - passage mid March to mid April with maximum 100+ 1 April.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage 8 March to 8 May with maximum 30 on 8 April.

FIRECREST Regulus ignicapillus P 1

Very rare passage migrant.

- 1980 Kintyre - singles on Sanda 16 May and Saddell on 30 June.
- 1981 Kintyre - Male on Mull of Kintyre 25 May.
- 1982 Kintyre - one Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse 0300 hrs 4 November (1st Autumn record).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata B + P 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread breeding species in small numbers. Passage birds about until mid September.

- 1980 Mull - first 17 May.
- 1981 Mull of Kintyre - passage 11 to 25 May. Maximum 12 on 25 May.  
Mull - as with a number of other Summer visitors was less plentiful than usual on the island.
- 1982 Mull - first Tobermory 9 May, last there 20 September.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - passage from 10 May to 16 June with maximum 11 on 5 June.  
Mull - first 11 May, last Glen Forsa 21 September.

PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca P + ?B 1, 2, 5

Rare passage migrant. With the large numbers of suitable oakwoods it is surprising there are no confirmed breeding records although rumours crop up from time to time.

- 1980 Islay - 6 juveniles at Easter Ellister.

- 1981 Islay - 2 juveniles at Easter Ellister on 15 October.  
 1982 Mull of Kintyre - female at Lighthouse on 18 May.  
 1983 Coll - one trapped and ringed at Roundhouse 24 to 26 August.

LONG-TAILED TIT Aegithalos caudatus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread. Suffers in severe Winters. Absent from some islands.

- 1981 Coll - 5 Arinagour on 25 October.  
 1983 Colonsay - 8 on 12 November. First record for 10 years.

WILLOW TIT Parus montanus V 4

Vagrant. Sometimes erroneously identified.

- 1981 One Auchindrain, Mid Argyll during April.

COAL TIT Parus ater B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Widespread and in some plantations abundant. Has doubtless benefitted from spread of forestry.

- 1983 Large numbers found in some plantations in Mid Argyll and Cowal during Winter Atlas Survey. Counts in excess of 50 birds were not unusual.

BLUE TIT Parus caeruleus B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common throughout area but absent as a breeding species from some islands - Coll and Tiree.

No significant reports received.

GREAT TIT Parus major B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common throughout area, although generally less plentiful than Blue Tit. Absent from Coll and Tiree as breeding species.

- 1983 Coll - one on peanuts Arinagour 22 and 23 April.

TREE CREEPER Certhia familiaris B + W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common in suitable habitat, although absent from Coll and Tiree. Joins mixed flocks with Tits and Goldcrests after breeding season.

- 1980 Kintyre - migrants trapped Sanda on 24 August (identified as Northern race) and 2 October.  
 1983 No significant reports received.

GOLDEN ORIOLE Oriolus oriolus V 1

Vagrant overshooting on Spring passage.

- 1983 Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - 2nd Year male trapped and ringed 27 May.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE Lanius excubitor

W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Uncommon but regular Winter visitor and passage migrant.

1980 Cowal - one Strachur on 19 March.

1982 Mid Argyll - one Lochgilphead on 18 December.

1983 Mid Argyll - singles at Kilberry on 12 January, Crinan Moss on 6 February,  
Lochgair on 12 March.  
North Argyll - one Corrieghoil on 13 January.

JAY Garrulus glandarius

B + W

1, 3, 4, 6

Local but common in some places.

1983 More records than usual in second winter period and some might relate to large influx to Britain from Continent. Maximum reported 8 at Eredine on 30 December.

MAGPIE Pica pica

B

1, 2, 3, 4

Rare outside Cowal but might be increasing North out of the Clyde Valley.

1981 Islay - one Port Askaig during Spring.

1982 Mid Argyll - pair at Lochgair during May.

1983 Records only from Cowal where probably breeding took place.

CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

B + W

1, 2

Confined to Mull of Kintyre on the mainland and the islands of Islay, Jura and Colonsay with Islay being the main stronghold. Very rare outwith these areas.

1981 Islay - census on 4-5 April gave population 174-180 including about 60 pairs, although overall breeding success poor.  
Mull of Kintyre - maximum count of 20 on 4 July.

1982 Mull of Kintyre - probably bred. Scarce in Winter with 7 on 26 February. Small numbers seen at Lighthouse late June on with maximum figures reported of 4 on 12 July and 3 on 7 September.  
Colonsay - one or two pairs bred, with one pair seen with 3 young. 7 at Queens Bay in October.

1983 Colonsay - 2 South over Machrins 30 April, 4 Port na Fluichan 2 May, pair with hatched young Uragaig on 2 May, 5 at Balnahard 21 September.

For further details including Islay, see report in the research section.

JACKDAW Corvus monedula

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common throughout the area, although notably absent as breeding species from Coll, Tiree, Treshnish Isles and most of Mull where it only breeds at West end of the Ross and on Iona. Increase in numbers during Winter months.

1981 Mull - 13 at Tobermory was unusual 23 November.

1982 Mull - 8 on beach at Calgary on 1 April.

1983 Kintyre - 737 in Clachan area in late December.  
Colonsay - 30 Kiloran 23 September.  
Coll - 12 near Cliad 15 November. Certainly the first record in recent years and possibly first island record. 69

Very common though absent from Coll and Tiree, where there is a lack of trees and more surprisingly from most of Mull. Increase in numbers during Winter months. In 1975 the national census showed 78 rookeries in Argyll with a total of 3217 nests giving an average of 41.2 nests per rookery and a density of 0.40 per km<sup>2</sup>. This made Argyll the third lowest density in Scotland with only Sutherland at 0.39 and Shetland with 0.08 having lower densities. (see ME Castle in Scottish Birds Vol 9 p 327).

- 1981 Mull - 62 at Kintallen on 27 September. This is well away from the small rookery at Dervaig and those at the West end of the Ross and Iona.
- 1982 Mull - a new rookery established at Bunessan since the 1975 census, now has 5 nests.
- 1983 Coll - 10 near Cliad with jackdaws 15 November are first in recent years.  
Mull - up to 30 feeding on stubble at Fishnish Bay during September.

CARRION/HOODED CROW Corvus corone

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

The hoodie is the predominant subspecies in the Northern part of Argyll and most islands but Carrion crows are spreading slowly up through Cowal to Mid Argyll and Kintyre. It is becoming increasingly frequent in traditional hoodie areas and consequently hybrids can be seen in varying numbers anywhere. One is tempted to speculate on the distribution picture in 50 years time!

Hooded Crow

- 1983 Collects into large Winter foraging flocks with communal roosts such as 200+ on Colonsay in October.

Carrion Crow

- 1980 Mull - one flying south to island across the Sound of Mull from Ardnamurchan on 15 April.
- 1981 Mull - single birds seen through the year at Loch na Keal, Mishnish Lochs, Fishnish Bay and at the mouth of Lussa R. Hybrids present after breeding season.
- 1982 Mull - fewer records than last year.
- 1983 Coll - one with other corvids near Arnabost on 15 November.

Further information can be seen at research section of this report.

RAVEN Corvus corax

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Very common throughout with birds often frequenting refuse tips ie up to 50 at certain times of the year at Tobermory Tip, Mull.

- 1983 No significant reports received.

STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Abundant throughout area although not as common in breeding season on Mull as on Coll and Tiree. Frequently found using natural nest sites such as seacliffs on Treshnish. Resident population swollen in late Autumn by immigrants from Northern Europe. Recoveries of birds ringed on Mull during Winter have come from Norway and the Soviet Union.

- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - 100 at light on 9 March.  
Islay - up to 3000 on island in Winter.



Of the vagrant species that turn up in Argyll this is the most regular and with almost annual records the term 'vagrant' might be an over statement!

1980 Kintyre - one Southend on 11 July.

1981 Mid Argyll - one Achnamara on 17 October.

1983 Coll - up to two birds present Arinagour during most of September but first bird first seen at Cornaig Beg on 9 August. This was an immaculate male and by September it had moved to the Hotel where it spent the month with a second and less well coloured the bird. The original bird disappeared about 27 September and the other bird stayed until 17 or 18 October when it was killed by the Hotel cat. This is not thought to have been the fate of the first bird and there was an unsubstantiated report of one in late November.

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Generally very plentiful throughout areas and associated with habitation and agriculture. Scarce on some islands. Often flocks with Finches on stubble and around farms after breeding season.

1983 No significant records received.

TREE SPARROW Passer montanus

W + P ? B

1, 4

Very uncommon possibly under recorded. All records required to determine exact status.

1981/82 Recorded during the Winter Atlas Survey from NR61 on Mull of Kintyre and from NR86 Tarbert.

1982/83 Winter Atlas record from Tarbert.

1983/84 Winter Atlas records from four squares around Tarbert NR76, 85-87.

1983 Mid Argyll - four at Minard on 15 May.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Abundant with large flocks of both sexes in Winter.

1981 Mull - c1000 on stubble at Sunipol on 27 November.

1983 Largest reported flocks were 422 Cloanaig 29 December; 400 Killinnochannoch 30 December; 1200 Kilmichael Glassary 30 December.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Winter visitor in fluctuating numbers, apparently absent in some Winters.

1980 Mull - male in garden in Tobermory 18 January.

1983 Coll - 2 pairs Arinagour 28 April.

Mid and North Argyll - large numbers came in during November although first for Autumn/Winter was a single at Knapdale on 21 October. Significant numbers were arriving by mid November and flocks of up to 300 were in Connel area from December onwards.

GREENFINCH Chloris chloris

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Patchy distribution, although plentiful in some areas. Increase in population during Winter.

- 1981 Mull - c200 Kintallen on 22 August.
- 1982 Mull - noticeably scarce throughout year.
- 1983 Largest Winter counts of 24 at Inveraray on 3 November and 40 at Eredine on 30 December.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Becomes scarce in the North and on some islands. Absent as breeding species on Colonsay, Iona, Coll and Tiree and very local on Islay, Jura and Mull.

- 1980 Mull - bred Tobermory.
- 1981 Mull - bred Tobermory and largest flock of year on island - 25 there 26 October.
- 1982 Mull - numbers low throughout the year.
- 1983 Breeding reports from Kintyre, Cowal and Mid Argyll. Maximum reported 30 at Minard during September.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species in suitable habitat but absent as breeding species on Colonsay, Iona, Coll and Tiree and local on Islay and Jura. Sometimes found in large flocks feeding on thistles and grass seeds in Autumn, but compared with the breeding population relatively few Winter. Numerous records of birds coming to peanut bags hanging from bird tables in Winter.

- 1980 Mull - c100 Lochdon on 14 September.
- 1981 Mull - c100 Craignure on 30 September.
- 1982 Mull - c100 Grasspoint 24 August.
- 1983 More post-breeding flocks than usual.  
Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse - 2 migrants on 9 April.  
Mid Argyll - largest flocks 35 at Eredine on 30 December; 46 at Ford on 30 December; 180 in Lochgilphead 10 km sq on 30 December.  
North Argyll - influx of c200 NorthConnel in April; 150 Glen Lonan on 28 September.  
Mull - 41 Glen Aros on 13 November.

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Locally common.

- 1980 Treshnish Isles - one Lunga on 12 August - unusual here.
- 1982 Iona - c50 on 31 March.  
Treshnish Isles - 6 at Sgeir a Chaistiel on 21 July.
- 1983 Islay - flocks of up to 400 in Autumn.  
Mid Argyll - 55 at Dalmally in October.  
North Argyll - 70 at Baracaldine in September.

Locally common but scarce in Cowal and Mid Argyll and decreasing over recent years on Mull. Moves to coastal areas as a rule but some inland flocks occur.

- 1983 Colonsay - common breeding species.  
 Islay - largest Winter flock reported was 200 Ardnave on 20 January.  
 mid Argyll - pairs reported from Ardfarn, Achnamara and Tayvallich. Largest flock reported on mainland was 160 on Ben Lui on 22 October.

REDPOLL Carduelis flammea

B + W + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common but local breeding species. Our birds are lesser redpolls and birds of Mealy. race appear to be uncommon migrants and not recorded annually. Uncommon during Winter months. Absent as breeding species on Coll, Tiree and Iona.

- 1982 Mull - not as plentiful as usual during the breeding season.

- 1983 Islay - flocks up to 150 in Spring.

CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Population fluctuates dramatically with cone crop in forestry plantations.

- 1980 Islay - reported from island on 17 April and 5 June.  
 Mull - no records
- 1981 Mull - a few records during Summer at Fishnish with pair with juveniles on 30 July and flock of 16 on 13 August.
- 1982 Islay - pair with nest material.
- 1983 Significant influx with breeding reported from Mid Argyll and Cowal. Large numbers on Mull in late Summer included family parties with juveniles still being fed by adults but these are not thought to have been reared on the island.  
 Mid Argyll - flocks of 20 and 15 at Lochgair on 13 September.  
 Mull - first birds reported c25 at Fishnish on 28 July; present throughout August and into September when seemed to disperse into other plantations with 41 in Glen Aros on 13 November.  
 North Argyll - 8 at Glen Orchy on 20 November.

SCOTTISH CROSSBILL Loxia scotica

?V

5

The following record is of particular interest as Scottish Crossbills are generally confined to the Old Caledonian pine forests but the Mull birds arrived with an invasion of common crossbills to an area with an abundant cone crop.

- 1983 Mull - two adults and 3-4 young seen on a number of dates in late August and September in the Fishnish Plantation. They could be easily located by a deeper call and heavier bill but not as heavy as Parrot Crossbill.

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common breeding species in suitable habitats ranging from forestry plantations to grounds of large houses with extensive shrubberies. Absent from Coll and Tiree and irregular on Colonsay and Gigha. Can be found in flocks in Winter.

- 1982 Jura pair at Inver Cottage 22 January.
- 1983 More winter flocks reported than usual.  
 Colonsay - pair on 13 May.  
 Mid Argyll - 22 Glen Aray during November and 29 Loch Caolisport 19 November;  
 16 Glen Branter 2 December.  
 North Argyll - 14 Forest Lodge on 20 November.

## Vagrant

- 1982 One either female or immature at Portnahaven, Islay on 1 November was the first record for Scotland and only the second for Britain.

LAPLAND BUNTING Calcarius lapponicus

V

1, 2

Vagrant on passage. ?Under recorded.

- 1980 Kintyre - one flying north Sanda on 9 April.

SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis

P + W ? B

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Occurs in varying numbers on passage with Wintering birds also present. Some may be breeding on the high tops.

- 1981 Mid Argyll - 40 Minard during January.
- 1982 Small groups of birds reported from many places during severe weather in January.
- 1983 Mull of Kintyre - 12 on 28 and 29 January; one 14 March.  
Mid Argyll - 7 Beinn a Chleibh on 27 November, 6 Beinn Lui, 4 Minard 23 December.  
Islay - 12 at Ardnave on 21 October.  
Colonsay - one House Gardens on 20 September; c20 Balnashard (less one after a peregrine made a successful kill) on 21 September.  
Oronsay - one 22 September.  
Coll - male Ballyhaugh 29 April.  
Tiree - male L Dubh on 11 May.

YELLOWHAMMER Emberiza citrinella

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Local but common in places. Seen away from regular breeding areas in Winter.

- 1981 Mull - c80 Sunipol on 27 November.
- 1983 Colonsay - 5 pairs between Scalasaig and Machrins in May.

RUSTIC BUNTING Emberiza rustica

V

2

Vagrant.

- 1980 One Easter Ellister, Islay on 23 May.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

B + W

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Common in suitable habitat. Joins finches and yellowhammers around farms in Winter.

- 1982 Islay - flocks of up to 30 found around farms in January.
- 1983 No significant reports received.

CORN BUNTING Miliaria calandra

B + W + P

1, 5

Very local breeding species with regular breeding only on Coll and Tiree but may do so on Gigha. Elsewhere very rare on passage.

- 1982 Mull - one Fidden on 8 April.
- 1983 No significant reports received.

\*\*\*\* ERRATUM

PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

B + P

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Pied wags are common breeding species throughout area using rock faces and dry stone walls as nesting sites. Although abundant during breeding season many birds leave Argyll for Winter. White wags pass through in Spring and Autumn in varying numbers. Occasional birds breed as half of mixed pair eg female paired and bred successfully with male pied Lunga, Treshnish Isles 1979.

No significant reports of pied wagtail received. Following records all refer to white ssp.

- 1980 Mull - 10 Fidden on 16 April, one Scallastle B on 19 August.
- 1981 Mull - passage from 16 April to 4 May.  
Tiree - 5 Gott Bay on 5 May.
- 1982 Mull - c15 Gribun on 3 May, 15 at Fidden on 1 May.
- 1983 Colonsay - 8 Balnahard on 29 April, 4 at Ardskenish on 30 April, 6 at Traigh nam Barc on 30 April, one at Port Mor on 4 May, two at Port Easdale on 21 September.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In comparison with many counties of Britain, Argyll has few resident ringers - only four with full A-licences; nevertheless, good numbers of birds are ringed. In 1983, the first year in which the county totals have been calculated, 5005 birds of 74 species were ringed. Compare this total with, for example, Hampshire, where 20(15) ringers in 1981(1982) ringed c. 17,500 (12,100) birds (Hampshire Birds Reports, 1981 and 1982). Of the four resident Argyll ringers, only one is "active" according to the B.T.O. definition of that term (ringing 1000 or more birds per year). The efforts of the few resident ringers are augmented by resident and visiting specialist ringers holding licences for one or a few species, usually for a specific project, and by other ringers visiting on holiday. Among the more numerous birds to be ringed in the county in recent years have been Sand Martin (1223 adults ringed in 1980-83 inclusive), Herring Gull (1200 chicks), Common Gull (899 chicks), Common Tern (642 chicks), Arctic Tern (406 chicks) and Shag (2000 chicks). Birds ringed near Oban have been recovered in Morocco, Finland, France, Portugal and Eire (details below) and there is a similarly wide range of origins of birds recovered in Argyll.

In spite of the small numbers of resident ringers, Argyll can boast a healthy number of research projects. Investigations in

progress which particularly utilise ringing or other means of individual marking are as follows.

SHAG and CHOUGH. Large numbers are ringed each year by Eric Bignal. Recoveries are beginning to build up interesting patterns.

GREENLAND WHITEFRONTED GOOSE. One of the most remarkable studies of recent years has been the successful ringing of Whitefronts on their breeding grounds in western Greenland and their subsequent identification on their wintering grounds in Scotland. Geese were ringed with Darvic rings, each bearing a number which could be read at a distance. Ninety-six adult geese were ringed on the first Greenland expedition in summer 1979 and, of these, by late 1983, 58 had been seen, shot or otherwise recovered, outside Greenland. No fewer than 32 of these were on Islay, with two on Coll, seven on Mull of Kintyre, two at Loch Lomond, 12 in Caithness and one each in Galloway, Eire and Iceland. A bird observed on Islay was later seen in the Netherlands, and four others were each observed in two of these localities. Much of the credit for this success must go to David Stroud. A second expedition to Greenland is taking place in summer 1984. Birds will be fitted with white Darvic rings, on one leg only, reading upwards LETTER-DIGIT-DIGIT. Anyone seeing these geese is requested to report the ring number and date and place of observation to D. Stroud, Islay Natural History Centre, Easter Ellister, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll PA48 7UE. An account of some of this work is given in Fox, Madison & Stroud (1983). The importance

of work such as this can hardly be overstated, especially as it provides indisputable facts on which the arguments of the conservation movement can be solidly based.

EIDER. The subject of predation and damage by birds at fishfarms, both shellfish and finfish, has received very little attention but is becoming increasingly important as the number of fishfarms in Scotland, especially the west, has increased sharply in the last decade. Many farmers shoot birds such as Shag and Eider which respectively inflict considerable damage on caged salmon/trout and on cultivated mussels. A two-year project by the Department of Zoology, Aberdeen University, is therefore particularly welcome. The work, which is being conducted mainly in Argyll, began in early 1983 and its objectives are to investigate the possibility of developing protective techniques for use at mussel farms, and to increase knowledge of Eider movements between farms. Several interesting movements found in this work are detailed below. During 1983, the Aberdeen University group ringed and wing-tagged 89 adult females on the shores of four sea-lochs in Argyll (Sween, Fyne, Etive, Linnhe). Sightings of tagged eiders should be sent to C. Galbraith, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA.

GOLDEN EAGLE. A resident specialist ringer, Mike Gregory, annually rings the chicks of this species, both in Argyll and in adjacent counties.



HERRING GULL. Chicks are ringed in large numbers in Argyll by myself and others. Cannon-netting of adults at rubbish tips, and seasonal ringing of chicks, is carried out by a Glasgow University group led by Dr P. Monaghan, as part of a long-term study of this species. Colour-ringing, and dyeing are used by this group, in addition to conventional ringing. Sight records of colour-ringed or dyed Herring Gulls should be sent to Dr Monaghan at the above address.

COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS. A project was carried out in 1982-83 by J.C.A. Craik and S.M. Harvey to develop methods for distinguishing the chicks of Common and Arctic Terns, both of which breed in Argyll, frequently in mixed colonies. Because they are generally considered to be indistinguishable, the B.T.O. has for many years prohibited the ringing of chicks in mixed colonies of these species. It was found that the down of young chicks of Arctic Tern can be grey or brown, in about equal numbers, but that Common Tern are invariably brown. The belly down of Arctic Tern was almost always tinged grey or black, while in Common Tern it was always pure white. Larger chicks could be reliably distinguished by the length of the tarsus, but smaller chicks could not. Leg colour was found to be pink in newly hatched chicks of both species, and to change to orange in about half the chicks before fledging. This work has been written up and will appear in the B.T.O. journal Ringling and Migration in June 1984 (Craik & Harvey, 1984).

AUKS. A visiting ringing group from the Midlands has for many years visited the Treshnish Islands in alternate years to ring seabirds,

principally auks. They did not visit in 1983, but I understand that 500-1000 birds are usually ringed on each visit.

SAND MARTINS. A medium-sized colony near Oban has been intensively ringed by J.C.A. Craik since 1980. Numerous movements to and from central and south-east England have been recorded, with three birds to/from France (see below). Unfortunately the colony was very largely destroyed in August 1983 as a result of planning requirements, although, by negotiations with the planning authorities, a small section of the quarry face has been preserved for continued study. It is hoped that new sand workings nearby will open up fresh sand-faces and allow the formerly thriving colony to continue. Sand Martin colonies are by no means common in western Scotland.

Other research projects, not specifically attached to Argyll, will be dealt with under their respective species in Section III.

## II. TOTALS RINGED IN 1983 IN ARGYLL

The following table gives the total numbers of birds of each species ringed in Argyll in 1983 as notified to me by 30 April 1984. The totals are partly broken down into geographical areas so that some idea can be obtained of the activities of individual ringers. In view of the exceptionally rich avifauna of western Scotland, there are some notable omissions from this Table. One might have expected that larger numbers of auks and petrels would be ringed by resident ringers,

and a plea might be also made for more specialist ringing of divers, raptors and waders. There is clearly a case for expansion or redeployment of effort in certain areas, and for recruitment of many more dedicated ringers in the county.

## 1983 ARGYLL RINGING TOTALS

	R. COOMBER & M. KEITH <u>Mull</u>		C. CRAIK <u>Oban</u>		S. PETTY <u>Strachur</u>		OTHERS*		TOTAL
	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	
FULMAR		2							2
M. SHEARWATER	12								12
STORM PETREL	1								1
SHAG	2	78					4	456	540
HERON								2	2
EIDER							89		89
SPARROWHAWK						2			2
BUZZARD						5			5
GOLDEN EAGLE						1		7	8
KESTREL						3			3
OYSTERCATCHER	1	14		3					18
RINGED PLOVER		5							5
LAPWING		19							19
SNIBE	1	1	1						3
CURLEW	2	4	1						7
REDSHANK		3	1						4
C. SANDPIPER		5							5
B.H. GULL				40					40
COMMON GULL				349					349
L.B.B. GULL		1					3		4
HERRING GULL		27		313			324	108	772
GLAUCOUS GULL							3		3
G.B.B. GULL		11		20			5		36
COMMON TERN				187					187
ARCTIC TERN				77					77
PUFFIN	7								7
TAWNY OWL					5	13			18
SHORT-EARED OWL						3			3
SKYLARK		5	1						6
SAND MARTIN			312						312
SWALLOW			13	5					18
				82.					

	R. COOMBER & M. KEITH <u>Mull</u>		C. CRAIK <u>Oban</u>		S. PETTY <u>Strachur</u>		OTHERS*		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	
HOUSE MARTIN			2						2
TREE PIPIT		5	17						22
MEADOW PIPIT		4	441				11		456
PIED WAGTAIL		10	22				1		33
WREN	3		19		2		9		33
DUNNOCK	3		15		3				21
ROBIN	9		111	5	6		23		154
REDSTART			9			21			30
WHINCHAT		28	9						37
STONECHAT		6	3						9
WHEATEAR	1	6	16						23
BLACKBIRD	13		31		5		13		62
SONG THRUSH	2		14				3		19
REDWING					1				1
SEDGE WARBLER			7				4		11
BARRED WARBLER			1						1
WHITETHROAT			8				1		9
GARDEN WARBLER			5						5
BLACKCAP			3						3
WOOD WARBLER		11	5	16					32
CHIFFCHAFF			1				2		3
WILLOW WARBLER	3		206	2			5		216
GOLDCREST			25		1		17		43
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER			21						21
PIED FLYCATCHER							1		1
LONG-TAILED TIT			12				3		15
COAL TIT	6		26						32
BLUE TIT	16		103	18	6	14	5		162
GREAT TIT	7		75		8	48	5		143
TREECREEPER	4		5						9
CHOUGH							1	49	50
CROW						10			10
HOUSE SPARROW			3						3

	R. COOMBER & M. KEITH <u>Mull</u>		C. CRAIK <u>Oban</u>		S. PETTY <u>Strachur</u>		OTHERS*		
	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Chicks</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CHAFFINCH	10		384		156		1		551
BRAMBLING			22						22
GREENFINCH	1		29						30
GOLDFINCH	1		5						6
SISKIN			92						92
LINNET			26				2		28
TWITE			10				8		18
REDPOLL			8						8
BULLFINCH	1		10				2		13
REED BUNTING		5	4						9
TOTALS		356		3169		313		1167	

Grand Total 5005

\* Others

Heron	M. Marquiss
Shag and Chough	E. Bignal
Eider	Aberdeen University
Golden Eagle	M. Gregory
Gulls	Glasgow University
Passerines	{ W. Taylor (at Carradale)
	{ M. Fraser (on Coll)

FG = fully grown

#### ADDENDUM

The 1983 Argyll ringing records of one holiday ringer (J, Lewis) were not received until May 1984 and thus are not included in the Totals list above. They are (all chicks unless adult stated): 1 adult Fulmar, 4 Hen Harrier, 1 Buzzard, 2 Golden Eagle, 4 Oystercatcher, 8 Ringed Plover, 2 Golden Plover, 9 Redshank, 8 Common Sandpiper, 3 Common Gull, 1 Arctic Tern, 7 Black Guillemot, 5 short-eared Owl, 4 Swallow, 7 Rock Pipit, 1 Robin, 6 Stonechat, 3 Reed Bunting.

### III. RECOVERIES

The following is a selection of recoveries of which I was notified by the end of April 1984. Dates, geographical co-ordinates, distances and direction of movement have, in most cases, been entered if they were supplied. Most records relate to 1983 but some notable movements in years immediately preceding 1983 have been included, since this is the first report on ringing in Argyll. Ringing details are given on the first line, and recovery data on the second. The age when ringed is given according to the EURING Code (note that the figures do not represent age in years):

1	nestling or chick
2	fully grown, year of hatching unknown
3	hatched during year of ringing
3J	ringed in juvenile plumage (age 3)
4	hatched before year of ringing but exact year unknown
5	hatched in previous year
6	hatched before previous year, but exact year unknown
M,F	sex

The manner of recovery is coded as usual:

v	caught or trapped and released with ring
vv	ring number read in field, or tag identified
+	shot or killed by man
x	found dead

"Argyll" has been used eponymously throughout, but other counties have been given their revised names. Argyll is part of Strathclyde.



Manx Shearwater Puffinus puffinus

PARIS

FL3011	4	12.9.66	Finisterre: 48°28'N 5°08'W <u>FRANCE</u>
	x	13.7.83	Treshnish Isles: 56°29'N 6°25'W (Argyll)
			895 km 354 deg

Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis

As a result of E. Bignal's work, from two colonies on the Sound of Jura, 17 recoveries were reported during 1983. Three of these were under 50 km and 12 were 50-100 km. The following two were over 100 km.

1161030	1	18.6.81	Carraig an Daimh: 55°55'N 5°43'W (Argyll)
	x	14.3.83	Isle of Eigg: 56°53'N 6°07'W (Highland)
			110 km 347 deg
1154501	1	2.7.80	Corr Eilean: 55°55'N 5°43'W (Argyll)
	x	18.12.83	Girvan: 55°07'N 5°43'W (Strathclyde)
			107 km 146 deg

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

Intensive ringing and wing-tagging of this species has been carried out in recent years by M. Marquiss of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Penicuik, Midlothian, to whom sight records of wing-tagged birds (including colour of tag) should be sent. There were two recoveries in Argyll in 1983.

1192166	1	17.5.82	Kincardine-on-Forth
	x	9.9.83	Gigha (Argyll)
			133 km 251 deg
1192321	1	16.5.83	Pitlochry (Perthshire)
	vv	14.9.83	Dervaig, Isle of Mull (Argyll)

Mute Swan Cygnus olor

No Argyll recoveries were reported during 1983. A group from the Department of Zoology, Aberdeen University led by Dr C. Spray, has been ringing and fitting neck-collars to swans in the Outer Hebrides since 1978. Sight records, including number on neck collar, should be sent to Dr Spray at that address. The following recoveries in Argyll were reported for the period 1978-1982. All were ringed on South Uist, all but two as chicks: four were reported from Tiree (one alive), one (alive) from West Loch Tarbert, Mull of Kintyre, one (dead) from Isle of Mull, and three (dead) from Loch Etive. The bird seen in Kintyre was subsequently seen in Northern Ireland on the river Bann near Castlerock and elsewhere.

White fronted Goose Anser albifrons flavirostris

Of 96 adults ringed at Eqaungmiut Nunaat ( $67^{\circ}37'N$   $50^{\circ}23'W$ ) in western Greenland in 1979, 15 were recovered or observed in Argyll in 1983 - 2 on Coll ( $56^{\circ}40'N$   $6^{\circ}34'W$ ), 13 on Islay ( $55^{\circ}45'N$   $6^{\circ}12'W$ ). See Introduction to this chapter for further comments.

Shelduck Tadorna tadorna

GP88994	1M	10.6.81	Loch na Keal: $56^{\circ}29'N$ $6^{\circ}02'W$ Mull (Argyll)
	v	2.12.83	Teesmouth: $54^{\circ}37'N$ $1^{\circ}10'W$ (Cleveland)
			369 km 124 deg

Eider Somateria mollissima

Aberdeen University study has shown that females in Loch Fyne moved up to 20 km with their broods. The longest movements detected of 89 females tagged in May/June 1983 were as follows.

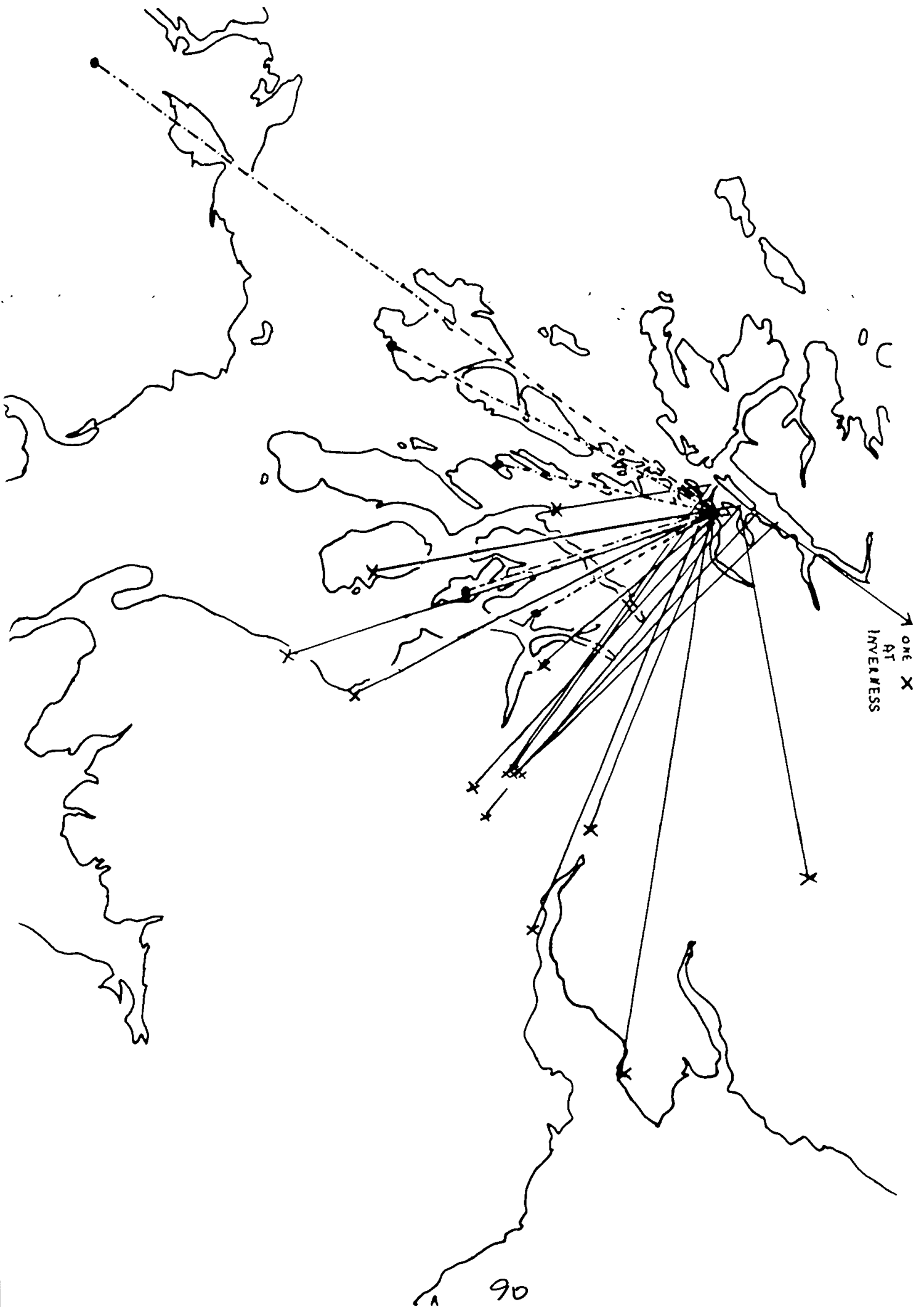
From Loch Fyne: 3 females at Port Glasgow, Clyde estuary: Oct. 1983  
1 female at Loch Long/Clyde junction: Nov. 1983

From Loch Linnhe: 2 females at Irvine harbour (Ayrshire) 15.10.83

# FIGURE 1

Movements of Common Gulls (dotted lines) and Herring Gulls (unbroken lines) ringed as chicks near Oban during 1980-1983. Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of direction of movement in degrees of five Common Gulls is  $188 \pm 26$ , while for 16 Herring Gulls it is  $128 \pm 35$ . The difference between species is significant (t-test  $p < 0.01$ ). Eight of the 16 Herring Gulls were caught at rubbish dumps by the Glasgow University group. It might be argued that this would introduce a bias into the Herring Gull recoveries. If these eight are omitted, the value for the remaining eight Herring Gulls is  $131 \pm 32$ , and the difference is still significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) between the predominantly southerly movement of Common Gulls and the south-westerly movement of Herring Gulls, the latter towards centres of human population and the associated rich food supply.

Numbers ringed at these sites during this period: 899 Common Gull, 1200 Herring Gull.



Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

FS13135	4	21.8.71	Walney Is: 54°05'N 3°15'W (Cumbria)
	x	3.10.83	Fionnphort: 56°18'N 6°22'W Mull (Argyll)
			(? Peregrine kill) 316 km 321 deg

Lapwing Vanellus vanellus

DS27648	1	18.6.76	Penygown: 56°31'N 5°57'W Mull (Argyll)
	x	14.6.83	Garmony: 56°26'N 5°46'W Mull (Argyll)
			(Breeding adult killed in flight by buzzard)
			13 km 107 deg

Curlew Numenius arquata

FV96654	4	4.1.81	Benderloch: 56°31'N 5°25'W Oban (Argyll)
	x	19.6.82	Oulu: 64°07'N 25°24'E <u>FINLAND</u>
			1886 km 63 deg

Common Gull Larus canus

Of 899 chicks ringed in the Oban area by J.C.A. Craik during the period 1980-1983, 14 were recovered during that period. Nine of these involved movements under 10 km. The other 5 are shown in Fig. 1. Note the predominantly southerly movement ( $188 \pm 26$  deg) and the significant difference in mean direction from Herring Gull. Of these movements, only one of interest was reported during 1983.

EK23825	1	2.7.83	Connel: 56°28'N 5°21'W Oban (Argyll)
	+	18.12.83	Porthall: 54°53'N 7°27'W (Donegal) <u>EIRE</u>
			220 km 217 deg

Lesser Black backed Gull Larus fuscus

GK35749	6	21.6.81	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
	×	(1.1.84)	Inezgané: 30°30'N 9°40'W Agadir <u>MOROCCO</u>
			2911 km 187 deg

Herring Gull Larus argentatus

Of 1200 chicks ringed in the Oban area by J.C.A. Craik during the years 1980-1983, 25 were recovered during that period. Nine of these involved movements under 30 km. The other 16 are shown in Fig. 1. Note the predominantly south-easterly direction of movement ( $128 \pm 35$  deg) and the significant difference in this respect from Common Gull. Of these recoveries, movements over 100 km in 1983 were as follows.

GJ71083	1	26.6.82	Inn Is: 56°34'N 5°25'W Lismore (Argyll)
	v	30.8.83	Bishopbriggs: 55°54'N 4°14'W Glasgow (Strathclyde)
			104 km 135 deg
GJ71097	1	26.6.82	Inn Is.
	v	15.12.83	Longmans: 57°28'N 4°13'W Inverness (Highland)
			124 km 36 deg
GJ71195	1	8.7.82	Eilean Dubh: 56°31'N 5°26'W Port Appin (Argyll)
	×	8.2.83	Coatbridge: 55°53'N 4°03'W Glasgow (Strathclyde)
			(Eaten by fox) 111 km 129 deg
GJ71469	1	21.6.83	Eilean nan Gamhn: 56°29'N 5°32'W Lismore (Argyll)
	×	28.1.84	Linlithgow: 56°0'N 3°31'W (Lothian)
			136 km 113 deg
GJ 99001	1	21.6.83	Eilean nan Gamhn: (Lismore)
	v	30.8.83	Bishopbriggs, Glasgow
			103 km 129 deg

Most of the fully grown birds ringed by the Glasgow University group are caught by cannon-netting at rubbish dumps. Recovery and ringing sites referred to above and below at Bishopbriggs, Inverness, Helensburgh and Bowmore (Islay) are rubbish dumps regularly worked by this group. Thus the above records reflect a marked movement of birds, hatched at coastal breeding colonies in Argyll, to rich food sources, principally rubbish dumps, in urban areas such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

Among the recoveries of birds ringed by the Glasgow University group, the following involved movements over 100 km affecting Argyll in 1983.

GK98003	3	9.1.80	Bishopbriggs, Glasgow
	×	27.4.83	Loch Gorm: 55°48'N 6°26'W Islay (Argyll) 138 km 265 deg
GG05696	8	27.4.82	Helensburgh: 56°01'N 4°44'W (Strathclyde)
	×	23.6.83	Acharacle: 56°45'N 5°48'W (Argyll) 105 km 321 deg
YY3897	4	2.3.79	Kilbirnie: 55°48'N 4°11'W (Strathclyde)
	×	1.8.83	Campbeltown: 55°31'N 5°43'W (Argyll) 101 km 252 deg
GG15681	8	7.6.83	Bowmore: 55°45'N 6°17'W Islay (Argyll)
	?	29.8.83	Larkhall: 55°45'N 3°57'W (Strathclyde) 146 km 90 deg
GH09034	1	5.7.83	Gigha: 55°41'N 5°45'W (Argyll)
	?	15.12.83	Workington: 54°39'N 3°35'W (Cumbria) 179 km 130 deg

Among the results from colour-ringing by the Glasgow University group, the following records affected Argyll in 1983.

A bird colour-ringed at Lochgilphead on 29.3.83 was seen at Dunoon on 7.9.83.

Birds colour-ringed on Islay on 7-9.6.83 were seen (one each) at Moodiesburn (2.8.83), Stewarton (Ayr) (1.9.83), Fort William (14.12.83) and one was found dead at Larkhall (29.8.83),

A bird ringed as a chick at Eilean Dubh, Port Appin on 19.6.82 was controlled and colour ringed at Oban (rubbish tip) on 14.10.83 and seen at Kilkeel on 28.11.83. Other birds colour-ringed at Oban on 14.10.83 were seen (one each) at Croy (27.10.83) and Croy (12.12.83).

Great Black backed Gull Larus marinus

HW47790	1	6.7.76	Isle of Canna: 57°03'N 6°35'W (Highland)
	x	21.4.83	Gribun, Isle of Mull: 56°26'N 6°08'W (Argyll)
			74 km 158 deg

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

Of 1223 fully grown Sand Martins ringed by J.C.A. Craik at a breeding colony at North Connel, near Oban, during the years 1980-1983, there have been nine recoveries in that period, all controlled (captured and released) at colonies or roosts by other ringers. Additionally, seven Sand Martins ringed elsewhere have been controlled at the Oban colony. These movements are all shown in Fig. 2. Note the predominantly NNW/SSE direction of movement (but it should be recalled that the actual path of migration is most unlikely to be a straight line).

Non-ringers may be interested to know that 610,492 Sand Martins have been ringed in Britain since the ringing scheme began in 1908. Of these, 24 (1 in 25,437) have been recovered on their wintering grounds in central Africa; all these were in Senegal (Spencer & Hudson, 1982). A definitive account of Sand Martin migratory movements within Britain, based on data obtained during the B.T.O. Sand Martin enquiry of 1962-68, was given by Mead & Harrison (1974). For analysis of those results, the British mainland was divided into 19 areas, each containing 10-30 breeding colonies. Because of the paucity of ringers and Sand Martins in the Highlands, a very



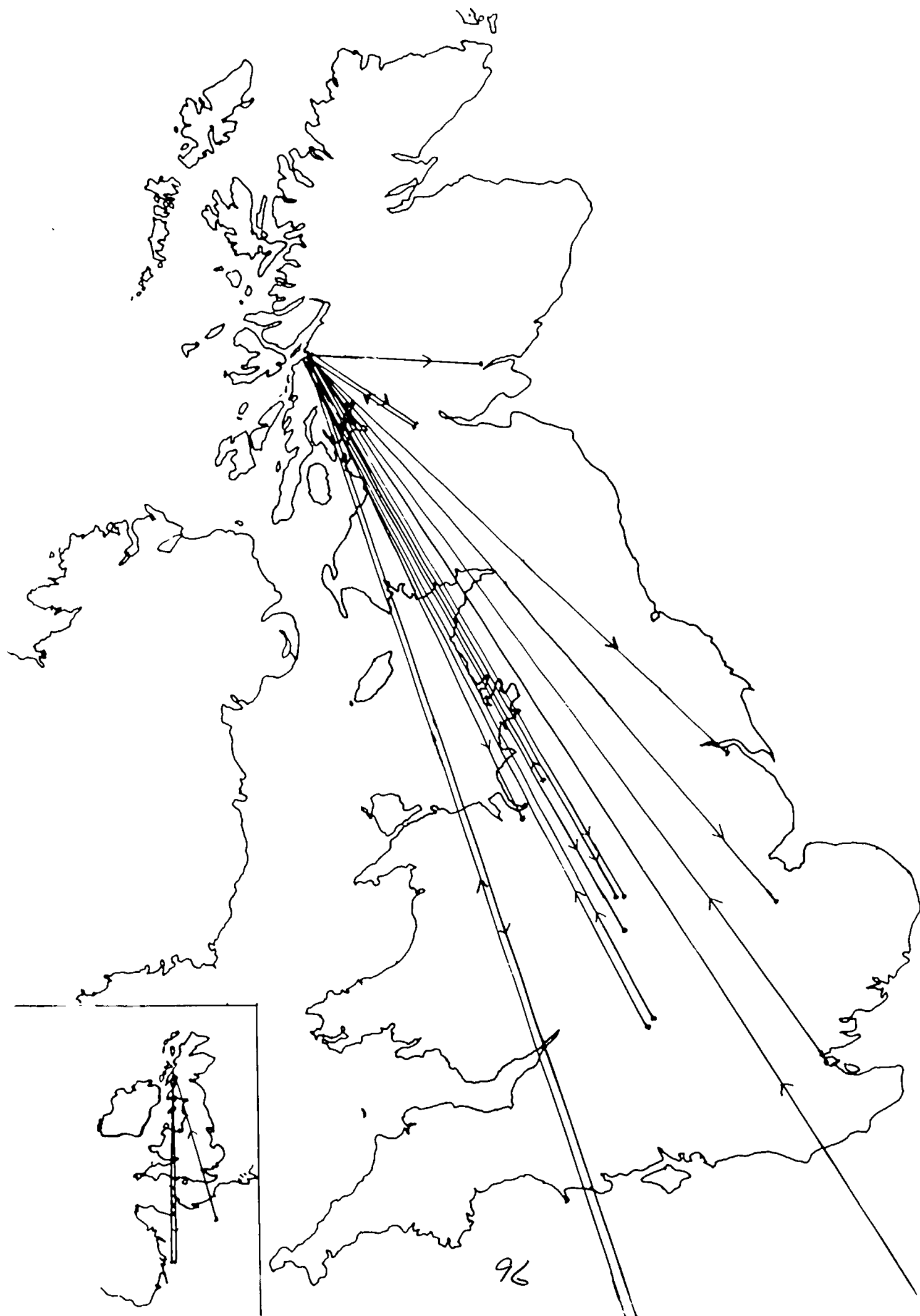
## FIGURE 2

Movements of Sand Martins to and from a breeding colony near Oban during 1980-1983. Arrows denote direction of movement. Note the highly directional migration route: bearings (mean  $\pm$  standard deviation) are (in degrees):

To Oban  $329 \pm 13$  (n = 7)

From Oban  $141 \pm 22$  (n = 9)

Number of Sand Martins ringed at this site during this period: 1223.



large area of north, west and central Scotland was omitted from the analysis (see Fig. 1 in Mead & Harrison). Thus the records given here provide a useful complement to the earlier work. The results in Fig. 1 confirm the direction of movement within Britain described by Mead & Harrison, which they concluded was followed to allow as short a crossing of the English Channel as possible. Recoveries in 1983 included the following.

PARIS

2821726	4M	23.4.83	Marais d'Yves: 46°01'N 1°03'W (Charente-Maritime) <u>FRANCE</u>
	v	20.5.83	North Connel: 56°28'N 5°23'W (Argyll) 1199 km 346 deg

PARIS

2835643	3F	8.8.82	St Denis-en-Val: 47°53'N 1°57'E (Loiret) <u>FRANCE</u>
	v	29.5.83	North Connel 1076 km 332 deg

B571020	4M	30.5.82	North Connel
	v	8.4.83	Marais d'Yves (Charente-Maritime) <u>FRANCE</u>
	v	17.5.83	North Connel
	v	16.7.83	North Connel 1199 km 166 deg

B571642	3J	5.8.82	North Connel
	v	5.7.83	Netherinch: 55°58'N 4°06'W Kilsyth (Strathclyde)
	v	23.7.83	Netherinch 97 km 125 deg

B776241	3J	23.7.83	Netherinch
	v	10.8.83	North Connel 97 km 305 deg

B571715	3J	14.8.82	North Connel
	v	4.8.83	Errol: 56°24'N 3°11'W (Tayside) 135 km 93 deg

B572576	3J	9.7.83	North Connel
	v	31.7.83	Cornets End: 52°26'N 1°40'W Meriden (West Midlands) 508 km 152 deg
B572667	3J	16.7.83	North Connel
	v	17.8.83	Frodsham: 53°18'N 2°46'W (Cheshire) 389 km 155 deg
C009272	3J	21.8.83	North Connel
	v	13.9.83	March: 52°34'N 0°5'E (Cambs.) 560 km 141 deg
B670176	3J	31.8.82	Wolvercote: 51°47'N 1°17'W (Oxfordshire)
	v	16.7.83	North Connel 585 km 333 deg

Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis

B572610	3	9.7.83	North Connel: 56°28'N 5°23'W (Argyll)
	+	8.12.83	Oliveira do Hospital: 40°20'N 7°50'W (Beira Littoral) <u>PORTUGAL</u> 1801 km 186 deg
B747085	2	27.9.82	Mull of Kintyre: 55°19'N 5°49'W (Argyll)
	x	23.4.83	Taynuilt: 56°26'N 5°14'W (Argyll) 129 km 16 deg

Unusually large numbers of Meadow Pipits passed through North Connel in July and August 1983.

Robin Erithacus rubecula

B572528	1	29.6.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W (Argyll)
	x (cat)	(1.1.84)	Lisburn: 54°31'N 6°3'W (Antrim) N. Ireland 227 km 192 deg

Song Thrush Turdus philomelos

NX89064	3J	8,8,81	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
	x	22.3,83	Ardnamurchan Lighthouse: 56°44'N 6°14'W Acharacle (Argyll)
			61 km 293 deg

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus

JERSEY

I20844	4F	1.5.80	La Fougeraie: 49°27'N 2°21'W (Sark) <u>Channel Islands</u>
	v	9.8.80	North Connel: 56°28'N 5°23'W Oban (Argyll)
			805 km 345 deg

2C0545	4F	21.5.80	Letterwalton: 56°30'N 5°24'W Oban (Argyll)
	v	11.5.81	Walney Island: 54°3'N 3°12'W (Cumbria)
			306 km 153 deg

7C1596	3	15.7.82	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
	v	21.8.82	Gibraltar Point: 53°6'N 0°20'E (Lincs.)
			524 km 136 deg

Great Tit Parus major

2242276	3M	14.12.79	Drumnadrochit: 57°20'N 4°29'W (Highland)
	x	5.3.80	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
			103 km 208 deg

B162492	5M	9.3.83	Darnaway Forest: 57°34'N 3°43'W (Grampian)
	v	3.4.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
			152 km 220 deg

Two unusually long movements for this usually sedentary species.

Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

E. Bignal's colour-ringing of chough on Islay continues, The population was surveyed for colour-ringed birds in February 1984 and results will appear in the 1984 report.

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs

B281513	3M	14.10.82	The Calf: 54°03'N 4°49'W (Isle of Man)
	v	3.4.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
			276 km 353 deg

Large numbers of chaffinches are ringed by J.C.A. Craik in the Oban area each year (2140 in the years 1980-83). There have been six recoveries during that period, none with movements of more than 4 km. In this respect B281513 appears unusual.

Siskin Carduelis spinus

B034787	5F	9.4.82	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
	x	2.10.83	Glen Garry: 56°48'N 4°03'W (Tayside)
			(ring in pellet of Merlin)
			79 km 66 deg
B131502	5F	21.2.81	New Ham: 51°20'N 0°29'W Weybridge (Surrey)
	v	4.4.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
			657 km 331 deg
B648784	6M	12.3.83	Pippbrook: 51°14'N 0°20'W Dorking (Surrey)
	v	23.4.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
	v	26.4.83	Barcaldine
			671 km 331 deg
B732298	6M	27.4.83	Scônê: 56°25'N 3°24'W Perth (Tayside)
	v	10.5.83	Barcaldine: 56°31'N 5°19'W Oban (Argyll)
			118 km 275 deg

B732310	6M	28.4.83	Scopè
	v	11.5.83	Barcaldine
	v	15.5.83	Barcaldine
			118 km 275 deg

There is an annual influx of Siskins to peanuts at bird-tables during April in Argyll, presumably returning migrants from southern Britain and Europe. In 1983, numbers were about ten times those in each of the years 1980-1982, generating the variety of recoveries above. In 1984 numbers returned to the usual much lower level.

## References

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## RESEARCH IN ARGYLL

This section deals with research currently underway in Argyll. As can be seen, there is a considerable amount of time and effort being devoted to our local bird species. Help with any of the following research projects would be appreciated.

Details of any planned research or indeed current research which has been omitted here will be included in the 1984 Argyll Report.

1. National Wildfowl Counts
2. Greenland White Fronts
3. Barnacle Geese
4. Eider Ducks
5. Golden Eagles
6. Ringed Plovers
7. Herring Gulls
8. Guillemots
9. Tawny Owls
10. Wood Warblers
11. Choughs
12. Crows
13. Report of Oil Spill on West Coast in 1983 by R Broad, RSPB

### 1. National Wildfowl Counts

This scheme is based on 7 mid-monthly counts of wildfowl through the Winter (September to March inclusive). Counts have been undertaken for parts of Argyll for many years, notably the sealochs and inland waters of Islay, Lochgilphead/Knapdale and Mull. Over recent years somewhat better coverage has been achieved and areas around Oban are now being regularly counted, and occasional counts are also received from Jura, Coll and Tiree. Volunteers wishing to contribute to the scheme would be very welcome, especially anyone prepared to count anywhere on Kintyre or Cowal. An annual County and a National report are sent to all helpers.

S. Newton, (Regional Organiser)  
12 Compston St., Ambleside  
Cumbria. LA22 9PD.

### 2. Greenland White Fronts

David Stroud et al, Islay Natural History Centre, Easter Ellister, Port Charlotte, Islay are presently researching into numbers, distribution, habitat choice and behaviour of the Greenland White Fronted Goose. This is a national survey however Argyll is particularly important with Islay holding 56% of the total British population in 1983. This is significantly higher than in 1982 when 45.2% of the national total was present there. Large numbers of White Fronts were also regularly seen on Kintyre.

1983 was a very poor breeding year. On the Greenland nesting areas the weather was very bad during July and August. Such weather probably had an adverse effect on adults prior to nesting and newly hatched goslings. The proportion of young to adults was 9.9% on Islay during 1983.

Anyone having counts of White Fronts from any area of Argyll or willing to help with further census work is asked to contact David Stroud at the above address.

### 3. Barnacle Geese on Islay

Brathay Exploration Group have been mounting regular ornithological expeditions to Islay for young people (16-22 years) since 1981. Field work has been focused on the feeding ecology, time budgets and roosting behaviours of the Barnacle Goose. The Group is part of an educational charity based in the Lake District and the expeditions are led by volunteers. The Islay expeditions have also undertaken a wide variety of other projects: annual censuses of Choughs, studies of Greenland White Fronted Geese and Beached Bird Surveys. Other expeditions have also frequently visited Colonsay, Jura and the Garvellachs primarily to study seabirds and in particular to ring Storm Petrels. Anyone requiring further information regarding Brathay expeditions in Argyll should contact:

Expeditions Co-Ordinator  
Brathay Hall Trust  
Ambleside, Cumbria. LA22 0HP.

#### 4. Eider Ducks

The distribution, movements and feeding Ecology of the Eider duck on the West Coast of Scotland is being studied by Dr. H. Milne and C. Galbraith of Culterty Field Station, Zoology Department, University of Aberdeen. This is to enable protection systems to be applied on Mussel farms now established along the coast. Eiders have recently been causing considerable damage at such sites. Monthly counts of Eider numbers are carried out over selected stretches of coastline. This allows seasonal variations in distribution to be investigated.

A number of ducks have been marked with numbered wing tags. Reports of sightings of these birds are allowing a detailed picture of individual movements to be constructed. Studies of feeding behaviour have shown that Eiders will vary their overall feeding strategy depending on a variety of environmental factors. This is particularly relevant to preventing damage at Mussel farms.

Anyone willing to help with regular census work or having counts of Eider numbers from any loch is asked to contact Colin A. Galbraith at Culterty Field Station, Aberdeen University, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire. Reports of sightings of marked Eiders would also be greatly appreciated.

#### 5. Golden Eagles

Numbers, breeding census and population structure of Golden Eagles in Argyll is being monitored on a long term basis by Mr. M.J.P. Gregory, Duiletter, Kilmory, Lochgilphead. This research involves regular checks of all known eyries and nesting clutch size, number of eggs hatched and eventual fledging success. Long term monitoring is particularly important since it can be used as a guide on the general state of the environment in which the Eagles live.

#### 6. Ringed Plover

The 1984 breeding survey of the Ringed Plover organised by the B.T.O. aims to establish the present distribution of this species throughout Britain. A previous study in 1973-74 revealed a very restricted distribution in England but it was much more numerous in Scotland. It is, therefore, important to establish this species breeding distribution within Argyll. For further details contact Richard Coomber, Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

#### 7. Herring Gulls

Research by members of the Zoology Department at Glasgow University has involved capture of Herring Gulls at various rubbish tips throughout Argyll and elsewhere in Scotland. Many of the birds have been ringed with various combinations of coloured plastic rings. Hopefully, as people report sightings of these marked birds a picture of their movements will become apparent.

Details of any sightings of marked Herring Gulls should be sent to Dr. P. Monaghan, Zoology Dept., University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Please write the combination of ring colours, the order in which they occur and on which legs.

8. Islay Guillemots

The number of Guillemots on breeding ledges in Islay are being monitored as part of a project intended to determine whether their numbers are increasing in parallel with other Inner Hebridean colonies (e.g. Canna). No significant change in the status of Islay Guillemots was apparent between 'Operation Seafarer' and the 1981 Bridled Guillemot Survey (10% Bridled birds on Islay). Further counts are planned for 1984 and it is hoped to extend monitoring to other breeding species (Razorbills, Kittiwakes, Shags and Fulmars).

S. Newton

9. Tawny Owl

The breeding ecology of Tawny Owls is being studied in an area of forestry plantation in Cowal.

Anyone finding the nest of a Tawny Owl is asked to contact Steve Petty, Forestry Commission, Wildlife Research Branch, Invernaden Gate, Glenbranter, Strachur, Argyll. Any carcasses found will be collected for analysis.

10. Wood Warbler

The 1984 Wood Warbler survey organised by the B.T.O. aims to map the distribution and abundance of Wood Warblers. The survey will take place throughout May and June. For further details contact Richard Coomber, Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

11. The Breeding Ecology of the Chough on Islay, Inner Hebrides

The Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* is a comparatively rare bird in Britain; its disappearance from much of England and Scotland during the 18th and 19th centuries has resulted in its being given Schedule 1 status, affording it maximum protection. The Inner Hebridean island of Islay is the only stronghold of the Chough in Scotland, and holds 20-25% of the breeding population of these birds in Great Britain.

In a survey carried out on Islay in 1980-81, J. Warnes found 53-61 breeding pairs and estimated the total Chough population to be 160-180 birds, including non-breeders.

There are differences in the habitats occupied by the breeding Choughs on Islay; in particular the amount of grazed pasture available for feeding and the nature of the nest sites, vary in different parts of the island. The aim of this project is to survey the breeding population, to quantify habitat differences at a selected number of breeding sites in different areas and to examine breeding success. Marking of nestlings using individual colour-ring combinations, initiated by Warnes in 1980, was continued and extended; 50 young were marked during 1983, thus contributing to the establishment of a population of known age, relatedness and natal area for future study.

## /Study

The size of breeding population has been determined by visiting all sites known to have been used previously by Choughs and by searching as much suitable nesting terrain as possible during the period April to June 1983. Once located, breeding sites are classified as definite, probable or possible according to the criteria given for the 1982 International Chough Census. British Trust for Ornithology nest record cards are completed for each site and are now held by them.

The 1983 nesting total of 55 pairs of Choughs is similar to that found by Warnes in 1981; more 'definite' nesting sites were located during the present survey but there is no suggestion of any marked changes in the breeding population. However, the non-breeding Choughs in the Rhinns area of Islay have increased from 24 in 1981 to 36 in 1983. This suggests that the breeding population may expand in the future as these birds reach breeding age. Little is known of the movements of Choughs within and from Islay. As the colour-ringing programme develops more data on this aspect of Chough behaviour will become available.

Habitat used by breeding birds at inland and coastal sites is being monitored. In both areas the birds spend a high proportion of their time feeding in sheep pasture, but heathland is also used extensively in the coastal area where it is the predominant habitat type. For the 1983 season, the mean clutch size was found to be  $4.36 \pm 1.0$  ( $n=14$ ), the mean number of young hatched per nest  $3.08 \pm 1.16$  ( $n=24$ ) and the mean number of young fledged per nest  $2.22 \pm 1.48$  ( $n=27$ ).

The breeding success of birds nesting in barns, a habit which has increased in Islay in recent years, was compared with that of birds nesting in natural sites using data available for this survey and that provided by Warnes for 1981 and 1982. The mean clutch size and hatching success were similar at the two kinds of sites but the mean number of young produced was less in the barn nesters (1.37 compared with 2.12 for the natural sites). This appeared to be due to a greater probability of the pairs in barns failing to produce any young at all; 52% ( $n=19$ ) of the barn nesters produced no young as compared with only 15% ( $n=33$ ) in the natural sites, a significant difference ( $\chi^2=6.53$ , 1 d.f.  $p<0.02$ ). This could be due to a number of factors such as differences in habitat quality and food availability, or differences in predation rate.

Alternatively, a greater proportion of barn nesters may be first time breeders and it will be of interest to monitor breeding success at these sites over a number of years.

Eric Bignall and  
Quinhill  
Clachan  
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High Cross  
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Cambridge

### Carrion and Hooded Crow Hybrid

The study examines the plight of the Hybrid crow in Scotland. Investigations are continuing into why the hybrid zone is narrow and sited where it is. What is the nature of the implied reduced viability of hybrid crows? Research is continuing into habitat use; feeding behaviour; territory and social behaviour of crows.

Nigel Scriven, c/o Ardentinn Outdoor Education Centre, Ardentinn, Dunoon, Argyll, would be interested to hear of the location of crow nests and details of plumage types of crows seen throughout Argyll

### Oil Spill

An oil slick first reported off Coll and Tiree on 19th October 1983 resulted in many seabird casualties. At least 3,500 birds were affected and of these 3,330 were either found dead or were so badly oiled that they had to be destroyed. Many of the remaining contaminated birds, seen alive on the sea, were also expected to die in due course.

The beaches worst affected were the north facing beaches on Tiree and Coll but bird casualties associated with this incident were also picked up on Islay, Mull, Ardnamurchan, Rhum, Eigg, Canna and Skye. A number of oil samples were collected and subsequent analysis indicated that the material was a medium grade fuel oil. Despite enquiries, the vessel responsible for this marine pollution was not traced.

The species worst affected were the auks with 1627 Guillemots, 254 Razorbills, 53 Black Guillemots and 10 Puffins identified amongst the corpses. Other species involved included lesser numbers of Gannets, Shags, Fulmars, Gulls, seaducks (the majority of which were Eiders) and 14 Great Northern Divers. On Tiree, numbers of Black Guillemots and Eiders relatively unaffected by the initial slick were progressively oiled from contact with the oil encrusted rocks and on the beaches a number of waders were similarly secondarily oiled.

Information from 12 ringed auks found during the incident indicated the areas of origin - all were from breeding colonies in the west and north of Scotland.

### Origins of ringed auks found during the incident

	Treshnish	Canna	Shiant	Handa	Foula
Razorbill	-	-	2	1	-
Guillemot	1	6	-	1	1

R L Swann, who has been studying and ringing auks on Canna since the mid '70s considered that an additional 5 Guillemots and a Razorbill that were reported to him during the ensuing months were also probably casualties of the oil incident. On Canna certain sample auk colonies have been monitored annually since 1974 and in every year until the summer of 1984 the figures have shown a steady upward trend. Summer 1984 produced the first decrease (approximately 8%) in this series of counts. Other local factors may have influenced this hiccup in the graph. Unfortunately, there is no comparable data from the main seabird colonies in Argyll and the effects of what has been the worst oiling incident on the west coast of Scotland for many years on the local breeding populations will be imprecisely known.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES IN ARGYLL

### Kintyre Antiquarian and Natural History Society:

Secretary: Mrs. E. Morrison, Killean Place, High Street, Campbeltown.

Membership: £2.00 per annum.

Monthly meetings are held throughout the Winter, normally on Wednesday evenings in the Ardsheil Hotel, Campbeltown. Speakers are invited from all over Scotland to give talks on a selection of Natural History and Antiquarian subjects.

Outdoor meetings and treks to places of local interest are held on the first Sunday of each month.

### Kintyre Photographic Club:

Secretary: Contact Mrs. E. Morrison, Killean Place, High Street, Campbeltown.

Membership: £3.00 per annum plus membership of the Community Centre.

Meetings are held on Tuesday nights in Campbeltown Community Centre. Regular slide and film shows are held, some of which contain material of interest to ornithologists.

### Cowal Natural History Society:

Secretary: Nigel Scriven, c/o Ardentinn Outdoor Centre, Ardentinn, by Dunoon.

Membership: Ordinary £3.00 per annum; Junior £1.00 per annum; Old Age Pensioner's £1.00 per annum; Family £5.00 per annum.

Monthly indoor meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month. Outdoor meetings to help with surveys, fieldwork or visit places of Natural History interest are arranged throughout the year. Some previous activities include deercatching, small mammal trapping, visiting a Forestry Commission Research study area and helping with the B.T.O. Winter atlas survey.

The aim of the Society is to promote the study of Natural History within the Cowal Peninsula. A report is produced and a newsletter is circulated to members three times per year.

### The Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll:

Secretary: Ms. A.T. Lewis, Rock Bank, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig.

Membership: Single £3.00 per annum; Couple £4.50 per annum; Student £1.00 per annum.

The Society holds monthly meetings and lectures throughout the year in the Community Centre, Lochgilphead on Friday evenings. Outings to various places of interest take place on Saturday afternoons throughout the Summer months.

At least two of the invited speakers talk on Natural History subjects each year; the other lectures being mainly on Antiquarian subjects. A number of members take part in bird counts for the B.T.O. and R.S.P.B. Some are involved with a local Scottish Wild Life Trust nature reserve.

Membership/...

Membership fee entitles the members to printed programmes of activities and two issues of the Society's magazine "Kist" each year.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust - Lorne Members Group:

Hon. Secretary: E. Douglas Potter, "Strathyre", Pulpit Hill, Oban.  
Telephone (0631 64913).

Membership: Ordinary £6.00 per annum; Family £9.00 per annum;  
Special rates for Students and Old Age Pensioners.

The S.W.T.'s aims are broadly the conservation of Scottish Wildlife in all its forms from plants to mammals.. It operates in Northern Argyll through its Lorne Members' Group. The Group normally meets monthly for talks and discussions in the conference room of the S.M.B.A. Dunstaffnage. Outings are arranged to local sites of Wildlife interest. In representing the Trust in Argyll, The Groups functions include monitoring local development, liaising with public and other bodies and endeavouring to further public understanding of the need for environmental conservation. Membership of the S.W.T. entitles those living in the area to membership of the Lorne Members' Group without additional subscription.

National Societies active in Argyll but not having members groups as yet, include the following:-

Scottish Ornithologists Club	: 21, Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh.
British Trust for Ornithology	: Tring, Hertfordshire, England.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Head Office, : The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, England.  : Strathclyde Officer, Mr Roger Broad, 6 Birch Road, Killearn, Glasgow, G63 95Q.



OWN SPECIES LIST

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER SEEN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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Return 1984 records to: Richard Coomber, Staffa Cottages, Tobermory,  
Isle of Mull, Argyll.

Return 1985 and any subsequent records to: David Stroud, Kindrochid,  
Sanaig, Bruichladdich, Islay, Argyll.