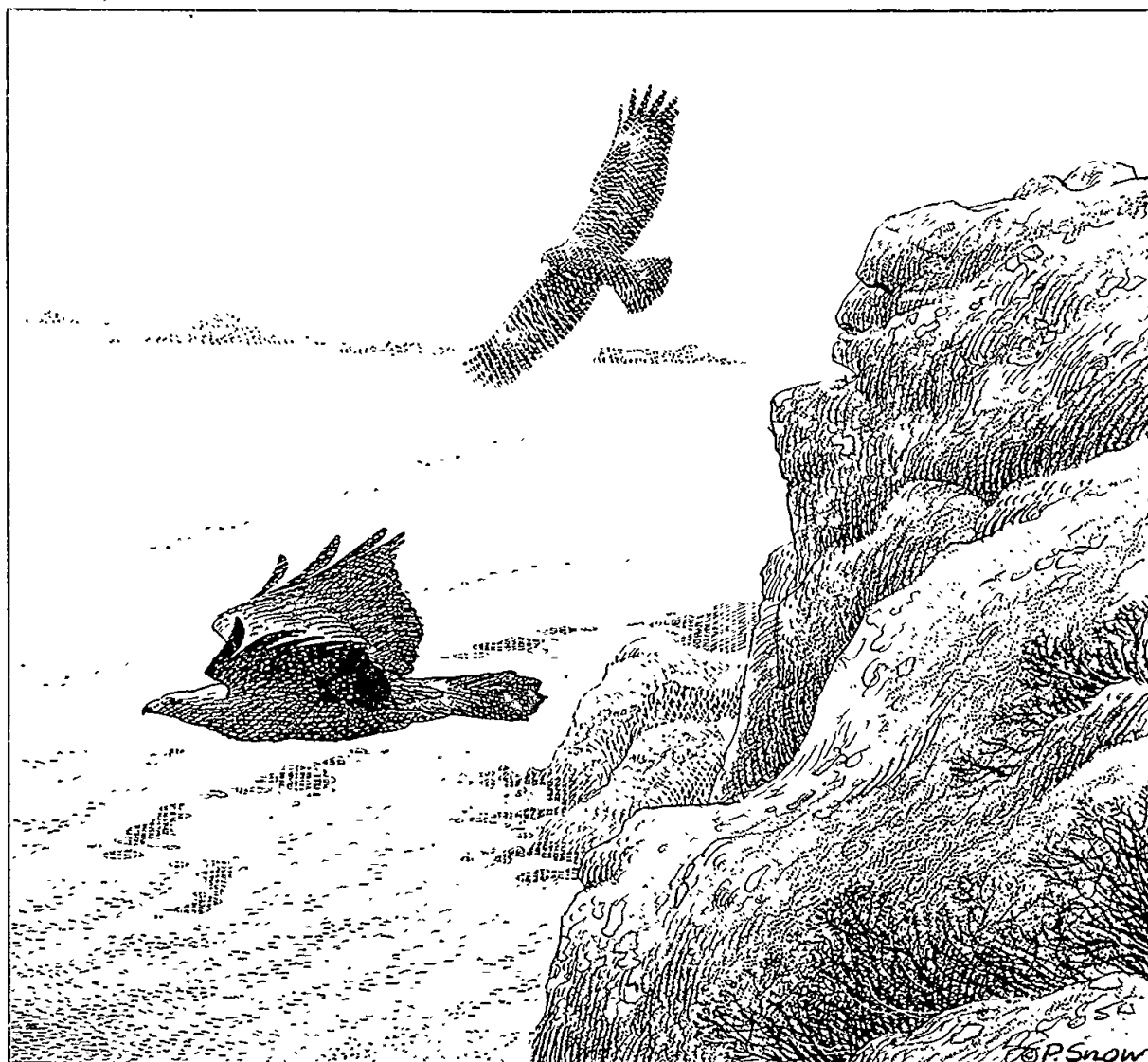


THE FIFTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT



PUBLISHED BY
THE ARGYLL BIRD CLUB

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**EDITED BY DR. C.A. GALBRAITH,
DR. A.R. JENNINGS AND
M. MADDERS**

**Further copies of this report can be obtained from:
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Ardentinny, Dunoon, Argyll.**

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INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth year that the Argyll Bird Report has been published by the Argyll Bird Club. The Report contains the species list for 1987 and 1988 as well as details of all the bird ringing activity in Argyll for these two years. The period since production of the previous report has been a very encouraging one for the Argyll Bird Club. We have seen a considerable increase in both the number and quality of records submitted to the county recorder. This has been mostly due to the success of previous Reports in publicising the need for more detailed records and the considerable efforts of Club members in both sending the records themselves and in encouraging others to do likewise. All records of species seen in Argyll should be sent to the county recorder, Mike Madders, Lochdon, Isle of Mull. Argyll Bird Club membership is continuing to rise and presently stands at 170 members. Anyone who would like to join the Club should contact the membership secretary, Jane Eccles, Roineachail, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll, who will supply full details of Club activities and subscription rates.

A number of short papers on research topics relevant to Argyll are also included in the Report. It is particularly encouraging to note that two of the papers report on projects initiated by the Club with much of the fieldwork being undertaken by the Club membership. The work on garden birds in Argyll is the result of work organised and co-ordinated by Steve Eccles (Club secretary) with the analysis being done by Dr Patrick Thompson of the BTO. the paper on the pied flycatcher nestbox project is the result of joint work between the Club and the Forestry Commission, organised by Steve Petty (a committee member).

Over the relatively few years that the Club has been producing the Argyll Bird Report we have been attempting to improve the content and presentation of each subsequent edition. This year we are again extremely fortunate to have the help of Philip Snow who has provided all the sketches used throughout the text. Many of these have been specially drawn for our use, as has the extremely attractive cover of eagles on Mull. Some of the sketches are offered for sale with a percentage of all proceeds going to Club funds. Anyone wishing further details should contact Mike Madders at the above address.

As the quality of the Report has increased we have been able to encourage local businesses to advertise in it. Inclusion of these adverts helps considerably to the viability of Report production and helps keep the eventual sale cost to a reasonable level. Many thanks to all those people advertising in this years Report. Thanks must go also to all the people who have helped in the production of the Report and to those who have helped the Club over recent years. Arthur Jennings, Mike Madders and Roger Broad assembled the information for the species lists. They were assisted in this by David Jardine who sits along with them on the County Recording Committee. Clive Craik produced the report of Ringling work within the County and Steve Eccles should be thanked for organising all the advertising within the Report.

I hope you will find the Report of interest and that your birdwatching in Argyll is successful (and well recorded).

Colin A Galbraith, Minard, June 1989.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1987.

DR. A.R. Jennings.

INTRODUCTION

The sequence of species follows the Voous order and the Euring code is given for each species together with brief details of status. Abbreviations for both the 1987 and 1989 lists are defined as follows:

R.	Resident & sedentary.
Sp.	Chiefly seen in Spring
B.	Breeding species; breeding & wintering ranges may differ.
S.	Summer Visitor; breeds unless stated otherwise.
P.	Passage Visitor; does not normally occur in summer or winter.
A.	Chiefly seen in Autumn.
W.	Winter Visitor
Scarce	Found in small numbers at a few localities only.
Rare	Usually recorded annually in very small numbers.
Irregular	Birds that are unpredictable in respect of timing, locality or number of occurrences.
Vagrant	Not recorded annually.
s/pl	Summer plumaged bird.
w/pl	Winter plumaged bird.
ecl.	Eclipse plumaged bird.
Pr	Pair.
c/-	Clutch of ...
b/-	Brood of ...
ad	Adult.
sub-ad	Sub-adult.
imm	Immature.
juv	Juvenile.
ml.	Male.
ml ml.	Males.
fml.	Female.
fml fml.	Females.
fy	Fledged young.
RT	Ringtail (as in immature/female harriers).
r/h	Red-head (as in immature/ female Goldeneye, Smew, Goosander, Blackcap).
#	All 1988 records included.
ptn	Plantation (usually refers to commercial coniferous woodland).
sev	Several.
➔	Direction of flight, e.g. ➔N = flying north.
NNR	National Nature Reserve.
HT roost	High Tide Roost.
10 km sq	National Grid Square measuring 10 km × 10 km i.e 100 sq km.
\$ and SBRC	Scottish Birds Record Committee.
* and BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee.
ARP	Argyll Records Panel.

The overall areas covered by the Report for both 1987 and 1988 are as follows:

Kintyre: Mainland and inshore islets south of a line between Tarbert and West Loch Tarbert including Gigha and Sanda.

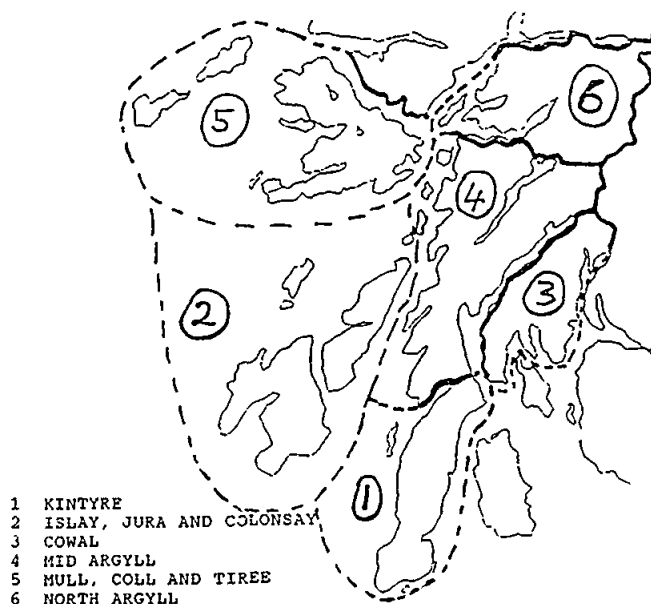
Islay: Also includes Jura, Colonsay and associated sea areas and small islets.

Cowal: but not including Bute.

Mull, Coll, Tiree, Iona: Ulva, Staffa and the Treshnish Isles together with the associated sea and smaller islands.

Mid and North Argyll: Also includes Lismore but not Morvern which is now part of Highland region.

MAP SHOWING THE REGIONS OF ARGYLL USED IN THIS REPORT



- 1 KINTYRE
- 2 ISLAY, JURA AND COLONSAY
- 3 COWAL
- 4 MID ARGYLL
- 5 MULL, COLL AND TIREE
- 6 NORTH ARGYLL

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all those who submitted records during the year. A list of these appears below. In particular I would like to express thanks to David & Jean Jardine (Colonsay and Oronsay), Mike Madders (Mull, Coll, Tiree, & Garvellachs), Peter Moore and Malcolm Ogilvie Islay, whose compilations made the making of the Systematic List easier. P. Moore kindly provided information from the RSPB L. Gruinart Reserve and also provided the wader, gull and waterfowl tables, for the reserve. David Stroud provided detailed information on the birds of Tiree and Coll of which only selected records are given here (a separate publication by D. Stroud *et al.* will appear elsewhere). Roger Broad kindly read drafts of the Systematic List and made many helpful comments and suggestions. Any mistakes which remain, however, are my responsibility.

Contributors:

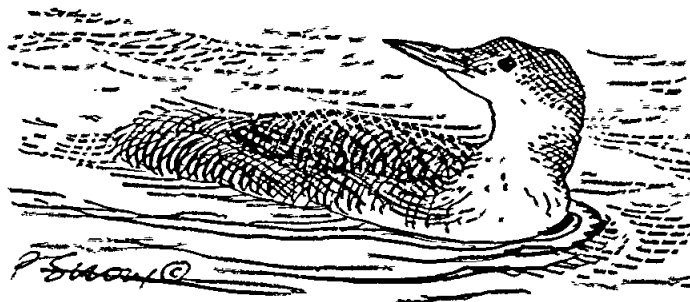
Alexander P., Arnott N., Ascroft R., Atkinson D., Atkinson P., Averis B., Baker P., Bailey K., Barton C., Barry D., Bentley S., Bignall E., Birdston J., Blatcher J., Bradfield J., Broad R., Brodie J., Bromage D., Brooks D., Bryant R S., Brulison J P., Burton M A F., , Cameron C., Campbell C., Campbell S., Carss D., Church J., Clugston D. L., Collis M. G., Craik C. and M., Crawford S., Croucher D., Curtis T., Dale J., Dale S., Daniels T and T. P., Dawson J., Dugan D., Elliot R., Ellis M., Ellrick W., Embleton H., Evans A., Everett M. J., Fergusson C. C., Galbraith C.A., Gammon W. E., Garbarek J., Gardner A., Gibson S., Gillon K., Graham E. A., Grant G., Grant L. and R., Gregory M., Griffin M., Hardrill P., Hamilton J., Hamilton F., Harbottle A. G. T., Hardy S., Harvey C., Hilton A., Hogg A., Holt A., Howard J., Holloway S., Inglis J., Jardine D. C and J., Jardin M., Jarret K., Jennings A. R. and I. W., Kelly D. J., Kennedy R., Kidd E. R. G., Knight E., Leckie F. M., Lightfoot R., Livingstone I., Limb P., Llewellyn M., Lycett I., Madders M., Marshall A. R and D. V., McNab R. and J., Mettem A., Middleton Z., Miles H., Mitchell J., Moore A. S., Moore P., Mornay D. E., Murno M., Murton J., Newman D., Newton S., O'Donnel M., Ogilvie M. A., Owens P. M., Owens I. P. F., Perris M., Perrows M., Petty S., Pollard D., Porteus M., Potter E. D and A., Pritchard S., Procter R., Prout L. S., Prytherch R., Robinson P., Rockley D. H., Rowe A. J., Scriven N., Searle J. and H., Sexton D., Shephard K. B., Smith R. W. J., Staley P. T. and M., Swift S., Thomas D. W., Tippit M., Travis C., Trigg E. and D., Tulloch V., Wagstaff J. and T., Weststead J., Westthorpe J., White S., Willby N., Woodhouse D., Wormell P., Younger S.

0002 RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

B. W. & P. Widely distributed, sparse. Possibly decreasing.
Recorded all months. Max. 62 offshore Tiree, 24 Jan., 54 L. Indaal, Islay, 14 Feb., 6 L. Riddon, 30 Aug., 14 L. Indaal, 14 Oct., 10 L. na Keal, Mull, 27 Oct. 4 W. L. Tarbert, 31 Oct., 3 Lochdon, Mull, 7 Dec.
Breeding season: Nesting reported from Kintyre. One pr. with chick, Colonsay. One nest found, and a further 7 prs. possibly breeding, Coll

0003 BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

B. W. P. Very scarce breeder. Possibly decreasing.
Recorded all months, chiefly singles. Max. 3 N. Shian, 24 Jan., 3 L. Scridain 15 Feb., 3 W. L. Tarbert, 24 Oct., singles present various places Islay and Mull, Dec.
Breeding season: Birds were present at 7 areas monitored in May/June and 5 prs. and 2 singles were located. Only 2 breeding attempts recorded but it is possible that some short lived attempts could have been overlooked. One pr. successfully reared one chick and the other lost its eggs possibly as a result of flooding. During Spring /Summer birds were seen irregularly elsewhere in Argyll in areas that could have been suitable for breeding, but there is no information to indicate that this occurred. The species remains at a critical breeding level in Argyll. (RSPB).



Winter
Gt. Northern Diver

0004 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

W. P. Argyll coast important wintering area. Mainly present Sep. /May. Few may summer.
Max. 46 offshore Tiree, 24 Jan., 26 West L. Tarbert 13 Feb., 15 L. Scridain 15 Feb., 55 Kennacraig-Port Askaig 13 Mar., 33 off Oronsay 14 Apr., 10 off Tiree, Jun., and 6 Jul. Pairs displaying several coastal localities early May. First return, single Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, 15 Sep., 8 Claggain Bay, Islay, 26 Oct., 20 West L. Tarbert 24 Oct., 11 L. na Keal, Mull 13 Dec.

0005 WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii*

V. W. Rare and irregular.
Single, L. Sween, 21-24 Apr. and 4-6 Jul. (RWJS, JSK, EW, et al.) This confirmed summer record is a remarkable one. Summering W. B. Divers being most unusual.

0007 LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

B & W.
Max. 7 Lochdon, Mull 14 Feb., and 7 there 25 Nov., 6 L. Ballygrant, 21 Oct. (high count single site Islay), 5 Salen Bay, Mull 2 Dec. 8 L. Etive, Dec. Reports of singles many sites winter months.

0009 GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

V.
All records. Singles, L. Indaal, 7 Apr., L. Awe, 20 Jul., L. Gilp, 1 Sep., 2 W. L. Tarbert, 27 Sep., single Ardmucknish Bay, 11 Oct., and West L. Tarbert 18 Oct.

0010 RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

V.
Single, Gairletter, Cowal, 23-31 Jan. (PTS, NS, SP.).

0011 SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

W & P.
Counts 10 or above, 10 L. Indaal, 10 Jan., (some high counts of 30+ were recorded from L. Indaal during Feb. and Jan., 11 L. na Keal, 14 Feb., 16 Linnhe Mhuirich, Feb.,

0020 FULMAR *Fulmaris glacialis*

B. W. & P.
Single blue phase, Colonsay, 20 Apr. A land based count, on Tiree, 7 Apr. - 10 Jul., revealed a total of 1419 and a similar count on Coll gave a total of 167. Back on ledges Iona, 2 Nov.

0043 SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

V. Late summer. Fairly regular.
All records. 8 Kennacraig-Islay 14 Aug., singles Oban-Tiree 14 Sep., and off Kennacraig, 27 Sep.

0046 MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

B. P. except Cowal.
Max. c. 7000 between Coll and Tiree, 16 Apr. and 470+ Tobermory-Coll 20 Jun., 100 off Uragai, Colonsay, 23 Sep.

0052 STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

B. P.
Singles, Kilbrannan Sound, 29-Jun., and 3 there 17 Aug., Lower L. Fyne, 16 Aug., off Arinagour, Coll, 19 Aug., off Kennacraig, 17 Oct. One dead L. Gruinart reserve 26 Nov. (2nd record for the reserve).

0055 LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

V.
Singles, off Arinagour, 14 Sep. (MM), and S. off Tighnabruich 13 Sep. (SY).

0071 GANNET *Sula bassana*

S. P. Nearest colony Ailsa Craig.
Max. c. 300 offshore Coll/Tiree Apr. /Jul.

0072 CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

R. & W. Much less common than Shag.
Max. 16 L. Indaal, 26 Jan., 117 Tiree, 24-29 Jan., 18 Finart Bay, L. Long, 20 Nov., 20 Ronachan, Tarbert, 1 Dec. Breeding season: 23 occupied nests Torran Rocks, Mull, 23 Jun. 16 occupied nests Reid Eilean, Mull, 11 Jul. 56 nests Cow Eilean, McCormacraig Isles.

0080 SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

R. & W. Very common.
c. 50 Ardmucknish Bay, 3 Jan., 200 Eileanan Eain, Colonsay, 24 Sep. Breeding season: 364 nests McCormacraig Isles.

0104 NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

V. (escapes also)
3 confirmed records: 1 (unaged) Killichronan, Mull, 10-11 Apr. (PA), 1 Nr. adult Loch a Phuill, Tiree, 20 Apr. (MG. & AK) 1 ad. and 1 immat., Coll, 20 Apr. -6 Jun. (de M., RM. SA. et. al.)

0122 GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

R. & W. Widespread.
Breeding season: 6 prs. breeding Annabost, Coll.

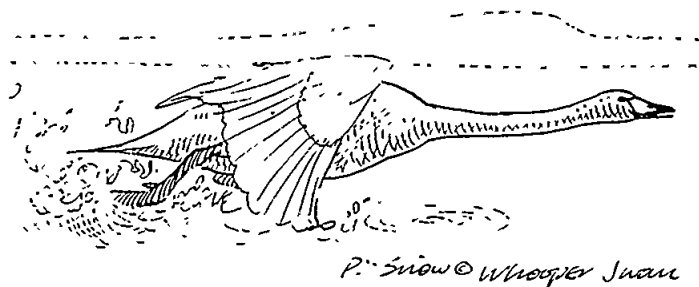
0152 MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

R. W. Widespread but scarce breeding species.
Max. 17 L. Etive, 17 Jan., 34 Tiree, 24 Jan., 12 Ardlussa, Jura, 14 Mar., 19 Holy Loch, 19 May, 12 Holy Loch, 1 Oct., 22+14 Juvs. West L. Tarbert 31 Oct., 100 ads. +3 Juvs. Tiree 17 Sep. A total of 130 ringed in Argyll 1987, including 2 'Polish morph' cygnets, Crinan and a 'Polish morph' cob Oban.

0154 WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

W. & P. Occasional non breeder may summer.
Max. 92 ads. +9 juvs. Tiree, 24 Jan., 10 Glen Lonan, 31 Mar., 2 L. Fada 18 Apr., 9 birds summered Tiree, single Carsaig, Mull, 9 Jun., 2 summered Islay. Emigration from Islay started 30 Mar., return 25 Sep. with max. 100 on 10 Oct., 31+4 cygnets Tayinloan, 18 Oct., 20 +2prs. with 2 and 4 young respectively, Machrihanish 18 Oct., 18 L.

Indaal 24 Nov. 92 ads. +4 juvs. Tíree, 5 Dec. c. 40 Linnhe Mhuirich, Nov/Dec., 55 L. Indaal Dec. 14-24.



0158 PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

P. & W. Islay, Mull, and Mid Argyll.
See Tables. c. 200 (NE) Connel, 24 Sep., 100 (SE) Connel 25 Sep., 14 L. Gruinart 26 Sep., and 36 on 7 Oct. Scattered singles with Barnacles and G. W. F. flocks Islay, Oct. -Dec.

0159 GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons
W. Except Cowal. County is the most important wintering area for the species and holds c. 80% of British population.
See Tables. 300 Tayinloan, 23 Jan., 536 Tíree, 27 Jan., Single partially leucistic bird L. Gruinart, 13 Feb. 118 Lismore, 24 Feb., 170 Eriska, 29 Mar., large arrival Islay, 10 Oct., 71 Fiddien, 2 Nov., 759 Tíree, 7 Dec., 204-215 Lismore 11 Dec. (none Eriska same count). Count Islay, Dec. 7200-7300 (MAO). Good breeding season with est. 22% young.

0161 GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

B. W. P. Regular breeding Coll, Tíree, occasionally elsewhere.
See Tables. c. 100 Ardlamont, mid Argyll, 2 Jan., 186 Tíree, 27 Jan., 30 Cuil Bay, 31 Jan., c. 200 Rhunanorine, 5 Feb., 50 Barsloichnoch, 10 Feb., 150 Drimnvore, 17 Feb., 240 Killinochonach, 10 Apr., 133 L. Spelve, 12 Apr., 42 L. Rhiaghain, Tíree, 19 May. A flightless flock (moulting) 160+ on Gunna late Jun. 220 Tíree, 17 Sep., and 782 Dec., 100+ Barnakill, Dec., no more than 14 Bridgend, Islay Oct- Dec. 782 Tíree, 8 Dec.
Breeding season: bred, Coll, (est. 30 breeding prs.) Tíree, (est. 20 breeding prs.) Mull.

0163 SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

V. and Feral. A small feral flock (both blue and white phases) present on Mull, may move to Coll in Autumn.
Two white phase, Islay Feb thro Dec. Moulting flock, 22, Haunn, Mull, 6 Jul. Single, Holy Loch, 1 Oct. and early Dec.

0166 CANADA GOOSE *Anser canadensis*

B. W. & V. Chiefly Islay, Kintyre and Mid Argyll. Resident population on Colonsay.
See Tables. Small 'minima' type: Singles L. Gruinart reserve, 24 Mar-19 Apr. and 9 Oct. -30 Oct., small 'hutchinsii' type, single, 9 Oct. -13 Oct. and 29 Dec. Single, small, race unrecorded, 29 Nov. (RSPB). 41 Kiloran Fields, Colonsay, 26 Sep., Breeding season: 2 prs. attempted Islay, pr. +b/6., L. Awe, 20 Jun., (F. much smaller than M.), pr. +b. 3. Cuil Bay, 2 Aug.

0167 BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

W. except Cowal. Very large nos. Greenland race winter in Islay.
See Tables: 60 Fiddien, Mull, 20 Jan., 760. Tíree, 27 Jan., 180 Oronsay, 16 Apr., c. 600 nr. Balephetrish, Tíree, until 20 Apr. 7 L. Gruinart (first back) 7 Sep., 7000 Islay, 10 Oct., 21000 Islay, 19 Oct., 22000 Islay, Nov. (MAO), 6914 av. of 8 counts Nov. L. Gruinart reserve.
Breeding success est. 12. 0% (slightly below average MAO)

0168 BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

W. & P. Islay, Mull & Mid Argyll
See Tables: Single Bowmore, Islay, 9 Jan., 2 L. Indaal, 3 Jan., single (dark bellied) Islay, 17 Apr., 54 Clid Bay, Coll, 28 Apr. 10 Carradale Bay, Kintyre, 30 Apr., 22 L. Gruinart 4 May, 125 there 4 Sep., and single, dark bellied, there 6 Sep. 6 Bunessen Mull, 6 Sep. 4 L. Indaal, Dec.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*
Single L. Gruinart, (an escape). 14 Jan.

0173 SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

B. & W. Widespread breeding species in suitable areas. Majority leave late Jul. return during Nov.
See Tables: 67 Tíree, 25 Jan., max. 241. Gruinart, Feb., 80 Lochdon Mull, 15 Mar., 124 L. Gruinart reserve 17 May, 2 Lochdon, 5 Nov.
Breeding season: 9 broods, Lagganulva, 18 Jun-27 Jul. 90 ads. + 141 young around coast Tíree and 18 ads. + 3 broods Coll.

0179 WIGEON *Anas penelope*

B. & W. Scarce or irregular breeding species. very common winter visitor.
See Tables: c. 100 L. Laich, 24 Jan., 192 around coast and 144 inland Tíree, 24 Jan., c. 100 L. Sween, 1 Mar., 317 Lochdon, 17 Oct., 688 L. Indaal, 24 Nov., 250 W. L. Tarbert, 6 Dec., 233 Lochdon, 22 Dec.

0182 GADWALL *Anas strepera*

W. P. Scarce and irregular breeder.
See Tables: Singles, Balephetrish, Tíree, 24 Jan., and 21 May, 2 Bridgend, Islay, 10 Jul., 2 L. a Phuill, Tíree, 17 Sep., 6 Glen Lonan, Dec. Breeding season: 2 F. with 3 and 6 young Tíree, Jun.

0184 TEAL *Anas crecca*

B. & W. Widespread.
See Tables: 481 around coast, 209 inland Tíree, 24 Jan., 75 L. Poit, Mull, 15 Feb., 40 Benderloch, 26 Mar., and 45 there Dec., 124 Lochdon, 22 Dec.

0186 MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

B. & W. Common breeding and very common wintering species.
See Tables: 307 around coast and 133 inland Tíree 24 Jan., 168 L. Indaal, 18 May, and 426 there 26 Oct.

0189 PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

B. & W except N. Argyll and Kintyre
See Tables: Single (M) Holy Loch, Sandbank, 21 Jan., 4 L. Rhiagain, Tíree, and 2 L. a Phuill 24 Jan., 11 L. Indaal, 13 Feb., and 14 there 9 Apr., 7 L. a Phuill, Tíree, 17 Sep., and 4 there 8 Dec. 7 L. Gruinart 9 Oct. Breeding season: 4 F. with young, Tíree, Jun.

0194 SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

B. W. & P. Most wintering birds on Islay.
See Tables: Singles Tayinloan, 28 Feb., and L. a Phuill, 17 Sep., 2 Bridgend Islay, 18 Oct., 4 L. Indaal, 24 Nov. and 4 L. Gruinart reserve 20 Dec. Breeding season: at least one pr. successful Tíree.

0198 POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

B. & W. Very scarce breeding species and wintering flocks small.
See Tables: 2 (M) L. Ba, Mull 11 Jan., 3 L. nan Drimnmean 20 Jan., 3 L. Poit, Mull, 21 Jan., and 3 L. Assapol, Mull same date, pr. L. Uisg, Mull, 12 Apr., max. 16 Lochan Taynish, Jan. /Apr. and max. 10 there Nov. - Dec.

0203 TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

B. & W. Absent from some islands except as non breeders.
See Tables: 94 Tíree, 24 Jan., max. 7 Lochan Taynish Jan/Feb., and max. 3 in Dec. 6 L. Seil, 12 Feb., 3 L. Ederline, 8 Mar., 14 (M) 4 (F) L. Awe, 20 Jul., 15 L. Leathen, 8 Sep., 27 Tíree, 17 Sep., 144 Tíree, 8 Dec. 4 Lochan Dubh, Dunbeg, 29 Dec.

0204 SCAUP *Aythya marila*

W. & P. Largest wintering flock off Bowmore.
See Tables: Singles ad. (M) L. Ba, Mull, 27 Apr. and L. Anlaim, Tíree 14 Jun.

0206 EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

B. W. & P. Common.
See Tables: 183 Ganavan-Ardmucknish Bay, 3 Jan., 434 off Tíree 24 Jan., 103 L. Spelve, 22 Apr., 160 (M) moulting flock, Ardmucknish Bay, 6 Jul., 62 moulting flock (M), Scallastle Bay, Mull, 29 Aug., 5-600 Otter Ferry off Kames, Oct. 60 Ardmucknish Bay, 12 Dec. Breeding season: 174 ads. + 134 young Tíree, Jun., 35 ad. + 51 young Coll.

0211 HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

V.

Single, Claggain Bay, Islay, 20-31 Oct. (CB. MP. MAO et al)* This rare vagrant, probably from Iceland, is a first record for Argyll.

0212 LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

W. & P. Uncommon winter visitor.

See Tables: 11 offshore Tiree 24 Jan., single Skipness, 15 Feb., c. 30 Feall Bay, Coll, 17 Apr. 8(M) 2(F) Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, 5 Dec. single Fionphort, 29 Dec.

0213 COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

B. & W. Scarce winter visitor and very rare breeding species.

See Tables: 4 off Hynish, 24 Jan., 6 L. Caolisport, 28 Feb., 4 (2prs) L. Fyne, 27 Apr., 5(M) 1(F) off Grasspoint, Mull, 30 May. Breeding season: a displaying flock of 14 prs. +3 M. present one site May/June.

0218 GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

W. Common. Some stay to end May.

See Tables: Many records. 10 offshore, 42 inland Tiree, 24 Jan., 16 Mishnish Lochs, Mull, 23 Jan., 15 L. Creran, 5 Apr., max. 22 Linnhe Mhuirich rapids and 9 max. Lochan Tainish Jan/Apr. 20 Ardmucknish Bay, 12 Dec.

0220 SMEW *Mergus albellus*

V. W.

See Tables: Singles ('redheads') L. Indaal, 26 Jan. and 28 Nov. / Dec.

0221 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

B. & W. Common. Large moulting flocks may be seen in summer.

See Tables: 170 offshore Tiree, 24 Jan., c. 100 L. Fyne, 5 Feb., 54, moulting flock, Fishnish Bay, Mull, 19 Jul., 76 L. Indaal, 25 Aug., 21 L. Etive, 11 Dec.

0223 GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

B. & W. Scarce breeding species.

See Tables: Pr. Taynult, 20 Jan., 7 L. Ederline, 30 Jan., 2 prs. L. Awe, 18 Feb., 1 (M) Laggan Bridge Islay, 24 Feb. 3(M) 4 (redheads) Mishnish Lochs, 27 Feb., 3 L. Eck, 1 Mar., 5 L. Awe, 3 Apr., 3 L. Etive, 13 Sep., and 11 Dec., 3 L. na Keal, 8 Dec., 2 L. Restil, 18 Dec.

0225 RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

V.

Single (M) L. Bhasapol, Tiree, 8 May and Borrapol, Tiree, 13 May. [N.C.C.]

0243 WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicollis*

Scotland The pr. that have now become established breeders were successful for the 3rd year in succession, rearing 2 chicks in 1987. Another milestone for the reintroduction programme was reached with a second pr. also successfully fledging a single chick. This year's fledglings have been fitted with coloured wing tags like the juveniles released on Rhum between 1982 and 1985. These aid individual recognition and assist in our knowledge of dispersal and colonisation. The RSPB and NCC have continued to monitor the established prs. but their location is withheld in the interest of the birds. (RSPB) Argyll Wandering birds have been recorded throughout western Argyll and all future sightings are requested with details of wing tags where visible. The records will be passed on to the RSPB and NCC.

0260 MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

V.

Single, (F) Easter Ellister, Islay, 24 Apr. (MAO).

0261. HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

B. & W. Sparse but widespread. Some Autumn movements.

More records than in previous years. Roosts, 5 on Islay, 16 Mar and 28 Oct. 13 South Argyll mainland, Jan. and 8 in Mar., max. 5 Mull, 16 Mar., and 5 Mull, 28 Oct. Breeding season: a good year on Islay, broods 4:4:3:3: mainland b/1 and b/2.

0267 GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

V.

Singles, Glasdrum NNR, 10 Feb., and Kilchrennan, 6 Jul. (BA).

0269 SPARROW HAWK. *Accipiter nisus*

B. W. & P. Widespread but secretive.

Reported thro year. 3 soaring Lochdon Mull, during massive thrush movements 17 Oct.

0287 BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

B. & W. The most abundant raptor in Argyll.

4-6 Tiree, 1 Jan., 5 L. Gruinart, 31 Mar., 10 in one field Slockavullin, 22 Dec. Breeding season: 3 prs. Tiree, all successful on ground sites. Min. 9 breeding prs. Coll, 1 pr. Gunna.

0290 ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

V. Islay, 11 Oct. (J.D.)

Single. L. Spelve, Mull 17 Oct. (MM)

0296 GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

B. & W.

A larger no. of reports than usual, (c. 40).

Reports from a long standing study area in Argyll showed that 26 prs. were checked, 12 prs. laid eggs, 9 prs. hatched, and 8 prs. reared 9 young. Elsewhere monitoring of selected sites continued. One new home range was identified in the main study area, this brought the number of home ranges monitored by RSPB to 35. These were occupied by 27-30 prs. with 4-5 singles in the remaining areas. Eggs were laid at 18-24 sites with 9-10 young hatched at 7 sites and 9 chicks successfully fledged (including two broods of 2) but the outcome at one remaining site is uncertain. (RSPB)

0301 OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

P. ? B. Scarce

A good scattering of reports. A single, L. Gruinart reserve, 23 Jun. was the 2nd record for the reserve.

A pr. took up residence on an artificial nest platform erected in early Spring 1987, on mainland Argyll and 2 eggs were laid. Unfortunately, the parents increasingly lost interest towards the end of incubation and deserted the site. This is the first documented nesting attempt for Argyll since the species recolonised Scotland in the 1950's. 1-2 additional birds were seen at this site on occasions.

0304 KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

B. W. & P.

Reported from, Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Tiree as well as mainland.

0309 MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

B. W. & P. Scarce and declining as a breeding species.

More records than in previous years.

Breeding season: Birds were recorded in 8 areas during the breeding season, excluding one area that has regularly held a pr. in recent years but was apparently unoccupied in 1987. This represents a welcome increase in the no. of known Merlin sites and reflects increased survey and the identification of an area with a density of breeding birds unparalleled elsewhere in Argyll. 6 nest sites were located and of these 5 are known to have hatched 17 chicks. (RSPB)

0318 GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus*

V.

Single, dark phase, L. Gorm, Islay, 9 Oct. - 17 Nov. (JPB. et al.)*

0320 PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

B. W. & P. Widespread but scarce.

A large no. of records, chiefly Spring and Autumn.

Breeding season: Compilation of breeding data from sources throughout the mainland and islands indicate that 1987 was a far better year than 1986. Information was also available from a larger no. of sites. Breeding was proved at 30 of the 34 sites at which prs. were present, the other 4 either failed or were non breeders. Of the prs. where eggs were known to have been laid, 2 failed, 22 were successful and for 6, observations were incomplete and the outcome uncertain. The brood sizes were on average larger than in most years. (b/1x3; b/2 x6; b/3 x6; b/4 x1).

0329 RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

R. Locally distributed.

Breeding season: bred L. Gruinart reserve, b/5, Calgary, Mull, b/3 Ardura, Mull.

0330 PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus*

R. Local on hills 2, 400 asl.

Single, Ben Vane, Arrochar, 21 May. 12 on 3 summits, Mull, 29 Sep.

7 Ben More, Mull, 6 Dec. Breeding season: b/6, Mull, Jun.

0332 BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

R.

5(M) 3(F), Raera forest, 24 Jan., 3 (M) Mealdarroch NNR, Feb., Dec. 4 (M) Dunbeg, 8 Feb. Said to have become rare in Islay. (MAO)

Breeding season: 12 at 2 leks, mid Argyll, and 5(M), 4(F) Millhouse area.

0358 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

R.

17 Kiloran Dunes, Colonsay, 27 Sep. Birds released on Islay include hybrid R. L. xChukar and at least one pure bred Chukar. (MAO)

0370 QAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

V.

Singles calling Hynish, Tiree, 15-16 Jun and Middleton, Tiree, 16 Jun.

0394 PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

R. Introduced Tiree 1985.

No significant records.

0396 GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus*

A small feral population on Mull.

0407 WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

B(?). W. & P. in Islay, Mull & N. Argyll.

5 calling L. Tallant, Islay, 30 Jan., single (shot) Gigha 29 Jan., single, taken into care, Salen Mull, later released successfully, 16 Jan., 2 L. Gruinart, 26 Oct., single Gigha, 31 Oct. Breeding season: calling and probably breeding several sites Tiree.

0421 CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

S. Scarce.

First, single calling Colonsay, 30 Apr. 4 calling Coll, 17 May, 3 calling Iona Jun. and single heard Ulva, later seen, 6 Jul. A minimum of 98 calling birds Tiree and 20 on Coll. Singles, L. Gruinart reserve 7th. and 18th Jul.

424 MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

B & W. Scarce.

5 L. Gruinart reserve 31 Mar., and May, ad. +juv. Colonsay, 26 Sep., pr. Gigha, 9 Nov. single L. Etive 17 Nov. Breeding season: at least 5 prs. breeding Tiree, and 1 pr. Coll.

0429 COOT *Fulica atra*

B. & W. Uncommon

2 L. Awe, 1 Jan., 2 L. Seil, 25 Jan., 1 Ben Hagh, Tiree, and 14 L. Bhasapoll 24-29 Jan., and 3 ther , 8 Dec

0450 OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

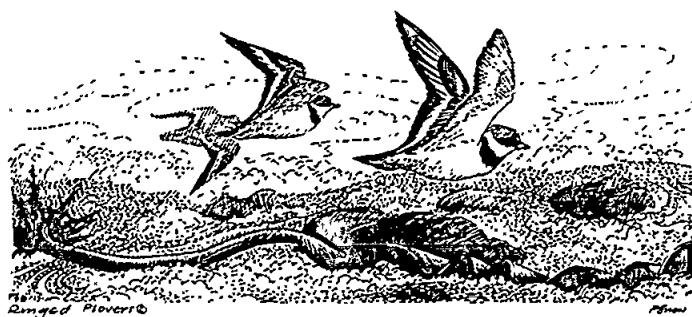
B. W. & P. Common.

See Tables: Max. 441 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan. 106 L. na Keal, Mull, 14 Feb., 144 Holy Loch, 29 Mar., 102 Ledaig Point, 23 Jul. Breeding season: est. c. 300 prs. Tiree and c. 100 prs. Coll.

0470 RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

B. W. & P. Common, widespread.

See Tables: Max. 744 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 50 Tayinloan, 28 Feb., 50 Strand, Colonsay, 25 Apr. Passage of small dark Tundrae birds Tiree, early May/Jun., up to 50 birds daily. Breeding season: est. c. 200 prs. Tiree, 20-30 prs. Coll.

0482 DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

? V. Status uncertain.

5 Meall an Eun, Glen Etive, 30 Apr., 2 (M. F.) Bhein Bhan, Islay, 13 May.

0485 GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

B. W. & P.

See Tables: 8 Scallastle, Mull, 22 Mar., 20 Cuil Bay, 28 Mar., c. 1000 on Reef, Tiree, until mid Apr. 12 Machrins, Colonsay, 19 Apr. 30 Benderloch, 23 Aug.,

Breeding season: b/3 L. Carnain, Mull.

0486 GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

P. & W most areas. Uncommon.

28 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 2 Scallastle, Mull, 5 Mar., singles, Vaull Bay, Tiree, 12 Apr., Lochdon, Mull, 12/14 Oct., 2 Ardnave, Islay, 18 Oct., 1 airfield Islay, 23 Oct.

0493 LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

B. W. P. Widespread breeding & wintering species.

See Tables: 60 Keils shoreline, 1 Jan., 21 Blairmore, 25 Jan., 50 (NW) Connel, 1 Mar., 200 Machrins, Colonsay, and 150 Oronsay, 22 Sep., 26 Blairmore, 29 Nov.

0496 KNOT *Calidris canutus*

P. & W all areas except Cowal. Chiefly seen as Autumn migrant.

See Tables: 10 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 3 Ledaig Point, 30 Jan., 5 summer plumage, Gott Bay, Tiree, 11-12 May, 1st. summer L. a Phuill, Tiree, 3 Jun., small passage Islay, Sep. (16 on 1st, 19 on 17th, and 12 on 20th.) 11 Lochdon and 17 L. Gilp, 6 Sep.

0497 SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

P. & W all areas except Cowal, occasional summering birds.

Max. 353 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., c. 100 Balephetrish, 19 May, 'considerable turnover of birds' Tiree, Apr. - May- Jun. 16 L. Indaal, 4 Jun., 77 L. Gruinart, 17 Aug.

0501 LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

V.

See Tables: 2 Ardskenish, Colonsay, 19 Apr., 1-2 daily L. a Phuill, Tiree, 1-11th Jun., and 3 on 10th. 2 L. Indaal, 16/17 Sep.

0507 PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanota*

V.

Single An Fhaodail 17 Sep. (MM)

0509 CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Single Westport, 7 Nov. (EB)

0510 PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

W & P.

See Tables: Max. 288 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 4 Ledaig Point, 4 Jan., 20 L. Indaal, 17 Mar., 3 Hynish, Tiree, 23 May, 1 Scallastle, Mull, 4 Aug.

0512 DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

B. W & P. Generally small nos winter.

See Tables: Max. 408 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 75 Lochdon Mull, 20 Jan., c. 100 (summer plumage), Balephetrish Bay 19 May, 89 L. Indaal, 24 Nov., 37 Lochdon, Mull, 7 Dec. Breeding season: est. 250-350 prs. Tiree and c. 20 prs. Coll.

- 0516 **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis*
V.
Single, Killean, Kintyre, 20 Jun. (AJR). (The first Spring record for Argyll).
- 0517 **RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*
P. Irregular
Single, (M) breeding plumage L. an Eilean, Tiree, 17 May. 3 L. Gruinart, 17 Aug.
- 0518 **JACK SNIBE** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*
W & P Islay, mid Argyll, Mull. Gigha.
Singles, L. Tarbert, Jura, 1 Feb., L. Gruinart, 11 Feb., Taynult, 10 Mar.
- 0519 **SNIBE** *Gallinago gallinago*
B. W. & P. Widespread, locally common. Breeding season: possibly 500-1000 breeding prs. Tiree, 200-400 prs. Coll.
- 0529 **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*
B. P. & W.
Max. 13 Taynish NNR, Jan. 6 L. Gruinart reserve, Jan.
- 0532 **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*
P. Irregular & scarce.
30 L. Bhassapol Tiree, 21 Apr. 9 L. Riaghain, Tiree, 24 Apr. and 3 L. a Phuill, 8 May, 1 L. Beg, Mull, 29 May, 10-17 L. Gruinart reserve, 16-18 Aug., 5 there 6 Sep., 20 L. a Phuill, Tiree, 17 Sep., 1 Gigha, 21 Oct.
- 0534 **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*
P & W. Only a few winter away from Tiree and Islay.
See Tables: 27 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 24 Gott Bay, 5 Jan., 3 Killichronnan, Mull, 4 Feb., 35 Bridgend, Islay, 15 Mar., 3 Fiddien, Mull, 8 Sep., 2 Croig, 9 Sep., 2 L. Gilp, 18 Sep., 4 Lochgilphead, 18 Dec.
- 0538 **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*
P. Most seen in May
First, L. Gruinart, 26 Apr., last there 22 Aug., 10 Colonsay, 26 Apr., 10 Fiddien, Mull, 30 Apr., heaviest passage Tiree 2nd week May with 100+ on 11th. single Killean Beach, Kintyre, 2 Jul. 8 Calgary Bay, Mull, 3 Oct., 1 Port Ellen, Islay, 23 Oct., 1 Kilchoman, Islay, 6 Nov.
- 0541 **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*
B. W. & P.
See Tables: Max. 543 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., c. 145 Machrihanish, 3 Feb. Breeding season: 20 prs. bred L. Gruinart reserve.
- 0546 **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*
B. W. & P.
See Tables: Max. 285 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 101 L. Spelve, Mull, 15 Apr. 90 Holy Loch, 3 Apr. and 55 there 19th., single part albino L. Gruinart, 17 Aug., 47 Lochdon, 1 Sep. Breeding season: 27 prs. bred L. Gruinart reserve.
- 0548 **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*
B. W. & P. Rare breeder in very small nos.
2 L. a Phuill, Tiree, 28 Jan., 2 overwintered Lochdon and Dervaig, Mull, single Pennyghael, Mull, 15 Feb. Records from 12 localities, Apr., Jul., Aug., Sep., and Dec.
- 0553 **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*
V.
Singles, L. Gruinart, 17 May, and Benderloch, 11 Oct. The L. Gruinart record was the reserve's first.
- 0554 **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*
V.
Single L. Riaghain, Tiree, 21-22 Jun.
- 0556 **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*
B. W. & P. (occasional winter records)
First, Bowmore Lodge, Mull, 5 Apr., last Blairmore, 3 Aug.

- 0561 **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*
W. & P.

See Tables: Max. 1196 around coast Tiree, 25/26 Jan., 100 Taynloan, 28 Feb., Single Ledaig Point, 23 Jul., 20 Gott Bay, 15 Aug. 68 Scallastle, 30 Sep.

- 0563 **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus tricolor*
V.

2 Dervaig, Mull, 14-18 Sep. (EK. ZM. PB.)* This is believed to be the first record for Argyll.

- 0564 **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus*
V. ?B.

3 birds present at one site, Argyll, Jun.
6 Phalarope spp. in intermed. plumage, (believed to be Red-necked Phalaropes), Coll, 20 Sep. (EDP & AP)

- 0566 **POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*
P. off W. coast and Islands. Uncommon.

All light phase: 2 on 12 May, 5 on 13th May, (N) off Rubha Chraignis, Tiree and a few flocks totalling c. 140 Tobermory / Coll crossing 12 May, 2 Oban/Craignure 31 May, also 11 Sep. single Kiloran Bay, Colonsay, 24 Sep., single off Kennacraig, 17 Oct.



- 0567 **ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

S. & P. (except Cowal). Breeds Jura and Coll
Breeding season: All known localities, Coll and Jura surveyed 1987 although a few undetected prs. could have been missed in some of the remote Jura moorlands. Figures for Coll and Jura indicate that population in range 47-52 prs. and 45/50 prs. respectively. The Argyll Skuas are rarely very demonstrative in defence of their nests and eggs and individual pairs are thus more difficult to survey than in other parts of their range. (RSPB)

- 0568 **LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

P. off West coast and islands. Scarce.
2 between Tobermory/Coll, 12 May and 2 off Tiree, 13 May.* (AGTH).

- 0569 **GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

P. ?W.
Singles: Sound of Mull, 21 Apr., and off Coll, 16 May, 3 offshore Tiree, 7 Jun., Ardalnanish, 6 Aug., Kennacraig/Islay 14 Aug., Kiloran Bay, 24 Sep., 7 Oban/Craignure 11 Sep.

- 0578 **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minor*

V. P.
Singles: Gigha 12 Feb., single 1st summer, L. Bhassapol 3 Jun., and two 1st summer, L. a Phuill Tiree, 11 Jun. singles W. L. Tarbert, 31 Oct., Bruichladdich 30 Dec.

- 0582 **BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*

B. & W.
c. 1200 Machrihanish, 9 Feb. Breeding season: 326 prs. Tiree.

- 0589 **RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis*

V.
Single, 1st winter, Ardnave Loch, Islay, 21 Apr. (SH)*

- 0590 **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

B. & W. Widespread and common breeding species.
See Tables: c. 250 L. Linnhe, 29 Mar. Noted feeding in Oak trees on defoliating caterpillars, Taynish NNR Jun.

0591 LESSER-BLACK B. GULL *Larus fuscus*

B. & P. Uncommon winter.

See tables: First, Blairmore, 5 Mar., last L. Long 13 Nov.

Breeding season: 29 occupied nests S. W. Scarba 2 Jun. Min. c. 129 prs. breeding Tiree, 129-152 prs. breeding Coll.

0592 HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

B. & P. Widespread and common.

See tables: Breeding season: 170 occupied nests Scarba 2 Jun. 1170 breeding prs. Tiree, 1026-1143 breeding prs. Coll.

0598 ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

W. Small nos. most years

Single, Tighnabruich, 12 Sep., and Iona, 21 Nov.

0599 GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

W. Small nos., usually more plentiful than Iceland Gull.

Single 1st winter, L. Indaal, 1 Jan./Jun., 2 there 21 Jan., 1 ad. Kilchiaran Island 21 Jan., singles Holy Loch, and L. a Phuill, Tiree, 7 May, single, 1st winter, Gribun Rocks, Mull, 21 Oct., single 2nd winter, Tarbert, 12 Oct., single Gigha, 23 Oct., 2 ads. L. Indaal, 29 Nov. and single ad. Uisgeantsnidhe Strand, Islay, 28-31 Dec.

0600 GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

B. & W. Common, widespread.

See table: 20 L. Indaal, 13 Mar., 141 Holy Loch, 19 Apr., 40 L. Feochan, 26 Dec. Breeding season: 45 breeding prs. Tiree, 219-232 prs. Coll.

0602 KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

B. & P.

See table: 100(S) off Gigha, 28 Feb., 110 (NW) Sound of Mull 15 Mar., 200 (SW) Sound of Mull 24 Sep. Breeding season: 1213 nests Cean a Mhara, 19 Jun.

0611 SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

P. ? B. Irregular.

Single Tiree 18 May, 2-3 Islay Sound, 13 Jun., 3 Ardnave Point Islay, 15 Jun., 1 Ulva, 7 Jul., 5 Skipness 13 Jul., single L. Indaal, 2 Aug., 5 L. na Keal, 11 Aug., 7 Campbeltown, 3 Sep., single Oban/Craignure 11 Sep. No breeding records 1987.

0615 COMMON TERN *Sterna hirunda*

S. P. & B. Widespread and common

Breeding season: all major Argyll Islands surveyed, including Tiree, Coll, Mull and satellites, Colonsay, and Oransay, Jura, Islay, and Gigha. 1028-1033 prs. recorded, by far the most important single area being in the Sound of Mull with 728 prs. currently the largest Scottish Common Tern colony. See also under Arctic Tern. (RSPB)

0616 ARCTIC TERN *Sterna arctica*

S. B. & P. Widespread and common.

Breeding season: all major Argyll Islands surveyed, 1650-1690 prs. recorded. An additional 113-118 prs. of Common/Arctic Terns were not specifically identified (RSPB).

0624 LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

S. & B. Kintyre, Islay, Coll, Tiree, scarce.

Breeding season: there have been no breeding records for the Argyll mainland for several years and a complete survey of the major Argyll Islands located a total of 91-102 prs. all on Coll, Tiree and Islay. (RSPB)

0634 GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

B. & W. Main colonies Colonsay and Harp Rock, Treshnish Isles, and NW. Islay.

On breeding ledges, Colonsay, 27 Apr.

0636 RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

B. & W. (except Cowal)

18 ashore Calliach Point, Mull, 22 Jun. 387 ashore Cean a Mhara, 19 Jun.

0638 BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*

B. & W.

10 Gigha, 22 Feb., 13 off Garvellachs, 24 Apr., 20+ W. L. Tarbert 31 Oct.

0647 LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

W. Irregular, usually after severe winter gales.

Singles: Sound of Islay, 20 Sep., L. Indaal, 20 Oct.

0654 PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

B. & P. Kintyre, Islay and Mull. Scarce away from main colonies.

328 ashore Staffa, 20 Jun., 12 ashore Reidh Eilean 11 Jul., c. 150 Sanda, 15 Aug., 7 Sound of Gigha, 1 Dec.

0665 ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

R. & W. Except Cowal.

Max. 70 L. Gruinart reserve, Feb., 24 Kiloran Meadows, Colonsay, 18 Apr., 36 Urugaig, Colonsay, 22 Sep. 51 Iona, 2 Nov.

0668 STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

V. Status uncertain.

One record: Single, Kilmartin, 10 Aug.

0670 WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

B. & W. Common breeding species. Uncommon Mull, absent Tiree & Coll.

0684 COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocta*

B. & P. Common. Scarce Tiree and Colonsay.

Single, Colonsay, 27 Apr. 1-2 birds regular 4 sites Tiree, 2 sites Coll.

0687 TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

P. Uncommon.

Singles, Lochdon, Mull, 24 Apr., Ruaig, Tiree, 9 May, 2 N. Connel, 24 May, and 2 Balephuill, Tiree 11 Jun., singles, The Oa, Islay and Inch Kenneth, Mull, both 17 Jun.

0724 CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

S & P. Common. Meadow Pipit main host.

First, Knock, Mull, and Taynish NNR, both 23 Apr. Last, L. Melfort, 9 Aug

0735 BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

B. & W. Not common.

A welcome increase in reports. Singles: Dunstaffnage, 4 Jan, L. Gruinart reserve, 26 Jan. and regular there Aug/Oct. Two, one dead, Taynuilt 21 Jan., singles Ardgoil Peninsula, Cowal, 29 Apr., Dalmally, 18 Oct., Achnacloich, 18 and 31 Oct., Glencruitten, 22 Oct., Loch Nell, Oct/Nov. single Gigha, Nov., single, dead Dunbeg, 5 Nov., 2 Garmony, Mull, 22 Nov. Breeding season: 5 prs. bred successfully Islay (10 young), pr. thro yr. Kilmore.

0761 TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

R. Widespread. Absent Coll & Tiree.

2 L. Gruinart reserve, 28 Dec.

0767 LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

R. & W. Scarce breeding species, probably under recorded.

Single, Torosay, Mull, 25 May, one predated, Garmony, Mull, Sep.

0768 SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

B. & W. Widespread but nos fluctuate due to emigration out of Argyll after breeding season,

Singles: L. Gruinart reserve, Jan. /Apr., and Oct. /Nov., Crinan Moss, 11 Jan., Raera Forest Jan/Mar. Glen Forsa, Mull, 22 Mar., Gott, Tiree, 24 Apr., Glen Rd. Islay, 8 Aug., Breeding season: Sightings 2 areas L. Nant, 3 birds together, Glen Aray, singles, Killeen, Salen, Mull, one pr. known to have bred Mull. 4 sightings Tiree in suitable areas.

0778 NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Status uncertain. Declining species.

Single Portavadie/Glenan, Cowal, 22 Jun. and 21-22 Jul and 2 churring Glenan Forest, Aug.

0795 SWIFT *Apus apus*

S. & P. Absent from several islands but seen there on passage.
First, Colonsay, 16 Apr., singles, Islay May/Jun., last Davaar Island,
3 Sep.

0831 KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

V.
Singles: L. Ba, Mull, 19 Apr., R. Sorn, Islay, 4 Jun.

0848 WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

V.
One record, single, Sanda, 6 Oct. (SY).

0857 GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopos major*

B. W. Widespread in suitable deciduous woods.
No significant reports.

0976 SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

B/S. P. & W. Widespread & common but many leave in winter.
22 Inch Kenneth, 22 Feb., 200 L. Gruinart reserve, Mar. 15 Oronsay,
24 Sep.

0981 SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

S. & P. Decreasing locally.
A welcome increase in numbers. First, L. Gruinart reserve, 8 Apr.
General arrival, 17-24 Apr. Max. c. 130-150 along S. shore L. Etive,
10 Jul. Breeding season: 50 occupied holes, Kilbride, 24 Jun., 81 occ.
holes Kilmartin, 25 Jun., 4 prs. new site, Blairmore.

0992 SWALLOW *Hirundo rusticola*

S. & P. Widespread.
First, L. Gruinart reserve, 11 Apr. c. 10 Machariorch, 25 Oct. last,
single Kintra, Mull, 31 Oct. Breeding population Tiree possibly
20-30 prs.

1001 HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

S. & P.
First, Knock, Mull, 14 Apr. last, 5 Connel, 17 Nov.

1002 RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

V.
One record, single, Mull of Oa, Islay, 30 Oct. (BA)\$

1009 TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

S. & P. Common.
First, L. Ba, Mull, 18 Apr., max. 12 singing Mealdarrach NNR,
Apr.

1011 MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

B. & P. Very common breeding species. Flocks in Autumn with
many birds leaving Argyll.
Max. 200 L. Gruinart reserve Jan., 300 there Feb.

1014 ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta petrosus*

B. & W. Common breeding species around coast.
Max 61 L. Gruinart reserve Jan., and 16 there Mar., c. 25 Cuil Bay, 18
Jul.

1017 YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

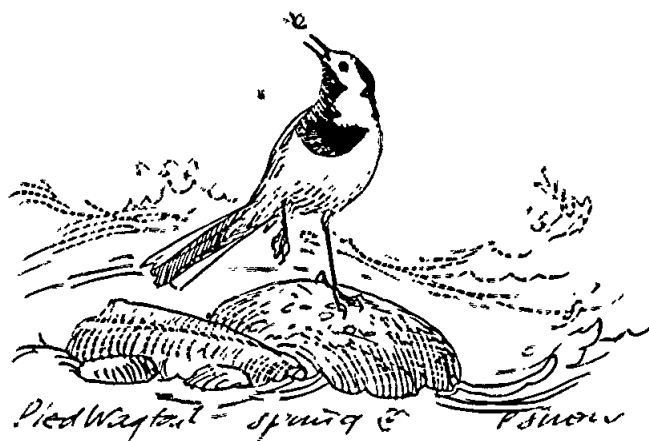
V.
One record, single, Uisgeantsuidhe, Islay, 16 Oct. (MAO).

1019 GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

B. W. & P. Widespread in breeding season, many fewer in winter.
Uncommon Mull.
Recorded Islay, Gigha, and many areas mainland.

1020 PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

PIED WAGTAIL. B. & P. Common breeding species. Fewer in
winter.
First, Lochdon, Mull, 15 Mar. c. 50 Kiloran Dunes, Colonsay, 22
Sep., passage Machariorch area mid. Sep. max. 16 one garden,
Southend, 10 Sep.



WHITE WAGTAIL.

P.

c. 30 Port Mhor, Colonsay, 24 Apr. (part of a fall of Pipits and
Wagtails 24/25 Apr.)

1048 WAXWING *Bombicilla garrulus*

V.
6 Oban, 23 Mar. (RA)

1050 DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

B. & W. Widespread. Absent Coll & Tiree. Scarce Islay.
Recorded from over 20 localities. In song 8 Dec.

1066 WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

B. & W. Very common.
22 singing between Oban/Dunstaffnage, 11 Apr. Breeding season: 39
prs. L. Gruinart reserve.

1084 DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

B. & W. Common. Uncommon Tiree.

1099 ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

B. & P. Common. Nos. increased by Autumn passage birds.

1121 BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

V.
Singles: Castle Sween 28 Mar., (TPD) and Kilchoman, Islay, 26 Oct.
(RP)

1122 REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

S. & P. Common breeding species especially in oak woods.
First, (M) Lochdon, Mull, 16 Apr.

1137 WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

S. & P. Widespread and common breeding species.
First, (M) Torlochan, Mull, 22 Apr., last Connel, 9 Oct. Breeding
season: 19 prs. L. Gruinart reserve, 5-10 prs. Moine Mhor NNR.
min. 12 prs. Coll.

1139 STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

B. W. & P. Widespread but nos. often fall dramatically after severe
winters. Relatively few appear to overwinter in Argyll.
Prs., singles, and exceptionally 3-4 feeding on shoreline several areas
winter months. Breeding season: 10 prs. L. Gruinart reserve, min. 3
prs. Colonsay. Min. 15-25 prs. Tiree and 25 prs. (probably more)
Coll.

1146 WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

S. & P. Common breeding species. Birds of Greenland race O. o.
leucorrhoa seen on Spring and Autumn passage.
First, 2 Glen Aros, Mull, 29 Mar., last Mull of Oa, Islay, 19 Oct. c. 30
O. O. leucorrhoa Port Mhor, Colonsay (part of a large fall pipits and
wheatears).

1186 RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

S. & P. Uncommon.
First, 2 (M. F.) Kilmelford, 5 Apr. 2 (M. F) L. Gruinart reserve, 7

Apr., last, singles, L. Uisg, Mull, 22 Apr., Ben Bheigeir, Islay, 18 Sep., Glen Lonan, 10 Oct. Single (F) Gribun Rocks, Mull, 2 Nov. Breeding season: Males singing min. 5 sites, Mull, 2 in song Garadh Mhor, Knapdale.

1187 BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

B. & P. Very common breeding species, large numbers move thro' in Nov.

'Hundreds, Islay, last few days of Oct.', c. 200 L. na Keal, Mull, 2 Nov.

1198 FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

P. & W.

Massive movements reported from Islay, Mull and mainland mid to late Oct. and early Nov. Passage thro islands started 14/15th Oct. involving thousands of birds.

1200 SONGTHRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

B. P. & W. Widespread and common except on some islands. Increased nos. late Oct. early Nov. as part of general thrush movement.

1201 REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

P. & W. Some may stay late in Spring.

Large nos. involved in mid Oct/early Nov. passage. Fields in Islay 'covered in birds (Redwing, Fieldfare, and Blackbird) many thousands of Redwing, many very dark birds probably Icelandic' (MAO). c. 600 Carradale 15 Oct., 1500 L. na Keal, Mull, 2 Nov.

1202 MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

B. W. & P.

Max. 15 Connel, 28 Jul.

1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

S. & P. Locally common.

First. Beach, Mull, 24 Apr. Single, singing L. Bhasapol, Tiree, 15 May. Bred L. Gruinart reserve.

1243 SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobanus*

S. & P. Locally common.

First, L. Gruinart reserve, 25 Apr. and 39 prs. bred there. Min. 45 prs. (probably more) bred Tiree.

0000 ACROCEPHALUS WARBLER spp.

An unstreaked Acrocephalus warbler, either Reed or Marsh Kennovay, Tiree 3 Jun. (PC)\$

1259 ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

V.

Scarinish, Tiree, 2 Jun. (KBS KB.)\$

1275 WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

S. & P. Common and widespread.

First, L. Gruinart reserve, 24 Apr.

1276 GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

S. & P. Scarce breeding species.

First, Gruline, Mull 4 May. Breeding season, 2 prs. L. Gruinart, 3 prs. Barcaldine, 1 pr. L. Riddon.

1277 BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

S. W. & P. Scarce breeding species, a few overwinter and feed at birdtables.

First, L. Gilp, 23 Apr. last there 4 Nov. single (M) Balephetrish, Tiree, 9 May. Winter/autumn records: singles, Ballygrant, Islay 14 Feb. Lochdon, Mull, 21 Feb., Bridgend, Islay, 18 Oct. Loch Nell, 3 Nov., 2 Dunstaffnage, 3 Nov., and singles, Kilchoman, Islay, 6 Nov., Lochdon, Mull, 6 Nov. Craignure, 7 Nov.

1293 GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

V.

Single, Sanda Island, S. Kintyre, 1st winter, trapped and ringed 31 Jul. (WE. IL. JM. et al) This is the 2nd Argyll record.

1308 WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

S. & P. Common in oak woods.

First, Odhrasgair, Tiree, 24 Apr. Barcaldine and Gruline, Mull, 25 Apr. Single (M) Scarba 4 Jun.

1311 CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

S. & P. Not common. November records not unusual.

First, Knock, Mull, 9 Apr. Single, Arinagour, Coll 30 Apr. Winter records: 2 Ballygrant Woods, 14 Feb., 3 Iona, 2 Nov., 2 Lagavulin, Islay, 21 Nov., 2 Connel, 23 Nov., 1 L. Gruinart, 28 Nov.

1312 WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

S. B. & P. The commonest warbler in Argyll.

First, Mishnish Lochs, Mull, 11 Apr. Breeding season: 41 prs L. Gruinart reserve. No evidence of breeding Tiree, small nos. breeding Coll.

1314 GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

B. W. & P. Common breeding species.

Passage thro Colonsay, Gigha, mid Sep/ mid Oct. Possibly breeding Coll.

1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

S. & P. Widespread breeding species but low density.

First, Knock, Mull, 21 May, last, Connel, 8 Sep. Breeding season: said to be fewer Kilmartin area.

1349 PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

P. & B. Scarce.

Single juv. caught and ringed Castle Sween, 8 Aug. (TPD) Breeding season: No successful breeding reported but at least three prs. attempted. (See article)

1437 LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

B. & W. Widespread. Except on some islands.

2-3 Doire Dhen, Jura, 14 Mar.

1461 COAL TIT *Parus ater*

B. & W. Common

1462 BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

B. & W. Very common but absent from some islands.

1464 GREAT TIT *Parus major*

B. & W. Common.

1486 TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

B. & W. Common but absent Coll & Tiree.

1508 GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

V.

An unprecedented series of records with 2(M) Port Askaig, 15 Apr., and 1 (M) there 17th, 1 (M) Scallastle, Mull, 15 Apr., and 1 Crossaig, Kintyre, early May.

1515 RED BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

V.

Single, Port Ellen, Islay, 31 Oct. (per MAO)

1539 JAY *Garrulus garrulus*

B. & W. Absent from islands.

Records from all parts of mainland. Breeding season: Successful Blairmore.

1549 MAGPIE *Pica pica*

B. Irregular in some areas, status uncertain. Rare outside Cowal.

Scattered records, Blairmore, thro year, single airfield Islay, 1 Aug., single Tainish NNR, Jun. (new record).

1559 CHOUGH *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

B. & W. on Islay, Jura and Colonsay. Kintyre apparently deserted.

c60 Kilchoman, Islay, 14 Feb., 9 Oronsay, 13 Apr., max. 18 L. Gruinart reserve, Apr., 2 Iona, 17 Apr. and 18 May. Breeding season: Pr. present Mull, 23 Jun-1 Nov. Pr. attempted breeding L. Gruinart reserve.

1560 JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

B. & W. Very common but non breeder Coll, Tiree, Treshnish Isles, and most of Mull.

1563 ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

B. & W. Common but absent as breeding species from Coll & Tiree and also absent much of Mull
Breeding season: 46 nests at 4 rookeries Lismore, 24 Feb. (no follow up). 56 prs. L. Gruinart reserve.

1567 CARRION/HOODED CROW *Corvus corone*

B. & W. Common. Hooded predominant islands and N. Argyll but Carrion Crow spreading northwards.
4 Carrion Crows Balevulin and 4 Ruaig, Tiree, 28 Jan. Max. 70 Hooded feeding in trees on defoliating caterpillars, Taynish NNR May/Jun.

1572 RAVEN *Corvus corax*

B. & W. Very common

17 Sunderland farm, Islay, 13 Feb., 29 on single sheep carcase, Gruline, Mull, 5 Nov. Breeding season: min. 56 occupied nests, Mull.

1582 STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

B. W. & P. Common. (Uncommon Mull)
Max. count 800 L. Gruinart reserve in Mar. 150 Fidden, Mull, 26 Feb. Two major roosts, (adults only) Tiree, 500+ Crossapol, 900+ Middleton, early Jun.

1584 ROSE COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

V.
Single, Portnahaven, Islay, 10 Aug. / early Sep. (MGC, MAO et al)*

1591 HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

R. Scarce on some islands.
25 Colonsay, 26 Sep.

1636 CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coulebs*

B. W. & P. Abundant.
90 L. Gruinart, Mar., c. 130 Benderloch 29 Dec.

1638 BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

W. & P. Absent some winters.
Single, Connel, 9 Apr., 4 Gigha, 10 Nov., 12 Connel, 14 Dec.

1649 GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

B. & W. Patchy distribution.
Max. 110, high % juvs., Salen, Mull, 1 Sep. Max. 40 L. Gruinart reserve Jul.

1653 GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

B. & W. Patchy distribution. Absent as breeder Coll, Tiree, Colonsay, and Iona.
20 Connel Airstrip, Dec. Max. 12 L. Gruinart reserve, Islay Sep.

1654 SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*.

B. P. & W. Locally common. Absent as breeder Colonsay, Coll, Tiree, and Iona.
A mixed flock c. 500 birds, c. 60%, Siskin, remainder Crossbill, Tits, Redpoll, Chaffinches, Brambling, and Goldfinches, feeding on Sitka cones which were shedding seed, Fearnach, mid Dec.

1660 LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

B. P. & W. Locally common in summer.
c. 100 Kiloran Fields, Colonsay, 19 Sep., absent L. Gruinart reserve Jan. to Mar. 5 prs. bred there.

1662 TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

B. W. & P. Locally common. Scarce Cowal and mid Argyll.
Max. 70 Ardnave Point, 14 Feb., 40 Mull of Oa, 15 Feb., c. 60 Connel Airstrip, 4 Sep. During Apr. said to be evidence of movement thro Oronsay (DJ).

1663 REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

B. W. & P. Common but local. Absent as breeder Coll, Tiree, and Iona.

MEALY REDPOLL *C. c. flammea*
Single, Gruinart, 13 Feb. (AH)

1666 CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

B. & W. Scarce Islay and Jura.
18 Gruline, Mull, 20 May, c. 40 Airds Bay, 19 Nov.

1710 BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

B. & W. Common some areas but absent from Coll & Tiree and irregular Colonsay and Gigha.
Small flocks (max. 10) Taynish NNR. Nov/Dec. 3 L. Gruinart reserve Nov.

1847 LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

V.
Single Sanaig area, Islay, 26/27 Oct (BA), 14 Kilchoman, Islay 31 Oct, and 8 there 1 Nov. (BA. MAO).

1850 SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

P. W. & ? B. Breeding status uncertain.
4 Gott Bay, and 2 Scarinish, Tiree, end Dec/ early Jan., 34 Ardmere, Islay, 14 Feb., 8 Ben Talaith, Mull, 23 Feb., c. 100 Glen Aray 22 Mar., 4 Balnahard, Colonsay, 21 Sep.

1857 YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

B. & W. Common but local.
30 Connel, 7 Feb.

1873 RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

V.
Single Tiree, 4 Jun. (MJE et al)*
This is believed to be the first record for Argyll.

1877 REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

B. & W.
Max. 60 L. Gruinart reserve Feb. Breeding season: (20 prs. bred on reserve), c. 30 prs. breeding on Tiree and c. 15 on Coll.

1882 CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

R. & P. Kintyre, Tiree and Coll. Regular breeding now only on Tiree.
Single Bowmore, Islay, 2 Oct.

Table 1 Monthly Maxima For Ducks, Loch Gruinart - 1987

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Shelduck	134	224	142	91	124	nc	nc	35	30	5	20	53
Wigeon	165	217	108	99	0	0	0	0	5	74	148	141
Teal	44	27	16	20	20	nc	nc	nc	nc	170	162	150
Mallard	128	175	84	50	150	nc	nc	nc	nc	90	200	150
Eider	3	4	6	36	33	nc	nc	nc	nc	8	2	0
Goldeneye	13	32	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4
Red-breasted M	4	9	11	17	7	nc	nc	nc	nc	25	38	0

Table 2 Monthly Maxima For Waders, Loch Gruinart - 1987

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Oystercatcher	107	275	356	266	310	nc	nc	nc	nc	43	46	50
Ringed Plover	0	49	20	7	102	nc	nc	150	nc	1	5	0
Golden Plover	12	11	10	10	0	0	1	50	nc	109	1	0
Lapwing	86	100	900	nc	250	nc	nc	500	nc	170	60	70
Dunlin	19	200	100	2	101	nc	nc	300	200	12	12	25
Bar-tail Godwit	0	10	5	0	1	nc	nc	10	10	21	13	11
Curlew	220	258	386	80	130	nc	nc	nc	nc	350	200	130
Redshank	24	41	32	25	66	nc	nc	100	nc	38	40	12
Turnstone	30	99	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	65	0

Loch Indaal, Islay. BOEE Counts 1987

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Red-t Diver	4	6	5	3	-	-	1	5	1
Gt-N Diver	4	4	-	6	1	-	1	1	2
Slav Grebe	11	10	-	-	-	1	4	5	3
Shag	4	28	4	17	1		5 9	5	13
Cormorant	16	8	8	5	1	1	6	3	11
Grey Heron	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Mute Swan	1	1	1	-	-	3	7	2	3
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	18	30
Brent Goose	1	1	-	-	-	11	6	4	-
Shelduck	24	32	36	26	26	15	1	4	26
Wigeon	182	225	158	32	-	195	592	688	175
Teal	11	41	48	-	-	72	138	47	58
Mallard	388	352	86	61	168	308	426	492	330
Pintail	18	11	6	9	-	-	1	16	23
Shoveler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Scaup	697	817	397	346	12	63	621	511	1198
Eider	404	350	196	259	102	246	344	188	145
Long-tail Duck	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Common Scoter	12	52	178	131	-	2	94	79	54
Goldeneye	70	55	30	4	-	-	9	39	30
Smew	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-breast Merg	56	114	52	59	3	17	102	32	27
Oystercatcher	396	534	787	587	458	272	404	382	414
Ringed Plover	11	80	56	43	79	92	39	66	16
Lapwing	68	66	345	78	16	92	18	-	32
Knot	18	15	7	-	-	19	11	7	6
Purple Sandp'r	18	15	20	5	-	-	-	-	5
Dunlin	65	134	-	7	80	15	21	89	116
Bar-t Godwit	161	153	38	17	-	5	16	23	74
Curlew	339	786	193	142	54	350	441	309	114
Turnstone	38	22	39	30	-	2	18	28	7
Redshank	18	15	17	14	2	10	23	10	6
Black-Head Gull	92	14	135	255	54	76	58	56	206
Common Gull	323	544	711	617	149	184	624	110	657
Herring Gull	194	143	87	34	358	319	257	191	146
Lesser b b Gull	4	1	1	25	14	4	1	2	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Greater b b Gull	7	16	22	20	10	15	48	28	35
Guillemot	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Blk Guillemot	-	1	7	-	1	-	3	1	-

Species with two or less records have been excluded from the above table

SYSTEMATIC SPECIES LIST FOR 1988

Compiled by Mike Madders, Argyll
Recorder.

The sequence of records and names in the systematic list follows Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species) as published in the 'British Birds' 'List of Birds of Western Palearctic' (1984). Each species heading contains the following information:

Common usage name	Scientific name	Gaelic name	Euring code	BTO code
e.g. RAVEN	<i>Corvus Corone</i>	Fitheach	1572	RN

Note that gaelic names and BTO codes are not available for all species.

Each heading is followed by a summary of the bird's known status and distribution within Argyll together with any other relevant information. Significant 1988 records are then listed. An explanation of the symbols and abbreviations used in the report is given below. The regional codes, I - VI, are the same as those used in Argyll Bird Reports 1980-3, 1984 & 1985. A map showing the boundaries of these regions is given on page 3

Acknowledgements

The success of the Argyll Bird report is completely reliant upon the number and quality of records submitted by observers. I am indebted to all those who sent in their bird sightings and hope that they will continue to support the report in future years. A full list of contributors to the 1988 report appears below - apologies to any individual inadvertently omitted! I am particularly grateful to Roger Broad, Colin Galbraith, David Jardine, Arthur Jennings and Malcolm Olgilvie for their help and support during the year and for proof reading the initial draft of the 1988 report. Any mistakes that remain are entirely my own.

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AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE 1987 AND PREVIOUS REPORTS.

ADD:

Red-backed Shrike. Lagg, Jura, 19-25 Sep. (JH).

Sandwich Tern: The breeding records of single pairs at each of the three mixed tern colonies reported in the 1986 Report appear to be the first breeding records for the County.

AMEND:

The record of the Killdeer, Colonsay, 7-8 Jan., 1984 has been accepted by BBRC.

The record of Gyr Falcon, Mull, 13 Jun., 1986 was not accepted by BBRC.

The record of Ring-billed Gull, Islay, 13 Oct., 1986 was not accepted by BBRC.

The record of Bee-eater, Lochgoilead, 11-13 June., 1986 was accepted by BBRC.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Learga ruadh 0002 RH

B. W. & P. Widely distributed but sparse breeding species. A survey in 1985 indicated an Argyll breeding population of 70 - 100 pairs. This requires revision in the light of 1988 data below. Note: breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1988: Breeding recorded in all regions, I-VI. Birds were seen on freshwater from Mar 23 to Aug 2. In selected parts of regions I & IV breeding was proven at 33 sites. The highest breeding density recorded was 7 pairs in one 10 km sq. Success was poor with only 9 sites producing young to fledging. Nest sites situated on islands (5 successful out of 15) fared better than on loch shores (2 successful out of 18). Birds were also recorded at additional lochs, where breeding was not proven. An informed estimate indicates a population within the area studied of 42-64 pairs and if this is extrapolated for unsurveyed parts of regions I & IV the population could be of the order of 60 to 90 pairs for these two regions [RSPB].

I 3 Machrihanish & 4 Ru Stafnish, Mull of Kintyre, Mar 12; 6 Machrihanish - Ballochroy, Mar 13.

II Bred, Islay, Colonsay & Jura. Islay: 7 Loch Indaal, Mar 23; 12 Claggain Bay, June 28; 10 ➔ S, Frenchman's Rocks, Sep 22; 43 Loch Indaal, Nov 21.

V Bred, Coll & Mull. Counts: 7 Loch na Keal, Mull, Nov 9; 4 Loch Spelve, Mull, Dec 24.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* Learga dhubh 0003 BV

B. W. & P. Very scarce, although probably under-recorded in winter. Breeding now only recorded in regions IV & VI. Note: breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1988: birds present on fresh water lochs from Mar 24 to Aug 09. 8 pairs summered plus a single bird at a separate site throughout the breeding season. Another dismal year - eggs were recorded at 6 sites but all failed [RSPB].

I 1 Machrihanish, Mar 12; 1 Tayinloan, Oct 10.

II Islay: singles recorded, Oct - Mar, Loch Indaal, Loch Gruinart & Claggain Bay; 1 Claggain Bay, Jul 7.

V Mull: 1-2 birds offshore, Jan, Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, Oct & Nov; 5 Loch Buie, Oct 29.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Muir bhuachail 0004 ND

W. & P. Argyll coast important wintering area. Present Sept - May, but a few individuals may summer. 1988:

I Kennacraig - Port Askaig ferry crossing: 36 on Feb 25, 11 on May 20, 1 on July 8; 26 between Machrihanish & Ballochroy, Mar 13; 42 around Gigha, Mar 31 - April 4 with 30+ still present May 3 - 5.

II 21 Loch Indaal, Islay, Mar 13.

III 1 Blairmore, Loch Long, Dec 12.

IV 1 Loch Caolisport, May 18; 1 Loch Sween, Oct 16.

V Mull: 13 Loch na Keal, Jan 17; 12 Loch Scridain, Jan 18; 1 s/pl, Loch Beg, Jun 3; 2 Loch Scridain, Oct 10; 22 Loch Scridain, Oct 16; numbers rather low around coast, autumn / winter with only 5 Loch na Keal, Nov 19. Tíree: max. 15, around coast, seen daily in April with 3 present daily May/Jun.

VI 1 Loch Creran, April 28.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Spag-ri-ton 0007 LG

B. & W. Uncommon. Breeds mainly on small, low-lying, eutrophic lochs. Small numbers wintering in sheltered coastal waters. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, IV, V & VI. Counts:

I 1-3 present Tarbert Harbour, Oct-Dec.

IV Pr Lochan Taynish reared 3 young; single bird on lochan above Loch Avich, at over 380 metres, Jul 28; 7 Loch Feochan, Nov 23 with 6, Dec 2.

V Mull: 1 Aros River, May 4; present Aug-Mar, Lochdon, with max 7 on Oct 16.

VI 10 Loch Etive, Oct 14 & Jan 17; 7 Loch Creran, Oct 22.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Gobhlachan laparan 0009 GG

Rare. Most records in autumn. 1988 #: 2 Loch Indaal, Islay (II), Feb 23 with 1 present Oct 10-28 [RW, DN, MAO]; 1 Loch Craignish (IV), Oct 16 [MG].

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Gobhlachan mara 0011 SZ

W. & P. Regular wintering species in some sea lochs, especially L. Indaal, Islay and around Mull. 1988 Counts:

I 6 Ballochroy, Mar 13; up to 4 Rhunahaorine, Oct 29.

II Islay: 35 max. count Loch Indaal, Mar 13; 1 s/pl Loch Staioisha, Jun 24. Colonsay: 1 off Ardskenish, Jun 5.

IV 3 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 29; 4 Linne Mhuirich, Oct; 1 Loch Craignish, Dec 23.

V Mull: present Nov-Apr, Loch na Keal, with max. 7 on Nov 19; 1 Loch Spelve, Dec 24.

VI 2 Cuil Bay, Mar 27.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Gobhlachan dubh 0012 BN

W. & P. Rare and irregular. 1988 #: 1 Cuil Bay (IV), Jan 28 [ARJ].

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Diomedea melanophrys*

0014 V.

1988 #: 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II), Apr 11 [MLC]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

FULMAR *Fulmaris glacialis*

Eun crom 0020 F

B. W. & P. Common but localised breeding species Kintyre, Islay, Colonsay and Mull. 1988: very few records received. 1 'blue phase', Southend (I), Mar 12.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

Fachadh mor 0040 GQ

P. Irregular, mainly off west coast islands. 1988 #: 1 between Coll and Tíree (V), May 18 [DP]. Subject to SBRC decision.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Fachadh dubh 0043 OT

P. off western islands and Kintyre. Fairly regular Aug - Sep. 1988:

II Islay: 4 off Port Ellen, Aug 11 with 1 on Aug 18; 1 Sound of Islay, Oct 1.

V 1 off Iona, Aug 16; 70 between Coll and Mull, Sep 19; 1 off Dutchman's Cap, Sep 28.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Fachadh ban 0046 MX

B & P. Localised breeding species (Treshnish Isles, Garvellachs & Sanda only?). Passage all regions except III. 1988 counts:

I 135/hr → S Mull of Kintyre, Aug 11.

II 1410 → S down W coast of Islay between 0830 - 1100, Jul 27.

V 500+ Sound of Mull, Aug 5; 3-400 between Coll and Mull, Sep 19.

VI 80+ off SE Lismore, Jul 13.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Paraig 0052 TM

B. & P. Breeding birds come ashore late May / June. Passage off western coasts Aug - Sept. 1988 Counts:

II 1 dead/dying bird Port Askaig, Oct 8

V 2 west of Treshnish Is, Jul 20; 4 in north Sound of Mull, Aug 1; 1 Calgary Point, Coll - picked up exhausted, but soon recovered, Aug 7; 1 off Dutchman's Cap, Sep 28; 3 Oban - Craignure ferry crossing, Oct 8.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Gobhlán mara 0055 TL

Rare. Singles usually seen Aug - Oct. 1988 #: 1 between Colonsay & Islay (II), Sep 26; 2 Sound of Islay (II), Oct 8; 1 off SE Lismore (VI), Sep 3.

GANNET *Sula bassana* *Sulaire* 0071 GX

S. & P. Does not breed. Common in inshore waters, May - Sept. Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. 1988 counts:

III First seen in Loch Long, Mar 12; 2 Arrochar, Loch Long, Jul 2; 100+ opposite Glenan, Portavadie, Aug 25.

V 80 between Tíree and Oban, Sep 24.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* *Sgarbh* 0072 CA

R. & W. Much less common than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters. Movement to coastal waters in autumn. Breeds regions IV & V. 1988 counts:

II 22 Loch Indaal, Islay, Jan 24.

III 19 Blairmore, Loch Long, Mar 4 with 21 present Oct 3.

IV 55 nests on Corr Eilean, McCormaig Isles (colony said to be maintaining its numbers) [TPD].

V 5 max. count Lochdon, Mull, Sep 18; 2 Loch Assapol, Mull, Sep 20.

VI 14 Loch Creran, 8 Loch Laich, & 33 Port Appin, all Oct 23; 5 max. count Loch Etive, Dec 20.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Sgarbh an sgumain 0080 SA

R. & W. Very common. 1988 counts:

II 71 max. Loch Indaal, Islay, Oct 18.

IV 205 nests, Corr Eilean + 12 nests, Eilean Ghamhna, McCormaig Isles (40% reduction in colony size compared to 1987). Egg laying late and small clutch/brood sizes [TPD].

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* *Corra gheal bheag* 0119

V. 1988 #: 1 Loch Craignish (IV), Jun 10 to Sep 10 [NH, RP, RAB et al]. This record has been accepted by BBRC.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

Corra bhan mhor 0121

V. 1988 #: 1 Ballachuan Loch, Seil (IV), Apr 29 [DD, DG et al]. This record has been accepted by BBRC.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* *Corra ghritheach* 0122 H

R. Widespread. 1988: breeding reported from all regions, but still under-recorded. A total of 72-77 occupied nests were recorded, inc 4 Gigha (I), 3 Colonsay & Oronsay (II), 3 Millhouse (III), 3 Ballachuan, 1 Oban area & 8 Fearnoch area (IV) and 8 Ardachy (VI). On Mull (V), 42-47 occupied nests were counted at 12 heronries surveyed [JB, TC, JG, EK, DP]; breeding was disrupted at one site by timber felling. Other records:

V 4pr + 6 fy, Coll, Jun 22; 12 birds Tíree (does not breed here) seen daily, April with up to 4 daily in May/Jun.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Eala 0152 MS

R. Widespread but uncommon breeding species, both inland and at sheltered coastal locations. Some emigration from marginal areas in winter. Note: all records required of birds fitted with orange leg rings. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Total of 72 birds recorded in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. A minimum of 29 prs attempted breeding. Data for 15 of these prs indicates that at least 50 young were hatched, but little information is available on the number of cygnets that survived to fledging. Brood reduction appeared to be especially severe on Mull (V) and mortality of apparently fledged birds was reported from Loch Sween (IV) & Mull (V).

I 2pr bred, Gigha. Counts: 28 West Loch Tarbert, Oct 5 to Nov 8, declining to 4 by Dec 23.

II Counts: 16 max. count Loch Indaal, Islay, Nov 17.

III Breeding prs Loch Long & Ormidale.

IV Breeding prs McKays Pond (Oban), Achnamara, Bellanoch, Loch a' Phearsain, S Loch Awe, Loch Feochan, Barguillen Garden Loch & Loch Craignish. Counts: 7 lochan Taynish, Jan; 6 Oban Harbour regularly throughout July; 22 Taynuilt Pier, Jul 27; 26 Loch Craignish, Sep 28; 15 (max. count) Oban Bay, Dec 3; ; 8 Loch Feochan, Dec 31.

V 10 prs breeding Tiree + 26 non-breeding, May/Jun; Pr reared b/1, Lochdon, Mull - this was the only successful breeding attempt on Mull; failed breeding attempts on Mull included pr with b/5, Aros (all dead by Oct) and abandoned nests at Garmony & Lochdon (2). Pr with b/4, Fishnish, Mull, Oct 27 had moved across from Morven coast. Counts: 78 Loch a' Phuill, Tiree; 1 imm. Loch Assapol, Mull, Apr 29; 10 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull.

VI Bred Loch Laich. Counts: 18 (max. count) Loch Etive, Sep 20.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* Eala bheag 0153 BS

P. Irregular. 1988 #: 1 Loch Indaal, Islay (II), Jan 22 [PM].

**WHOOPEE SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus* Eala bhan 0154 WS

W. & P. Common passage species, with smaller numbers over-wintering. A few birds occasionally summer. Has bred. 1988 counts:

I 30 Gigha, Nov 13, including 1 injured bird which later died.

II Islay: 2 birds summered; 78 max. count Loch Gruinart, Mar 28; 72 max. count Kilchoman area, Oct, with 55 Loch Indaal same time, rising to max. of 73 early Nov, by which time Kilchoman flock had declined.

III 27 Loch Long, Mar 31.

IV 14 (inc 2 imms), Glen Lonan, Jan 4; 5 Loch Barnluasgan, N Knapdale, Jan 27; 4 Kilmelford Loch, Jan 31; 2 ad Loch Nant, Feb 24; 3 Loch Sween Sep 28; 41 near Danna, Sep 29; 14 (inc 2 imms) Glen Lonan, Oct 26; 18 → W Connel, Dec 12; 15 Lochan Taynish, Dec; 3 (inc 1 imm) Loch Beag (Craignish), Dec 23.

V 7 (inc 1 imm) Mishnish Lochs, Mull, Jan 27 with 9 present Feb 21; 9 Lochdon, Mull, Mar 19; 3 Lochdon, Mull, Apr 20; 6 ad still present, Tiree, May/Jun (at least 3 were flightless & most appeared injured); 1 Loch Riaghainn, Tiree Aug 1; 3 ad Lochdon, Mull, Oct 1 (chased off by 2 ad Mute Swan); 26 → SE over Loch Ba, Mull, Oct 5; 20 Pennyghael, Mull, Oct 27; 136 (inc 32 imms) Tiree, Nov 9 (complete count) with 5 ad Coll same time; 1 imm ml with yellow darvic & Icelandic ring, Ardanish, Mull, Nov 19 - unaccompanied bird which subsequently died. This bird had been ringed with 2 siblings in N Iceland, Aug 9.

VI 6 ad Cuil Bay, Jan 1; 25 ad Lochan na Bi, Tyndrum, Mar 24; 30 → N North Connel, Mar 31.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Geadh gorm 0158 PG

P. & W. Very few over-winter. 1988 counts:

I 2 Machrihanish, Mar 13.

II Low autumn passage numbers noted on Islay this year: 50 Loch Gruinart, Sep 24 with 9 present Oct 6 & 40 on Oct 19. The usual scattering of singles occurred amongst wintering Barnacle & White-fronted Goose flocks [MAO].

VI 1 Loch Etive area, Jul 15 to Dec 31.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Geadh bhlar 0159 WG

W. Birds are of the Greenland albifrons race. Regular resorts are found in all regions except III. Argyll is a very important county for wintering birds and holds c80% of the British population. 1988 counts:

I 400 Gigha Sound, Jan 12; 200 Tayinloan Jan 31; 250+ Drumlemble, Machrihanish, Mar 12 with up to c1000 present Mar 13; 290 Tayinloan, Apr 4; c40 Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 25; c350 Lussa Loch, Oct 13.

II Islay: 7558 (complete count), Feb 6/7 [NCC]; 6971 (complete count), Mar 28/29 [NCC]; last, Loch Gruinart, May 9 although a single (presumably injured) was seen at Loch Gruinart, Jun 9; autumn arrivals in early Oct, with most present by end of month. Excellent breeding season, with over 20% young [MAO]; 7800 (complete count), Nov 7 [MAO]; 7588 (complete count), Dec 6 [NCC]. Colonsay: c100 wintered, max. count 137, Apr 9.

IV 11 Loch Sween, Jan 4; 11 Taynish, Mar; 180 counted on Danna during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; c70 Danna, Apr 4.

V Mull: c55 Loch Poit, Oct 30 plus group of 6 ads. inc. 1 with orange neck collar, fitted Wexford, S Ireland in Nov '87 - this bird had returned to Wexford by Nov 17; 31 (inc 8 imm) Loch Assapol, Nov 20. Tiree: 460, complete count, Mar 7; 360, minimum total, Apr 9 with 369+ present Apr 11; emigration of 84 birds from Tiree plus 899 → NNW overhead noticed late on Apr 19, the only fine, calm day during a visit Apr 9-23, 239 birds were counted during a complete count of the island on Apr 21 [KBS]; 518-543, complete count, Nov 9 (see simultaneous count on Coll) [MM/SW]. Coll: 720 counted during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; 526-534, complete count, Nov 9 [TC].

VI 7 Cuil Bay, Jan 1; 22 Benderloch, Jan 16; 198-204, complete count, Lismore, Nov 26 with simultaneous count of 53 at Ardentinnay & 7 at Tralee, Benderloch [DCJ/ARJ].

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

Geadh bhlar bheag 0160

V. 1988 #: Ad with metal rings both legs, Craighens, Islay (II), Nov 2. One of rings appeared very similar to avicultural-type & this bird is assumed to be an escape [PS/MAO].

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* Geadh glas 0161 GJ

B. W. & P. Breeding Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and occasionally elsewhere. Some increase in breeding population in recent years. 1988: minimum of 13 broods recorded in region V. Counts:

I 1 Gigha, Jun 16; 10 Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 9; c600 → N, Tayinloan, plus c300 Lussa Loch, Oct 11.

II Islay: up to 30 in small wintering flock, Bridgend Merse, Jan - Feb; 35 River Laggan, Mar 30 were probably spring migrants; 55 (max. count) at Bridgend, Nov 28. Colonsay: 27 present, late summer.

IV 200 Barsloisnoch, Jan 7; 316 (max. count) Barnakill, Jan; 270 Tobernoch, Luig, Apr 1; 35 → N Loch Awe, Apr 4.

V Mull: 11 → N, Glen Forsa, Mar 30; c150 → N, Lochdon, Apr 4; 20 → N, Lochdon, Apr 5; 12 Loch Assapol, Jun 1; 27 moulting ads Treshnish Isles, Jun 19; 3 Loch na Keal, Nov 27. Tiree: complete counts of 225+ on Mar 7; 100+ on Apr 10; 80+ non-breeding birds + min. of 9 broods, May/Jun [KBS]; 160 (inc 6 juv), Aug 1 [MHH]; 584 on Nov 9 [MM/SW] (see simultaneous count of Coll). Coll: 79 counted during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; 10 ad + 4 broods of goslings, Loch Cinneachan, plus 16 ad Port na Luig, Jun 22; freshly dead gosling, 5-6 weeks old next to Otterholt, Loch Ghille Calium area, Jun 22 [DD]; 170-216, complete count, Nov 9 [TC].

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* Geadh ban 0163 SJ

B. & V. A small feral population present on Mull regularly moves to Coll in autumn. 1988: 13 nests were counted at Haunn, Mull (V), May 2. Nests & young apparently suffer from much predation.

II Two white-phase birds present Islay since Oct 1987 remained with Barnacles until 21 Apr 1988. Two white-phase birds arrived Sep 8 & stayed until the end of the year, mainly on Bridgend Merse. These consorted with 2 domestic geese & a few Greylags, but were occasionally seen with Barnacle Geese [MAO].

V 50 counted on Coll during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; 49 (inc 10 imms) Haunn, Mull, Aug 6; 49 (inc 8 blue phase) Breachacha, Coll, Nov 10.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* Geadh dubh 0166

C G

B. W. & V. Resident population on Colonsay, occasional breeding attempts elsewhere. Genuine vagrants chiefly recorded on Islay. 1988:

I Islay: 2 small race Loch Gruinart, Jan 1 to Apr 9 with 1 present until Apr 22; 2 medium-small birds consorted with Barnacles, whilst a larger bird could be seen with the Whitefronts, autumn/winter; 1 small race, Loch Gruinart, Oct 10 to Dec 31 with 2 present Oct 25 to Nov 1. Colonsay: 39 ads & 14 young counted in summer, inc. pr with b/5, The Strand, Jun 18; Pr with b/4, Loch Sgoltaire, Jun 20.

IV 5 Achnacloich, Connel, Apr 20; 4 Loch Awe (2 different races) May 9.

V 1 Loch na Keal, Mull, May 24; 2 Loch an Eilein, Tiree, May 26.

VI 5 (inc 3 imms) Cuil Bay, Jan 4; 9 Cuil Bay, Oct 23 to Dec 31 with 11 on Dec 18.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan 0167 BY

W. All regions except III. Very large numbers of Greenland race winter on Islay. Has summered. 1988 counts:

I 5 Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 25.

II Islay: 19,500 (complete count) Feb 6/7 [NCC]; 20,230 (complete count), Mar 28/29 [NCC]; 8,787 max. winter/spring, Loch Gruinart, Apr 6; major departure of c12,000 in late pm, Apr 19 - bulk of the remainder left on Apr 23 with only a few remaining by Apr 24; 1 Loch Gruinart, Jun 9; 5 (first), Sep 22 with main arrival early Oct then few more until further arrival on Oct 27; 20,600 (complete count) Oct 31 [MAO et al]; 20,870 (complete count) Dec 5 [NCC]. Poor breeding season, with only c12% young [MAO]. Average number at Loch Gruinart in autumn/winter was 6,912 (c. * of Islay population) but max. count of 11,457 feeding birds recorded Oct 23 & c13,000 roosted there until end of year [MP]. Colonsay / Oronsay: 420 (max. count), Jan; 125 counted during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides Mar 21-28 [MAO]. Jura: 25 counted at Brosdale during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; pr nesting, island on loch, Shian Bay, Jun [SH]. Presumably these were feral or injured birds.

IV 210 Eilean Mor and 195 Garbh Reis, counted during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO].

V Mull: 15 Laggan Bay, Jan 2; 378 counted on Treshnish Isles during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; 1 Lochdon, Oct 9. Tiree: 446 in 3 flocks counted, Mar 9; 550 counted during aerial survey of Inner and Outer Hebrides, Mar 21-28 [MAO]; 117 seen emigrating from the island, plus 3314 → NNW high overhead, Apr 19 [KBS]; 384, complete count, Nov 9 when simultaneous count of Coll revealed c153 birds [TC/MM].

VI 2 Eriska, Nov 26.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Geadh got 0168 BG

W. & P. Uncommon passage species with very few over-wintering records. Majority seen in Argyll are light-bellied hrota which breed in NE Greenland and Queen Elizabeth Islands of arctic Canada and winter mainly in Ireland. 1988 #:

II Islay: 4 present, Loch Indaal, from beginning of year until at least Apr 26; 95 Loch Gruinart, Sep 8, declining to 11 by Sep 12; 108 Loch Gruinart, Sep 22; 58 Loch Gruinart, Oct 22; 5 still present Loch Indaal, end of year.

V Mull: 23 Loch Scridain, Sep 8; 2 Ardtun, Sep 29.

Tiree: 39 recorded, Apr 17-22; 1 dark-bellied bernicla, Loch Bhasapol, Jun 6.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Cra-gheadh 0173 SU

B. & W. Widespread breeding species in suitable areas. Majority

leave late July and return from November onwards. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Total of 250 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. Counts:

I 30 Ardminish Bay, Gigha, Jan 14; 67 around Gigha, Mar 31 to Apr 4.

II Islay: 174 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Apr 20; 89 (max. count) Loch Indaal, May 17.

III 20 Ormidale, Glendaruel, Feb 12; 4 imm Holy Loch, Sep 4.

V Mull: 55 Lochdon, Feb 21 with 18 remaining by Apr 11; 1 Ardtun, Sep 29; 2 Lochdon, Oct 13.

VI 11 Loch Laich, Mar 13.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* Glas lach 0179 WN

B. & W. Scarce / Irregular breeding species. Common winter visitor. 1988: breeding recorded in region II. Total of 14 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. Counts:

I West Loch Tarbert: 35 on Oct 5; c420 on Oct 15; 235 on Nov 8; 87 on Nov 29 [CFF/JDL].

II Islay: 194 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Dec 15; 527 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Dec 16 [PM/MAO].

IV ml Loch Awe, May 9 & 27; ml Loch Nant May 20; ml Ballachuan SWT reserve, Jul 12; 4 Loch Awe, Jul 28; 9 (inc. 1 ec. ml), Loch na Carraigh, Kilchrenan, Jul 29; 20 Glen Lonan, Sep 20; 60 Loch Beag (Craignish), Dec 23; 44 Loch Feochan, Dec 21.

V 58 Pennygown, Mull, Mar 23; 6-8 pr + 2 ml ml, Tiree, complete count, April; 50 Pennyghael, Mull, Sep 29; 136 Loch a' Phuill, Tiree, Nov 10; 297 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull, Nov 13 [TC/MM/KBS].

VI 20 Cuil Bay, Jan 1; 60 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 7; 50 Loch Etive, Jan 17; 106 (max. count) Loch Laich, Mar 13 [J & SE]; 70 Ardmucknish Bay, Nov 27; 38 Loch Etive (south shore), Dec 16.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* Lach glas 0182 GA

W. & P. Scarce / Irregular breeding species. 1988 counts:

IV 2-3 birds seen regularly in Glen Lonan, Jan - Apr & Oct - Dec, with max. count 4 ml 2 fml Oct 14.

V At least 4 ml ml, Tiree, May/Jun.

VI 2 Loch Etive, Mar 20.

TEAL *Anas crecca* Crann lach 0184 T

B. & W. Widespread but uncommon breeding species. Common winter visitor. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, IV & V. Counts:

I 22 at head of West Loch Tarbert, Nov 8.

II Islay: 150 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Jan; 290 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Oct 16; 101 (max. count) Ardnave Loch, Dec 15.

IV c20 Loch Feochan, Feb 7 with 30 present Dec 23.

V 4 pr, complete count, Tiree, May/Jun; 238 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull, Sep 18.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach 0186 MA

B. & W. Common breeding and wintering species. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Counts:

II Islay: 368 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Jan; 152 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Feb 25.

IV 40 Glen Lonan, Sep 20; 130 Ormsary, Oct 14; 20 Loch Feochan, Dec 23.

V 121 Loch a' Phuill, Tiree, Nov 10.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Lach stiùireach 0189 PT

B. P. & W. Very scarce breeding species. Localised in winter, mainly recorded in Islay and Tiree. A small but increasing flock regularly winters in Loch Indaal, Islay. 1988: a total of 4 prs bred, Islay (II), Colonsay (II) & Tiree (V). Counts:

II Islay: Pr bred at Claddich Loch. Probably descendants of escapees from the Ellister Waterfowl Collection [MAO]; 33 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Dec 15; 2 Loch Gruinart, Apr 24.

V Mull: fml Lochdon, Mull, Sep 24 & 25; fml Pennygown, Oct 14. Tiree: at least 9 birds present, May/ Jun, 2 fml fml seen with broods, Jun 14; 9 Loch a' Phuill, Nov 10.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* Lach a'ghuib leathainn 0194 SV

B. W. & P. Most records from Islay and Tiree. 1988: At least 5 prs bred, Tiree (V). Counts:

I 2 Gigha, apparently shot, Nov 13.

II Islay: 3 Loch Indaal, Jan 22; 1 Loch Gruinart, Feb 25 with 1 on Apr 3; ml Bridgend, May 15; 9 Loch Indaal, Nov 17 with 5 Dec 27 & 30.

V Tiree: 4 fml fml with broods, 1 fml incubating, 2 pr non-breeding & 3 ml ml May/ Jun [KBS].

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Lach mhasach 0198 PO

B. & W. Very scarce & irregular breeding species. Wintering flocks small. 1988 counts:

I 10 Ardmunish Bay, Gigha, Jan 1; 21 Lussa Loch, Oct 13.

II Islay: 8 Ardnave Loch, Jan 25; 67 Loch Skerrols, Oct 25 with 34 present Nov 27.

III 10 Loch Restil, Jan 30.

IV 21 Loch nan Drinnmean, Jan 26; 16 Loch Leathan, Feb 2; ml Braevallich area, Loch Awe, May 9; 10 ml Loch Nant, Nov 14; 4 Loch Nell, Nov 28; 10 Loch Gleann a Bhearridh, Dec 10; present Jan - Mar (max. 13) & Nov (max. 12), Lochan Tainish.

V Loch Bhasapol, Tiree: 1 ml, June 1-9; 41, Nov 10.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Lach thopach 0203 TU

B. & W. Sparse but widespread breeding species. Winter visitor only to some islands. 1988: breeding recorded in region II & V. Counts:

II Islay: 45 Ardnave Loch, Islay, Mar 13 with 39 present, Dec 15. Colonsay: 4 prs bred.

IV Pr Braevallich, Loch Awe, May 27; 3 ec. ml ml McKay's Pond, Oban, Jul 12; 2 Loch Tromlee, Oct 22 & Nov 3.

V 2 Loch Assapol, Mull, Apr 29; 125-140 (complete count) Tiree, April; 35-45 birds, Tiree, May/Jun (inc 1 fml with 7 young) [KBS]; 8 Loch Bhasapol, Tiree, Aug 4; 99 Loch Bhasapol, Tiree & 1 Ballyhough, Coll, Nov 10.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* Lach mhara 0204 SP

W. & P. Large wintering flock in Loch Indaal, Islay. Scarce elsewhere. Has summered. 1988 counts:

II Islay: 1230 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Dec 16; pr stayed on Ardnave Loch, into May (2 ml ml 1 fml present May 8); pr Loch Indaal, May 20; 15 Loch Indaal, Jul 15.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* Lach lochlannach 0206 E

B. W. & P. Common, all regions. Large flocks of moulting drakes and 1st year birds gather at some sites Jun - Aug. Many Argyll birds over-winter in the Firth of Clyde. 1988: breeding recorded all regions except III. Counts:

I 445 (complete count) around Gigha, Mar 31 to Apr 4 [DCJ]; 142 Cambeltown Harbour, Oct 12; 17 Tarbert Harbour, Nov 10.

II Islay: 51 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Jun 9; 353 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Jul 15 [PM/MAO].

III 200 (max. count) Kames, Tighnabruaich, Jan.

IV 41 (max. count) off Mealdarroch NNR, Apr; 60 Oban Bay, Dec 3; 89 Oban Bay, Dec 24.

V 51 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull, Apr 5; 25 Pennygown, Mull, Aug 16; 24 Loch Spelve, Mull, Dec 6 with 38 present Dec 24.

VI 70 Ledaig Point, Jul 22 with moult flock of 90 ml ml present Sep 15; 108 (max. count) Loch Creran, Oct 23 [J & SE].

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* Eun buchainn 0212 LN

W. & P. Uncommon winter visitor, mostly offshore. 1988 counts:

I 1 Kennacraig-Isay, Oct 21; several groups, c5 in each, Rhunahaorine, Oct 29.

II Islay: 7 Loch Indaal, Jan 22; ml Claggain Bay, Oct 11; 5 Saligo Bay, Oct 23.

V 15-20 Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, seen daily April; ml Loch Poit, Mull, Oct 30; c40 Feall Bay, Coll, Nov 8; 3 Crossapol Bay, Coll, Nov 10; 21 Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, Nov 11.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach bheag dubh 0213 CX

B. & W. Very rare breeding species. Present throughout the year, Loch Indaal, Islay (II); scarce winter visitor elsewhere. Breeding known from regions II & IV, although the breeding site in the latter region may now be deserted. 1988: 8 ml ml + 4 fml fml at usual breeding site, Islay (II), mid-May. 6 pairs recorded in June, no records of any young. Thorough survey of past breeding site in area IV failed to locate any birds. Counts:

I Sound of Gigha: 53 on Apr 4; 3 ml ml on Aug 8; 5 on Oct 11.

II Loch Indaal, Islay: 88 (max. count) Mar 23, declining to 18 by Jul 15; 36 present, Aug 15, increasing to 76 by Sep 13. Summering birds are perhaps mostly immatures; males outnumber females by approx. 3 to 1.

V Mull: fml Aros River, Jan 18 with 2 (ml fml) present Sep 14; fml Ghleannain (fresh water), Sep 24 - same bird later at Lochdon, Oct 7 to Nov 13.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* Lach dubh 0215 VS

W. Very scarce. 1988 #: 1 Loch Indaal, Islay (II), Oct 29 [AAC].

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* Lach bhreac 0218 GN

W. Common. Birds present Sept - May, with a few individuals in summer. 1988: lingering birds recorded into early May in all regions except III. Total of 17 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. Counts:

II Islay: 27 Loch Indaal, Jan 22; 16 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Feb 25; 11 Ardnave Loch, Dec 15.

III 10 Cairndow, Loch Fyne, Jan 30.

IV 1-2 birds recorded at several inland lochs, Oct - Apr, then 1 fml Loch nan Eun, Carradale, May 1 & 1 r/h Loch Diall, Cairnbaan, May 7. Other counts: max. 22 Linne Mhuirich, Mar; 14 Loch Feochan, Nov 21; 16 Loch Craignish, Dec 23; present Jan - Mar (max. 6) & Nov (max. 7) Lochan Tainish.

V Mull: 3 ml ml 6 fml fml (max. count) Mishnish Lochs, Jan 27; 7 Aros Bridge, Feb 4; 9 (max. count) Lochdon, Mar 20; 6 ml 10 r/h Loch Spelve/Uisg, Oct 29 with 22 ml ml 9 r/h present, Dec 24. Tiree: 12-15 Loch a'Phuill, Apr 1 to 17; 38 Loch a' Phuill, Nov 10.

VI 16 Loch Etive, Jan 17; 40 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 29; first autumn - 3 Ardmucknish Bay, Oct 14.

SMEW *Mergus albellus* Sioltaich breac 0220 SY

W. Very scarce winter visitor. 1988 #: 1 r/h present throughout Jan & Feb, Loch Indaal, Islay (II). A r/h was again present from Nov to the year end, the 5th winter in succession [MAO].

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Siolta dhearg 0221 RM

B. & W. Common. Large moulting flocks gather at some sites, Jun - Aug. 1988: breeding recorded all regions. Counts:

I 55 West Loch Tarbert, Feb 25; 23 Carradale Beach, Oct 9.

II Islay: 120, moulting flock, (max. count) Loch Indaal, Jun 26 [MAO]; 38 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Jul 15 [PM].

V 19 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull, Nov 13.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* Siolta 0223 GD

B. & W. Scarce breeding species. 1988: breeding recorded in region IV only. Counts:

I 3 Cambeltown Harbour, Oct 12.

II 1 Loch Indaal, Islay, Feb 24.

III 1 ml 2 fml Cairndow, Loch Fyne, Jan 31.

IV 1-2 birds recorded at several sites & in every month; notable counts: 2 pr Ederline estate, May 10; 3 fml 2 ml River Awe, May 26; 2 fml fml with b/7 & b/8, Loch Awe, Jul 12.

V Single ml recorded at Mishnish Lochs / Loch Torr, Mull, Jan 27 & Nov 4, otherwise no records from this previously regular site. Decline co-incides with rumours of persecution in this popular angling area. 1 ml flying over Glen Forsa, Mull, Apr 30; 3 r/h Kinloch, Mull, Sep 20 with 1 present Nov 13.

VI 3 ml 4 r/h Loch Etive, Dec 20.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* 0225 RY

V. 1988 #: ml Loch Bhasapol, Tíree (V), May 8. Also seen Barrapol, Tíree, May 13 [DAS].

WHITE-TAILED SEA EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Iolair mhara 0243 WE

1988 Scotland: a year of mixed fortunes for these re-introduced birds as they attempt to establish themselves. One pair reared 2 chicks but the 2 other pairs which have reared young in previous years failed in 1988 due to natural causes.

Argyll: wandering individuals were recorded in all areas except III. All records required, ideally detailing activity, plumage & presence / absence of wing tags.

I 1 Torinturk, West Loch Tarbert, Nov 1 [per CFF].

II 1 Colonsay, Jan 6 [JC].

IV 1 South Knapdale, Jul 31 [MHH]; Ad, Barr Mor, Taynish, Nov [DB].

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Clamhan Ioin 0260 MR

V. 1988 #:

II fml Loch Gruinart, Islay, Apr 19 [PM] & Easter Ellister, Islay, Apr 24 [JD].

V fml Arinagour, Coll, May 14 [DP]; ad ml Glen Forsa, Mull, Jul 17 [DJS].

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Breid air toin 0261 HH

B. P. & W. Sparse but widespread breeding species. Some emigration from Argyll in autumn. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions except VI. Birds appeared to be more numerous than usual in many areas and the number of nesting attempts was probably higher than average. 1988 was an exceptional year for numbers of Short-tailed Voles *Microtus agrestis* in Argyll, which are an important component of Hen Harrier diet. A total of 49 nests were located in a selective survey of regions I, II, IV & V. Of these, data is available for 39 nests which produced a minimum total of 101 fledged or nearly fledged young. Breeding success was reasonable, with 2.59 young produced per nest and 3.12 young per successful nest. Brood reduction occurred at a minimum of 8 nests. Polygamy was suspected in one locality, where a concentration of 12 nests in an area of young forestry produced only 15 fledged young. 63% of located nests were in forestry plantations, mostly less than 5 years old. Other counts:

I Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre: 4 RT Aug, then 8 RT Oct 10-15 (probably all juvs) [GTW].

IV Max. 10 at principal roost site in region, recorded for Mar & Nov-Dec.

V Mull: max. count of 14-15 birds at regular roost site, Oct, then max. 11 in Nov & 12 in Dec. [TC/MM]; 1 RT attempting to take birds at a garden bird table, Lochdon, Mull, Dec 16.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* Glas sheabhag 0267 GI

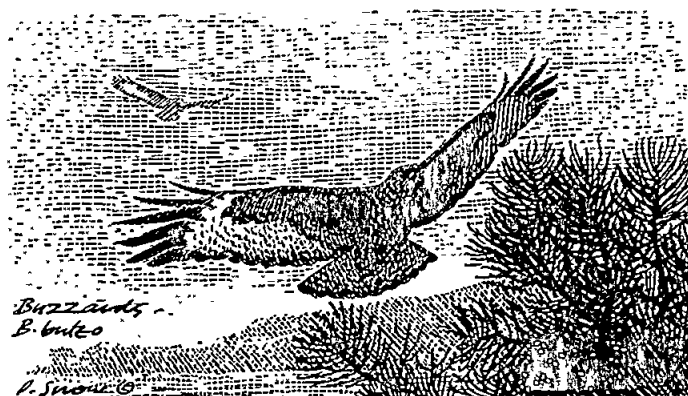
V. 1988 #:

II 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay, Feb 6 [PM].

IV 1 Loch Feochan, Mar - Apr [CT]; 1 Taynish area, Jul & Aug [DB].

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269 SH

B. P. & W. Widespread. Probably under-recorded. 1988: significant records include 1 Sanda Island (I), Apr 6 & 1 fml The Reef, Tíree (V), Jun 2.

**BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* Clamhan 0287 BZ

B. & W. Common in all regions. 1988: limited breeding information available. On Colonsay (II) 6 nests produced a total of 14 fy (2.33 young per nest); at Taynish (IV) a nest containing c/6 produced 3 fy; 2 prs on Tíree (V), each reared a single chick. See Jardine, this report, for information on distribution. Significant records include 7 flying south, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre (I), Sep 22.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*

Bleidir molach 0290 RF

P. & W. Scarce. Confusion possible with pale *B. buteo* individuals and detailed description of plumage and behaviour therefore essential. 1988 #: Islay (II): 1 Loch Gruinart, Nov 9 [MP]; 1 The Oa, Dec 3 [TT] & Loch Indaal, Dec 5 [MAO]. All subject to acceptance by SBRC

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire 0296 EA

B. & W. Breeding in all regions, I-VI. Immatures tend to wander during autumn and winter and may therefore be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.

1988: In mainland study area: 27 home ranges monitored; eggs were laid at 14 sites; 9 prs reared 12 young [MG, AGG & SJP]. Reliable information available for an additional 40 home ranges, of which 4 were judged to be unoccupied; 31-35 prs laid eggs at 20+ sites; 16 prs reared 20+ young [JC, GJ, RSPB et al]. Improved breeding success was recorded in 1988 - overall figures for Argyll were 0.65-0.71 young/ breeding pr and 1.28 young/ successful pr.

In May, 2 dead immatures were found within 15 metres of each other and each close to the head of a Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*, on Margadale Hill, Islay. Later analysis found the birds to be poisoned with alphachloralose. This incident was featured on a BBC TV Watchdog programme investigating the illegal use of poisons in Scotland.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* Iolaire iasgaich 0301 OP

S. & P. Very scarce breeding species. 1988: Birds were seen from Apr 29 at the nest site where eggs were laid in 1987 and 4 were together near the site on May 27. Unfortunately, a pr did not become established and there was no breeding attempt here. However, a pr took up residence and breed successfully at a 2nd artificial nest site erected in Mar 1988. 3 chicks were seen in mid-Jul and when they fledged in Aug they became the first young to be raised in Argyll since Ospreys recolonised Scotland in the 1950s. Other records: Islay (II): 1 imm. (2nd year bird), Loch Lossit, Jul 15-19 [ML]. Mull (V): 1 Salen, May 3; 1 Torloisk area, May 22.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan ruadh 0304 K

B. P. & W. Possibly under-recorded. 1988: few significant records. 2 unsexed birds hunting co-operatively after Starlings, Mull (V), Aug 27. The birds 'ambushed' a flock of c.25 Starling from opposite directions and different heights on 2 occasions. Neither attempt was successful.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Meirneal 0309 ML

B. P. & W. Scarce breeding species, probably under-recorded. 1988: breeding proven at total of 7 sites in regions II, IV, V & VI. In addition, single birds were reported during the breeding season (Apr - Jul) from a total of 9 other localities in regions I, II, IV & V. At the 7 sites where breeding was proven, one pr failed on eggs, one site held a singl: live and two dead chicks when located (but was not re-visited), five sites successfully reared 14+ chicks. Spate of records from region I during post breeding period (Aug-Oct): 3 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Aug/Sep; 1 Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 23 & 25; total of 12 ♀s, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 8-16, inc 3 birds seen simultaneously, Oct 15 [GTW]. These sightings suggest southerly dispersal of local birds, an idea that is supported by the recoveries in autumn of 2 birds on the Mull of Kintyre which were ringed as chicks on Coll (V) and Knapdale (IV) respectively (see ringing report). Few winter records, although 1-3 birds present, Tíree (V), Jan 1-4; ml Connel airstrip (VI), Dec 24.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* Gormag 0310 HY

P. Very scarce. 1988 #: 1 ad Isle of Sanda (I), May 12 [RA]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Scabagh 0320 PE

B. P. & W. Sparse but widespread breeding species in all regions. 1988: information available for 35 prs monitored during the breeding season. 23 pairs proved to breed but details were incomplete for 6 of these sites. 6 prs failed; 11 successful prs raised a minimum of 22 chicks inc. 3 x b/1, 6 x b/2, 1 x b/3 & 1 x b/4. Overall breeding success: 1.29 young/ breeding pr & 2.0 young/ successful pr [RSPB].

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

Coileach fraoich 0329 RG

R. Locally distributed. Few breeding records received in 1988: b/3 Low Stilliaig, Millhouse (III), Aug 8; on Mull (V), b/2 Garmony, Jun 17; b/2 Glengorm, Jun 25 & b/7 Eas Fors, Jul 21. Other records: fml Moine Mhor NNR (IV), Apr, was first reserve record.

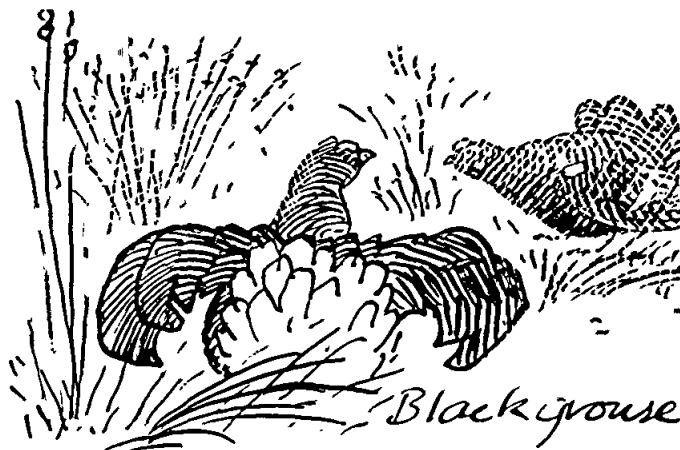
PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus* Tarmachan 0330 PM

R. Locally distributed, generally above 800 metres. All records required. 1988: recorded in regions II, IV, V & VI. Counts:

II 1 call only, Rainberg Mor, Jura, May 21 [DCJ] - 1st record here for many years.

V 1-4 birds recorded on 4 summits, Mull.

VI 7 Ben Cruachan, Sep 29; 5 Ben Eunaich & 3 Beinn a' Chochuill, Oct 29; 1 Beinn Sgualaird, Nov 2; 3 Meall nan Eun, Glen Etive, Nov 13.

**BLACK GROUSE** *Tetrao tetrix* Coileach dubh 0332 BK

R. Locally distributed. All records required. 1988: birds recorded in all regions, but very scarce in II & V. Counts:

I 2 Clachan, Feb 15; 5 ml 1 fml Tarbert area, May 18; 3 ml lekking, Carradale, Jun 4; 2 fml + 8 juv Kilberry, Jul 16.

II Very scarce, Islay, but resident ml seen regularly & fml seen with young, Loch Gruinart; 2 ml ml Craighouse, Jura, May.

III 1 ml only, on traditional lek, Millhouse, April.

IV 8 ml 7 fml Upper Glen Feochan, Apr 9; 7 ml 2 fml at lek near Loch Feochan, 4 ml Eredine Forest & 7 ml 3 fml Balinoe lek (1 hen mated), all Apr 24; 7 ml Loch Nant area, May 7 & 20; 2 ml 2 fml Cam Loch & 2 ml ml Escart Farm, Jul 11; fml + 2 fy, Raera, Jul 16; 6 ml Glen Strae (in new ptn), Oct 29; 8 ml 2 fml Balinoe, Nov 22; 3 ml 4 fml Loch Nell, Nov 28; 4 ml ml 1 fml Mealdarroch NNR, Nov; 11 ml ml Glen Feochan, Dec 1; 3 ml 1 fml Cologin, Kilbride, Dec 15 with 2 fml fml present on Dec 24.

V 1 ml Crannich, Mull, Jun [DP].

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* Cearc thomain dhearg chasach 0358 RL

Status unclear. Birds introduced to several areas, but populations not always self-sustaining. 1988: birds recorded in regions II & IV only. 2 prs bred, Colonsay (II), where birds introduced in 1987.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Cearc thomain 0367 P

R. Very localised distribution. Birds introduced in several areas, but this probably does not often result in self-sustaining populations. All records required. 1988: Two apparent releases on Islay, both involving very small numbers of birds.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh gort 0370 Q

V. Rare / Irregular visitor. 1988 #: 1 heard, near Port Ellen, Islay

(II), Jun 3; 1 (fml) seen same day on The Oa about 3 miles away [GJ/BN].

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394 PH

R. Widespread and common. Birds annually reared and released on many estates.

1988: no significant records received.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* 0396 GF

R. A small feral population exists near the head of Loch na Keal, Mull. Birds have been introduced to 2 other estates on Mull from this population. 1988: 2 Achamore Gardens, Gigha (I), Mar 31; c30, mostly ml ml, reported from main site, Mull (V).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan allt 0407 WA

B. P. & W. Scarce, but under-recorded. 1988 #:

I 1 found dead, Skipness, Mar 4.

II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, Mar 13, Oct 29 & Nov 4; 1 seen Bridgend, Jun 7. Colonsay: heard & seen, Jan; at least 2 calling, Oct 14.

VI 1 found dead, Ardchattan primary school, Jan 13.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Traon 0421 CE

S. Localised distribution, breeding mainly on Tiree, Coll and Islay. 1988: A total of 170-176 birds were recorded in Argyll. Of these, only 5 were on the mainland. Tiree (V) accounted for over half the Argyll total; other important populations were on Coll (V), Islay and Colonsay (II). A survey in 1978/9 recorded an Argyll total of 198-200 birds. Most populations appear to have remained similar or have declined in the last 10 years except for Tiree, where numbers were c12% higher. The most drastic decline is on Iona, where only 3 were recorded in 1988 compared to 25 in 1978/9. [Hudson, AV, Stowe TJ, Aspinall SJ (in prep.) The Status and Distribution of Corncrakes in Britain in 1988]. Counts:

I Total of 4 birds regularly calling, Gigha.

II Calling birds heard regularly at 19 sites, Islay [PM]; 1 calling, Knockrome, Jura, May 22; calling birds at 17-18 sites, Colonsay/Oronsay [JC].

V Mull & Iona: 4 regularly calling birds at 3 sites, [MM]; none heard, Treshnish Isles, during 2 visits in Jul; 1 heard Aros, May 10 only & 1 heard in a Lochdon garden, Jul 6 only.

Coll: Total of 20 regularly calling birds; 1 with b/3+ seen at Uig [DD].

Tiree: 99-103 regularly calling birds.

VI 1 calling from long grass eventually cut for silage, Achnacree more, Jun & Jul.

In addition to the area VI record, 4 other mainland birds were recorded.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc uisge 0424 MH

B. & W. Very localised. 1988: breeding recorded in regions I, II, IV & V.

I Pr with b/2, Mill Loch, Gigha, Jun 15.

II bred in 3 10km sq, Islay.

IV 1 Loch Leathan, May 20 & Jul 22; 1 calling, Lochan Dubh, Jul 15.

V Bred Tiree; 1 Ballyhough, Coll, Nov 10.

VI 2 Loch Baile a' Ghobhainn, Lismore, Nov 26.

COOT *Fulica atra* Lach a bhlair 0429 CO

B. & W. Uncommon. 1988: breeding recorded in region II only.

II Islay: 'Much scarcer than it used to be, summer and winter' [MAO]. 1 Loch Ballygrant, Feb 29 & Apr 2, 1 Loch nan Cadhan, May 16 & 28; 1 Loch Allan, May 16; 2 Loch Gorm, May 30; 3 Loch Skerrols, Dec 28. Colonsay: Pr produced b/4, of which 2 fledged. Loch Fada, Jun 17 (1st breeding record for many years).

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Gille brighde 0450 OC

B. W. & P. Common. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Bred inland at Loch Ederline (IV), where c/3 on May 3. Pr possibly also breeding N Loch Awe, May 27. Counts:

I 45 West Loch Tarbert, Dec 23.

II 58 (non-breeding) The Strand, Colonsay, Jun 18; 833 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Islay, Mar 23; 351 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay.

IV 169 Loch Gilp, Oct 14; 23 Oban Bay, Dec 15.

V 1 white individual with slight greyish colour on the head; legs and bill normal colour. Salen, Mull, Sep 6.

VI 80 Ledaig Pt. Jul 14; 40 Airds Bay, Taynuilt, Nov 6.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan
traghad 0470 RP

B. W. & P. Widespread and Common. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Bred inland at Loch Nant (IV) & on Mull (V). Counts:

I c50 Tayinloan, Sep 8; 20 Carradale Beach, Oct 13.

II Islay: 230 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Aug 12; 194 (max. count) Loch Indaal; 76 Ardnave, Oct 10. Colonsay: at least 23 prs bred; 270 (max. count) The Strand, Dec 11.

III 35 Millhouse, Jan 17.

V Tiree: 10-15 *psammodroma* individuals (subspecies breeding in NE Canada, Greenland and Iceland) present, Apr 9, increasing to 50+ by Apr 19; Max. spring count of nominate race was 300+ on May 24 [KBS]. Mull: 104 (max. count) Lochdon, Aug 14; 50 Fiddon, Sep 18; 29 Ardalanish Bay, Dec 29.

VI c60 Ledaig Point, Jan 25; c40 Ledaig Pt, Jul 28; 40 Tralee Beach, Aug 18.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Amadan-mointich 0482 DO

P. Scarce. Has bred region VI. All records required. 1988 #: 2 Islay (II), on hill c400 metres high, Apr 27 [HR].

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag 0485 GP

B. P. & W. Sparse but widespread upland breeding species. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, IV & V. Breeding recorded in 7 of the 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Breeding Atlas. Small numbers still present at end of year at a number of sites where birds usually leave by late November. Counts:

I 3 Carskey Bay, Southend, Aug 16.

II Islay: 65 Loch Gruinart, Jan 21; 44 Loch Indaal, Jan 22; 23 Loch Gruinart, Mar 20; 94 (all northern race) Ardnave, Mar 27; 96 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Oct 18; c500 Killinallan, Oct 19.

IV 39 Kilmartin, Nov 18.

V Mull: 2 Knockantivore, Feb 22, with 10 on Mar 16 & 5 on Mar 29; 12 Croig, May 7; 8 Gualachaolish, May 17; 32+ Fiddon, Oct 30; c30 Fracail, Dec 2. Tiree: up to 800 seen daily, mainly on The Reef. All showing plumage characteristics of Northern populations [KBS]. Coll: 53 Breachacha, Nov 11.

VI 1 Cuil Bay, Jan 20.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Trilleachan 0486 GV

P. & W. Uncommon passage migrant, a few over-winter. 1988:

II Islay: 2 Loch Gruinart, Feb 24, then present Sep - Dec with max. 18 in Nov; 2 Loch Indaal, Oct 18, 1 on Nov 17 & Dec 16. Colonsay: 5 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 16.

V Mull: 4 Fiddon, Sep 18; 1 Lochdon, Sep 29 & Oct 19. Tiree: 3 Vaul Bay, Jan 3 with 1 on Apr 11. Coll: 1 Crossapol, Nov 11.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Carracag 0493 L

B. P. & W. Widespread breeding and wintering species, except some islands. Emmigration from some areas after breeding. Hard weather movements in winter. 1988: breeding recorded in 21 of 37 10 km sq covered for BTO Breeding Atlas. c3000-3500 prs bred on Tiree (V) [KBS]; 166 prs bred, Loch Gruinart, Islay (II) [PM]; at least 350 birds at usual breeding site, Colonsay (II). Counts:

II Islay: 499 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Feb 24; 792 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Feb 25.

III 20+ Loch Long, Feb 6.

V 15 Lochdon, Mull, Feb 21; 19 Ardalanish Bay, Mull, Mar 9.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* Luatharan gainmhich 0496 KN

P. & W. Uncommon, mainly recorded in autumn. 1988 counts:

I 3 Tayinloan, Sep 8.

II Loch Indaal, Islay: 6 on Jan 22, 23 on Aug 15, 19 on Sep 12 & 46 on Dec 16; 19 Loch Gruinart, Islay, Sep 12.

V 1st summer bird, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree, May 24-30 with 3 on

May 31; 1 s/pl Gott Bay, Tiree, Aug 5; 1 Traigh Ban, Ross of Mull, Aug 14; 12 (max. count) Lochdon, Mull, Aug 14; 1 Calgary, Mull, Sep 7; 13 Croig, Mull, Sep 18.

VI Ledaig Pt: 4 juv, Jul 24; 8 s/pl, Jul 27; 8 (inc 2 s/pl), Aug 22.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Luatharan glas 0497 SS

P. & W. Uncommon passage migrant with main passage in May. A few over-winter (mainly Tiree). Occasionally recorded in summer. 1988: stronger than usual autumn passage noted. Counts:

II Islay: 13 Traigh an Luig, Loch Indaal, May 15; 23 Loch Indaal, May 17; 2 Blackrock, May 21; 12 Saligo Bay, May 27; 23 Loch Indaal, Aug 15; 60 Gortantaoid strand, Aug 18; 19 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Sep 12; 22 Ardnave, Sep 28. Colonsay: 21 The Strand, Sep 11 with 5 remaining until end of Sep. & at least 1 still present by end of year.

V Tiree: up to 180 Gott Bay & 56 Balephetrish Bay, Apr; 300+ counted May 31; 30 Balemartine, Aug 3; 15 Balephetrish, Aug 4; 20 Gott Bay, Aug 5. Mull: 1 Lochdon, Aug 23 & 24.

VI 35 Benderloch, Jul 26, with 4 remaining by Jul 30; 15 Tralee Beach, Aug 12.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Luatharan beag 0501 LX

P. Scarce. 1988 #: more records than usual.

I 6 Tayinloan, Sep 8.

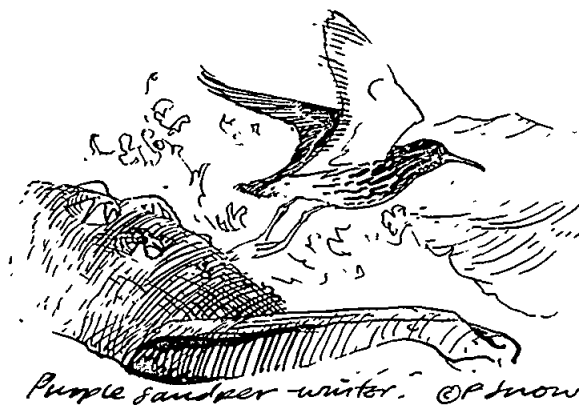
II Islay: 5 Loch Gruinart, Sep 5; 2 Loch Gruinart, Sep 22; 1 Ardnave, Sep 24 & 28.

V Mull: 1 Kellan, Sep 19; 1 Dervaig, Sep 20.

CURLEW SANDPIER *Calidris ferruginea*

Luatharan crom 0509 CV

P. Scarce. 1988 #: more records than usual. Islay (II): 8 Loch Gruinart, Sep 7, with 17 present Sep 12; 3 Loch Indaal, Sep 13; 1 Ardnave Pt, Sep 18. Colonsay (II): 2 on Sep 4 increasing to 4 by Sep 11. Tiree (V): 1 w/pl Sorobaidh Bay, Apr 16 [KBS&JP].



PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Luatharan rioghail 0510 PS

P. & W. all suitable areas. 1988: scattered records of small flocks, Nov - May. Counts:

I 2 Sanda Island, Apr 5.

II 19 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Islay, Dec 16.

III 4 Kirn, Dunoon, Nov 2.

IV 2 Loch Feochan, Apr 9.

V 6 Croggan, Mull, Apr 5; 20 Ulva, Mull, May 3.

VI 10 Ledaig Point, Feb 5.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* Graillig 0512 DN

B. P & W. Very localised breeding species. Mainly recorded on passage with only small numbers over-wintering. 1988: breeding recorded in regions I, II, V & VI. Counts:

I fy seen, North Kintyre, Jul 18.

II Jura: 2 pr breeding, Jun 5. Islay: 640 Loch Gruinart, May 18 with 1348 (max. count) present Aug 12 (previous highest total was 480, Nov 1984); 342 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Oct 18. Colonsay: 180 (max. count), The Strand, Dec 11.

IV 1 s/pl in very small area of suitable breeding habitat, surrounded by c10 year old conifers, May 23. No evidence of breeding.

V Tiree: bred. 300+ inland, May 24 & 31; daily passage of migrants noted, May [KBS]. Mull: 70 Fiddon, Sep 18; 108 (max. count) Lochdon, Sep 18.

VI Bred, Loch Dochard area; 120 Benderloch, Jul 26; 60 Ledaig point, Jul 27; 20 Tralee Beach, Aug 12 with 40 present Aug 18.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan 0517 RU

P. Scarce / Irregular. 1988 counts:

II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, Aug 23; 14 Gruinart flats, Sep 11; 3 Ardnave Point, Sep 18.

V Tiree: 1 fml The Reef, May 29; 6 Crossapol, Sep 7; 1 Baugh, Sep 9; 7 Baugh, Sep 10; 3 Kenovay, Sep 29.

JACK SNIP *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Gobhrag bheag 0518 JS

P. & W. Probably under-recorded. 1988 #:

II 1 Ballygrant, Islay, Feb 22; 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay, Oct 16 & 24.

IV 1 Glen Lonan, Mar 3; 1 Doide, Loch Sween, Dec 6; 1 Cologin, Kilbride, Dec 12.

V 1 found dead, Dervaig, Mull, Feb 8; 1 Duart, Mull, Dec 8.

SNIP *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg 0519 SN

B. P. & W. Widespread, locally common. 1988: bred in all regions. Breeding recorded in 14 out of 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Atlas. Estimated 1200-2000 prs breeding, Tiree (V) [KBS]; at least 39 pr were reported breeding, Colonsay (II) [JC]; b/2 in 2-3 year old Sitka Spruce ptn, region IV.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach coille

0529 WK

B. P. & W. Sparse but widespread distribution. 1988: very few records.

II c/4, Colonsay, were unsuccessfully incubated by an adult for at least 79 days!

IV b/4 Glen Nant, May 12; Taynish NNR: Jan - Mar (max. 9), then roding birds seen from April onwards; max. 3, Nov - Dec.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Cearra ghob

0532 BW

P. Scarce / Irregular. 1988 #:

I 1 Gigha, Sep 3.

II Islay: 1 Ardnave, Apr 19; 2 Loch Gruinart, Apr 22-26; 1 Port Charlotte, May 14; 12 Loch Indaal, Aug 21 to Sep 8; 1 Loch Gruinart, Oct 6. Colonsay: 1 s/pl, Jul 6.

V Tiree: 1 ml Loch an Eilein, Apr 12; 1 Loch Bhasapol, Apr 16; pr The Reef, Apr 22; 2 Loch Raighain, May 24; pr Loch Bhasapol, Jun 4-7. Mull: 1 Loch Buie, Apr 15; 8 s/pl Lochdon, Apr 18; 4 Calgary, Sep 15.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Cearra ghob mhor 0534 BA

P. & W. Few normally over-winter, except Islay and small numbers Tiree & Colonsay. 1988: small numbers still present at end of year at a number of sites where birds usually leave by November. Counts:

I 18 Tayinloan, Sep 8.

II Islay: 1 Loch Indaal, Jun 9; 3 bathing, Loch Finlaggan, Jun 25 (unusual date); 2 Loch Indaal, Jul 15; 323 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Sep 12; 155 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Dec 16. Colonsay: 27, The Strand, Nov 21.

III 2 Holy Loch, Sep 4.

IV 19 Loch Feochan, Feb 24; 6 Lochgilphead, Sep 8; 7 Loch Gilp, Oct 11; 8 Loch Caolisport, Oct 14.

V Tiree: 5 Gunna Sound, Jan 2; 11-12 seen daily, mainly Gott Bay, Apr; 5 Gott Bay, Aug 5. Coll: 1 Nov 12. Mull: 1 Killiechronan, Jan 1-24; 1-3 seen Lochdon, Jan, May, Jul & Aug, then 23 Sep 18, declining to 9 by end of year; 4 Calgary, Sep 7; 14 Croig, Sep 9; 8 Loch

Cuin, 16 Fiddon, Sep 18; 2 Loch na Keal, Nov 27.

VI 2 Benderloch. Sep 14.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Eun bealltainn

0538 WM

P. Uncommon. Main passage recorded in May. 1988 counts:

I Dunaverty Golf Course: 1 on Apr 27; 1 on May 4 & sev. May 12; 1 Sanda Island, May 12.

II Islay: marked spring passage, with birds probably being held up on the island during May because of northerly winds [MAO]; 18 Port Charlotte, Apr 27; 63 Loch Gorm, May 5; 35 Loch Indaal, May 7; 36 Loch Gorm & 24 Port Charlotte, May 10; 75 Loch Gruinart & 42 Loch Gorm, May 18, then singles seen up until May 24. Return passage: 3 Ardnave, Jul 27; 3 Port Ellen, Aug 12; 1 Bowmore, Aug 13; 5 Loch Gruinart, Oct 4; 1 Coul Pt, Oct 5.

III 1 flying over Colintrave, May 10 & 28.

IV 1 NW, Seil, May 4; 1 Loch Gilp, May 10.

V Tiree: 1 on Apr 17; up to 5 seen most days, May/Jun; 2 returning on Aug 1. Mull: 2 Port na Caillich, Apr 17; 4 Fionnphort, May 3; 2 Lochdon, May 6; 2 Kintra, May 7; 1 Ardalanish, May 8. Return passage: 1 Fiddon, Jul 30; 2 Lochdon, Aug 23; 1 Killiechronan, Oct 1.

VI 6 Tralee Beach, Aug 18.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach 0541 CU

B. P. & W. Common. 1988: breeding recorded all regions except III. Bred in 14 of the 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Breeding Atlas. 12 pr bred, Loch Gruinart, Islay (II). Main passage recorded April & Aug/ Sep. Counts:

I 140 (max. count) Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 23.

II Islay: max. count of 500, Loch Gruinart, Aug 12; 701 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Sep 13.

III 100+ Southend, Sep 13.

IV 23 Loch Feochan, Dec 23.

V Tiree: 5-15 daily, Apr, except for marked passage of 50-70 daily, Apr 17 to 19; no evidence of breeding May/Jun. Mull: 61 (max. count) Lochdon, Aug 14.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Cam ghlas 0546 RK

B. P. & W. Common. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, IV, V & VI. Bred in 17 of the 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Breeding Atlas. 28 prs bred during breeding survey, Colonsay; 16 prs bred Loch Gruinart, Islay. Counts:

I 23 West Loch Tarbert, Dec 6.

II Islay: 46 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Mar 23; 86 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Sep 12.

IV 18 Loch Feochan, Dec 31.

V Lochdon, Mull: 31 on Apr 18 & 35 on Oct 16 (max. counts).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Deoch bhuidhe

0548 GK

B. P. & W. Very scarce breeding species, confirmed for regions V & VI only in recent years. Uncommon passage species, with small numbers over-wintering in several localities. 1988: Total of 6 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas, in regions II, IV, V & VI. An additional record for region IV comes from a locality where breeding has been suspected in the past. Some of these records may relate to spring passage migrants. Breeding was proven only in region VI. Scattered records during spring & autumn migration with wintering records of 3-4 Islay (II), a single at Loch Gilp (IV), plus 2-3 at Ulva, Mull (V) in early Mar (wintering proven here in previous years). Counts of passage birds:

I 1 Polliwilline Bay, Southend, Oct 2.

II 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay, Jul 14; 1 Claggain Bay (unusual site), Dec 28.

IV 1 Taynuilt, Apr 12.

V Mull: 2-3 Ulva, Mar 4; 3 Croggan, Mar 5; 3 Lochdon, Jul 13; 2 Fiddon, Jul 30; 3 Ulva, Aug 12; 12 (max. count) Lochdon, Aug 14; 3 Dervaig, Sep 18; 3 Loch Spelve, Sep 21. Tiree: 1 Vaul, May 25; 1 Balephetrish, May 26; 5 ringing stone, Aug 2.

VI 2 Cuil Bay, Jul 23; 2 Benderloch, Jul 22 - 30.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan uaine

0553 GE

P. Scarce. 1988 #:

II Islay: 1 The Oa, Jul 25; 1 flying overhead, Loch Gruinart, Aug

19. Colonsay: 1 on Sep 3.

V 2 Breacacha, Coll, Aug 3; 1 Lochdon, Mull, Aug 23.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Luatharan coille
0554 OD

P. Rare. 1988 #: 1 Breacacha Bay, Coll (V), Aug 3 [AMi].

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Luatharan 0556 CS

B. & P. Widespread and common. Birds occasionally reported in winter. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions. Bred in 28 of the 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Breeding Atlas. Counts:

III Loch Long: first, Apr 18; last, Jul 26.

IV 1 Ardishaig, Apr 24; 4 (last) Connel Bridge, Jul 30.

V Mull: first, Loch Spelve, Apr 16 with general arrival from Apr 23 onwards.

VI 2 Loch Etive, Apr 19.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Trilleachan beag/Gobhlachan 0561 TT

P. & W. Widespread and common in suitable habitat. 1988: recorded in all months except June. Counts:

I 20 Tayinloan, Feb 15.

II Islay: 72 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Feb 25; 53 (max. count) Loch Indaal, Mar 23; 15 Loch Indaal, Jul 15; 23 Ardnave, Sep 28; 25 Killinallan, Oct 19.

III 20 Kirn, Dunoon, Nov 2.

IV 21 Oban esplanade, Dec 26.

V Mull: 15 Lochdon, Feb 9; 20 Pennygown, Mar 23; 18 Lochdon, Apr 5; 7 Scallastle, Jul 26; 23 (max. count) Lochdon, Oct 16.

VI Ledaig Pt: 50 on Jan 6, 1 on Jul 22; 35 on Dec 31.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Deargan allt 0564 NK

S. Rare breeder at one locality only. 1988: Two ml ml & 1 fml present in usual locality, May 27 - Jun 7; mating observed. Two birds seen same locality, Jun 19-20, but whether these were the same individuals or not is unclear.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Fasgadair donn 0566 PK

P. Scarce. 1988 #:

II 2 Claggan Bay, Islay, Jun 28 [B & JS].

V 1 Lunga, Treshnish Is, Jul 20 [MM/JWW]; 3 Sound of Mull, Sep 24 [SG].



ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Fasgadair 0567 AC

S. & P. Small numbers breeding Coll and Jura - generally, birds are thinly spread within colonies and are not aggressive to humans. Passage birds recorded all coasts except in region III. 1988:

V 1-4 birds seen offshore daily, Tiree, May/Jun; 5 Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Jul 9; 6 flying inland, Lochdon, Mull, Aug 12; 1 Kilfinichen, Mull, Oct 8.

VI 1 found dead, Cuil Bay, Jul 24.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair mor
0569 NX

P. Uncommon passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor offshore. 1988:

II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, May 15; 1 Sound of Islay, Jun 24; 1 flying over Loch Gruinart, Sep 16; singles off Port Ellen, Aug 11 & Oct 16. Colonsay: 1 off W coast, Apr 28; 2 off W coast, Jul 15; 3 between Colonsay & Islay, Sep 19.

V Tiree: singles offshore, Apr 10, May 31 & Jun 5. Mull: 2 off Lunga, Jul 9; 1 off Croig, Aug 27; 1 off Gometra, Sep 28.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Crann fhaoileag 0578 LU
P. Scarce. 1988 #: 1st winter bird, Bruichladdich, Islay (II), Jan 1 & 2 [MAO]; 1 imm Bridgend, Islay, Sep 21 [AT].

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Faoileag a' chinn
duibh 0582 BH

B. & W. Common except some islands. 1988 counts:

I 17 Tarbert Harbour, Nov 20.

II 230 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Apr 20.

IV 40 Oban Harbour, Dec 26.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* 0589

V. 1988 #: 3 ads. Lussa Bay, Jura (II), Feb 24 [RW/DRN].

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* Faoileag 0590 CM

B. & W. Widespread and common breeding species. 1988 counts:

I 21 Tarbert Harbour, Nov 20.

II c20 prs bred on Oronsay, although only 12 young were located - predation by Otter *Lutra lutra* was thought to be likely [DCJ]; 444 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Oct 16.

IV 102 HT roost, Dunstaffnage Bay, Dec 16.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Faoileag bheag 0591 LB

S. & P. Generally present, late March - September. Occasional winter records. 1988:

II First, Loch Gruinart, Islay, Feb 24; 108 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Apr 20.

III 2 Loch Long, Oct 7.

IV c20 pr Corr Eileán, McCormaig Isles, Jun 18; last, 2 Loch Nant, Nov 11.

VI 2 Loch Etive, Mar 20 (first here).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Faoileag an sgadain
0592 HG

B. P. & W. Common breeding species in all regions. Evidence of immigration into Argyll in winter - colour ringing would indicate that these birds are from the Clyde and NE England. 1988 counts:

I 470+ Tarbert Harbour, Oct 5, with 350+ present, Nov 10 [CFF].

II 182 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Aug 12.

IV 300 Loch Nell, Jul 26; 220 Oban Bay, Dec 26.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* Faoileag liath
0598 IG

W. Scarce. 1988 #: Islay (II): 1st winter bird, Port Ellen, Jan 4 to at least Mar 21; imm. in Ballinaby/ Kilchoman area, Jan 23 to at least Mar 30; 1 sub ad. Port Charlotte, May 12.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* Faoileag mhor
0599 GZ

W. Scarce, but recorded more frequently than Iceland Gull. 1988:

II Islay: 3rd year bird present all year, Loch Indaal - may have been present continuously since winter 86/7 [MAO]; total of 4 present, Loch Indaal, Feb 20; 3 present, various locations, Nov 10.

IV Sub-ad. Oban, Mar 8.

V Tiree: 1st yr bird, Balephetrish Bay, Apr 19-22 & Loch a'Phuill, Apr 20. Mull: Ad. Uisken, Dec 12.

GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Farspag
0600 GB

B. & W. . Common and widespread. 1988 counts:

II 25 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Aug 12.

III 105 Blairmore, Dec 1.

IV 92 Loch Feochan, Dec 31.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag 0602 KI

B. & P. Breeding mainly Islay, Colonsay, Tiree and Treshnish Isles. 1988 counts:

I 873 ➔ S within 1 hour, Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, Sep 6; 400+ gathering at dusk, Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, Oct 12 [GTW].

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Stearnag mhor 0611 TE

B. & P. Very rare breeding species - occasionally, pairs have nested with other tern species. Uncommon passage migrant. 1988:

I 6 West Loch Tarbert, Jul 13; 3 Carskey Bay, Southend, Aug 16; 3 Cambeltown Loch & Macharioch, Mull of Kintyre (same birds?) Aug 22; c20 Tayinloan, Sep 8.

II Islay: 1 Portnahaven, Mar 29; 2 Port Charlotte, Jun 20; 4 Sound of Islay, Jun 30; 3 Port Ellen, Aug 14 with 2 (ad + juv) present Aug 19. Colonsay: 2 fy seen, Aug 1 [JC].

IV c20 → S, Lochgilphead, Aug 21.

V Tiree: 2 Loch Bhasapol, Apr 18; 1 Gott Bay, Apr 21; 2-3 seen most days May 31 to Jun 4.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Stearnag 0615 CN

S. & P. Widespread and common. 1988:

I 12 Tayinloan, May 6.

II Islay: 2 prs bred, Loch Gorm - the only breeding birds known for Islay this year; 1 'commic' Bruichladdich, Nov 1 (late date) [MAO].

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Stearnal 0616 AE

S. & P. Widespread and common. Both this species and Common Tern are subject to increasing disturbance due to expanding tourism. 1988:

II 16 nests located, East Oronsay, Jun 18; 1 Claggain Bay, Islay, Oct 7 [MAO].

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Stearnag bheag 0624 AF

S. & P. Scarce breeding species confined to Islay (II), Tiree and Coll (V). 1988: bred Islay, but no information available on numbers of birds fledged.

II Islay: 1 Loch Indaal, May 7 (first); 26 ads. present at one known breeding site, Jun 15; 1 juv. Bruichladdich, Islay, Oct 11 (late date) [MAO].

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* 0627 BJ

V. 1988 #: 1 w/pl, Kenovay, Tiree (V), Sep 28 [SW].

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* Eun dubh an sgadain 0634 GU

B. & W. Main colonies Colonsay, Islay, Tiree and Treshnish Isles. 1988 counts:

I 300 → S, Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, Oct 15 [GTW].

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* Falc 0636 RA

B. & W. Common breeding species on suitable sea-cliffs. Many are regularly seen in sea-lochs during winter. 1988: no significant records received.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepheus grylle* Gearra-breac 0638 TY

B. & W. Breeds at low densities around much of Argyll coast. 1988 counts:

I 240 off Craro Island, Gigha, Apr 2; 75 off Ronachan Pt, Oct 10.

IV 35 McCormag Isles (5 nests located), Jun 18; 7 Oban Bay, inc 2 s/pl, Dec 24.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Colcach bheag 0647 LK

W. Irregular, usually after severe gales. 1988: a westerly storm on February 9 resulted in reports from several localities, including a few inland. A total of 51 were found on February 27/28 from beaches covered on the Beached Bird Survey. Many of these were on Islay, where several long stretches of beach were surveyed by MAO and others. Additional records:

I 13 found dead in 1.5 miles of beach, Machrihanish, Feb 14.

II Islay: total of c70 found, late Feb, inc. a few alive inland.

IV 1 Oban Harbour, Feb 8, plus 2 dead, Feb 11; 1 Kilmore Farm, Oban, Feb 10; 1 Kilbrandon, Oban, Feb 11.

V 2 Loch na Keal, Mull, Feb 8.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid 0654 PU

B. & P. Scarce away from main colonies on Kintyre, Islay and Mull. Largest Argyll colony is on Treshnish Isles. 1988 counts:

II Islay: now rare around coastline, although seen regularly from

ferry [MAO]; 10 off Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Feb 23; 1 Lossit Pt, Jun 8; 1 → S, Coul Pt, Jul 27.

V 5 off Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree, Jun 10, with 1 close inshore on Jun 13; 1 off Duart Pt, Mull, Sep 21.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Calman creige 0665 DV

B. except region III. 1988: no significant records received.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman gorm 0668 SD

Status uncertain. All records required. 1988 #: 1 Gigha (I), Apr 2 [DCJ].

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman fiadhaich 0670 WP

B. Common breeding species except on some islands, where small influx may occur in winter. 1988 counts:

V 1 near Middleton, Tiree, Apr 18; 17 Lochdon, Mull, Jul 27; 20 Pennygown, Mull, Aug 17 [TCJ].

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Calman chrios 0684 CD

B. & P. Sparse but widespread distribution throughout Argyll. 1988 counts:

I 6 Gigha, Oct 14.

V 15-20 present, Tiree, May/ Jun.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman tuchan 0687 TD

P. Scarce. Mostly recorded late spring / early summer. All records required. 1988: singles seen in 5 localities, May - Jul. #:

II 1 Lagg, Jura, May 30; 1 Bridgend, Islay, Jun 23; 1 found dead, Bowmore, Jun 30; 1 The Oa, Islay, Jul 28.

IV 1 Achahoish, May 23.

V 1 Loch na Keal, Mull, Jun 8.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag 0724 CK

S. & P. Common. Meadow Pipit main host. 1988. First: Connel (IV), Apr 20 then singles Taynish (IV) & Dervaig, Mull (V) Apr 21, Millhouse (III) Apr 23 & Skipness (I) Apr 25, with main arrival early May. Last: 1 juv Kenovay, Tiree (V), Sep 11.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Comhachag 0735 BO

B. Scarce breeding species, but probably under-recorded. All records required.

1988: breeding proven in regions I & II only. On Islay (II), at least 32 young fledged from 9 nests. Another used nest was located after young had fledged. A total of 29 young & 17 ads. were ringed [MAO].

I Bred Gigha [VT].

II 1 shot, Colonsay, Oct 23.

IV Recorded at 10 locations, no breeding information.

V Mull: recorded at 6 locations, mostly autumn/ winter; 1 flew into powerlines & subsequently died, Craignure, Sep 8; 1 with broken wing, subsequently died, Gortan, Dec 16.

VI Recorded at 4 locations, inc 1 Loch Tulla area, spring & 2 juv. found dead on road at Benderloch.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* Comhachag dhonn 0761 TO

R. Widespread and common in suitable broadleaved or coniferous woodland. Present in all regions, but absent Coll and Tiree. All records required for 1989 please. 1988: in region III, 31 prs bred in nestboxes - mean clutch size 2.36, mean brood size 1.00 (SJP). Few other records received. heard, Colonsay (II), May 26 & Jul 8 (unusual here).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Comhachag adharcaiche 0767 LE

R. P. & W. Very scarce, but almost certainly under-recorded. All records required. 1988 #:

II Fy heard in 2 different locations, Colonsay.

V Mull: 1 Bunessan, spring; 1 died whilst in view (!), Loch na Meal, Jul 15 [SI] (this bird retained for post-mortem examination. No obvious injuries, but very emaciated [MM]); 1 Scoor, Aug 19 [HP].

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Comhachag chluassach 0768 SE

B. & W. Widespread in suitable habitat, but varying breeding numbers depending on prey abundance. Some emigration out of Argyll after breeding season. 1988: large number of records received, mostly Apr - Jul. An exceptional year for numbers of Short-tailed Voles *Microtus agrestis*, which are a major component of Short-eared Owl diet.

I May/ Jun: at least 5 territories identified in 10 km sq NR 74; elsewhere in Kintyre, hunting birds seen in 11 localities [MHH/MM/JWW]; also, territorial individuals seen mobbing Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Killean, Jun 27 & Buzzard, Crossaig, May 14.

II Minimum of 7 different fledged broods seen during 1st week of June in c10 sq km area of young forestry, Islay.

IV May/ Jun: hunting birds recorded at several localities, inc fy at Balinoe (2) & Kilberry (1).

V Mull: at least 13 territories, plus 12 records of hunting birds elsewhere, May/ Jun; at Tenga, a c/7 produced b/6 of which 5 were surviving by May 11 [DC]; very few sightings Aug - Dec.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraicheap oidhche

0778 NJ

S. & P. Very scarce, only one regular breeding area known (III). 1988 #:

III Up to 3 heard churring & seen wing-clapping, several occasions, Portavadie, Jun 10 to Aug 13 [EG].

IV 1 seen, Newhouse area, during BTO Atlas survey.

V 1 seen at Dervaig, Mull, Sep 13 [IP].

SWIFT *Apus apus* Gobhlan mor 0795 SI

S. & P. Fairly common in towns with suitable breeding sites. Natural nest sites exist on Kintyre. Absent as breeding species from Argyll islands. 1988: breeding recorded in regions IV & VI. First: singles, Lochgilphead (IV) & Scoor, Mull (V), May 7. Last: Connel, Aug 24.

II Islay: 2 N.W. coast, May 25; 1 Port Ellen, May 28; 1 Kintra, May 29; 8 Beinn Bheiger, Jun 9; 4 Loch Gruinart, Jun 29; 2 Bruichladdich, Jul 24; 2 Port Ellen, Jul 27; 1 Lagavulin, Aug 18.

III 1 Blairmore, May 11.

IV 8 Loch Gilp, Jul 22; 45 McCaig's Tower, Oban, Jul 31.

V 1 Vaul, Tiree, May 25; 7 Lochdon, Mull, Jul 1.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* Biorra cruidein 0831 KF

V. Most sightings are probably wandering juveniles. 1988 #: 1 Bridgend, Islay (II), Oct 9; 1 Connel (IV), Nov 11-21.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* Calman cathaidh 0846 HP

V. Most often recorded as late spring overshoot. 1988 #: 1 Laphroaig, Islay (II), Sep 14 [PCS]; 1 Lochgilphead (III), May 18 [DRN]; 1 Torloisk, Mull (V), Apr [DW].

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* Snagarach

0856 G

V. Occurs irregularly in Argyll, which is north and west of current range for this species. All records required. 1988 #: Report of single at Lochdon, Mull (V), spring.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Snagan daraich 0876 GS

B. & W. Widespread in suitable deciduous woodland. 1988: breeding recorded in 5 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First heard drumming, Taynish NNR, Feb 17. No other significant records received.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* Uiseag choille 0974 WL

V. 1988 #: 2 Isle of Sanda (I), Jun 25 [RD]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag 0976 S

B. P. & W. Widespread and common, but many emigrate in winter. 1988: breeding recorded in 28 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Counts:

I 700+ (max. count) Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 24.

IV Present Feb - Aug Moine Mhor NNR, with max. 19 Dunadd & 17 Barnakill, Jun.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan gainmhiche

0981 SM

S. & P. Uncommon and localised breeding species. All records required. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, III, IV, V & VI. Total of 317 occupied nest holes counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. First: c20 Loch Ederline, Ford (IV), Apr 9 with general arrival Apr 20 onwards.

II c10 occupied nest holes, R Laggan, Islay [MAO].

III 5 occ. holes, Blairmore Farm, Dunoon; 32 occ. holes, Stronchillen Farm, nr Dunoon, Jun 5 [PTS].

IV 60 occ. holes, Kilmartin, plus 15 more c1km away, Jun 19 [JB].

V 1-2 seen daily, Tiree, Apr 19 to 21; new colony on Mull - 4 occ. holes, Torosay Sand Quarry, Jul 16 [EK].

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan gaoithe 0992 SL

S. & P. Widespread and common. 1988: breeding recorded in 31 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: 1 Tarbert (III), Apr 3, then 6+ at Aros, Mull (V); 1st arrivals in regions II & VI, Apr 17; several late records, inc 7 Carradale (I), Oct 13, 1 Machariorch, Nov 1 & 1 Taynuilt (IV), Nov 6.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Gobhlan taighe

1001 HM

S. & P. Common breeding species where suitable sites exist. No records of natural sites being used. 1988: breeding recorded in 15 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: Ben More, Mull (V), Apr 23; general arrival late April. Last: Machariorch (I), Oct 14.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag 1009 TP

S. & P. Common breeding species in suitable habitat. 1988: breeding recorded in 15 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: 1 Taynish (IV), Apr 15, then 3 Barcaldine (VI), Apr 17; 1 Colintrave (III) & 1 Dunbeg (IV), Apr 23; general arrival early May.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* Snathag 1011 MP

B. & P. Abundant breeding species. Many birds emigrate from Argyll in winter. 1988: breeding recorded in all 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. No other significant records received.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Gabhagan 1014 RC

B. & W. Common breeding species around coast. 1988: no significant records received.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan buidhe

1017 YW

P. Rare / Irregular. 1988 #: 1 Torloisk, Mull (V), June [DMCL]; 1 Inveroran area (VI), Jun 20 [DGW].

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Breacan bain tighearna 1019 GL

B. P. & W. Widespread breeding species. Many birds emigrate from Argyll in winter. 1988: bred in all regions except III. Breeding recorded in 18 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* Breac an t-sil 1020 PW
B. P. & W. Widespread and common breeding species. Emigration from most parts of Argyll in winter. 1988: present all year region III and scattered areas of mainland elsewhere; a few winter records from islands, eg. 3 only, Mull, Nov-Feb with main return mid-March. White Wagtail M.a. alba recorded Apr/ May only:

- I 12 Tayinloan, May 3.
- II 5 Ardnave, Islay, Apr 26; 3 Bruichladdich, Apr 30; sightings on Islay continued into May, with 2 on May 4, 5 & 16; 1 May 27.
- V 1 Lochdon, Mull, Apr 26.
- VI 1 Ledaig Point, Apr 21.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* Canarach dearg 1048 WX

W. Irregular visitor in varying numbers. 1988: a large scale invasion of birds reached Eastern Britain during late October with the first ones turning up in Argyll by the beginning of November. Birds were seen in all regions except III. It is difficult to be sure exactly how many birds were present in Argyll at any one time, due to the likelihood that individuals and flocks ranged widely throughout the county. However, counts at 6 localities on Nov 6 to 8 indicate that a minimum of 90 were present in area IV alone. Most birds were reported as feeding on Cotoneaster or Hawthorn berries, although at least one record referred to birds feeding on Rose hips. Last recorded Dec 14.

- I 3 Machariorch, Nov 2.
- II Islay: 1 Port Charlotte, Nov 1; 1 Keills, Nov 5; 2 Bowmore, Nov 21 & 22; c12 Keills, Nov 24.
- IV 5 Kilmartin, Nov 2; 42 Taynult (largest Argyll flock), Nov 6; 3 Cairnbaan, Nov 7; 5 Crinan, 20 Inverneil, 10 Ardrishaig & 8 Kilmory Gardens, all Nov 8; 3 Torinturk, West Loch Tarbert & 3 Connel, Nov 12; 10 Soroba, Oban, 2 Oban High School & 7-9 McCaigs Tower, Oban, Nov 18; 1 Connel, Dec 14.
- V Mull: 6 Torloisk, Nov 16; 1+ Tavool House, Nov 19.
- VI c8 Appin, Nov 10.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha uisge 1050 DI
B. & W. Widespread, although absent Coll & Tiree; scarce on Islay & Colonsay.

1988: Breeding recorded in regions II, IV, V & VI. Total of 29 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas.

II Jura: birds seen diving in freshwater lochs, Jura, when water levels in burns very low.

V Mull: Pr with 1+ fy, Ensay, Jun 12 - ads had started on 2nd brood.



WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathan donn 1066 WR
B. & W. Very common. 1988: breeding recorded in 30 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas.

IV Taynish NNR, 41 singing birds plus 23 others recorded, Mar survey; max. 38 singing, Mealdarroch NNR, Apr-May survey [DB]; a total of 14 singing birds were recorded at Glencruitten, Apr 24.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn nam preas 1084 D

B. & W. Common except some islands. 1988: breeding recorded in 21 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* Bru dhearg 1099 R
B. & P. Common. Numbers increased by autumn passage birds. 1988:

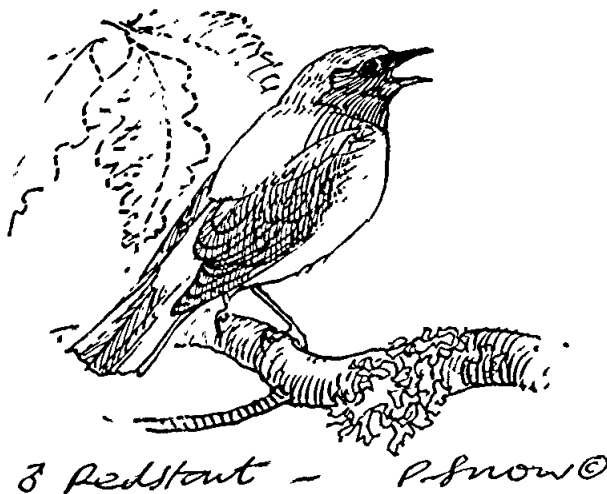
I '100s' around Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, 11.30pm-2am on Sep 5 [GTW].

IV 19 singing birds, Taynish NNR, Mar survey; max. 10 singing, Mealdarroch NNR, Apr-May survey.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* Ceann dubhan 1121 BX

P? Irregular. 1988 #:

- I fml Isle of Sanda, Apr 24 [RA].
- II 1 w/pl, Killinallan, Islay [REE].
- V 1 Balevullin, Tiree, Nov 11 [AMCD].



REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann dearg 1122 RT

S. & P. Common breeding species in suitable woodland; occurs more frequently in oak than birch, but also recorded in conifers. 1988: breeding recorded in regions I, III, IV, V & VI. First: Taynish NNR (IV), Apr 15; no further records until 1 Loch Etive (VI), May 14.

II Islay: very rare, with no proved breeding since 1974; unconfirmed records Jun 7 & 8. Jura: ml singing, Ardlussa, late May.

III 4 pairs bred in Tawny Owl boxes, Loch Eck.

IV 1 pr bred in nestbox, Knapdale.

V 1 fml Carnan Mor, Tiree, May 30.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137 WC

S. & P. Widespread and common breeding species. 1988: scattered breeding records, mostly region IV. At least 24 prs held territory, Colonsay (II). First: ml in song, Cullipool, Luig (IV), Apr 1; general arrival was from mid-April onwards, however. Late staying birds were recorded on Mull (V) at Ardnacross (2), Oct 4 & Torlochan (ml), Nov 9.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Clacharan 1139 SC

B. P. & W. Widespread but numbers decline dramatically after severe winters. Some emigration from Argyll in winter. 1988: bred in all regions. Breeding recorded in 25 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. On Colonsay (II), 30 prs held territory [J&PC]. Scattered autumn/ winter records mainly from coastal localities:

IV 2 ml ml 4 fml fml Connel, Sep 12; 7 counted in 1 mile of coastline, Ellary, Loch Sween, Nov 6.

VI 2 ml ml 2 fml fml Ledaig Point, Jan 7; 6 Ardmucknish Bay, feeding on tideline, Oct 30; ml fml Ledaig Point, Dec 11.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Bru gheal 1146 W

S. & P. Common breeding species. Birds of Greenland race leucorrhoa seen on passage, spring and autumn. 1988: bred in all regions. Breeding recorded in 32 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: single ml s in Glenmore & Dervaig, Mull (V), Mar 29; 6 ml ml Tayinloan (I), Mar 31; first fml Tighnabruaich (III), Apr 4; general arrival by mid-April. Several late records, inc. 1 Tayinloan (I), Oct 14; 1 Colonsay (II), Oct 15; 1 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre (I), Oct 17; 1 Loch Indaal, Islay (II), Nov 2 & a single ml on Coll (V), Nov 26 (very late record).

Greenland race leucorrhoa were recorded on both spring & autumn migration:

12+ on Tiree (V), Apr 20 & 1 Ledaig Pt (VI), Oct 5.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dubh chreige 1186 RZ

S. & P. Uncommon. All records required. 1988: Breeding recorded in regions IV & VI although little information was received. Two agitated pairs seen in region IV are likely to have been breeding, whilst a single was reported in suitable breeding habitat elsewhere in region IV. In addition, a total of 7 individuals were recorded in 37 10km sq covered in BTO Breeding Bird Atlas.

First: Maol nan Uan, Mull (V), Apr 4, then single ml s recorded N coast of Islay (II) & Kilmelford area (IV), Apr 19. Last: ml Grass Point, Mull (V), Oct 21 was migrating amongst Redwing.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon dubh 1187 B

B. & P. Very common breeding species except Coll, Tiree and Jura. Large numbers move through Argyll in autumn. 1988: breeding recorded in 29 out of 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Atlas. Appreciable concentrations of birds were noted in two areas during late Oct:

I Influx of large numbers of birds into Southend area, Oct 25.

V Massive movement through Lochdon, Mull, mainly involving ml s, from dawn onwards, Oct 24. Many Fieldfare accompanying them. A similar movement was also noted at Loch Scridain & Loch na Keal, Mull.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Liath thruig 1198 FF

P. & W. Large numbers recorded on autumn passage; relatively few over-winter. 1988: one seen in region IV on May 19 appeared to be territorial, but did not remain and may have been a late passage migrant. Movements of birds recorded in spring with more widespread movements noted in autumn. First: 2+ Lochdon, Mull (V), Oct 9 with general arrival Oct 10-12.

I several flocks, totalling c1000, Glen Breakerie/ Southend area, Mar 12; 350+ mixed flock of Fieldfare / Redwing, Rhunaharaine, Kintyre, Oct 26.

II Flocks totalling thousands of birds reported on Islay, late Oct/ early Nov [MAO].

IV c40 Glen Lonan, Mar 20; 350+ mixed FF/RW, Connel, Oct 11; c80 mixed FF/RW Kilmartin, Oct 12; 250 Taynult, Nov 6.

V 3 Loch Ba, Mull, Apr 1; 4 Manse, Tiree, Apr 17.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Smeorach 1200 ST

B. P. & W. Widespread and common except Coll & Tiree. 1988: few records; first heard singing, Taynish NNR (IV), Mar 9. 4 territories established here, with 3 additional birds recorded. Only obvious record of migrant birds was of c100 at Mull of Kintyre lighthouse (I), 8pm-12pm, Oct 17.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath dhearg 1201 RE

P. & W. Large numbers recorded on autumn passage with relatively few over-wintering. Occasional individuals recorded in late spring. Has bred in Argyll [Thom 1986]. 1988: an intriguing record was received of a bird carrying food, Mull (V), seen on two occasions, Apr 30 & May 5 [C&PK]. This constitutes the first recent evidence of possible breeding in Argyll, although birds have held territory (Dalmally 1978, Colonsay 1985). Few late winter/ spring records were received, although general spring departure appeared to be in early April. On Tiree (V), influxes of both Icelandic coburni and Scandinavian iliacus individuals were noted, with 15-20 birds present daily Apr 9-16 (all coburni) and 12 iliacus seen Apr 17, then smaller

numbers of both races present until Apr 20 [KBS]. First: 2 Lochdon, Mull (V), Oct 7. For mixed Redwing/ Fieldfare flocks, see latter species.

I c100 Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, 8pm-12pm, Oct 17.

II Flocks of up to 1,000 birds reported on Islay, late Oct/ early Nov [MAO].

V 1 Alltreich, Mull, Apr 17; 1 with Icelandic ring was killed by Merlin, Ardanish, Mull, Nov 12 [JC].

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Smeorach mhor 1202 M

B. P. & W. Widespread but not particularly common breeding species. Relatively few birds over-winter. 1988: Breeding recorded in 12 out of 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Atlas. First singing birds recorded Taynish NNR (IV), Feb 16. Two territories established here, with 2 additional birds recorded. Few records of birds returning in late winter/ early spring to areas where scarce or absent in winter, although flock of 10 reported from Connel (IV), Jan 17. Records of autumn movements also sparse with highest count c20 Upper Pollywilline, Kintyre (I), Oct 13. Other counts:

V 10 Lochdon, Mull, Jul 28; 10 Pennygowr, Mull, Aug 17.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Ceileiriche leumnach 1236 GH

S. & P. Locally distributed. 1988: breeding recorded in regions IV & VI. Total of 4 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. First: 2 Isle of Sanda (I), Apr 23.

II Islay: increase in sightings compared with 1987; 4prs bred, Loch Gruinart; 14 birds recorded elsewhere on island.

IV Heard Apr 24 - Aug 3, Taynish NNR, where possibly 3 territories were established; total of 4 singing ml ml Moine Mhor NNR; singing ml ml also recorded at Glencruitten, Connel, Ballachuan (2), Ellary, Loch Seil, Crinan Canal & Kilduskland (2), all Apr/ May; 2 ml ml singing, Dunbeg, Jul 18.

V Singing ml s at Lochdon & Killiechronan (3), Mull; 1 Vaul, Tiree, Jun 5.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Glas eun 1243 SW

S. & P. Locally common. 1988: bred in all regions, but majority of records were from region IV. Breeding was recorded in 16 out of 37 10km sq covered for the BTO Atlas. First: ml Luig (IV), May 5.

II Total of 26 territories identified, Colonsay [J&PC].

IV Heard May 9 - Jun 17 & fy seen, Taynish NNR, where possibly 3 territories were established; 2 singing ml ml Moine Mhor NNR; singing ml ml also recorded at Luig & Gallanachbeg (May) and Dunbeg (2), Lochan dubh (2) & Glenshellach (July).

V Singing ml s at Ardachail & Dervaig, Mull.

VI ml singing, Benderloch, Jul 22.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Gealan coille 1275 WH

S. & P. Widespread but sparsely distributed. 1988: breeding recorded in 18 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: Kilmartin (IV), May 3.

II 17 territories identified, Colonsay [JC].

IV Heard May 9 - Jun 17, fy seen, Taynish NNR, where possibly 5 territories; 3 territories, Moine Mhor NNR. Elsewhere in region IV 'seemed scarce' [MG].

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche garaidh 1276 GW

S. & P. Scarce breeding species. 1988: breeding recorded in regions II, IV & VI. Confirmed breeding in only 4 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: 2 Tarbert Castle (IV), Apr 24.

II bred, Colonsay.

IV Fledged brood at Glencruitten, Jul 20.

VI Gruline, Mull, Jul 31.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* Ceann dubh 1277 BC

S. P. & W. Scarce breeding species. A few over-winter and feed at bird tables. 1988: scattered territorial males recorded in regions I, II, IV, V & VI. Breeding recorded in 6 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. In addition, three ml ml held territories at Bridgend Woods, Islay (II), whilst ml s were singing at a total of nine sites in region IV and five sites in region V (all Mull). Higher than usual

autumn/ winter numbers were recorded.

- I Total of 7 present, Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 12 & 13.
- II Islay: ml Loch Gorm, Oct 19; 2 ml ml 1 fml Easter Ellister, Nov 1.
- III fml Blairmore, Nov 26.
- IV ml Lochgilphead, Jan 24; 1 Oban, Apr 24; fml (dead) Achahoish, Knapdale, Oct 17; ml Kilchrenan, Oct 24 & 27.
- V ml Manse, Tiree. Mull: Apr 19; fml Aros, Oct 29; ml (dead), Kinloch, Nov 1; ml Torloisk, Nov 16; r/h Lochdon, Nov 17; ml Torosay, Nov 20.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Ceileiriche buidhe 1300 YB

- V. No records previous to 1988 #.
- II Islay: 1 Kilchoman, Oct 20 [CMcK]; 1 Bruichladdich, Oct 28 [MP]; 1 Portnahaven, Nov 1 [BMcL]. All subject to acceptance by SBRC.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 1303

- V. No records previous to 1988 #. 1 Kilchoman, Islay (II), Oct 31 [CMcK/MP]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche cille 1308 WO

- S. & P. Common breeding species in oakwoods. 1988: bred in regions II, IV, V & VI. Breeding was recorded in 8 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: Mull, Apr 21. 2-3 singing, Gigha (I), May 4; 4 singing, Moine Mhor NNR (IV), May/ Jun.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Caifean 1311 CC

- S. & P. Uncommon breeding species. A few winter. 1988: territorial males recorded in all regions. Few breeding records; birds singing at a total of nine sites in region I with several birds apparently holding territory at Tighnabruaich (III). Elsewhere, scattered records of single singing birds from Luig & Connel (IV), Mull (V) & Benderloch (VI). Several autumn/ winter records received.

- I 1 Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre, Apr 5; 1 singing Campbeltown, Sep 17; 1 Lephincorrach, Saddell, Oct 13.

- II Islay: 2 Port Charlotte, Jan 2; 1 Bruichladdich, several dates, Jan-Feb; 1 Ballygrant, Apr 16; 2 Loch Gruinart, Apr 17 & Nov 26, plus a single of tristis/abietinus race, Dec 06 [MP]; 3 Bruichladdich, Dec 13 (very grey, dull birds).

- IV 1 Luig, Mar 30.

- V Tiree: 4 scattered, Apr 17; 2 Carnan Mor, Jun 5 & 6. Coll: 1 Gallanach, Nov 9. Mull: 1 Torosay Castle, Apr 20; 1 calling, Gruline, Sep 22.

- VI ml singing, N Connel, Sep 10.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Crionag ghiuthais 1312 WW

- S. & P. Widespread and common breeding species. 1988: First: 1 Luig, Mar 30. Last: Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre, Sep 3.

- IV 36 singing Mealdarroch NNR (IV), Apr-May; young seen until Aug 16, Taynish NNR.

- V Tiree: 1-7 present daily, Apr 17-22, with up to 8 present daily, May/ Jun, inc singing ml ml at Manse and Carnan Mor.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Crionag bhuidhe 1314 GC

- B. P. & W. Common breeding species. 1988: recorded breeding in 17 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Good numbers of migrant birds were reported from Mull of Kintyre (I) during spring & autumn passage [GTW].

- I Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre: 25 on Apr 1; '100s' seen, 2330 - 0200 hrs, Sep 5 with 50 present the following day; 50 also seen on Oct 11 & 13.

- II Fy seen in Colonsay House gardens.

- V 2 at Manse, Tiree, Apr 17, increasing to 4 on Apr 19; c30 Lochdon, Mull, Aug 2.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*
Breacan glas sgiobalta 1335 SF

- S. & P. Sparse but widespread breeding species. 1988: recorded breeding in 19 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. First: singles at Connel (IV) & Lochdon, Mull (V), May 12. Other records:

- V 3 pr Croggan, Mull, May; up to 6 seen daily, Tiree, May 24-30.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan glas 1349 PF

- S. & P. Rare, breeding in oak woodland. Breeding recorded in regions IV & VI. 1988: seven prs bred in nestboxes, Loch Etive (VI) [JCAC, see Petty in this report]. Only two other records:

- IV ml Loch Aweide, May 9; ml Glen Nant, May 20 [MHH].



L-tailed Tit - © P. Snow

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan 1437 LT

- B. & W. Widespread and common on mainland, local on larger islands and rare on others (Coll, Tiree & Colonsay). 1988: recorded breeding in 12 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Widespread autumn movement recorded in on Mull (V) and elsewhere, inc 74 at Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre (I), Oct 10.

COAL TIT *Parus ater* Smutag 1461 CT

- B. & W. Widespread and Common except Coll and Tiree. 1988: total of 19 singing & 23 additional birds, Taynish NNR, during March woodland survey. Some evidence of autumn movement, with 130 ♀N recorded at Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre (I), Oct 10 (24 ringed). Large numbers noted at several localities, Mull & Coll (V) in Oct/ early Nov.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* Cailleachag cheann ghorm 1462 BT

- R. & P. Abundant, breeding in broadleaved or mixed broadleaf/ conifer woodland. Breeding recorded in all regions. 1988: a total of 104 prs bred in nestboxes in regions I, II, III, IV & VI [see Petty, this report].

- IV Total of 41 singing and 58 additional birds, Taynish NNR, Mar; a nestbox in Knapdale held 21 eggs, producing 20 chicks. Three ads were seen feeding the chicks and polygamy was suspected [see Petty, this report].

GREAT TIT *Parus major* Currac bhain tighearna 1464 GT

- R. & P. Abundant, breeding in broadleaved and mixed broadleaf/ conifer and rarely coniferous woodland. Breeding recorded all regions. 1988: 60 prs bred in nestboxes in regions I, II, III, IV & VI [see Petty, this report]. Total of 18 singing and 12 additional birds, Taynish NNR (IV), Mar.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486 TC

- B. & W. Common but absent Coll and Tiree. 1988: 7 singing & 5 additional birds, Taynish NNR (IV), Mar; bred at Colonsay House gardens (II).

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* 1519

- V. 1988 #: Imm. Arileod, Coll (V), Oct 25 to Nov 2 [DMc/GdM]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraicheag 1539 J

B. & W. Locally distributed breeding species in parts of mainland; irregular visitor to some islands. All records required. 1988:

III 1 Blairmore, Jul 6 & Oct 22.

IV Single Killinnochnoch, Jan; pr N Knapdale, May 7; pr Ardrishaig, May 8; 1 Kilberry, Jun 9; 1 Cairnbaan, Sep 30; 2 Crinan, Nov 11; present Jan - Mar & Oct - Dec, Taynish NNR with max. 5 in Jan.

V 1 Lochdon, Mull, Jul 14 was the first record for Mull [JWW].

MAGPIE *Pica pica* Cadhag 1549 MG

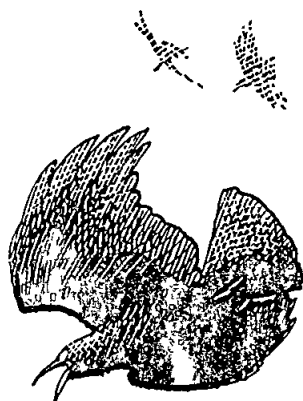
B. Rare outside of region III. All records required. 1988: none seen in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas. Only two records received from outwith region III:

IV 1 Taynult, Feb 21.

VI 1 Clashgour, Loch Dochard, present several weeks during winter 87/88.

NUTCRACKER *Nucifraga caryocatactes* 1557

V. 1988 #: 1 Glen Shira (IV), Jul 5 [DM]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.



Chough - © P. Snow

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Cathag dhearg chasach 1559 CF

B. & W. Islay is the Scottish breeding stronghold, with smaller numbers on Jura and Colonsay. All records away from Islay required. 1988:

V Pr present, Mull, all year with count of five in early Dec. No evidence of breeding here.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560 JD

B. & W. Common throughout much of Argyll, but non-breeder on Coll, Tiree and most of Mull. 1988: breeding recorded in regions I, II, IV & VI.

IV c50 in oak trees which were suffering defoliating caterpillar attack in June, Taynish NNR.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* Rocas 1563 RO

B. & W. Common, but absent as breeding species from Coll, Tiree and much of Mull. Some movement into Tiree and Mull in autumn, mostly involving juvenile birds. 1988: recorded breeding in 8 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas; 25 occupied nests, Ardinamis, Luing (IV), May 5.

CARRION/ HOODED CROW *Corvus corone* Feannag 1567 C

B. & W. Widespread and common. Hooded Crow predominate in islands and N. Argyll, but Carrion Crow are spreading slowly through Cowal into mid-Argyll/ Kintyre and their occurrence in the islands is becoming more frequent. 1988: Carrion Crow recorded in regions I, II, IV, V & VI with breeding proven for region I only. Hybrid Hooded x Carrion Crow breeding proven for regions I, II, IV & VI. Also in region I, a ground nest of Hooded x Carrion Crow contained three nestlings, which were one each of Hooded, Carrion & hybrid-type respectively, Jun 4.

I 27 roosting, Achamore Gardens, Gigha, Apr 2.

IV Flocks of over 100 seen in oak trees which were suffering defoliating caterpillar attack in May & June, Taynish NNR; 1 albinistic bird, Balnole, Jun 6.

V 35 Salum, Tiree, Jan 4; 55+ flying to roost in conifer ptn at Lochdon, Mull, Dec 6.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* Fithach 1572 RN

B. & W. Common. 1988: total of 134 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas, with breeding proven in 15 of these sq. Nest data available for 16 successful pairs, which reared an average of 2.7 young per pair. In addition, at least 2 prs bred successfully, Tiree. An intensive study of Argyll Ravens is currently being undertaken by Glasgow University and all Raven breeding records are requested for 1989.

V 32 at Tiree rubbish dump, May 26. Mull: 9 Lochdon, July 7; 8 Lochbuie, Aug 10; c30 Tobermory rubbish dump, Nov 9 with 43 present Dec 2.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid 1582 SG

B. P. & W. Common except Mull; where localised. Influx of young birds to Mull July / August. 1988:

I 200 Gigha Hotel, Apr 2; '1000s' Mull of Kintyre lighthouse late evening & early hrs of morning, Oct 17.

II Up to 1200 roosting at Bruichladdich pier, July, declining through autumn to 1-200 by Dec; c300 in large winter flocks, Loch Gruinart, Islay.

IV c30 seen in oak trees suffering defoliating caterpillar attack in June, Taynish NNR; c300 in reed beds at Loch Seil, Jul 17.

V Lochdon, Mull: present Jul-Sep with max. of c100 (inc only 10 ads), Jul 12.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

Druid dhearg 1584

V. 1988 #: Islay (II): Ad. Ballygrant, Aug 18, seen at Portnahaven same day, & until Sep 22, then in Port Ellen from Sep 28 until at least Oct 13 [CB/MAO]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Gealbhoonn 1591 HS

R. Common on mainland, generally associated with habitation. Relatively scarce on most islands. 1988: few records; Decline reported in Tobermory area, Mull (V).

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Gealbhoonn nan craobh 1598 TS

Status uncertain. All records required. 1988: no records received.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan beithe 1636 CH

B. P. & W. Abundant. 1988: breeding recorded in 31 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Total of 16 singing birds, Taynish NNR & 34 singing birds Mealdarroch NNR, Mar-May survey. Other records refer to autumn passage migrants and wintering flocks.

I 270 → S, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 14.

IV 100+ Killinnochnoch & 56 Dunadd, Jan; 4-500 Slockavullin, Nov 8.

VI 350+ Balure Farm, Shian, Nov 26.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Bricein caorainn 1638 BL

P. & W. Varying numbers with no birds reaching Argyll in some years. 1988 #:

I Singles, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 9 & 12.

II 4 Kilchatten, Colonsay, Oct 23.

V Singles, Lochdon, Mull, Feb 7 & Mar 19.

VI 6 N Connel, Jan 29; 1 Ledaig Pt, Sep 13.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean daraich 1649 GR

B. & W. Locally common. 1988: breeding recorded in 7 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Scattered winter records, mostly Jan - Mar. inc 3 Scarinish, Tiree (V), Jan 2.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair choille 1653 GO

B. & W. Patchy distribution. Absent as a breeding species from Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and Iona; very local on Islay, Jura and Mull.

1988: breeding recorded in 10 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. 2 fy seen Lochdon, Mull (V), Jun 22. An increase in numbers of birds seen was reported from many areas. Several large autumn/ winter flocks recorded.

- I c30 Pollywilline & 20 Upper Pollywilline, Oct 13.
- IV 30 Fearnoch, Feb 16; 30 Barnakil, Aug.
- VI 250 Loch Creran, Sep 7 [D&ET]; 20+ Ledaig Pt, Oct 5.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Gealag bhuidhe 1654 SK

B. P. & W. Locally common. Absent as a breeding species on Coll, Tiree and Iona. 1988: breeding recorded in 20 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Good breeding season reported in several areas. On Islay, breeding was recorded in old woodland as well as 25 year-old forestry.

- IV Max. 120, Mealdarroch NNR, Feb; c20 Crinan Moss, Sep 27.
- V c40 Lochdon, Mull, Aug 1; 6 Arinagour, Coll, Aug 6.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan lin 1660 LI

B. P. & W. Localised distribution; few winter records. 1988: breeding recorded in 15 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Very few other records.

- I 64 Carskey Bay, Southend, Sep 5.
- V Lochdon, Mull: at least 1 pr present Apr-Jul.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan beinne 1662 TW

B. P. & W. Locally common, except Cowal and mid-Argyll. 1988: breeding recorded in 14 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. In addition, 1 feeding 3 fy, Freshnish Is, Jul 20. Scattered records from all regions in every month, with large flocks recorded in autumn & winter:

- I 75 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre Aug 12; c20 Gigha, Nov 26.
- II Loch Gruinart, Islay: present Jan - Mar; 250 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, Islay, Mar 30.
- IV Flocks of c30 seen Taynish NNR, Jul - Aug; 20 Barnakil, Aug; 17 Dalnahaig, Oct.
- V Mull: 18 Loch Na Keal, Aug 13; c50 Gribun, Aug 15; 40 Fiddon, Sep 18; c100 Iona, Sep 20; 28 Glen More, Oct 23.
- VI c30 Cuil Bay, Mar 27 & Jul 24; regular flock of c50 at Connel airfield, Aug; c60 Ledaig Pt, Sep 5.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* Dearcan seilich 1663 LR

B. P. & W. Locally common. Absent as a breeding species from Coll, Tiree and Iona. 1988: breeding recorded in all regions except III. Breeding was confirmed in 13 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas.

- II At least 6 reports of breeding, Islay.
- IV Present Taynish NNR, May-Jun with max. count c10.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Cam ghob 1666 CR

B. & W. Scarce Islay and Jura. 1988: total of 14 counted in 37 10km sq covered for BTO Breeding Bird Atlas with breeding proven for region VI only. Scattered records regions I, IV & V:

- I 2 Carradale Forest, May 2; 9 Glenakil, Tarbert, Dec 12.
- IV 10+ Barguilean Gardens, Apr 11; 8 Loch Nant, Apr 24; 2+ Stronefield, Loch Caolisport, May 18; 4 Ardaneiseig Hotel, Loch Awe, May 27; 2 Douglas Water, Eredine, Jun 26; c15 Taynish NNR, Jun, on track turning over small stones; 3 Kilmelford, Jul 20; 2 Blarghour, Loch Awe, Jun 17; 1 Furnace, Jun 19; 7 Castle Sween, Oct 18.
- V Mull: 6 Lochdon, Feb 17; 6 Lochdon, Mar 3; 5 Knock, Nov 9.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille 1710 BF

B. & W. Common in some areas, but absent from Coll/Tiree and irregular Colonsay and Gigha. 1988: breeding recorded in 7 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. Scattered autumn/ winter records probably reflect emmigration from woodland to more open habitats.

- I 8 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 11.
- IV Max. 6, Taynish NNR, Jan - Jun & Nov; 30 in single flock, Balinoe Forest, Nov 26; max. 7, Mealdarroch, Nov; seen more frequently in Kilmartin area.
- V 5 Killiechronan, Mull, Jul 6; 5 Lochdon, Mull, Sep 10.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Gobhach

1717 HF

V. 1988 #: 1 Arinagour, Coll (V), Mar 28 [GdM].

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* 1847 LA

V. on passage. Possibly under-recorded. 1988 #:

II Islay: 1 Bridgend, Feb 20; ml The Oa, Mar 7; 4+ Kilchoman, Apr 6; 1 Gortantaoid, Apr 19; 3 Ardnave dunes, Sep 18 with 1 Sep 28, Oct 13 & 16.

V ml singing near Middleton, Tiree, Apr 17, with fml later in same place.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Gealag an t-sneachda 1850 SB

B? P. & W. Breeding status still uncertain but possible in region VI. 1988:

I 2 Gigha, Oct 22.

II Islay: 1 Machir Bay, Jan 2 - Feb 21; 1 Ardnave Pt, Mar 23, 2 Killinallan, Oct 19; 1 Machir Bay, Oct 25; birds present Ardnave, Oct - Nov, with max. 7 on Nov 23; 40 Bowmore, Nov 27.

III 4 (inc 2 singing ml ml), Beinn Narnain, May 7. Late passage birds?

IV 1 (long dead), Loch Nant, Mar 24.

V Mull: 2 Lochdon, Jan 22; c20 Glen More, Nov 20; 4 Lochdon, Nov 21.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Buidheag bhealaidh 1857 Y

B. & W. Local but common in places. 1988: breeding recorded in 16 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas.

IV 30 Connel, Feb 23; 16+ Isle of Danna, Apr 4.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniculus* Gealag loin

1877 RB

B. & W. Local but common in places. 1988: breeding recorded in 17 out of 37 10km sq covered for BTO Atlas. At least 12 prs bred, Colonsay (II); up to 3 territories reported, Taynish NNR (IV), where fy seen.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Gealag bhuachair

1882 CB

R. & P. Kintyre and Tiree. No records from Coll since 1984. 1988: breeding recorded on Tiree only, but no figures available. 7 Ruaig/Salum, Tiree (V), Jan 1.

The following records have been accepted by BBRC:

White-billed Diver	1	27.03.86	Islay (dead)	P Moore
	1	04.07.87	Loch Sween	R W J Smith
Night Heron	1	21.04 to		
		08.06.87	Coll	Dr De Mornay et. al.
	1	20.04.87	Tiree	M Green / A Knight
Blue-winged Teal	Pr	26.05.86	Tiree	G Carr
Ring-billed Warbler	1	23.03.87	Islay	S Holloway
Greenish Warbler	1	31.07.87	Sanda Island	WE, JM et. al.
Rose-clrd Starling	1	10.08.87	Islay	M G Collis
Rustic Bunting	ml	04.06.87	Tiree	M G / A K

The following records have been accepted by SBRC:

Rough-legged Buzzard	1	12.10.87	Islay	JD
	1	17.10.87	Mull	MM
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	20.06.87	Killeen	AJR
Ring-billed Gull	3	24.02.88	Jura	R Walsh / D R Newton
Roseate Tern	1	18.05.87	Coll	A R Jennings
Icterine Warbler	1	02.06.87	Tiree	K B Shepherd

The following records have been rejected by BBRC:

Gyr Falcon	1	12.04.88	Mull	
White-winged Black Tern	8	28.07.88	Tiree	
Rock Thrush	1	15.06.88	Mull	

The following records have been rejected by SBRC:

Rough-legged Buzzard	1	30.04.87	Islay	
Rough-legged Buzzard	1	06.09.88	Mull	
Long-tailed Skua	1	14.09.88	Ardfern	
Sabine's Gull	1	24.05.86	Tiree	
Ringed-billed Gull	1	13.10.87	Islay	
Richard's Pipit	1	30.10.87	Islay	
Marsh Tit	1	19.09.87	Islay	
Nuthatch	3	07.09.87	Oban	

RESULTS OF BIRD RINGING IN ARGYLL IN 1987 and 1988

J.C.A. Craik

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 1987 and 1988, fourteen ringers or groups operated in Argyll and together ringed 15,978 birds. Five of these ringers were Argyll residents, who together ringed 7,803 birds (49%). The remainder were ringed by visitors to the county. 57% of the birds ringed were seabirds. The increase in the recorded annual totals since 1986 has arisen largely because ringers from the Clyde group, who regularly visit large seabird colonies off Kintyre and in the Sound of Jura, have submitted their totals for the first time. The figures are now believed to give a fairly complete picture of ringing in the county. The Treshnish Auk Ringing Group did not visit in 1987 or 1988.

Requests are made for details of sightings of colour-ringed birds of four species to be sent to the following:

Mute Swan	D. Trigg, 4 Crown Meadows, Lower Broadheath, Worcester WR2 6QJ.
Greenland Whitefront	D. Stroud, 5 Parkway, Nassington, Peterborough PE8 6QE.
Dipper	S. Newton, Department of Biological Sciences, The University, Stirling FK9 4LA.
Chough	E. Bignal, Quinhill, Clachan, Tarbert, Argyll.

II. NUMBERS OF BIRDS RINGED IN ARGYLL IN 1987 and 1988

Species	1987		1988	
	Fully grown	Chicks	Fully grown	Chicks
Fulmar	18	85	31	96
Manx Shearwater	13	12	38	39
Storm Petrel	560	0	1300	0
Cormorant	1	115	0	70
Shag	10	274	32	223
Mute Swan	33	0	38	17
Barnacle Goose	295	0	0	0
Mallard	1	0	0	3
Eider	1	0	2	0
Sparrowhawk	0	0	3	0
Buzzard	1	6	0	24
Golden Eagle	0	8	0	11
Merlin	0	15	0	9
Peregrine	0	22	0	10
Oystercatcher	0	37	0	47
Ringed Plover	0	28	0	17
Lapwing	0	9	0	101
Curlew	0	0	0	1
Redshank	0	1	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	8
Black-headed Gull	0	99	0	49
Common Gull	3	644	3	614
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	12	0	8
Herring Gull	8	391	0	497
Great Black-backed Gull	2	26	0	74
Kittiwake	5	0	24	1

Common Tern	3	1379	21	336
Arctic Tern	3	231	14	174
Guillemot	156	260	239	498
Razorbill	81	141	71	107
Black Guillemot	1	22	5	17
Little Auk	0	0	1	0
Puffin	3	1	12	6
Rock Dove	0	0	0	2
Barn Owl	0	10	7	29
Tawny Owl	15	62	18	45
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	5	0
Skylark	0	0	1	0
Sand Martin	94	0	124	0
Swallow	6	13	12	32
Tree Pipit	3	0	6	0
Meadow Pipit	56	0	114	4
Rock Pipit	12	4	10	0
Grey Wagtail	2	0	2	0
Pied Wagtail	5	6	3	0
Dipper	8	0	0	0
Wren	32	0	44	0
Dunnock	33	0	54	0
Robin	102	5	104	0
Black Redstart	0	0	1	0
Redstart	5	9	4	5
Whinchat	10	5	20	0
Stonechat	7	0	27	0
Wheatear	31	15	36	12
Blackbird	52	8	58	0
Song Thrush	15	0	20	0
Redwing	1	0	3	0
Mistle Thrush	0	0	3	0
Grasshopper Warbler	4	0	2	0
Sedge Warbler	3	0	9	0
Whitethroat	18	0	27	0
Blackcap	0	0	12	0
Greenish Warbler	1	0	0	0
Wood Warbler	5	6	0	13
Chiffchaff	5	0	16	0
Willow Warbler	242	0	340	6
Goldcrest	44	0	250	0
Spotted Flycatcher	3	0	4	0
Pied Flycatcher	2	0	1	26
Long-tailed Tit	37	0	60	0
Coal Tit	19	0	71	0
Blue Tit	102	64	135	805
Great Tit	98	25	150	243
Treecreeper	4	0	11	0
Chough	14	71	0	55
Jackdaw	1	0	3	0
Crow	1	4	1	0
Raven	0	3	0	0
Starling	45	0	11	0
House Sparrow	17	0	38	0
Chaffinch	299	2	605	3
Brambling	0	0	1	0
Greenfinch	17	0	18	0
Goldfinch	0	0	1	0
Siskin	100	0	311	0
Linnet	8	0	20	0
Twite	44	0	8	0
Redpoll	11	0	1	0
Bullfinch	2	0	15	0
Reed Bunting	22	0	24	0
TOTALS	2855	4130	4655	4338
	6985		8993	

III. RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1987 and 1988

The following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries of which I was notified by the end of February 1989. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second line. The age

when ringed is given according to the EURING code; note that these numbers do not represent age in years.

- 1 nestling or chick
- 2 fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 hatched in year of ringing
- 3J in juvenile plumage when ringed
- 4 hatched before year of ringing, exact year unknown
- 5 hatched in previous year
- 6 hatched before previous year, exact year unknown, etc.
- M,F sex
- B breeding adult

The manner of recovery is coded as usual:

- v caught or trapped, and released
- vv rings seen or read in field
- + shot or killed by Man
- x found dead

FULMAR

FV46218 1 28.7.84 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 14.2.86 Snaefellsnes, ICELAND
1507 km 316 deg. 566 days

MANX SHEARWATER

FC38175 1 27.7.88 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
x 8.11.88 Picarras, Santa Catarina, BRAZIL
8278 km 204 deg. 104 days

GANNET

1106180 3J 11.9.75 Ailsa Craig, Firth of Clyde
x 24.8.86 L. Crinan, Argyll
98 km 345 deg. 4000 days

CORMORANT

5137656 1 28.7.86 Sound of Jura, Argyll
x 15.6.87 Dunmurry, Belfast, N. IRELAND
155 km 186 deg. 322 days

5151420 1 18.6.88 Sound of Jura, Argyll
x 11.9.88 L. Neagh, Antrim, N. IRELAND
146 km 192 deg. 85 days

5138627 1 23.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
x 2.5.88 St Nazaire, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE
908 km 166 deg. 314 days

WHITE FRONTED GOOSE

Three series of marked Greenland Whitefronts winter in Argyll: 96 birds caught in Greenland in 1979 and ringed on the right leg with Darvic rings (legible at a distance); a further 88 in 1984 ringed on the left leg; and those fitted with numbered neck-collars at Wexford, Eire, in or since 1984. In winters 1986/87 and 1987/88 respectively, sightings were reported as follows (information supplied by D.A. Stroud, co-ordinator of this study).

	Ireland	Greenland 1984	Greenland 1979
Islay	18, 34	16, 15	8, 11
Kintyre	1, 11	1, 0	1, 0
Coll	1, 0	0, 0	0, 0

BARNACLE GOOSE

Many hundreds of Barnacle Geese wintering on Islay have been marked, like the last species, with engraved Darvic leg rings fitted in Greenland. In January 1987, 302 Barnacle Geese were caught by

cannon-nets on Islay. Of these 295 were unringed, while seven had been ringed as described. (Information supplied by Dr. M. Ogilvie, Islay Field Centre, Port Charlotte, Islay, PA48 7TX).

BRENT GOOSE

Among 39 birds seen on Tiree during 17-22 April 1988, 8 were seen to be carrying numbered Darvic leg-rings. These had all been ringed on Bathurst Island in the central Canadian Arctic during 1984-1987. (Information from D. Stroud).

SEA EAGLE

Three Scottish-bred colour-ringed Sea Eagles were sighted as follows:

White	16.1.87	Gruinart, Islay, Argyll
Yellow	19.6.87	Kilnannan, Islay, Argyll
Red	27.9.87	Loch Etive, Argyll

MERLIN

Unlike those of peregrine and sparrowhawk, populations of this bird of prey have not recovered since the restrictions on pesticides, and its numbers are alarmingly low. Very few have been ringed in Argyll, and the following recoveries are therefore valuable indicators of movements.

EK94009	1	27.6.87	Isle of Coll, Argyll
	x	4.4.88	Amlwch, Anglesey, Wales
			383 km 158 deg. 282 days
EK94018	1	18.6.88	Isle of Coll, Argyll
	x	30.9.88	Campbeltown, Argyll
			142 km 154 deg. 104 days

OYSTERCATCHER

SS62527	6	17.8.67	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, N. Wales
	x	20.2.85	Traigh an Luig, Islay, Argyll
			321 km 332 deg. 6397 days
Colour-ringed	7	31.5.81	Exe estuary, Devon
	vvB	May 1986)	Islay, Argyll
		May 1987)	

RINGED PLOVER

Colour-ringed	?	8.5.84	South Uist
	vv	c.20.10.87	Caol, Tiree
	(FB)		

DUNLIN

Colour-ringed	1	1986	Drimore Farm, South Uist
	vv	3.6.87	Loch Stanail, Tiree

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Despite the fact that several hundred chicks of this species have been ringed in Argyll in recent years, the recovery rate has been low. This recovery is therefore interesting.

EP07984	1	21.6.87	L. Melfort, Argyll
	x	26.1.88	Belfast, N. IRELAND
			183 km 186 deg. 219 days

COMMON GULL

EP63010	1	26.6.87	Dunstaffnage, Oban, Argyll	GG32419	1	24.6.87	L. Linnhe, Argyll
	x	13.11.87	Nenagh, Tipperary, EIRE		x	16.1.88	Dec Estuary, Clwyd, N. Wales
438 km 204 deg. 140 days				392 km 158 deg. 206 days			
EN24893	1	26.6.85	Connel, Oban	GG32073	1	26.6.86	E. Balnagowan, Nr. Oban
	x	14.12.86	Seaton Carew, Cleveland		x	5.12.86	Larne, Antrim, N. IRELAND
329 km 127 deg. 536 days				200 km 189 deg. 162 days			
EN76064	1	5.6.86	Connel, Oban	GG32150	1	28.6.86	L. Caolisport, Argyll
	vv	22.12.86	Ainsdale, Merseyside		x	8.8.87	Downpatrick, Co. Down, N. IRELAND
349 km 155 deg. 200 days				186 km 184 deg. 406 days			
EJ40402	5F	15.5.83	Seaforth, Merseyside	GH41269	1	8.7.86	Grasspoint, Mull, Argyll
	xB (mink)	16.6.87	L. Craignish, Argyll		x	7.7.87	R.A.F. Machrihanish, Kintyre, Argyll
342 km 332 deg. 1493 days				111 km 178 deg. 364 days (Shot because roosting on runway)			
EK72979	1	10.6.85	Dunstaffnage, Oban				
	x	20.5.87	Tralee Beach, Kerry, EIRE				
551 km 212 deg. 709 days							

Common Gull EN76064, and four Herring Gulls ringed near Oban - see for example, Argyll Bird Report for 1986 - were reported by Derek Forshaw of Southport, who has made a speciality of reading ring numbers on gulls with a telescope from his car. He is able to do this on the five-mile stretch of beach from Southport to beyond Ainsdale, approaching feeding and roosting flocks much closer than is possible on foot. Writing in March 1987 he says that, in the last three winters, he has successfully read the rings of 'several hundred gulls there, including many foreign-ringed Common and Black-headed Gulls, but so far only British-ringed Great Black-backs, Lesser Black-backs and Herring Gulls. Common Gulls have been identified from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, West Germany and The Netherlands as well as from a number of Scottish sites. Black-headed gulls have been identified from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, East and West Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium'.

Common Gull EJ40402 was breeding in a colony of 49 pairs Common Gull, 148 pairs Black-headed Gull, 32 pairs Common Tern and 11 pairs Arctic Tern on a small island (200 x 40 m) near Oban. During a two-week period in June 1987 60 adult Common Gulls and 19 adult Black-headed Gulls were killed there on or near their nests, and many chicks (150+) and eggs died in consequence. The adults were killed by a neck-bite and left uneaten. The terns suffered milder predation but deserted, probably because of the disturbance. A mink was found to be breeding in a den on this island and indulging in surplus killing at night. The female and the two kits were trapped and killed, and the killing of the birds abruptly ceased. However, the remaining seabirds had suffered almost complete breeding failure. Similar observations in the previous three years suggested that this predation was annual.

Such episodes, which may well occur whenever mink are established in or near breeding colonies, are worth recording in detail as few appear to have been documented. This is perhaps because most research on mink in Britain has been conducted in areas lacking small islands with their dense colonies of ground-nesting seabirds.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GJ99306	1	7.7.84	Loch Melfort, Argyll
	x	1.12.87	Baixo Alentejo, PORTUGAL
1985 km 187 deg. 1242 days			

HERRING GULL

GG32231	1	18.6.87	Connel, Oban, Argyll
	vv	27.12.87	Plymouth, Devon
682 km 173 deg. 192 days			

COMMON TERN

Ringling has shown that Common Terns breeding in Britain winter on the west coast of Africa. There, together with other tern species including the much rarer Roseate Tern, they interact with Man in several ways. The tradition of catching them on fishing lines, practised by boys in Ghana and elsewhere, is well known. Reports attaching to the recoveries below do not give full circumstances of capture. Most are described as 'caught' or 'caught and released'.

XR20552	1	8.8.86	Nr Oban, Argyll
	?	30.10.87	Nouadhibou, MAURETANIA
4174 km 193 deg. 479 days			
XR27446	1	26.7.86	Nr Oban
	?	5.1.87	Cabo Roxo, GUINEA-BISSAU
4951 km 192 deg. 163 days			
XS77593	1	7.7.84	L. Feochan, Nr Oban
	?	14.11.86	Joal, SENEGAL
4788 km 192 deg. 860 days			
XS77865	1	17.7.84	Nr Oban
	?	29.6.86	Lome, TOGO
5630 km 174 deg. 712 days			
XR20480	1	8.7.86	Nr Oban
	?	8.1.88	At sea between Canaries and Mauretania, W. AFRICA
(sick) 3601 km 194 deg. 549 days			

Birds of the auk family die in large numbers as a consequence of Man's activities, particularly in fishing nets and in oil spills. The following recoveries of guillemots and razorbills illustrate the international nature of these problems.

GUILLEMOT

T55152	1	23.6.87	Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
	+	15.1.88	Sogn og Fjordane, NORWAY
(nets) 960 km 41 deg. 206 days			
GJ 76351	4	27.6.84	Treshnish, Argyll
	+	10.1.87	Ile d'Yeu, Vendee, FRANCE
(nets) 1121 km 166 deg. 927 days			

T51573 1 23.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 4.6.88 Nr. Old Head of Kinsale,
(nets) Cork, EIRE
461 km 206 deg. 347 days

T51687 1 26.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 10.1.88 Knockadoon Head, Cork,
(nets) EIRE
406 km 202 deg. 198 days

GJ76422 4 28.6.84 Treshnish, Argyll
+ 15.1.88 Dungarvan, Waterford,
(nets) EIRE

RAZORBILL

M63653 1 25.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
x 14.2.88 Gavres, Morbihan,
FRANCE
858 km 170 deg. 234 days

M63629 1 26.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 19.10.87 Batz-sur-mer,
(oil) Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE
914 km 166 deg. 115 days

M63604 1 26.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 13.11.88 De Cocksdorp, Texel,
(oil) NETHERLANDS
718 km 109 deg. 506 days

M63676 1 26.6.87 Sanda, Kintyre, Argyll
+ 12.2.88 Zuid-Holland,
(oil) NETHERLANDS
738 km 117 deg. 231 days

M46688 4 2.7.82 Treshnish, Argyll
+ 10.1.88 Knockadoon Head, Cork,
(nets) EIRE
520 km 190 deg. 2018 days

SAND MARTIN

C999796 3M 17.8.86 Errol East, Tayside
v 18.5.87 North Connel, Oban, Argyll
139 km 274 deg. 274 days

The following three birds were ringed together in Tayside in 1987 and recovered breeding at the same colony near Oban in 1988, having been to Africa in the meantime.

E598505 3JM 21.7.87 Powgavie, Inchtute, Tayside
E598535 v 16.5.88 North Connel, Oban, Argyll
E598607 138 km 272 deg. 300 days

WILLOW WARBLER

Willow warblers are the commonest summer visitors to Argyll, but their routes of migration to and from Scotland are not known in detail. The recoveries below, together with those in Argyll Bird Reports 1 and 2, suggest passage along both the east and west coasts of England.

6N3818 2 31.8.87 Langtoft, Lincolnshire
v 30.4.88 Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
533 km 323 deg. 243 days

1N9663 3M 30.8.85 Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire
v 2.5.88 Castle Sween, Knapdale,
Argyll
500 km 309 deg. 976 days

PIED FLYCATCHER

Argyll Bird Club's Pied Flycatcher nestbox programme (see elsewhere in this Report) has yielded its first recovery, appropriately from one of the first birds to be ringed in the county.

C897331 4F 13.6.87 Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
v 5.6.88 Portnellan, South Loch
Katrine,
Central Region
53 km 119 deg. 358 days

CHOUGH

Colour-ringed 1 1985 Islay, Argyll
vv 23.10.87 The Reef, Tiree, Argyll

SISKIN

Siskins breed in coniferous forests and, because of the vast increase in this habitat, siskin numbers are increasing dramatically at present. Heavily afforested counties such as Argyll hold a significant proportion of the U.K. breeding populations. Most of these birds move south to southern England or to Europe in winter. On passage they are easily caught by ringers, and the numbers of recoveries between ringers are high. Indeed, at point one in 1988 the Ringing Office placed an unprecedented temporary embargo on the processing of these siskin recoveries to allow the normal processing of recoveries of other species to continue. However, few ringers in Argyll ring large numbers of siskins (96% of the county total in 1987-88 were ringed at Barcaldine). There were four Argyll recoveries to and from central and eastern Scotland. The recoveries below illustrate the wintering or passage of Argyll's siskins throughout England.

C784947 6F 16.4.86 Epping, Essex
v 1.5.87 Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
641 km 327 deg. 380 days

C010903 5M 5.5.86 Barcaldine, Oban
v 15.2.87 Sutton Coldfield, West
Midlands
488 km 154 deg. 286 days

E032514 5M 21.3.86 Grove, Oxfordshire
v 13.5.87 Barcaldine, Oban
602 km 335 deg. 418 days

E304575 6F 5.3.87 Woking, Surrey
v 24.4.87 Barcaldine, Oban
656 km 332 deg. 50 days

E383579 6F 3.3.87 Pirbright, Surrey
v 1.5.87 Barcaldine, Oban
and 657 km 332 deg. 59 days
25.4.88

E101083 6F 7.2.87 East Grinstead, Sussex
v 2.5.87 Barcaldine, Oban
691 km 330 deg. 84 days

E037709 5M 28.2.87 Exeter, Devon
v 24.3.88 Barcaldine, Oban
655 km 349 deg. 390 days

C942053 5F 3.2.87 Exeter, Devon
v 15.4.88 Barcaldine, Oban
655 km 349 deg. 437 days

E288294	5M	5.4.87	Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria
	v	15.4.88	Barcaldine, Oban
			236 km 322 deg. 376 days

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THE ARGYLL GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

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HERTFORDSHIRE HP23 5NR.

(Initial data collected by ABC members and collated by
Steve Eccles, Bendeloch, Oban).

This paper summarises the results of the Argyll Garden Bird Survey carried out in Argyll between November 1985 and February 1987.

1. Introduction

Until recently, the importance of gardens to birds has been poorly understood and documented. Whilst gardens offer an array of foods (both artificial and natural) and nesting habitat, there has been little attempt to assess how important gardens are for birds both as wintering and breeding habitats.

In the autumn of 1970, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) began a garden bird feeding survey to determine how important supplementary foods were to birds wintering in gardens. The results of this long-term survey have indicated that specific use of supplementary foods by birds may vary annually and that in several cases clear patterns in the usage have emerged. For example, the Magpie (*Pica pica*) has increasingly fed on supplementary foods and the Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) decreasingly since the survey began. These patterns have been shown to be related to the population status of the individual species. More generally, the use of foods provided in gardens is known to be related to climatic factors and to changes in land use which affect food abundance and availability.

In September 1987, the BTO began a more extensive survey to monitor year round use of gardens by birds. The new survey, sponsored by BASF has in the region of 5000 participants from throughout the U.K. The scale of participation should allow a more complete understanding of the overall importance of gardens to birds to be made.

In addition to surveys, individual species feeding on supplementary foods have also been studied. In Cardiff, the importance of supplementary foods to breeding Blue Tits (*Parus caeruleus*), Great Tits (*Parus major*), Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) has been studied (Cowie & Hinsley 1988). Other workers have studied the importance of supplementary foods to over-winter survival rates in birds. Increased over-wintering survival has been attributed to the provision of supplementary food in the Willow Tit (*Parus montanus*), Great Tit and Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*) in Europe and in the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) in North America (Hogstad 1980, van Balen 1980, Jansson, Ekman & von Bromssen 1981, Kallander 1981, Brittingham & Temple 1988).

With a few exceptions, there has been little attempt to document the importance of gardens to birds at a local level. In highland areas, such as Argyll, gardens may represent important pockets of habitat rich in floral and faunal communities. At various times of the year, these areas may be of considerable local importance to resident and migrant birds. In the light of the paucity of information at a local level, the Argyll Bird Club set up the present survey to monitor birds visiting gardens. Members of the Bird Club and the general public were asked to participate in the survey.

2 Methods

Observations for the survey were carried out in a single day (Saturday) in each month of the survey. In each sample day (see Appendix 1) participants recorded the number of birds of each species that they saw in their garden. In this analysis, only those birds which have landed in or on some structure in the garden have been included. Participants also categorised their observations depending on how sure they were that they had made correct identification. In this report, I have excluded all cases where identification was given as

'thrush', 'finch', 'pigeon', 'gull', 'crow' or where I felt identification may have been incorrect. It is therefore likely that some species such as the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) have been underestimated.

The method of counting as outlined in the methods does not give a reliable index of the number of birds likely to be using the garden. I have therefore chosen to exclude all the numeric data. All results presented in this report are therefore based on the percentage of gardens in which each species was recorded on any sample day. In addition to submitting data on birds, each participant supplied information on garden size, surroundings and on other attributes likely to make the garden more attractive to birds. A review of these submissions are incorporated into the text.

3 Results

3.1 The gardens.

A total of 67 persons participated in the Survey with a reasonable spread of participation throughout Argyll (Fig. 1). Of the participants, 18% had small gardens (less than 100 sq. metres), 36% medium gardens (less than 500 sq. metres) and 46% large gardens (larger than 500 sq. metres). Only 4% of participants considered their garden was in an urban situation whilst 12% stated that their gardens were suburban. The remaining participants may be considered to have rural gardens. For example, 7% of gardens were on a farm, 31% surrounded by open country and 33% situated in a village. Overall, 60% of participants considered their gardens were coastal.

Participants also submitted more specific information about their gardens. Forty-eight percent of participants considered that they had plants which were especially attractive. These included berry bearing shrubs and trees, fruit trees, conifers and mixtures of mature deciduous trees. Only 13% of gardens had ponds and 36% a stream or running water. Over a third of gardens had nest-boxes, the majority being 'tit' boxes. Sixty-nine percent of gardens had a bird table with many householders also providing food in hanging feeding devices. Regular winter feeding was carried out in 78% of gardens with the usual assortment of foods provided.

3.2 The birds.

The most frequently recorded bird in the autumn and winter was the Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). During the spring and summer the Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) was the bird recorded from the greatest percentage of gardens. A comparison of the Argyll top 12 garden birds with the top 12 in the U.K. is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The 12 most frequently recorded birds in gardens in Argyll and the U.K. during the autumn and winter months. (Results for each species are expressed as the mean percentage of gardens in which they were recorded).

SPECIES	Argyll		U.K.	
	%		%	
Robin	90	Blue Tit	91	
Chaffinch	87	Blackbird	90	
Blackbird	85	House Sparrow	87	
Blue Tit	82	Robin	86	
Great Tit	78	Starling	81	
Dunnock	62	Great Tit	69	
House Sparrow	53	Dunnock	62	
Coal Tit	48	Chaffinch	61	
Hooded Crow ¹	31	Greenfinch	50	
Greenfinch	24	Magpie	46	
Starling	21	Collared Dove	43	
Song Thrush ²	19	Wren	41	
Sample ³	35.3		1738.4	

¹ Percentage based on occurrence of both Hooded and Carrion Crow.

² An underestimate as several participants were unable to differentiate between Song and Mistle Thrush.

³ Mean No. of gardens watched per sample unit.

The 12 most frequently recorded species in Argyll during the autumn and winter were essentially the same as in the U.K. The Hooded/Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*), Coal Tit and Song Thrush were not in the U.K. top 12 list and were replaced in the national list by Magpie, Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). With one exception, the Pied Wagtail, (*Motacilla alba*) the 12 most frequently recorded birds in Argyll gardens during the spring and summer were the same as the autumn/winter top 12 (see Table 2). Nine of the top 12 species in spring and summer were the same as those which occurred in the U.K. top 12. The actual percentage occurrence in gardens (both in Argyll and nationally) is discussed later.

Table 2. The 12 most frequently recorded birds in gardens in Argyll and the U.K. during the spring and summer months. (Results for each species are expressed as the mean percentage of gardens in which they were recorded).

SPECIES	Argyll %		U.K. %
Chaffinch	82	Blackbird	94
Blackbird	79	House Sparrow	88
Robin	65	Starling	79
House Sparrow	61	Blue Tit	78
Great Tit	58	Robin	64
Blue Tit	53	Dunnock	55
Dunnock	42	Chaffinch	52
Hooded Crow ¹	26	Great Tit	51
Pied Wagtail	23	Song Thrush	49
Greenfinch	22	Collared Dove	48
Coal Tit	22	Greenfinch	45
Song Thrush ²	20	Magpie	44
Sample ³	39.7		2095.7

Symbols as in Table 1.

3.3 Seasonal frequency of occurrence.

In Fig. 2, the occurrence of Blue Tit, Great Tit and Coal Tit in gardens during each month of the survey is graphically presented. The pattern of occurrence for all three species is essentially the same. During the winter months, all three tits were recorded in a greater percentage of gardens than in the spring and summer. Other species which showed a similar pattern included the Robin and Dunnock. Seed-eating birds such as the Greenfinch, Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) and House Sparrow were essentially different (Fig. 3). Both the Siskin and Greenfinch were recorded from the greatest percentage of gardens during April and May. During the winter months, the Siskin was only scarcely recorded. Greenfinches were infrequently recorded in gardens between June and October, the time at which wild seed-stocks are at their highest. Two other seed-eating birds, the Chaffinch and House Sparrow were recorded from a greater number of gardens each month than were Siskin and Greenfinch (Fig. 3). However, no clear trend in garden use emerges for these two species.

The insect eating Wren and Pied Wagtail were infrequently recorded in the winter months. During the spring and summer months however, both species were recorded from a greater percentage of gardens (Fig. 4).

Other species were less frequently recorded. Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) were predominantly recorded during the late autumn and winter months. Redwings were never recorded from more than 8% of gardens and Fieldfares from 9%. Bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*) were even scarcer being recorded from a max 4% of gardens in January 1987.

The most frequently recorded raptor was the Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) which was recorded in almost every month of the survey. Buzzards were never recorded from more than 13% of gardens on any one sample day. Other raptors recorded included Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*). Compared with the national scene, Sparrowhawks were very scarce.

Because the survey included all the months of 1986, it was possible to determine to what extent migrant birds used gardens, both as breeding and stop-over sites. The two most frequently recorded summer visitors were the Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). Swallows were recorded from 29% of all gardens in June whilst the Willow Warbler was recorded from 25% of gardens in August. Other summer visitors included Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), House Martin (*Delichon urbica*), Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) and Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). Wheatears (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) were recorded from a small number of gardens between April – August. Wheatears recorded in the spring were presumably on passage as probably was the Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) recorded in a single garden in April.

4. Discussion

The vast majority of gardens watched were in a rural and coastal situation reflecting the nature of most residences in Argyll. Seventy-eight percent of all participants provided food for birds on a regular basis. This compares favourably with the results of the BTO/BASF Garden Bird Survey where 89% of participants regularly provided food in hanging feeders, 71% provided food on the ground and 71% on a table. It should be stressed however that food provision figures are likely to be biased in that these surveys probably only attracted people already keen on birds.

Whilst the top 12 species in Argyll and the U.K. were essentially the same, there were considerable differences in the magnitude of occurrence in the two surveys. The main differences are undoubtedly due to the nature of the survey gardens. The gardens in Argyll were mainly rural whilst gardens in the National survey were mixed. The mean percentage occurrence of suburban/urban birds such as the House Sparrow and Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was therefore much lower in Argyll than was recorded nationally. In contrast, the Chaffinch was more frequently recorded in the rural gardens of Argyll than it was nationally. Fewer scavenging gulls were recorded in survey gardens than occur in gardens throughout the U.K. as a whole. The main scavengers recorded, Hooded and Carrion Crows appeared to replace the Magpie as the main crow. Magpies are largely absent from mid and North Argyll (Sharrock 1976).

The similarity between the autumn/winter and spring/summer top 12 lists suggests that the majority of species concerned are resident the year round. The Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland (Lack 1986) confirms that this is the case. During the spring and summer months, the commoner species were recorded less frequently in Argyll than they were in U.K. gardens as a whole. This suggests that the gardens surveyed may be less attractive to breeding birds than to wintering birds. During the breeding season, it is likely that there is a large amount of nesting habitat available in the countryside immediately surrounding areas of habitation. Such areas may be more suited to breeding birds. In the winter however, the situation may be quite different with shortages of food forcing birds to move to areas such as gardens where food may be more available.

For the majority of species recorded in the survey, the patterns of occurrence were similar to patterns observed in the BTO's National surveys. Generally species were recorded from a greater percentage of gardens during the autumn and winter than in the spring and summer. During the colder months when the days are shorter, invertebrate food may be less abundant and more difficult to locate. At such times, birds are known to respond by moving into other areas such as gardens where there is an abundant supply of available food (Glue 1982).

Seed-eating birds showed a different pattern of garden usage. The pattern exhibited by the Siskin and Greenfinch was different in that

both birds visited gardens most frequently in late winter and early spring when natural seed-stocks are known to be at their lowest. Similar results were found by the BTO's Garden Bird Feeding Survey (Glue 1982). House Sparrows being more catholic in their choice of food, probably feed more on supplementary foods all the year round than do the other seed-eating birds. This may explain the lack of a seasonal pattern in their use of gardens.

Insectivores, such as the Pied Wagtail and Wren, normally only feed on supplementary foods during cold weather. Rather surprisingly, both species were largely absent from gardens during the autumn and winter. In the case of the Pied Wagtail, the absence may have been due to a southerly movement prior to the winter. Wrens may have gone un-noticed in the winter, their small size and creeping behaviour rendering them all but invisible. During the spring however, their loud song and habit of perching on song posts would mean they would be more likely to be recorded.

Other birds were recorded rather less frequently than would have been expected. The Fennoscandinavian Fieldfare and Redwing, both frequent visitors to the North of Scotland were recorded throughout the U.K. in the winter of 1985-86 in low numbers. The following winter they were rather more frequently recorded (Thompson 1988).

Perhaps one of the major surprises of the survey was the scarcity of the Sparrowhawk in Argyll gardens. The Sparrowhawk is not uncommon in Argyll both as a breeding and wintering bird (Galbraith & Jennings 1987) yet it was scarcely recorded. It is possible that the recording regime was so un-intensive that many participants may have missed the sudden appearance of these birds in their gardens.

The species component of gardens in Argyll was similar to that found in U.K. gardens as a whole. Differences in the frequency of occurrence may be due to the nature of the gardens themselves or to differences in the recording methodology between surveys. In particular, a single days sampling in each month is likely to be less sensitive than daily sampling each month as is encouraged in the BTO/BASF survey. Other differences are likely to be genuine reflecting differences in wintering ranges and foraging behaviour.

5 Acknowledgements

The Argyll Bird Club warmly thank all those people who so enthusiastically contributed to the success of this survey. I thank Lys Muirhead for permission to use unpublished results from the BTO/BASF Garden Bird Survey and Liz Murray for drawing figures 2 and 3. Finally I should like to thank Steve Eccles for carrying out the enormous task of coordinating the survey and undertaking the initial collation of the data. Colin Galbraith and Arthur Jennings commented on a draft of the paper.

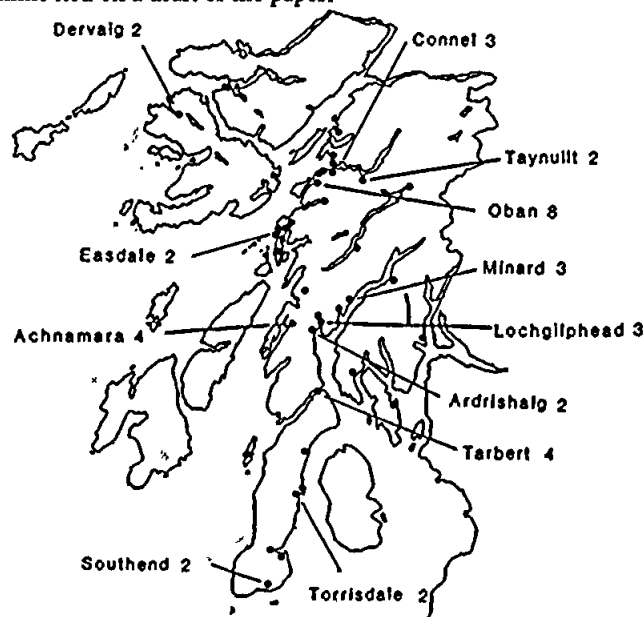


Fig. 1. The regional distribution of survey participants. Named sites represent areas with more than one participant.

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Appendix 1.

The Argyll Garden Bird Survey sampling dates

Nov. 23 1985	Jul. 19 1986
Dec. 14	Aug. 16
Jan. 18 1986	Sep. 13
Feb. 15	Oct. 18
Mar. 22	Nov. 15
Apr. 19	Dec. 13
May 17	Jan. 17 1987
Jun. 21 1986	Feb. 14

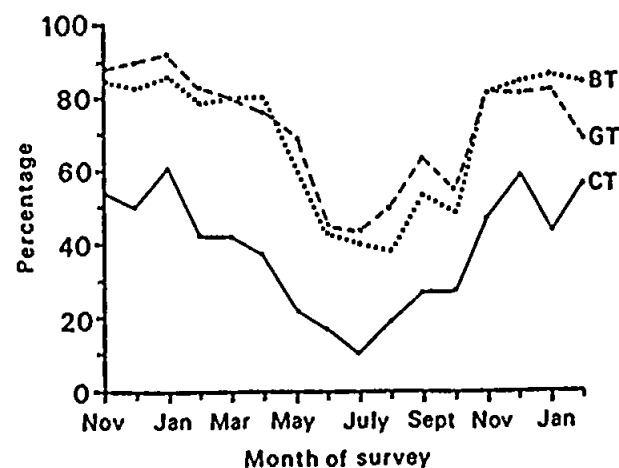


Fig. 2. The occurrence of Blue Tit (BT), Great Tit (GT) and Coal Tit (CT) in survey gardens between November 1985 and February 1987. (Data plotted as percentage of gardens in which species were recorded on each sample day).

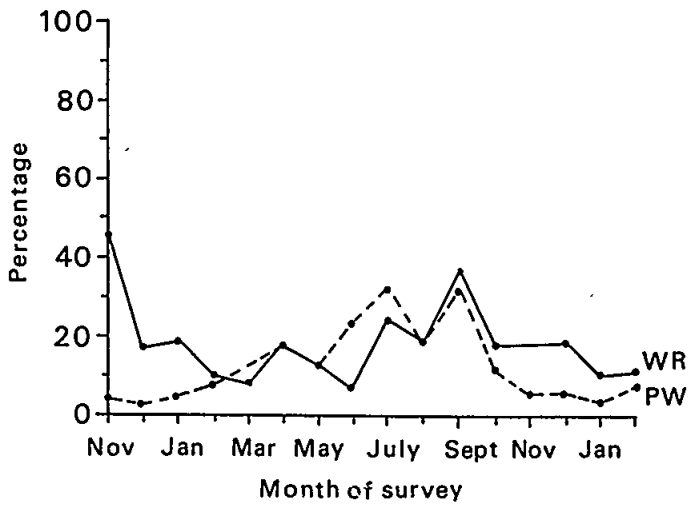


Fig. 3. The occurrence of Wren (WR) and Pied Wagtail (PW) in survey gardens between November 1985 and February 1987.

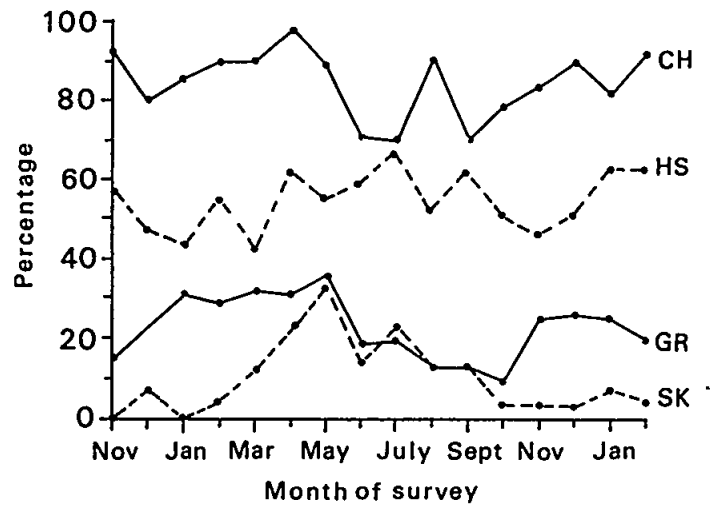


Fig. 4. The occurrence of Chaffinch (CH), House Sparrow (HS), Greenfinch (GR) and Siskin (SK) in survey gardens between November 1985 and February 1987.

NESTBOX PROJECT: SECOND YEAR RESULTS

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INTRODUCTION

The pied flycatcher is a rare breeding bird in Argyll. The few confirmed breeding records this century have come mainly from the north of the county around Loch Etive. The nearest concentrations of breeding pied flycatchers to Argyll, are in the Trossachs and on the east side of Loch Lomond, where a substantial breeding population has recently been established using nestboxes (Thom 1986).

In addition, information on the breeding biology of tits in Scotland is scarce and none is available relating to the west coast, apart from a study of a small population of blue tits on the Isle of Rhum (Love 1981).

The aims of this study are to establish a regular breeding population of pied flycatchers in Argyll by providing nestboxes, and to monitor the productivity of these and other hole-nesting passerines. In this paper I present results from the second year of the project, when nearly 1400 birds, including 100 pied flycatchers, were reared from the nestboxes.

STUDY AREAS AND METHODS

Members of the Argyll Bird Club were encouraged to set up and monitor the nestbox areas. Guidelines were issued to standardise site selection and data collection. It was recommended that broadleaved woodland (particularly oak) with poor scrub development should be selected. Five study areas were established during the 1986/7 winter (Petty in press). An additional four study areas were established during the 1987/8 winter and the number of boxes were increased in some of the existing areas (Figure 1 and Appendix 1). Each nestbox area now supports between 20 and 75 boxes. A total of 409 boxes were available at the start of the 1988 breeding season. In addition, some details are included from one other area with 21 nestboxes at Loch Etive where a different design of nestbox was used (Table 1).

Clutch sizes were obtained after laying had finished from most of the occupied nestboxes. Data were rejected where there was any doubt about whether a clutch was complete. For nests which were visited during the laying period, the date when the first egg in the clutch was laid (FED) was estimated by counting the number of eggs in a clutch and backdating, assuming that one egg was laid per day (for all species). For nests which were not visited during the laying period, FED was calculated by adding the age of the chicks, the incubation period (14 days for blue and great tit and 13 days for pied flycatcher), and the number of eggs in the clutch, and subtracting this from the date when the brood was measured. The age of the chicks was estimated using growth curves relating wing length to age (Petty unpublished data). FED is expressed numerically when 1 April = 1. Brood size was the number of chicks reared (fledged) from a box. This was determined from the number of chicks that were ringed, minus any dead chicks found in the box after fledging.

To give some measure of variation in the growth rate of chicks between and within study areas and years, wing lengths measured by the maximum chord method (Spencer 1984) were taken from the chicks at the time of ringing in all of the study areas except Barcaldine and Loch Etive. Wing length was chosen instead of weight because it is not prone to daily fluctuations due to gut fill. For each brood the coefficient of variation ($CV = 100 \times SD/mean$) of winglength was calculated, which provides a measure of the relative variability in wing length within a brood. A low CV indicates even-sized chicks typical of a well fed brood, whereas a high CV indicates a wide range in the size of chicks more typical of poorly fed broods.

RESULTS

Occupancy of nestboxes

In 1988, 44% of 430 nestboxes were occupied (Table 1). This compares to only 18% of 212 boxes in 1987 (Petty in press). There were large differences in the occupancy rates between study areas (Figure 1). In the five study areas where boxes have been available for

two years, all had proportionally more boxes occupied in 1988. The ranking of these five areas by occupancy rates remained the same between the two years. Dalvich had most boxes occupied and Glennan the least (Figure 1). Only in Barcaldine were some breeding adults caught and of these seven out of eight blue tits and three out of four great tits were yearlings. This suggests that the increase in box occupancy by tits in 1988 may be due in part to the high proportion of yearlings which survived the mild 87/88 winter. The four new study areas showed an even greater range of occupancy rates (Figure 1). In the Loch Lomond area 39 out of 40 boxes were occupied, while on Colonsay none were, although in the latter area a small population of both blue and great tits were present.

Species occupying the boxes

Blue tits were the most frequent box occupant with 104 nests recorded in 1988 (Table 1 and Figure 2). There were considerable differences between study areas in the proportion of occupied nestboxes with blue tits nests, ranging from 88% at Glennan to 25% at Loch Lomond (Figure 2). In six out of eight areas, blue tits were the most frequent species nesting in the boxes.

Great tits were the next commonest box occupant with 60 nests (Table 1). But only at Knapdale did great tits occupy more boxes than either blue tit or pied flycatchers. Pied flycatchers occurred at Loch Lomond and Loch Etive where 15 and 7 nests were recorded respectively (Table 1). In both these areas, pied flycatchers were the commonest species in the boxes. In 1987 pied flycatchers were recorded in boxes at Dalavich and Barcaldine, neither area had nests in 1988. Three breeding males at Loch Lomond were seen to be ringed but none were caught. The nearest population of pied flycatchers where adults and chicks have been ringed is in the Trossachs. Evidence of some interchange of birds between Argyll and the Trossachs population comes from the recovery of a female which was ringed while breeding in a box at Barcaldine in 1987 and recaptured as a breeding female in June 1988 at Portellan, north Loch Katrine. The only redstart nest recorded in 1988 was at Knapdale. None were recorded in Glenbranter where four nests occurred in 1987.

Timing of breeding

Combining data from the study areas, blue tit bred slightly earlier than great tit (Figure 3). This difference was not consistent when laying dates were investigated by study area. At Knapdale and Glenbranter blue tit laid about seven days earlier than great tit, while at Dalavich and Loch Lomond mean laying dates of the two species were similar (Appendix 1). With blue tit, 54% of the variability in mean FED between study areas was explained by occupancy rates (all species) of the nestboxes. This relationship suggests that laying dates become later as occupancy of the boxes increased but this was not significant ($r = 0.73$, $n = 7$, $p = 0.06$). There was no similar trend for great tit, but only four study areas could be compared because of low sample sizes in the remaining areas. Pied flycatchers laid much later than either of the tits with no clutches started before 10 May (Figure 3).

Clutch size

Blue tit had the largest mean clutch size and also the greatest variation in clutch size while pied flycatcher had the smallest mean clutch size with least variation (Table 2). One blue tit clutch of 21 eggs was far larger than any other. Three adults were later observed feeding the chicks in this box, suggesting polygamy.

There was a significant negative effect of laying date on clutch size for the pooled blue tit data ($r = -0.482$, $n = 97$, $p < 0.001$). This means that clutch size decreased as the season advanced (Figure 4). However, as this relationship only explained 23% of the variability in the data, other factors were evidently involved. This is confirmed by looking at the effects of mean laying date on clutch size for each study area (Figure 5). This suggests there are strong area effects, possibly related to habitat characteristics or some other factors. For instance, blue tits at Glennan and Knapdale which bred earlier than in any other study area laid similar mean clutch size to those at Loch Lomond where laying was on average about ten days later. In contrast, blue tits in the other five study areas laid at about the same time but showed a great variation in mean clutch size. There was no significant effect of laying date on clutch size in great tit ($r = -0.078$, $n = 52$, $p > 0.05$).

Brood size

1988 was a very productive year for both blue and great tits with 1290 chicks fledging from the nestbox areas (Table 3). There were few losses between laying and fledging. Mean brood sizes were 1.59 and 0.41 less than mean clutch sizes for blue tits and great tits respectively (Appendix 1). The higher losses amongst blue tits were due largely to 9 nests which failed completely (Table 2). Interestingly, 4 adult females were found dead in nestboxes. Three showed no apparent injury but some eggs in two of the clutches were broken. The fourth female had become entangled in sheep's wool amongst the nest material. Three broods containing healthy chicks were also deserted, suggesting that one or both parents had been lost to a predator. Twenty healthy blue tits were fledged from the clutch of 21 eggs. Great tits had fewer losses and no nests completely failed.

Pied flycatchers fledged 100 young from two areas (Table 3). Pairs in the Loch Lomond area were more productive than those at Loch Etive. Most of the small brood sizes (Table 2) and all the complete nest failures were at Loch Etive and were due to the activities of a mammalian predator, possibly a cat (C. Craik unpublished data).

Growth of chicks

To gain some idea of growth rate differences between study area the mean CV of winglength were compared (Table 4). CV's were calculated for the largest four chicks in the brood and for the whole brood. It was assumed that the largest chicks in a brood would show less variation in growth between areas; whereas if food was in short supply then the growth rate of the smallest chicks would be retarded. Therefore, the CV's of the 4 largest chicks should always be smaller and less variable than the CV for the whole brood. This is confirmed by looking at Table 4.

Comparing study areas then much of the variability in CV of winglength of the whole brood was explained by FED (blue tit $r = 0.952$, $p < 0.001$, great tit $r = 0.972$, $p < 0.05$). This means that earlier broods which tended to have more chicks grew more evenly than did later broods.

DISCUSSION

The objectives of the project are to establish a regular breeding population of pied flycatchers in Argyll and to obtain data on the breeding biology of hole-nesting passerines. 1988 has been highly successful on both aspects.

Pied flycatchers reared 100 chicks in the Loch Etive and Loch Lomond areas although the latter area is just outside Argyll. In 1989 it is hoped to extend the nestbox project into new areas so that the range of pied flycatchers can be further increased. Pied flycatchers have now bred in four nestbox areas over two years (1987/88), although the attempts at Barcaldine and Dalavich in 1987 were unsuccessful. These four areas have a high proportion of boxes occupied by great tit, whereas the remaining areas where pied flycatchers have not bred are largely dominated by blue tit. If these differences persist in the future it will be interesting to investigate whether variations in woodland structure, competition or some other factors are responsible for the absence of pied flycatchers and the dominance of blue tits in these areas and whether these factors are related.

Occupancy rates were higher in 1988 than in 1987, suggesting that there has been a real increase in the number of tits. In most of the study areas there are few natural holes, so nestbox occupancy rates may provide a useful index of fluctuations in blue and great tit numbers.

There are some intriguing differences in laying dates, clutch size and growth rates in blue tits between the study areas. There was some evidence that increased occupancy rates of the nestboxes led to clutches being laid later, and that these later clutches were smaller. Though earlier broods were larger, the chicks grew more evenly compared to later broods which showed much more variation in winglength, probably because they were not so well fed. This may result from either food becoming scarcer as the season progresses or later nesting tits being poorer parents. Therefore, for blue tits there appear to be distinct advantages in laying as early as possible. There was no obvious relationship between laying date and clutch size in

great tit, which may have been due to sample sizes being smaller. However, earlier clutches produced chicks of a more even size just as with blue tit.

Productivity of blue and great tit was high in 1988. However, a few more years data are required so that worthwhile comparisons both within and between years can be made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the project in 1988 was largely due to members of the Argyll Bird Club and Forestry Commission who spent a considerable amount of time checking boxes and meticulously filling in record sheets, of particular note were; Roger Broad who helped by Bill Whiteford, John Blatcher and Mark Hancock completely covered the Loch Lomond and Dalavich areas and helped at Knapdale and Skipness; Peter and Margaret Staley monitored the Blairmore area; David and Janet Jardine the Barcaldine area; John and Pamela Clarke the Colonsay area; Jim Conell the Knapdale area, Clive Craik the Loch Etive area; Nigel Scriven and Cowal Natural History Society members the Glennan area; David Anderson helped to ring chicks at Glenbranter and Skipness. Forestry Commission staff in Cowal, Kintyre, Loch Awe and Lorne Forest Districts allowed the boxes to be sited in their forests and gave considerable encouragement and help with the project. Some boxes in Glenbranter, Colonsay, Loch Etive and Blairmore areas were sited on privately-owned land and I thank Mr. William Montgomery, Lord Strathcona, Lt.Col. Campbell-Preston and Mr. Ian MacArthur for their permission to do so. I would also like to thank Diane Chadwick for typing various drafts of this paper, John Williams for drawing the figures and Linda Petty for helping in the field. Roger Broad, David Jardine, Linda Petty, Phil Ratcliffe and Andy Peace all made valuable comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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Table 1. Occupancy rates of the nestboxes in the ten study areas in 1988. The Loch Lomond study area is just outside Argyll in Dumbarton District, the remaining areas are all in Argyll.

Study area (abbreviation)	Boxes available	Boxes occupied (%)	Species using the boxes				
			BT	GT	RT	PF	UN
Barcaldine (BC)	75	18(24.0)	12	6	0	0	0
Dalavich (DL)	40	25(62.5)	16	9	0	0	0
Knapdale (KN)	64	23(35.9)	7	14	1	0	1
Glenbranter (GB)	50	25(50.0)	17	8	0	0	0
Glennan (GL)	40	8(20.0)	7	1	0	0	0
Colonsay (CO)	20	0(00.0)	0	0	0	0	0
Blairmore (BL)	41	29(70.7)	27	2	0	0	0
Loch Lomond (LL)	40	39(97.5)	10	14	0	15	0
Skipness (SK)	39	8(20.5)	6	2	0	0	0
Loch Etive (LE)	21	13(61.9)	2	4	0	7	0
All areas	430	188(43.7)	104	60	1	22	1

Boxes were classified as occupied when at least 1 egg had been laid.
BT = blue tit, GT = great tit, RT = redstart, PF = pied flycatcher, UN
= unidentified bird.

Table 2. Clutch and brood sizes (%) for blue tit, great tit and pied flycatcher in 1988. Data from all the study areas (Table 1) are combined.

Number of eggs/chicks	Blue tit		Great tit		Pied flycatcher	
	clutch	brood	clutch	brood	clutch	brood
0	-	9 (9.0)	-	-	-	3(13.6)
1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (4.5)
2	-	-	-	-	-	2 (9.1)
3	1 (1.0)	2 (2.0)	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	1 (1.9)	1 (4.5)	3(13.6)
5	1 (1.0)	2 (2.0)	2 (3.7)	2 (3.8)	4(18.2)	3(13.6)
6	-	4 (4.0)	4 (7.4)	5 (9.6)	6(27.3)	4(18.2)
7	10 (9.9)	12(12.0)	9(16.7)	12(23.1)	8(36.4)	4(18.2)
8	13(12.9)	17(17.0)	14(25.9)	14(26.9)	3(13.6)	2 (9.1)
9	14(13.8)	8 (8.0)	17(31.5)	15(28.8)	-	-
10	16(15.8)	16(16.0)	6(11.1)	2 (3.8)	-	-
11	24(23.8)	15(15.0)	1 (1.9)	-	-	-
12	10 (9.9)	7 (7.0)	1 (1.9)	1 (1.9)	-	-
13	7 (6.9)	6 (6.0)	-	-	-	-
14	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)	-	-	-	-
15	2 (2.0)	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	1 (1.0)	-	-	-	-
21	1 (1.0)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	101 (100.0)	100 (100.0)	54(100.1)	52(99.8)	22(100.0)	22(99.9)

Table 3. Number of eggs laid and chicks reared from the nestboxes in the ten study areas in 1988.

Species	Total number of eggs laid (number of nests)		Total number of chicks fledged (number of nests)	
BT	1041	(103)	862	(102)
GT	476	(58)	428	(56)
PF	140	(22)	100	(22)
RS	6	(1)	6	(1)
Total	1663	(184)	1396	(181)

Table 4. Mean coefficient of variation for winglength (number of broods) in blue tit and great tit by study area in 1988.

Study area	Blue tit		Great tit	
	a	b	a	b
BL	3.11 (32)	9.42 (32)	2.15 (3)	12.30 (3)
LL	5.23 (10)	13.95 (10)	2.49 (16)	10.22 (16)
SK	1.89 (4)	9.68 (5)	4.48 (2)	6.82 (2)
GL	2.63 (6)	6.08 (6)	-	-
GB	2.65 (12)	8.83 (12)	3.58 (4)	10.72 (4)
DL	2.20 (12)	10.28 (12)	1.44 (5)	9.07 (5)
KN	1.69 (7)	6.30 (7)	3.76 (14)	8.79 (14)

a = winglength CV for the four largest chicks in the brood.

b = winglength CV for all the chicks in the brood.

Appendix 1 Breeding success of blue and great tits in eight of the study areas in 1988

Study area (map ref)	Parameter	Blue tit			Great tit		
		n	mean	SE	n	mean	SE
Knapdale (NR7889)	Clutch	8	11.88	1.63	13	7.39	0.47
	Brood	8	11.13	1.44	13	7.00	0.48
	FED	8	26.75	1.40	13	34.00	1.30
Dalavich (NS9612)	Clutch	16	11.06	0.39	9	8.22	0.46
	Brood	15	10.20	1.05	8	7.88	0.48
	FED	15	33.87	1.04	8	33.63	1.82
Glenbranter (NS1297)	Clutch	15	10.67	0.47	8	8.63	0.32
	Brood	15	9.13	1.05	7	8.14	0.34
	FED	13	33.46	1.12	7	40.14	2.46
Glennan (NR9270)	Clutch	7	10.43	0.65	1	9.00	-
	Brood	7	8.29	1.51	1	9.00	-
	FED	6	27.17	1.14	1	45.00	-
Loch Lomond (NS3207)	Clutch	10	10.00	0.77	13	9.15	0.32
	Brood	10	8.60	1.30	13	8.62	0.37
	FED	10	37.60	1.83	13	37.31	1.03
Blairmore (NS1983)	Clutch	27	9.63	0.44	2	8.00	-
	Brood	27	8.11	0.49	2	8.00	-
	FED	27	33.44	0.66	2	30.00	-
Barcaldine (NN9440)	Clutch	12	9.00	0.43	6	8.17	0.31
	Brood	12	5.75	1.05	6	7.67	0.33
	FED	12	32.75	1.24	6	33.00	1.44
Skipness (NR9058)	Clutch	6	8.17	0.48	2	6.50	-
	Brood	6	7.00	0.86	2	6.50	-
	FED	6	33.67	2.43	2	35.00	-
All areas	Clutch	101	10.12	0.24	54	8.24	0.19
	Brood	100	8.53	0.36	52	7.83	0.19
	FED	97	32.93	0.51	52	35.58	0.71

Brood is the number of chicks fledged

FED is the date when the first egg was laid when 1 April = 1

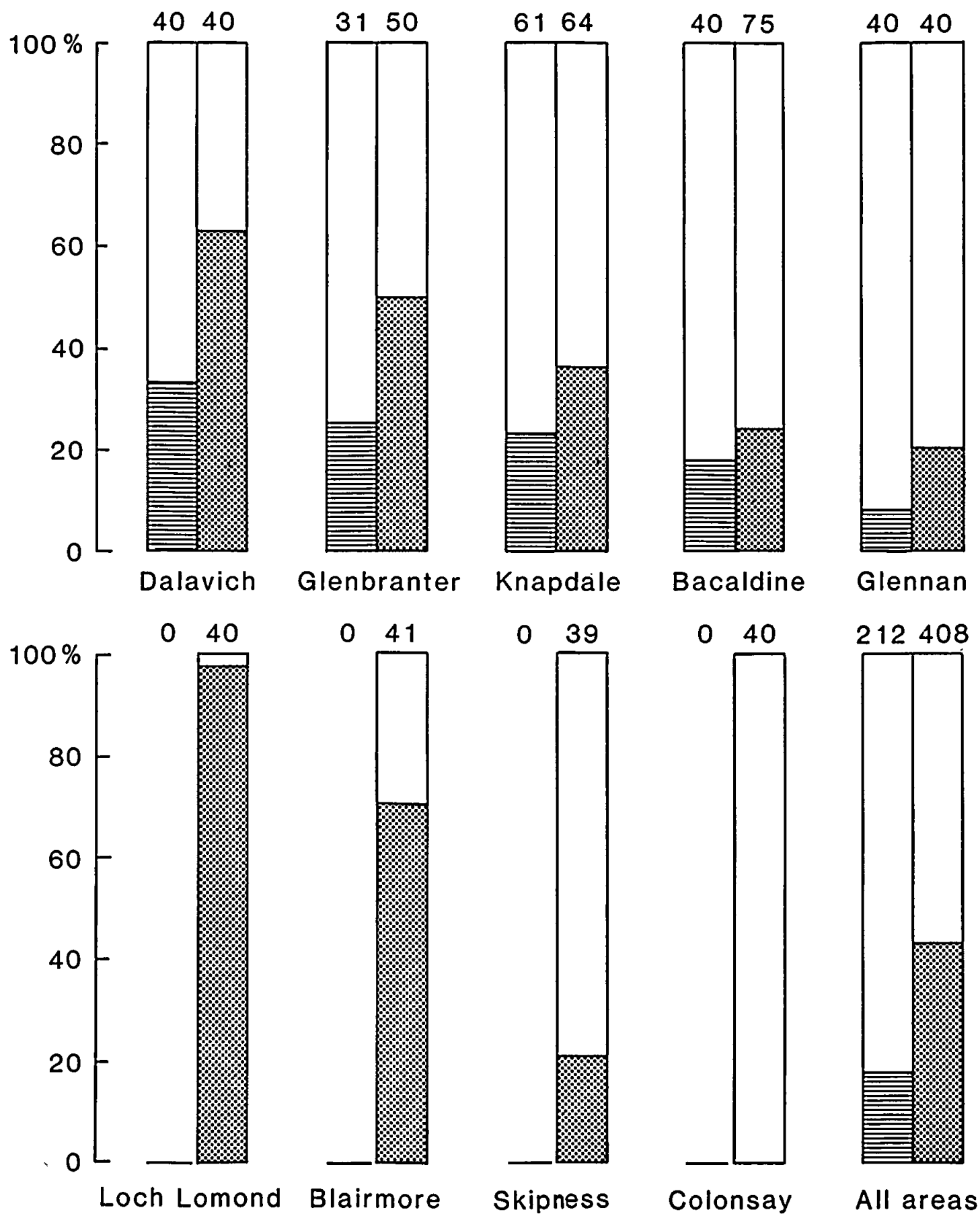


Figure 1. Occupancy rates for nine study areas and for the areas combined. The left-hand histogram is for 1987 and the right-hand histogram for 1988. The number of nestboxes available in each study area in each year is given at the top of each histogram. A box was counted as occupied when at least one egg had been laid.

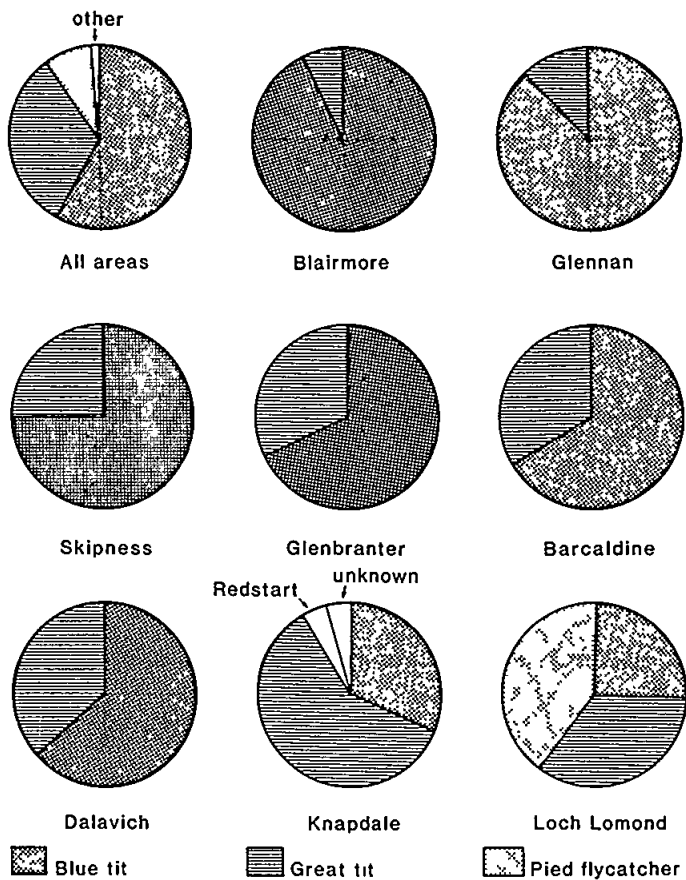


Figure 2. Species occupying boxes in each study area in 1988.

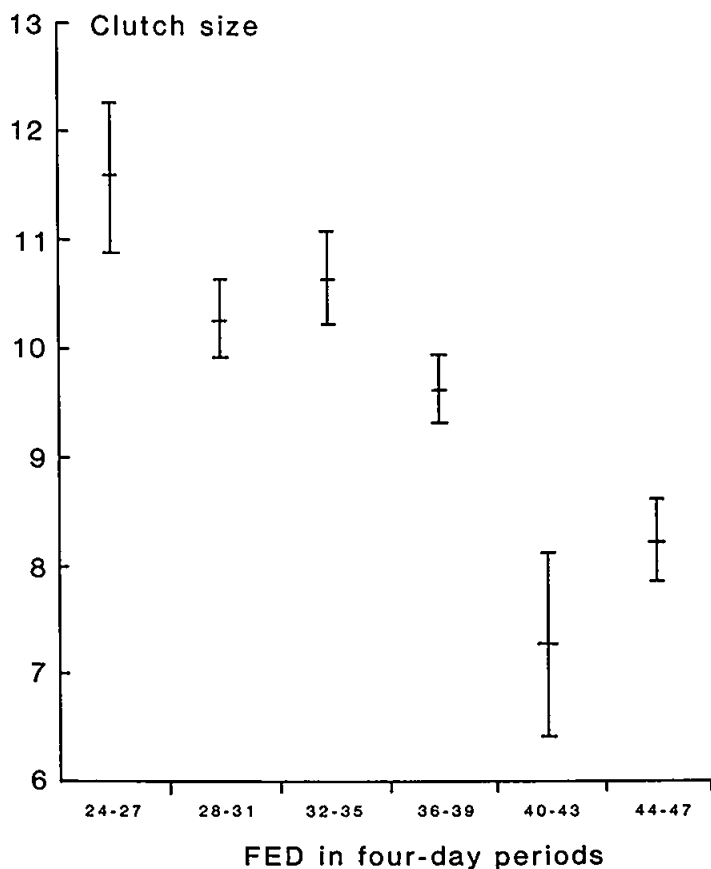


Figure 4. The effect of FED on clutch size in blue tit ($n = 97$), bars represent mean \pm SE.

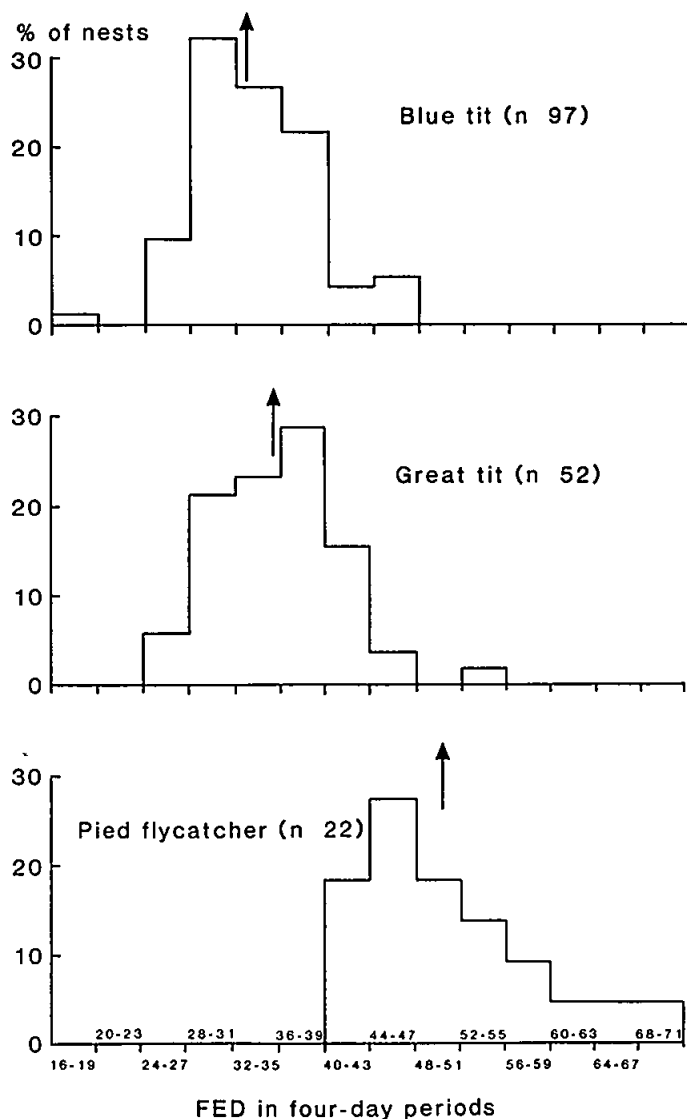


Figure 3. The timing of breeding in 1988 for blue tit, great tit and pied flycatcher. The data for blue tit and great tit exclude Loch Etive while those for pied flycatcher are from Loch Etive and Loch Lomond. The arrows indicate the mean FED.

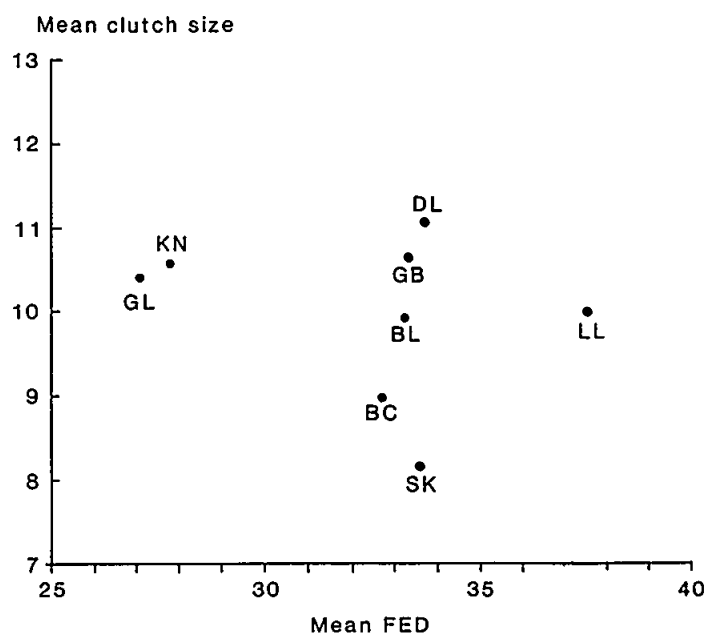


Figure 5. The relationship between laying date, clutch size and study area in blue tit (see Table 1 for study area abbreviations).

How many Buzzards are there in Argyll? An estimate based upon the 1988 Atlas Returns

Introduction

The Buzzard *Buteo buteo* is the most common diurnal raptor in Argyll. Apart from a short study of birds in Kintyre (Maguire, 1979), there has been little work done on Buzzards in Argyll. The University of Glasgow is about to embark on a detailed study of scavenging birds in Argyll which will include Buzzards. This paper uses all the available data from the SOC/BTO New Breeding Atlas collected in 1988 which will provide a baseline for future studies.

Methods

All the returns from Argyll for the New Atlas (complete and incomplete) were used as a data source. The returns gave the maximum number of adult Buzzards seen in one two-hour, or two one-hour visits to a tetrad (2km x 2km) during April to July 1988. Up to 14 tetrads were visited in each of 40 ten km squares; the mean number of Buzzards seen per tetrad was calculated for each ten km square.

For further analysis the ten km squares were stratified into three groups (Table 1)

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| i. | Islay | where the population density is known to be lower probably because of persecution. |
| ii. | Low-lying areas | where the centre of the ten km square lay below 100 in altitude. |
| iii. | Upland areas | where the centre of the ten km square lay above 100m in altitude |

For each stratum the mean (and standard error) number of Buzzards seen per tetrad was calculated along with 95% confidence limits. The densities in each stratum were compared using a student's t-test.

Results

In total just under one third of the ten km squares were visited (Table 1 and Figure 1). The mean number of tetrads per ten km square varies between strata because of the differing proportions of land and sea in each stratum.

There are differences in the density of Buzzards, as expressed by the mean number of Buzzards seen per tetrad, for the different strata (table 2), with significantly ($t = 3.50$; p is less than 0.001) more Buzzards in lowland areas compared with upland areas. The density of Buzzards on Islay is significantly lower than low-lying areas outside Islay ($t = 5.341$; p is less than 0.001) and upland areas outside Islay ($t = 2.629$; p is less than 0.01).

Combining data from each of the three strata it is estimated that there are 1585, plus or minus 364 (mean plus or minus 95% confidence limits) Buzzards in Argyll (Table 2) of which 53% are found in the lowland ten km squares.

Discussion

The estimate of between 1220 and 1950 (95% CI) Buzzards in Argyll should be used remembering that it is based on timed visits to tetrads rather than an exhaustive search for every Buzzard. The Atlas survey methods mean that the estimate is likely to be a minimum figure. There will be some under-recording of non-breeding birds which tend to be both less visible and less recorded in Spring. As dependent young were excluded the estimate may be best considered as a minimum estimate of the breeding population.

Maguire (1979) in South Kintyre found 88 pairs in an area of around 88 tetrads (his paper does not give precise boundaries of the study area). In the Atlas survey only 10 tetrads were covered in South Kintyre. In these 1.1 Buzzards were found per tetrad rather than the average of around 2 found by Maguire (1979). This difference could be a result of the Atlas methodology, but it could equally be a consequence of other factors such as the tetrads visited in the Atlas not being representative of the whole of Maguire's study area, or there may have been some change in the population since 1978

In 1988 on the island of Colonsay 17 pairs of Buzzards nested in the 15 tetrads visited for the Atlas (J Clarke pers comm): a density of 2.27 Buzzards per tetrad. The Atlas returns give a density of 2.131 plus or minus 0.29 (Mean plus or minus S.E) Buzzards per tetrad for this area. So there is also evidence to suggest that the Atlas methodology may not significantly under-estimate the number of breeding Buzzards.

It is interesting to note that the overall density (excluding Islay) of 0.978 Buzzards per tetrad found in this analysis is slightly higher than the number of soaring Buzzards/tetrad recorded for the Scottish Highlands and Islands in the national buzzard survey carried out in 1983. (Taylor et al, 1988). More importantly this present study shows that stratification (by altitude) is justified in Argyll before estimating the total population. While the stratification is essentially a crude one which excludes any analysis of habitat or food sources, the difference between the population densities in upland and lowland ten km squares is marked. The density of Buzzards in low lying areas being 84% more than that in the uplands.

Many of Argyll's ten km squares are coastal and a great number of such squares have a significant proportion of the square in the sea. When the average number of tetrads for these squares is used a lower, but more accurate, population estimate is gained than by using the assumption of twenty five tetrads per ten km square adopted by Taylor et al (1988).

Stroud and Stroud (1986) felt that because of a lessening of persecution on Islay the Buzzard was becoming as common as elsewhere in Argyll during 1985. The Atlas results suggest that in 1988 that this is not the case and that there are still factors operating there to keep Buzzard populations well below those of adjoining areas. Indeed, as it is largely low-lying in altitude the population for Islay should be estimated to be around 215 birds using the average densities for the rest of Argyll. This is almost four times as many as estimated to actually be there from the Atlas returns.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to all the contributors to the New Atlas for the many hours of field work which they put in during 1988; without their data an analysis such as this would not have been possible. The SOC kindly gave permission to use the Atlas results.

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Table 1

Details of Stratification					
	Mean no. of tetrads per ten km square	Total no. of ten km squares	No. of ten km squares visited	No. of tetrads visited	Total no. of buzzards seen
Lowland	9.64	67	19	110	141
Upland	20.65	49	16	118	82
Islay	12.57	14	5	32	10

Table 2

Buzzard densities and populations		
	Number (Mean plus or minus Standard error) of Buzzards per tetrad	Estimated total number (Mean and 95 percent Confidence limits) of Buzzard
Lowland	1 ± 0.141	828 (682 - 975)
Upland	0.695 ± 0.090	703 (524 - 882)
Islay	0.312 ± 0.114	55 (16 - 94)
Total		1586 (1222 - 1951)

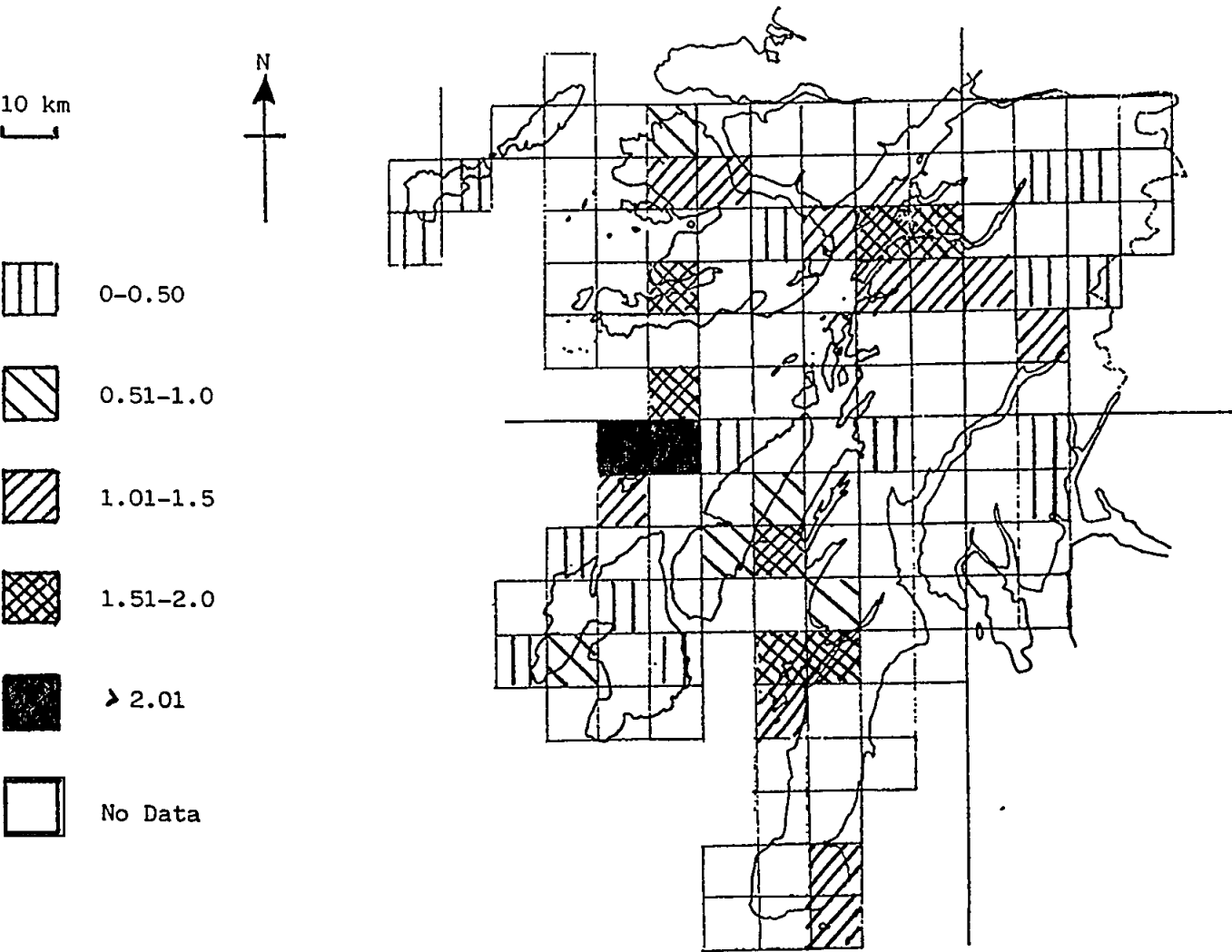


Figure 1: Density of Buzzards as expressed by the mean number of Buzzards seen per tetrad for each 10 km square.

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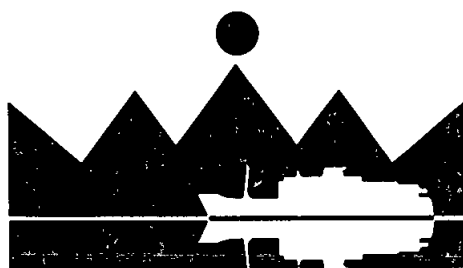
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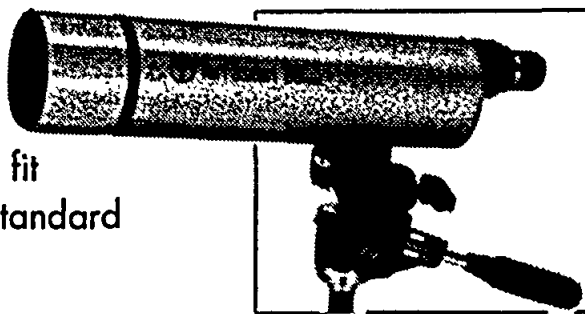


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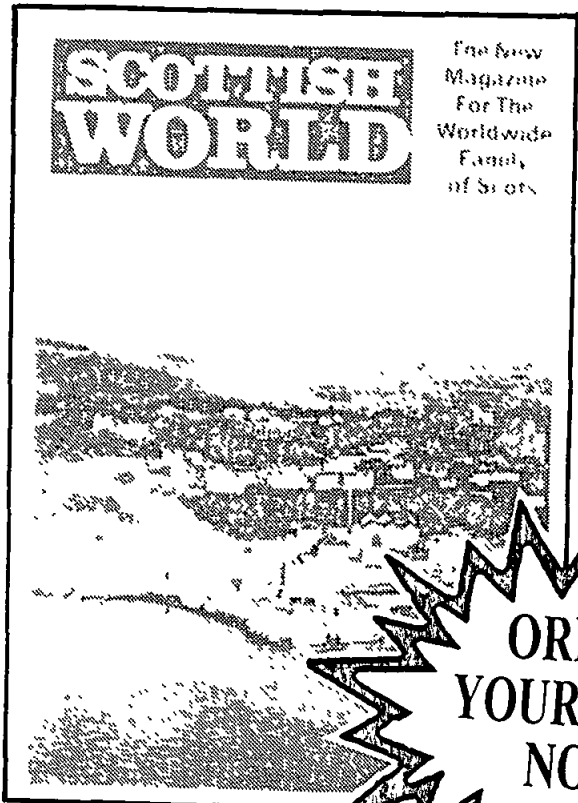
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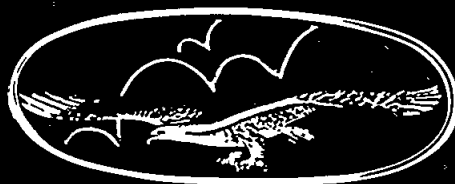
Hebridean Jewellery

Hebridean Jewellery

Below are illustrated some of the 'Wildlife Range' of silver jewellery, produced in South Uist by Hebridean Jewellery, who, as well as supplying many outlets at home and abroad, sell direct to the public from their workshop and by mail order. For a catalogue send to: Hebridean Jewellery, Garrieganichy, Iochdar, South Uist, Western Isles, Scotland. PA81 5QX



Brooch 270	£18.00
Necklace 270	£19.95



Brooch 272	£18.00
Necklace 272	£19.95



Brooch 271	£18.00
Pendant 271 incl. chain	£20.50



Brooch 277	£18.00
Necklace 277	£19.95



Brooch 278	£20.30
Necklace 278	£22.20



Brooch 279	£19.20
Pendant 279 incl. chain	£21.70

