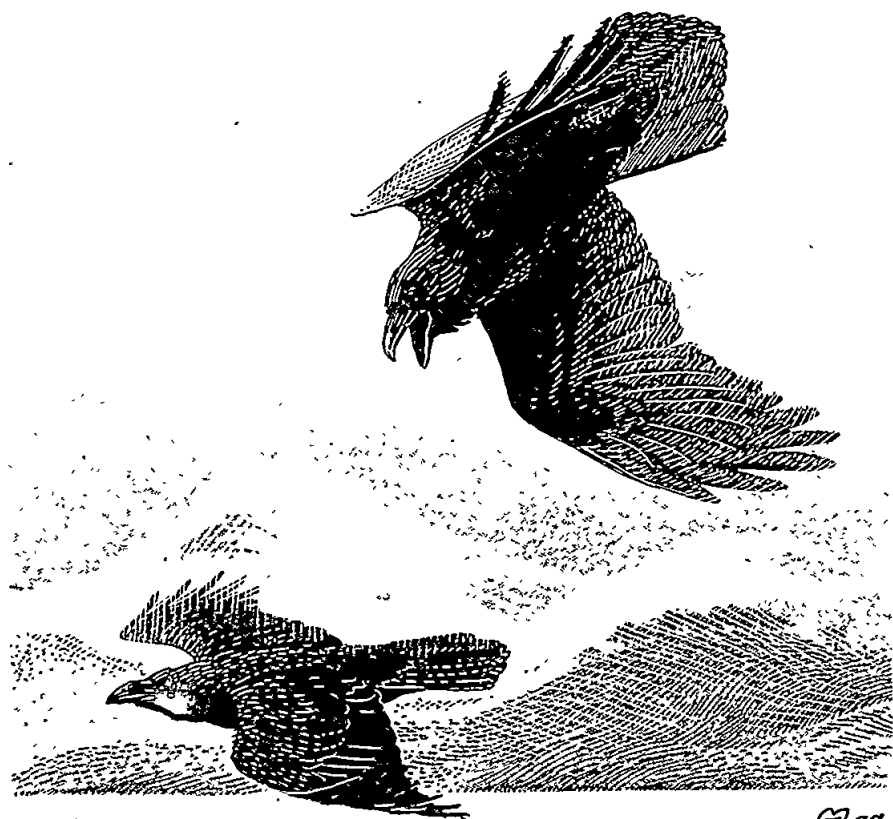


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# THE SIXTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

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PUBLISHED BY THE  
ARGYLL BIRD CLUB  
1990

## Argyll Bird Club

The Argyll Bird Club was formed in 1985 and aims to play an active role in the promotion of ornithology and conservation within Argyll, in the District of Argyll and Bute, in Strathclyde Region.

The club has steadily built up its membership to the present level of around 170. One day-long meeting is held in the spring and another in the autumn where talks and scientific papers are presented. Additional conferences on selected topics are also organised. In 1986 the club held its first conference, a successful meeting between foresters and bird conservationists. This was followed in 1987 with a two-day conference in Oban on fish farming and the environment.

The club has close contacts with other conservation groups both local and national, including the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Scottish Naturalists' Trust.

Membership of the club promotes a greater interest in ornithology through individual and shared participation in various recording and surveying schemes, and the dissemination of this information to members through four newsletters each year and the annual *Argyll Bird Report*. The report is distributed free to all members (one per family membership) and is the major publication of the club. Most of the annual subscription is used to pay for this. Corporate membership of the Club is also available to hotels, companies and other bodies wishing to support bird conservation in Argyll.

If you would like to join the Argyll Bird Club then please write to the Membership Secretary for details (page 2). Subscriptions start on January 1 and include the newsletters and *Argyll Bird Report* published during the year. Back copies of earlier reports may be available.



# THE SIXTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

*Edited by:*  
*S. J. Petty*

*Assisted by:*  
*P. T. Staley, R. Broad and N. J. Scriven*

*Systematic List by:*  
*M. Madders*

*Ringling Report by:*  
*J. C. A. Craik*

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*P. Snow*

*Published by the*  
*Argyll Bird Club*  
*April 1990*  
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Further copies of this report can be obtained from: <i>N. J. Scriven, Ardentinnny Centre, Ardentinnny, Dunoon, Argyll.</i>	

## Argyll Bird Club - Officials and Committee 1989/90

Chairman: Dr. C. A. Galbraith, Minard, Argyll PA23 8YE.  
 Secretary: S. J. Eccles, Roineachail, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QP.  
 Treasurer: P. T. Staley, Lincluden, Blairmore, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TL.  
 Membership Secretary: Mrs. J. Eccles, Roineachail, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QP.  
 Committee: R. Broad, Dr. J. C. A. Craik, D. C. Jardine, Dr. A. R. Jennings, M. Madders, S. J. Petty, N. J. Scriven, J. Welstead.  
 Argyll Records Panel (ARP): R. Broad, D. C. Jardine, Dr. A. R. Jennings, M. Madders.  
 Editor of the Argyll Bird Report: S. J. Petty, Oakenshaw, Ardentinnny, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TU.  
 Editor of the Newsletter (The Eider): Julia Welstead, Seaforth Cottage, Craigmill, Stirling FK9 5PP.  
 Editorial Committee for the Argyll Bird Report: S. J. Petty, P. T. Staley, N. J. Scriven.

## Other Useful Addresses

SOC Recorder for Argyll: M. Madders, Grasspoint Cottage, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA64 6AP.  
 BTO Breeding Bird Atlas Organisers for Argyll: *South Argyll including Islay, Jura and Colonsay (regions 1, 2 and 3):* D. C. Jardine, 61 Eastwood Grange Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1UE. *North Argyll including Mull, Coll and Tiree (regions 4, 5 and 6):* M. Madders (address above).  
 National Wildfowl and BOEE Count Organiser for Argyll: Dr. S. F. Newton, 87 Cleuch Drive, Alva, Clackmannanshire FK12 5NY.  
 BTO Representatives for Argyll: *North Argyll including Mull, Coll and Tiree:* M. Madders (address above). *Islay, Jura and Colonsay:* Dr. M. A. Ogilvie, Islay Field Centre, Port Charlotte, Islay, Argyll PA48 7TX.  
 RSPB's Conservation Officer in Strathclyde: R. Broad, 6 Birch Road, Kilearn, Glasgow G63 9SQ.

## Editorial

This is the sixth year that the Argyll Bird Club has published the Argyll Bird Report. The production of a good quality report is essential to maintain the clubs identity in Scotland. However, each year it is a major financial drain on the clubs resources. This has generated much discussion within the committee. We would all like to see the club develop further, particularly by computerizing bird records so that more can be made of the increasing number of records submitted.

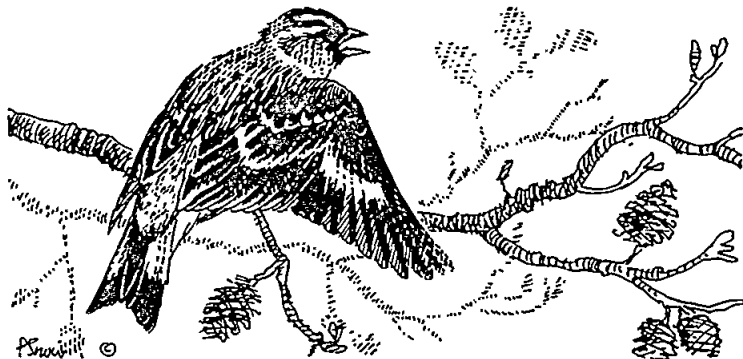
If the club is going to advance along this or any other path, then we need more money. There have been two valuable developments this year. First, Argyll and Bute District Council kindly made a donation toward the production of this report and I would like to think that other organisations can be encouraged to do the same in future. Second, Steve Eccles has put great effort into developing the advertising in this and the last report. Without either of these initiatives, the printing quality of this report would have been much lower. There is a tremendous amount of experience and enthusiasm within the club which is only constrained by lack of finance. However, in the short-term, more cash can only be made available by increasing subscriptions.

The production of this report has been very much a team effort. Peter Staley has devoted a lot of time to locating a suitable printer and then negotiating a reasonable price. Clive Craik has again taken on the job of producing the ringing report. The editorial committee decided to expand the refereeing system for all papers submitted for publication in the *Argyll Bird Report*. Nigel Scriven and Roger Broad have happily taken on the task of commenting on all papers while Eric Bignal, David Jardine, Mike Madders, Malcolm Ogilvie and David Stroud have also kindly acted as referees.

Above all though, Mike Madders has taken on the herculean task of producing the systematic list. There is a vast increase in the number of records being submitted each year and it is hard to appreciate just how much work this involves. Steve Newton has helped Mike by compiling the waterfowl section of the systematic list. I would also like to thank Arthur Jennings for his paper and Philip Snow for the superb drawings, which no *Argyll Bird Report* should ever be without! This has been my first year as editor and I would like to thank all the committee who have given me tremendous support and kept to some extremely tight deadlines without wincing once!

Steve Petty

Ardentinny, 20 February 1990



Male Siskin

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Argyll Bird Report (1990) 6:4-57

### Systematic list for 1989

Mike Madders

Grasspoint Cottage, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA64 6AP.

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of an annual systematic list of birds is to bring together all of the most relevant bird sightings for any particular year. Although the records are presented in as standard a way as possible, the content and emphasis of each report will obviously vary according to the information available. For example, the inclusion of "one off" BTO surveys or the results of a specific short-term study can significantly alter coverage. A number of projects were undertaken in Argyll during 1989 and the incorporation of some of their findings have contributed greatly to the matrix of the current report. Of particular importance were the RSPB's survey work on Coll & Tiree conducted by Andy Knight, the intensive seawatching done in S. Kintyre by Eddie Maguire *et al*, seabird counts on Sanda Is. by Rab Morton and the second year of the RSPB's enquiry into the status of the Hen Harrier. On-going projects that were an important source of information included the BTO Breeding Bird Atlas, studies of Buzzard & Raven (Glasgow University), tern breeding success (Clive Craik), Tawny Owl (Steve Petty) and Pied Flycatcher (Argyll Bird Club). In addition, counts made for the National Wildfowl Count & Birds of Estuaries Enquiry schemes have been included. I hope that the observers and organisers of all of these projects feel that the bird report has fairly summarised their 1989 data.

The area covered by this report is the administrative district of Argyll & Bute (but excluding the Isle of Bute). As in previous reports, this area is divided into 6 regions (see map).

#### INTERPRETATION OF THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Species names and sequence follow the Voous order as in *The 'British Birds' List of the Birds of the Western Palearctic (1984)* and subsequent changes published in 'British Birds'. Sub-species names follow *The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland (BOU 1971)*.

Each species heading in the report contains the following information:

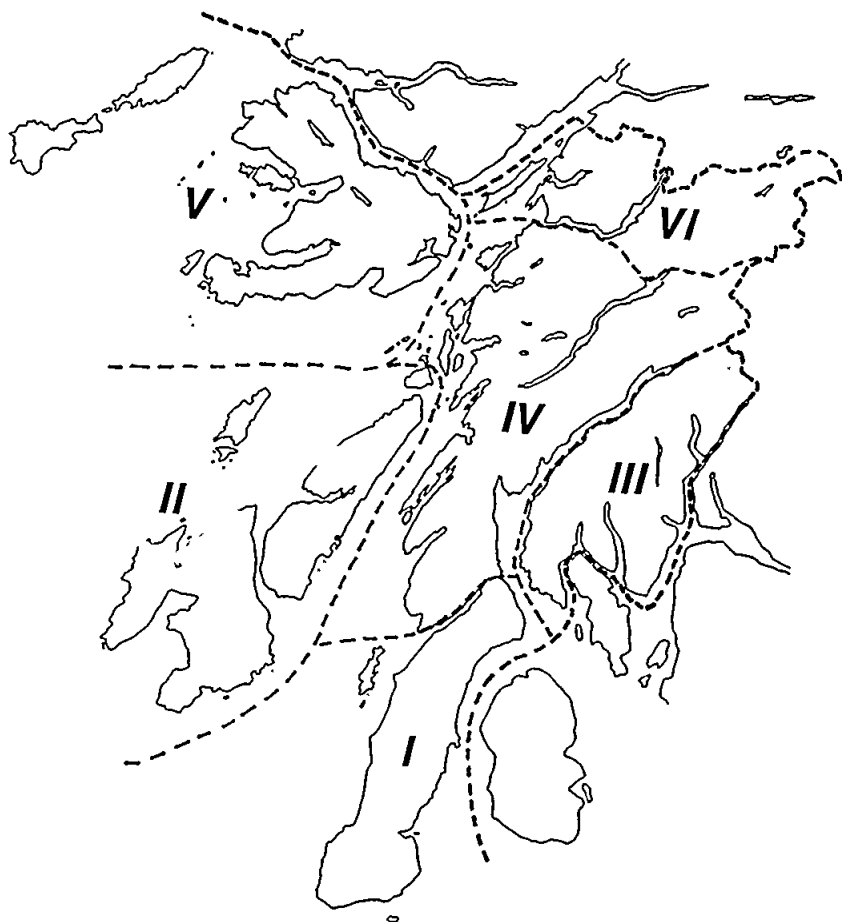
Common usage name	Scientific name	Gaelic name	Euring code	BTO code
eg. Raven	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Fitheach	1572	RN

Note that Gaelic names & 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 1989 sightings are then listed.

Tables, where included, show National Wildfowl Count (NWC) & Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (BOEE) data. This is the first time that full data from these surveys has been incorporated in the bird report. A total of 32 sites were counted on a regular basis (ie. at least 7 monthly winter counts) in 1989. Other sites (eg Coll & Tiree) were counted less frequently. The "All Sites" total given in some tables includes only the regularly counted sites. Note that monthly maxima have been used in preference to NWC/BOEE data for some species (eg. Common Scoter). Anyone interested in participating in NWC or BOEE counts should contact Steve Newton — see addresses.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989



Map showing regions of Argyll used in this report

I Kintyre II Islay, Jura & Colonsay III Cowal IV Mid-Argyll V Mull, Coll & Tiree VI North Argyll

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

### Symbols & abbreviations

R	Resident & sedentary
B	Breeding species; breeding & wintering ranges may differ
S	Summer visitor; breeds unless otherwise stated
P	Passage visitor
W	Winter visitor
V	Vagrant; not recorded annually
E	Escape
F	Feral

# All 1989 records included

Pr Pair

c/- Clutch of ...

b/- Sub-ad

Brood of ...

Ad Adult

Sub-ad

Sub-adult

Imm Immature

Juv

Juvenile

M Male

MM

Males

F Female

FF

Females

fy Fledged Young

> Direction of flight, eg. > N = flying north

ptn Plantation

sev Several

ecl Eclipse plumaged

s/pl Summer plumaged

w/pl Winter plumaged

N-pl Northern plumaged

S-pl Southern plumaged

Int-pl Intermediate plumaged

(as in Golden Plover)

d/m Dark morph

l/m Light morph

i/m Intermediate morph

(as in Arctic Skua)

rt Ringtail (as in immature / female harriers)

r/h Redhead (as in immature / female Goldeneye, Smew,

Goosander, Blackcap)

10km sq National Grid Square measuring 10 x 10 km, ie 100 sq km.

SBRC Scottish Birds Records Committee

BBRC British Birds Rarities Committee

NWC National Wildfowl Count

BOEE Birds of Estuaries Enquiry

### BIRD RECORDING IN ARGYLL

#### Advice to contributors

All bird records are welcomed by the recorder. Sightings should be listed in Vooos order (as in this report) and include the following details: Species, Number (inc. sexes if relevant / known), Date and Location. The location should be as precise as possible — a place name followed by a six figure grid reference is ideal, eg. Lochdon, Mull, NM 745315 (an explanation of the national grid system can be found on all Landranger 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps). Observers are asked to consult this and previous Argyll Bird Reports for the kind of information required. From January 1990, all Argyll sightings will be entered onto a computerised database, which will allocate each record to a particular 1 km sq. This will enable the accumulation and interpretation of data for all species in Argyll and should be especially useful for analysing the distribution of the more common species.

It would help the recorder considerably if 1990 records were sent on a regular basis throughout the year, but if this is inconvenient please send them by January 31 1991 at the latest. A SAE would be appreciated if a reply is required.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

### Rare or unusual birds

To ensure that published records of unusual species are accurate and will withstand critical scrutiny, a three-tier structure has been developed to consider records of birds which are rare in either a British, Scottish or Argyll context. Details of unusual species should be sent to the recorder as soon as possible after the sighting. It is helpful if these records are submitted on the standard "unusual record form" available free of charge from the recorder. It is hoped to produce a list of Argyll species for which supportive evidence is required later this year — in the meantime observers are recommended to contact the recorder for advice if they are in doubt. As a general rule, the rarer the species the more detailed the description required. Notes should be taken at the time of sighting or as soon afterwards as possible, before any reference is made to textbooks. Photographs are highly desirable if the opportunity permits. There is a clear advantage in obtaining independent confirmation of the sighting. Depending on the rarity of the species, details of the sighting will be sent by the Argyll recorder to either the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) or the Argyll Records Panel (ARP). In some cases more detail may be requested from an observer before the record is submitted.

The above information has been prepared from advice given by the Scottish Birds Records Committee of the Scottish Ornithologists Club.

### AMENDMENTS TO 1988 AND PREVIOUS REPORTS.

The following previously published records have been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee & Scottish Birds Records Committee in 1989:

Great Shearwater	1 Coll/Tiree (V), May 18.
Little Egret	1 L Craignish (IV), Jun 10 - Sep 10.
Rose-coloured Starling	Ad. Islay (II), Aug 18 - Oct 13.

The following previously published records have been rejected by the British Birds Rarities Committee & Scottish Birds Records Committee in 1989:

Black-browed Albatross	1 Islay (II), Apr 11.
Gyr Falcon	1 Islay (II), Oct 9 - Nov 17.
Wilson's Phalarope	2 Mull (V), Sep 14 - 18.
Nutcracker	1 Glen Shira (IV), Jul 5.
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 Bruichladdich, Islay (II), Oct 28.

The following record should be deleted from the 1988 Argyll Bird Report: Bewick's Swan, L Indaal, Islay (II), Jan 22.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A record total of nearly 250 observers contributed to this year's bird report. I am indebted to everyone who submitted records and hope that they will continue to support the report in future years. A full list of contributors appears below — my apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted! To save space, observers initials are not usually cited in the systematic list except where a rare bird sighting is involved or where an observer has prepared an abstract of their 1989 data for a particular species.

I am particularly grateful for the help given to me in researching and compiling specific sections of the report. Principal assistants were:

Roger Broad	(Schedule One species)
Steve Newton	(Wildfowl)
David Jardine	(BTO Breeding Bird Atlas data)

Especial mention should also be made of those observers who provided extensive and detailed information for particular areas, notably Malcolm

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Ogilvie (Islay), Andy Knight (Coll & Tiree), Eddie Maguire (Kintyre), John & Pamela Clark (Colonsay & Oransay).

Proof reading & criticism of the draft report was by Roger Broad, David Jardine, Arthur Jennings, Malcolm Ogilvie and Steve Petty. Any mistakes that remain, however, are entirely my own.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Argyll Bird Club and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for contributing towards the expenses incurred in recording Argyll's birdlife in 1989.

List of contributors, 1989.

Aberdeen University Bird Club, G M Adam, D & M Alcock, A Alexander, C Anderson, D Anderson, H Andrews, I J Andrews, R A G Angus, R Armstrong, P Atherton, G E Austin, B Badger, C Baister, J & N Barber, B S Barnacal, D Bates, B D Batty, P Batty, J Best (JB), E Signal, S Signal, A Birkby (ABi), J Birliston (JBi), J Blatcher (JBl), Dr J G Blatchford, V Blaxter, M Bleasdale, P Boddington, Mrs Bolster, R Boxer, P Bradbeer, J Bradfield (JBr), A Bramhall, R A Broad, R Brooks, D Bromwich, Dr C Brown, G K Brown, P & R Bubb, E M Buckle, P Burnham, S Busuttill, C J Cadbury, L A Campbell, R & T Candeland, S Carmichael, S Cartmel, D Cartwright, R J Casalis de Pury, M C. M Checker, A A Clark, J & P Clark, Dr W H Clegg, D L Clugston, P J Collier, Mrs Connel, P Cosgrove, A C. A Cowe, J C A Craik, T Curtis, J Dawson, S Daniels, T P Daniels, H Davidson, I & L Dawson, P J Dawson, A de Mooy, G M de Mornay, Rev & Mrs Duncan-Jones, N Easterbee, J & S Eccles, Edinburgh University Bird Club, G Eisler, R E Elliott, M Ellis, I Erskine, A Evans, R Fairbairn, C F Ferguson, B Findlater, K Findlay Campbell, R Forbes, A D Fox, J Gardner, D Gash, S Gibson, A Gibson-Reid, P & N Gill, I Gilles, R Gillies, D Graham, E A Graham, R Graham, L & R Grant, Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, C Gregory, S Gregory (SGr), L R Gyre, W & S Haig, L P Hall, J B Halliday, J Hamilton, M Hammond, A J Hannan, S Hardy, C J Henty, A & I Hogg, I M Hood, A Hornstein, J Howard, A Hudson, M Hughes, B Hunt, Hurley family, M Hutcheson, A Impey, H Insley, G Jackson, D C Jardine, M Jardine, N S Jarrett, A L Jenkins, J & T Jenkins, A R Jennings, M Jennings, R Johnson, D Jones, C Kerr, E R G Kidd, L Kinnes, A C Knight, E Knight, CL. C Lavery, C Lawrence, B Leitch, M M Lewis, M Liley, K & P Limb, P J Lindley, D B McGinn, J McGlynn, A MacKay, C MacKay, A MacKenzie, A McLean, J McManus, R McNab, M Madders, E J Maguire, B Mason, K Mason, R Meikle, P Metheny, Z Middleton, I Moodie, G Moore, R Morton, D Murdoch, Nature Conservancy Council, B Nattress, D Newman, D Newson, P Newton, S F Newton, M Nugent, M A Ogilvie, F Pascoe, B & S Pashby, M Peacock, A Percival, C B & A J Perkins, S J Petty, M Phillips, D Pia, Dr Plackett, J T Post, E D Potter, R B Purvis, M Read, J Rhead, K & M Richards, P Robinson, T Robinson, K Ronald, M Rowlands, B Rowling, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, R Rumbold, S Rushall, St Mary's Vith Form College, T Salmon, M Savill, C & E Scotland, G Scott, H & J Searle, P & A Shaw, J Shepherd, D Shrive, A Skinner, A Smith, C Smout, P T & M J Staley, E J Stanley, A Stewart, A Strang, N Striven, D A Stroud, S Stuart, S Swift, Dr A P Tait, C J Taylor (CJT), C J Thomas (CJT), G Thorp, C & G Titcombe, C Travis, V Tulloch, R Vasey, G & V Waite, A F G Walker, C A Walker, D G Walker, D I M Wallace, S M Warren, Y Way, E Weber, M & P Webster, P S Wells, J W Welstead, R & S Wergan, J Westhorpe, J Wheeler, G T White, J White, S Whyte, R Wight, J Wolstencroft, Dr W B Wolstenholme, P Wormell, D Woudby, J Wright, M Wright, R P Wright.

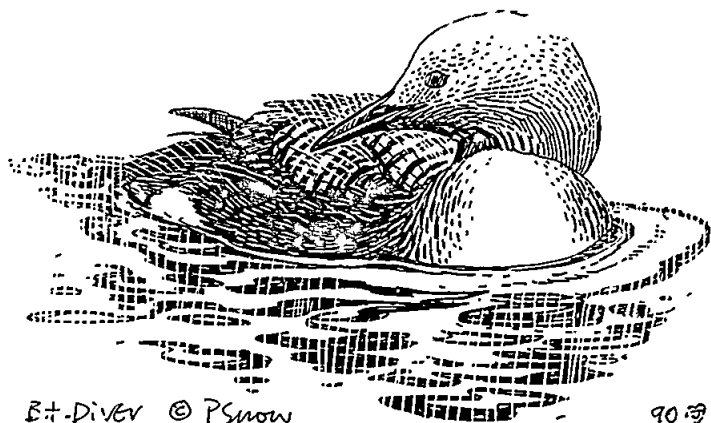
## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

### Red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* Learga ruadh

0002 RH

B W P Widely distributed but sparse breeding species. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: little breeding data available apart from comprehensive survey of Coll (V). Counts indicate importance of Sound of Gigha (see also other divers). Southerly passage out of Argyll, especially late Sep - early Oct, identified by seawatching team [EJM/RAGA/JMcG] at Uisaed Pt, Machrihanish (I).

- I Sound of Gigha: 48 on Jan 28; 27 on Aug 25; 6 on Sep 9. Uisaed Pt: 123 ♂S during Sep (peak 70, Sep 21-22); 38 ♂S & 9 ♂N during Oct (peak 20 ♂S, Oct 7-8).
- II Islay: at least 2 prs reared young (b/1 & b/2); 16 (max. count) L Indaal, Apr.
- III 2 seen regularly in West Kyle of Bute, Mar - Apr.
- IV 1ad + b/1 Keillbeg, Knapdale, Aug 27.
- V Coll: 8-14 prs bred (8 proven, 3 probable, 3 possible); 4 prs were successful [AK]. Tiree: 18 around coast, Sep 14; 9 Gott Bay, Dec 7. Mull: 5 L Buie, Jun 13; 5 L Uisg, Aug 6.



### Black-throated diver *Gavia arctic* Learga dhubh

0003 BV

B W P Scarce, although probably under-recorded in winter. Breeding now only in regions IV & VI. Note: breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1989: 9 prs summered. Breeding proven at only 3 sites but 2 prs successful, each rearing a single chick [RSPB]. Exceptional nos. were reported from the Sound of Gigha in spring & autumn.

- I Sound of Gigha: 12 on Mar 25; 14 on May 23; 18 on Aug 25; 42 on Sep 9. Uisaed Pt: 2 on sea Oct 9; 10 ♂S, Sep 8-30; 7 ♂S & 3 ♂N during Oct. Also: 1 Skipness Bay, Jul 4; 1 Southend, Dec 24.
- II Islay: present L Indaal, Jan - Apr & Oct - Dec with max. count of 3, Nov 26; 2 L an t-Saillein, Mar 29; singles at Saligo, Jun 15, Laphroaig & Sound of Islay, Aug 23, Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 25 & Claggain Bay, Nov 25. Colonsay: 1 Scalasaig, Mar 29; 3 off Oronsay, Nov 26.
- III 1 Tighnabruaich, Feb 5; 1 Kames, Feb 18-19.
- IV 1 Ganavan Bay, Dec 27.
- V Tiree: 1 off Hynish, May 3; 1 Balevullin Bay, Jun 2; 1 Gott Bay, Sep 6 & Dec 5; 2 off Kilkenneth, Dec 7. Coll: 1 Feall Bay, Dec 11. Mull: 1 Garmony, Jan 26; 1 w/pl L Buie, Jun 13; 1 Grasspoint, Dec 15; 3 L na Keal, Dec 12.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Great northern diver *Gavia immer* Muir bhuachail 0004 ND  
W P Argyll coast an important wintering area. S/pl birds regularly recorded Apr - early Jun in all regions except III. A few individuals may summer. 1989:

- I 25 Kennacraig - Islay, Feb 12; 68 (max count) Sound of Gigha, Mar 28, with 60 still present, May 12, declining to just 3 by May 29; 54 (max count) Mac-hrihanish Bay, May 19; 1 off Davaar Is, Jun 5. Uisaed Pt: singles (w/pl) on sea, Aug 9 & 24; 6 S & 5 N during Sep; 12 N & 12 S during Oct (max. 8 S on Oct 23).
- II Islay: peak counts at L Indaal were 25 on Apr 12 & 32 on Nov 26; 1 Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 21; 5 Ardnave Pt, Dec 3. Colonsay: min. 45 off E coast, May 18; singles, Jun 18 & 23.
- IV 1 L Sween, Jul 21.
- V Mull: 1 Fishnish Bay, May 28; 1 L Scridain, Jun 13; 1 w/pl Scallastle, Aug 29; 9 Sound of Mull, Nov 28; 12 (max. count) L na Keal, Dec 28. Tiree: 30 (max. count) Gott Bay, late Apr; 6 Hynish Bay, Oct 8. Coll: 15 (max. count) Crossapol Bay, Jun 4.
- VI 2 Port Appin, Jan 2; 4 Ledaig Pt, Apr 8; 1 L Creran, May 14; 5 Appin - Cuil Bay, Dec 29.

Little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spagriton 0007 LG  
B W Uncommon. Breeds mainly on small, low-lying eutrophic lochs. Small numbers gather in sheltered coastal waters in winter. Breeding all regions except III? A total of 28 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989:

- I Breeding prs at Aucha Lochy, nr Campbeltown & L na Beiste, Clachan. 6 East L Tarbert, Jan - Mar; up to 7 Campbeltown Loch, Jan - Mar.
- II Islay: breeding proven for 3 lochs - 3 prs reared a total of 7 young. Colonsay: 4 prs located Jun 16-23; pr + brood seen, Aug 10; at least 6 birds present winter 1988/9.
- IV 5 L Scotnish, Feb 21; pr L Mhic Mhairtean & L nan Druimnean, Apr 21; pr + brood, Sior L, Jul 7; 6 (max. count) L Gleann a' Bhearraidh, Oban, Sep 30; up to 7, Linne Mhuirich, L Sween, Oct - Nov; 2 Moine Mhor / R Add estuary, Dec 14; 2 Sound of Shuna, Dec 29; 4 Sound of Kerrera, Dec 30.
- V Tiree: 1ad L Bhasapol, Jun 11. Mull: pr + b/2 & 2 other prs, Mishnish Lochs, Aug 6; 7 (max. count) Lochdon, Jan 15; pr Assapol, Jul 4; 5 (max. count) L Cuin, Nov 18; 2 L. Beg, Dec 17.
- VI 1 L Balnagown, Lismore, Apr 26; up to 8 present, L Laich, Aug - Dec; 8 (peak count) L Etive, Feb 12 & Nov 12.

Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan laparan 0009 GG  
Rare. Most records in autumn. 1989#:

- II Islay: 1 L Indaal, Mar 27 - Apr 12 & Aug 19 - Sep 24, plus Nov 8; 1 L Gorm, Jul 24 [all MAO].
- III 1 juv L Long, Oct 20 [SJP].

Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Gobhlachan ruadh 0010 RX  
W P Rare. 1989#:

- II 1 Colonsay, May 5-12 [RR]; 1 Sanaigmore Bay, Islay Sep 2 [AH].

Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan mara 0011 SZ  
W P Regular wintering species in some sealochs & sounds. 1989:

- I Sound of Gigha: 18 (max. count), Mar 28; 4 on Aug 27; 12 on Sep 9.
- II L Indaal, Islay: recorded Jan-Apr & Aug-Dec with peak counts of 11 (Jan) & 12 (Dec); last - 7 s/pl on Apr 20; 1st - 1 s/pl on Aug 24.
- IV 1 Ganavan Bay, Jan 21; 1 L Sween, Mar 26.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- V Mull: 16 (max. count) L na Keal, Feb 25 & Dec 28; 1 Craignure, Feb 25; 1 Croggan, Mar 5.  
VI 2 Ardmucknish Bay, Feb 26; 2 Cuil Bay, Dec 29.

**Fulmar** *Fulmaris glacialis* Eun crom 0020 F

B W P Common but localised breeding species, regions I II IV & V. 1989:

- I Apparently occupied sites: 280 Sanda Is, Jun 27; 413 Southend - Machrihanish; 20 SE Kintyre; 94 Westport - Muasdale. Small nos. moving both N & S past Uisaed Pt, Aug - Oct, with max. count of 140 S/3hrs, Sep 13. Birds seen at breeding sites during winter, inc 60 at Keil Pt, Dec 25 & 29.

- II Islay: 2880 S & 68 N, Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26.

- V Tiree: 1275 apparently occupied sites, inc. 69 inland (note: of 31 coastal & inland a/c checked, 17 had an egg or ad. sitting tight. The majority of these checked sites failed to hatch young) [AK]). Birds seen at breeding sites during winter, inc. 798 at Ceann a' Mhara, Dec 7.

**Cory's shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* 0036 CQ

V 1989#:

- II 1 N past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 24 [DIMW]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

**Great shearwater** *Puffinus gravis* Fachadh mor 0040 GQ

V 1989#:

- II 1 S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 23 [DIMW]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

**Sooty shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh dubh 0043 OT

P Large numbers sometimes recorded Aug / Sep. 1989:

- I Uisaed Pt: seen on 3 consecutive days in Aug, during squally weather, with max. count of 41 S/2hrs on Aug 19, then 8 S on Aug 20 plus 3 N & 1 S on Aug 21; 22 S/3.5hrs on Sep 1 was only other record here. Ru Stafnish: 4 S/1hr on Aug 14; 1 S on Sep 1.

- II Islay: 5 off P Ellen, Aug 19; 31 S & 1 N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26. Colonsay: 1 off NE coast, Sep 6.

- V Tiree: 3 off Hynish, Aug 17; thereafter small nos. seen regularly until end Aug; 2 W Hynish Bay, Oct 13.

**Manx shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh ban 0046 MX

B P Localised breeding species, regions I & V only? 1989:

- I 80-150 nest sites located, Sanda Is, Aug 1. 1 freshly dead, Glenacardoch Pt, Mar 14; 250+ off Davaar Is, Jul 5; 3000+ Kilbrannan Sound, Jul 6; 1 (probably scavenging at trawler) Campbeltown Loch, Aug 7. Mull of Kintyre lighthouse: 100 S on Jul 21; 418 S/1hr on Jul 23. Uisaed Pt: total of 17,548 S logged in 131 hrs, Aug 7 - Sep 17, with heaviest passage Aug 7-16 (peak of 5,400/4hrs on Aug 11); 354 S counted Sep 18-30 & only 9 during 100 hrs watching Oct 1-30. Ru Stafnish: 780 S/1hr, Aug 14; 88 S/1.5hrs, Oct 25; 7 N & 2 S, Nov 16.

- II Islay: 20+ off Frenchman's Rocks, Jul 29; 7587 S & 99 N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26, with peak of over 3000 S on Aug 25; c150 S / 0.5hrs, Saligo, Sep 1. Colonsay: 50 off N coast, Jun 16.

- III 10+ off Dunoon, Aug 14; 28 L Long, Aug 15.

- IV 140 L Gilp, Jul 23; 200 N past Furnace, L Fyne, Aug 14.

- V c50-100 calling overhead, Ardmeanach, Mull, night of May 25 [AE]; 500 off Garvellachs, Jun 23. Coll & Tiree: seen frequently off all coasts, May -

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Sep, but no evidence of breeding; last - 2 ♂W Urvaig, Oct 11.

Balearic race, *P.p. mauretanicus* #:

I 1 off Gigha, Aug 19 [DIMW].

II 1 ♂S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 22 [DIMW].

IV 1 ♂N past Furnace, L Fyne, Aug 14 [SB/DP].

Little shearwater *Puffinus assimillus*

0048

V 1989#:

I Uisaed Pt: singles (all P.a. baroli) ♂S on Aug 30 [EJM], Sep 25 [RAGA] & Oct 23 [EJM/RAGA/JMcG].

II Frenchman's Rocks, Islay: 1 (P.a. boydi) ♂S on Aug 22 & 3 (inc 2 P.a. baroli) ♂S on Aug 25 [DIMW].

All records subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Wilson's petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

0050

V 1989#:

II Singles ♂S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 21 & 26 [DIMW]. Both records subject to acceptance by BBRC. The only previous record appears to be from Jura in 1891!

Storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Paraig

0052 TM

B P Breeding birds come ashore late May / June. Passage off W coasts, Aug - Sep. 1989:

I 80-150 nest sites found, Sanda Is, Aug 1. Counts: 6 ♂S /1hr, Kilbrannan Sound, Aug 15; 2 ♂S through Sound of Gigha, Aug 5; regularly seen off Uisaed Pt, Aug 7 - Sep 30, with peak counts of 100 on Aug 21, 18 on Aug 30 & 11 on Sep 20; last - 1 on Oct 13.

II Islay: 232 ♂S & 10 ♂N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26, with max. count of 180 ♂S /2 hrs on Aug 21; 1 Port Charlotte, Aug 24; 1 off Port Ellen, Nov 13. Colonsay: 1 off N coast, Jun 16.

III 1 off Otter Ferry, L Fyne, Jul 10 & 12; 1 L Riddon, Aug 9; 3 S of Ardlamont Pt, Aug 17.

IV 1 nr Minard Is, L Fyne, Sep 4.

V Mull: 1 flew from burrow, Treshnish Pt, Aug 26 [D&M A]. 1 c 10km SW of Iona, Jul 22. Coll & Tiree: 13 close inshore during fog, Hynish, Jul 4; no evidence of breeding.

Leach's petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Gobhlan mara

0055 TL

P Rare. 1989#:

I Uisaed Pt: singles on Aug 15 & 16; 3+ on Aug 31; NW gales brought 77 ♂S /4hrs on Oct 7 [EJM/RAGA/JMcG]; 40 ♂S /2hrs on Oct 13; 1 ♂S on Oct 14.

II 1 ♂S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 24.

IV 1 found stunned, Ardferrn, Oct 4, was released L Craignish Oct 5 [SGR].

White pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

0088 E

V 1989#:

I 1 ad in breeding plumage, Peninver, Feb 11 [MR]. Thereafter the bird frequented area between Campbeltown Loch & Carradale & was seen resting at Peninver several times. Later found dead at Kildonan [EJM]. This is likely to have been an escaped individual.

Gannet *Sula bassana* Sulaire

0071 GX

S P Does not breed in Argyll — nearest colonies are Ailsa Craig & Shiant Is. Common in inshore waters May-Sep. 1989:

I 170 Kilbrannan Sound, Mar 13 & 210 Campbeltown Loch, Mar 14 - both

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

groups following fishing boats; 1,330 converged off Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, May 26; 780 S/1hr, Kilbrannan Sound, Sep 20; 340 S/2.5hrs, Ru Stafnash, Oct 4; 2 N past Mull of Kintyre, Nov 9. Uisaed Pt: total of 24,767 logged in 280 hrs of seawatching, Aug 7 - Oct 31, with heaviest passage Aug 27 - Sep 5; hourly averages of 110 in Aug, 124 in Sep & 35 in Oct. Very few imm. recorded.

- II Islay: 250 Sound of Islay, May 26; 1976 S & 21 N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26. Colonsay: c20 off Oronsay, May 18 then regular offshore until late Sep.
- III present in L Long, Mar 5 - Oct 14 with max. count 61 on Apr 6; 8 off Kames, Mar 14.
- V c150 W/1hr, Hynish, Tiree, Oct 13.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh 0072 CA  
R W Breeds in regions I IV & V. Much less numerous than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters - movement to coastal waters in autumn. 1989: max. monthly total at NWC / BOEE sites was 162 in Sep.

- I 23 used nests found, Sanda Is, Jun 25. Counts: 27 S/1hr Carradale, Mar 13. Uisaed Pt: 36 on Aug 28, 38 on Sep 7 & 15 on Oct 1.
- II 20 (max count) L Indaal, Islay, Sep 17.
- III L Long: 25 on Jan 25/26; 20 on Mar 3. W Kyle: 16 N on Mar 17. Holy Loch: 11 on Aug 20; 27 on Sep 17. Dunoon - Ardyne Burn: 43 (max. count) Oct 14.
- IV 53 occupied nests, Corr Eilean, McCormaig Isles, May 27; 5 prs present Dubh-fheith, Firth of Lorne, Jun 17. Also - 25 (max. count) L Gilp, Feb 8; 40 S over Lerags, L Feochan, Sep 9.
- V Tiree: no evidence of breeding; 1-2 sub-ads seen in spring, with a few non-breeding plumaged ads in late Aug.

VI 28 S/0.5hrs, N Lismore, Sep 13.

NWC/BOEE:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	64	65	54	162	138	125	85

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh an sgumain 0080 SA  
R W Very common. 1989:

- I 700-900 occupied nests, Sanda Is, Jun 26; 46 breeding prs, SW Mull of Kintyre. Counts: 170 Campbeltown Loch, Jan 2; 800+ Island Ross, Kildonan, throughout May; 160 Carskiey Bay, May 27; 109 off Uisaed Pt, Sep 4.
- IV 119 occupied nests, McCormaig Isles, May 27 - a continuing decline at this site.
- V Tiree: 100 occupied nests, Ceann a' Mhara.

Little egret *Egretta garzetta* Corra gheal bheag 0119  
V 1989#:

- I 1 ad Balgair Bay, Carradale, Nov 14 [MR].
- II 1 Gruinart Flats, Islay, May 8 [RSPB].
- V Mull: 1 ad Kintra, May 1 [WBW]; 1 ad Ulva Ferry, May 4-18 [JH et al] - this was presumably the same bird.

All records subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea* Corra ghritheach 0122 H  
R Widespread. Breeding all regions. Breeding recorded in 22% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988/89. 1989:

- III L Riddon: 37 on Jan 28; 41 on Aug 27.
- V Mull: 5th consecutive annual census. Min. of 69 occ. nests at 15 heronries, with a further 7 nests probably occupied. An overall increase of 18% on

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occupancy in 1988 & the best year since 1985 [Madders, 1989]. Heronry at Fishnish, destroyed in 1988, now in process of re-establishment nearby. 15 Herons, thought to be recently fledged juveniles, were illegally shot at a Mull fish farm in late May [MM].

VI 16 (max count) Port Appin / L Laich, Oct 14.

Mute swan *Cygnus olor* Eala

0152 MS

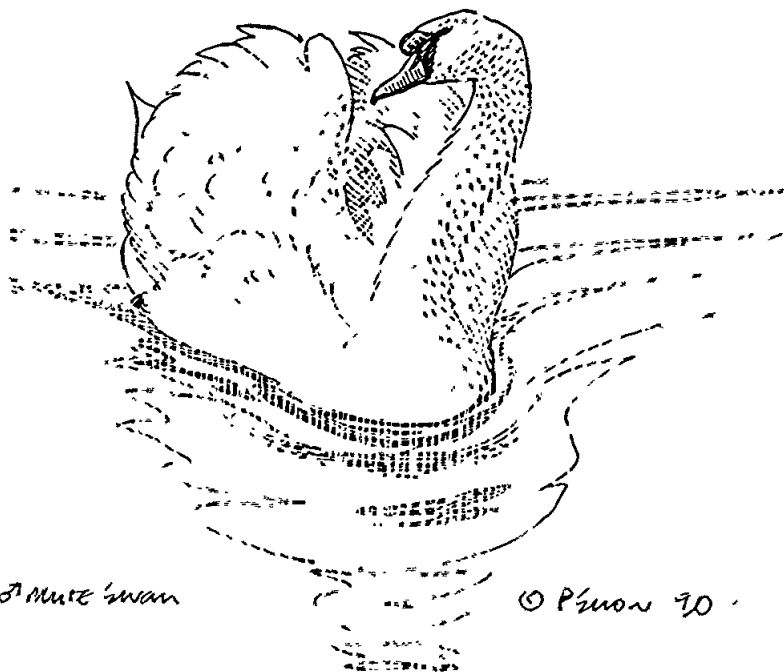
R Widespread but uncommon breeding species, both inland & at sheltered coastal locations. Emigration from some breeding localities in winter. Many Argyll birds now fitted with darvic rings — all records of these birds required. Note: this species will be the subject of a national census in 1990. A total of 135 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 28% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl count total was 146 in Oct.

I Gigha: 4 broods hatched. Otherwise prs nested at Rhunahoarine Pt, Smerby & probably in West L Tarbert. Max. count at West L Tarbert was 32 on Oct 2. Also — 5 L nan Gad, May 17; 9 Sound of Gigha, May 25; 1 Campbeltown L, May 20.

II Islay: 5 prs bred - c/9 Ardnave Loch (1st egg laid v early — c.Mar 24), hatched 6, reared 6; L Finlaggan, hatched 4, reared 0; Ballygrant L, hatched 5, reared 0; L Allan reared 3; Proaig Bay, b/7, mid-June.

III Holy L: max. winter count 15 on Sep 17.

IV b/6 Dubh Loch, Inverary, Jul 23; b/4 L Crinan, Aug 9; b/2 L Ederline, Aug 12; b/1 L Gilp, Aug 16. Counts: L Feochan - 16 on Feb 20; 18 on May 7; Oban Harbour - 8 on Jun 17; 17 on Dec 21; 22 Crinan, Dec 26; 27 (inc. 1 imm) L Craignish & L Beag, Oct 16; 20 Keills Peninsula, Sep 19.



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- V Tíree: 12 pairs attempted to breed, 8 reared young. 17ad 3imm (complete count) Mar 17; non-breeding flock on Loch a Phuill built-up from mid-June to max. of 75 on Sep 6; 34ad 4imm (complete count) Dec 6. Coll: pr L Amlaimh did not appear to attempt breeding. Mull: 7 prs attempted to breed, 4 hatched young (3 x b/1, 1 x b/9) but only b/1 & b/5 by Sep; 11ad 5imm Lochdon, Oct 8 — only lad present by Dec 2; 3ad Dervaig, Nov 18.

- VI 12 L Laich, Oct 8-Nov 12; Taynuilt Pier moult flock: max. of 43 ads on Jul 29.

## National Wildfowl Counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites (n=32)	63	13	54	114	146	129	59

Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* Eala bheag 0153 BS

V 1989#:

- I 9 ›S low over sea, off Uisaed Pt, Machrihanish, Oct 30 [RAGA].

Whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* Eala bhan 0154 WS

W P Common passage species, small numbers winter. A few birds summer in most years & breeding has been recorded. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl count total was 66 in Oct.

- I 3ads L nan Gad, Mar 25; 3 A'Chleit, Muasdale, May 23-24; 1 Balnabraid, May 24; 1 ›S Uisaed Pt, Sep 23; 21 (max. autumn count) Machrihanish, Oct 8.

- II Islay: pr + 1imm L Tallant, Jan 24; 4 L Gorm, Apr 19 (late migrants); 2 summered - 1 L Indaal & 1 L Gorm; autumn passage - 12 L Gruinart, Oct 12, then 481 passing through RSPB reserve by Oct 29 (peak of 72 feeding in fields on Oct 29); build-up of nos. on L Indaal in Nov, with max count 82 on Dec 1, declining to 12 by Dec 28. Colonsay: 7 Strand / Ardskenish, Jan 3; 2 L Fada, Jan 14-16; 1 Oronsay, Oct 9; 5 L Cholla, Nov 21.

- III 23 ›S down L Long, then ›SW through West Kyle, Mar 12.

- IV 1ad L Tromlee, Kilchrenan, May 5; 21 Crinan, Sep 16; Moine Mhor / R Add estuary - 21ads, Oct 17 & 24ads 2imm, Dec 14.

- V Tíree: 9 summered of which only 3 incapable of flight. Ad consorted with male Mute Swan, L Riaghain (also noted in 1987). Complete island counts of 62 on Jan 19, 41 (Mar 17), 11 (Sep 6-11), 73 (Oct 8-13) & 69 (Dec 6). Single flock of 111+ paused briefly at L a Phuill, Oct 27, then headed SSW out to sea (towards Ireland?); ad. showing characteristics of Whooper x Bewick's hybrid, L an Eilein, Dec 6 [MM/SW]. Mull: 1ad Lochdon, May 20; 1ad L Torr, Jul 9-Aug 8; 18 Mishnish Lochs, Oct 1; 2 ›N, Kilfinichen, Oct 2.

- VI 12 ›S Appin, Sep 30.

## National Wildfowl Counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites (n=32)	17	2	3	1	66	18	49

Pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* Geadh gorm 0158 PG

P W Very few winter. 1989:

- I 1 Rhunahaurine, Mar 23; 1 Laggan, Oct 14.

- II Islay: occasional birds seen with wintering Barnacle & White-fronted Geese; also 6 Bridgend Merse, Mar 18 & 19 L Gruinart, Apr 11; autumn passage - 3 at Gruinart, Sep 19 was only record. Colonsay: up to 4 wintering at Fada fields; also - 25 on golf course, Nov 19 & Oronsay, Nov 26.

- IV 1 Killinochonoch, Oct 31; 1 Moine Mhor, Dec 14; 2 Barsloisnoch, Dec 17.

- V Tíree: 6 Mannal, Oct 10; 1 Caoles, Oct 11; 1 Moss, Dec 29. Mull: 1 Lochdon, Oct 10; 7 L Cuin, Nov 12.

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White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* Geadh bhlar 0159 WG  
W Birds are of the Greenland race *albifrons*. Regular resorts in all regions except III. Argyll holds c.40% of the world population in winter, mainly on Islay. 1989: autumn ageing of birds in Kintyre (I) & Islay (II) indicated a good breeding season (see below).

- I Rhunahaorine / Tayinloan: 902 (Jan 1); 706 (Mar 18); 864 (Mar 23); 666 (Apr 2); none by Apr 22; 887 (Dec 4). Machrihanish: 751 (Mar 18); 907 (Mar 23); none by Apr 15; 82 (Oct 9); 720 (Oct 27); 718 (Nov 8). Of 697 aged in autumn, 24.5% were young birds.
- II Islay: 6,816 (complete count), Mar 30 [NCC/GWFGS]; departure began cApr 16, but held up by northerly winds and still c3-4,000 present Apr 20; last - 13, L Gruinart, May 12; 1st - 7 L Gruinart, Oct 1; 8,400 (complete count), Dec 3-4 [NCC/GWFGS]. Of 4,392 aged in autumn, 18.7% were young birds; mean of 224 broods was 2.78. Jura: 36 Lowlandman's Bay, Dec 5, Colonsay: 120 - 165 frequented Fada fields, Jan - Apr; 2 Milbuie, Oct 14; 120 Fada fields, Dec 2; 17 Garvard, Dec 25.
- IV Moine Mhor: 17 on Oct 27, 57 on Dec 4. L Crinan: 44 on Mar 12 & 60 on Dec 14. Danna: 168 on Jan 15; 224 on Nov 30.
- V Tiree (complete counts): 517 on Jan 19; 711 on Mar 15; 524-728 (max. spring count) during emigration, Apr 20-28; 765 on Dec 6; 358 on Dec 29. Coll (complete counts): 647 on Jan 22; 593 on Mar 17; 641 (max. spring count) during emigration, Apr 20-28; 671 on Dec 10. Mull: 43 Ardfernal, Feb 9; 19 L Assapol, Mar 9 & 27; 25 Kintira, Mar 11; 1 Fidden, Oct 7; total of 133 (3 flocks), Ross of Mull, Nov 21.
- VI 76 Benderloch salt marsh, Jan 8; 2 Cuil Bay, Jan 28; 120 Port Appin / Eilean nan Caorach, Nov 26.

Greylag goose *Anser anser* Geadh glas 0161 GJ  
BWP Increasing breeding population, Coll & Tiree (V). Also breeds Colonsay (II), Mull (V) & occasionally elsewhere. 1989:

- I Rhunahaorine / Tayinloan: 235 (Jan 1); 227 (Mar 18); 186 (Apr 2); none by Apr 22; 12 (Sep 28); 15 (Nov 2); 182 (Dec 4). Machrihanish: 545 (Mar 18); none by Apr 15; 180 (Oct 27); 369 (Nov 8). Uisaed Pt: 12 S, Oct 7.
- II Islay: winter/spring flock of up to 82, plus odd singles with White-fronted Geese; 110 Mulindry, throughout Dec & 45 Erasaide, Dec 26. Passage birds inc. 60 Machir Bay, Feb 25; 80+ Esknish, Feb 27; 53 L Gruinart, Oct 13; 37 with White-fronts, Coullabus, Oct 16. Colonsay: 2prs bred, rearing total of 4 young; c85 present throughout Jan; 56 Fada fields, Feb 20, increasing to c61 by late Mar; 40 Machrins, Aug 20; 41 Oronsay, Sep 2 & Sgreadan, Oct 7; 51 on East L Fada, Oct 27, increasing to c58 by Dec.
- III At least 30 birds at Ardyne on 4 dates in Dec, with max count 65-70, Dec 17. These birds were probably from the feral / wintering flock on Bute.
- IV Moine Mhor / L Crinan flock: 250 M. Mhor, Jan 15; 150 Rowanfield, Feb 3; 180 L Crinan, Feb 12; 250 Bridgend, Feb 14; 150 feeding in swede field, Killinachanoch, Feb 14; 24 M. Mhor & 180 L Crinan, Mar 11; 75 M. Mhor, Oct 29; 293 Poltalloch, Dec 8; 458 L Crinan, Dec 14. Also: 35 Connel, Feb 7-13; 60 N over Cologin, Oban, Feb 21; 19 L Gilp, Sep 9; 26 (feral) Galanach, Dec 30.
- V Tiree: 33prs hatched 23 broods. Complete non-breeding counts - 435 (Jan 19); 378 (Mar 15); 203 (max. April count), 932 (Sep 10); 977 (Dec 12). Coll: 36-60prs estimated in spring. Non-breeding flock of 259 present at Galanach, Jun 4. Complete counts: 276 (Jan 22); 212 (Mar 17); 213 (max. April count); 165 (Dec 10). Comparison of Tiree & Coll counts suggests that many birds move from Coll to Tiree in winter. Mull: 24 L Assapol, Mar

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

9; c60 ♂N over Lochdon, Apr 16; 16 L Assapol, May 17; moult flock of 20, Treshnish Is, Jul 2; 3ads L Mingary, Aug 1. Garvelloch Is: 2 ♂N towards Garbh Eileach Jun 3.

- VI 10 ♂W over L Etive, Mar 7; 2 (feral?) Benderloch, Aug 16; 1 Cuil Bay, Dec 29.

**Snow goose** *Anser caerulescens* Geadh ban 0163 SJ  
E V A small feral breeding population exists on Mull - this flock winters on Coll. 1989:

- II Islay: Pr at Bridgend Jan 1 - Apr 25.

V Tíree: 1 Kenovay / The Reef, Sep 6-15; 1 L Riaghain, Dec 6. Coll: presumed feral ad. with Greylags at Cliad, Apr-Aug; 40 (inc 27ad white morph, 6ad blue morph, 5imm white & 2imm blue); 1ad Gunna, Dec 10. Mull: 1 (blue morph) Dervaig, Jan 15.

**Canada goose** *Branta canadensis* Geadh dubh 0166 CG  
B W V Resident population on Colonsay & occasional breeding attempts elsewhere. 1989:

- I 1 (medium-sized), Rhunahaorine / Tayinloan, Jan 1 - Apr 2.

II Islay: 1 (small) with Barnacle Geese at Gruinart, Jan 31 - Feb 28; 1 (medium) with White-fronted Geese, nr Bridgend, Jan - Apr; 1 (large) at Ardnave, Jan 28; 1 (medium) ♂S, Braigo, May 10; 3-4 present during autumn goose arrival, then 1 (small) paired with Barnacle Goose, L Gruinart, Oct 23 - Dec 31; 2 (large) at L Gruinart, Oct 9-10 & 1 (medium) with White-fronts, nr Esknish, Nov - Dec 31. Colonsay: no breeding data; counts - 51 Balnahard, Feb 5; 43 Machrins, Sep 3; 61 Kiloran, Oct 27-29; 62 L Sgoltaire, Nov 18.

- IV b/4 L Ederline, Aug 12.

V Tíree: 1 L an Eilein, Mar 21; single with Greylags, Apr 17 to at least May 24. Mull: 4 Uisken, Apr 23.

- VI Cuil Bay: 7 (inc 1 small bird), Jan 28; 5 on Mar 2. Appin: 10 on Sep 2; 12 (inc 1 small bird) on Dec 29.

**Barnacle goose** *Branta leucopsis* Cathan 0167 BY  
W All regions except III. Very large numbers of Greenland race winter on Islay. A few birds occasionally summer - at least some of these are probably injured. 1989: small wintering flock appears to be establishing in Kintyre.

- I Rhunahaorine / Tayinloan: 10 (Jan 1); 25 (Jan 8); 10 (Mar 23); 1 (Apr 2); 5 (Sep 28). Uisaed Pt: 35 ♂S on Oct 13.

II Islay: 21,159 (complete count), Mar 31 [NCC]; max winter / spring count at L Gruinart was 8,633, Jan 31; late spring departure probably due to prolonged northerly winds; some departed Apr 16-18, but c13,000 still present Apr 20 & c5,000 on Apr 28; last - 26 L Gruinart, May 4. Autumn arrival commenced with 21 at L Gruinart, Sep 19, with 14,193 present there by Oct 22; 23,110 (complete count) Nov 8 [MAO]; 24,900 (complete count), Dec 3-4 [NCC] - of the latter count, 17,500 (70%) were within NCC sanctuary areas. Of 9,579 aged in autumn, 19.8% were young birds; mean of 165 broods was 2.4 [MAO]. Hybrid Barnacle x ?Pink-footed Goose, Balyltarsin, Jan 27 & Oct 14. Colonsay: c400 present throughout Jan; c450 by early Mar; c350 Garvard, Apr 19; 1 apparently injured bird, Strand, Jul 22; c12 Fada, Oct 6; 41 Strand, Oct 14; c120 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 29; at least 300 Machrins, Nov 19; c450 Machrins, Dec 2 & 7.

- IV Danna: 350 on Nov 13 & c100 on Dec 16.

V Tíree (complete counts): 879-894 (Jan 19-20), 701 (Mar 17), 562 (max. April count - all had emigrated by May 1); 100 (Oct 14), 200-250 (Oct 29),

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

770 (Dec 9). Coll (complete counts): 218 (Jan 23), 208 (Mar 17), 343 (Dec 10), Mull: 26 Ulva, Feb 8; 15 S Ardtun, Sep 19; 2 Fidden, Oct 4; 8 L Cuin, Oct 16.

- Brent goose *Branta bernicla* Geadh got** 0168 BG  
W P Uncommon passage species. Very few winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the light-bellied race, *B.b. hrota*, which breed in NE Greenland & Queen Elizabeth Is. of arctic Canada & winter mainly in Ireland. 1989:  
I Uisaed Pt: birds arriving off sea - 30 on Sep 21 & 2 on Oct 11. Also: 11 Machrihanish, Sep 30; 2 S Mull of Kintyre, Nov 1.  
II Islay: 5 L Indaal, Jan - Mar, then 3 until Apr 5. Spring passage - 100+ L Indaal, Apr 22; 15 Bruichladdich, May 1. Autumn passage - 27 arrived Sanaig, Sep 18; L Gruinart counts inc. 57 on Sep 20; 235 on Sep 22; 79 on Oct 6 & 13 Oct 12. Also - 4 L Indaal throughout Dec & 1 L Skerrols, Dec 14. Colonsay: 1 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 22.  
V Tiree: 1 Ruaig, Jan 20; 175 Gott Bay, Apr 27-29 & 31 there on May 2; 22 E, Hynish Bay, Oct 9; 1 Middleton, Dec 29. Mull: 7 L na Keal, Sep 19.  
N. American / E. Siberian race, *B.b. nigricans*: a bird showing characteristics of Black Brant race frequented L Gruinart, Islay (II), Oct 20 - Dec 31 [MP/MAO]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

- Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* Cra-gheadh** 0173 SU  
B W Widespread breeding species, especially on sandy coasts. Majority are absent Aug-Nov when the birds migrate to moulting grounds. A total of 287 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 34% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl total was 364 in Feb.  
I Min. of 8 prs with broods, inc. b/7 seen crossing Sound of Gigha to mainland, May 16 & b/10 Davaar Is, Campbeltown, Jun 6. Counts - 92 non-breeders at Smerby Mouth, May 23; up to 9 juvs Machrihanish Bay, Aug - last seen were 2 on Sep 8; 30 Gigha, Feb 3 & 6 there on Nov 24.  
II Colonsay: c20 juvs. at Port Mor, May 28; total of 19 ads & 12 young, Jun 20. Also - 59 Strand, Mar 12; 5 Oronsay, Nov 26.  
III 25 L Riddon, Mar 3, with 10 prs present on Apr 14.  
IV Max. counts: 22 Keills Peninsula & Danna, Feb 14; 35 L Craignish + L Begg, Mar 12.  
V Tiree: 52 coastal broods located + 2 inland; 31 broodless ads. also counted; 1st return - 1 imm Balemartine, Sep 4. Mull: b/5 & b/8 Lochdon, May 28; b/11 L Tuath, Jun 23; b/7 Iona, Aug 6; 1st return - 8 Lochdon, Nov 26.  
VI 17 L Laich, Feb 28.  
NWC/BOEE: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
Lochdon 32 29 37 46 1 0 0 0 0 0 8 12  
L Gruinart 83 191 170 175 196 80 15 11 2 6 71 42  
L Indaal 44 61 58 39 18 31 — 3 2 — 8 14  
All sites 186 364 343 nc nc nc nc nc 4 10 79 87

- Wigeon *Anas penelope* Glas lach** 0179 WN  
B W P Scarce / irregular breeding species. L Awe appears to be main breeding stronghold. Common winter visitor to all regions. 1989: max. monthly winter wildfowl count total was 2598 in Oct.  
I 44 Killeen, Jan 9; 25 Westport, Mar 28; passage noted Uisaed Pt, Aug-Oct, with max. counts of 35 N (Oct 4) & 17 S (Oct 5); max. count West L Tarbert was 450 in Oct.  
II Islay: 120 flew in from N, Ardnave, Aug 19. Colonsay: 35 Strand (max.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

count), Jan 8.

- III Holy Loch: 132 on Jan 15 & 115 on Dec 15. Also - 1 L Riddon, Jul 9.  
 IV 5 nr L Nant, Jul 7. Max. counts: 198 L Gilp (Oct 12); 158 L Craignish & L Beag (Oct 16); 520 Moine Mhor / R Add estuary (Oct 17); 250 Keills Peninsula & Danna (Nov 13).  
 V Tiree: no evidence of breeding, although single M at Loch a Phuill, Jun 20 & 26. L a Phuill counts: 150 Jan 21; 23 on Sep 10; 72 on Dec 5. Also - 74 (max. count) Clachan Mor, Dec 8.  
 VI L Etive: (max. counts) 58 on Feb 12; 80 on Dec 22. L Laich: 119 on Oct 8.  
 NWC/BOEE: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
 Lochdon 192 157 21 11 1 0 0 0 42 269 352 283  
 L Gruinart 168 223 145 65 — — — — 24 188 234 341  
 L Indaal 465 300 89 — — 2 — — 307 375 615 241  
 All sites 1433 1175 594 nc nc nc nc nc 495 2598 2390 1507

## American wigeon *Anas americana*

0180

V 1989#:

- II 1M L Indaal, Nov 15 - Dec 31 [GKB/GJ/PJD]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

## Gadwall *Anas strepera* Lach glas

0182 GA

B W P Scarce breeding species. 1989:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1 ♂S on Aug 29; 8 ♂S on Oct 19.  
 II Islay: 2prs Bridgend, Feb 6-19; 1F Ardnave L, Jul 9; 1M 2F Bridgend, Nov 26 - Dec 31.  
 IV Pr Glen Lonan, Apr 9.  
 V Tiree: max. spring count of 4prs + 3 singles (Apr); 3 prs nested, 2prs hatched young; 2 prs L a Phuill, Oct 13; 4 Clachan Mor, Dec 8.

## Teal *Anas crecca* Crann lach

0184 T

B W P Widespread but uncommon breeding species. Common winter visitor. Breeding recorded in 15% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: max. monthly winter wildfowl count total was 1064 in Dec.

- I West L Tarbert: 140 (max. count) Sep 17.  
 II Islay: 306 (max count) Ardnave Loch, Jan 12; 70 L Gorm, Nov 9. Colonsay: 42 (max. count) Oronsay, Nov 26.  
 III L Riddon: 90 on Jan 10 & 40 on Sep 10. Also - 15 Auchaleek Bay, Mar 4; 49 (max. count) Holy L, Dec 15.  
 IV b/3 & b/2+ L Leacann, Jul 23. Max. counts: 48 L Gilp, Feb 12; 30+ L Feochan, Oct 1; 132 Moine Mhor / R Add estuary, Dec 14.  
 V Coll: 4 broods recorded Jul 14-17. Tiree: 145 (max count) L a Phuill, Dec 23; 22 The Reef, Sep 10; 48 L Riaghainn, Dec 9. Mull: 43 Kinloch, Jan 17; 34 L Poit, Nov 21.  
 VI Benderloch: 40 on Feb 26; 33 on Dec 28.  
 NWC/BOEE: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
 Lochdon 148 105 52 8 — — — — 34 191 102 133  
 L Gruinart 103 — 22 10 — — — — 160 280 310 172  
 L Indaal 132 113 86 — — — — 47 190 175 55 448  
 All sites 856 644 368 nc nc nc nc nc 522 901 819 1064

## Nearctic race *A.c. carolinensis*:

- II Islay: 1ad M, L Gruinart, Mar 25 - Mar 30 [AFGW], then Easter Ellister, Mar 31 - Apr 3 [MAO]; 1ad M, Ardnave Loch, Dec 25 [CS]. The latter record is still subject to acceptance by BBRC.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

## Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach

0186 MA

B W P Common breeding & wintering species. Estimate of 4-500 prs breeding, 1985 [Broad et al.]. Breeding recorded in 75% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: max. monthly winter wildfowl count total was 1312 in Sep.

I Uisaed Pt: 126 ♂S (Aug 17-24); 80 ♂S (Sep 26); 44 on sea (Oct 23). Also - 100 West L Tarbert, Sep 17.

II Colonsay: (peak counts) 28 Strand, Jan 8; 27 Ardskenish, Nov 19.

III Holy L: 229 (max. count) Sep 12; 21 L Striven, Jan 10; 40 L Riddon, Jan 28.

IV Max. counts: 412 L Craignish & L Beag, Sep 17; c50 Slockavullin, Oct 17; 175 L Crinan, Oct 14.

V Tiree: total count of 204 on coast & 59 inland, Sep 14; 83 Clachan Mor, Dec 8.

VI 40 Ledaig Floodwater, Aug 21.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	25	36	9	7	—	—	—	—	40	35	26	19
L Gruinart	169	68	23	7	25	45	31	21	3	23	121	292
L Indaal	341	34	27	—	81	112	230	81	262	235	88	206
All sites	1006	401	185	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	1312	859	582	829

## Pintail *Anas acuta* Lach stiùireach

0189 PT

B W P Very scarce breeding species. Localised in winter, mainly recorded Islay & Tiree. A small but increasing flock regularly winters on Islay. 1989:

I 3 Gigha, Feb - Apr. Uisaed Pt: 1F ♂S (Sep 13); 1M ♂S (Oct 8). Southend: 1F (Oct 22).

II Islay: larger numbers than usual, winter 88/9; max. count of 51, L Indaal, Feb 12. Also - 1 Claddach L, Mar 30; 1 Easter Ellister, Apr 5; 3 L Gruinart, Nov 30; 2 L na Nigheadaireachd, Nov 29; 1M Ardnave L, Nov 30 - Dec 19. Colonsay: 1M off west coast, May 6.

III 2 Holy Loch, Feb 12.

IV 1M L Leathan, Jan 6.

V Tiree: 5-6prs bred. Counts - 4 L a Phuill & 9 L Riaghainn, Sep 9.

Monthly max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Indaal	48	48	12	15	2	2	37	18	28

## Garganey *Anas querquedula* Lach crann

0191 GY

S Rare non-breeding summer visitor. 1989#:

II 1M L Gruinart, May 17 [CS et al.]

## Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Lach a'ghuib leathainn

0194 SV

B W P Most records from Islay & Tiree. 1989:

II Islay: 1 Ardnave, Apr 18; 3 L Gruinart, Sep 6; 3 Carnain, Sep 22; 14 L Indaal, Nov 26.

V Tiree: 6 broods located; total count of 8, Sep 3-12. Coll: single brood was first breeding record for island. Mull: pr Lochdon, May 2.

## Pochard *Aythya ferina* Lach mhasach

0198 PO

B W Very scarce / irregular breeding species. Wintering flocks generally small. 1989: recorded at only 4 mainland sites.

II Islay: 2 Ardnave Loch, Jan 23; 250+ L Skerrols, Nov 29. Colonsay: 18 East L Fada, Jan 4; 2MM L Turrman, Mar 16.

IV Max. counts: 14 L Leathan, Kilmichael Glassary, Jan 31; 19 Lochan Taynish, Mar 15; 16 L Awe, Nov 8; 7 L Drimnin, Dec 18.

V Mull: 1M L Ba, Jan 26; 2 L Assapol, Oct 7. Tiree: 66 L Bhasapol, Jan 17 & 1M there Aug 17; 27 L a Phuill, Dec 22.

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## Ring-necked duck *Aythya collaris*

0200

V 1989#:

IV 1M Lochan Add, Oct 29 [JBH].

V Tíree: 3MM L Bhasapol, Apr 8 with 2 present Apr 9; also seen on L a Phuill & L an Eilein, where last recorded Apr 24 [ACK].

All records subject to acceptance by BBRC.

## Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* Lach thopach

0203 TU

B W Scarce breeding species. Total of 53 prs located during breeding wildfowl survey, 1985 [Broad et al.]. Common winter visitor. A total of 44 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989:

I 3MM & 4FF present at only known breeding loch in S Kintyre, May; 1M N Uisaed Pt, Sep 3.

II Islay: b/6 located, Jun 22. Also - 36 (max count) Ardnave Loch, Feb 2; 21 L Finlaggan, Apr 14. Colonsay: 5 prs located, Jun 5.

IV b/1 L Fincham, Jul 22; 3MM 3FF Lochan a' Bhuil Bhith, Oban, Jan 3; 7 (max. count) L Drimnin, Jan 15; 20 (max. count) L Leathan, Kilmichael Glassary, Feb 13; 2MM 2FF L Gleann a Bhearridh, Oban, Feb 14; 3 Lochan Tainish, Nov 28.

V Tíree: 19+ prs nested & 11 broods observed. Counts - 56 L Bhasapol & 46 L an Eilein, Jan 17; max. spring count (all sites) 124, Apr 10; max. autumn / winter counts of 56 L a' Phuill, Dec 5 & 50 L Bhasapol, Dec 22. Mull: 1M on sea, Salen Bay, Sep 20.

VI 2MM 1F Cuil hill loch, Mar 27.

NWC Counts: Jan Feb Mar Sep Oct Nov Dec

3 sites (Ardnave, Drimnin & Leathan)

44 60 51 2 3 24 11

## *Aythya* hybrid

I Single bird at Tangy Loch, Jul 16, showed characteristics of both Pochard & Tufted Duck [MM]. The parentage of *Aythya* hybrids is normally impossible to assign in the field as hybrids may resemble a 3rd species, quite unlike either parent.

## Scaup *Aythya marila* Lach mhara

0204 SP

W P Large wintering flock in L Indaal, Islay (II). Scarce elsewhere. Has summered. 1989:

I Uisaed Pt: 17 S (Sep 24); 20 S (Oct 6).

II Islay: (max. counts): 879 L Indaal, Jan 17; 6 Ardnave Loch, Feb 16.

V Tíree: 1F L an Eilein, Jan 17; 1F L Bhasapol, Apr 8 & L a Phuill, Apr 11; 1M 1F off Balephetrish, May 1; 1M 1F off Hynish, Aug 19; 1F L Bhasapol, Oct 29 & Dec 22 - 27. Coll: 1ec. M, L Ghille-Calum, Aug 13.

NWC/BOEE: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
L Indaal 879 465 294 364 — — 33 140 340 442 366

## Eider *Somateria mollissima* Lach lochlannach

0206 E

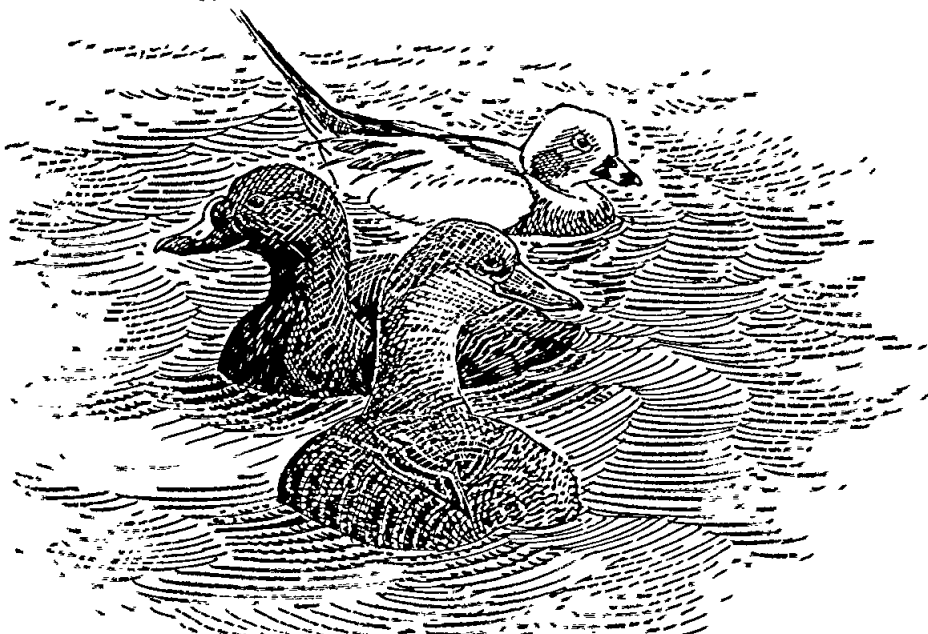
B W P Common in all regions. Large flocks of moulting drakes & 1st yr birds gather at some sites, Jun-Aug. Many Argyll breeding birds winter in the Firth of Clyde. A total of 949 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 62% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl total was 1457 in Jan.

I 310 Campbeltown Loch, Mar 26; 25-30 prs present in spring, Sanda Is; 140 West L Tarbert, May 10; 76MM 17FF Polliwillane Bay, May 24; 310 Westport / Machrihanish, May 29 & 250-300 there late Aug; 56 (max. count) Tarbert Harbour, Dec 22.

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- II 160+ Sound of Islay, Mar 15; 18FF + 60 young, Colonsay, Jun 16-23.  
 III 287 L Long, Jan 29 & 223 there Aug 4; 60 (max. count) Kames / Ardlamont shore, Feb 7. Firth of Clyde: see table below.  
 IV 206 (max. count) L Gilp, Jul 23; 170 Minard Is, L Fyne, Aug 2. Oban Bay: 68MM 30FF on Feb 16; 105 (max. spring count), Mar 3; almost daily autumn counts revealed high turn-over of birds - max. monthly counts of 34MM 20FF (Sep); 51MM 24FF (Oct); 42MM 38FF (Nov); 122 (Dec).  
 V Tiree: at least 42 broods hatched; 320 (complete count), Sep 14-15; 370 counted Hynish + 70 Gunna Sound, Oct 13. Mull: b/4 Lochdon, May 28; 8 broods Tiroran, Jun; c/3 Treshnish Is, Jul 2. Also - 80 off Craignure, Feb 25; 50+ L na Keal, Aug 27; 70 L Spelve, Oct 8.  
 VI Lower L Creran: peak counts of 109 on Feb 20 & 205 on Oct 8.
- | NWC/BOEE:    | Jan  | Feb  | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep  | Oct  | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| L Indaal     | 489  | 149  | 166 | 358 | 321 | 410 | 308 | 157 | 316  | 211  | 102 | 134 |
| F. of Clyde* | 893  | 826  | 561 | nc  | nc  | nc  | nc  | nc  | 655  | 610  | 410 | 495 |
| All sites    | 1457 | 1168 | 842 | nc  | nc  | nc  | nc  | nc  | 1088 | 1077 | 668 | 744 |
- \* Finart Bay - Ardyne Burn, inc. Holy L.

- Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* Eun buchainn 0212 LN  
 W P Uncommon winter visitor, mostly offshore. 1989:  
 I 26 (max. count) Sound of Gigha, Mar 28; 10 Machrihanish Bay, Mar 29; 1F Ballochroy, May 23; 11 S, Uisaid Pt, Oct 5.  
 II Islay: L Indaal - 6 (Feb); 3MM on Oct 26; 13 on Dec 27.  
 IV 1F L Leathan, Kilmichael Glassary, Jan 6; 1 W of Kerrera, Oct 13; 1F Easdale, Dec 12 & 13.  
 V Tiree: Balephetrish Bay - 17-20 (Jan 17); 11 (Apr 15); 1M (Oct 27); 19 Balephuil Bay, Apr 24; 8-10 Hynish Bay, Dec 7. Coll: 15 Feall Bay, Apr 21; 58 Feall Bay, Dec 11.



C. Scoters E & ♂  
 L. T. DUCK, L. Indaal - Islay - December.

P. Brown ©

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

## Common scoter *Melanitta nigra* Lach bheag dubh 0213 CX

B W P Very rare breeding species in regions II & IV, although the breeding site in the latter may now be deserted. Present throughout the year, Sound of Gigha (I) & L Indaal, Islay (II); scarce winter visitor elsewhere, although birds may be present well offshore. 1989: no data from region IV.

I 215 (max. count) Sound of Gigha, May 17 & 78 still present, Jun 3; 18 Machrihanish Bay, Mar 29; passage total of 21 N & 59 S, Uisaed Pt, Aug 11 - Oct 19, with peak of 22 S on Sep 24.

II Islay: 14 prs + 2MM (max. count) at usual breeding site; 3 nests were located & 2 broods seen. The L Indaal flock stayed at record high levels throughout summer (see below).

V Tiree: 1F Hough Bay, May 26-28 (probably sick); 1F Sraid Ruadh, Dec 7.

Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
L Indaal 109 35 62 141 82 125 140 171 111 104 82 49

## Velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* Lach dubh 0215 VS

W Scarce. 1989#:

I 7 (inc. 5MM) Sound of Gigha, Mar 28; 3 S, Uisaed Pt, Oct 5-6.

## Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Lach bhreac 0218 GN

W Common. Birds present Sep-May; a few individuals summer. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl total was 182 in Feb.

I 45 West L Tarbert, Mar 12; 60 Sound of Gigha, Mar 15; 24 Campbeltown Loch, Mar 26.

II Islay: 1F L Gorm, Jul 24; 33 Port Ellen, Dec 27.

III c25 Holy Loch, Feb 12; 1 r/h L Long, Oct 31.

IV 16 L Gilp, Feb 8; 17 L Melfort, Feb 12; 14 L Feochan, Feb 12; 20 L Leathan, Kilmichael Glassary, Apr 23; 15 Keills Peninsula & Danna, Dec 16; 12 Lochan Taynish, Dec 11; 22 L Craignish & L Beag, Dec 19; 18 Oban / Gannan Bays, Dec 20.

V Tiree: max. spring count 21 - last seen Apr 28; 3 L a Phuill, Oct 8-13, increasing to 38 by Dec 5. Mull: last - 1M L na Keal, May 2.

VI 20 Ardmucknish Bay, Feb 26; 19 (max count) L Etive, Mar 18; 30 L Creran, Nov 19; 20 Connel - Benderloch, Dec 28.

NWC/BOEE:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	5	6	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
L Indaal	11	16	5	10	—	—	—	—	—	4	12	28
All sites	119	182	139	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	—	29	59	158

## Smew *Mergus albellus* Sioltaich breac 0220 SY

W Very scarce winter visitor. 1989#:

II 1 r/h L Indaal, Islay, Jan 1 to mid-Feb.

## Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* Siolta dhearg 0221 RM

B W Common. Estimate of 150 breeding prs, 1985 [Broad et al.]. Large moulting flocks gather at some sites, Jun-Aug. Breeding recorded in 43% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: Max. monthly winter wildfowl total was 256 in Sep.

I broods at A'Chleit, Smerby & Carradale. Sound of Gigha: 80 on Mar 28; 176 on Jun 3; 320 on Aug 25.

II 240 (max. count), L Indaal, Islay, Aug.

III b/7 L Long, Jun; 11 (max. count) Holy L, Mar 10.

IV Max. counts: 10 R Add estuary (Sep 15); 20 L Craignish & L Beg (Nov 15); 18 Linne Mhuirich, L Sween (Nov 16); 32 L Gilp (Dec 18).

V Tiree: 3 broods located on inland lochs; 50 (complete coastal count), Sep

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14-15. Coll: 2 broods located on coast; 95 in Crossapol Bay, Aug 12. Mull: b/9 Mishnish Lochs, Jul 5; max. counts- 12 L Cuin (Sep 17); 16 Inner L Scri-dain (Sep 17); 46 L na Keal (Sep 22).

VI b/3 Airds Bay, Aug 21; 27 L Etive / Ardmucknish Bay, Aug 24.

NWC/BOEE:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	21	5	4	20	—	—	—	—	10	16	16	16
L Gruinart	—	17	14	21	12	8	8	10	4	7	8	8
L Indaal	26	24	11	43	—	76	90	240	122	31	29	21
All sites	118	127	139	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	256	158	142	144

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Siolta

0223 GD

B & W. Scarce breeding species, mainly region IV. Breeding population estimated at 40-50 prs, [Broad *et al.* 1986]. L Awe [IV] may be a gathering point for Argyll drakes before their moult migration in late May [Carss, 1989].

I Pr Gigha May 14; 4MM Southend, Dec 10.

II Islay: 1F R Laggan, Feb 8; pr L Gruinart, Nov 8.

III b/4 L Eck, Jul 21; 1F Osdhe Bay, Jan 21; 1M 2FF L Eck, Mar 15; 2 r/h L Melladoch, Apr 9; 3MM 2FF on L Riddon, May 6; 5 Holy Loch, Sep 17.

IV b/2 L Nant, Aug 25; pr Lochan a Bhuilg Bhith, Oban, Feb 28; 6 (max. count) L Scammadale, Mar 12; 4MM 5r/h R Awe mouth, Mar 18; 2 prs Linne Mhuirich, L Sween, Mar 20; 7 (max. count) L Feochan Sep 5; 1F L Leathan, Dec 9.

V Mull: 1M Lochdon, Jan 12; 1 L Cuin, Feb 12; pr Lussa River mouth, Mar 21; 1F Lochdon, Apr 16; 1F Dervaig, Nov 18.

VI Pr bred, R Creran & b/11 Benderloch, Aug 26; 9 L Etive, Mar 3; 3 r/h L Ba, Jun 7; 3 r/h Taynuilt Pier, Aug 21; 5 L Etive, Sep 2 & 1M displaying there, Nov 12; 3MM 2FF R Awe, Dec 22.

Red kite *Milvus milvus* Clamhan gobhlach

0239 KT

V A total of 6 birds were released in Highland Region in the first year of a joint NCC/RSPB re-introduction programme. 1989#:

I 1 Carradale, Oct 19 [RG].

II Islay: 1 imm. Gruinart area, Oct 20 - Nov 24, then Esknish / Kilmeny area until Dec 31. This bird, one of those re-introduced to Scotland, was probably the same as the Carradale individual.

Both records subject to acceptance by SBRC.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Iolair mhara

0243 WE

A total of 82 birds were released on the island of Rum between 1975 & 1985 as part of the NCC re-introduction programme. 1989: Scotland - 3 prs bred successfully, rearing 5 chicks. Fewer sightings reported from Argyll than in 1988. All records required, ideally inc. details of activity, plumage & presence / absence of wing tags.

Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan loin

0260 MR

V P 1989#:

II Islay: 1M The Oa, Apr 28 [AJH]; 1F L Tallant, Jun 3 [JB].

Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breid air toin

0261 HH

B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species. Some emigration from Argyll in autumn, especially of females & juveniles. Breeding recorded in 21% of 10km sq so far covered during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9.

1989: breeding recorded in all regions except VI. A total of 55 nests were located during a study on behalf of the RSPB. Of these, full data is available for 47 nests which between them produced a min. total of 144 fledged / nearly fledged young. Breeding success was very good with an average of 3.06 young

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per nest and 3.43 young per successful nest. 35% of located nests were in conifer plantations, most of which were less than 5 years old. Breeding success was slightly higher for nests within forestry, although the difference was not statistically significant. Of 5 complete nest failures, 4 were moorland nests & 1 was in conifers. Polygyny was noted in respect of 5 males, 1 of which was "paired" with 3 successfully breeding females [MM].

Other records:

- I Aros Moss roost: 9 (inc 6MM), Jan; 5 (inc 4MM) Mar; 2MM on Jul 27; none present during Oct [EJM/MM] after a substantial part of the roost area had been destroyed by the expansion of RAF Machrihanish; 1 sub-ad M present at airfield, Nov-Dec. Sanda: 1F on Apr 18. Mull of Kintyre: 6rt >S, Oct 5 - 30; 2 birds flew in off sea from direction of N Ireland - 1ad M on Oct 22 & 1rt on Oct 26.
- II Islay: 9 (max count) L Gruinart roost, Feb 17. Colonsay: 1M Oronsay, Jul 26, then birds present until end of year.
- IV Moine Mhor roost: 10 on Jan 15; 9 on Feb 19; 9 on Nov 26 & Dec 17. Other records: 1rt Lunga, May 27 & 28.
- V Mull roost: 13-16 (inc at least 2MM), Jan 30; 4 (inc 3MM), Mar 25; 1M Apr 5; only 2 present, Oct 22 & Nov 17; none on Dec 27, by which time very few birds to be seen hunting on Mull - last notable sighting was 5 rt at Assapol, Oct 7. Other records: 1F Garvellach Is, Jun 4 (same as Lunga bird?); 1rt Tiree, Sep 9-11. Coll: 1rt, Apr 18-20; 1M 1F, Sep 20-28.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Glas sheabhag

0267 GI

? Very scarce although probably under-recorded. Escaped & introduced birds have fuelled the species re-establishment in some parts of Britain. 1989#:

- II 1 Scarba, Jul 8, appeared to have jesses [MM].
- IV 1 Ellary Estate, Apr 30 [TPD]; 1 nr Ford, Aug 8 [AB]; 2 Knapdale, Aug 22 [JBH].

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Speireag

0269 SH

B W P Widespread. 1989: few significant records received.

- II Colonsay: 1-2 breeding prs present.
- V Coll: 1F Arinagour, Dec 10; 1 M imm Ballyhough, Coll, Dec 12; 1 The Reef, Tiree, Dec 31.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Clamhan

0287 BZ

B W Common in all regions. A total of 364 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 75% of 10km sq so far covered. A total of 34 nests were monitored in an Argyll study area within regions III, IV, & V. Of these, 31 were successful. Mean laying date was earlier for prs whose territories inc. mainly 'sheepwalk' habitat (Apr 12) than for those inc. mainly forestry (Apr 22). Mean clutch size was 2.4 eggs with no significant difference between the 2 habitat-types. However, due to heavy brood losses at some forestry nests, these fledged an average of only 1.7 young per successful pr, compared with 2.2 for 'sheepwalk' nests. The overall mean was 2.03 young per successful pr. [GEA].

- I Large gathering in a 20 acre field of winter barley at Glencraigs Farm, nr Campbeltown, Sep - Oct, (max. count 32 on Oct 8). Probably feeding on earthworms.
- II Colonsay: 4-9+ breeding prs located, Jun 16-23 (4 nests held a total of 9 young, 5 nests probably held young, 14-16 nests were probably unsuccessful, 5 territories not checked) [DCJ].

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Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolaire 0296 EA  
 B W Breeding in all regions. Imms. tend to wander in winter & may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur. 1989: information available from 2 large study areas [MG et al, RSPB et al], plus additional home ranges. 75 home ranges were monitored, of which 4 appeared to be vacant, at least 71 held birds & 67 were occupied by pairs. Breeding was confirmed in 45, but perhaps as many as 49 prs. laid. Eggs hatched in at least 30 & 34 chicks were fledged from 28 sites - a mean of 1.21 young per successful pr. In one well-studied area, breeding was proven for the first time in one home range, whilst a breeding attempt at another was the first for more than 10 years despite continual occupation.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Iolaire iasgaich 0301 OP  
 S P Very scarce breeding species; recent re-colonist. 1989: birds first seen back at 1988 nest site on Apr 15. They again bred successfully, rearing 3 young which fledged in early Aug. Last bird recorded in area on Sep 6. 1-2 birds present at a 2nd site in Apr - early May, but they did not stay to breed.  
 Also —  
 II 1 NW nr Bridgend, Islay, May 28 [ABi].  
 IV 1 Achnacloich, L Etive, Mar 18 [ARJ].  
 V 1 Lochdon, Mull, Jul 7 [TC].

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan ruadh 0304 K  
 B W P Widespread but uncommon. Breeding recorded in 24% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: few significant records received.  
 I 1 in off sea, Uisaed Pt, Aug 22.  
 V 1M Garvellachs, Jun 2-4. Tiree: 1F Hynish, Dec 30; 1M Ringing Stone, Dec 31.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Meirneal 0309 ML  
 B W P Scarce breeding species, probably under-recorded. 1989: breeding proven in all regions, inc. the first confirmed breeding on Cowal in recent years. Total of 9 breeding prs located, plus birds recorded in 13 other areas during breeding season. Of 9 breeding prs, outcome not known for 1, 2 prs failed & 6 prs successfully reared 14+ young. Majority of other records were Sep - Oct & all winter records were typically coastal.  
 I 4 + Machrihanish, Sep 21; 2M hunting Twite offshore, Uisaed Pt, Oct 25; 1M imm caught Chaffinch, Balnamoill, Oct 27; 2 Laggan, Nov-Dec.  
 II Up to 4 birds present, Colonsay, during Nov.  
 V Mull: 1 An Leacann, 1 Burg, Feb 22-24; 1 L na Keal, Oct 20. Tiree: 1 mobbing Hen Harrier, The Reef, Dec 5; 1F attempted to take Purple Sandpiper, Hough Bay, Dec 7; at least 3 birds present, Dec 21-31.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Gormag 0310 HY  
 V P 1 imm nr Tobermory, Mull, Jun 3 [MM]; 1 imm Gott, Tiree, Sep 4 [MH].  
 Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

Gyr falcon *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag mhor na seilg 0318  
 V W P 1989#:  
 V 1 or perhaps 2 birds reported. Despite several sightings, no detailed description has been submitted! Mull: Torloisk, Feb 15 [AC] & Tobermory rubbish tip, Feb 19 [CL]. Tiree: Coraigbeg, Feb 16 [BF] & Crossapol, Feb 17 [SW]. Coll: 1 hunting gulls, Feb 23-24 [per GdM]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

## Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag 0320 PE

B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species in all regions. 1989: information available for 55 sites (all regions). Of these, 3 sites vacant, 4 occupied by at least 1 bird, 48 occupied by prs. Breeding proven for 28 sites but data incomplete for 6 of these. Of remainder, 6 prs failed & 16 successful prs reared 29+ young. Overall, breeding success was 1.32 young per breeding pr & 1.81 young per successful pr.

I 1F roosted Lowlands Church, Campbeltown, Jan 1 - Oct+ (this bird first took up residence as a 1st yr in Sep 1987); 1st yr bird attempted to take Sparrowhawk, which evaded capture by diving into heather, Balnamoil, Aug 17.

IV 1 Oban Esplanade, Feb 13.

V At least 4 birds present, Tiree, Dec 21-31.

## Red grouse *Lagopus lagopus* Coileach fraoich 0329 RG

R Sparsely distributed in moorland & young forestry habitats. Slight increase noted in recent years. Breeding recorded in 18% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-89. 1989: few significant records.

I 1 found dead, Machrihanish beach, Oct 26.

II Flock of 21 Gruinart, Oct.

III b/5 & 2nd brood nearby, Glenbranter, Jul 11.

## Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* Tarmachan 0330 PM

R Very localised, generally above 800m. All records required. 1989: no significant records.

## Black grouse *Tetrao tetrix* Coileach dubh 0332 BK

R Locally distributed. Numbers appear to be increasing as a result of birds colonising forestry plantations. Recorded in 25% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-89. 1989:

I No counts, but reported to be the most numerous for 15 years, Cloanaig Estate.

II 1F Keills, Jura, May 28.

III 2M 1F at lek, nr. Colintraive, May 6; b/5 Glendaruel, Jul 13.

IV 30 Glen Feochan, Sep 2.

## Red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa* Cearc thomain dhearg chasach 0358 RL

F Birds introduced to several areas, but populations not always self-sustaining. Some introduced hybrid Red-legged Partridge x Chukar on Islay (II). 1989:

I 200 introduced Cloanaig Estate.

II Colonsay: bred at Kiloran; 5ad & 1juv (max count), Kiloran dunes, May 28; only winter record was 1 on Dec 29.

V c50 birds introduced at Duart / Torosay, Mull.

## 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. 1989:

II 3 Ardnave Pt, Islay, Mar 10 [MP].

## Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Gearradh gort 0370 Q

S Rare / irregular visitor. 1989: a major influx affected many parts of Britain. However, only 2 Argyll records were received:

I 1 calling at Kilchrist, nr Campbeltown, Jul 22 [RAGA]; 1 Southend, Aug 20 [KR].

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394 PH  
R Widespread & common. Birds annually reared & released on many estates. Recorded in 56% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas. 1989: no significant records.

Golden pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* 0396 GF  
F Birds introduced at a small number of estates & gardens. A feral population of c20 birds exists at Gruline, Mull (V). 1989: no significant records.

Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan allt 0407 WA  
B W P Scarce, but under-recorded. 1989#:  
I 2 Rhunaharine Pt, Mar 25; 1 Dhurrie Loch, Mar 26; 1 calling, W Machrihanish, Oct 11.  
II Islay: calling birds at Foreland Marsh & Gruinart, Jun; 1 Gruinart, Nov 24; 1 Leek, Dec 7. Colonsay: 1 L Fada, Jun 18 & Jul 22.  
IV 1 Taynish, Nov 22; 1 Crinan Canal, Lochgilphead, Nov 26; 1 L Nell, Dec 10; 1 Upper Soroba, Oban, Dec 28.  
V Mull: 1 Killiechranan, Mar 15 - May 11; 1 Grasspoint, Dec 14; 1 Pennyghael, Dec 16.

Spotted crane *Porzana porzana* Traon breac 0408 AK  
S Very rare / irregular. 1989#:  
II 1 heard nr. L Gorm, Islay, Jun 14-20 [JBi].

Corncrake *Crex crex* Traon 0421 CE  
S Localised distribution. Breeding mainly on Islay & Colonsay (II), Coll & Tiree (V). 1989:  
I 1 Southend, Sep 4 was probably a migrant.  
II Islay: at least 12 calling birds located during surveys on Jun 7 & 14. This compares with a total of 19 in 1988 [MP et al.]. Colonsay: up to 12 calling birds during spring; 1 Machrins, Sep 8. Jura: none heard during survey of past haunts & other suitable habitat, Jun 26-27.  
IV 1 (probably a migrant) Taynish, Aug 30.  
V Tiree: 96 calling birds located [AK]. Iona: total of 3 calling birds; at least 1 brood reared.  
VI 1 Achnacree more Farm, from Jun 4, was killed when field cut for silage, Jul 3.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc uisge 0424 MH  
B W Very localised. Breeding recorded in 9% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-89. 1989:  
I b/2 Lochan Luing, Rhunahaorine, Aug 5; at least 2 prs bred, Carradale Water; pair present at Mill Park, May; at least 3 prs Aros Moss / RAF Mac-hrihanish area, May.  
II Islay: pr bred, L Gruinart, where max. count of 9 on Oct 20. Colonsay: pr bred, L Fada; 1 found dead in fence, Jan 11.  
IV 1 lochan S of L Ederline, Jan 17 & 31; 1 Bellanoch, Crinan Canal, Jan 20 & Dec 1; 1 Connel, Dec 28.  
V Tiree: bred at 5 sites & heard at a further 2. Coll: breeding suspected at 1 site. Mull: 2 Aros Loch, Dec 21.

Coot *Fulica atra* Lach a bhlair 0429 CO  
B W Uncommon. 1989:  
I b/7 Westport, May; 1 Skeroblin L, Jun 2; 1 L nan Gad, Sep 28.  
II Islay: 1 L Tallant, Jun 16, was only summer record; 2 L nan Cadhan, Oct

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

3; 1 L Skerrols, Nov 25; 1 L Ballygrant, Nov 28, Dec 3 & 28. Colonsay: b/4 reared, East L Fada; no sightings Oct 7 - Dec 31.

IV 1 L Leathan, Kilmichael Glassary, Jan 31; 1 Tainish, Nov 23 - Dec 18.

V Tiree: 1 L Bhasapol, Jan 17; 1 L Hough, Jan 23; 2 L Riaghainn & 2 L Bhasapol, Oct 30; 5 L Bhasapol, Dec 22. Mull: 1 nr. L Assapol, May - Dec.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille brighde 0450 OC  
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 76% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Campbeltown Loch: 220 on Mar 26; 90 on May 29; 550 on Aug 6. Steady passage past Uisaed Pt, Aug 11-29 with max. count of 140 S/3hrs, Aug 24; 480 Machrihanish golf course, Aug 19.

II Islay: 7 N, 47 S, Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 24.

III 150+ L Riddon, Sep 10; 501 Holy Loch, Sep 17.

IV Birds 1st noted at inland breeding territories, Feb 9; 92 Dunstaffnage Bay roost, Aug 16.

V Coll & Tiree: immigrant non-breeders (collared) evident from early June.

VI 135 Ledaig Pt, Aug 26; 70 (max count) L Laich, Aug 28.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	87	248	268	311	180	292	254	108	68	65	76	102
L Indaal	467	457	433	489	347	444	367	292	371	498	238	282
L Gilp	—	—	—	119	42	82	35	340	470	—	—	—

Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan traghad 0470 RP  
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I 82, race *C.h. tundrae*, Rhunahoarine Pt, May 17-18; 40 S/3hrs past Uisaed Pt, Aug 24; 41 in recently ploughed field at Balloch Farm, Sep 7; 25 Caradale, Sep 12; 50 S past Uisaed Pt, Oct 21.

II Islay: 100 Traigh Nostaig, Jun 5. Colonsay: 200+ Strand, Jan 1 & Nov 12.

V Tiree: inland breeding sites probably restricted due to very wet conditions of early spring, although numbers on a par with 1987 survey. Many coastal prs had fy whilst inland birds still incubating. Coastal counts of 339 (Sep 13-14) & 812 (Oct 8-13). Mull: passage flock of 100+, L na Keal, Aug 29; 72 Iona, Nov 21.

VI Ledaig Pt: 45 on Jul 30, 40 on Aug 18; 107 on Aug 26; 23 on Dec 28. Other records: 20 Benderloch saltmarsh, Jul 30.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	13	17	29	24	18	—	—	35	33	36	38	40
L Gruinart	21	26	19	8	31	13	12	85	—	—	33	21
L Indaal	64	33	27	38	45	43	66	32	205	33	—	—

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mointich 0482 DO  
P Scarce. Has bred, region VI. All records required. 1989#:

II Islay: 4 Airigh nan Sidhean, May 6 [MM/MP]; 1M 4FF Druim na h-Eresaid, Gruinart, May 10 [MP].

Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* Feadag 0485 GP  
B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species. Upland afforestation has greatly reduced available breeding habitat in some areas. Breeding recorded in 19% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: very early return to breeding grounds reported from many areas.

I Irregular passage past Uisaed Pt, Aug 17 - Oct 25, inc. flock of 150 S, Oct 18; 352 present at Laggan, Oct 12, declining to 51 by Nov 15.

II Islay: Est. 10+ prs bred, Glas Bheinn area [MAO]. Spring passage Mar 11

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- Apr 18, inc. 24 Saligo, Mar 31; 10 (N-pl) L Gruinart, Apr 3 & 74 (S/Int-pl), Toranore, Apr 18. Larger nos. on return passage, eg. 100+ Ardnave & 100+ L Indaal, Oct 14; 235 (max count) L Gruinart, Oct 20. Wintering birds inc. 150 Ardnave Pt, Dec 4; 100+ Beinn Bheigeir, Dec 26. Colonsay: c30 Ardskenish, Apr 16; 22 Traigh nam Barc, Nov 21.

- V Tíree: 1150 (max. spring count) Apr 22; larger flocks dominated by N-pl birds, which remained until cMay 3; S-pl birds generally in prs or small flocks of up to 12 and remained until May 28. Return migrants from early Aug, eg. 160 Kilmoluaig, Aug 7; 580 around coast + at least 660 inland (Sept 13-14) & 580 coastal + 410 inland (Oct 8-13). Mull: 1 calling in usual territory, Beinn na Cille, Feb 1; at least 10 S-pl birds on territory, Ardmeanach, Feb 26; 21 Knockantivore, Mar 1 & 24 Mar 17-20; c60 Fiddien, Oct 7.

- VI Bred Beinn Donn; 9 (n-pl) Cuil Bay, Mar 2.

Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Trilleachan

0486 GV

P W Uncommon passage migrant. A few winter. 1989:

- I 2 Smerby Mouth, nr Campbelltown Loch, 5 dates in March; 1 was associating with a Lapwing + b/3, Machrihanish, May 16; 2 S Southend, Sep 22; 2 S past Uisaed Pt, Sep 26; 3 S over Laggan, Oct 1.  
II Islay: 9 L Indaal, Jan 15; 23 Killinallan, Feb 24; 2 L Gruinart, Mar 15 & Oct 20; 1 L Indaal, Aug 29. Colonsay: 5 Strand, Jan 8.  
V Tíree: 1 L a Phuill, Apr 8; 2 Vaul, June 5. Coll: 1 Crossapol Bay, May 8. Mull: 1 juv Fiddien, Oct 7.  
VI 1 Ledaig Pt, Jan 17.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Carracag

0493 L

B W P Widespread breeding & wintering species associated with rough grazings, arable fields & machair. Breeding recorded in 44% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Total of 68 breeding prs located, Laggan: few present, Aug-Sep, increasing to 150 by Oct 11; flock of 1,000 arrived, Nov 4; 40 Southend, Dec 12.  
II Islay: 140 prs bred, L Gruinart. Large influx at L Gruinart in Feb, with 345 present, Feb 2 & 1000+ on Feb 14.  
III 46 L Long, Jan 29; 143 (max count) Ardyne, Dec 6.  
IV Birds noted on inland breeding territories from Mar 28.  
V Tíree: counts of 390 around coast (Sep 13-14) & 379 coastal + 650 inland (Oct 8-13).

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	—	252	2	23	—	—	31	99	216	755	222	51
L Indaal	46	829	156	1	—	5	12	35	43	342	—	47

Knot *Calidris canutus* Luatharan gainmhich

0496 KN

W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage, Aug - Sep. A few winter. 1989:

- I 1 Clachan, Mar 25; small nos. on autumn passage, Uisaed Pt, with peaks of 17 (Aug 24) & 27 (Sep 7).  
II Islay: L Indaal - 37 on Mar 11; 14 on May 25; 46 on Aug 31; 19 on Oct 30; 3 on Dec 28. Max. count at L Gruinart was 50 on Aug 23.  
III 5 Blackharbour, Sep 6.  
IV 3 Dunstaffnage Bay, Aug 16; 1 L Gilp, Sep 17; 1 S off Kerrera, Dec 30.  
V Tíree: 4 (s/pl) L a Phuill, Jul 20-21; 6 Gott Bay, Aug 18.  
VI 3 L Laich, Aug 13. Ledaig Pt: 9 on Aug 16; 1 ad 4 imm. on Aug 24; 13 on Aug 26; 1 on Dec 27.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Luatharan glas 0497 SS  
W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage May & Aug. A few winter, mainly Islay (II) & Tiree (V). Occasionally recorded in summer. 1989:

- I 1 6 Machrihanish Bay, May 16; 11 Rhunaharine Pt, May 17-18; main return passage Aug, with peak of 69, Uisaed Pt, Aug 24; 20 Machrihanish Bay, Oct 5.
- II Islay: spring passage - 30 Ardnave Pt, May 29; 70 Traigh Nostaig, Jun 5. Return passage - 2 Traigh an Luig, Aug 1; 9 S Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 22; 220 (max count) L Gruinart, Aug 23; 67 Traigh an Luig, Aug 30; 1 Bruichladdich, Sep 1; 12 Ardnave, Oct 6. Colonsay: 1 Tobar Fuar, Jul 23; 8 Strand & 8 Oronsay, Sep 2; 2ad + 1 imm. Balnashard Bay, Sep 3.
- V Tiree: 1st s/pl birds on May 2; nos. remained high until Jun 10, then none from Jun 11 - Jul 2. Main return Aug, with min. of 214 present, Aug 25. Coastal counts: 360 (Sep 13-14), 385 (Oct 8-13) & 352 (Dec 7). Mull: 1 w/pl Salen, Aug 21; 1 imm. Salen, Aug 22; 12 Iona, Aug 26; 5 Calgary Bay, Sep 21.
- VI 1 imm. Ledaig Pt, Aug 11.

**Little stint** *Calidris minuta* Luatharan beag 0501 LX  
P Scarce. 1989#:

- I 1 s/pl A'Chleit, May 24; 1 S past Uisaed Pt, Oct 5.
- II 10+ L Gruinart, Islay, Aug 25 [DIMW].

**Pectoral sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* 0507 PP  
V 1989#:

- II Islay: 1 L na Nigheadaireachd, May 29 [JMcM]; 1 Carnain, Sep 8 [GJ]. Both records subject to acceptance by SBRC.

**Curlew sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan crom 0509 CV  
P Scarce / irregular. 1989#:

- I 1 S past Uisaed Pt, Aug 24 [EJM/RAGA].
- II 1 L Gruinart, Aug 26 [DIMW].
- V S/pl ad. Caoles, Coll, May 8 [AK].

**Purple sandpiper** *Calidris maritima* Luatharan rioghail 0510 PS  
W P Widely distributed along rocky coasts, Aug-May. 1989:

- I 22 Carradale Pt, Mar 30. Uisaed Pt: 2 S on Aug 20; 3 on Sep 2; up to 15, Oct 20-24 & 43 S /1.5hrs on Oct 25. Westport: 20 S, Dec 1; flock of 40 on rocks, Dec 20.
- II Islay: 22 L Indaal, Jan 15; last - 2 Bruichladdich, May 8; return passage - 9 S Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20; small wintering flocks of up to 5 birds seen from Oct 22.
- V Coll & Tiree: most remained until end of April, with 1 or 2 still present early May, then 2 s/pl on May 26; 1st return - 1 Mannal, Oct 13. Mull: c15 Portfield, Mar 31; 4 Grasspoint, Dec 3.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Graillig 0512 DN

B W P Very localised breeding species. Mainly recorded on passage with only small numbers wintering. A total of 60 birds counted during fieldwork for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding recorded in 12% of 10km sq so far covered. 1989:

- I Territorial birds located at 2 sites. Spring migrants inc. 170+ Rhunaharine Pt, May 17-18; return passage peak of 206 S /3hrs past Uisaed Pt co-incided with max. count of 120 at RAF Machrihanish, Aug 24.
- II Islay: 1 pr bred, Gruinart. Small spring passage - 35 L Indaal, Apr 22; c100

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flew into L Indaal from S on Apr 27; 70 Traigh Nostaig, Jun 5. Colonsay: up to 200, Strand, winter / spring; 29 Tobar Fuar, Jul 23.

IV 1M singing, nr Brackley, Dalmally, May 31.

V Tíree: 150 prs located, a reduction of 233% on 1987/8 when same areas checked (many 1988 sites totally dry this year); birds present on beaches until c Jun 4, with s/pl individuals noted from Apr 16; 232 (max. spring passage count) L a Phuill, May 25; none away from breeding grounds, Jun 4 - Jul 25, then 200 (max. return passage count) L a Phuill, Jul 25. Coastal counts: 120 (Sep 13-14) & 88 (Oct 8-13).

VI Benderloch saltmarsh: 15 s/pl on Jul 30; 44 on Aug 18.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	38	53	65	34	17	—	—	7	100	7	11	59
L Gruinart	57	184	14	—	81	7	40	665	34	3	127	231
L Indaal	223	106	87	—	32	17	161	85	172	52	60	144

Buff-breasted sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

0516

V 1989#:

V 1 Gott Bay, Tíree, Sep 6 [MH]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan

0517 RU

P Scarce / irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn. 1989#:

I Singles: S past Uisaed Pt, Aug 17, Sep 7 & 13; 3 Laggan, Aug 27.

II Islay: 2 Bridgend Merse, Aug 23-28, then 1 Aug 30 & Sep 5; 3 L Gruinart, Aug 25; 1 Bruichladdich, Oct 7. Colonsay: 1 Balnahard Bay, Aug 26.

V Tíree: 1 L a' Phuill, Aug 8-10; 9 An Fhaodhail, Aug 24; 1 Airstrip, Oct 8-10.

Jack snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus* Gobhrag bheag

0518 JS

W P Probably under-recorded. 1989#:

I 2 Gorton, Clachan, Mar 25.

II Islay: 1 Gruinart, Feb 27; 1 Coultorsay, Oct 22; 1 Gruinart, Dec 21.

IV 1 Taynish, Feb 10.

V Tíree: 1 Vaul, Jan 18; 2 Clachan, Oct 12; 1 An Fhaodhail, Oct 26. Mull: 1 Gorton, Nov 5; 1 Lochdon, Nov 26.

VI Single seen on sev. occasions, L Laich, early Apr; 1 Ledaig Pt, Nov 20.



Jack snipe.

© P. Know 90

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**Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg** 0519 SN  
B W P Widespread, locally common. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Uisaed Pt: 49 S/1.5hrs, Aug 21; 14 flew in off sea, Sep 11.
- II Islay: 65 S Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20; 12 Bruichladdich shore, Sep 7; 58 Gruinart, Sep 10.
- V Tiree: coastal counts of 39 (Sep 13-14) & 246 (Oct 8-13); 93 on shore + group of 30 above HWM, Clachan Mor, Dec 8. Mull: single flock of c70 Fidden, Oct 7.

**Dowitcher spp. *Limnodromus* spp.**

V 1989#:

- II 1 L Indaal, Islay, Oct 25-26 [PC et al.]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

**Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach coille** 0529 WK  
B W P Widespread but sparse distribution. Breeding recorded in 13% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I small nos. noted at Mull of Kintyre, late Oct - early Nov.
- V Mull: ad seen carrying 1 of 2 chicks (approx. one-third grown) a distance of c10 metres, May 19 [MM].

**Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* Cearra ghob** 0532 BW  
P Scarce. Main passage Aug. 1989#:

- I 9 off Uisaed Pt, Aug 17; 1 Machrihanish Bay, Aug 14; 1 over Uisaed Pt, Aug 24.
- II Islay: 1 Carnain, Apr 5; 1 ad (s/pl) Ardnave, Jul 10; 2 L Gorm, Aug 1; 7 (max. count) L Gruinart, Aug 23; 1 Bridgend Merse, Aug 28.
- V Tiree: 4 s/pl L an Eilein, Apr 27-28; 1 L a Phuill, Aug 2 & 4; 19 E Balephet-rish, Aug 10; 10 An Fhaodhail, Aug 24; 3 L a Phuill, Sep 9. Mull: 4 Lochdon, Apr 28; 4 partial s/pl, Salen, Aug 23-24; 1 Kinloch, Sep 21.

**Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* Cearra ghob mhor** 0534 BA  
W P Uncommon passage migrant, majority of records in autumn. Wintering birds on Islay & small nos. Colonsay & Tiree; few elsewhere. Occasional summer records. 1989:

- I 3 Gigha, Mar 5. Uisaed Pt: autumn passage Aug 14 - Sep 15, with peak counts of 19 (Aug 16) & 25 (Sep 10). Also, 2 Tarbert, Aug 24.
- II Islay: spring passage - max. L Indaal count was 90 on May 14; small nos. remained all summer at L Indaal, eg. 9 on Jun 7; returning passage birds from mid-July, with max. count of 35 Bruichladdich, Jul 31. Colonsay: up to 25, Strand, winter / spring; last - 3 Ardskenish, May 23; first return - 7 on Jul 6; 13 on Sep 17, declining to 7 by Dec 16.
- IV 1 Dunstaffnage Bay, Sep 16; 5 Lochgilphead, Dec 22.
- V Tiree: 57 Gott Bay, Mar 16; summering birds inc 3 at Hynish & 11 at Soa; return passage birds from Jul 7, then 16 on Aug 25, 31 on Sep 13-14, 10 on Oct 8-13 & 26 by Dec 7. Mull: 1 w/pl Salen, Aug 20-24; 1 Iona, Nov 21; 1 Lochdon, Dec 3.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	151	83	98	130	—	—	8	16	13	82	89	158
L Indaal	117	111	105	—	18	29	90	3	86	119	31	33

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Eun bealltainn** 0538 WM  
P Uncommon. Main passage May & Aug. 1989:

- I 66 Machrihanish, May 8; 31 Kildonan, May 16. Uisaed Pt: main return passage Aug, with max. count of 20 S/3hrs on Aug 11; 2 S Sep 21 & 1 on Sep 22.

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- II Scarba: 1 on Apr 20. Islay: 1st - L Gruinart, Apr 22, then 3 L Indaal on Apr 26; main spring passage May 2-14 with peaks of 30 (May 3) & 43 (May 12), both at Coul; returning birds from Jul 20 with main passage Aug, eg. 58 S Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 23; late birds inc. 1 L Indaal, Nov 4 & 1 with injured leg, Claggain Bay, Nov 25. Colonsay: 4 on May 27; 6 on Aug 13; 2 Oronsay, Nov 26.
- III Ardyne: 1st on Apr 18; 8 on May 13.
- IV 1 N Lochgilphead, Jul 20.
- V Tiree: 1st on May 2, then regular (max. count 8) until mid-Sep with possible increase in July; singles at airstrip, Oct 8 & Vaul, Oct 11.

**Curlew *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach 0541 CU**  
 B W P Common. Breeding recorded in 40% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I 118 L nan Gad, Mar 25. Machrihanish Bay / Laggan: 260 on Mar 26; 475 on Nov 4. Campbeltown Loch (peak counts): 124 on Mar 26 & 103 on Aug 6. Uisaed Pt: autumn passage noted Aug 19 - Sep 23, with peak of 121 on Sep 3. Tayinloan: 140 on Nov 2.
- II Islay: 17 prs bred, L Gruinart.
- III 60 L Riddon, Sep 10; 83 Holy Loch, Sep 17.
- V Coll & Tiree: influxes mid-late April & Jul/Aug; flock of 107 seen to spiral down from great height onto Tiree, Apr 17; 240 at roost, La Phuill, Aug 2.
- VI 58 (max count) L Laich, Aug 13.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	81	59	54	28	—	—	—	110	56	62	76	53
L Gruinart	219	380	219	108	69	193	459	577	292	460	258	230
L Indaal	492	553	276	144	31	—	161	535	690	724	439	293

**Spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh bhreac 0545 DR**  
 P Scarce / irregular. 1989#:  
 I 1 S over Uisaed Pt, Aug 19.

**Redshank *Tringa totanus* Cam ghlas 0546 RK**  
 B W P Localised breeder. Widespread passage migrant & wintering species. Breeding recorded in 35% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Uisaed Pt: main autumn passage Aug, with peaks of 44 S/3hrs, Aug 24 & flock of 71 S, Aug 28.
- II Islay: 13 prs bred, L Gruinart. 45 L Gorm, Islay, Aug 31. Colonsay: 32 (max count) Strand, Jan 8.
- III 36 Holy Loch, Sep 17.
- V 100 L Riaghainn, Tiree, Apr 24.
- VI 30 (max count) L Laich, Sep 13.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	10	13	0	10	—	—	—	—	11	17	17	8
L Gruinart	51	11	27	24	16	12	4	3	1	—	36	26
L Indaal	11	4	9	16	8	25	29	3	6	6	5	14

**Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Deoch bhuidhe 0548 GK**  
 B W P Very scarce breeding species (regions V & VI only in recent years). Small nos. on passage with a few birds wintering in some localities.

- I 1 N, Kennacraig, May 17; 1 imm. Smerby Mouth, Aug 6-15; 1 Mac-hrihanish Bay, Aug 7-8; 1 S past Uisaed Pt, Aug 26; imms. seen on 5 dates, Pollwilline Bay, Aug 18 - Sep 28.
- II Islay: 2 L Gruinart, Feb 18 & 5 (max count) present, Jul 24; 3 L Gorm, Jul

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- 26; 1 Claggain Bay, Jul 31; 1 Bridgend Merse, Aug 28; 1 L. Indaal Nov 25 & 27. Colonsay: 7 (max count) Strand, Jan 8; 1 Port Lobh, Jun 17; 1 Strand, Dec 16.
- III 2 Finart Bay, Aug 27.
- IV 3 R Add, Jul 25; 1 L Nant, Aug 25. Crinan Bay: 2 on Aug 9 & 1 on Sep 16. L Gilp: 2 on Aug 20 & Sep 17; 1 on Dec 8.
- V Tíree: 1 L a Phuill, Jul 19, then up to 7 present until Aug 4 & 1 on Sep 11. Mull: Bred - pr copulating Apr 14; ads with young, Jun 5. 1 L Beg, Jan 17 - Feb 25; 2 Dervaig, Mar 6 & Aug 1; 9 (max count) Lochdon, Sep 2; 4 Kinloch, Oct 3; 1 L Spelve, Nov 28; 2 Lochdon, Dec 31.
- VI Bred at 1 site & single ads present at 2 other localities, Jun 3. Benderloch saltmarsh: 2 on Jul 30; 4 on Aug 21. L Laich: 2 on Aug 28; 1 on Sep 2.

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan uaine 0553 GE  
P Scarce. 1989#:

- I 1 Sanda Is, Aug 9.
- II 1 Killinallan, Islay, Mar 3; 1 Strand, Colonsay, Jul 22.

Wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Luatharan coille 0554 OD  
P Rare. 1989#:

- V 1 Balemartine, Tíree, Jul 3-5.

Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556 CS  
S P Widespread & common breeding visitor. Breeding recorded in 68% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: *arrivals* - 1 L Riddon (III), Apr 14; 1 Scarba (II), Apr 19; 1 L Beg, Mull (V), Apr 21; 1 Connel (IV), May 4. *Departure* - 14 Machrihanish Bay (I), Aug 11; 12 L Laich (VI), Aug 13; 1 Tighnabruaich (III), Aug 26; 1 Grasspoint, Mull (V), Sep 5; 1 Uisaed Pt (I), Sep 10.

- V At least 12 inland prs & 5 coastal prs bred, Coll.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan beag gobhlachan 0561 TT  
W P Widespread & common on rocky shorelines & seaweed strandlines, mainly Aug-May.

- I 38 Campbeltown Loch, Mar 26; 2 Sanda Is, Aug 12. Uisaed Pt: autumn passage Aug 11 - Sep 7, with peak of 51 S/3hrs, Aug 24. Machrihanish Bay: 18 on Sep 18, with 30 by Oct 25.

- II Islay: 30 Frenchman's Rocks, Oct 22; 109 (max count) L Gruinart, Dec 20.

- IV 20 Oban Esplanade, Oct 4 & 20.

- V Tíree: 93 around coast, early Jun, then small nos. until mid-Jul, when nos. started to increase; coastal counts of 391 (Sep 13-14) & 842 (Oct 8-13); 283 Clachan Mor, Dec 8. Mull: 19 Scallastle Bay, Jan 26; c50 head of L na Keal, Aug 29.

- VI Ledaig Pt: 40 on Jan 17; 15 on Apr 30; 2 s/pl on Jul 31; 12 on Aug 11; 43 on Aug 24; 39 on Dec 28.

BOEE Counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	67	82	69	10	—	—	—	7	28	35	60	109
L Indaal	49	15	37	24	—	—	4	34	39	35	7	18

Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan allt 0564 NK  
S P Rare breeder at one locality only. 1989: 1 pr present & bred at usual locality, successfully fledging 2-3 young [RSPB].

Grey phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag allt 0565 PL  
P Irregular. 1989#:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1 on Sep 17 & 1 N on Oct 2 [EJM/RAGA].
- II 1 ad Gruinart, Islay, Nov 3 [MP].

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

## Phalarope spp.

II 1 Bridgend, Islay, Sep 21 [RPW].

## Pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair donn

0566 PK

P Scarce, 1989#:

I 1 imm Kilbrannan Sound, Mar 8-24; 5 ›N off Uisaed Pt, May 9; single ads ›S past Ru Stafnish, Sep 15 & 19; 1 juv ›S past Uisaed Pt, Sep 20; 1 juv ›N past Uisaed Pt, Sep 26 [all EJM].

II 1 ›S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 20-26 [DIMW].

V 1 between Coll & Mull, Oct 13 [DCJ].

## Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair

0567 AC

S P Small breeding colonies on Jura (II) & Coll (V). Passage birds off all coasts, Apr-Oct, 1989:

I Carradale: 2 ads (d/m) ›S, Aug 19. Uisaed Pt: total of 34 seen ›S during Aug & Sep, with peaks of 5 (Aug 21) & 7 (Sep 20) during heavy Kittiwake passage. Ru Stafnish: 1 ad (d/m), Oct 4.

II Islay: 1 (d/m) flying over Gruinart flats, May 19; 4 ›S past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26. Jura: 3 calling at N breeding site, May 10 & 3prs + single present, Jun 26.

III 1 (l/m) ›N L Riddon, Jul 9.

IV 1 L Sween, May 14; 1 (i/m) sub-ad off Inverary, Sep 18.

V Coll: bred at 3 sites, with an early July total of 37prs; min. of 14 juvs seen, Aug 11-14. Other counts: 1 (l/m) Duart Pt, Mull, Jun 18; 1 sub-ad inland at L Bhasapol, Tiree, Jul 7; 3 (d/m) Tobermory - Coll, Aug 26; 4 ›N Tobermory - Coll, Sep 9; 1 ›W Hynish, Tiree, Oct 12.

VI 3 harrying terns off S Lismore, Aug 13.

## Great skua *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair mor

0569 NX

S P Uncommon passage migrant & summer visitor. 1989: Breeding proven for the first time in Argyll - see region V. The 3 winter records for Islay (II) are very unusual.

I Carradale: 1 ›S on Aug 19. Uisaed Pt: 5 seen, Aug 16-27; singles Sep 13 & 14, Oct 4 & 17. Ru Stafnish: 3 ›S/1hr on Sep 1; 2 ›S/2hrs, Sep 18; 4 ›S/2hrs on Sep 19.

II Islay: 1 L Indaal, Feb 6; 1 dead, Strand, Feb 6; 7 ›S & 2 ›N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26; 1 off Port Ellen, Nov 28. Colonsay: 1 off golf course, Jul 22; 2 off Balerominmore, Sep 5.

III Single seen regularly off Otter Ferry, L Fyne, Jun 14 - Aug 13, with 2 present, Jun 25.

IV 4 with large concentration of terns, Reisa Mhic Phaidean, Sound of Jura, Aug 19.

V Coll: pair with c/1 (unsuccessful) in area where single bird present in 1987. Bird(s) present in a 2nd area thought to be a different pair. This is the most southerly world breeding record. Also - 1 harrying Gannets, Treshnish Isles, Jul 23; 1 ›S Grasspoint, Mull, Aug 30; small nos. (max. 3) seen off Tiree, Aug 17 - Oct 13, plus 1 inland at Port Snoig, Sep 8.

## Little gull *Larus minutus* Crann fhaioileag

0578 LU

P Scarce, 1989#:

I 1 ad Gigha, Aug 18; 2 imms Carradale, Aug 19-30; singles at Uisaed Pt, Aug 9 & Sep 1 (both 1st yr plumage).

II 1 juv Bridgend, Islay, Aug 30; 1 ad. Balnahard, Colonsay, Aug 25.

IV 1 imm off Dunderave Pt, L Fyne, Sep 18.

V 1 juv Balemartine, Tiree, Aug 24; 1 L Spelve, Mull, Aug 22.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

## Sabine's gull *Larus sabini*

0579 AB

V Irregular. 1989#:

I Uisaed Pt: 2 juvs S on Sep 21; 1 juv S Sep 25 [EJM].

Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

## Black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* Faoileag a' chinn duibh

0582 BH

B W P Common except some islands. 1989:

I 10 prs present, Sgeir a Choire, West L Tarbert, Jun 26. Spring passage noted from Mar 20: 680 N Tayinloan, Mar 25; 350 N Machrihanish, Mar 29. Uisaed Pt: regular, Aug 7 - Oct 31, with max. count of 900+ on Sep 19; small passage, Oct 9-30, with peak of 180 S/hrs on Oct 13.

II c150 birds at main breeding site on Colonsay, May 23; 9 Strand, Colonsay, Oct 19.

IV 119 prs present, Sgeir na Caillich, L Melfort, May 27; 272 prs Eilean Inshaig, L Craignish, May 27; 112 prs Whitehouse Bay, L Fyne, May 30. Other records: 93 (max count), L Gilp, Jul 23; 41 Kerrera, Dec 30.

V Tiree: 432 prs occupying 15 colonies (complete survey) - a decrease of 37% on 1987 figures.

BOEE counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	14	3	170	226	8	27	119	8	64	45	7	—
L Indaal	60	132	153	102	9	73	82	14	120	13	35	19

## Ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis*

0589

V Scarce. 1989#:

II Islay: 2nd yr bird Machir Bay, May 4-12 [CMCK/MP]; 1 2nd winter, L Indaal, Dec 14 [NSJ/SMW].

III 1 ad. Holy Loch, Feb 2 [SJP].

## Common gull *Larus canus* Faoileag

0590 CM

B W P Widespread & common breeding species. 1989:

I 67 occ. nests, L na Beiste, May 17; 25 occ. nests, Sanda Is, Jun 27. Uisaed Pt: regular Aug 7 - Oct 31, with max. count of 1,500 on Aug 27; modest passage, Oct 13-30.

II 23 prs bred, L Gruinart, Islay.

IV 50 prs present, Liath Eilean, Danna, Jul 1. L Gilp: peaks of 126 on Jun 18 & 150 on Aug 20.

V Tiree: 330-350 prs occupying 19 colonies (complete survey) - a similar total that of 1987. Coll: 50-80 prs. estimated.

VI 218 prs present, Eilean Mor, L Etive, May 20-30; 237 prs present, Kilmaronaig, L Etive, May 23.

BOEE counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	61	187	374	112	14	23	20	32	440	180	124	74
L Indaal	320	573	365	275	83	68	104	288	128	212	95	52

## Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* Faoileag bheag

0591 LB

S P Common breeding species, generally present Mar-Sep. Occasional winter records. 1989:

I 60 occupied nests, Sanda Is, Jun 27. First - Mar 12, then 110 Southend, Mar 24; 750 Laggan, during silage operations, May 16; last - Mull of Kintyre, Oct 8.

II Islay: first - Mar 12; max BOEE counts - 22 L Gruinart (Jun 20) & 30 L Indaal (Sep 18); last - Oct 10.

III First - Tighnabruaich, Mar 25; 181 Holy Loch, Sep 17; last L Long Oct 19.

IV 23 nests located Corr Eilean, McCormaig Isles, May 27; 110+ prs present in 3 colonies surveyed, Sound of Jura, Jul 6. Last - 1 Oban Harbour, Nov 2.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- V Tíree: 246 breeding prs located, 4 less than in 1986-88. Flock of 168 Balephuill Bay, Sep 13. Coll: min. of 128 prs breeding.  
 VI First - 2 L Etive, Mar 18.

Herring gull *Larus argentatus* Faoileag an sgadain 0592 HG  
 B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Some evidence for immigration into Argyll in winter - colour ringing studies have shown that these birds are probably from the Clyde & NE England. Note - due to evidence of a decline in the British population, further colour-ringing is to be undertaken in Argyll & elsewhere. All records of these birds are required, especially those at breeding colonies. 1989:

- I 1500-1800 occupied nests, Sanda Is, Jun 27; 300-320 breeding prs recorded at 6 colonies elsewhere on Kintyre. Counts: 2,500 Machrihanish, during silage operations, May 16; 1,000+ following 3 trawlers, Kilbrannan Sound, May 15; 6,000 Laggan, Aug 21; 157 Tarbert Harbour, Dec 16.  
 IV 151 nests located, McCormaig Isles, May 27; 210+ breeding prs in 5 colonies surveyed, Sound of Jura, Jul 6; 100 prs present, Eilean Aoghainn, L Fyne, Jul 29. Max count, L Gilp, was 672 on Jul 23.  
 V Tíree: total of 1051 breeding prs (complete survey) - a decrease of 29% on the 1986-88 estimate of 1473 prs. Coll: min. of 365-385 breeding prs.  
 VI 176 prs present at 3 colonies, L Etive, May 20-30; 60 prs present, Eilean nan Caorach, L Linnhe, Jun 28; 100 prs present, Eilean Balnagowan, L Linnhe, Jul 23.

BOEE counts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	11	15	122	412	17	48	75	12	436	322	7	28
L Indaal	627	116	105	57	152	30	33	170	336	115	35	28

Iceland gull *Larus glaucooides* Faoileag liath 0598 IG  
 W Scarce. 1989#:

- I 2nd winter bird, nr Westport, Oct 23.  
 II Islay: imm. Port Ellen, Jan 14; 1st winter bird, Bruichladdich - Blackrock, Mar 10 - Apr 14; 2nd winter bird, Port Askaig, Dec 23.  
 V 2nd summer bird at Hough Bay, Tíree, Jun 10; 1st winter bird at Grasspoint, Mull, Dec 29.

Glaucous gull *Larus hyperboreus* Faoileag mhor 0599 GZ  
 W Scarce but more frequently recorded than Iceland Gull. 1989:

- I 2nd winter bird at Campbeltown Loch, Mar 10; 1 West L Tarbert, Nov 27; 1ad Campbeltown Loch, Nov 11 - Dec 31.  
 II Islay: records Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec, involving at least 4 individuals. Majority of records from L Indaal.  
 V Tíree: 3rd summer bird at Hynish, Apr 25 - May 22; 2nd summer bird L a Phuill, Apr 28 & Jun 23.

Great black-backed gull *Larus marinus* Farspag 0600 GB  
 B W Common & widespread. 1989:

- I 30-35 occupied nests, Sanda Is, Jun 25. Max. count of 94, Campbeltown Loch, Mar 24; 220 nr fish farm, Machrihanish, May 23.  
 II Islay: peak BOEE counts of 68 (Jan 12) & 48 (Aug 23), L Indaal. Colonsay: 20-30 breeding prs on island off Oronsay.  
 IV 26 nests found, Corr Eilean, McCormaig Isles, May 27; 40 prs present, Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, Jul 1.  
 V Tíree: 94 breeding prs recorded occupying 8 colonies - an increase of 34% on 1986-88 figures. Large loafing / bathing flock built up at L a Phuill from mid-Aug, with 116 present Sep 9, 430 (max. count) on Oct 10 & 191 on Dec 5. Coll: 61 breeding prs located - c60% were solitary prs evenly distributed across rocky moorland.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

### Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag

0602 KI

B P Main breeding colonies on Islay & Colonsay (II) and Tiree & Treshnish Is. (V). 1989:

- I 50 nest sites, Sanda Is, Jun 25. Uisaed Pt: small passage noted from mid-Aug; main passage Sep 11-24 with max. count of 2,000 ♂S /3hrs, Sep 20; regular in Oct with peak Oct 21-25. Ru Stafnish: 550 ♂S /4hrs, Nov 2; 125 ♂S on Dec 13.
- II Islay: 923 ♂S & 9 ♂N past Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 20-26. Colonsay: flock of 1000 Kiloran Bay, Jun 17.
- IV c110 at head of L Fyne, Jun 9; 350-400 off Keillbeg, Knapdale, Aug 27; 58 L Gilp, Sep 17.
- V Tiree: 901 occupied nests recorded, Ceann a' Mhara - a very similar total to that of 1988; birds gathered at L a Phuill to roost / bathe during breeding season, with max. of c100 on Jun 11. Other counts: 189 Oban - Mull, Aug 22; 500 off Urvaig, Tiree, Oct 11.

### Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Stearnag mhor

0611 TE

B P Very rare / irregular breeding species. Uncommon passage migrant. 1989:

- I 12 lingered & seen to carry sand-eels at a C. Tern colony in Machrihanish Bay, May 10-24. Sanda Is: first - April 23, then 2 on Apr 29 & May 11; 1 on Jul 22 & Sep 19. West L Tarbert: 5 on Aug 18. Uisaed Pt: main autumn passage Aug 18-26 with max. count 20 ♂S /3hrs, Aug 22; small nos. seen thereafter until Sep 26.
- II Islay: 1 Bruichladdich, Mar 28 & 1 Portnahaven, Mar 30; 2 off Port Ellen, Jun 10; main autumn passage Aug 17-26 with max. count of 8+, Port Charlotte, Aug 24; 2 Bruichladdich, Sep 14; 1 L Gruinart, Sep 18; 1 L Indaal, Oct 8.
- III 3 ♂S Port Anne, Jul 31; 1ad + 1 imm Glenan Bay, Aug 2; 11 W Kyle, Aug 5; 1ad + 1 imm L Riddon, Aug 6; small nos. seen almost daily in W Kyle, Aug 11 - Sep 9, then 1ad + 1 imm on Sep 25; 35+ counted in L Long between Hunters Quay & Ardentinn, Sep 1.
- V Tiree: 2 ads L a Phuill, Jun 26; 2 ads Gott Bay, Jul 1; 1 Balemartine, Aug 17; 3 (inc 1 imm.) Gott Bay, Aug 25. Mull: 2 juvs, Grasspoint, Aug 28 - Sep 4.

### Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* Stearnag stiuireach

0614 RS

S P Scarce non-breeding visitor. 1989#:

- I 1 imm. off Gigha, Aug 26.
- II 2 ♂S past Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Aug 20-26; 1ad off Scalasaig, Colonsay, Aug 23.

[All records DIMW]. All subject to acceptance by SBRC.

### Common tern *Sterna hirundo* Stearnag

0615 CN

S P Widespread & common breeding species. 1989: 17 colonies (inc 10 mixed Common / Arctic Tern) were monitored, mostly off mainland coast. A total of 1185 clutches were found & c1024-1224 young fledged. Complete breeding failure was noted at 5 pure & 4 mixed colonies. The 2 largest colonies held 79% of clutches & 93% of fledged young. Monitoring was carried out as part of a wider survey into tern breeding success in west Scotland. The data indicates a generally good breeding season. However, at 2 colonies in L Fyne, low adult weights, low clutch sizes & total fledging failure suggested severe food shortage in that area. Predation of chicks by otter & mink reduced breeding success considerably at some colonies [JCAC]. Additional breeding information given below:

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- I 46 prs breeding at 4 Kintyre colonies monitored in May. Last - 1 N past Uisaed Pt, Sep 23.
- II Islay: 9 prs bred.
- IV First - 1 L Feochan, May 21.
- V Tiree: 12 prs bred; first - May 26. Coll: at least 31 prs present. Treshnish Is: at least 1 present, Jul 2.
- VI post-breeding gathering of 50 (inc 20 juv) Ledaig Pt, Aug 15.

Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* Stearnal 0616 AE  
 S P Widespread & common breeding species. 1989: 15 colonies (inc 10 mixed Common / Arctic Tern) were monitored, mostly off mainland coast. A total of 245 clutches were found & c104-120 young fledged. Complete breeding failure was noted at 3 pure & 4 mixed colonies. The 2 largest colonies held 34% of clutches & 70% of fledged young. Monitoring was carried out as part of a wider survey into tern breeding success in west Scotland [JCAC]. Additional breeding information given below:

- I 20 prs breeding at 4 Kintyre colonies monitored in May; c35 prs at Bellochinty, May. First - 2 on Apr 23, Sanda Is.
- II 75+ prs present at L Indaal breeding colony. Also - 99 (max count) L Gruinart, Islay, Jul 24.
- IV c1000 A/C Tern nr Reisa Mhic Phaidean, N Sound of Jura, Aug 19.
- V Tiree: 392-430 prs established at 24 sites; birds seen Apr 30 - Sep 13. Coll: 145-164 prs at 8 sites; an additional A/C Tern colony of 70-100 birds at Airne na Sgeire. Treshnish Is: 15-25 breeding + 32 non-breeders, Jul 2.

Little tern *Sterna albifrons* Stearnag bheag 0624 AF  
 S P Scarce breeding species confined to Islay (II), Tiree & Coll (V). Note - this species very sensitive to disturbance. 1989:

- I 11 S past Uisaed Pt, Aug 8-14; 1ad S past Ru Stafnish, Oct 21 - a very late record.
- V Tiree: 46-61 prs present; first - Apr 25. A colony of 14-29 prs deserted during incubation between Jun 8-16, cause unknown. Coll: 24-31 prs present.

Black tern *Chlidonias niger* 0627 BJ  
 P Scarce / irregular. 1989#:  
 III 1 imm S lower L Fyne, Sep 6 [SB/DP et al].

Guillemot *Uria aalge* Eun dubh an sgadain 0634 GU  
 B W Common breeding species on suitable sea-cliffs. Regularly seen in sea-lochs during winter. 1989: in Feb / Mar higher numbers than usual were found dead on beaches in many localities including Islay (II), head of L Fyne (III / IV), Firth of Lorne (IV), Mull (V) & L Linnhe (VI). At the end of Sep - Oct a large concentration of starved birds were found in Lynne of Lorne - L Linnhe. 10-20 dead / dying birds were reported from several Argyll beaches, from Oban northwards. These were additional to 300+ found around the head of L Linnhe in Highland Region.

- I 1000-1500 birds on suitable ledges, Sanda Is, Jun 28; 386 birds at Uamh Ropa, May 27; 33 birds at Rubha na Lice, May 27. Ru Stafnish: 96 S/4hrs, Nov 2.
- IV 100 between Inveraray & Cairndow, L Fyne, May 30.
- V Tiree: 1288 birds on suitable ledges, Ceann a' Mhara, Jun 23 (727 recorded here in 1988).

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

**Razorbill** *Alca torda* Falc 0636 RA  
B W Common breeding species on suitable sea-cliffs. Regularly seen in sea-lochs during winter. 1989:

- I 800-1000 birds on suitable ledges, Sanda Is, Jun 28; total of 242 birds at 4 colonies, SW Kintyre, May 27. Uisaed Pt: peak passage of Razorbill / Guillemot was Sep 20-25, with a total of 1,400 / 17hrs - most of these were probably Razorbill; smaller nos. in Oct with peak of 300 / 15hrs, Oct 16-20. Ru Stafnish: 869 S / 4hrs, Oct 2; 773 S / 4hrs, Nov 2. Mull of Kintyre: 150 S / 1hr, Oct 26.
- V Tiree: 296 ashore, Ceann a' Mhara, Jun 23 (similar to 1988 count). Garvel-lachs: 12-15 on sea, Jun 2.

**Black guillemot** *Cepheus grylle* Gearra-breac 0638 TY  
B W Sparse but widespread coastal breeding species. 1989:

- I 157 birds at 4 localities between Machrihanish & Carskey Bays, SW Kintyre, May 27; 60-80 birds probably breeding, Sanda Is, Jun 26. Counts: 15 Campbeltown Loch, Mar 15; 35 Sound of Gigha, Mar 15; 10 Southend, Mar 24; 16 Machrihanish Bay, Mar 29. Uisaed Pt: 92 S / 3hrs, Sep 24; 55 N / 3hrs, Oct 2; 33 S / 3hrs, Oct 23.
- IV Bred McCormaig Isles - 3 nests located & 21 birds close inshore, May 27.
- V 17 below cliffs at Grishipol, Coll, May 10.
- VI 19 (max count) off Port Appin, Nov 18.

**Little auk** *Alle alle* Colcach bheag 0647 LK

W Irregular, usually seen after severe gales. 1989#:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1 S & 1 on sea, Oct 5; 1 on sea, Oct 15; 1 N, Oct 17.
- II 1 dead, Lossit Bay, Islay, Mar 25.
- V 1 apparently exhausted, Carsaig Bay, Mull, Feb 13.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid 0654 PU  
B P Localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda (I) & Treshnish Isles (V).

- I 70-100 birds probably breeding, Sanda Is, Jun 26. Counts: 18 off Caradale, May 15; 1 N Mull of Kintyre, Nov 9.
- II Colonsay: 1 dead, Colonsay golf course, Jun 11; 1 (s/pl) off north coast, Jul 6.
- IV 25 between Tarbert & Inveraray, L Fyne, Jun 25.

**Rock dove** *Columba livia* Calman creige 0665 DV

R Resident breeder except region III, most numerous in the islands. Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith breeding season. 1989:

- II Islay: 160 Eorrabus, Feb 7; 120 Gartnatra, Oct 29; 270 Gartmain, Dec 22.

**Stock dove** *Columba oenas* Calman gorm 0668 SD

? Scarce / irregular, regions I & III. Possibly under-recorded - all records required. 1989#:

- I 3 nr Southend, Mar 24 [EJM]; 1 Sanda Is, May 31 [RM]; 2 nr Southend, Oct 3 [EJM].
- III Pr in mixed oak / larch woodland, Tighnabruaich, May 13; single present Jun 4 [SB].

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* Calman fiadhaich 0670 WP

B W Common resident breeding species except on some islands, eg. Mull (V), where more numerous in winter. Breeding recorded in 49% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-89. 1989:

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- II Islay: 95 Cluanach, Jan 29; 60 Eorrabus, Mar 8. Colonsay: 37 Kiloran fields, Feb 5.  
V Coll: breeding suspected in The Lodge plantation. Mull: flock of c50, Auchnacraig, Oct 20.

Collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Calman a chrios 0684 CD

B P Sparse but widespread distribution throughout Argyll. 1989:

- I 28 (max. count) Campbeltown roost, March; 1 Mull of Kintyre, Jul 6.  
II Islay: c20 (max. count) Bowmore, Feb 23. Colonsay: bred, Scalasaig; 2 Kiloran Farm, winter 1988/9 & also seen Dec 7; 9 flew over hotel, May 24.  
IV 3 Taynish, May 10.  
V Birds present at 5 locations on Coll in spring & pr may have bred at The Lodge. Minimum of 16 ads recorded on Tiree.

Turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* Calman tuchan 0687 TD

P Scarce. Majority recorded May / Jun. All records required. 1989:#

- I 1 Balnamoil, Jun 17.  
II 1 Sunderland Farm, Islay, May 22; 1 Easter Ellister, Islay, Jun 15.  
V Mull: 1 Pennyghael, May 15.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag 0724 CK

S P Common. Main host species is Meadow Pipit. Recorded in 75% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Colonsay (II), Mar 29 & 30 [J&PC]; 1 Taynuilt (IV), Apr 3 [TC]; 1 L Gruinart, Islay (II), Apr 19; 1 Gigha (I) & Mull (V), Apr 21; general arrival late Apr / early May. Departure - last at Skipness (I), Aug 27.

V At least 7 calling birds, Coll. Not recorded on Tiree.

Barn owl *Tyto alba* Comhachag 0735 BO

B W Scarce breeding species, but probably under-recorded. Nests in both natural sites & buildings. Collision with vehicles appears to be a major cause of mortality. All records required. 1989:

- I Breeding confirmed at 1 site + spring records from 5-6 additional localities. Other records: 1 dead (road casualty) Westport, Jan 3; 1 Southend, Jan 5; 1 Aros Moss, Mar 20; 1 dead (road casualty), Bellochantuy, mid-Apr; 1 Sanda Is, Aug 7.  
II Islay: 6 prs known to have nested; of these, 2 prs failed & 4 prs reared 13 young.  
III 1 Otter Ferry, May 6.  
IV Breeding confirmed at 1 site + spring records from 8 additional localities. Other records: 1 nr Taynuilt, Jan 26; 1 Lochgilphead, Jan 26; 1 roosting Minard, Feb 2; 1 dead (road casualty) Inveraray, Mar 10; 1 Kilninver, Oct 4; 1 Achnacloich, Oct 30. 1 Soroba, Nov 7 & Dec 7.  
V Mull: 1 Salen, Feb 25; 1 Pennyghael, Mar 20; 1 Lochdon, Apr 12.

Eagle owl *Bubo bubo* 0744

E V 1989#:

IV 1 nr Arduaine, Jul-Sep [SGr et al]. This bird was presumably an escapee.

Tawny owl *Strix aluco* Comhachag dhonn 0761 TO

R Widespread & common in suitable broadleaved or coniferous woodland. Absent from Coll & Tiree. 1989:

III Glenbranter study area: the poorest year for breeding success in the period 1983-89; 30 prs laid eggs & reared 20 young (0.67 young per pr laying) [SJP].

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Long-eared owl *Asio otus* Comhachag adharcaiche 0767 LE  
R P W Very scarce, but almost certainly under-recorded. All records required. 1989:#

I 1 Aros Moss, Mar 20; 1 long dead, Sanda Is, Apr 19.

II Bred successfully, Colonsay.

V Coll: at least 1 bird present at roost early in spring; no evidence of recent occupation on Aug 13. Mull: 1 flushed from ground, L Spelve, Mar.

Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* Comhachag chluassach 0768 SE  
B W P Widespread in suitable habitat. Numbers fluctuate & distribution varies with abundance of small rodents, especially field voles, *Microtus agrestis*. Some emigration in autumn. Recorded in 28% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: a mixed year - birds were reported to be abundant on the Rhinns of Islay (II) & bred for the first time on Tiree (V), but elsewhere birds were generally scarce.

I b/7 Killean, May 26. Aros Moss roost: 8 (max. count) in Jan; 3-4 present in Mar; singles, Machrihanish airfield, Sep 9 & 19, Oct 11.

II Islay: on Rhinns, largest numbers present since 1976 - c20 prs present & min. of 15 prs attempted to breed. Voles appeared to be abundant in this area [GY]. Scarba: at least 2 prs fledged young.

IV 1 Lunga, May 27-28.

V Mull: bred in at least 4 localities, although many birds emigrated late Apr / May. Winter records: 2 at roost, Lochdon, Mar 15. Tiree: pr bred successfully, rearing 2+ young - the first recorded breeding on Tiree; 2 birds also present in 2nd area. Coll: birds present in an area where breeding has been suspected in previous years.

VI 1 Ledaig Pt, Aug 26.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraiheag oidhche 0778 NJ  
S P Very scarce. Recent breeding confirmed for 3 areas only (in regions I & III), all adjacent to Arran, one of the two traditional Scottish strongholds. 1989:

I 2 churring birds present at 2 sites.

III 1st heard May 22; 2 churring birds at 1 site, Jun 9-10 & Jul 15; 1 at a 2nd site, Jun 10.

Swift *Apus apus* Gobhlan mor 0795 SI  
S P Localised breeding species, mainland only. Late spring visitors to most islands. Natural nest sites have been used on Kintyre (I). Recorded in 19% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Campbeltown (I), May 4; 1 Connel (IV), May 7; 1 Blairmore (III), May 8. Departure - 6 Auchnacloch (IV), Aug 21; 10 Benderloch (VI), Aug 24; 1 S Uisaed Pt (1), Sep 4.

I Bred Campbeltown, where up to 8 seen regularly. Singles also at Torrisdale, Ifferdale, Tarbert & A'Chleit, May 14 - Jun 3; 3 S over Sanda Is, Jul 3.

II Islay: 1 Druim Aladh & 1 Sanaigmore, Jun 12; 2 Saligo, Jul 20; 1 Bridgend, Aug 19. Colonsay: 1 on May 16; 2 L Cholla, Jun 18; 12 over Strand, Jul 25.

IV Bred, Connel. V Mull: 1 Kilfinichen, Jun 10; 7 Dervaig, Jul 18. Tiree: 1 Jun 11; 11 Beinn Hough, Jul 18.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Biorra cruidein 0831 KF  
V Majority of records are in autumn / winter & are probably dispersing juveniles. 1989#:

II 1 R Sorn / Bridgend Merse, Islay, Aug 17 - Dec 31.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- III 1 Toward, nr Dunoon, Oct 9; 1 Ardyne Burn, Dec 6-19.
- IV 1 Lusragen Burn, Mar 26 & Dec 1-30; 1 Inverary, Aug 27; 1 Moine Mhor, Nov 27; 1 Lochgilphead, Nov 25 - Dec 11.
- V 1 Croig, Mull, Sep 22.
- VI 2 R Strae, May.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Calman cathaidh 0846 HP  
 V Majority of records are in late spring & are probably the result of "over-shoot migration". 1989#:  
 I 1 Tangymoil, May 21 [RG].  
 II Islay: 1 Octofad, Apr 28 [RM]; 1 juv Ballimony, Oct 4-11 [MAO].  
 V Mull: 1 Mishnish Lochs, May 8-9, then Dervaig May 10-12 [WHC/AE]

Green woodpecker *Picus viridis* Snagarach 0856 G  
 ? Status uncertain, but appears to occur only irregularly. All records required. 1989#:  
 I 1 calling, Corranbuie, West L Tarbert, May 25 [EJM/RAGA].

Great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Snagan daraich 0876 GS  
 B W Widespread in suitable deciduous woodland. Recorded in 36% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: no significant records.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag 0976 S  
 B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Emigration of many birds in winter, with remaining birds mainly distributed in coastal & low-lying areas. Breeding recorded in 81% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: small passage late Feb /early March. Birds started to return to upland territories from Mar 20.  
 I Uisaed Pt: 29 N on Sep 8 & 40 S on Sep 23; 105 N during northerly winds, Oct 1-3; peak passage S recorded Oct 4 - 31 with max. count of 235/hr on Oct 8. Sanda Is: 37+ S on Sep 23.  
 II Autumn passage noted late Oct - early Nov; 65 E, Bowmore, Islay, Dec 28.  
 IV 35 Connel, Mar 12; 40+ Glen Lonan, Mar 18.  
 V 130 Ulva Ferry, Mull, Mar 7.

Sand martin *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan gainmhiche 0981 SM  
 S P Uncommon & localised breeding species. Breeding recorded in 19% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. All breeding records required. 1989: continued improvement in nos. of breeding birds. Arrival - 1 Ardnave, Islay (II), Mar 28; 2 Colonsay (II), Mar 31; several, Mull (V), Apr 1; 1 Dunbeg (IV), Apr 12; 5 L Riddon (III), Apr 14; 2 Sanda Is (I), Apr 19. Departure - 1 N with Swallows, Uisaed Pt, Sep 9.  
 I 155 occ. holes located at 8 colonies, Kintyre.  
 II Islay: min. total of 33-36 occ. holes in 4 separate colonies, Laggan River; 1 occ. hole, Kilchiaran.  
 III 46 occ. holes, Stronchullin Farm, Jun 3; 20 birds present, Isde Bay, May 15.  
 IV c269 occ. holes located at 7 colonies, inc. new colonies of c20 holes at N of Kilmichael Glen & 10 holes at L Gleann a' Bhearraidh.  
 V Mull: 60-65 occ. holes located at 3 colonies monitored. Albino, Mishnish Lochs, Jun 12. Tíree: 1 on May 7.  
 VI 20-30 birds present at colony in Strath of Appin.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan gaoithe 0992 SL  
 S P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 81% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 8 Crinan, Mar 28; total of 4,

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Islay (II) & 4 Mull (V), Mar 30; 1 Gigha (I), Apr 14; 1 Tighnabruaich (III), Apr 15; general arrival from late April. *Departure* - some passage late Aug, but main movement was Sep 8-25 (see also region I details). Late birds inc. 1 Tíree (V), Oct 29; 1 S Ardrishaig (IV), Nov 2; 1 Port Ellen, Islay (II), Nov 24.

I Autumn passage: single flock of 300 S over Southend, Sep 11; 170 S/4hrs (max. count), Uisaed Pt. & 51+ S, Sanda Is, Sep 23; 60 at Kilchrist, nr Campbeltown, Oct 4; last - singles at Uisaed Pt, Oct 11 & 16.

V Mull: 1 albino, Grasspoint, Jul 1. Tíree: c64 at roost in ditch, Kenovay, Sep 11.

**House martin** *Delichon urbica* Gobhlan taighe 1001 HM

S P Common breeding species on mainland where suitable sites exist; less numerous on the islands & no recent breeding recorded from Coll & Tíree. Breeding recorded in 43% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: *arrival* - 1 Islay (II), Apr 29; 1 Connel (IV), May 7; 1 Cairndow (III), May 9; 1 Coll (V), May 10.

I Autumn passage - 47 N/1hr, Uisaed Pt, Sep 9; 200+ at Southend, Sep 11; recently fledged brood, Southend, Oct 3; last - 7 Southend, Oct 15.

IV Flock of 30, Barnakill, Aug 21.

V Tíree: occasional sightings, May 10 - Aug 17, with max. count of 6 on May 22.

**Tree pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag 1009 TP

S P Common breeding species in open deciduous woodland. Breeding recorded in 46% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: *arrival* - 1 Barcaldine (VI), Apr 9; 1 singing, Tarbert (I), Apr 22.

V 1 The Reef, Tíree, Aug 7.

**Meadow pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Snathag 1011 MP

B W P Abundant breeding species. Emigration of many birds in winter, with remaining birds mainly distributed in coastal & low-lying areas. Breeding recorded in 91% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: Birds back on upland territories from Mar 20. Autumn passage noted late Aug to mid-Oct.

I Mull of Kintyre: flocks of 50-100 N, Aug 12-17; c240 N, Oct 8-9. Uisaed Pt: majority of birds logged in Sep were N, with peak passage Sep 8-10; all Oct birds were S with peak of 300 /1hr on Oct 8. Other records: 60 Clachan, Mar 25; c500 Carrick Pt, Oct 30.

V Tíree: major influx Apr 17.

**Red-throated pipit** *Anthus cervinus* 1012

V 1989#:

IV 1 Castle Sween, Sep 24 [TPD]. Subject to acceptance by BBRC.

**Rock pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* Gabhagan 1014 RC

R P W Common resident breeding species around coast. Scarce passage & winter visitor. Breeding recorded in 59% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

VI 21 (max count) L Laich, Oct 8.

Scandinavian race, *A.s. littoralis*: 1 Cuil Bay (VI), Mar 27 [ARJ].

**Pipit spp.**

V 1 Manna, Tíree, Oct 8-12 [DCJ/RMcN]. A description of this bird was forwarded to BBRC for comment; the record has subsequently been circulated within the committee as a possible American pipit, *Anthus rubescens*.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

In addition, an unconfirmed report was received of an American Pipit on Tiree, Sep 20 [anon].

**Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* Breacan buidhe** 1017 YW  
P Rare. 1989#:

I 1M Machrihanish golf course, May 9; 1 ♂ past Uisaed Pt, Aug 28 [EJM/RAGA].

II 1 Octofad, Aug 20.

Blue-headed wagtail, *M.f.flava*: 1M Sanda Is (I), May 25; 1 Octofad, Islay (II), Aug 20 [DIMW].

**Grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan bain tighearna** 1019 GL

B W P Widespread breeding species. Some emigration in winter. Breeding recorded in 51% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: Appears to be quite numerous in many areas, probably as a result of recent mild winters. Passage noted in several areas, mid-Aug to mid-Oct.

I Uisaed Pt: 16 ♂N/4hrs, Sep 8-9; 8 ♂S on Sep 24; 6 ♂S on Sep 26; 12 ♂S on Oct 8. Sanda Is: 5 on Sep 21.

II Colonsay: wintering prs at Scalasaig & Kiloran - absent Mar 27 - Oct 7.

**Pied wagtail *Motacilla alba* Breac an t-sil** 1020 PW

B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Emigration from most areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive late Feb/early March; departure late Oct. Breeding recorded in 93% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

II Colonsay: winter flocks of 15-20 noted in several localities.

IV Passage groups of up to 14 birds, Connel, Sep 2.

V Mull: very few wintered - 1 Iona, Nov 21; 1 Grasspoint, Dec 4.

VI Strong autumn passage, Appin area - counts at Ardtur inc. 14 on Sep 2; 60+ on Sep 13; 24 on Sep 30; 25 on Oct 14.

White wagtail, *M.a. alba*: Few in spring, but larger than usual autumn passage recorded:

I Sanda Is: 1 on May 7; 1 on Aug 22; 2 on Sep 17; 6 on Sep 22. Uisaed Pt: 17 in off sea, Aug 26; 25 N/1hr, Sep 10; 12 ♂N/1hr, Sep 12.

II Islay: 1 Finlaggan, Apr 21; 5 Uisgentuie, May 4. Colonsay: 1 Ardskenish, Apr 16; 1ad Kilchattan, Oct 24.

V Tiree: only 2 seen during May; major autumn passage started Aug 20, when birds rapidly outnumbered Pied Wagtail (juvs. inc.).

VI 1 N Ledaig, Apr 16 & 30; singles Appin, Sep 13 & 30.

**Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha uisge** 1050 DI

B W Widespread, although scarce on Islay & Colonsay (II) & absent Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 22% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: no significant records. No proven breeding on Islay (II) this year.

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathan donn** 1066 WR

B W Very common, although numbers fluctuate. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: nos. generally high, presumably as a consequence of recent mild winters.

II Colonsay: pr nested in tit box, Colonsay House gardens.

V Tiree: very common & present in many areas where not recorded 1987-8.

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn nam preas** 1084 D

B W P Widespread & common, except some islands. 1989:

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- I c12 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 18 & 28.  
V Coll: breeding proven at The Lodge (1 pr) & Gallanach (2 prs). Tiree: no records.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Bru dhearg 1099 R  
B P Common. Large autumn passage in some years. Breeding recorded in 81% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
II Colonsay: b/4 reared in owl nest box!  
V Tiree: 1 Crossapol, May 3; total of 9 on Oct 9. Coll: small nos. present & probably breeding.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* Spideag 1104 N  
V Rare. Majority of Scottish records in spring & are probably "overshoot migrants". 1989#:  
I 1 heard, Rhu House, West L Tarbert, May 25 [EJM/RAGA]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

Black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Ceann dubhan 1121 BX  
W P Rare / irregular. 1989#:  
I 1F Sanda Is, Jul 7 [RM]; 1M Mull of Kintyre, Dec 19 [JW/GTW].

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann dearg 1122 RT  
S P Common breeding species in relatively open woodland, except Islay where scarce. In Argyll occurs more frequently in oak than birch, but also recorded in conifers. Breeding recorded in 24% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 L Craignish (IV), Apr 21; 1 singing Ardara, Mull (V), Apr 27; 1 singing, Barcaldine Forest (VI), Apr 30. Departure - 1 Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre (I), Oct 29.  
I 38 territories located, mostly in N Kintyre.  
II 1 singing Kildalton Woods, Islay, May 27.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137 WC  
S P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 69% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Colonsay (II), Mar 29 (v early date) [J&PC]; 1 Tiree (V), Apr 19; 1M Connel (IV), May 5; 1M Sanda Is (I), May 12. Departure - 5M Connel (IV), Aug 27.  
V 3 prs located, Coll & 6 prs located, Tiree.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Clacharan 1139 SC  
R P W Widespread, but resident population can decline dramatically as a consequence of severe winter conditions. Breeding recorded in 68% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
I Mull of Kintyre: 10 prs bred S of road between lighthouse & Glenamanuilt; none present in this area, Nov; 2 prs present mid-Dec.  
IV 4-5 prs bred, Castle Sween area.  
V Tiree: at least 15 prs bred. Coll: no counts, but common.  
VI 7 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 1.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Bru gheal 1146 W  
S P Common breeding species in open grassland areas. Breeding recorded in 84% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1F Macbrins, Colonsay (II), Mar 12; 1M Kinloch & 1M Dearag, Mull (V), Mar 13; 1 Keils (IV), Mar 17; 4 Machrihanish (I), Mar 20; 1 N Connel (VI), Apr 2; 1M Kames (III), Apr 3. Departure: 30+ Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre (I), Jul 3; 1 Ledaig Pt (VI), Oct 21; 1 Laggan (I), Nov 4; 1 Feolin, Jura (II), Nov 6; 1F Glen

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Bellart, Mull (V), Nov 11. II albino Oronsay, from at least May 6 - Jun 26.  
 "Greenland" race, *O.o. leucorrhoa* (breeds Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes & NE Canada)#:

- I 4 Machrihanish golf course, May 9; 1 Rhunahoarine Pt, May 12. Sanda Is: 7 on May 17; 1 on May 19.
- II 1M Oronsay, Sep 2.
- III 1M Otter Ferry, May 12.
- V 1 Tiree, Sep 12.
- VI 1 Ledaig Pt, Apr 30.

Ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Dubh chreige 1186 RZ

S P Very localised upland breeding species. Recorded in 10% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. All records required. 1989#:

- I 1M singing Beinn Bhreac, Glen Barr, May 29; 1F Mull of Kintyre, Jun 7.
- II 1 Killinallan, Apr 11.
- IV 2 Creag Mhor, Stronmilchan, Mar 29; 1M singing, Glen Strae, Jun 3.
- V 1 L Buie, Mull, Sep 21.
- VI 1 Beinn Sgulaire, Aug 27.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Lon dubh 1187 B

B W P Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 79% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: few significant records.

- I 30+ Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 28.
- II Islay: influx of migrants, late Oct - early Nov.
- V 9 breeding prs located, Tiree. 12+ breeding prs on Coll.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Liath thruisg 1198 FF

W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter. 1989: main passage late Oct - early Nov.

- I 100 Kilchrist Castle, Apr 26; singles, Sanda Is, May 1 & 4; 4 S, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 26; c200 at Carskie, Oct 30.



Fieldfare P. Snow © 90

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- II Islay: passage flocks of 1,000+ late Oct & flock of c2,000 at Ardmore, Nov 6. Increase in wintering birds, eg 100+ Portnahaven, Dec 25; 80 Kilchoman, Dec 29; 80 Coullabus, Dec 31; c80 Laggan Bridge, Dec 31. Colonsay: c75 wintered, 1988/9; last - 6 Balnahard, Apr 1; first - 1 Scalasaig, Aug 18, then none until main passage, Oct 30 - Nov 4.
- III 80+ over Strachur, Oct 31.
- IV 60+ N, Kilmartin, Mar 7; 1 Aridgan, Oct 11; c500+ S, Connel, Oct 23; several flocks of 100-200+ S over Soroba, Oban, Oct 29; c1000+ S, Craobh Haven & c500+ S, Arduaine, Nov 2.

**Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* Smeorach** 1200 ST  
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 71% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Mull of Kintyre: "hundreds" around lighthouse, 0200-0600 hrs, Oct 18 & again 0300-0500 hrs, Oct 28.
- II 1 singing, Colonsay House, Jan 11.
- IV 1 singing, Oban, Dec 27 & 29.
- V Spring counts of c20 prs on Tiree & 20-30 prs on Coll.

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Sgiath dhearg** 1201 RE  
W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter. Occasional individuals recorded in late spring (all records required). Has bred [Thom 1986]. 1989: main passage mid-Oct, except region II.

- I First - a few at dusk, Southend, Oct 5; heavy falls involving "hundreds" of birds, Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, 0200 hrs onwards, Oct 18 & 0300 hrs onwards, Oct 28 (c20 birds found dead / injured after these falls).
- II Islay: main passage late Oct; small nos. wintering, eg 20+ Kilchoman, Dec 29. Colonsay: c50 wintered, 1988/9; last - 1 Colonsay House, Apr 15; first - 1 Milbuie, Oct 24, then large passage Oct 29 - Nov 4.
- III Glenbranter: 5+ on Oct 5; 400+ S, Oct 9.
- IV 1 Lochgilphead, Oct 7; 1st large flocks passing over Oct 9, eg. 1000 - 1500+ SE / 2hrs over Connel, Oct 9; 200+ Killinchoch, Oct 31; c600+ S, Barraoill, Nov 2.
- V Tiree: last - Apr 22. Mull: 2 Glen Forsa, May 4; 8 Penmore, Aug 19; light passage, Lochdon, Oct 10; c150 over Kinloch, Oct 11.

**Mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Smeorach mhor** 1202 M  
B W P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species. Many birds emigrate in autumn; parties of returning birds move through in Feb. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Total of 20+ S, Balnamoill, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 26-29.

IV 17 Glen Lonan, Aug 22; 50 Inveraray, Sep 19.

**Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche leumnach** 1236 GH  
S P Localised breeding species in all regions. Good breeding densities occur in many young conifer plantations. Recorded in 20% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 singing, Moine Mhor (IV), May 5; 2 singing, Kildalton, Islay (II), May 7; 1 Sanda Is (I), May 16.

I 12 calling in recently aforessted ground, Cnoc Reamhar, Grogport, May 30.

II Islay: 5 prs bred, L Gruinart. Colonsay: 1 Kiloran, May 20.

**Sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Glas eun** 1243 SW  
S P Locally common. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 singing, The Oa, Islay (II), May 2; 1 Sanda Is (I), May 4; 1 Kilmore (IV), May 12; general arrival; late May.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- II 10 territories located Colonsay, Jun 16-23; 3 territories located, Jura, May 27-28.

### Marsh / Reed warbler

- I An "unstreaked" *Acrocephalus* warbler was seen at Mull of Kintyre, Jun 7 [RAGA].

### Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Gealan coille

1275 WH

S P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species in scrub & woodland edge habitats. Breeding recorded in 51% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Easter Ellister, Islay (II), Apr 13; 1 Beach, Mull (V), Apr 15; 1 Ledaig Pt (VI), May 9; 1 Sanda Is (I), May 14.

- V 1 Manna, Tiree, Jun 18; 1 Coll, Jun 25.

### Garden warbler *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche garaidh

1276 GW

S P Scarce breeding species. Recorded in 12% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Connel (IV), May 13. Departure - 1 Sanda Is (I), Sep 20.

- I 8 in song at 6 sites, May.

- II Islay: 1 Ballygrant Woods, Jun 5; 1 Mulindry, Jun 20.

### Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

1277 BC

S W P Scarce breeding species. Established in policy woodland of many estates, where rhododendron & other scrub often provides good understory. A few winter & are regular visitors to bird tables in hard weather. Recorded in 26% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: first - 1 Kilchattan, Colonsay (II) Mar 27; last - 2MM Arinagour, Coll (V), Nov 18.

- I Total of 40 territories found in 16 localities, May; 1M Sanda Is, Sep 23; total of 5 at Mull of Kintyre, Oct 20 - Nov 1.

- II Islay: singing birds at Laggan Bridge & Ballygrant Woods. Colonsay: 1 singing, Colonsay House gardens, Jun 17; 1M Garvard Farm, Oct 19; 1M Scalasaig, Oct 29; 1M Oronsay, Nov 5.

- III 2-3 in song, Tighnabruaich & 1 singing Colintravae.

- IV Single MM at Lerags & Barran, Jun 16.

- V Mull: 1M Craignure, Jun 3; 2 Erraid, Nov 10.

### Wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche cille

1308 WO

S P Common breeding species in oakwoods with sparse ground cover. Breeding recorded in 32% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 singing, Barcaldine (VI), Apr 30; 2 singing, Tighnabruaich (III), May 6.

- I Total of 54 territories found in 21 localities, May.

- II Islay: singing birds at 4 localities. Colonsay: 1 at House gardens, May 15.

- IV 9 singing in 1 km transect, Ellary Estate, May 13.

### Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Cailean

1311 CC

S P Uncommon breeding species, scarce in islands. A few winter. Breeding recorded in 21% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Total of 95 territories found, May. 1 singing Carradale, Mar 20-28; 1 Gigha, Apr 14.

- II Islay: 1 singing Ballygrant, Mar 31. Winter records of singles (all *P. c. tristis* / *albietinus* race) at Kilchiaran, Jan 1; Port Charlotte, Feb 14-19; Gruinart, Dec 4 & Bruichladdich, Dec 26-28. Colonsay: wintering birds at Scalasaig & Kiloran, 1988/9; 1 singing Colonsay House gardens, Apr 17.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

- III 1 singing, Ardentinn, Mar 28; 2 singing, Tighnabruaich, Mar 31; 1 singing, Colintrave, May 6.
- IV 1 Soroba, Oban, Jan 24-25; 1 Easdale, Feb 8; 1 Connel, Apr 4; 2 singing, Feochan House gardens, May 7; 1 singing, Achnamara, May 25; 1 singing, Gallanach, Jun 17; 1 singing, Connel, Sep 18; 1 Soroba, Oban, Nov 12.
- V 1 singing, Gruline, Mull, Mar 29; 1 Balephuill, Tiree, Oct 9.
- VI 1 Ardtur, Port Appin, Nov 12.

Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Crionag ghiuthais 1312 WW  
 SP Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 90% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Milbuie, Colonsay (II), Mar 27; 3 Aros Moss, (I) Apr 3; 1 Connel (IV), Apr 4; 1 Barcaline (VI), Apr 15; 1 Ardentinn (III), Apr 16; 1 Ceann a' Mhara, Tiree (V), Apr 23. Departure - 1 Balephetish, Tiree (V), Sep 6.  
 V Tiree: 1 in song, Ben Hynish, but no evidence of breeding attempt. Coll: bred at The Lodge Ptn only; up to 4 present Jul 18-24.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Crionag bhuidhe 1314 GC  
 R W P Common breeding species. Recorded in 72% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
 I 100+ Glenmucklach, Southend, Sep 11.  
 V Coll & Tiree: reported to be abundant in early Apr; breeding confirmed on Coll, where 2 broods located; scarce on Tiree in autumn - 2 Crossapol, Sep 15 & pr Balephuill, Oct 9.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* Crionag 1315 FC  
 V 1989#:  
 I 1 Sanda Is, Jul 23 [RM]. Subject to acceptance by SBRC.

Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Breacan glas sgiobalta 1335 SF  
 SP Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species. Breeding recorded in 50% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: arrival - 1 Clachan Seil (IV), May 5; 1 Colonsay (II), May 14; 1 Sanda Is (I), May 21; main influx from May 20. Departure - 10 Glenmucklach & 8 Machrioch, Southend (I), Sep 11.  
 V Coll: breeding proven - 1 pr successful (breeding suspected 1987); passage noted from May 25.

Pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan glas 1349 PF  
 SP Rare. Very localised breeder in oakwoods. Increase in breeding population in recent years is attributable to Argyll Bird Club nestbox scheme [see Petty in *5th Argyll Bird Report*]. 1989: At least 15 prs attempted breeding & territory-holding birds were found in a further 4 locations. Arrival from May 15.  
 I 1 singing, Glenskible, May.  
 II 1 Grainel, Islay, Oct 28.  
 III 1pr bred unsuccessfully in nestbox, Glenbranter - first ever breeding in Cowal; 1 singing, Ardentinn, May 21; 1 singing, Glenbranter, Jun 8; 1 in Ardentinn garden, Aug 16.  
 IV 3prs bred in nestboxes, fledging 9 young, L Fyneside; 1pr bred unsuccessfully in nestbox, Dalavich - additional M also present in this locality; 1 singing, Ellary, May 28.  
 VI 8 prs bred in nestboxes, fledging 38 young, L Etive study area; pr bred Glen Creran; 1 Glen Kinglass, May 15.

Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan 1437 LT  
 B W P Widespread & common on mainland, local on some islands & rare on

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Colonsay (II), Coll & Tiree (V). Parties of wandering birds widespread in autumn. Breeding recorded in 35% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I 33 Southend, Sep 4; 70+ Glenmucklach, Sep 11; 22 S, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Nov 6.

Coal tit *Parus ater* Smutag 1461 CT

B W P Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree (V). Some emigration from Argyll in autumn. Breeding recorded in 57% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

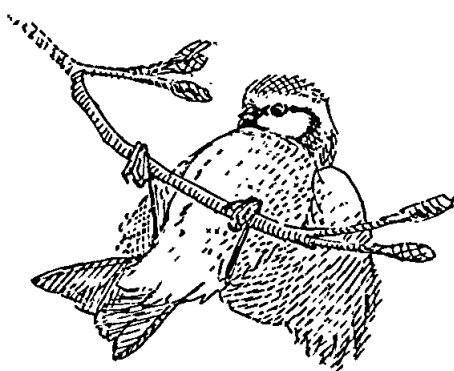
I 10 N, Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 18.

V Coll: present Gallanach ptn. in late Jul & Aug; 1 flew from Calmac boat upon its arrival from Mull, Apr 22!

Blue tit *Parus caeruleus* Cailleachag cheann ghorm 1462 BT

R P Widespread & very common breeder in broadleaved or mixed woodland. Breeding recorded in 71% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Mull of Kintyre: 2 S on Oct 30; 4 S on Nov 6.



Blue Tit - © P. Snow '90

Great tit *Parus major* Currag bhain tighearna 1464 GT

R P Widespread & very common breeder in broadleaved / mixed woodland & occasionally in coniferous woodland. Breeding recorded in 65% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: no significant records.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486 TC

B W Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree (V). Recorded in 46% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

V Tiree: 1 Crossapol, Sep 10. Coll: 2 at The Lodge, May 6.

Golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Buidheag eorpach 1508 OL

V Majority of Scottish records are of late spring "overshoot migrants". 1989#:

V 1M Dervaig, Mull, May 11 [KFC]; 1F long dead, Ardmeanach, Mull, Jun 11 [C&GT].

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

Great grey shrike *Lanius excubitor* Feoladair glas 1520 SR  
W P Rare / irregular. 1989#:  
I 1 Largybaan, Mull of Kintyre, May 23 [CB].

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraiheag 1539 J  
B W Locally distributed, mainland only. Recorded in 18% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. All records required. 1989:  
III 2 Blairmore, Jul 27; 1 Asgog, May 13.  
IV 2 Kilmartin, Feb 16; 1 Dunans, Knapdale, May 25; 2 fighting, nr. Achnamara, Oct 14; 1 Dalavich, Oct 29.  
VI Pr Barcaldine Forest, Apr.

Maggie *Pica pica* Cadhag 1549 MG  
R Local on Cowal (III), rare elsewhere. 1989:  
I 1 nr. Clachan, Apr 28.  
II Islay: 1 Portnahaven, Apr 3-6, then Port Ellen, Apr 7 & Laphroaig, Apr 9-16.  
III 4 (max. count) Blairmore, Mar 29.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag dhearg chasach 1559 CF  
R W Islay (II) is the Scottish stronghold, c95 breeding prs currently present with smaller nos. on Colonsay & Jura (II). All records away from Islay required. 1989: poor breeding season reported.  
II Colonsay: 5 prs present.  
V Pr bred unsuccessfully, Mull: Ads. were feeding chick(s) until at least Jun 18, but no fledged young were ever seen. This pr appeared on Mull in Jun 1987 and this was their first breeding attempt.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560 JD  
B W Common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce Mull & does not breed Coll & Tiree (V). Immigration into some islands in winter. Breeding recorded in 40% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
I Killellan roost: 800 (max. count) Jan. Southend roost: 280 (Mar); 1,200 (Oct).  
II Islay: flock of 500 at Cluanach, Jan 3.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Rocas 1563 RO  
B W Common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce Mull & does not breed Coll & Tiree (V). Post-breeding influx of juvs. to some islands, eg. Mull & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 19% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
I Total of 1,397 nests counted at 24 rookeries, mostly in S Kintyre. The largest rookeries were at Glenbarr (363 nests) & Carskiey (108 nests). Southend roost: 2,000+ (Oct).  
II Islay: total of 135 nests counted at 4 rookeries. Flock of 150 at Cluanach, Jan 3.  
IV 9 occ. nests, Connel, Mar 16.  
V Influx of c30 juvs. at Lochdon, Mull, Jul 1 (as per previous years).  
VI N. Connel: 8 occ. nests, Apr 7. Lismore: 110 occ. nests at 4 rookeries, Apr 26.

Hooded crow *Corvus corone* Feannag 1567 C  
B W Widespread & common. Breeding in 84% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

I 600 (max. count), Claonaig Estate roost, Jan; 63 Carradale, Mar 28; 54 SE, Skipness, Jul 26.

II 40 at Colonsay roost, Jun 18.

Carrión crow: birds are spreading gradually through Cowal (III) into Kintyre (I) & mid-Argyll (IV). Recorded in 33% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding birds were located in 12% of these squares. 1989: significant records included 9 Carradale (I), Mar 28; c30 Kilchoman, Islay (II), Feb 25; 5 Coullabus, Islay (II), Oct 23 & up to 4 Scalasaig Farm, Colonsay (II), Jan.

Hooded x Carrión crow hybrids were recorded in 24% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Breeding birds were located in 6% of these squares. 1989: Increase noted in region IV in particular; 2 Carradale (I), Mar 28; 2 Oban (IV), Oct 4 & 24; 2 Kilmory (IV), Nov 5.

Raven *Corvus corax* Fitheach

1572 RN

B W Common. Breeding recorded in 49% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-89. 1989: total of 91 sites known to have previously held breeding birds checked in Argyll study area (within regions IV, V & VI). 76% of these sites were occupied by adult birds. Of 55 nests monitored, eggs were laid at 53 & 81% of these successfully fledged young. Mean clutch size was 4.69 & a mean of 2.88 young were produced per successful nest [CJT].

I 100+ (max count) Largie estate roost, Jan; pr perched on back of feeding sheep, Balnamoill, Nov 8.

V b/4 fledged, Garvellachs; 28 non-breeders (max. count) at Tiree rubbish dump, Jun 23; 1 nest destroyed by farmer, Coll; 35 at Tobermory rubbish tip, Mull, Feb 19.

VI c/8 Ben Lora - an exceptionally large clutch.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

1582 SG

B W P Common except Mull (V), where localised & post-breeding influx of juvs. occurs. Breeding recorded in 62% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Campbeltown old distillery roost: 5,000 (max. count), Jan; 3,500 present, Mar. Mull of Kintyre: passage of juv birds S, mid-Jun to mid-Jul, with max count 280, Jun 16; passage also noted, Oct 8 - Nov 11, with max count 450 S, Oct 21. Machrihanish / Laggan: up to 500 during Aug; 1000+ Sep - Oct. Carrick Pt: 500 on shore, inc 1 partial albino, Oct 10.

II Colonsay: c350 Kiloran dunes, Aug 26.

IV Flock of c500 feeding with Fieldfare, Castle Sween, Nov 5.

V Tiree: autumn roost counts inc. c1,300 (Crossapol, Sep 5) & 1,200 (The Manse, Sep 8).

House sparrow *Passer domesticus* Gealbhoonn

1591 HS

R Commonly associated with human habitation & distribution therefore rather localised in remote areas. Breeding recorded in 53% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

V 210 White House, Tiree, Sep 6.

Tree sparrow *Passer montanus* Gealbhoonn nan craobh

1598 TS

P? Current status uncertain. Although clearly a scarce bird, it is probably under-recorded. All records required. 1989#:

I 1 at Chiscan / Balloch, Laggan, Oct 3 [EJM].

II 1 Claggain Bay, Islay, Apr 25 [AJH].

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan beithe 1636 CH  
B W P Abundant except Coll & Tiree (V). Birds commonly forage in cut hay & silage fields outwith breeding season. Breeding recorded in 84% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Mull of Kintyre: 131 ♂N, Oct 9; 92 ♂S, Oct 27; 39 ♂N, Nov 5; 28 ♂N, Nov 12.

II Islay: 450 Cluanach, Jan 3; 250 Newton, Islay, Mar 27.

IV 200+ Glen Lonan, Aug 21.

V Coll: few prs bred in The Lodge & Gallanach ptns. Tiree: Not recorded Apr - Oct.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* Bricein caorainn 1638 BL  
W P Varying numbers occur Sep-Apr, with no birds reaching Argyll at all in some years. Few records 1989#:

II Islay: singles at Cluanach (Jan 9); Newton (Mar 27); Kilchoman (Nov 7-24); Ronnachmore (Nov 25).

V Mull: 3 Lochdon, Feb 2; 1 Tobermory, Mar 9; 1 Tenga, Mar 13.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean daraich 1649 GR  
R W Locally common. Recorded in 41% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I 80+ Southend, Sep & Oct; total of 16 ♂S, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 28 - Nov 5.

V Coll: bred at The Lodge. Tiree: not recorded Apr - Oct.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair choille 1653 GO  
B W P Localised distribution. Absent as a breeding species on Colonsay (II), Coll & Tiree (V). Some emigration in autumn. Breeding recorded in 21% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. Few records 1989:

I 60+ Southend, Sep & Oct; total of 20 ♂S, Mull of Kintyre, Oct 15 - Nov 5.

II 20 Kilnoughton Bay, Islay, Oct 24; 1-2 recorded on 4 dates in winter, Colonsay.

IV 12 (max count) Taynish, Nov 8; 9 Achavaich, Dec 28.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* Gealag bhuidhe 1654 SK  
B W P Numbers fluctuate from year to year, but breeding population has clearly increased as a consequence of coniferous afforestation. Absent as a breeding species on Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 57% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: few passage birds reported.

II 6 Scalasaig, Colonsay, Jan 28.

III Present Blairmore, Mar 8 to mid-Jun.

IV 20+ Taynish, Aug 27.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan lin 1660 LI  
B W P Localised distribution. Flocking in autumn & winter. Breeding recorded in 32% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

I Small nos. regular at Uisaed Pt, Aug - Oct, with max. count of 80 on Sep 9; 27 Sanda Is, Sep 23.

II 24 Scalasaig coast, Colonsay, May 11.

IV 3 Lunga, May 27-28.

V Coll & Tiree: bred in areas of gorse on both islands & at The Lodge, Coll. Iona: 20+ in 2 flocks, Aug 6.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan beinne 1662 TW  
B W P Localised breeding species on hill ground & coastal moorland, especially on the islands. Flocking in low-lying arable & coastal areas, Aug onwards. Some evidence to suggest emigration from Argyll in autumn,

# SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

although there may also be an influx of wintering birds to some areas. Breeding recorded in 31% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:

- I Bred Sanda Is. Uisaed Pt: small nos. present from Aug 13, increasing to 80 by Sep 19; influx on Sep 20 produced total of 150 birds, rising to 300+ by Sep 25 - only 120 remained, Sep 26; 100-120 present throughout Oct; 75 on Nov 3, declining to c30 by Dec 8. Mull of Kintyre: 12, Balnarnock, Jul 5, then fluctuating nos. until early Nov, with peak counts of 50 (Jul 22), 55 (Aug 16) & 60 (Oct 8); last - 1 on Nov 12.
- II Islay: c100 Killinallan, Mar 3; 180+ Craighers, Oct 29; 200 Rockside, Dec 4.
- IV Bred Kerrera. c40 Taynish, Sep 2; 5 Kilmichael Glen, Nov 3.
- V Tiree: bred in loose colonies throughout moorland areas; 1 albino, Balemartine, Sep 9 & Oct 10; 80 Gott Bay, Sep 3; 80 Ard Mor, Oct 12. Coll: bred, but nos. smaller & range more restricted than Tiree. Mull: c30 Lagganulva, Apr 23; flock of 30 at Grasspoint, Aug 28, had dwindled to 12 by Oct 5, then 4 by Dec 14. Garvellachs: 5 on Jun 2-4.
- VI c50 Benderloch salt marsh, Aug 18; 4 Beinn Sgulaire, Aug 27; 40+ Connel airstrip, Oct 21.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* Dearcan seilich 1663 LR

B W P Localised distribution, mainly associated with birchwoods & young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year, but breeding population has probably increased as a consequence of coniferous afforestation. Flocking occurs in autumn / winter. Breeding recorded in 32% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: relatively few records.

- II Islay: pr L Tallant, May 30; 1 singing, Avenvogie, Jun 6.
- IV Small flocks of 20+ Taynish, Aug-Oct.
- V Coll: pr bred successfully at The Lodge - this appears to be the 1st breeding record. Tiree: 1M Gott, Tiree, Sep 8.

Common crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Cam ghob 1666 CR

B W Numbers & distribution vary depending on abundance of conifer cone crops. Highly irruptive species with large flocks sometimes moving to locate a new seed area, usually in summer. 1989:

- I 1 singing Brackley, Carradale, Mar 28 - Apr 1; 13 Crossaig, May 24; 1 The Slate, Mull of Kintyre, Jun 15.
- II Islay: 3-4 singing in forestry, with 2 family parties seen May/Jun. Max. count of 40 (Jan) nr. Avenvogie.
- III None seen Jan-Jun. No cones on main conifer species early in year. A reasonable cone crop developed on Sitka Spruce from Jul onwards, when Crossbill sightings became more frequent [SJP].
- IV 4 Kilchrennan, Jul 30; 2MM feeding on Sitka cones, plus 5 others nearby, Raera Forest, Oct 26.
- V Mull: scarce - 1 nr Tobermory, Jun 3; 1 Glengorm, Jun 4.
- VI 2 Barcaldine Forest, Aug 26.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille 1710 BF

B W Locally common. Absent from Coll & Tiree (V) and irregular on Gigha (I) & Colonsay (II). Breeding recorded in 28% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: few significant records.

- IV 8 Achavaich, Dec 28.

Lapland bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

1847 LA

P Scarce. 1989#:

- I 1M (w/pl) Bleachfield, Machrihanish, Oct 21 [EJM].

## SYSTEMATIC LIST 1989

**Snow bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag an t-sneachda 1850 SB  
B? W P Has bred region VI in recent years. Varying nos. on passage & in winter. 1989: relatively few records.

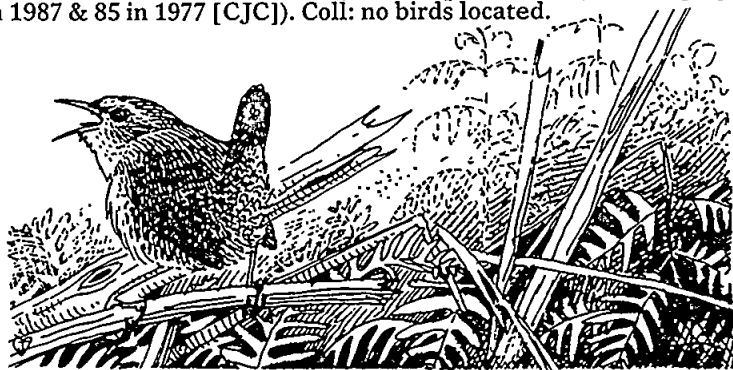
- I 38 (inc 4-5 MM) feeding above Balnamoil, Mull of Kintyre, Jan 28; 2 Machrihanish Bay, Oct 26; 4 Uisaed Pt, Dec 8; c70 N, Balnamoil, Dec 20.
- II Islay: 3 Ballimoney, Mar 6; 1F Carraig Fhada, Mar 21; 1 Kilchoman, Mar 26; scattered records of 1-4 birds, late Sep onwards, plus flock of 33 Ardnave, Nov 2. Colonsay: 1 Balnahard, Mar 16; pr golf course, Oct 4; 3 Balnahard & 1F Kiloran, Oct 23.
- III 5 Glenshellish, Mar 1.
- V Mull: 1M Knockantivore, Mar 15; 2 Fiddien, Oct 4; 2 Iona, Nov 21; 4 Sgurr Dearg, Nov 25. Tiree: 1M Hynish, Apr 14; 2 on Oct 10; 5 Ceann a Mhara, Oct 27; 1M Kenovay, Dec 24.
- VI 3 Ledaig Pt, Feb 26; 1 singing briefly, above Glen Noe, Jun 3.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag bhealaidh 1857 Y  
B W Locally common in dry open ground, arable areas & moorland edges. Birds forage in cut hay & silage fields outwith breeding season. Breeding recorded in 29% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989: few significant records.  
II Colonsay: present Mar - Oct with at least 7MM, May/Jun.

**Reed bunting** *Emberiza schoeniculus* Gealag loin 1877 RB  
B W Locally common in farmland, scrub & young conifer plantations. Small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq so far covered for the BTO Atlas, 1988-9. 1989:  
I 10 Tayinloan, Mar 1.  
IV 19 Connel, Feb 28.

**Black-headed bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* 1881  
E V A common cage bird. However, most British records have been in spring / summer, suggesting that some birds are genuine vagrants. 1989#:  
IV 1M Kilmore, nr Oban, May 27-30 [LAC]. Accepted by BBRC.

**Corn bunting** *Miliaria calandra* Gealag bhuachair 1882 CB  
R Declining resident species, now absent from much of former range. Recent breeding on Tiree (V) only. There may be some local movement in winter.  
II Islay: 1 at grain store, Port Ellen, Feb 27; 1 Claggain Bay, Mar 8.  
V Tiree: nos. continued to decline, with 19 prs located (cf 34 singing males in 1987 & 85 in 1977 [CJC]). Coll: no birds located.



## 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

Argyll Bird Report (1990) 6:58-68

### Results of bird-ringing in Argyll in 1989

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#### INTRODUCTION

In 1989, ringing in Argyll was carried out by fifteen individuals or groups, five resident and ten visiting, the latter including the Treshnish Auk group. Altogether, 9608 birds were ringed, the highest reported annual total for the county to date. Of these, 55% were seabirds, 40% were passerines, 2% were birds of prey, and 2% were waders. These percentages are determined as much by selective ringing effort as by the relative abundances of these bird groups within the area.

Requests are made for details of sightings of individually marked birds to be sent to the following:

Mute swan (coloured leg ring with number): D. Trigg, 4 Crown Meadows,  
Lower Broadheath, Worcester WR2 6QJ

Greenland white-fronted goose (Darvic leg ring with number): D. Stroud,  
5 Parkway, Nassington, Peterborough PE8 6QE

Barnacle goose (Darvic leg ring with number): M. A. Ogilvie, Islay Field  
Centre, Port Charlotte, Islay, Argyll PA48 7TX

Chough (colour code of leg rings): E. Bignal, Quinhill, Clachan, Tarbert,  
Argyll

Bird species for which ringing in Argyll has recently made significant contribution to the British Isles totals (near 20% or more) are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Bird species for which ringing in Argyll makes significant contributions to the annual totals for the British Isles.

Species	Number ringed in Argyll in 1989	Number ringed in British Isles in 1988*
Barnacle Goose	37	24
Hen Harrier	76	286
Golden Eagle	13	52
Common Gull	679	2418
Common Tern	1623	3276
Rock Dove	4	21
Chough	55	19

\* British Isles totals are from Mead and Clark (1989). The 1989 totals for the British Isles are not available at the time of writing.

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

## NUMBERS OF BIRDS RINGED IN ARGYLL IN 1989

	Fully grown	Chicks	Total
Fulmar	20	74	94
Manx shearwater	32	38	70
Storm-petrel	777	1	778
Gannet	1	0	1
Cormorant	0	26	26
Shag	20	206	226
Grey heron	0	20	20
Mute swan	31	17	48
Barnacle goose	37	0	37
Hen harrier	0	76	76
Sparrowhawk	1	4	5
Buzzard	1	55	56
Golden eagle	0	13	13
Merlin	0	12	12
Peregrine	0	18	18
Oystercatcher	1	64	65
Ringed plover	1	39	40
Lapwing	0	89	89
Snipe	0	2	2
Whimbrel	1	0	1
Curlew	7	2	9
Redshank	0	15	15
Common sandpiper	0	7	7
Black-headed gull	0	73	73
Common gull	0	695	695
Lesser black-backed gull	0	39	39
Herring gull	0	455	455
Great black-backed gull	1	78	79
Kittiwake	52	0	52
Common tern	261	1362	1623
Arctic tern	89	206	295
Little tern	0	5	5
Guillemot	345	86	431
Razorbill	121	26	147
Black guillemot	4	12	16
Puffin	140	2	142
Rock dove	0	4	4
Barn owl	6	12	18
Tawny owl	10	17	27
Great spotted woodpecker	2	0	2
Sand martin	175	0	175
Swallow	7	30	37
Tree pipit	13	0	13
Meadow pipit	14	18	32
Rock pipit	2	13	15
Grey wagtail	1	13	14
Pied wagtail	3	22	25
Dipper	5	0	5
Wren	34	7	41
Dunnoek	16	0	16
Robin	118	12	130
Redstart	6	20	26

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

Whinchat	5	10	15
Stonechat	21	7	28
Wheatear	25	14	39
Blackbird	35	4	39
Song thrush	18	0	18
Redwing	1	0	1
Grasshopper warbler	6	0	6
Sedge warbler	1	0	1
Whitethroat	18	0	18
Garden warbler	1	0	1
Blackcap	3	0	3
Wood warbler	2	16	18
Chiffchaff	3	0	3
Willow warbler	304	7	311
Goldcrest	89	0	89
Firecrest	1	0	1
Spotted flycatcher	6	0	6
Pied flycatcher	11	66	77
Long-tailed tit	52	0	52
Coal tit	22	0	22
Blue tit	117	883	1000
Great tit	64	198	262
Treecreeper	2	0	2
Chough	0	55	55
Crow	0	9	9
Raven	0	41	41
Starling	17	4	21
House sparrow	30	0	30
Chaffinch	403	0	403
Greenfinch	19	0	19
Siskin	634	0	634
Linnet	11	0	11
Twite	17	0	17
Bullfinch	8	0	8
Reed bunting	8	0	8
TOTAL	4309	5299	9608

## RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1989

The following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries, involving movements to or from Argyll, reported or noted in 1989. Ringing date and place are given on the first line, together with ring number and age when ringed, which is denoted by 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; hatched in year of ringing
- 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

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

Date and place of recovery are given on the second line, together with the usual code for the manner of recovery:

v caught and released  
 vv ring read without capture  
 + shot or killed by man  
 x found dead

Distance, direction and time are given if supplied.

## RED-THROATED DIVER

1169158	1	16-7-85	Nr Scatsta, Shetland
	v	25-9-89	L. Frisa, Mull, Argyll
			512 km 213 deg 1532 days

## FULMAR

FR68709	1	29-7-85	Canna, Hebrides
	x	15-6-89	L. na Keal, Mull, Argyll
			71 km 150 deg 1417 days
FR19742	1	7-8-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	30-9-88	Holyhead, Anglesey, Wales
			231 km 54 days

## STORM-PETREL

2299122	4	25-7-86	Switha, Orkney
	v	30-7-86	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			416 km 201 deg 5 days
2371215	4	20-7-88	Vatsetter, Yell, Shetland
	v	11-8-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			647 km 204 deg 22 days
2191436	4	7-8-77	Priest Island, Summer Isles, W. Ross
	v	27-6-89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			296 km 181 deg 4342 days

Note the rapid movement of 2299122 and longevity of 2191436

## GANNET

1152959	1	21-6-81	Hermaness, Unst, Shetland
	x	17-2-89	Dunstaffnage, Oban, Argyll
			551 km 208 deg 2798 days

## CORMORANT

5130302	1	1-7-85	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	12-3-86	South Hylton, Tyne and Wear
			291 km 254 days
5130325	1	1-7-85	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	16-3-86	Huntington, Cambs.
			532 km 258 days
5151426	1	18-6-88	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	24-10-88	L. Neagh, Antrim, N. IRELAND
			132 km 128 days
5140494	1	12-6-88	A'Chleit, Sutherland
	x (net)	27-12-88	Scallastle Bay, Mull, Argyll
			186 km 187 deg 198 days

## 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

### SHAG

1236798	1	2.7.87	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	+	15.10.87	Culdaff Bay, Donegal, EIRE
			112 km 105 days
1236746	1	2.7.87	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	1.5.89	Hynish Bay, Tiree, Argyll
			137 km 669 days
1238890	1	24.6.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	25.7.88	Derrybeg, Donegal, EIRE
			176 km 396 days
1231859	1	28.7.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	20.5.89	Port Mary, Dundrenan, Dumfriesshire
			118 km 661 days

### MUTE SWAN

Z63892 with white ring CTJ			
	1F	27.8.88	Bara Loch, East Lothian
	vv	21.9.89	Loch Indaal, Islay, Argyll
	to	31.12.89	c.225 km c.90 deg 390 days

Z64554 with orange ring A10			
	3	24.7.88	Holy Loch, Argyll
	x	29.4.89	Nr Barnhill, Renfrew, Strathclyde
			31 km 115 deg 279 days

### WHOOPEE SWAN

#### Yellow ring NLD

	1M	9.8.88	Hofstadir, Skagafjordur, North ICELAND
	vv	11.88	Ardalanish, Mull, Argyll
			c.1170 km c.90 days

One of 365 whoopers ringed by the Wildfowl Trust during an expedition to Iceland in August 1988.

### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Greenland race)

There is continuing international concern over the conservation of the small world population of this subspecies, particularly after the decisions of the Irish Government and the Scottish Office to allow hunting. In Eire, a long-term study has involved individually marking many geese with numbered collars since 1983. Of these, the following appeared in Scotland in 1989, most of them in Argyll: 37 on Islay, 10 on Kintyre, 3 on Tiree, 2 at Loch Ken, and 1 each at Coll, Caithness, Stranraer, and Moine Mhor (Argyll).

The UK Greenland White-fronted Goose Study has now been running for over ten years. The team visited Greenland again in 1989 and ringed a further 32 geese with numbered Darvic leg rings and collars, legible at a distance. In autumn-winter of calendar year 1989, 13 appeared on Islay, 4 on Kintyre, 3 on Tiree and one was shot on migration in Iceland. Surprisingly, none has so far been seen in Ireland despite extensive searches. Of 88 similarly ringed in 1984, 10 were seen on Islay in 1989; and of 96 ringed in 1979, 8 were on Islay and 2 in Caithness in 1989. Figures such as this, studied over a ten year period with most of the data coming from Argyll, have allowed the team to produce important results on mortality and movements (Kampp *et al.* 1988). A surprisingly high annual adult mortality rate of 23% was found, although many of the ringing recoveries used in this analysis came from the period when the geese could be legally shot. Mortality may now be less. Before this protection,

## 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

at least 5% of the adult population and 10% of the inexperienced first-year birds were found to be killed by hunting each year. The study has also produced useful results on winter site fidelity (Wilson *et al.* 1990). A very high degree of site fidelity between winters was measured. Over nine years, only 10% moved sites between winters, and well under 1% moved sites within a winter. Such results are important in developing conservation strategies for the species and indicate the adverse consequences for this goose if favoured sites are destroyed or significantly modified. (Information supplied by D. Stroud).

### BARNACLE GOOSE

1198151 with colour ring DFS

4F	2.1.87	L. Gruinart, Islay, Argyll
v	7.8.87	Crescent Lake, Sondermarken, GREENLAND
		2493 km 346 deg 217 days

Copenhagen 1195313

4M	15.7.84	Orsted Dal, East GREENLAND
v	5.2.89	Islay, Argyll
		c. 2000 km 1665 days

One of a catch of 38 barnacle geese on Islay. Many hundreds of barnacle geese wintering on Islay have been marked, like the last species, with numbered Darvic leg rings fitted in Greenland. (Information supplied by M. A. Ogilvie).

### SPARROWHAWK

EH96949	1F	9.7.89	Gairletter, Ardentinn, Argyll
	x (road)	27.11.89	Glencarse, nr Perth, Tayside
			107 km 68 deg 141 days

### BUZZARD

GH32851	1	21.6.88	Garvard, Colonsay, Argyll
	v	6.4.89	Erraid, Mull, Argyll
			29 km 343 deg 289 days

### GOLDEN EAGLE

ZZ0164	1	24.6.88	Wester Ross
	x	19.12.88	Nr L. Fincharn, L. Awe, Argyll
			130 km 176 deg 178 days
Z34906	1	2.6.75	Nr Colintrave, Argyll
	x	c. 1.5.79	Nr L. Awe, Argyll
			c. 30 km c. 1400 days

### MERLIN

EK94027	1	26.6.88	Kintyre, Argyll
	x (road)	13.11.89	Lisburn, Antrim, N. IRELAND
			158 km 198 deg 505 days

### OYSTERCATCHER

FA08255	8	22.3.84	Burgie, nr Forres, Grampian
	x	29.3.89	Ardgartan, L. Long, Argyll
			178 km 205 deg 1833 days

### BLACK-HEADED GULL

EN76433	1	26.7.86	Ardrishaig, Argyll
	v	23.9.89	Roskeen, Invergordon, Highland
			203 km 22 deg 1155 days

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

## COMMON GULL

EP91055	1	21-6-88	Dunstaffnage, Oban, Argyll
	x(wires)	29-12-88	Dunfanaghy, Donegal, EIRE
			214 km 228 deg 191 days
EN76064	1	5-6-86	Connel, Oban, Argyll
	vv	22-12-86	Ainsdale, Merseyside
	vv	12-12-88	Ainsdale, Merseyside
			349 km 155 deg 921 days

## HERRING GULL

GG51550	1	6-7-87	L. Etive, Argyll
	x	6-5-88	Millom, Cumbria
			279 km 153 deg 305 days
GG62040	1	26-6-89	Dunstaffnage, Oban, Argyll
	x(road)	17-9-89	L. Ryan, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway
			174 km 172 deg 83 days
GJ41688	1	19-6-82	Eilean Dubh, L. Linnhe, Argyll
	x	9-8-88	Nr North Berwick, Lothian
			170 km 108 deg 2243 days
GG51874	1	3-7-88	E. Balnagowan, L. Linnhe, Argyll
	vv	20-12-88	Cooper Park, Elgin, Grampian
			166 km 47 deg 170 days
GG32404	1	24-6-87	E. Dubh, L. Linnhe, Argyll
	?	(27-9-88)	Ring found loose in mail at Post Office, Campbeltown

There were also two movements to Glasgow, one from Glasgow, and several of less than 100 km. GG32404 is included as an example of what may happen to rings that are poorly packaged when being reported!

## GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

HW94973	1	12-7-88	Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x(dying)	22-5-89	Loch Fad, Isle of Bute
			48 km 128 deg 314 days

## COMMON TERN

XR60849	1	14-7-89	Near Oban, Argyll
	+ (net)	2-9-89	Essaouira, MOROCCO
			2786 km 187 deg 50 days
XR69107	1	15-7-89	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	v(line)	9-9-89	Mohammadia, MOROCCO
			2472 km 183 deg 56 days
XR09097	1	15-7-89	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	?	8-11-89	N. Atlantic, off Senegal
			4915 km 190 deg 116 days
XR27480	1	26-7-86	Tayvallich, Argyll
	v(net)	27-3-89	Casamance, SENEGAL
			4947 km 191 deg 975 days
XR20290	1	1-7-86	Near Oban, Argyll
	+ (line)	20-12-88	Cap Vert, Senegal
			4748 km 192 deg 903 days
XR38701	1	9-7-87	Near Oban, Argyll
	+ (line)	19-5-89	Mbour, SENEGAL
			4779 km 192 deg 680 days

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

XR07270	1	31-7-84	Near Oban, Argyll
	+(line)	8-2-89	Dakar, SENEGAL 4756 km 192 deg 1653 days
XS91711	1	22-6-84	Near Nairn, Highland
	vB	6-7-89	Sound of Jura, Argyll 195 km 214 deg 1840 days
CK88959	1	30-7-71	L. Linnhe, Argyll
	vB	22-7-89	L. Linnhe, Argyll 0 km 6567 days

The first seven of these recoveries represent birds on the migration route or in the wintering area of this species.

## GUILLEMOT

T51915	1	22-6-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	+	29-11-88	Ile d'Yeu, Vendee, FRANCE 978 km 160 days
T51610	1	25-6-87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	2-4-88	San Sebastian, Guipozcoa, SPAIN 1354 km 282 days
T56718	1	23-6-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	6-11-88	Rustington, Sussex 601 km 136 days
T56636	1	23-6-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	30-10-88	Swanage, Dorset 572 km 129 days
T56807	8	23-6-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	+	29-12-88	Eastbourne, Sussex 636 km 189 days
T67434	1	22-6-88	Badbea, Helmsdale, Highland
	x	7-6-89	Tralee Beach, Oban, Argyll 215 km 211 deg 350 days
T67469	1	22-6-88	Badbea, Helmsdale, Highland
	x	11-4-89	Campbeltown Loch, Argyll 218 km 220 deg 293 days

## SAND MARTIN

F112364	3JF	21-8-88	Icklesham, Sussex
	v	17-5-89	North Connel, Argyll 734 km 327 deg 269 days
F113443	3JM	27-8-88	Icklesham, Sussex
	v	17-5-89	North Connel, Argyll 734 km 327 deg 263 days
E598535	3JM	21-7-87	Powgavie, Inchtute, Tayside
	v	16-5-88	North Connel, Argyll
	v	17-5-89	North Connel, Argyll 138 km 272 deg 666 days
E992323	3JF	12-6-88	Powgavie, Inchtute, Tayside
	v	17-5-89	North Connel, Argyll 138 km 272 deg 339 days

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

## ROBIN

	?	3	3-9-84	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x		20-1-85	Cloughmills, Antrim, N. IRELAND 58 km 139 days
	?	3	27-8-84	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x		19-11-85	Connor Downs, Cornwall 563 km 449 days
E191857	3		16-8-86	Garvellach Islands, Firth of Lorn, Argyll
	x		18-9-86	West Kilbride, Strathclyde 83 km 33 days

We do not traditionally think of the robin as a migrant. These three recoveries show how wrong this view can be.

## REDWING

ISR839301	1	29-5-88	Kaupangssveit, Eyjafjardar, ICELAND
	x	12-11-88	Ardalanish, Mull, Argyll 1214 km 149 deg 167 days

## WHITETHROAT

C141333	5M	26-5-87	Calf of Man, Isle of Man
	v	27-6-87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	v	7-5-88	Sanda
	v	19-5-89	Sanda 145 km 724 days

## BLACKCAP

C601916	4M	18-4-87	Carradale, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	2-3-89	Seddouk, Constantine, ALGERIA 2253 km 684 days

## WILLOW WARBLER

9J8215	3	11-8-88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	v	12-9-88	St Philbert, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE 956 km 32 days

## PIED FLYCATCHER

E843338	1F	20-6-88	Brenachoile, SE Katrine, Central
	vB	9-6-89	Ardgenavan, L. Fyne, Argyll 94 km 270 deg 354 days

## BLUE TIT

E006319	3F	7-10-86	Balnamoil, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	13-3-87	Clachan, Tarbert, Argyll 52 km 157 days
C897285	5F	9-5-87	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
	x(cat)	6-2-88	Ballachulish, Highland 27 km 25 deg 273 days

Two unusually long movements for this species.

## GREAT TIT

VA54934	1	2-6-88	Knapdale Forest, Argyll
	v	17-3-89	South Loch Aweside, Argyll 29 km 40 deg 288 days

# 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

## RAVEN

HT17851	1	18.4.87	Scalasaig, Colonsay, Argyll
	x	1.10.88	Bellochantuy, Kintyre, Argyll
			66 km 151 deg 532 days

## CHAFFINCH

C363528	3M	6.11.88	Bacaldine, Oban, Argyll
	x(dog)	7.4.89	Glenborrodale, L. Sunart, Highland
			39 km 298 deg 152 days

An unusually long distance for this species in this area.

## SISKIN

F141477	6M	25.3.89	Clonmell, Tipperary, EIRE
	v	15.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			493 km 20 deg 21 days
F362044	5F	7.3.89	Dunmurry, Antrim, N. IRELAND
	v	15.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			224 km 11 deg 39 days
C731376	4F	10.3.88	Dunmurry, Antrim, N. IRELAND
	v	30.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			224 km 11 deg 416 days
B360925	5F	8.3.86	Exeter, Devon
	v	20.5.86	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
	v	22.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			655 km 349 deg 1141 days
C958342	6F	6.4.86	Dorking, Surrey
	v	22.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			671 km 331 deg 1112 days
C010949	5F	16.5.86	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
	v	18.3.89	Wash Common, Newbury, Berks
			626 km 156 deg 1037 days
E686725	5F	25.2.89	Rickmansworth, Herts
	v	29.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			627 km 330 deg 63 days
E420070	6M	17.3.87	Welwyn, Herts
	v	12.4.89	Glenbranter, Dunoon, Argyll
			575 km 327 deg 757 days
E032514	5M	21.3.86	Grove, Oxfordshire
	v	13.5.87	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
	v	25.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			605 km 1131 days
F279122	6M	25.3.89	Bridgnorth, Salop
	v	29.4.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			491 km 337 deg 35 days
C362436	5F	7.5.87	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
	v	5.3.89	Retford, Notts
			452 km 142 deg 668 days
C158996	6M	24.2.89	Byfleet, Surrey
	v	29.4.89	Glenbranter, Dunoon, Argyll
			610 km 331 deg 64 days

## 1989 ARGYLL RINGING

E017061	5M	15.4.89	Holmes Chapel, Cheshire
	v	28.6.89	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
			415 km 74 days

Details are given of movements to or from Ireland, and of movements over 400 km on the mainland. There were also two from Merseyside, one from Yorkshire, and three from elsewhere in Scotland. The three siskins from Ireland add a new dimension to the picture. Some siskins remain in Scotland throughout the winter, but most move south. The peak of return passage occurs in April and is well illustrated by the above recoveries and those in earlier Argyll Bird Reports. Most of these were ringed in southern England in February-March, and few if any in mid-winter. This is consistent with wintering outside Britain.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

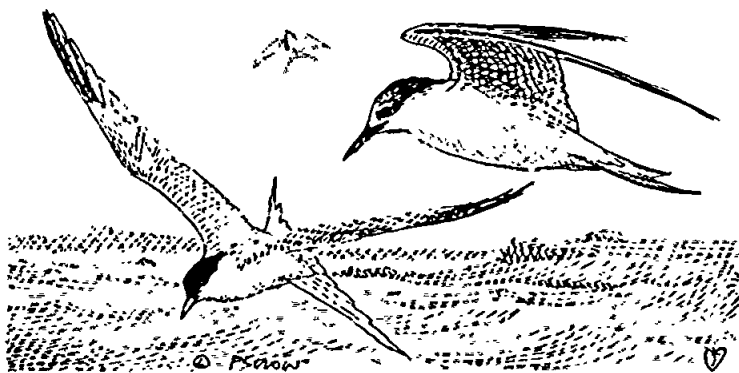
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Arctic Terns - adult and juvenile, late summer

## ARRIVAL DATES OF MIGRANTS

Argyll Bird Report (1990) 6:69-71

### First arrival dates of some common summer migrants to Argyll

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#### INTRODUCTION

It was originally intended to present a series of arrival and departure dates for both summer and winter migrants, but on examination of the published records it became clear that there was insufficient data to do this. Hence the prime purpose of this article is to draw attention to the lack of such information and to urge members to keep more detailed records and submit them to the Recorder.

The arrival dates have been taken from the *Argyll Bird Reports* 1-5. These first dates usually precede by a month or longer the dates of the main arrivals of our summer visitors. Not all the summer migrants to Argyll have been included since the early records of some species are either very incomplete or absent. Blackcap records have been excluded because of the problem of overwintering birds.

Despite the great distances flown by migrants from their wintering quarters to their breeding areas, and the annual and regional variations in the weather encountered on their migrations, it is remarkable how consistent is the timetable of these birds. A phenomenon first recorded in the Book of Job;

"Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow shall observe the time of their coming."

#### RESULTS

The first arrival dates and the date range of many of the common summer migrants to Argyll in the years 1981 to 1988 are presented in Table 1. For comparison, the earliest dates and the main passage times for the same species arriving at 9 bird observatories in Britain over a period of 15 years as compiled by Riddiford and Findley (1981) are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Earliest date and main passage times of summer migrants in Britain (Riddiford and Findley 1981).

Species	Earliest	Main passage
Common sandpiper	mid March	mid April - mid May
Cuckoo	mid April	late April - late May
Swift	late April	mid May - early June
Sand martin	early March	mid April - early May
Swallow	early March	mid May
House martin	late March	mid - late May
Tree pipit	late March	early - mid May
Redstart	late March	late April - mid May
Whinchat	early April	early - mid May
Wheatear	mid March	late March - mid April
Ring ouzel	early March	late April - early May
Grasshopper warbler	late March	late April - early May
Sedge warbler	early April	May
Whitethroat	early April	early May
Garden warbler	late March	late May - early June
Wood warbler	early May	late May
Chiffchaff	early March	early April
Willow warbler	mid March	April - early May
Spotted flycatcher	late April	late May - early June

## ARRIVAL DATES OF MIGRANTS

Table 1. First recorded arrival dates of summer migrants in Argyll.

Species	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	Range 81-88
Common sandpiper	16/4	7/4	15/4	15/4	8/4	7/3	5/4	16/4	7/3-16/4
Cuckoo	17/4	8/5	26/4	22/4	19/4	18/4	23/4	20/4	17/4-8/5
Swift	*	*	5/5	12/5	5/5	12/5	16/4	7/5	16/4-12/5
Sand martin	*	28/3	13/4	2/5	22/4	24/4	8/4	9/4	28/3-2/5
Swallow	11/4	24/3	14/4	8/4	10/4	18/4	11/4	3/4	24/3-18/4
House martin	11/5	19/5	8/5	2/5	5/4	24/4	14/4	23/4	5/4-19/5
Tree pipit	6/4	26/4	*	25/3	22/4	18/4	18/4	15/4	25/3-26/4
Redstart	15/4	*	24/4	13/4	22/4	15/4	16/4	15/4	13/4-24/4
Whinchat	7/5	27/4	26/4	7/4	30/4	2/5	22/4	1/4	1/4-7/5
Wheatear	21/3	27/3	12/4	25/3	27/3	18/3	29/3	29/4	18/3-29/4
Ring ouzel	*	28/3	3/4	*	20/4	19/4	5/4	4/4	28/3-20/4
Grasshopper warb.	*	*	29/4	25/4	16/5	9/5	24/4	23/4	23/4-16/5
Sedge warbler	3/4	*	2/5	23/4	12/5	13/5	25/4	5/5	3/4-13/5
Whitethroat	10/5	*	11/5	1/5	13/5	10/5	24/5	3/5	1/5-24/5
Garden warbler	*	6/6	23/5	*	15/5	15/5	4/5	24/4	24/4-23/5
Wood warbler	4/5	6/5	20/4	26/5	5/5	29/5	24/5	21/4	20/4-29/5
Chiffchaff	1/5	1/5	26/3	7/4	9/4	*	9/4	30/3	26/3-1/5
Willow warbler	13/5	16/5	8/4	11/4	5/4	20/4	11/4	30/3	30/3-13/5
Sp. flycatcher	11/5	9/5	10/5	8/5	20/5	18/5	21/5	12/5	8/5-21/5

\* = No early reports

## ARRIVAL DATES OF MIGRANTS

### DISCUSSION

Hudson (1973) published a series of early arrival and late departure dates for 50 species of summer migrants to Britain for the period from the beginning of the 19th century to the end of January 1973. These dates were extreme ones. The only early Scottish species (excluding Fair Isle) were ring ouzel in Kirkcudbright on 14/2/1918 and Ross-shire on 12/2/1967, whinchat in Argyshire on 17/3/1931, and spotted flycatcher in Angus on 5/4/1928. No Argyll records were noted. Hudson pointed out that the main arrival and departure times vary geographically by considerable amounts, for instance by up to a month between the south of England and the Scottish uplands. Hudson concluded that during the 30 years up to 1973, first arrivals tended to be earlier and departures later. He also mentioned there had been a marked amelioration of the climate over north-west Europe during the same period. It would be of interest to know what changes, if any, have occurred since that survey.

Riddiford and Findley (1981) discussed the seasonal movements of summer migrants to Britain based on the detailed records of 9 Bird Observatories over a period of 15 years. These observatories were; Fair Isle, Spurn, Gibraltar Point, Sandwich Bay, Dungeness, Portland, Skokholm, Bardsey and Calf of Man. They selected 39 species of summer visitors to investigate the timing of migration to and from Britain. Some of their general findings are in Table 2 but reference should be made to the original paper where each species is dealt with in detail. Riddiford and Findley indicate that there are biases inherent in their presentation and outline them.

It must always be borne in mind that migration occurs on broad fronts, that movements take place over periods of time, that different populations of the same species may move at different times and that there may be overlapping movements. Weather conditions affect migratory movements to a very considerable extent. These have been discussed at some length by Elkins (1983). No attempt has been made in this article to try and correlate summer migrants arriving in Argyll with weather patterns since the available information was insufficient for any valid conclusions to be drawn. Local weather conditions, especially in Scotland, may vary greatly even over short distances and attempts to relate sparse observations of isolated birds to weather conditions on a particular day or days would be of little value, whereas multiple observations from areas and coupled with national weather information would be of great interest.

### CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that the dates of arrival into Argyll of some of our summer migrants fit broadly into the national pattern as presented by Riddiford and Findley (1981).

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## NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

Argyll Bird Report (1990) 6:72-77

### A nestbox study of blue tit, great tit and pied flycatcher: Third-year results

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#### INTRODUCTION

The aims of this study are to increase the population of pied flycatcher in Argyll by providing nestboxes, and to monitor the productivity of these and other hole-nesting species (Petty 1989).

In this paper I briefly present some of the results from the third year of the project when over 1400 birds, including 156 pied flycatchers, were reared from the nestboxes.

#### STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Nestboxes were erected in 2 new study areas well before the start of the breeding season, these were at Glen Creran and Inveraray. The nestboxes at Loch Etive were changed to the type of box used in the other areas and the number of boxes was increased. In total there are now 12 study areas (Figure 1) containing 534 nestboxes (Table 1). The same data collection methods were used as in 1988 (Petty 1989), but only details of occupancy rates are presented in this paper as a more thorough analysis of reproductive performance will be undertaken after the 1990 breeding season.

Table 1. Occupancy rates of the nestboxes in the 12 study areas in 1989. The Loch Lomond study area is just outside Argyll in Dumbarton District, the remaining areas are in Argyll.

Study area (abbreviation)	Boxes available	Boxes occupied (%)	Species using the boxes			
			BT	GT	PF	RT
Barcaldine (BC)	80	17 (21.3)	10	6	0	1
Blairmore (BL)	41	22 (53.7)	21	1	0	0
Colonsay (CO)	20	3 (15.0)	3	0	0	0
Dalavich (DL)	40	22 (55.0)	12	9	1	0
Glenbranter (GB)	51	24 (47.1)	17	6	1	0
Glen Creran (GC)	39	7 (17.9)	5	2	0	0
Glennan (GL)	40	13 (32.5)	11	2	0	0
Inveraray (IN)	40	19 (47.5)	14	2	3	0
Knapdale (KN)	64	30 (46.9)	12	18	0	0
Loch Etive (LE)	40	14 (35.0)	4	2	8	0
Loch Lomond (LL)	40	39 (97.5)	13	7	19	0
Skipness (SK)	39	6 (15.4)	6	0	0	0
All areas	534	216 (40.4)	128	55	32	1

Boxes were classified as occupied when at least one egg had been laid.

BT = blue tit, GT = great tit, PF = pied flycatcher, RT = redstart

# NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

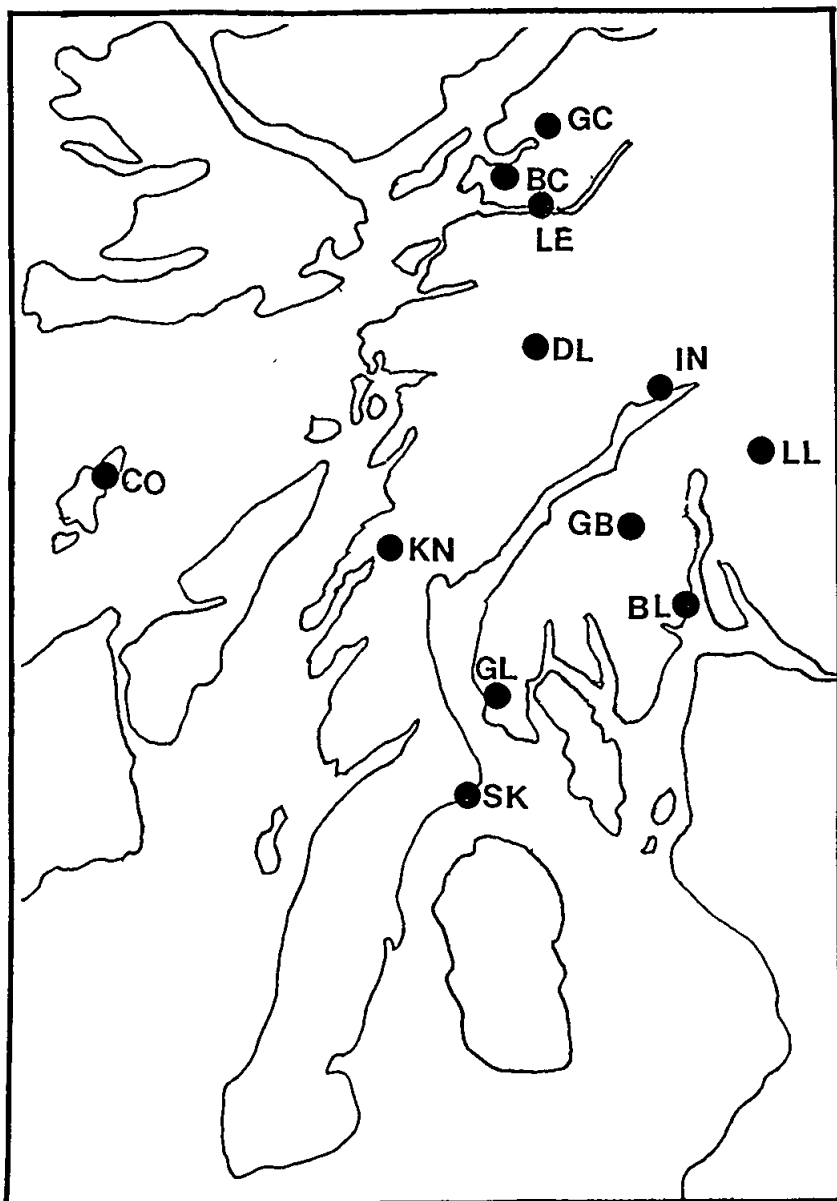


Figure 1. Location of the 12 study areas (see Table 1 for study area abbreviations).

# NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

## RESULTS

### Occupancy rates

Table 2. Comparison between 1988 and 1989 in the proportion of nestboxes occupied by blue tit (BT), great tit (GT) and pied flycatcher (PF).

Species	1988	1989
BT	24.2	24.0
GT	14.0	10.3
PF	5.1	6.0

In 1989, 216 (40%) of 534 nestboxes were occupied (Table 1). In comparison, 44% were occupied in 1988, but this difference was not significant (Table 2). Comparing areas, there was no consistent trend, as occurred between 1987 and 1988, when occupancy rates increased in the 5 areas under study (Petty 1989). Between 1988 and 1989 occupancy rates increased in 5 areas, decreased in 4 and stayed the same in 1 (Figure 2). The highest occupancy rates were at Loch Lomond and the lowest on Colonsay.

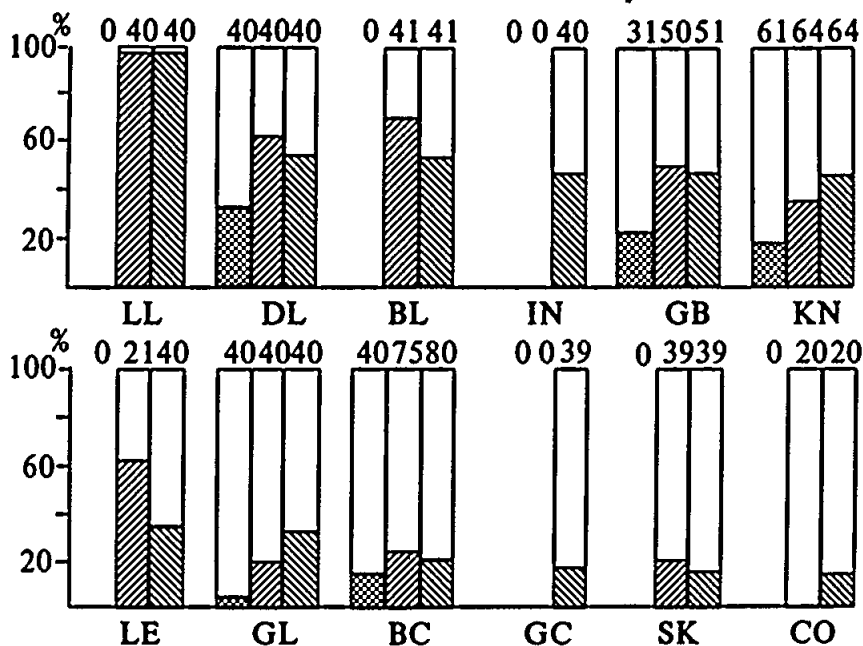


Figure 2. Occupancy rates for the 12 study areas. The left-hand histogram is for 1987, the middle one is for 1988 and the right-hand one is for 1989. The number of nestboxes available in each study area in each year is given at the top of each histogram (see Table 1 for study area abbreviations). The shaded part of the histogram represents the proportion of boxes occupied.

## NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

### Blue and great tit

Blue tits were the most frequent occupant with 128 nests in 1989 (Table 1). There were considerable differences between study areas in the proportion of occupied boxes containing blue tits, ranging from 100% on Colonsay and Skipness to 29% at Loch Etive (Figure 3).

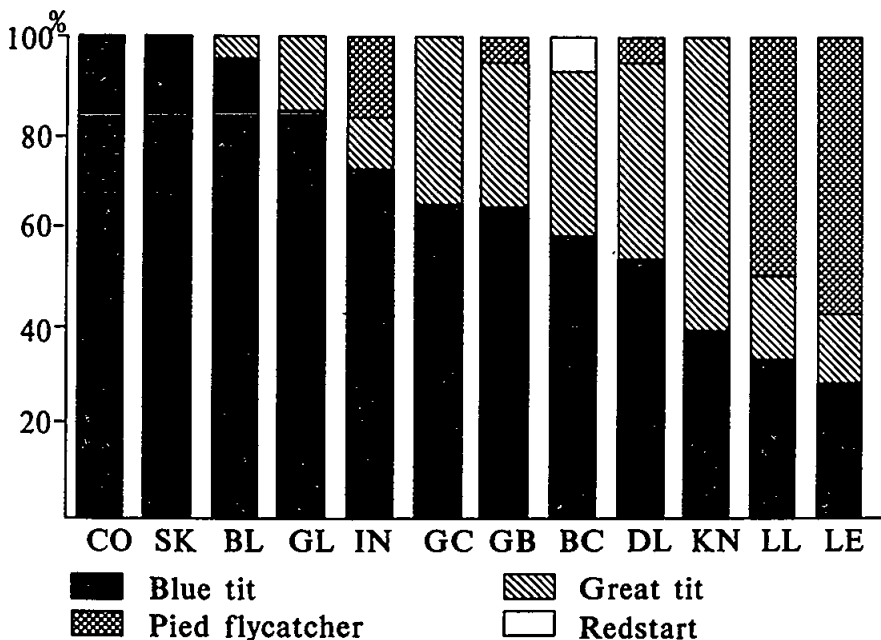


Figure 3. Species in the occupied boxes in each study area in 1989 (see Table 1 for study area abbreviations).

Great tits bred in 55 boxes. Only in Knapdale did they outnumber other species, as in 1988.

### Pied flycatchers

Pied flycatchers have consolidated their position at Loch Lomond, with 19 boxes occupied in 1989, four more than in 1988. Just one more box (9 in total) was occupied by pied flycatchers at Loch Etive where breeding success was much better than in 1988 when a mammalian predator took a number of chicks. A new box site near the head of Loch Fyne (Inveraray) attracted three pairs of pied flycatchers with two nests successfully rearing chicks. At this site all three females were caught, one had previously been ringed as a nestling in 1988 at Brenachoile, south-east Loch Katrine (Central Region) while the others were unringed.

Pied flycatcher bred unsuccessfully in two other areas, one at Dalavich and the other at Glenbranter. Both nests failed with chicks during a period of exceptionally wet weather. Some late blue tit broods also died at the same time. A part-built pied flycatchers nest was found at Dalavich in (1987), but this was the first recorded breeding attempt in Glenbranter.

## NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

### Number of birds reared from the nestbox project

A total of 1409 chicks of all species fledged from the nestboxes in 1989 (Table 3). This is only slightly more than in 1988 when considerably fewer nestboxes were available and reflects poorer productivity by blue and great tits. A total of 156 pied flycatchers were reared in 1989. This is an increase of 56 chicks compared to 1988, the result of more nests and increased productivity at Loch Etive.

Table 3. Number of eggs laid and chicks reared from the nestboxes in 12 study areas in 1989.

Species	Total number of eggs laid (number of nests)	Total number of chicks fledged (number of nests)
BT	1178 (128)	912 (111)
GT	423 (55)	334 (48)
PF	208 (32)	156 (28)
RS	7 (1)	7 (1)
Total	1816 (216)	1409 (188)

### DISCUSSION

Pied flycatchers are noted for their ability to colonise nestboxes quickly (Campbell 1955a; 1955b; 1965; Lack 1966; Currie and Bamford 1982; Thom 1986). In Wales, 246 boxes with approximately 20 m between them in 9.5 ha of oak, beech and larch plantations attracted 37 pairs in the first year increasing to 73 in the second year (Currie and Bamford 1982). No pied flycatchers bred in the area prior to the provision of nestboxes.

It is worth considering why colonisation is slower in Argyll. In the Welsh study pied flycatcher were already present in adjacent habitats. In contrast, there are few historical records of pied flycatchers in Argyll, the first pair being recorded at Glen Etive in 1945 (Campbell 1954). Campbell (1954) also records a number of singing males and one failed breeding attempt in north Argyll during 1945-1951. Successful breeding was not recorded until 1985, when an RSPB survey of 38 broadleaved woods in north and mid Argyll located birds in 8 woods, including a pair feeding newly fledged chicks in Glen Etive (Galbraith and Jennings 1986). Although they may have been under-recorded, all the historical evidence suggests that pied flycatchers have been extremely scarce and until recently confined to a few areas in north Argyll.

Pied flycatchers are now well established in three nestbox areas (Loch Etive, Loch Lomond and Inveraray), with sporadic but so far unsuccessful breeding at three other sites (Dalavich, Barcaldine and Glenbranter). Providing this nestbox scheme can be maintained and expanded in the future, pied flycatcher populations should continue to increase because adults show a strong fidelity to their breeding areas (Campbell 1959), with a smaller proportion of juveniles returning to the vicinity of their natal areas (Nyholm 1986).

It was surprising that coal tits have not bred in a nestbox in this study (1987-1989), and that so few redstart nests have been recorded.

A fuller analysis of reproductive performance of pied flycatcher, blue tit and great tit will be undertaken after the 1990 breeding season when another years data will be available to look at within and between year variations.

## NESTBOX PROJECT 1989

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the project in 1989 was largely due to members of the Argyll Bird Club who spent a considerable amount of time checking boxes and meticulously filling in record sheets. Roger Broad, helped by Bill Whiteford and John Blatcher, covered the Loch Lomond, Inveraray and Dalavich areas; Christine and Simon Lawrence the Knapdale and Skipness area; Peter and Margaret Staley the Blairmore area; David and Janet Jardine and Donald Hendry the Barcaldine and Loch Creran area; John and Pamela Clarke the Colonsay area; Clive Craik the Loch Etive area; Nigel Scriven, David Anderson and Cowal Natural History Society members the Glennan and Glenbranter area. 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 or all of the boxes in Glenbranter, Colonsay, Loch Etive, Inveraray and Blairmore areas were sited on privately-owned land and I thank Mr William Montgomery, Lord Strathcona, Lt.Col. Campbell-Preston, Mr. Noble and Mr. Ian MacArthur for their permission to do so. I also thank Diane Chadwick for typing various drafts, George Gate for drawing the figures and Linda Petty for helping in the field. Roger Broad, David Jardine and Phil Ratcliffe made valuable comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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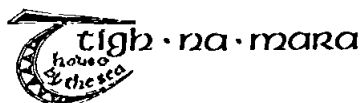
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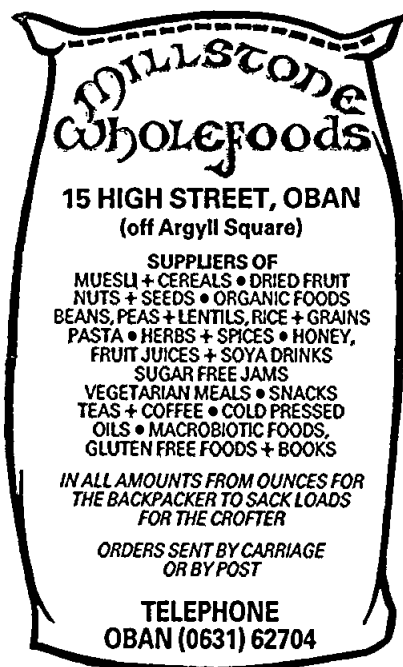
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