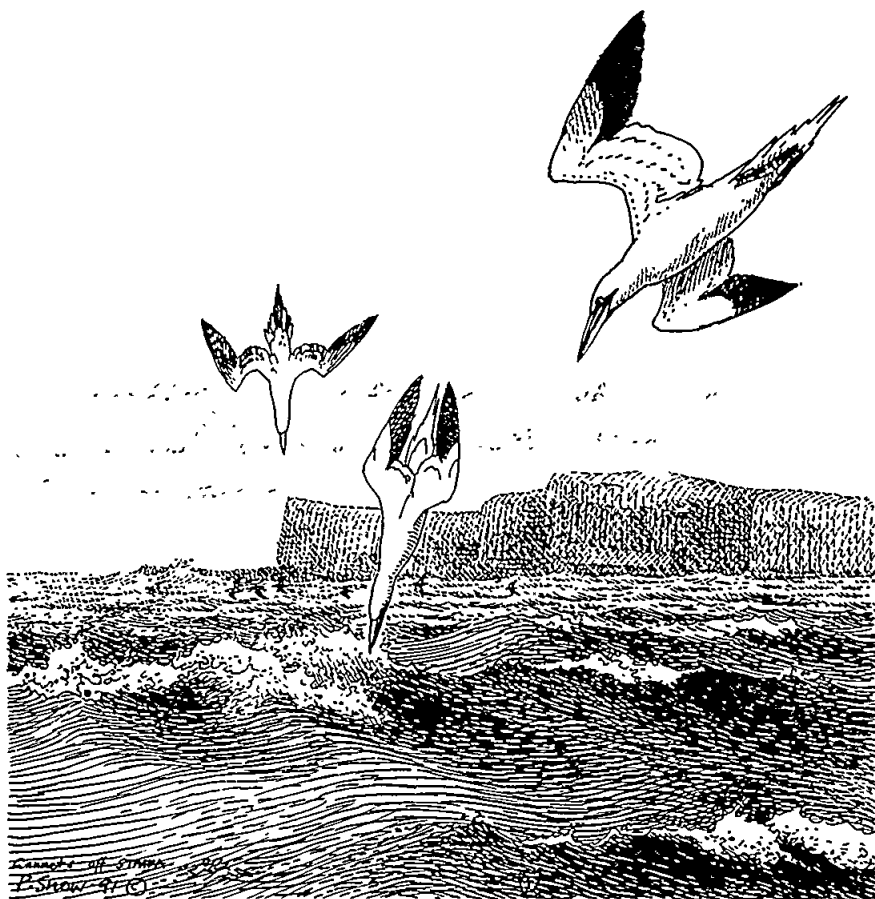

THE SEVENTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE
ARGYLL BIRD CLUB
1991

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, these include talks, scientific papers and field trips. Conferences on selected topics are also organised occasionally. 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 locally and nationally, 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 birds 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 SEVENTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

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

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

**Systematic List by:
M.Madders and J.W. Welstead**

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

**Illustrated by:
P.Snow**

**Published by the
Argyll Bird Club
(Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a charity)
April 1991
(Copyright, Argyll Bird Club)**

Contents

Editorial. <i>By S.J. Petty</i>	Page 3
Systematic list for 1990. <i>By M. Madders and J.W. Welstead</i>	4-55
Results of bird ringing in Argyll for 1990. <i>By J.C.A. Craik</i>	56-66
Wintering wildfowl in Argyll 1989/1990. <i>By S.F. Newton and A.V. Newton</i>	67-74
Further copies of this report can be obtained from: N.J. Scriven, Ardentinnny Centre, Ardentinnny, Dunoon, Argyll.	

Argyll Bird Club - Officials and Committee 1990/91

Chairman: R. Broad, 6 Birch Road, Kilearn Glasgow G63 9SQ.
 Vice Chairman: S.J. Eccles, Roineachail, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QP.
 Secretary: S.J. Eccles (address as above)
 Treasurer: P.T. Staley, Lincluden, Blairmore, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TL.
 Membership Secretary: P.T. Staley (address as above)
 Committee: R. Broad, Dr. J.C.A. Craik, S.J. Eccles, Dr. C.A. Galbraith, D.C. Jardine, Dr. A.R. Jennings, M. Madders, Dr. J. McCulloch, S.J. Petty, N.J. Scriven, P.T. Staley and J. Welstead.
 Argyll Records Panel (ARP): R. Broad, D.C. Jardine, Dr. A.R. Jennings, M. Madders and Dr. M.A. Ogilvie.
 Editor of the Argyll Bird Report: S.J. Petty, Oakenshaw, Ardentinnny, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TU
 Editor of the Newsletter (The Eider): Julia Welstead, Grasspoint Cottage, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA64 6AP
 Editorial Committee for the Argyll Bird Report: S.J. Petty, P.T. Staley, R. Broad and N.J. Scriven.

Other Useful Addresses

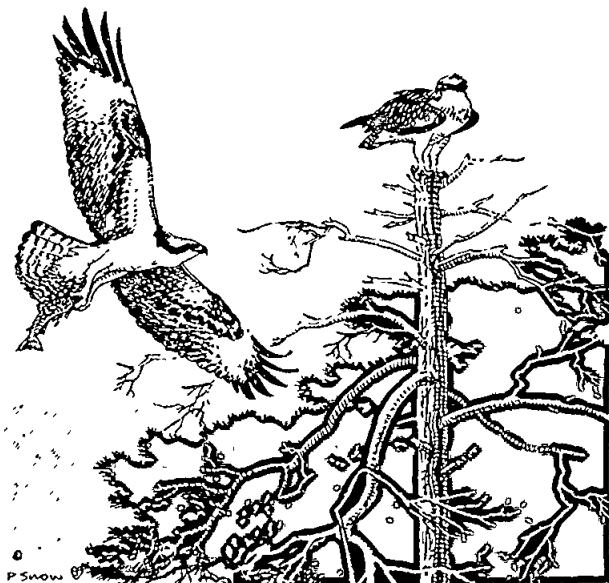
SOC Recorder for Argyll: M. Madders, Grasspoint Cottage, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA64 6AP
 BTO Breeding Bird Atlas Organisers for Argyll: *South Argyll including Islay, Jura and Colonsay (regions 1, 2 and 3):* D.C. Jardine, 61 Eastwood Grange Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1UE. *North Argyll 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, Dunkineely, 17 Princes Crescent, Dollar, 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 seventh year that The Argyll Bird Club has published the *Argyll Bird Report*. The Editorial Committee would like to see the size of the report increase through time; providing of course that the Argyll Bird Club can continue to fund its production. A variety of papers and short notes reporting studies of individual species or bird communities, interesting behavioural observations, identification problems or descriptions of good bird watching areas would add greatly to the value of the report. The only stipulation is that the article/paper must be relevant to Argyll. If you feel you can offer a paper or article then please contact the Editor. The deadline for each report is 31 December.

The production of this report has been very much a team effort. Peter Staley has devoted a great deal of time to arranging the printing at a reasonable price, and together with Steve Eccles has managed to maintain the revenue from advertizing. Clive Craik has again taken on the job of producing the Ringing Report. It has always seemed sensible to produce a summary of wildfowl records each winter so at long last Steve and Ann Newton have successfully taken on this task. Above all though, Mike Madders helped by Julia Welstead has again produced 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 hard work this involves even though Mike has now a computerised database of Argyll bird records fully under his control. I would also like to thank Philip Snow for his superb drawings, which add substantially to the attractiveness of the report, and the Editorial Committee and authors who have given me tremendous support and kept to some very tight deadlines yet again!

Steve Petty
Ardentinnny, 3 March 1991



SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Argyll Bird Report (1991)7: 4-55

Systematic list for 1990

Mike Madders, assisted by Julia W Welstead
Grasspoint, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, Argyll PA64 6AP

INTRODUCTION

This is the first time that the annual systematic list has been compiled using information from a computerised database. Such a system enables far greater use to be made of all bird records and makes the generation of a report such as this one considerably easier. A total of just under 4,500 records were entered onto the database in 1990 and this information should prove to be a valuable resource in the future. Clearly, there is not space available here to publish all these data and much editing and summarising was necessary to meet the page allocation for the report. Even so, it is the largest systematic list yet and likely to expand in future years. We are perhaps reaching the point at which we should be exploring alternative ways of using and presenting the detailed data that are accumulating, although the continued publication of some kind of annual summary of sightings is desirable. The views of all readers would be very much appreciated.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

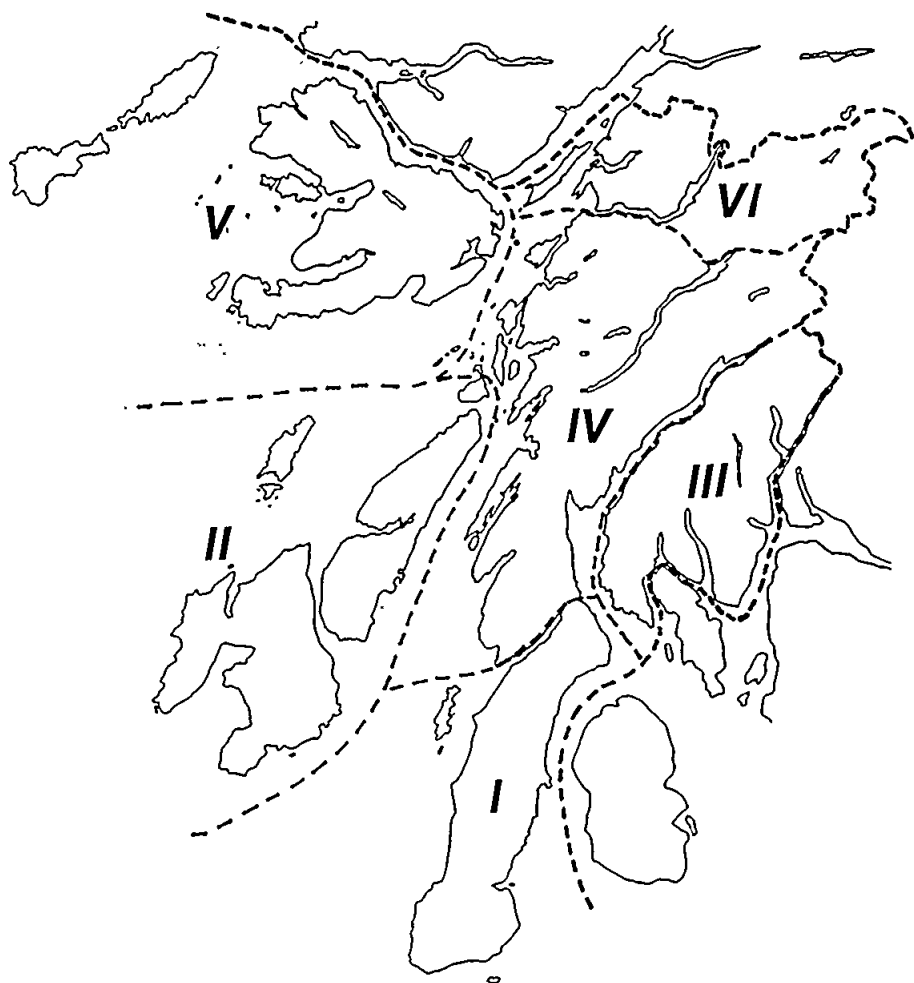
One of the most satisfying aspects of compiling the systematic list is that it is very much a team effort. We are indebted to everyone who submitted records in 1990 and hope that they will continue to support the report in future years. A full list of contributors appears below - our apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted! Note that observers initials are not usually cited in the systematic list unless a summary of an individual's or organisation's fieldwork has been included. In previous reports, initials have also been included for sightings of rarities, but we have discontinued this because it seems to us that it discriminates against the many contributors who send in valuable counts and behavioural observations of commoner species.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the especial help given by the following people with particular sections of the systematic list: Roger Broad (schedule 1 species), David Jardine (BTO Atlas information), Eddie Maguire (Kintyre records) and Malcolm Ogilvie (Islay records). Proof reading & criticism of the draft report was by Roger Broad, David Jardine, David Arthur Jennings, Malcolm Ogilvie and Steve Petty. Any mistakes that remain, however, are entirely ours.

The information in this systematic list is derived from the Argyll Bird Information System, a computerised database written for the recorder by Paul Backhouse. The efficient installation and generally trouble-free operation of this system is due in large measure to our tireless computer guru, Chris Baker.

We 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 1990.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990



Map showing the regions of Argyll used in this report. I Kintyre; II Islay, Jura and Colonsay; III Cowal; IV Mid-Argyll, Coll and Tiree; VI north Argyll.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Contributors 1990

GM Adam, A Alexander, D Anderson, RAGA Angus, P Atherton, GE Austin, PR Backhouse, CM Baker, D Batty, PM Batty, D Bennet, C Biltcliffe, J Birli-son, J Blatcher, V Blaxter, A Bloggs, P Bolton, DF Bowman, G Boyce, S Boyes, J Bradfield, RA Broad, D Bromwich, D Brooks, I Bullock, A Cadman, R Campbell, P Cashman, P Chanin, Mr&Mrs Church, J Clarke, M Clarke, B Col-eman, R Collingham, P Cool, JCA Craik, T Curtis, JE Dale, TP Daniels, I Dar-ling, H Davidson, I Davis, J Dawson, GM de Mornay, T Dolan, J Duncan-Jones, A Eastham, S Eccles, PJ Edwards, M Elwell, B Etheridge, A Evans, C Faulk-ner, CF Ferguson, FM Fleming, A Forsyth, J Gabarek, J Gardner, S Gibson, J Gilbert, C Gill, I Gilles, JF Graham, EA Graham, J Grange, Y Graves, S Greg-ory, BR Hallam, JB Halliday, S Hardy, JM Harrison, A Headwick, M Henry, C Henty, A Hogg, AI Hogg, P Howarth, MGB Hughes, HR&DK Hunter, A Hunter, L Hurrell, G Jackson, MV Jackson, S Jaggs et al, L Janacek, DC Jar-dine, M Jardine, RJ Jennet, A Jennings, MT Jennings, CM Johnson, E&L Jones, P Kelly, C Kerr, ERG Kidd, P Knight, AC Knight, E Knight, G Langsbury, S Lawrence, E Lyons, J Mackenzie, M Madders, EJ Maguire, JWP Martin, K Mason, J McCallum, D McDonald, F McDonald, G McEwan, J McGlynn, R McGowan, JM McKeand, Mrs McNeill, MG Mitchell, M Mother-well, Nature Conservancy Council, MA Ogilvie, I Oxley, F Pascoe, M Peacock, V Peacock, SJ Petty, M Phillips, R Pike, J Plackett, D Pollard, JT Post, C Quine, D Quine, D Rampling, D Robertson, Pe Robinson, Pa Robinson, GH Room, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, P & R Rumbold, N Russel, T&D Russell, D Russell, MV Sachson, EAL Satie, R Scott, G Scott, H Searle, AW Shakespeare, C Sharp, C Smout, TJ Southall, CA Southgate, P Staley, A Stewart, D Stroud, S Swift, FC Tadhunter, R Talbot, J & L Tauchlan, Tavool Birdwatchers, S Taylor, CJ Thomas, BH Thompson, F Tickell, S Todd, C Travis, J Trew, MI Trubridge, V Tulloch, G Waite, CA Walker, AFG Walker, A Walsh, E Weber, JW Welstead, GT White, J Whitworth, A Whyte, C Whyte, S Whyte, B Wiley, I Williams, D Wolstencroft, K Wood, D Woodhouse, D Wright, J Wyllie, B Zonfrillo.

Hopefully, we have not missed anyone out! However, if any contributor has been inadvertently omitted, please contact us so that an apology & amendment can be inserted in the next Argyll Bird Report.

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. sex & age 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 Sur-vey maps). Observers are asked to consult this and previous Argyll Bird Reports for the kind of information required.

It would help the recorder considerably if 1991 records were sent on a regular basis throughout the year, but if this is not possible, please send them by January 31 1992 at the latest.

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 con-sider records of birds which are rare in either a British, Scottish or Argyll con-text. Details of unusual species should be sent to the recorder as soon as pos-sible after the sighting. It is helpful if these records are submitted on the stan-

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

dard "unusual record form" available free of charge from the recorder. 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 recorder to either the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) or the Argyll Records Panel (ARP). Species considered by the ARP are listed below. 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.

Species for which supportive evidence is now required by the Argyll

Records Panel:

Red-necked grebe
Black-necked grebe
Leach's petrel
Bewick's swan
Bean goose
Garganey
Ruddy duck
Marsh harrier
Goshawk
Spotted crane
Temminck's stint
Curlew sandpiper
Wood sandpiper
Grey phalarope
Black tern
Stock dove
Turtle dove
Hoopoe
Wryneck
Green woodpecker
Yellow wagtail
Black redstart
Reed warbler
Lesser whitethroat
Golden oriole
Red-backed shrike
Great grey shrike
Scottish crossbill
Hawfinch
Lapland bunting
Corn bunting (except Tiree)

ADDITIONS TO PREVIOUS SYSTEMATIC LISTS

The following records, previously published as subject to BBRC or SBRC decision, have been ACCEPTED by the relevant committee in 1990:

Little egret	Mull, 01/05/89 & 04-18/05/89
American wigeon	LIndaal, Islay, 15/11/89 - 31/12/89
Buff-breasted sandpiper	Gott Bay, Tiree, 06/09/89
Ring-billed gull	Machir Bay, Islay, 08-12/05/89
Yellow-browed warbler	Kilchoman, Islay, 20/10/88

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Lesser grey shrike Arileod, Coll, 25/10/88 - 02/11/88
 Also, a previously unpublished record of little egret, Loch Craignish, 15/08/88 has been accepted by BBRC. This is additional to the bird present at Loch Craignish 10/06/88 - 10/09/88 which was detailed in the systematic list for 1988 (see 5th Argyll Bird report).

The following records, previously published as subject to BBRC or SBRC decision, have been REJECTED by the relevant committee in 1990:
 Hobby Gottb, Tiree, 04/09/89

Other additions / corrections to 1989 report:
 Shag 205 nests, McCormaig Is, not 119 as stated
 Hoopoe 1 Kirn, Dunoon, 13/10/89 & 20/10/89
 Hoopoe 1 dead at Easter Ellister, Islay, 14/10/89

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 1990 sightings are then listed.

Tables, where included, show monthly maximum counts. These are generally derived from National Wildfowl Count (NWC) & Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (BOEE) data, but sometimes include other counts if higher figures were available. A detailed summary of NWC & BOEE counts for the winter 1989/90 is given in Newton & Newton 1991, see this report. Anyone interested in participating in wildfowl or wader counts should contact Steve Newton — see addresses.

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 1990 records included

Pr	Pair		
c/-	Clutch of...	b/-	Brood of...
Ad	Adult	Sub-ad	Sub-adult
Imm	Immature	Juv	Juvenile
M	Male	MM	Males
F	Female	FF	Females
fy	Fledged Young		

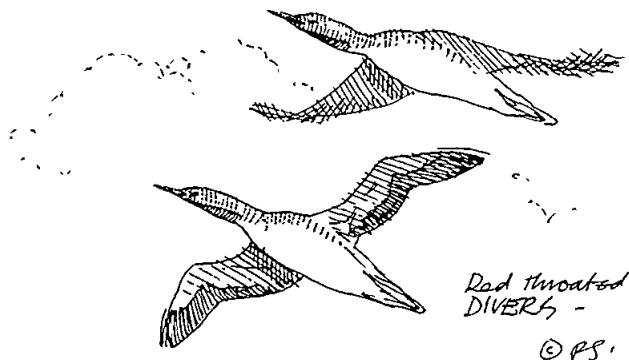
SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

>	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		(eg. Golden Plover)
d/m	Dark morph	l/m	Light morph
i/m	Intermediate morph		(eg. Arctic Skua)
rt	Ringtail (eg. immature / female harriers)		
r/h	Redhead (eg. immature / female Goldeneye, Smew, Goosander, Blackcap)		
aos	apparently occupied sites (eg. Fulmar)		
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		

Red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* Learga ruadh 0002 RH

B W P Widely distributed but sparse breeding species. Breeding recorded in 26% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1990:

- I Breeding proven at 1 site. Evidence of passage at several sites in S Kintyre during March, eg. 5 Ru Stafnish, 17 Mar; 6 Brunerican Bay, 25 Mar. Also - 4 Machrihanish Bay, 12 Jun; 5 Ru Stafnish, 20 Jun; 12 between Carradale & Crossaig, 26 Jun; 5 West Loch Tarbert, 24 Jul; 10 Skipness 24 Aug. Sound of Gigha: 6 on 27 Jun, 25 on 21 Aug, 12 on 24 Sep. Light southerly passage during Sep with peak of 26 >S /15hrs, Uisaed Point, 17-21 Sep.
- II Islay: single chick reared at 1 site, another nest flooded after heavy rain; prs. summered on 2 other waters. Max. count of 16, Loch Indaal, Feb.
- III 3 Kames, 11 May; 1 Craig Lodge, 16 Sep.
- IV 1 (w/pl) picked up dead, slightly oiled, Loch Gilp, 18 Feb; 6 Loch Sween, 22 Sep.
- V Mull: single chicks seen at 4 sites, plus prs. present on 2 other waters; counts - 4 Carsaig Bay, 11 May; 4 Loch Scridain, 16 Sep; 5 >W, Kintra, 19 Sep. Coll: incomplete census, but 1 pr. proven to breed, plus prs. present at 6 additional sites.
- VI A nest in Appin failed following disturbance from fishermen.



SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* Learga dhubh 0003 BV
 B W P Scarce, although probably under-recorded in winter. Breeding now only in regions IV & VI. Breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1990: 7 pairs summered at traditional sites. Additional non-breeding birds present near two of these sites. Another 3 non-breeding birds recorded on lochs close to unoccupied, but previously regular breeding sites (includes 2 in Highland Region). 1-2 birds seen irregularly on other inland waters in Mid Argyll (Apr-Jul) and at one loch in Kintyre in Jun. 5 pairs proved to breed; all successfully hatched egg(s) and 4 pairs fledged 4 young. The most productive season for many years including one site where breeding was last proven 12 years ago. Birds at another site produced the first chick to be seen in the 6 years that this study has been underway [RSPB]. Large numbers were again recorded off W Kintyre in spring & autumn. The origins of these birds is unclear.

- I Sound of Gigha: none on 25 Apr, 37 on 09 May & 09 Jun, 5 (w/pl) birds, late Jun - Jul, 29 on 22 Aug, 39 on 24 Sep. Also - 1 Ru Stainish, 09 Mar; 1 Dunaverty Bay, 10 Mar; 2 Machrihanish Bay, 28 Apr; 1 >S past Uisaed Pt, 14 May; 8 between Saddell & Crossaig, 26 Jun; 1 Saddell Bay, 22 Aug; 5 West Loch Tarbert 26 Sep; 12 Skipness, 26 Sep.
- II Islay: single on inland water, 06 Jun; 1-2 generally present on Loch Indaal except Jul & Aug.
- IV 4 Loch Sween, 17 Mar; 14 Loch Caolisport, 17 Mar; 2 Loch Nell, 04 Apr; 1 Loch Leathan, 06-11 Jul.
- V Mull: 4 Carsaig Bay, 11 May. Tiree: 1 Hough Bay, 01 Apr; 1 Balephetrish Bay, 05 Apr.

Great northern diver *Gavia immer* Muir bhuachail 0004 ND
 W P The Argyll coast is an important wintering area. S/pl birds regularly recorded Apr - early Jun in all regions except III. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in early May. A few individuals summer. 1990:

- I 5 birds summered inc. 2 in s/pl. Machrihanish Bay: 3 on 18 Jan; 12 on 05 Mar; 25 on 28 Apr; 38 on 14 May; 60 on 18 May; 2 on 01 Jun. Sound of Gigha: 7 on 03 Mar; 18 on 25 Apr; 120 on 09 May; 6 on 25 May; 7 on 26 Jul. West Loch Tarbert: 10 on 15 Feb; 80 on 18 May; 1 on 28 May. Elsewhere: 32 An Dubh-sgeir, Gigha, 28 May; 1 Skipness, 14 Jun; 1 >S past Uisaed Pt, 19 Sep.
- II Islay: 23 (max. count) Loch Indaal, 16 Feb; 11 Claggain Bay, 30 Mar; 12 Bruichladdich, 12 May; 1 present Loch Indaal, Jun - Aug.
- III 1 Carry Point, 30 May.
- IV 2 Loch Melfort & 5 Loch Caolisport, 17 Mar; 1 Ganavan, 08 Jun; 4 Loch Sween, 15 Dec.
- V Mull: 6 Duart Point, 09 May; last - 1 Pennygown 25 May; first - 1 Pennyghael, 22 Sep.
- VI 1 Ardmucknish Bay, 04 & 23 Jan; 1-2 Loch Creran, Oct - Dec.

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. Breeds in all regions. Breeding recorded in 18% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Pr + b/2, Loch na Beiste, 27 Jun. Counts - 4 Machrihanish Water, 18 Jan; 8 (max. count) Campbeltown Loch, 22 Jan; 3 Tarbert, 04 Jan & 28 Feb; 2 West Loch Tarbert, 28 Jan & 28 Feb.
- II Islay: at least 2 prs. bred.
- IV Pr. bred Lochan Taynish. Counts - 4 Caol Scotnish, 12 Jan; 5 Loch Feochan, 04 Mar; 5 Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, 01 Oct; 12 Ardentallen, 29 Nov.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- V Mull: pr. bred, Mishnish Lochs, where 5 ads. present, 21 Sep.
 VI Prs. bred Lismore & Appin. Counts - 13 (max. count), Loch Etive, 09 Feb;
 7 (max. count) Loch Laich, 11 Feb; 2 Loch Creran & 4 Balnagown Loch,
 Lismore, 07 Oct.

Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan laparan 0009 GG

V Rare. Most records in autumn. 1990#:

- I 1 Kennacraig, 28 Feb & 24 Jul.
 II Islay: 1st yr. bird on Loch Indaal, 14 Oct.

Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan mara 0011 SZ

W P Regular wintering species in some sealochs & sounds. 1990:

- I Sound of Gigha: 20 on 16 Mar; none in Apr; 2 (s/pl) Jun - Aug; 14 on 24 Sep.
 Also - 1 West Loch Tarbert, 15 Feb.
 II Islay: present Loch Indaal, Jan - Apr & Aug - Dec with max. count 25 on
 16 Feb.
 IV 1 s/pl. Dounie, 24 May.
 V Loch na Keal, Mull: 3 on 15 Apr; 1 on 21 Sep & 2 on 27 Oct.
 VI 1 Ardmucknish Bay, 30 Nov.

Black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Gobhlachan dubh 0012 BN

W P Rare. 1990#:

- IV 1 Loch Ederline, 20 Feb.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun crom 0022 F

B W P Common but localised breeding species, regions I II IV & V. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 200 >S/2hs on 12 Sep; 110 >N/2hrs on 17 Sep. Machrihanish:
 4recently fledged birds wrecked on beach, 07 Sep. Ru Stafnish: 146 >S/
 2hrs on 17 Mar. Mull of Kintyre: 160 >N on 17 Aug; 104 >S & 66 >N/2hrs
 on 20 Aug. Keil Point: 109 ashore on 14 Mar; a small wreck of birds after
 strong winds on 05 Sep, inc. 2 unfledged chicks apparently blown from
 nest sites at Keil Point - this may be the first proof of breeding at this site,
 despite occupancy for many years [TPD/BZ].
 III 2 Ardlamont, 31 May.

Sooty shearwater *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh dubh 0043 OT

P Large numbers sometimes recorded Aug / Sep. 1990: few reported.

- I 1 off An Dubh-sgeir, Gigha, 07 Aug.
 II Frenchman's Rocks, Islay: singles on 22 Aug & 23 Aug; 3 on 24 Aug; 4 on
 03 Sep. Also - small nos. seen regularly from Kennacraig - Islay ferry, Aug
 / early Sep.
 V 1 Sound of Iona, 19 Sep.

Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh ban 0046 MX

B P Localised breeding species, regions I & V only? 1990:

- I 1 >S past Machrihanish, 5 Mar; 2 >S past Ru Stafnish, 16 Mar; raft of 800
 off Machrihanish, 18 May - 1 Jun, increasing to 1500 on 2 Jun; 1000 >S/
 1hr past Carradale Pt, 31 May; exceptional total of 8000 in rafts off Ru
 Stafnish, 20 Jun (birds were heard at night around the cliffs at Ru Staf-
 nish during Jul & Aug - these were possibly non-breeding immatures).
 Uisaed Pt: poor autumn passage with only 4800 >S/110hrs seawatching,
 Aug - Sep; max. passage was 580 >S/3hrs on 26 Aug [RAGA/EJM]. Also -
 347 >S/1.5hrs, Mull of Kintyre, 18 Aug; 1 recently fledged bird found
 storm-bound, Machrihanish, 07 Sep.
 II Frenchman's Rocks, Islay: 91 >S/2.5hrs, 21 Aug; 69 >S/1hr, 22 Aug; 220
 >S/1hr, 28 Aug; 2 >S on 23 Oct.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- IV single birds found dead at Ganavan (18 Sep) & Oban (24 Sep).
 V Mull: 20 Loch Scridain, 03 Aug; 100 off Kintra, 16 Sep; c200 >W, Kintra, 19 Sep. Coll: 192 Eilean Mor, 09 Sep. Tíree: 100 off Hynish, 29 Mar. Also - raft of 1500 off Garvellach Isles, 29 Jun.

Little shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

0048

V 1990#:

- I 1 (P.a. baroli) >S past Uisead Pt, 18 May [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Paraig

0052 TM

B P Breeding birds come ashore late May / Jun. Passage off W coasts, Aug - Sep. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: small numbers regular at disturbed water over submerged reef, Jun - Aug (max. count 10 on 12 Jul); only 5 >S/11.5hrs during gale, 19-21 Sep. Ru Stafnish: max. count 18 >S/2hrs on 24 Jun; 40 tape-lured between Jun - Sep were wandering non-breeders [RAGA/EJM].

II Islay: 1 off Lagavulin, 31 Aug.

III 1 dead, Kilfinan, 09 Jun.

- V Mull: 3 off Treshnish Isles, 16 Jun; 2 Loch na Lathaich, plus 4 >W Kintra & total of 5 >W Loch Scridain, 19 Sep; 1 >S off Caliach Pt, 21 Sep. Coll: 9 Eilean Mor, 09 Sep.

Leach's petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Gobhlan mara

0055 TL

P Rare. 1990#:

- I Uisaed Pt: 2 >S on 3 Sep; 1 >S on 7 Sep; 80 >S/11.5hrs on 19-21 Sep (main passage on 19 Sep); 2 additional birds >S over Machrihanish golf course plus 1 on airfield, 19 Sep; 3 birds killed by peregrine at this site during Sep. [RAGA/EJM].

II Islay: 1 found injured & later died, Kindrochid, 11 Sep; 2 Loch Gruinart, 21 Sep.

- V Mull: 1 off Ardmore Point, 08 Sep; singles off Grasspoint & Aird Fada, 19 Sep.

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. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 418 >S/3hrs on 14 Aug & 640 >S/3hrs on 17 Aug (no juvs present on these dates). Ru Stafnish: 70 >S/2hrs on 20 Jun (mainly imm / sub-ad). Mull of Kintyre: recorded Jan - Oct, peak counts - 649 >S & 121 >N/1.5hrs on 18 Aug; 777 >S & 111 >N/2hrs on 19 Aug; 634 >S & 172 >N/2hrs on 16 Sep. Also - 1500 >E towards Ailsa Craig/3hrs, Southend, 14 Aug.

II 1st seen 19 Feb; c500 plunge-diving off Frenchman's Rocks, 03 Sep.

III first seen in Loch Long, 25 Feb.

- V Mull: 60 Sound of Iona & c150 >W, Kintra, 19 Sep; 40 Caliach Point, 21 Sep.

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. 1990:

- I 26 >N/3hrs, Uisaed Pt, 15 May; 30 Campbeltown Loch, 23 Jul; 23 >S/3hrs, Macharioch, 14 Aug; 22 Ugaedale Point, 16 Aug; 12 West Loch Tarbert, 20 Aug; 20 Uisaed Point, 17 Sep.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- II Islay: 40 (max. count) Loch Indaal, 21 Nov.
- III 10-20 regular near Blairmore, Oct - Apr.
- IV 48 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun. Counts - 9 Oban Bay, 17 Aug; 20 > S over Glen Feochan, 04 Sep; 10 Loch Feochan, 25 Sep; 19 Maiden Island, 21 Oct; 4 Loch Nell, 27 Nov.
- V Mull: 5 imm. (max. count) Lochdon, 15 Sep & 17 Oct. Coll: 1 Clid Bay, 31 May. Tiree: 7 Heanish, 02 Apr.
- VI 16 Loch Etive, 06 Oct; 4 Ledaig Point, 12 Oct.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh an sgumain 0080 SA

R W Very common. 1990:

- I 350 Saddell Bay, 22 Aug.
- II Islay: c550 nr. Port Askaig, 15 Feb; 58 (max. count) Loch Indaal, 23 Oct.
- IV 200 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun.
- V Total of 127 occ. nests, Ceann a Mhara, Tiree, 08-11 Jun.

Little egret *Egretta garzetta* Corra gheal bheag 0119

V Rare. 1990#:

- I Single ad. present Rhonadale / Carradale Water from at least 16 Jan - 03 Mar.
- V 1 ad. Ulva Lagoons, 28 May [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea* Corra ghritheach 0122 H R

Widespread. Breeding all regions. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 18 Campbeltown Loch, 18 Aug.
- II Islay: 3 prs. bred at 1 site & probable breeding at another. Count of 17 at Bridgend merse, 23 Aug.
- III Bred at Lochead & Millhouse. Max. count - 63 Lochead, 16 Feb.
- IV 11 Dunstaffnage, 15 Sep; 13 (max. count) Loch Feochan, 06 Nov.
- V Mull: min. of 48 occupied nests at 14 heronries, with a further 3 nests probably occupied. A substantial decline compared with 1989. Breeding at some sites was later than usual. Significant egg predation by raven occurred at the largest heronry [MM]. Counts - 15 (max. count) Lochdon, 16 Oct. Coll: at least 5 occupied nests, Gallanach, 2 Jun.

Mute swan *Cygnus olor* Eala 0152 MS

R Widespread but uncommon breeding species, both inland & at sheltered coastal locations. Scarce breeder in region I; absent from Colonsay (II). Emigration from some breeding localities in winter. Many Argyll birds now fitted with darvic rings - all records of these birds required. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Gigha: 2 prs. reared young, plus 8 non-breeding birds present in spring. Also - pr. reared b/6, West Tarbert. Counts - 15 West Loch Tarbert, 25 Apr & 15 Aug; 1F Ballymenach, 27 Apr; 1ad. M > S past Uisaed Pt, 04 May; pr + 3juv. Campbeltown Loch, 30 Nov.
- II Islay: 6 breeding prs. + 1 territorial pr. & 8 non-breeding birds; pr. at Ardnave Loch commenced laying 18-19 Mar. Jura: 2 breeding prs + 3 territorial prs & 14 non-breeding birds. Young were reared at all except one of the Islay / Jura breeding sites.
- III 21 Holy Loch, 23 Sep.
- IV Pr + b/2, Muircroft, 20 Jun; pr. + b/4, Loch Feochan, 21 Jun. Counts - 2 Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, 01 Jan; 12 (max. count) Loch Feochan 03 Jan & 25 Mar; 18 (max. count) Oban Bay, 23 Feb; "Polish" individuals at Oban Bay & Loch Feochan, 17 Mar; 4 Loch Ederline, 18 Mar; 3 Loch Seil, 08

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- Apr; 4 Dunardry Lochs, 27 Apr; 2 (min. count) Oban Bay, 08 Jun; 35 (max. count) Linne Mhuirich, 22 Sep; 4 Loch Nell, 08 Nov.
- V Mull: of 7 territorial prs, at least 5 prs attempted breeding and 2 of these reared young; in addition, up to 6 non-breeding birds were present at 4 other locations during spring. Ad. F found shot at Loch Beg, 25 Aug; 7 (max. count) Lochdon, 07 Sep. Coll: 2 Loch Amlaimh, 29 May; 2 Ballyhaugh, 24 Oct; 2 Caoles Dunes, 30 Nov; 1 Arnabost, 29 Nov. Tíree: (complete counts) 25 on 30 Mar & 28 on 02 Dec; also - 74 Loch a Phuill, 26 Jul.
- VI 13 (max. count) Loch Etive, 21 Jan; 6 Connel, 18 Mar.

Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* Eala bheag 0153 BS
V 1990#:

- I 2 Laggan, 16-25 Jan.
II Islay: 9 ads. present 25-31 Oct with at least 2 remaining until Dec.

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. 1990:

- I Laggan: 18 inc. 3 imm. on 18 Jan; 10 on 02 Mar; 8 on 16 Mar. Also - 1 Westport marsh, 22 Apr - 06 May (dead); 1 Campbeltown Loch, 22 Sep; 2 >S Saddell, 25 Sep.
- II Islay: 2 ad. + 2 juv Loch Indaal, 6 Feb; 2 prs Loch na Cachie, 22 Feb; passage in mid-Mar with max. count 25 on 19 Mar; 4 still present, 11 May & 1 injured bird summered at Loch Indaal; autumn passage from 03 Oct. inc. total of 142 through Loch Gruinart during Oct; Loch Indaal held 71 on 31 Oct, 96 on 30 Nov, 108 on 03 Dec, 95 on 18 Dec & only 3 by 31 Dec.
- III 55 >N, Loch Long, 31 Mar; 2 Loch Restil, 07 Apr.
- IV 11 Loch Leathan; 03 Jan; 10 inc. 2 imm. Glen Lonan, 21 Jan; 1 Loch Tromlee, 19 May; 10 >S, Oban & 2 Duntanachan, 07 Oct; 6 Clachadubh, 14 Oct; 6 Moine Mhor, 16 Dec; a very tame, small individual, frequented Oban Bay, 24-31 Dec.
- V Mull: 3 Loch Airdeglaise, 13 Jan; 24 Craignure, 08 Apr; 2 Grasspoint, 07 Sep; 2 Loch Poit na h-I, 21 Oct; 5 inc. 1 imm. Loch Beg, 09 Dec; 2 Mishnish Lochs, 10 Nov - 31 Dec. Coll: 2 Rubha Hogg, 29 Nov. Tíree: 29 (complete count) 30 Mar; 11 Loch a Phuill, 01 Apr; 48 An Fhaodhail, 02 Apr & 03 Apr - when disturbed all flew N out to sea; 5 summered (4 ads, 1 1st yr.); 68 (complete count) 02 Dec.

Pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* Geadh gorm 0158 PG
P W Very few winter. 1990:

- I 1 Laggan, 01 Jan & 05 Mar; 2 >N, Balnamoil, 26 Sep; 1 Machrihanish, 02 Oct & 30 Nov.
- II Islay: total of c8 birds with white-fronted & barnacle flocks, Jan - Apr; v. small spring passage, eg. 3 Coultorsay, 22 Apr & 3 Mulindry, 7 May; autumn passage similar with max. count of 6 Loch Gorm, 11 Oct; up to 12 with other goose flocks, Oct - Dec.
- IV Moine Mhor: 1 on 03 Mar & 30 Mar; 1 Nov-Dec. Also - 3 >S over Oban, 18 Sep.
- V Mull: c.200 >S over Kintra, 19 Sep; 2 Ardalanish Bay, 25 Oct; 2 Fiddien, 24 Nov. Tíree: 3 (complete count) 30 Mar; 1 Moss, 04 Apr.
- VI 29 >SW over N Lismore, 30 Sep; 35 >E over Benderloch, 6 Oct; 40 >E over Barcaldine, 7 Oct.

White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* Geadh bhlar 0159 WG
W Birds are of the Greenland race *albifrons*. Regular wintering resorts in all

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

regions except III. Argyll holds c.40% of the world population in winter, mainly on Islay. 1990:

- I Laggan / Machrihanish: 920 on 18 Jan; 657 on 30 Mar; 616 on 05 Mar; 3 on 01 May; 150 on 14 Oct; 813 on 30 Nov. Tayinloan / Rhunahaorine: 914 on 30 Mar; 12 on 27 Sep; 672 on 30 Nov. Also - 1 Southend, 05 Mar.
- II Islay: (complete counts) 6714 on 1-2 Apr, 8297 on 1-2 Dec. Of 3770 aged in autumn, 19.05% were young birds; mean of 145 broods was 3.03. Spring departure mid-Apr to early May with last sighting 12 Loch Gorm, 07 May. First arrivals - 13 on 17 Sep, then main influx from mid-Oct. Jura: 25 Lowlandmans Bay, Nov. Colonsay / Oronsay: c200 in Apr; 179 on 01 Dec.
- IV Danna / Ulva / Keills: 190 on 13 Jan, 224 on 08 Feb, 203 on 30 Mar, 225 on 11 Nov, 245 on 01 Dec. Moine Mhor: 48 on 13 Jan, 58 on 08 Feb, 57 on 30 Mar, 40 on 01 Dec.
- V Mull: 57 Iona, 21 Feb; 40 Loch Assapol & 96 Fiddien, 24 Nov. Coll: 792 (complete count) 30 Nov. Tiree: (complete counts); 987 on 30 Mar, 942 on 02 Dec.
- VI 30 Eriska, 17 Mar; c100 on sea W of Shuna, 08 Apr; 56 Ardtur, 68 Eriska & 113 Lismore (co-ordinated counts), 01 Dec.

Greylag goose *Anser anser* Geadh glas 0161 GJ
 B W P Increasing breeding population, Coll, Tiree and Mull (V). Also breeds Colonsay (II) & occasionally elsewhere. Those breeding in the islands are presumably native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides. Breeding recorded in 6% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Machrihanish: 28 on 30 Mar, 603 on 30 Nov. Laggan: 333 on 18 Jan, 414 on 10 Mar, 3 on 09 May. Tayinloan / Rhunahaorine: 316 on 03 Mar, 2 on 12 May, 20 on 27 Sep, 302 on 30 Nov. Southend: 161 on 22 Jan, 14 on 05 Mar, 2 on 12 May. Also - 80 >S, Uisaed Pt, 19 Sep.
- II Islay: wintering flock, Bridgend / Mulindry, held up to 80 birds Jan - Feb & peak of 105 in Dec; passage birds seen at Loch Gruinart, inc. 33 on 10 Apr & peak of 56 on 07 Oct. Colonsay: 57 Kiloran meadows, 27 Sep.
- IV Moine Mhor: 460 on 13 Jan, 479 on 08 Feb, 360 on 10 Mar, 280 on 30 Mar, 250 on 01 Dec. Also - 126 Poltalloch, 19 Jan; 360 Dunadd, 03 Mar; 84 >N over Loch Feochan, 04 Mar; 24 >N over Cologin, 07 Apr; 30 >NW over Connel & 100+ >N over Cologin, 14 Apr; 2 Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, 05 May; 30 >N over Kerrera, 12 Sep; 30 Sound of Kerrera, 10 Nov.
- V Mull: a total of at least 8 prs. bred at 4 locations - 5 broods, totalling 22 young, were seen on Loch Mingary, 15 Jul & a b/5 was on Loch na Meal, 29 Jun; 1 clutch was predated & the outcome of the remaining nest is unknown. As usual, a small flock summered on the Treshnish Is. (max. count 30 on 16 Jun); also, a total of 12 birds were present, Ross of Mull, 05 Jun. Counts - 60 Loch Spelve, 19 Apr; 35 Loch Buie, 19 Apr; 68 Fiddien, 04 Sep, increasing to 120 by 16 Sep then declining to 10 by 24 Nov. Coll: total of 562 ads. plus 44 broods, 26 May - 06 Jun; also - 142 (complete count) on 30 Nov. Tiree: 600 (complete count) on 30 Mar; 69 Loch a Phuill, 26 Jul; 18 The Airport, 26 Jul; 1198 (complete count) on 02 Dec.
- VI 2 Loch Etive, 11 Mar.

Snow goose *Anser caerulescens* Geadh ban 0163 SJ
 E V A small feral breeding population exists on Mull - this flock winters on Coll. 1990#:

- V Mull: 26 ad. (inc 6 blue phase) + 14 young, Haunn, 2 Jul. Coll: 1 Loch Cliad, 01 Jun & 29 Nov; 40 Breachacha, 30 Nov.
- VI 1 Port Appin, 14 Aug; 1 Duror, 13 Sep.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Canada goose *Branta canadensis* Geadh dubh 0166 CG
B W V Resident population on Colonsay & occasional breeding attempts elsewhere. 1990:

- I 19 >N past Uisaed Pt, 22 Jun. These may have been birds from the Beaully Firth / Yorkshire moult migration flock pushed east by strong winds.
- II Islay: 1 medium-large bird, Esknish, Jan - Apr; 1-2 small birds, Loch Gruinart, 15 Oct - 31 Dec. Colonsay: 70 Garvard, 28 Mar.
- IV 1 Loch Ederline, 30 Mar.
- V 1 Tiree, 30 Mar.
- VI 2 Loch Etive, 31 Mar; 5 North Connel, 21 Apr; 14 Duror, 13 Sep; 1 (small bird) Eriska, 01 Dec.

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. 1990:

- I 2 Southend, 22 Jan; 2 Laggan, 10 Mar; 1 Machrihanish, 30 Mar; 3 >N past Uisaed Pt, 28 Apr; 3 >N over Machrihanish airfield, 16 May; 7 >S past Uisaed Pt, 04 Oct; 1 Machrihanish, 30 Nov.
- II Islay: (complete counts) 22,113 on 1-2 Apr & 30,260 (highest count ever for Islay) on 1-2 Dec. Of 11,548 aged in autumn, 23.7% were young birds & the mean of 321 broods was 2.4. Spring departure from mid-Apr with last sighting 19 at Loch Gruinart, 17 May. First arrivals - 20 on 14 Sep, then main influx early Oct with max. count 11,396 Loch Gruinart, 16 Oct. Hybrid barnacle x pink-footed goose, Bridgend / Mulindry area, Oct-Dec. Colonsay: c400 in Apr; 1 Baleromindubh, 18 Jun.
- IV Danna / Ulva / Keills: 296 on 08 Feb, 330 on 30 Mar, 198 on 11 Nov, 250 on 01 Dec.
- V Mull: 21 Loch Spelve, 29 Apr; 10 Quinish, 20 May. Coll: (complete count) 229 on 30 Nov. Tiree: (complete counts) 581 on 30 Mar, 335 on 01 Apr, 716 on 02 Dec.

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. off arctic Canada & winter mainly in Ireland. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1 >N on 29 Apr, 29 >S on 19-22 Sep.
- II Islay: 3 Loch Indaal, Jan - Apr, then 1 until at least 08 May; main spring passage 28-29 Apr, with max. count of 204, then a further 8 on 11 May; 1 Loch Indaal, 23 Jul & 12 Aug, may have summered; autumn - 15 >S, Frenchman's Rocks, 30 Aug, then main passage mid-Sep to early Oct with max. count 65 Loch Gruinart, 29 Sep; 4 birds present Nov-Dec.
- III 35 Loch Long, 28 Apr.
- IV 45 Brackley, 29 Apr.
- V Mull: 51 Scallastle Bay, 28 Apr; 23 Loch Spelve, 28-29 Apr; 2 Iona, 23 Oct. Tiree: 1 Ruaig, 04 Dec.

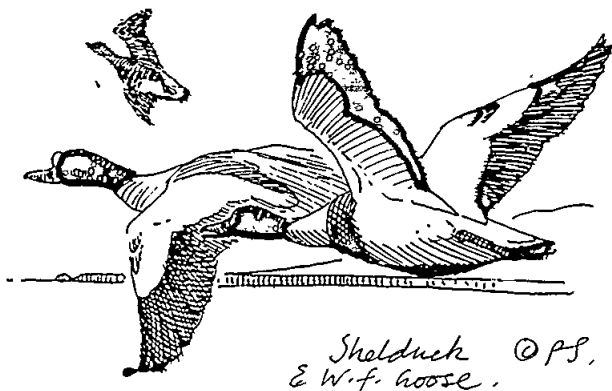
Birds showing characteristics of N American / E Siberian race, *B.b. nigricans* ("black brant"):

- II Islay: 1 first seen at Loch Gruinart, 20/10/89, continued to frequent the area until at least 17/05/90 [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. Breeding recorded in 39% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- I 1st brood seen 20 May; broods totalling 28 juvs seen on 27 Jun. Counts - 40 Campbeltown Loch, 14 Mar; 65 Ballymenach, 08 May; 8 Claonaig, 15 Jul; 4 juvs >S past Uisaed Pt, 13 Aug; pr Carskies Bay, 24 Sep.
- II Islay: see counts below. Also - 35 Carnain, 28 Jun.
- IV 23 Eilean Inshaig, 17 Mar; 2 Ulva Lagoons, 22 Nov.
- V Mull: 79 (max. count) Lochdon, 16 Feb; 5 Lochdon, 25 Nov. Tiree: 2 Balemartine, 26 Jul.
- VI 22 (max. count) Loch Laich, 22 Apr.
- Monthly max:
- | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Lochdon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L Gruinart | 46 | 139 | 212 | 316 | 56 | - | 66 | 13 | 8 | 93 | 25 | 82 |
| L Indaal | 26 | 25 | 46 | 20 | 25 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 14 |



Wigeon *Anas penelope* Glas lach

0179 WN

B W P Scarce / irregular breeding species. Common winter visitor to all regions. 1990:

- I West Loch Tarbert: 25 on 04 Jan, 25 on 03 Mar, 60 on 15 Aug, 340 on 27 Sep. Uisaed Point: 2 on 09 Aug, 11 >S on 21 Sep. Also - 100 Westport, 09 Mar; 1M Polliwilline Bay, 30 May.
- II Islay: 5MM Bridgend merse, 04 Jun. BOEE max. counts were 798 Loch Indaal, 19 Oct & 281 Loch Gruinart, 22 Nov.
- III 134 (max. count) Holy Loch, 07 Oct.
- IV 31 Loch Feochan, 03 Jan; 35 Ardfarn, 17 Mar; 70 Loch Crinan, 17 Mar; 1 Loch na Sreinge, 27 May; 1 Loch Awe, 30 May; 82 Linne Mhuirich, 22 Sep; 18 Loch Nell, 27 Nov; 20 Duntanachan, 11 Nov.
- V Mull: 1 Aros, 12 May; 229 (max. count) Lochdon, 16 Oct. Coll: 25 Arnabost, 30 Nov. Tiree: 2 Loch Riaghain, 08 Jun; 98 Loch a Phuill, 01 Dec; 18 Loch Riaghain, 03 Dec.
- VI Pr. bred, Inveroran. Max. Counts - 100+ Loch Laich, 11 Feb; 21 Benderloch saltmarsh, 04 Oct; 57 Loch Etive, 14 Oct.

American wigeon *Anas americana*

0180

V 1990#:

- II Islay: 1M Loch Indaal, first seen 15/11/89, stayed until at least 10 Feb.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Lach glas 0182 GA
B W P Scarce breeding species. 1990:

II Islay: 1M Loch Indaal, 02 Feb; pr. Loch Gruinart, 28-29 Apr; 1F Loch Indaal, 22 Dec. Colonsay: pr on 11 May.

IV 1 Duntanachan, 24 Nov.

V Tiree: 1M Clachan Mor, 31 Mar; 1F Loch Bhasapol, 09 Jun; 2 Loch a Phuill, 01 Dec; 4 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca* Crann lach 0184 T

B W P Widespread but uncommon breeding species. Common winter visitor. Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I Westport marsh: 90 on 28 Mar & 60 on 21 Apr. Also - 18 >N Sound of Gigha, 21 Aug; 60 West Loch Tarbert, 27 Sep.

II Islay: 8 broods counted in a newly-flooded field, Loch Gruinart. Monthly max. counts were 279 Loch Indaal & 216 Ardnave Loch, 22 Nov; 211 Loch Gruinart, 23 Dec. Also - 93 Loch Skerrols, 04 Dec.

IV 20 Isle Of Danna, 03 Feb; 23 Head of Loch Feochan, 26 Sep; 20 Ulva Lagoons, 22 Nov.

V Mull: 157 (max. count) Lochdon, 16 Oct; 26 Loch Beg, 14 Oct. Coll: 35 Caolles Dunes, 30 Nov. Tiree: 74 Loch a' Phuill, 01 Dec; 56 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec.

Nearctic race *A.c.carolinensis*:

II Islay: 1M, first seen 25/12/89, present Easter Ellister, 24 & 25 Jan, then Bridgend merse, 30 Jan until at least 10 Feb.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach 0186 MA

B W P Common breeding & wintering species. Breeding recorded in 67% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I b/11 Machrihanish & b/9 Westport, 30 Apr. Counts - 40 >S past Uisaed Pt, 17 Sep.

II Islay: BOEE max. counts were 298 Loch Indaal, 21 Sep & 22 Nov; 207 Loch Gruinart, 22 Nov.

IV 36MM Head of Loch Feochan, 25 May; 18 Glen Lonan, 23 Sep; 30 Loch Nell, 17 Nov; 15 Loch Leathan, 17 Nov.

V Tiree: 99 Loch a' Phuill, 01 Dec; 18 Loch Riaghain, 03 Dec.

VI 50 Lochan na Beithe, 06 Dec; 23 Loch Etive, 14 Oct.

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. 1990:

II Islay: up to 3, Loch Gruinart & Ardnave Loch, Feb - Mar; 38 (max. count) Loch Indaal, 22 Nov; 4MM 2FF in newly-flooded field, Loch Gruinart, 14-31 Dec.

V Tiree: 2 An Fhaodhail, 02 Apr; 3 Loch a' Phuill, 01 Dec; 1M 6FF Loch Riaghain, 03 Dec.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* Lach crann 0191 GY

S Rare non-breeding summer visitor. 1990#:

II Islay: Pr Carnain, 6-8 May, then M only until 11 May; 1M Loch Gruinart, 29 May-5 Jun.

V 2 Loch Riaghain, Tiree, 08 Jun.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Lach a'ghuib leathainn 194 SV

B W P Most records from Islay & Tiree. 1990:

I 2MM Westport marsh, 01 Apr.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- II Islay: (max. counts) 9 Loch Gruinart, 27 Oct; 13 Loch Indaal, 09 Nov; 5 Ardnave Loch, 22 Nov.
- IV 3 Linne Mhuirich, 09 Nov.
- V Tiree: 2 prs. bred. Counts - 5 The Reef, 30 Mar; 1M Loch an Eilein, 01 Dec.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* Lach mhasach 0198 PO
W No proven breeding in recent years. Wintering flocks generally small.

- 1990:
- I 5 Loch nan Gad, 03 Mar & 1 present 26 Jul.
- II Islay: 130 (max. count) Loch Skerrols, 23 Jan.
- IV Max. counts - 13 Loch Seil, 07 Jan; 15 Loch Leathan, 20 Feb; 6 Loch Leathan, 18 Feb; 20 Linne Mhuirich, 03 Mar; 8 Loch Nell, 09 Nov & 20 Dec.
- V Mull: 1M Loch Assapol, 28 Oct. Tiree: 13 Loch a' Phuill & 2 Loch an Eilein, 01 Dec.
- VI 1 Ardmucknish Bay, 25 Dec.

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.]. Breeding recorded in 12% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Common winter visitor. 1990:

- I 39 West Loch Tarbert, 04 Jan; 1M Low Glenadale, 20 May; F > S past Ru Stafnish, 24 Jun; 1M Loch na Beiste, 26 Jul; 4 Loch nan Gad, 26 Sep.
- II Islay: bred on at least 3 lochs. Max. counts - 24 Easter Ellister, 23 Feb; 22 Loch Allan, 27 Feb; 40 Ardnave Loch, 12 Mar. Colonsay: 4 Loch an Sgol-taire, 16 Jun; 14 Loch Fada 16 Jun.
- III 3 Loch Melldalloch, 02 Jun.
- IV 8 Linne Mhuirich, 07 Feb; 10 Loch Leathan, 04 Mar; 12 Loch Tromlee, 18 Mar; 11 Kilmichael Glen, 02 May; 4 Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, 12 May; 1 Loch Avich, 22 Jun; 33 Loch Nell, 31 Aug; 16 Loch Seil, 10 Nov; 7 Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith, 20 Nov; 15 Loch Nell, 13 Dec.
- V Mull: 7 Loch Poit na h-I, 28 Dec; 8 Loch Assapol, 24 Nov. Coll: 1F Ballyhaugh, 29 Nov. Tiree: F + b/8, 09 Jun; 54 (max. count) Loch a' Phuill, 01 Dec; 13 Loch an Eilein, 01 Dec; 46 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec.

Scaup *Aythya marila* Lach mhara 0204 SP
W P Large wintering flock in Loch Indaal, Islay (II). Scarce elsewhere. Has summered. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1M > N on 23 May, 6 > S on 23 Sep. Also - 1M Rhunahaorine Point, 27 Jul & 21 Aug.
- II Islay: see counts below. Also - 1 on old river, Loch Gruinart, 30 Jan; 2 (max. count) Ardnave Loch, 22 Nov.
- V Tiree: 1F Loch a' Phuill, 01 Dec.

Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
L Indaal 182 180 176 164 76 1 6 0 84 67 660 660

Eider *Somateria mollissima* Lach lochlannach 0206 E
B W P Common in all regions. Breeding recorded in 66% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Large flocks of moulting drakes & 1st yr birds gather at some sites, Jun-Aug. Many Argyll breeding birds winter in the Firth of Clyde. 1990:

- I Machrihanish Bay: 1st brood seen on 29 May, then 8FF + 55 chicks present by 12 Jun; male moult flock present, Jun - Sep, with max. count 406 on 16 Sep (c80% MM). Also - 55 (max. count) Tarbert, 28 Jan; 62 Campbelltown Loch, 12 Mar; 700 Ronachan Point, 22 Aug.
- II Islay: 1st brood seen 30 May; c300 moulting males, Kintra, 28 Jun; 362

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- (max. count) Loch Indaal, 24 Jul.
 III 35 Carry Point 30 May; 320 (max. count) Blairmore, 14 Aug; 190 (max. count) Kames, 31 Oct.
 IV 30 Ardrishaig & 35 Inveraray, 17 Mar; 24 Ulva Islands, 07 Apr; 61MM Head of Loch Feochan, 30 May; 95MM 49FF (max. count) Oban Bay, 31 Dec.
 Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
 L Indaal 144 278 147 207 73 294 362 276 188 137 124 134
 Oban Bay 138 138 101 97 13 3 - 2 43 107 127 144

- Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* Eun buchainn 0212 LN
 W P Uncommon winter visitor, mostly offshore. 1990:
 I Sound of Gigha: 2 on 25 Apr, 13 on 03 May, 2 on 10 Nov.
 II Islay: present Loch Indaal, Jan - Mar & Oct - Dec, with max. count 11 on 13 Jan.
 V Mull: 1M imm. Mishnish Lochs, 10 Nov. Coll: 24 Feall Bay, 30 Nov. Tíree: 18 Balephetrish Bay, 05 Apr.

- 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) & Loch Indaal, Islay (II); scarce winter visitor elsewhere, although birds may be present well offshore. 1990:
 I Sound of Gigha: 53 on 25 Apr, 125 on 03 May, 80 on 27 Jun, 150 on 26 Jul, 230 on 06 Aug, 110 on 24 Sep, 5 on 10 Nov (note - majority of birds present Jun - Sep were moulting males). Also - 2 >N past Uisaed Pt, 27 Jul; 6 >S past Ru Stafnish, 21 Jun.
 II Islay: 3 nests located at usual breeding site, where 10 prs. present 27 May & 09 Jun. At least 1 nest known to have hatched, but no broods were seen. Also - 130 (max. count) Loch Indaal, 15 May. See counts below.
 IV 35 West Loch Tarbert, 19 Feb; 5 Loch Caolisport, 17 Mar.
 VI 8 off SW Lismore, 30 Apr.
 Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
 L Indaal 83 104 37 125 130 96 96 96 87 87 98 68

- Surf scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* 0214
 V Rare. 1990#:
 II Islay: 1M Loch Indaal, 11 May - 13 May [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

- Velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* Lach dubh 0215 VS
 W Scarce. 1990:
 I Sound of Gigha: 4MM on 03 May, 7MM 4FF on 09 May, 2MM 4FF on 29 May, 1M present Jun - Aug, 2MM on 24 Sep. Also - M >S past Uisaed Pt, 21 Sep.
 II Islay: 1 Loch Indaal, 12-17 May, 17 Jul, 27 Aug & 23 Oct.

- Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Lach bhreac 0218 GN
 W Common. Birds present Sep-May; a few individuals summer. 1990:
 I 20+ Machrihanish Bay, Jan - Mar.
 II Islay: max. counts - 19 Loch Indaal, 16 Feb; 61 Port Ellen, 27 Feb; 16 Ardnave Loch, 06 Apr.
 IV Max. counts - 6FF Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, 01 Jan; 80 Ormsary, 03 Mar; 10 Loch Leathan, 04 Mar; 10 Linne Mhuirich & 10 Loch Sween, 17 Mar; 11 Loch Ederline & 7 Loch Tromlee, 18 Mar; 37 Loch Feochan, 25 Mar; 20 Bellanoch, 23 Oct; 23 r/h Loch Nell, 09 Nov; 22 Ulva Lagoons, 22

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Nov; 8 Loch Scammadale, 29 Nov.

- V Mull: 6 Loch Poit na h-I, 28 Oct; 7 Loch Torr, 10 Nov. Tíree: 30 Loch a' Phuill, 31 Mar; 12 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec; 6 Loch Riaghain, 03 Dec.
- VI 34 Loch Etive, 09 Feb; 8 Ardmucknish Bay, 17 Mar; 20 Loch Laich, 06 Apr.

Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* Siolta dhearg 0221 RM
B & W Common. Breeding recorded in 52% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Large moulting flocks gather at some offshore sites, Jul-Aug. 1990.

- I Sound of Gigha: 60 on 04 May, 55 on 27 Jun, 530 on 26 Jul, 720 on 04 Aug, 1070 on 21 Aug. Also - 30 Skipness, 16 Aug; 80 Machrihanish Bay, 16 Sep.
- II Islay: moult flock of 160 off Traigh an Luig, Loch Indaal, 22 Jul; 46 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, 22 Nov.
- IV Max. counts - 32 Ulva Islands, 14 Feb; 23 Achnamara, 13 Apr; 24 Balvicar, 03 May.
- V Mull: 15 Loch Beg, 21 Sep; 29 Kilfinichen Bay, 19 Sep; 25 Calgary Point, 30 Nov. Tíree: 65 Gott Bay, 08 Jun.
- VI Max. counts - 16 Loch Etive, 09 Feb; 12 Loch Laich, 28 Mar.

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). Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Loch Awe [IV] may be a gathering point for Argyll drakes before their moult migration in late May (Carss 1989). 1990: substantial increase in records received from region IV. All locations where birds were seen are listed.

- I 1F Tarbert, 03 Mar; 3MM 1F Ardailly, 25 Apr.
- III 2 Loch Restil, 22 Nov & 18 Dec.
- IV 2 Loch Leathan, 28 Jan; 2 Rubha nan Eun, 18 Mar; 2FF Loch Ederline, 18 Mar; 2 Glen Lonan, 07 Apr; 2 Ardchonnell, 07 Apr; 2 Barnacarry, 08 Apr - 06 May; 2 Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, 11 Apr; 1M Black Lochs, 29 Apr; 3FF Oude Dam, 01 May; 2 Loch Scammadale, 01 May; 1F Kilbride 10 May; 1M Dunollie, 17 May; 19 (presumably inc. juvs.) Loch Nell, 12 Aug; 5MM 2FF Loch Nell, 13 Sep; 3 Cruachan, 15 Sep; 6 (max. count) Loch Feochan, 08 Oct; 6 Balure, 14 Oct; 4 Dunardry Lochs, 07 Nov; 1M Glaschoine, 18 Dec; 1M Lochan na Bi, 18 Dec.
- V Mull: 3 (max. count) Loch Torr, 06 Apr; 1M Druimghigha, 15 Jun; 1F Loch Spelve, 25 Oct; 1M Carsaig Bay, 26 Oct; 2FF Loch Beg, 27 Oct.
- VI 4 Glen Orchy, 01 Apr; 2 Allt na Crannaich, 05 May; 4 Inveroran, 26 May; 1F Doire Darachy, 26 May; 1F Abhainn Shira, 26 May; 5 Loch Laich, Sep; 8 (max. count) Loch Etive, 26 Sep; 3 Head of Loch Creran, 07 Oct.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* 0231 HZ
V 1990#:

- IV 1 near Crinan, 05 Jun & 06 Jun; 1 Connel, 13 Jun.
- V 1 Calgary, Mull, 28 Jun [this last record still subject to acceptance by SBRC].

Red kite *Milvus milvus* Clamhan gobhlach 0239 KT
1990#: Majority, if not all the following records, refer to birds released in Highland Region as part of re-introduction project: All records are requested, ideally with details of activity and presence/absence of wing tags.

- I 1 >S Larybaan, 14 Sep.
- II Islay: wing-tagged bird present since 20/10/89 was last seen at Loch Skerrols, 10 Mar and was back at the release site in Highland Region a few days later. A tagged bird released in 1990 was seen at 4 locations, 10-25

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Oct. Jura: 2 seen nr. Jura House, 08 Oct; 1 Jura area (aerial survey), 23 Oct; 1 Lealt, 26 Oct.

- IV 1 in general area of Oban (aerial survey), 23 Oct; 1 Dalmally, late Oct then again 10 Dec.

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. 1990: Scotland, only 2 successful breeding pairs each reared one chick bringing the total number of young fledged in the wild since the re-introduction began to 15. Reports received from several islands including Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Tiree. The only mainland records were from region IV. All records requested, ideally with details of activity, plumage and presence/absence of wing tags.

- IV 2 imms. Soroba, Oban, 04 Sep; 1 ad. Point of Knap, Kilmory, 16 Dec.

Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan Ioin

0260 MR

V P 1990#:

- II Islay: 1 Braigo, 27 May.

Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breid air toin

0261 HH

B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species. Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration from Argyll in autumn, especially of females & juveniles. 1990: breeding recorded in all regions. A total of 68 nests were located and at least 158 young were fledged. Mean initial clutch size was 4.63 and a mean of 2.90 young hatched per nest. Of 60 nests where the final outcome was known, 2.63 young fledged per pair and 3.29 per successful pair [MM]. A total of 136 young were ringed and 101 were fitted with wing tags as part of a national study conducted by the RSPB. All sightings requested of tagged birds.

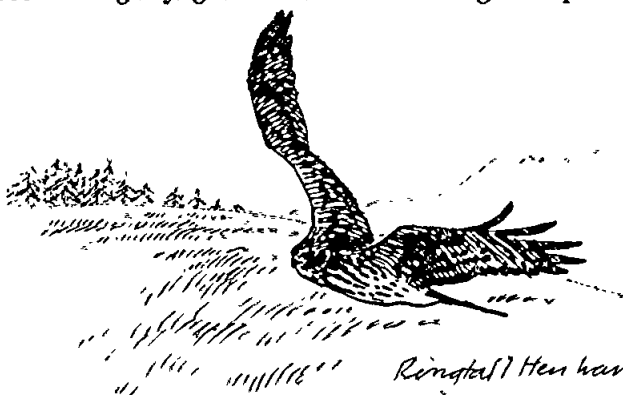
- I Laggan: imm M present Jan - Mar; ad M during Oct, latter roosted at Aros. Also - 2FF Gigha, 25 Apr; 3 rt. Mull of Kintyre, 23 - 26 Sep (inc. one which flew steadily out to sea towards the Antrim coast).

- II Islay: 15 (max. count) at roost, Loch Gruinart, 10 Oct. Colonsay: 1 rt. feeding on rabbit carrion, 16 Feb; up to 6 birds present Oct - Dec.

- III 1 rt. Blairmore Hill, 06 Nov.

- IV Moine Mhor roost: 12 on 01 Jan, 10 on 27 Feb, 9 on 18 Mar, 12 on 10 Apr, 3 on 25 Sep, 13 on 25 Oct, 14 on 25 Nov, 13 on 16 Dec. These were the highest roost counts at this site in recent years.

- V Mull: no birds recorded at usual roost, Jan - Mar & Oct - Dec; only 1-2 birds seen during daylight hours in E Mull during these periods.



SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Glas sheabhadh 0267 GI
 ? Very scarce. Re-establishment in other areas of Britain appears to be entirely due to escaped or released birds. 1990:
 IV 1F Dalmally, 15 Feb; 1M Knapdale, 08 May.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269 SH
 B W P Widespread. Breeding recorded in 36% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 I Mull of Kintyre: total of 21 >S, Balnamoill, Aug - Oct, with peak of 7 on 26-27 Sep (NB. of 32 sightings during the year, only one was of a male).
 II Colonsay: 2 prs. bred.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Clamhan 0287 BZ
 B W Common in all regions. Breeding recorded in 78% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 32 home ranges were located in a mainland study area of 107 km sq. The area available per pair was therefore 3.3 km sq. The "nearest neighbour" distance was 1.1 km, but individual distances varied considerably. In mid-Argyll (IV) & Mull (V) 43 active nests were followed. Laying dates ranged between 02 Apr - 07 May with a mean of 15 Apr. Mean clutch size was 2.2. Hatching success of eggs was 87% and of the chicks hatched, 91% fledged successfully. Mean initial brood size was 1.9 and the mean number of chicks fledged was 1.7 per nest. Overall, 90% of nests found with eggs produced chicks and all nests that successfully hatched eggs produced at least one fledgling [GEA].

I 14 Southend, 28 Mar.
 II Colonsay: at least 24 prs attempted to breed; mean of 14 broods was 1.64; 2 prs had failed by 29 Jun; other 8 prs apparently still had young [DCJ].
 III Glenbranter study area: 11 prs. located with eggs, all were successful, rearing a total of 22 young [DA].
 IV 14 Glen Euchar, 28 Jul; 8 Killiechoinich, 16 Sep.
 V Coll: nests found in 8 of 10 territories located mid-June; 2 nests had failed at egg/young chick stage, 5 of the remaining nests had single chicks & the 6th contained a b/3 [GEA].
 VI 7 North Shian, 04 Mar.

Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* Iolair 0296 EA
 B W Breeding in all regions. Imms. tend to wander in winter & may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur. Breeding recorded in 39% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: Summary of information from 2 large study areas [MG et al, RSPB et al.] and additional home ranges: 68 home ranges monitored, 8 appeared to be vacant. Birds were present in 60 with pairs occupying at least 55. Breeding was confirmed in 37, but perhaps as many as 46 pairs laid. Eggs hatched in at least 21 and 23 chicks were fledged from 18 sites. A pair of immatures first identified last year in a new area laid c/2, although these failed to hatch.

I 1 imm. Tangy Loch, 04 Mar; 1 ad. c1 mile offshore, Grogport, approaching Kintyre from Arran, 04 May; 1 imm. Claonaig, 14 May; 1 imm. Skipness, 18 May; 1 imm. Machrihanish, 24 Sep.
 II Islay: 5 together, Loch Gruinart, 26 Jun.
 IV 4 (inc. 1-2 1st yr. birds plus 1 older imm?) together east side of Dubh Loch, Inveraray, 22 Sep.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Iolair iasgaich 0301 OP
 S P Very scarce breeding species; recent re-colonist. 1990: Pair returned to site used previously and successfully reared a brood for the third successive

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

year, fledging at least 2 young. A single bird was resident at a second site 19-26 April, but there were only occasional records later in the spring. First - 2 on 03 Apr.

IV 1 Melfort, 08 May; 1 Dalmally, 11 May; 1 Dubh Loch, 16 May; 1 Loch Avich, 21 Jun; 2 Dunardry Lochs, 19 Aug; 1 Bellanoch, 20 Aug & 26 Oct.

V 1 Torrains, Mull, 09 Nov (very late record).

VI 1 Glen Kinglass, 28 Sep; 1 Black Mount, 04 Oct.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Clamhan ruadh 0304 K
B W P Widespread but uncommon. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Marked decrease in breeding population over past 10 years reported from region I. Population in some other areas appears to fluctuate from year to year. Emigration from some areas in autumn (eg. Mull). 1990:

I Passage in S Kintyre during late Aug - Sep, with birds widespread at coastal locations, especially in SW, eg. 15 Coney Glen - Southend, 20 Sep & 10 Machrihanish, 24 Sep. A total of 25 were recorded, Balnamoil area, Aug - Sep.

Red-footed falcon *Falco vespertinus*

0307

V 1990#:

I 1F Macharioch, 19 Aug [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Meirneal

0309 ML

B W P Scarce breeding species, probably under-recorded. 1990: A total of 14 breeding pairs was located, plus birds recorded in 4 other areas during the breeding season. Breeding proven in Kintyre, Islay, Jura, Cowal, Mid Argyll and Mull. Birds also recorded in the breeding season, although no evidence of breeding was obtained, in Colonsay and North Argyll. Apparently no records from Coll during the breeding season. While breeding has been suspected on Jura previously this is the first recent confirmation. Of the 14 breeding pairs, final outcome not known for 3, 2 pairs failed and 9 successful pairs reared 34 young (3.7 young/successful breeding pair).

I Laggan: passage from late Aug, with 1-4 seen daily during Sep. Mull of Kintyre: total of 5 >S, Balnamoil, 24-27 Sep, then 5 >S on 01 Oct (all females / young males).

IV 1 Cologin, 01 Oct; 1 Dunach, 04 Nov.

V Mull: passage birds noted from late Aug - late Oct. Coll: 1 Arnabost, 30 Nov. Tiree: 1F Milton 23 Sep; 1 Balephuill, 01 Dec; 1 Loch a' Phuill & 3 together at Kenovay, 02 Dec; 1 Crossapol, 03 Dec; 2 Gott Bay, 04 Dec.

VI 2 Inveroran, 22 Sep; 1F Connel, 09 Nov; 1F Glen Orchy, 07 Dec.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Gormag

0310 HY

V P 1990#:

I 1 Lephénstrath Bridge, Southend, 17 May [subject to acceptance by ARP].

Gyr falcon *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag mhor na seilg

0318

V W P 1990#:

II Islay: 1M, showing characteristics of Greenland race, 17 Apr. The bird was first seen over Loch Gruinart and later watched eating a red grouse nr. Sunderland [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag

0320 PE

B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species in all regions. Breeding

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: Of 25 sites checked, 1 site was vacant & 24 sites were occupied by prs. Of these, 3 prs. failed, 1 pr. failed early or did not breed, 3 prs. bred but the outcome is unknown and 17 successful prs. reared at least 25 chicks. Breeding success where brood size is accurately known: 12 pairs reared 20 young (1.66 young / successful breeding pr).

- I Machrihanish Bay: ad. caught leach's petrel & passed it to juv. offshore, 04 Sep; 2 juvs each killed a leach's petrel on 19 Sep.
- IV 1 Oban, 26 Jan & 04 Oct.

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 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 3 Mull of Kintyre, 05 Dec.
- II Islay: breeding reported from 3 areas.
- III broods of 7 & 8, plus an incubating F, all located within 200 metre radius, head of Loch Striven, 25 Jun.
- V Mull: clutches of 3, 8 & 9 located, plus 2 other incubating FF.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* Tarmachan 0330 PM
R Very localised, generally above 800m. All records required. Breeding recorded in 5% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- IV 4 Beinn Buidhe, 17 May.
- V Mull: b/4 Ben More, 5 Jul.
- VI records of birds from Beinn Dorain, Beinn Achaladair, Coire an Lochain, Beinn a' Chreachain, Stob Coir an Albanach, Ben Starav, Stob Coire Dheirg, Beinn nan Aighenan, Meal nan tri Tighearnan, Glas Bheinn Mhor, Beinn Fhionnlaidh & Stob Ghabhar.

Black grouse *Tetrao tetrix* Coileach dubh 0332 BK
R Locally distributed. Numbers appear to be increasing as a result of birds colonising forestry plantations. Breeding recorded in 21% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I F + b/3, Amod Hill, 27 Jul. Birds recorded at 8 other locations.
- II Islay: probably bred at 5 locations.
- III F + b/4, plus ad. M&F nearby, head of Loch Striven, 25 Jun. Also - 2 Barr Iolaich, 05 May; 3MM Powder Dam, 27 May.
- IV 3 Ardoran, 06 Jan; 8MM 1F Cruach Lerags, 10 Feb; 8MM Ariogan, 14 Feb; 18MM 1F Cologin, 07 Apr; 12MM 2FF Fearnach, 08 Apr; 8 Kilmichael Glen, 02 May; 3MM 2FF Glen Feochan, 01 Sep; 1M Dunach Farm, 10 Oct.
- V 2MM Reudle, Mull, 25 Apr.
- VI 2 Benderloch, 15 Dec.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* Capull coille 0335 CP
? Very rare. Has bred in past, but no records since BTO Breeding Atlas, 1968-72. All records required. 1990#:
III 1F Knap, 13 May.

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). 1990: no significant records.
V Mull: total of 100 released at 2 sites, but apparently no surviving birds by 31 Dec.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

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. 1990:

II Islay: birds released in at least 1 locality & at least 14 still surviving 08 Nov.

V Mull: total of 100 released at 2 sites - at least 10 still present, 31 Dec.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* Easag 0394 PH
R Widespread & common. Birds annually reared & released on many estates. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 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). 1990: no significant records.

Water rail *Rallus aquaticus* Snagan allt 0407 WA
B W P Scarce, but under-recorded. 1990:

I 1 Lochan Luing, 08 Jun; 1 Culindrach Farm, 26 Jun.

II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, 18 Feb. Colonsay: 2 East Loch Fada, 22 Jun.

IV 1 Cologin, 06 Jan; 1 Barnacarry, 03 Mar; 2 Lochgilphead, 21 Apr; 2 Moine Mhor, 21 Apr; 1 Taynuilt, 23 Oct; 1 Gallanachbeg, 21 Nov.

Spotted crane *Porzana porzana* Traon breac 0408 AK
S Very rare / irregular. 1990:

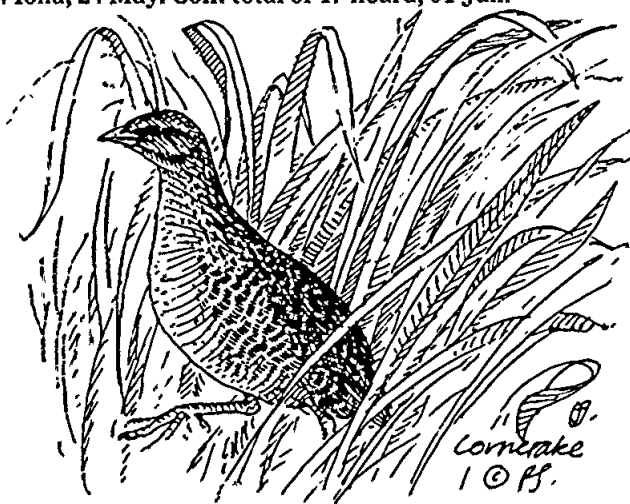
IV 1 calling, Taynish, 10 Jun - 09 Jul.

Corncrake *Crex crex* Traon 0421 CE
S Localised distribution. Breeding mainly on Islay & Colonsay (II), Coll & Tiree (V). 1990:

I 1 Druimyeonbeg, 18 Jun; 1 High Glenadale, 14 Sep.

II Islay: 14 calling birds located in June census. Colonsay: one site badly trampled by people searching for birds.

V Mull: 4 Iona, 24 May. Coll: total of 17 heard, 01 Jun.



SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc uisge 0424 MH
B W Very localised. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Bred at 6 localities, Kintyre.
- II Islay: bred at 4 localities. Colonsay: 2 East Loch Fada, 16 Jun; 2 Ardskenish, 16 Jun.
- IV 1 Barnacarry, 08 Apr; 1 Loch Nell, 30 May; 4 Loch Ederline, 02 Nov; 1 Loch Seil, 03 Dec; 1 Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith, 04 Dec.
- V Mull: 2 Dervaig, 16 Oct. Coll: 2 Loch Hogh, 01 Jun.
- VI 1 Achnacairn, 20 Nov; up to 4 Balnagown Loch, Lismore, Oct - Nov.

Coot *Fulica atra* Lach a bhlair 0429 CO
B W Uncommon. Breeding recorded in only 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 3 Westport marsh, 24 Apr; 1 Killypole Loch, 16 Jun.
- II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, 14 Apr; 1 Loch Tallant, 10 May. Winter records from 4 localities, inc. max. counts of 4 Loch Skerrols, 04 Dec & 2 Loch Ballygrant, 13 Nov. Colonsay: 1 West Loch Fada & 2 East Loch Fada, 16 Jun.
- IV 1 Loch Ederline, 01 Jan & 20 Feb; 4 Loch Nell, 13 Dec; single present Loch Taynish, Jan-Feb, Sep & Dec.
- V Tiree: 4 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille brighde 0450 OC
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 70% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 1458 >S/55hrs, 24 Jul - 28 Aug; peak count of 691/3hrs on 15 Aug. Also - 21 West Tarbert, 04 Jan; 20 Tarbert, 15 Jan; 650 Campbeltown Loch, 06 Aug.
- II Islay: see counts below.
- III 50 Kildavaig, 30 May; 59 Blairmore, 22 Aug.
- IV 30 Loch Feochan, 20 Ardfarn, 20 Loch Crinan, 20 Linne Mhuirich & 25 Dunstaffnage, all 17 Mar; 25 Head of Loch Fyne, 18 Mar; 47 Kilninver, 19 Mar; 40 Dunollie, 03 Aug; 60 Stonefield, 07 Oct.
- V Mull: 19 Loch Beg, 19 Nov. Tiree: 28 Crossapol, 25 Jul.
- VI Max. counts - 70 Ledaig Point, 25 Jul; 57 North Connel, 05 Aug; 96 Loch Laich, 04 Sep.

Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
L Gruinart 246 371 284 272 180 - 270 115 80 62 53 115
L Indaal 460 583 660 400 296 333 457 438 517 438 474 245

Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan traghad 0470 RP
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 55% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I Light passage of race tundrae (breeds N Scandinavia & USSR) mid-May to early Jun, inc. max. counts of 15 Machrihanish Bay, 13 May & 22 Rhunahaorine Pt, 23 May. Small nos. of nominate hiaticula birds, Uisaed Pt, 27 Jul - 15 Aug & 30 Machrihanish, 07 Sep.
- II Islay: 20 Ardnave Point, 01 Mar. Also - see counts below.
- V Mull: 23 (max. count) Loch Beg, 14 Jan; 31 Erraid, 04 Sep; 39 (max. count) Lochdon, 13 Oct; 30 Iona, 23 Oct.
- VI Max. counts - 23 Ledaig Point, 09 Mar; 65 North Connel, 05 Aug; 17 Loch Laich, 04 Sep.

Monthly max: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Lochdon 19 30 12 - - - - 31 39 28 38
L Gruinart 0 13 14 14 0 - 24 84 15 0 14 16
L Indaal 25 40 31 30 27 53 96 131 48 58 28 42

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mointich 0482 DO
P Scarce. Has bred, region VI. All records required. 1990:

II Islay: possibly bred - a pr. was present in suitable breeding habitat, 02 Jun & then 5-6 were located in the same area, 28 Jul. Also - 1 Claggain Bay, 29 May.

VI 1 in suitable breeding habitat, 26 May.

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 28% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 1 wintered at Laggan, Jan - Mar; 50 Laggan, 26 Apr; light passage past Uisaed Pt from 21 Jul; 90 Machrihanish airfield, 24 Aug.

II Islay: territorial birds in several hill areas. Wintering & passage birds mainly in Ardnave / Loch Gruinart area, with max. spring count 133 on 03 Mar & max. autumn count c700 on 13 Oct. Unprecedented nos. built up on Loch Indaal mud-flats, Oct onwards, with max. count 780 on 10 Dec. Also - 110 Coultorsay, 21 Apr. Colonsay: 22 Ardskenish, 01 Jan; 18 Oronsay, 15 Apr.

V Mull: 6 territorial birds located in 4 discreet localities. Counts - 23 Loch Beg, 14 Feb; c500 Fiddon, 29 Apr; 30 Ben More, 12 Sep; 50 Ardanish Bay, 25 Oct; 187 Fiddon, 28 Oct. Tiree: c1300 Airport, 31 Mar.

VI 1 Ledaig Point, 17 Mar; 1 North Connel, 06 Oct.

Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Trilleachan 0486 GV
P W Uncommon passage migrant. A few winter. 1990:

I Uisaed Pt: 1 > N, 15 May; total of 11 > S on 4 dates, 07-25 Sep. Also - 4 Machrihanish airfield, 02 Oct.

II Islay: Loch Gruinart - 1st were 10 on 23 Sep; 45 (max. count) on 19 Oct; 13 on 22 Nov & 7 on 23 Dec. Loch Indaal - 10 (max. count) on 25 Sep; 9 on 28 Oct & 7 on 21 Nov. Also - 2 Ardbeg, 25 Sep.

V Mull: 1 Fiddon, 28 Oct; 6 Duart, 31 Oct; 2 Lochdon, 25 Nov. Coll: 1 Port a' Mhuraig, 26 Oct.

VI 2 imm. North Connel, 11 Sep.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Carracag 0493 L
B W P Widespread breeding & wintering species associated with rough grazings, arable fields & machair. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I c30 Southend, 19 Jan; 60 > N past Uisaed Pt, 17 Sep.

II Islay: Loch Gruinart - 144 prs. bred; influx of birds from late Jan, with max. count 829 on 22 Feb; max. autumn passage count was 419 on 21 Nov. Also - 224 Loch Indaal, 16 Feb; 120 Machir Bay, 22 Feb.

III 25 Blairmore, 07 Jan.

IV 30 Loch na Cille, 16 Feb.

V Mull: bred in at least 6 localities. Counts - 11 Glen Forsa, 25 Mar; 35 Scoor, 28 Jun; 10 Ardanish Bay, 25 Oct; 30 Fiddon, 28 Oct.

Knot *Calidris canutus* Luatharan gainmhich 0496 KN
W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage, Aug - Sep. A few winter. 1990:

I Uisaed Pt: 2 (w/pl) > N on 15 May; autumn passage between 21 Jul - 27 Sep with max. count 65 / 2hrs on 26 Aug. Also - 1 juv. Dunaverty Bay, 19 Aug; 6 Rhunahaorine Point, 27 Sep.

II Islay: Loch Indaal - 20 on 23 Feb; 18 on 25 Aug & 16 on 10 Oct. Loch

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- Gruinart - 8 on 24 Aug & 5 on 21 Sep.
 V Mull: 11 Lochdon, 03 Sep; 15 Loch Beg, 17 Sep.
 VI 1 Ledaig Point, 23 Feb & 17 Mar; 2 Benderloch saltmarsh, 28 Jul then 3 on 08 Sep; 8 North Connel, 09 Sep then 3 imm. on 11 Sep.

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. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: northerly passage 29 Apr - 12 Jun; peaks were 42 /2hrs on 16 May, 20 (flock) on 23 May & 190 (flock) on 09 Jun; autumn passage 21 Jul - 29 Sep, inc. 60 on 15 Aug & 44 on 19 Sep.
 II Islay: northerly passage mainly late May, with max. count 45 Loch Indaal, 17 May. Autumn passage late Jul - early Sep, with exceptional max. count 364 Loch Gruinart, 24 Aug. Wintering birds inc. 16 Loch Indaal, 13 Dec & 14 Laggan estuary, 30 Dec. Colonsay: 2 Tobar Fuar, 10 Jun.
 IV 2 Ulva Islands, 13 May; 1 Oban Bay, 20 Aug.
 V Mull: 12 Iona, 30 May; 6 Erraid, 04 Sep. Tiree: 81 Clachan Mor, 31 Mar; 52 Gott Bay, 31 Mar; 72 Balephetrish Bay, 31 Mar; 71 Sandaig, 01 Apr.

Little stint *Calidris minuta* Luatharan beag 0501 LX
 P Scarce. 1990:
 II Islay: 1 Bruichladdich, Loch Indaal, 20-23 Aug.

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan crom 0509 CV
 P Scarce / irregular. 1990#:
 II Islay: 1 Loch Indaal, 12-28 Aug; 2 Loch Gruinart, 24 Aug, then singles 1 & 7 Sep.

Purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Luatharan rioghail 0510 PS
 W P Widely distributed along rocky coasts, Aug-May. 1990:
 I 32 Machrihanish, 02 Mar; none seen between 12 May & 08 Aug.
 II Islay: max. counts were 43 Portnahaven, 28 Feb & 28 Bruichladdich, 09 Mar. Last - 3 on 09 May; first - 2 on 30 Oct.
 V Tiree: 88 Clachan Mor, 31 Mar & 02 Apr.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Graillig 0512 DN
 B W P Very localised breeding species. Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Mainly recorded on passage with only small numbers wintering. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: spring passage 30 Apr - 14 Jun, inc. 90 on 20 May; autumn passage 21 Jul - 30 Sep, inc. 120 on 04 Aug.
 II Islay: breeding reported at 4 sites. Unprecedented nos. in Loch Indaal, Nov - Dec. See counts below. Colonsay: 5 Ardskenish, 16 Jun.
 IV 2 Ulva Islands, 04 May.
 V Mull: 28 Loch Beg, 29 Apr; 43 Iona, 29 May; 29 Erraid, 04 Sep; 60 (max. count) Lochdon, 25 Nov.
 VI 6 Ledaig Point, 14 May; 25 North Connel, 23 Jul; 12 Benderloch, 04 Aug; 12 Loch Laich, 04 Sep.

Monthly max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lochdon	43	50	0	-	-	-	-	-	29	8	60	35
L Gruinart	195	166	0	0	0	-	2	858	31	148	11	95
L Indaal	50	160	3	37	25	76	55	258	48	165	442	720

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan 0517 RU
 P Scarce / irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn. 1990:

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- I 1M Westport marsh, 28 Mar - 02 Apr; 4 Rhunahaorine Point, 21 Aug; 8 > S past Uisaed Pt, 17 Sep.
- II Islay: Loch Gruinart - 2 on 17-24 Aug & 11 on 11 Sep. Also - 1 Claddach Loch, 08 Sep; 1 Loch Indaal, 10 Oct.
- V Mull: 1 Kintra, 19 Sep.
- VI 1F Ledaig & Benderloch, 23 Sep.

Jack snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* Gobhrag bheag 0518 JS

W P Probably under-recorded. 1990:

- I 2 Westport marsh, 22 Apr.
- II 1 (killed by cat) Loch Gruinart, 23 Feb; 2 Duich Moss, Mar; 1 Port Charlotte, 12 Oct; 1 Killinallan, 26 Oct.
- V Mull: 1 Loch Beg, 19 Nov; 1 Grasspoint, 25 Dec.
- VI 1 North Connel, 11 Sep.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg 0519 SN

B W P Widespread, locally common. Breeding recorded in 51% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 40 Westport marsh, 22 Apr.
- II Islay: 104 (max. count) Loch Gruinart, 24 Mar.
- VI 14 Eilean Duirinnis, Bonawe, 23 Dec.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Coileach coille 0529 WK

B W P Widespread but under-recorded distribution. Breeding recorded in 35% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- IV Taynish NNR: roding noted 19 Mar - 17 Jul; min. of 8 territories identified; b/4 found, 21 May.

Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* Cearra ghob 0532 BW

P Scarce. Main passage Aug. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 7 (s/pl) > N, 15 May; 12 > S, 23 Aug. Also - 1 Westport marsh, 28 Apr - 30 Apr; 2 Campbeltown Loch, 03 Aug; 4 Machrihanish airfield, 15 Aug.
- II Islay: spring passage late Apr, with max. count 33 Loch Gruinart, 29 Apr; 5 Claddach, 27 Jun; autumn passage late Aug with max. count 17 on 30 Aug.
- V Mull: 1 Loch Cuin, 02 May; 2 Erraid, 13 Sep; 1 Lochdon, 20 Sep. Tiree: 2 An Fhaodhail, 30 Mar.

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. 1990:

- I Spring passage - small numbers from 30 Apr - 10 May, inc. 13 > S, Uisaed Pt, 09 May; 38 > N Rhunahaorine Pt, 09 May.
- II Islay: present all year, Loch Indaal. See counts below. Colonsay: 7 wintered, The Strand.
- IV 11 Loch Feochan, 16 Aug; 15 Dunadd, 13 Sep.
- V Mull: 2 Loch na Keal, 08 Jan; 1 Lochdon, 16 Feb - 22 Mar; 2 Lochdon, 03 Sep - 25 Nov; 3 Erraid, 04 Sep; 1 Calgary, 08 Sep; 3 Fidden, 28 Oct; 2 Torosay, 31 Oct. Tiree: 7 Mannal, 30 Mar; 20 (max. count) Gott Bay, 02 Apr.
- VI 1 North Connel, 11 Sep; 3 (max. count) Benderloch saltmarsh, 08 Sep; 5 Eriska, 06 Oct.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Monthly max:

L Gruinart

L Indaal

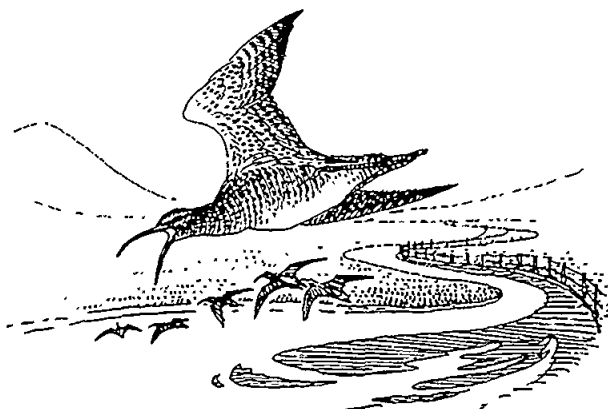
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
184	144	10	0	0	-	0	37	55	152	138	49
94	110	94	92	115	47	47	78	144	78	118	130

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Eun bealltainn

0538 WM

P Uncommon. Main passage May & Aug. Possibility of a few individuals summering? 1990:

- I 4 Carskiey, 24 Apr. Main spring passage from 30 Apr - 13 May with 1-5 almost daily at Machrihanish Bay throughout May; peak counts were on 03 May when many birds grounded by calm, hazy weather, eg. 100 Machrihanish airfield, 76 Westport marsh, 60 Tayinloan, 34 Rhunahaorine Point, 25 Barr Water & 18 Southend. Also - 1 Southend, 10 Jun; 1 Machrihanish, 16 Jun; 1 Skipness, 14 Jun.
- II Islay: spring passage 21 Apr - 18 May, with max. count of 70 Loch Indaal, 07 May; autumn passage 20 Aug - 03 Sep, with max. count 46 Loch Gruinart, 03 Sep.
- IV 9 Seil Sound, 28 Apr; 2 Easdale, 08 May; 8 Dunardry Lochs, 09 May; 3 Connel, 13 May.
- V Mull: 1 Loch Buie, 19 Apr; 3 Gruline, 29 Apr; 5 Uisken, 13 May; 1 Lagganulva, 16 Jun; 1 Ulva, 01 Jul; 1 Grasspoint, 22 Jul; 2 Lochdon, 30 Jul; 1 between Mull & Coll, 09 Sep. Tiree: 4 Rubha Chraiginis, 10 Jun.
- VI 2 North Connel, 24 Apr; 6 Ledaig Point, 14 May; 2 Achnacairn, 29 May; 4 Loch Laich, 09 Sep.



Whimbrel E Curlew P. ©

Curlew *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach

0541 CU

B W P Common. Breeding recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 550 Laggan, 14 Jan; 70 Rhunahaorine, 03 Mar; 320 Brunerican Bay, 07 Mar; 80 Campbeltown Loch, 06 Aug; 95 Carskiey, 30 Nov.
- II Islay: 18+ prs. bred, Loch Gruinart. See counts below.
- IV 22 Ardentallen, 14 Mar & 08 Oct.
- V Mull: 33 (max. count) Loch Beg, 07 Jan; 40 Loch na Keal, 08 Jan; 40 Fiddon, 16 Sep; 50 Gribun, 26 Sep; 43 (max. count) Lochdon, 16 Oct. Coll: 150 Breachacha, 30 Nov. Tiree: 29 Kilkeneth, 01 Apr; 46 The Airport, 27 Jul.
- VI Max. counts - 23 Achnacree Bay, 04 Mar; 17 Benderloch saltmarsh, 08 Sep; 44 Loch Laich, 20 Sep.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Monthly max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	39	298	593	133	55	-	549	540	325	415	184	123
L Indaal	767	829	117	117	21	26	382	636	417	325	123	235

Redshank *Tringa totanus* Cam ghlas 0546 RK
 B W P Localised breeder. Breeding recorded in 40% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Widespread passage migrant & wintering species. 1990:
 I 130 > S/50hrs, Uisaed Pt, 21 Jul - 17 Sep.
 II Islay: 20 prs. bred, Loch Gruinart. See counts below.
 V Mull: bred at Fiddon & Lochdon. Spring passage late Apr, eg. 137 Scallastle Bay, 28 Apr; autumn passage inc. 43 (max. count) Lochdon, 17 Aug & 31 Erraid, 04 Sep.

Monthly max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	10	12	23	16	8	-	2	34	8	16	23	3
L Indaal	19	13	21	6	5	23	1	26	6	10	8	4

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Deoch bhuidhe 0548 GK
 B W P Very scarce breeding species (regions V & VI only in recent years). Breeding recorded in 4% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Small nos. on passage with a few birds wintering in some localities. 1990: breeding proven at 1 site, region VI.
 I 15 > S past Uisaed Pt, 22 Jul - 20 Aug; 3 juv. Rhunahaorine Point, 21 Aug; 1 > S past Ru Stafnish, 23 Aug.
 II Islay: fewer records than usual - 4 Loch Indaal, 25 Aug; 1 Loch Gruinart, 5 dates in Aug; 1 Ardnave Point, 22 Oct; 1 Feur Lochain, 23 Oct.
 IV 1 Brackley, 16 Feb; 1 Linne Mhuirich, 06 Mar; 2 Taynuilt, 13 Apr; 2 Dunardry Lochs, 31 Jul; 2 Linne Mhuirich, 22 Sep.
 V Mull: 2 Loch Beg, 14 Feb; 2 Erraid, 13 Aug; 10 (max. count) Lochdon, 17 Aug; 20 (max. count) Loch Beg, 21-24 Sep; 1 Loch Cuin, 10 Nov; 1 Druimghigha, 10 Nov. Coll: 1 Arinagour, 28 Mar. Tíree: 2 Clachan Mor, 30 Mar.
 VI 4 Benderloch, 04 Aug.

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan uaine 0553 GE
 P Scarce. 1990:
 I 1 Machrihanish airfield, 27 Jul.
 II Islay: 1 Loch Gruinart, 06 Aug; 1 Carnain pool, Loch Indaal, 25 Aug.
 V 1 Lochdon, Mull, 14 Jul.

Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556 CS
 S P Widespread & common breeding visitor. Breeding recorded in 68% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: first - 1 North Connell (VI), 05 Apr; 1 Machrihanish (I), 10 Apr; 1 Loch Cuin, Mull (V), 17 Apr; 1 Lochgilphead (IV), 20 Apr; 1 Blairmore (III), 28 Apr; 1 Bruichladdich, Islay (II), 03 May. Last - 1 Machrihanish (I), 17 Sep. Also -
 I 20 Machrihanish, 23 Aug.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Trilleachan beag gobhlachan 0561 TT
 W P Widespread & common on rocky shorelines & seaweed strandlines, mainly Aug-May. 1990: recorded in all months.
 II Islay: 25 Ardnave Point, 01 Mar. See counts below.
 III 3 Carry Point, 30 May.
 IV Oban Bay: present Jan-May & Aug-Dec with max. count 25 on 30 Dec.
 V Mull: 22 Loch na Keal, 08 Jan; 2 Iona, 29 May; 15 Loch Beg, 21 Sep; 14 Fishnish Bay, 10 Nov; 15 Lochdon, 25 Nov. Coll: 3 Friesland, 04 Jun; 20 Acairseid Mhor, 09 Sep. Tíree: 508 Clachan Mor, 30 Mar.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

VI 38 Port Appin - Loch Laich, 07 Mar. Ledaig Point: 51 (max. count) on 09 Mar, 1 on 14 May.

Monthly max:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	12	78	70	12	0	-	0	3	63	75	73	42
L Indaal	45	68	57	50	0	0	2	25	32	28	25	33

Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan allt 0564 NK
S P Rare breeder at one locality only. 1990: 2 birds, both females, seen in June in area where successful breeding occurred in 1989. Evidence from later visit suggests that no young were raised (RSPB).

Grey phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* Liathag allt 0565 PL

P Irregular. 1990:

I 1 Machrihanish, 19 Sep [subject to acceptance by ARP].

V 1 Hynish, Tiree, 08 Oct.

Phalarope sp. *Phalaropus sp.*

I 1 Tarbert, 11 Feb.

II Islay: 1 Kilchiaran Bay, 22 Sep.

Pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair donn 0566 PK

P Scarce. 1990#:

I 1 (1st in winter pl.) Machrihanish Bay, 14 Feb.

Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair 0567 AC

S P Small breeding colonies on Jura (II) & Coll (V). Passage birds off all coasts, Apr-Oct. 1990:

I Rhunahaorine Pt: 2 (1/m) >N, 23 May. Ru Stafnish: 1 (1/m) >S on 21 Jun and 2 (1/m) >S on 14 Aug. Uisaed Pt: singles (all d/m) on 8 dates, 24 Jul - 16 Sep, then 12 >S, 19-25 Sep; last was 1 (1/m) >S, 04 Oct. Also - 1 West Loch Tarbert, 01 Feb; 2 an Dubh-sgeir, Gigha, 07 May; 1 Machrihanish Bay, 23 May.

II Islay: 1 (d/m) Loch Gruinart, 05 May. Frenchman's Rocks - 3 >S on 21 Aug & 3 >S on 01 Sep. Jura: 3 Feolin Ferry, 05 Jun. Colonsay: 1-2 birds seen offshore, Apr-Oct.

IV 1 off W Kerrera, 15 Sep.

V Mull: 7 Scallastle Bay, 27 Apr; 4 Lunga, 10 Jun; 1 Pennyghael, 16 Sep; 1 Sound of Iona, 19 Sep. Coll: 30 counted at 4 sites, 26 May - 02 Jun. Tiree: 1 Scarinish, 08 Jun.

Long-tailed skua *Skua longicaudus* 0568 OG

P Rare. 1990#: 1 >S Ru Stafnish, 23 Aug [subject to acceptance by SBRC].

Great skua *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair mor 0569 NX

S P Uncommon passage migrant & summer visitor. Bred unsuccessfully on Coll in 1989. 1990:

I Ru Stafnish: 1 >S on 17 Mar, 1 >S on 21 Jun, 5 >S /3hrs on 28 Sep. Rhunahaorine Pt: 1 >N on 09 May. Uisaed Pt: 1 >N on 30 May, 1 >S on 24 Jul, 2 >S on 01 Sep, 7 >S /3hrs on 19 Sep, 1 >S on 21 Sep. Also - 1 Machrihanish Bay, 08 Jun.

II Islay: 6 over Bridgend merse, 19 Apr; 1 >S, Portnahaven, 12 Aug. Colonsay: 2 off Port Mor, 26 Jun.

V Mull: 1 >W off Kintra, 19 Sep; 2 Craignure Bay, 22 Sep. Tiree: 1 Urvaig, 08 Jun.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Little gull *Larus minutus* Crann fhaoileag 0578 LU

P Scarce. 1990#:

I Uisaed Pt: 3 imm. >S, 18 Mar; 1 ad. >S, 19 Jun. Also - 1 imm. Mac-hrihanish airfield, 15 Jan.

II 1 imm. Claggain Bay, 03 & 15 Nov.

V Mull: 1 imm. Loch Scridain, 19 Sep.

Sabine's gull *Larus sabini* 0579 AB

V Irregular. 1990#:

I Uisaed Pt: 1 juv. >S on 19 Sep and 3 juvs. >S on 21 Sep.

II Islay: 1 ad. off Frenchman's Rocks, 30 Aug. [all records subject to acceptance by SBRC].

Black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus* Faoileag a' chinn duibh 0582 BH

B W P Common except some islands. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 17 Tarbert, 15 Jan; 250 Laggan, 17 Aug.

II Islay: 89 prs. bred in newly-flooded field, Loch Gruinart; 80 occupied nests, Duich Moss. See counts below. Colonsay: 36 nests found at Ardskenish Pond, 16 Jun, but only 9 young present, plus 1 unhatched clutch & 8 dead young; 4 prs elsewhere on island, 16 Jun.

IV c100 Inveraray, 18 Mar; 50 head of Loch Fyne, 18 Mar; 30 prs. Eilean Col-tair, 04 Jun; c200 prs. Eilean Inshaig, 04 Jun; 10 prs. head of Loch Feochan, 13 Jun.

V Coll: 9 nests Loch Ronard & 7 nests Druim Buidhe, 01 Jun.

Monthly max:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

L Gruinart

0 0 83 18 33 - 175 33 48 102 11 0

L Indaal

1 14 225 92 50 90 118 71 103 77 7 90

Ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis*

0589 IN

V Scarce. 1990:

II Islay: 1 (2nd summer pl.) Port Charlotte, 13 Jun - 30 Aug.

V 1 (2nd summer pl.) Oban Bay, 23 Aug. [both records subject to acceptance by ARP].

Common gull *Larus canus* Faoileag

0590 CM

B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 45% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I c.50 prs bred Loch na Beiste; c1400 Laggan, 24 Sep.

II Islay: c50 prs. bred, Loch Gruinart. See counts below. Colonsay: 40 prs. Baleromindubh & 32 prs. Oronsay, 16 Jun.

IV c500 Oban Bay, 27 Feb; 250 Castlesween, 10 Mar; c200 Loch Ederline, 18 Mar; c200 head of Loch Fyne, 18 Mar; 544 Kilmarnaig Is, 25 May.

VI c300 from Oban - Lismore ferry, 08 Apr.

Monthly max:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

L Gruinart

117 167 165 85 29 - 34 273 207 137 37 123

L Indaal

447 639 276 238 75 29 188 650 296 142 52 230

Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* Faoileag bheag

0591 LB

SP Common breeding species, generally present Mar-Sep. Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Occasional winter records. 1990:

I 5 Tarbert, 28 Jan; spring passage mid-Mar to mid-May, with max. count 160 at Westport marsh, 21-22 Apr; autumn passage inc. 101 >S/2hrs, Mull of Kintyre, 19 Aug; last - 2 juvs. >S, Uisaed Pt, 24 Sep.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- II Islay: c60 ads. at colony on Duich moss, Jun. First - 1 Loch Gruinart, 22 Feb; present until at least late Aug. Max. counts were 53 Loch Gruinart & 43 Loch Indaal, 24 Aug. Colonsay: 80 Balnahard, 23 Jun; 380 Loch an Sgoltaire, 24 Jun.
- III first & last were singles off Blairmore, 04 Apr & 31 Oct respectively.
- IV 24 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun. First - 3 Loch Feochan & 4 Loch Crinan, 17 Mar. Last - 1 Loch Nell, 27 Nov (perhaps same bird as that found freshly dead under overhead wires, Loch Nell, 27 Dec).
- V Coll: 200 counted at 8 sites, 01 Jun.

Herring gull *Larus argentatus* Faoileag an sgadain 0592 HG
 B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 33% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some evidence for immigration into Argyll in winter - colour ringing studies have shown that these birds are probably from the Clyde & NE England. 1990:

- I 149 >S/3hrs, Uisaed Pt, 06 Mar; c5500 Laggan, 17 Sep.
- II Islay: see counts below - the v. high Feb count at Loch Gruinart was of birds feeding on earthworms in severely-flooded fields.
- IV 113 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun.
- V Mull: 410 Fishnish Bay, 21 Sep. Coll: 840 counted at 9 sites, 01 Jun. Tthree: significant decrease noted at two colonies of mixed herring/lesser black-backed / great black-backed gulls; a yellow-legged ad. was noted at Balinoe, plus a possible hybrid ad. with light yellow legs (paired with "normal" pink-legged herring gull), Rubha Chraiginis, 02 Apr.
- VI 680 Eilean Dubh, 27 May.

Monthly Max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L Gruinart	8	627	41	19	25	-	26	132	193	43	22	8
L Indaal	297	154	102	99	40	61	71	426	277	298	401	42

Iceland gull *Larus glaucoides* Faoileag liath 0598 IG
 W Scarce. 1990:

- I 2nd winter pl. bird regular at Machrihanish Bay throughout Feb; 1 Tarbert, 04 Mar - 27 Mar.
- II Islay: 1 ad. West Carrabus, 18 Feb; 1 imm. Loch Gruinart, 03-04 Mar; 1 ad. Bridgend merse & 1 imm. Portnahaven, 30 Dec.
- V Mull: 1st winter pl. bird, Tobermory, 22 Feb.

Glaucous gull *Larus hyperboreus* Faoileag mhor 0599 GZ
 W Scarce but more frequently recorded than Iceland Gull. 1990:

- I 1 ad. Campbeltown Loch, 01 Jan - 30 Mar; 2nd winter pl. bird, Laggan, 13 Mar.
- II Islay: Loch Indaal - 2 (ad. + 3rd winter pl.) present in Feb, 1 (unaged) on 19 Mar, 1 (3rd winter pl.) on 29 Oct & 2 (ad. + 2nd winter pl.) present in Dec. Also - 1 Loch Gruinart, 04 Mar; 1 ad. Kilchoman & 1 (1st winter pl.) Ballinaby, 27 Dec. Colonsay: 1 dead, Machrins, 13 Apr.
- V Tthree: 1 ad. Hynish, 02 Jul; 1 ad. Loch Bhasapol, 01 Dec.

Great black-backed gull *Larus marinus* Farspag 0600 GB
 B W Common & widespread. Breeding recorded in 22% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 28 Machrihanish Bay, 19 Mar; 80 following trawler off Ru Stafnish, 21 Jun; 65 Rhunahaorine Point, 27 Jun.
- II Islay: max. counts were 13 Loch Gruinart & 58 Loch Indaal, 19 Oct.
- III 32 Blairmore, 22 Aug.
- IV 39 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun. Also - 133 (max. count) head of

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- Loch Feochan, 30 Sep.
V Mull: 50 Fishnish Bay, 21 Sep. Coll: 20 Loch a' Chrotha, 01 Jun; 20 Port a' Mhurain, 01 Jun; 20 Caoles Dunes, 01 Jun.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag 0602 KI
B P Main breeding colonies on Islay & Colonsay (II) and Tíree & Treshnish Is. (V). 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 3500 >N /3hrs on 02 Mar and 4800 >S /2.5hrs on 19 Mar.
II Colonsay: c1000 Kiloran Bay, 24 Jun.
V Mull: c40 >W, Loch Scridain, 19 Sep; c800 >W off Kintra, 19 Sep; 770 Lady's Rock, 19 Sep. Tíree: 688 occ. nests, Ceann a' Mhara, 10 Jun.
VI 300 >N /2hrs, Port Appin, 19 Mar.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* 0606
V Rare. 1990#:

- I 1 >S past Uisaed Pt, 01 Jun [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Stearnag mhor 0611 TE
B P Very rare/irregular breeding species. Uncommon passage migrant. 1990:

- I Pr. lingered at Southend, Apr - May; up to 5 at common tern colony in Machrihanish Bay, with some carrying sand eels, 05 May. First - 1 Brunerican Bay, 16 Apr. Uisaed Pt: regular northerly passage involving small nos, 30 Apr - 16 Jun; passage both N & S, 13 Jul to mid-Sep, inc. 14 on 10 Aug. Ru Stafnish: 3 >N on 21 May, 2 >S on 21 Jun. Also - 8 Campbelltown Loch, 16 May & 18 Aug; 18 Skipness Point, 16 Aug; 40 West Loch Tarbert, 20 Aug; 15 Saddell Bay, 22 Aug.
II Islay: first - 1 Bruichladdich, 09 May; ad. feeding juv, Port Charlotte, 22 Aug; last - 2 Port Charlotte, 05 Sep.
III 2 Kilbride Bay, 29 May; 1 Blairmore, 29 Jul.

Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* Stearnag stiuireach 0614 RS
S P Scarce non-breeding visitor. 1990:

- I 1 >N past Ru Stafnish, 21 May [subject to acceptance by SBRC].

Common tern *Sterna hirundo* Stearnag 0615 CN
S P Locally common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 14 colonies (8 common tern, 6 mixed common/arctic) were monitored in a study area extending from Gigha (I) to the boundary with Highland Region (VI). In total, the 14 colonies held c1247 clutches of common tern and produced c519-619 fledged young. However, 8 of the colonies were small (> 20 prs.) and these together produced less than 5 fledged young. The 3 largest colonies held 77% of clutches and c95% of fledged young. Fledging success of both common & arctic terns was severely reduced by predation of chicks by otter at the 2 largest colonies. There was predation by rat at the 3rd largest colony, the first time this has been recorded in this area. Starvation and predation by mink reduced fledging at the 4th largest colony to a single young [JCAC]. Additional breeding information given below.

- I c.50 prs bred, Machrihanish Bay. Counts - 1 c/a tern off Gigha, 01 May; 2 "portlandica phase" (1st summer) birds frequented Machrihanish Bay, 02/Jun - 24 Jul; 20 >S past Uisaed Pt, 19 Sep; 8 >S past Ru Stafnish, 28 Sep.
II Islay: v. small nos. reported breeding at 4 colonies. Last sighting was 1 Bruichladdich, 06 Nov (v. late date).
IV 17 Lochgilphead, 30 Jul.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- V Mull: 2 Scoor, 05 May; 1 juv. Craignure Bay, 22 Sep. Coll: c20 prs. Eileraig, 01 Jun.
VI 1 Appin, 18 Sep.

Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* Stearnal 0616 AE
S P Locally numerous breeding species. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 11 colonies (5 arctic tern & 6 mixed common/arctic) were monitored in the above study area. In total, the 11 colonies held c338 clutches of arctic tern and produced c112 fledged young. However, 5 of the colonies were small (> 20 prs.) and these together produced less than 2 fledged young. The 2 largest colonies (both mixed with common tern) held 54% of clutches and 89% of fledged young [JCAC]. Additional breeding information given below.

- I c.35 prs bred, Rhunahaorine Pt; last - 1 >S past Uisaed Pt, 12 Sep.
II Islay: breeding reported at 5 sites, inc. c80 prs at main colony. Last - 1 Loch Indaal, 27 Oct. Colonsay: total of 470 birds counted at 4 sites (not inc. Oronsay), 16 Jun; report of "constant disturbance" to terns by visitors).
V Mull: c200 Quinish, 18 May; 2 juv >W off Kintra, 19 Sep; 1 Kilfinichen Bay, 23 Sep. Coll: 38 birds present at 1 colony, 01 Jun. Tiree: census of main breeding areas revealed a total of 150 - 196 pairs, a substantial decline on 1989 figures for the same areas.

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. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 2 >N on 14 May, 6 >N on 21 May, 2 >S on 22 May, 2 >S on 23 May, 3 >S on 14 Aug.
II Islay: at least one colony, with 5+ breeding prs; last - 1 Loch Indaal, 26 Oct.
V Mull: 3 >W off Kintra, 19 Sep. Tiree: incomplete census but total of 34 - 39 pairs recorded in main breeding areas, suggesting decline on 1989 figures (46-61 prs.). Coll: only one colony monitored: 6+ pairs feeding young in July.

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. 1990:

- I A total of 1294 auks were counted during 21 hrs seawatching at Uisaed Pt & Ru Stafnash, 02 - 23 Mar. Of those identified as guillemot, 89% were s/pl.
IV 50, long dead, found on tideline at head of Loch Craignish, 14 May.
V Mull: 50 Loch Scridain, 22 Sep. Tiree: 731 birds at Ceann a' Mhara, 10 Jun.
VI Tralee Beach: 24 dead on tideline, 01 Mar, plus a further 37 found dead on 26 Mar.

Razorbill *Alca torda* Falc 0636 RA
B W Common breeding species on suitable sea-cliffs. Regularly seen in sea-lochs during winter. 1990:

- I A total of 1294 auks were counted during 21 hrs seawatching at Uisaed Pt & Ru Stafnash, 2 - 23 Mar. Of those identified as razorbill, 67% were s/pl.
III 1 Loch Long, 09 Feb.
V Mull: 50 Loch Scridain, 22 Sep. Tiree: 263 birds at Ceann a' Mhara, 10 Jun.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Black guillemot *Cepheus grylle* Gearra-breac 0638 TY
B W Sparse but widespread coastal breeding species. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 26 Machrihanish Bay, 12 Jun; 42 >N/2hrs, Uisaed Pt, 10 Aug; 36 >S/2hrs, Ru Stafnish, 23 Aug; 54 Sound of Gigha, 24 Sep.
- IV 2 nests & 23 birds found, McCormaig Isles, 16 Jun. Also - 13 Oban Bay, 30 Mar.

Little auk *Alle alle* Colcach bheag 0647 LK
W Irregular, usually seen after severe gales. 1990:

- I 1 Campbeltown, 12 Jan; 1 >S, Ru Stafnish, 23 Feb. Uisaed Pt: 1 >N on 19 Mar and 1 >N on 23 Sep.
- II Islay: 1 Sound of Islay, 06 Jan; 2 dead on tideline, Machir Bay, 29 Feb; 1 dead on tideline, Loch Indaal, 27 Dec; 20 >S, Portnahaven, 30 Dec; 2 dead on tideline, Machir Bay, 31 Dec. Colonsay: 4 dead, Feb-Apr.
- V Tiree: 1, long dead, The Green, 01 Apr.
- VI 1 dead on tideline, Tralee Beach, 25 Feb.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* Buthaid 0654 PU
B P Localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda (I) & Treshnish Isles (V). 1990:

- I Ru Stafnish: regular Mar - Aug, inc. 70 >S/8hrs, 20-24 Jun. Uisaed Pt: regular Mar - Sep, inc. 6 >N/1hr, 08 Jun. Also - 3 close inshore, Rubha na Lice, 11 Jun.
- II Islay: up to 5 present off Ton Mhor cliffs (former breeding site), late Jun. Also - 2 Frenchman's Rocks, 10 Jan. Colonsay: 1 Pigs Paradise, 14 Jul.
- V Mull: 4 off Duart Point, 29 Apr then 13 on 09 May.
- VI 1 Port Appin, 19 Mar.

Rock dove *Columba livia* Calman creige 0665 DV
R Resident breeder except region III, most numerous in the islands. Breeding recorded in 33% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Large flocks often gather on arable fields outwith breeding season. 1990:

- I 119 Carskiey, 30 Nov.
- II Islay: Gartmain - 330 on 04 Jan, 190 on 02 Mar. Also - 55 Ballinaby, 21 May; 180 Sunderland, 02 Dec.

Stock dove *Columba oenas* Calman gorm 0668 SD
? Scarce / irregular, regions I & III. Possibly under-recorded - all records required. 1990:

- I 1 Chiscan Farm, 18 Jan & 21 Jan; 3 Oatfield, 08 Jun; 1 Conie Glen, 15 Jul.

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 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 150 at roost nr. Southend, Jan - Mar; 60 Carradale, 28 Feb.
- IV Large flocks of up to c200 birds feeding on bumper acorn crop, Taynish NNR, Nov-Dec; c100 Ganavan, 10 Dec.
- V 1 Hynish, Tiree, 01 Apr.
- VI c250 Ledaig Point, 15 Dec.

Collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* Calman a chrios 0684 CD
B P Sparse but widespread distribution throughout Argyll. Evidence of continued immigration involving small numbers of birds each spring. Breeding

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

recorded in 23% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I At least 12 prs reported breeding in Carskiew area. Also - 14 Campbeltown, 01 Jan & 30 Mar.
- II Colonsay. 3 prs. + 1 single, 16 Jun - 23 Jun.
- V Mull: birds recorded at 8 locations, inc. count of 10 at Craignure, 28 May. Coll: birds recorded at 4 locations.

Turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* Calman tuchan 0687 TD

P Scarce. Majority recorded May / Jun. All records required. 1990#:

- I 1 Saddell, 11 May.
- V Mull: 2 Tiroran, 06 May; 1 Duart, 21 Jun.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Cutheg 0724 CK

S P Common. Main host species is Meadow Pipit. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: first - singles at Torbhlaren, Tullich & Kilninver (IV), 23 Apr; 1 Mull (V), 27 Apr; 2 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II), 29 Apr; singles at Lochorodale (I), & Blairmore Farm (III), 30 Apr. Last - 1 Macharioch (I), 28 Jul; 1 Glac Garbh (IV), 04 Aug; 1 juv. Croig, Mull (V), 16 Aug.

Barn owl *Tyto alba* Comhachag 0735 BO

B W Scarce breeding species, but probably under-recorded. Nests in both natural sites & buildings. Breeding recorded in 11% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Collision with vehicles appears to be a major cause of mortality. All records required. 1990:

- I Of 9 prs located, 4 prs known to have bred successfully; reports of singles from 6 additional mainland localities, plus 1 Gigha, 15 Feb.
- II Islay: 5 pairs reared 16 young [MAO].
- IV 2 prs located during breeding season, plus reports of birds from 8 additional locations.
- V Mull: 1 Druimghigha, 19 Feb.
- VI 1 Connel, 22 Oct.

Eagle owl *Bubo bubo* 0744

E V 1990#:

- IV 1 Arduaine area, all year. This bird, a presumed escapee, was first seen in this area, Jul 1989.

Tawny owl *Strix aluco* Comhachag dhonn 0761 TO

R Widespread & common in suitable broadleaved or coniferous woodland. Absent from Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 43% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

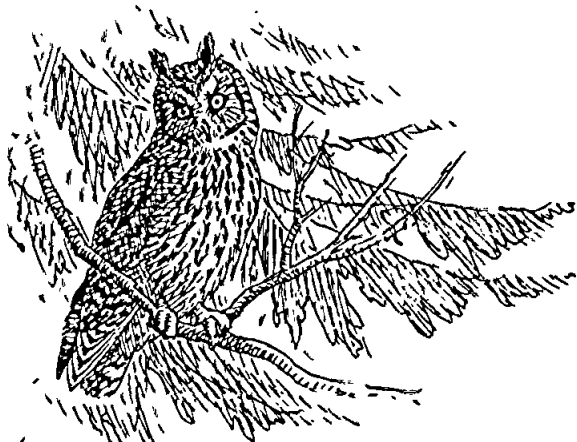
- II Colonsay: single present all year.
- III Glenbranter study area: 43 prs. reared 72 young (1.64 young per pr. laying) - the best year since 1987 [SJP].
- IV min. of 10 territories, Taynish NNR, Mar-Aug; min. of 9 territories within a 3 mile radius of Oban.

Long-eared owl *Asio otus* Comhachag adharcaiche 0767 LE

R P W Very scarce, but almost certainly under-recorded. All records required. 1990#:

- I 2 juv. Achamore Gardens, Gigha, 18 Jun; pr. bred Killellan Lodge, 15 Jul.
- II Islay: 1 Erasaid wood, 22 Oct.
- IV 1 Moine Mhor, 21 Apr; 1 Avich Forest, 23 Jun; 1 Glen Cruitten, 01 Jul.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990



Long eared Owl

PS@

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. Breeding recorded in 30% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: v. limited breeding data.
V Mull: a poor year - territorial prs. located in only 4 localities; at least 2 broods reared.

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. 1990:
III M & F present at traditional site, where churring heard 27 May- 12 Aug; no further birds located during June & July census of apparently suitable habitat nearby [MM].

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). Breeding recorded in 4% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - singles at Connel (IV) & Achnacairn (VI), 08 May; 1 Campbeltown Loch (I), 09 May; 1 Blairmore (III), 17 May. Departure - last sighting 31 Aug.
I 30 >N, Ru Stafnish, 13 Jul; 18 >S, Glen Kerran, 14 Jul; 21 (max. count) Campbeltown, 22 Aug.
II Islay: 1-2 seen on several dates, Jun - Jul. Colonsay: 2 Rubha Garbh, 17 Jun.
IV 15 (max. count) Oban, 14 May; 11 (max. count) Lochgilphead, 17 Jul.
V Mull: 1 Lunga, Treshnish Isles, 16 Jun & 18 Jun; 2 Gleann Seilisdeir, 21 Jun; 1 Loch na Keal, 31 Aug.
VI 25 (max. count) Achnacairn on 12 Aug; 1 Connel, 22 Aug.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Biorra cruidein 0831 KF
V Majority of records are in autumn / winter & are probably dispersing juveniles. 1990#:

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- I 1 Saddell, 04 May.
- III 1 Holy Loch, 23 Sep & 11 Nov.
- IV 1 Connel, 04 Jan - 05 Mar & 13-25 Sep; 1 Lochgilphead, 14 Oct; 1 Dalmally, 18 Dec.
- VI 1 Glen Kinglass, 01 Aug & 25 Aug.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Calman cathaidh 0846 HP
 V Majority of records are in late spring & are probably the result of "overshoot migration". 1990#:
 IV 1 Upper Largie, Kilmartin, 29 Mar.

Green woodpecker *Picus viridis* Snagarach 0856 G
 ? Status uncertain, but appears to occur only irregularly. All records required. 1990#: 1 Torrisdale, 26 Sep.

Great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Snagan daraich 0876 GS
 B W Widespread in suitable deciduous and coniferous woodland. Breeding recorded in 31% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 III Glenbranter: 3 prs. successfully reared young in 15 ha. of oak woodland.

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 79% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 I Passage noted in Mar & late Sep - Oct. Counts - 150 > N/2hrs past Uisaed Pt, 23 Sep; c1000 Laggan, 26 Sep; 17 flew out to sea from Mull of Kintyre towards Antrim, 01 Oct.
 II Islay: large flocks inc. 150 Loch Gruinart, 26 Feb & 130 Knocklearoch, 02 Mar.
 V Mull: c100 Fiddon, 16 Sep.
 VI 40 North Connel, 01 Mar.

Sand martin *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan gainmhiche 0981 SM
 S P Uncommon & localised breeding species. All breeding records required. Breeding recorded in 24% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: Arrival - 1 Borgadalemore (I), 25 Mar; 6 Loch Leathan (IV), 30 Mar; 3 Kilbride Bay (III), 31 Mar; 4 Braibruich, Islay (II), 01 Apr; 1 Glen Forsa, Mull (V), 05 Apr; widespread by 15 Apr. Departure - last sighting 21 Sep.
 I 70+ prs at main Kintyre colony, nr Southend.
 II Islay: occupied nest holes at Laggan Bridge (10), Kintra (8), Sanaigmore (1) & Kilchiaran (1). Colonsay: 2 Balnahard, 10 May.
 III 15 occupied holes, Stronchullin sand quarry, 30 May. Counts - 10 Ormidale, 26 May; 4 Powder Dam, 31 May.
 IV 120 occupied holes, Kilmartin quarry, 20 May; 40 occupied holes, Kirnan, 25 May. Counts - 47 Kilbride, 30 May; 7 Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, 09 Jun; 10 Lochgilphead, 30 Jul.
 V Mull: 10 occupied holes, Torosay sand pit, 27 May. No data available from colonies at Glen Forsa, Glen Aros & Loch na Meal.
 VI 18 occupied holes, N Ledaig. Counts - 40 Loch Creran, 15 Apr; 36 North Connel, 18 May; 20 Loch Etive, 21 Sep.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan gaoithe 0992 SL
 S P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 76% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Southend (I), 28 Mar; 1 Torra, Islay (II), 14 Apr; 1 Ardfarn (IV), 19 Apr; 2 North Connel (VI), 20 Apr; 1 Blairmore (III), & 3 Loch

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Spelve (V), 29 Apr; widespread by 05 May. Departure - a few solitary birds seen during Oct; last sighting was 1 at Connel (IV), 13 Nov.

I light northerly passage past Uisaed Pt, 30 Apr - 20 May, with max. of 80 /2hrs on 05 May; 24 Gigha, 05 May; 60 >N at dusk, Coney Glen, 06 May; total of 225 >S & only 6 >N at Mull of Kintyre in May (southerly movement presumably into Antrim); 200 Machrihanish airfield, 30 Jul; last large flock was 300 >S, Coney Glen 24 Sep.

V Mull: 40 Auchnacraig, 11 Sep. Tiree: 9 Crossapol, 23 Jul.

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 & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Macharioch & 3 Balnamoil (I), 30 Apr; Easter Ellister, Islay (II), 30 Apr; 2 Kilmore (IV), 01 May; widespread by 10 May. Departure - last sighting was 2 juvs, Islay (II), 13 Nov.

I 6 Gigha, 05 May; total of 29 >S, Balnamoil, 01-20 May; 19 Whitehouse, 07 Jul; 180 >S, Macharioch, 27 Jul.

II Islay: breeding reported in 6 localities, inc. colony of 10 at Gruinart schoolhouse. Colonsay: 5 Kiloran meadows, 15 Jun.

III 2 Loch Tarsan, 26 May.

Tree pipit *Anthus trivilis* Riabhag 1009 TP

S P Common breeding species in open deciduous woodland. Breeding recorded in 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 30 Ledaig (VI), 06 Apr; 1 Taynish (IV), 11 Apr; 1 Wool Mill, Islay (II), 14 Apr; 1 Cruach Ardura, Mull (V), 21 Apr; 2 >N, Uisaed Pt (I), 24 Apr; widespread by 27 Apr. Departure: last record was 1 Loch Ba, Mull (V), 21 Sep.

IV Taynish NNR: singing birds heard from 11 Apr; 93 territories evenly distributed through woodland area. Also - 20 Connel, 15 Apr.

Meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* Snathag 1011 MP

B W P Abundant breeding species. Breeding recorded in 94% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Emigration of many birds in winter, with remaining birds mainly distributed in coastal & low-lying areas. 1990:

I 460 >N/4hrs, Uisaed Pt, 23-24 Sep & 1024 >N, Balnamoil, 23-25 Sep.

V Influx of birds noted on Mull & Tiree, 26-29 Mar.

Rock pipit *Anthus spinoletta* Gabhagan 1014 RC

R P W Common resident breeding species around coast. Breeding recorded in 67% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Scarce passage & winter visitor. 1990:

I Machrihanish: c100 on 18 Jan then 40 on 14 Mar.

Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* Breacan buidhe 1017 YW

P Rare. 1990#:

I Uisaed Point: 1M on 04 May & 1 on 20 Sep.

Grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan bain tighearna 1019 GL

B W P Widespread breeding species. Breeding recorded in 61% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration in winter. 1990:

I Uisaed Pt: passage noted during Sep. with max. count 8 >N/3hrs, 23 Sep.

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

B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Emigration from most areas in winter. Return-

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

ing birds generally arrive late Feb /early March; departure late Oct. 1990:

- I 19 Campbeltown Park, 24 Sep.
- III Widespread in Blairmore area after 08 Mar.
- IV 52 at reedbed roost, Lochan Taynish, 19 Mar; 27 Oban Bay, 23 Mar; 25 Dunstaffnage, 06 Oct.
- V Mull: returning birds noted from 15 Mar; max. autumn count of 20 on Iona, 20 Sep; few remaining by late Oct. Tiree: widespread & common, 31 Mar - 07 Apr.
- VI 60 Loch Laich, 04 Sep.
- White wagtail, *M.a.alba* : (note - because of possible confusion with juv. pied wagtail, great care is needed in identifying white wagtails in autumn).
- I Machrihanish Bay: daily, 16 Apr - 14 May, with peak of 30 on 03 May. Small autumn passage also noted, eg. 1 Ru Stafnish, 17 Aug; 8 Mac-hrihanish, 15 Sep.
- II Islay: 1 Traigh an Luig, 07 May; 2 Carnain, 28 Aug.
- IV 1 Ganavan, 20 Apr.
- V Tiree: small nos, 31 Mar - 07 Apr.
- VI 1 Ledaig Point, 23 Apr.

Waxwing *Bombus garrulus* Canarach dearg 1049 WX
 W Irregular visitor in varying numbers. 1990#: small influx in late Oct / early Nov.

- I 1 Stewarton, 21 Mar; 10 Killellan Lodge, 07 Nov.
- II Islay: 2 Portnahaven, 30 Oct; 3 Port Askaig, 31 Oct; 4 Port Charlotte, 03 Nov.
- IV Connel: 5 on 03 Nov, 1 on 09 Dec.
- V Tiree: 1 Milton, 01 Nov.
- VI 18 North Connel, 06 Nov.



- Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha uisge 1050 DI
 B W Widespread, although scarce on Islay & Colonsay (II) & absent Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 34% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 I 3 prs bred Conie Glen; 2 prs bred Glenbarr.
 II Islay: no breeding proven. Singles seen on 3 burns in autumn.
 IV 10 Gleann Cinn-locha, 17 Mar; 5 Barnacarry, 25 Nov; 1-2 birds frequented the burn flowing through Oban, all year.
 VI 1 Balnagown, Lismore, 03 Nov.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Dreathan donn 1066 WR
 B W Very common, although numbers fluctuate. Breeding recorded in 84% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 IV 190 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* Gealbhonn nam preas 1084 D
 B W P Widespread & common, except some islands. Breeding recorded in 55% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 I 28+ >N, Balnamoil, 23 Sep.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Bru dhearg 1099 R
 B P Common. Breeding recorded in 79% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Large autumn passage in some years. 1990:
 I Mull of Kintyre: passage birds seen in lighthouse beam, 17 Mar & 29-30 Mar.
 IV 99 territories identified, Taynish NNR.
 V Tíree: 3 Hynish, 31 Mar; total of 5 at 4 locations, 01 Apr.

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 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Taynish (IV), 30 Apr; 1M Cruach Ardura, Mull (V), 09 May.
 I 1 juv. Cara Island, 20 Jul.
 II Islay: 1 Kilnaughton wood, 01 Aug.
 IV Taynish NNR: present 30 Apr - 29 Aug; 72 territories identified.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137 WC
 S P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 74% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 An Sithean, Islay (II), 15 Apr; 1 Glenbarr (I), 26 Apr; 1 Fearnach (IV), 01 May; 1 Loch na Keal, Mull (V), 02 May. Departure - last record was 1 Balnamoil (I), 18 Aug.
 II Colonsay: 25 breeding prs. located.



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 70% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
 I Mull of Kintyre: 12 breeding prs located S of Feorlan - lighthouse road; 4

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- prs wintered in the same area.
- II Colonsay: 20 breeding prs. located.
- V Coll: 16 breeding prs located.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Bru gheal 1146 W
 S P Common breeding species in open grassland areas. Breeding recorded in 83% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - Garra-Eallabus, Islay (II), 14 Mar; 1M Ledaig Point (VI), 17 Mar; 1M Mull of Kintyre (I), 18 Mar; 2 Glen Forsa, Mull (V), 19 Mar; 1F Barnacarry (IV), 22 Mar. Departure - strong passage in Aug; several Oct records; last sightings were 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II), 26 Oct & 1F Fiddan, Mull (V), 28 Oct.

V Tíree: total of 21 counted, 01 Apr.
 "Greenland" race, *O.o.leucorhoa* (breeds Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes & NE Canada) 1990#:

- I 1 Southend, 10 May.
- V Coll: 1 Bagh an Trailleich, 25 Oct.

Ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Dubh chreige 1186 RZ
 S P Very localised upland breeding species. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). All records required. 1990: a welcome increase in reports received. First - region VI, 05 May. Last - Mull (V), 22 Oct

- I 1F (juv) Balnamoil, 24 Jan.
- IV 2MM Glen Fyne, 17 May; 2 Beinn Buidhe, 20 May; 3 Glenfeochan, 01 Sep.
- V Mull: 1M A' Chioch, 14 May; 2 Ben More 14 May; 1M Kilbrennan, 28 May; 1M Ben Buie, 10 Jun; 1F The Wilderness, 22 Oct. Coll: 1M Lonban, 23 May.
- VI 1M Beinn a' Chreachain, 05 May; 1 Stob Coir an Albanach, 13 May; 1M Sron na Cabar, 13 May; 1 Meall nan Eun, 17 May; 1M Stob Coire Dheirg & 1 Beinn nan Aighenan, 20 May; single MM at Stob Gabhar, Beinn a' Chochoill & Beinn Eunaich, 27 May.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* Lon dubh 1187 B
 B W P Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 77% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: significant passage reported of mainly male birds, late Oct.

- I c20 Mull of Kintyre, 18 Mar.
- IV 14 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Liath thruisg 1198 FF
 W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter. 1990: arrival - 60 Asgog Bay (III), 26 Sep; 7 Allt Kinglass (VI), 07 Oct; flocks of 100+ >S over Lerags (IV), 08 Oct; 30 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II), 13 Oct; 350 Gleann Seilisdair, Mull (V), 20 Oct; main passage late Oct / early Nov. Departure - main passage Mar; late sightings inc. 1 Torbhlaren (IV), 24 Apr & B Polliwilline Bay (I), 30 Apr.

- I 150 Carskiey, 15 Jan; 120 Southend, 05 Mar; 50 Lussa Loch, 12 Mar; "vast" nos. reported at Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, 22-23 Oct.
- II Islay: wintering flocks inc. 200 Loch Gruinart, 09 Jan & 150 Avenvogie, 23 Feb. "Thousands" moving through Bunnahabhainn, 22 Oct.
- IV 20 Gleann Cinn-locha, 17 Mar; 29 >N over Dunach, 28 Mar; 250 Connel, 08 Oct; 50 Ducharhan, 02 Nov.
- V Tíree: 15 Ben Hynish, 01 Apr.

Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* Smeorach 1200 ST
 B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 72% of 10km sq (BTO

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: moderate passage evident in latter part of Oct.

IV 29 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

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]. 1990: arrival - 4 Scalasaig, Colonsay (II), 26 Sep; 12 Balinoe (IV), 26 Sep; 1 in off sea, Ru Stafnish (I), 28 Sep; 2 Grasspoint, Mull (V), 17 Oct; main passage latter part of Oct. Departure - main passage early to mid-Mar, except Mull & Tiree (V) where an influx mainly of dark Icelandic race *coburni* was evident in early Apr; late sightings inc. 1 Glen Forsa, Mull (V), 16 Apr; 32 Connel (IV), 20 Apr & 2 Inverinan (IV), 21 Apr.

I 40 Carradale, 01 Jan; 50 Carskiey, 15 Jan. Mull of Kintyre: small passage 17-18 Mar; "vast" nos. reported at lighthouse, 22-23 Oct.

II Islay: wintering flocks inc. 50 Kilchiaran, 01 Jan; 50 Loch Gruinart, 09 Jan & 150 Claggan, 06 Feb.

IV 46 Oban, 06 Jan; 100 Kilmichael Glen, 09 Mar; 100 Ormsary, 17 Mar; 100 Moine Mhor, 18 Oct; 100 Poltalloch, 31 Oct.

V Mull: c200 Fionnphort, 18 Oct. Tiree: c1000 present, 01 Apr.

VI 1 Ledaig Point, 05 Apr; 50 Connel, 08 Oct.

Mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Smeorach mhor

1202 M

B W P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species. Breeding recorded in 43% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Many birds emigrate in autumn; parties of returning birds move through in Feb. 1990:

IV 7 territories identified, Taynish NNR. Passage flocks inc. 16 Cologin, 18 Aug; 18 Oban, 15 Sep; 40 Killiechoinich, 26 Sep; 40 Gallanach, 27 Sep; 15 Kilninver, 28 Sep.

V Mull: 13 Scoor, 13 Aug; 40 Auchnacraig, 29 Sep.

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. Breeding recorded in 26% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - singles Lochrodale (I) & Fearnach (IV), 30 Apr; 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II), 03 May.

II Jura: 5MM Ardfernal, 26 May. Colonsay: up to 4 singing birds.

IV Taynish NNR: singing MM holding territory 30 Apr - 01 Aug; 14 territories identified.

V Mull: 1 Grasspoint, 18 May.

Sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Glas eun

1243 SW

S P Locally common. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Clachan (I), 26 Apr; 1 Fearnach (IV), 01 May; 1 Loch Gruinart, Islay (II) & 1 Appin (VI), 03 May. Last sightings were 1 Mac-hrihanish airfield (I) & 6 Lochgilphead (IV), 30 Jul.

II Colonsay: 32 breeding prs. located.

IV 10 territories, Taynish NNR, 02 May - 25 Jun.

V Coll: 8 singing birds, 26 May - 06 Jun. Tiree: 2 Loch Bhasapol, 25 Jul.

Lesser whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Gealan coille beag

1274 LW

S P Rare. Possibly breeds? 1990#:

IV 1 Connel, 14 Aug.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Gealan coille 1275 WH
 S P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species in scrub & woodland edge habitats. Marked improvement in numbers during 1980s, with good breeding densities in many young conifer plantations. Breeding recorded in 59% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Southend (I), 23 Apr; 1 Staoisha, Islay (II), 29 Apr; 2 Taynish (IV), 03 May; 1 Achnacairn (VI), 05 May. Last sighting was 1 Mull of Kintyre (I), 22 Aug.
 II Colonsay: 26 breeding prs. located.
 IV Taynish NNR: pr. began nest building immediately after arrival, 03 May; 16 territories identified.
 V Coll: 1M Arinagour, 31 May.

Garden warbler *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche garaidh 1276 GW
 S P Scarce breeding species. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Tiroran (V), 03 May; 2MM Saddell (I), 05 May.
 II Islay: 1 singing Bunnahabhain, 17 May; 2 Bridgend woods, 23 Aug.
 IV 10 territories identified, Taynish NNR, 08 May - 15 Jun.

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 understorey. Breeding recorded in 23% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). A few winter & are regular visitors to bird tables in hard weather. 1990:
 I singing birds as follows: 2MM Torrisdale, 27 Apr; 9MM Torrisdale 22 May; 6MM Ronachan House, 23 May.
 II Islay: singing birds at 3 localities. Light passage 21-26 Oct.
 III 1M Blairmore, 06 Jan.
 IV 3 territories identified, Taynish NNR, 11 May - 07 Jun. Also - 1M Connel, 06 Feb & 26 May; 1 Dalavich, 30 May.
 V Mull: singing birds in at least 2 localities. Wintering birds - 1F Loch Beg, 14 Jan; 1M Tobermory, 18 Jan; pr killed by cat, Loch Beg, 26 Oct; pr Carsaig Bay, 01 Nov; 1M Dervaig, 10 Nov.
 VI 1F Benderloch, 23 Dec.

Wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Ceileiriche cille 1308 WO
 S P Common breeding species in oakwoods with sparse ground cover. Breeding recorded in 49% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Kilmore (IV), 25 Apr; 1 Blairmore Farm (III), 30 Apr; singles Islay (II) & Mull (V), 01 May; 4MM Torrisdale (I), 04 May; 1 Blarcreen Wood (VI), 10 May.
 II Islay: singing birds at 5 localities. Jura: 4MM Ardlussa Bay & 4MM Doire Dhonn, 25 May; 2MM Jura House, 26 May. Colonsay: 2 House Gardens, 10 May.
 IV 57 territories identified, Taynish NNR, 30 Apr - 15 Jun.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Cailean 1311 CC
 S P Uncommon breeding species, scarce in islands. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). A few winter. 1990: birds first heard - 1 Kilmorven (IV), 25 Mar; 2 Machariorch (I), 28 Mar; 1 Tiroran, Mull (V), 29 Mar; 1 Glen Orchy (VI), 01 Apr.
 II Islay: singing birds at 2 localities. Also - 1 Coultorsay, 20 Oct. Colonsay: 1 on 22 Jun.
 III Singing birds at 8 locations.
 IV Singing birds at 7 locations.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

V Coll: 1 Arinagour, 27 May. Tíree: 1 Loch Bhasapol, 01 Apr; 1 Heanish, 02 Apr.

VI Singing birds at 3 locations.

Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Crionag ghiuthais 1312 WW
S P Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 81% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Glen Kerran (I) & 1 Taynish (IV), 10 Apr; 1 Islay (II) & North Connel (VI), 22 Apr; 1 Dervaig, Mull (V), 24 Apr; 1 Blairmore Farm (III), 30 Apr. Departure - last sighting was 1 Easter Ellister, Islay (II), 21 Oct.

IV Taynish NNR: 341 territories identified, 10 Apr - 15 Jun. Still present in coastal scrub in late Aug.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Crionag bhuidhe 1314 GC
R W P Common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 53% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I Passage of "hundreds" noted, Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, 2300-0200 hrs, 15&17 Mar, with another large "fall" on 24 Apr; 30+ Balamoil, 30 Apr; autumn passage inc. 150 Glen Kerran, 23 Sep & 65 Macharioch, 23 Sep.

II Islay: passage noted, 15-20 Oct.

IV 18 territories identified, Taynish NNR, Apr - Jul.

V Coll: 5 Arinagour & 5 Gallanach, 01 Jun. Tíree: total of 36 seen at 6 locations, 01 Apr.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* Crionag 1315 FC
V 1990:

II Islay: 1M Portnahaven, 17 Oct [subject to acceptance by SBRC].

Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Breacan glas sgiobalta 1335 SF
S P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species. Breeding recorded in 53% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: arrival - 1 Barr Water (I), 01 May; 1 Taynish (IV), 04 May. Departure - last sighting was 16 Glen Kerran (I), 21 Sep.

II Islay: breeding reported from 3 localities. Colonsay: up to 4 prs. bred.

IV Taynish NNR: present 04 May - 27 Aug; 16 territories identified.

V Coll: 2 Totronald, 29 May.

Pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan glas 1349 PF
S P Rare. Very localised breeder in oakwoods. Increase in breeding population in recent years is attributable to Argyll Bird Club nestbox scheme (see Petty in 6th Argyll Bird Report). Breeding recorded in 6% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 18 prs. bred in nestboxes in 4 study areas, rearing a total of 67 chicks (details below). Arrival - 1 Blarreen Wood (VI), 10 May; 1M Col-intraive (III), 20 May; 1 Dalavich (IV), 30 May.

III Glenbranter: 1 pr. bred unsuccessfully & another 6 unmated males present in nest box area.

IV Inveraray: 7 prs. bred; 5 prs. were successfull, rearing a total of 26 chicks. Dalavich: 1 pr. bred successfully, rearing 6 chicks. Also - 1M Ellary, 10 Jun.

VI Loch Etive: 9 prs. bred; 8 prs. were successfull, rearing a total of 35 chicks.

Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan 1437 LT
B W P Widespread & common on mainland, local on some islands & rare on Colonsay (II), Coll & Tíree (V). Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Atlas, 1988-90). Parties of wandering birds widespread in autumn. 1990:
II Colonsay: 2 ad. + 2 fy, Kiloran Bay, 19 Jun (1st proven breeding on Colonsay).

Coal tit *Parus ater* Smutag 1461 CT
B W P Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 62% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration from Argyll in autumn. 1990: no significant records.

Blue tit *Parus caeruleus* Cailleachag cheann ghorm 1462 BT
R P Widespread & very common breeder in broadleaved or mixed woodland. Breeding recorded in 65% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
I 9 > N Balnamoil, 26 Sep.
IV 70 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

Great tit *Parus major* Currac bhain tighearna 1464 GT
R P Widespread & very common breeder in broadleaved / mixed woodland & occasionally in coniferous woodland. Breeding recorded in 61% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
IV 50 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486 TC
B W Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
IV 15 territories identified, Taynish NNR.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraiacheag 1539 J
B W Locally distributed, mainland only. Breeding recorded in 3% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). All records required. 1990:
III 3 Blairmore, 12 Feb; 2 still present, 05 Apr.
IV Taynish NNR: few spring records & no evidence of breeding; small numbers in autumn, feeding on bumper acorn crop. Also - 1 Bridge of Awe, 28 Apr; 2 Ariogan, 26 Sep; 2 Raera, throughout year.
VI 2 Barcaldine, 28 Sep; 2 Appin peninsula, 29 Sep; 2 Achacha, 07 Oct; 1 Bar-namuc, 21 Oct.

Magpie *Pica pica* Cadhag 1549 MG
R Local on Cowal (III), rare elsewhere. Breeding recorded in 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:
III b/2 reared, Innellan. 1 Strachur, 07 Apr; 4 Blairmore Farm, 06 Nov.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag dhearg chasach 1559 CF
R W Islay (II) is the Scottish stronghold, with smaller nos. on Colonsay & Jura (II). All records away from Islay required. 1990:
II Islay: breeding population still c95 prs; fledging success was poor for 2nd consecutive year, due at least in part to the v. dry spring making food less available. Counts - 37 Ardnave, 18 Feb; 19 Mull of Oa, 19 Feb. Colonsay: up to 12 prs. attempted breeding; 8 pairs reared young. Counts - 40 Kiloran Bay, 27/09.
V Mull: 2nd unsuccessful breeding attempt by pair that arrived on Mull in 1987; once again eggs were hatched but no young were fledged.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Cathag 1560 JD
B W Common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce Mull & does not breed Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 40% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Immigration into some areas in winter, eg. Tiree. 1990:

- I 156 West Tarbert, 04 Jan.
- IV 67 Oban, 13 Jan.
- V Tiree: 34 Heylipol, 02 Dec.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Rocas

1563 RO

B W Common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce Mull & does not breed Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Post-breeding influx of juvs. to some islands, eg. Mull & Tiree (V). 1990:

- I 75 West Tarbert, 04 Jan; 32 Achaglass, 26 Jun; 40 Muasdale, 20 Jul.
- II Islay: total of 203 occupied nests at 6 rookeries.
- IV 28 Connel, 29 Apr.
- V Mull: 27 Kilfinichen Bay, 20 Feb (itinerant birds, possibly moving from Tiree to the mainland); 2 Craignure, 03 May (scarce here in spring); 30 Ardfenaig, 16 Sep; 60 Iona, 20 Sep.

Hooded crow *Corvus corone* Feannag

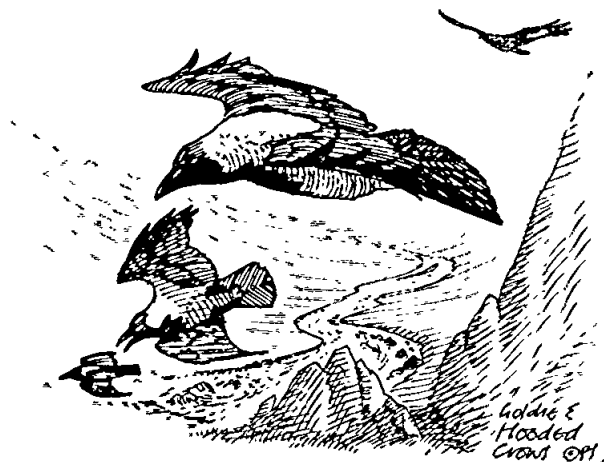
1567 C

B W Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 40 Carskiey, 14 Dec.
- IV c300 (max. count) Dunach roost, 05 Jan; 35 (max. count) Castlesween 03 Feb.
- V Mull: 50 Ardfenaig, 16 Sep. Coll: total of 57 birds counted, 26 May - 06 Jun; 6 nests were located.

Carrian crow: birds are spreading gradually through Cowal (III) into Kintyre (I) & mid-Argyll (IV). Breeding recorded in 13% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

- I 2 prs with fledged young, Loch Ciaran, 15 Jun.
- II Islay: 2 Upper Killeyan, 15 May; 2 Bridgend Woods, 19 Jun; 2-3 Ardbeg, 13 Aug; 1 on airfield, 16 Aug; 1 Machrie Hotel, 06 Sep.
- III 2 prs around Kames all year; 1 Cnoc Mor, 29 May; 2 Kildavaig, 30 May.
- IV 1 Castlesween, 25 Mar & 29 Apr; 2 Balimore, 07 May.
- V Mull: 1 Ardfenaig, 16 Sep.



SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

VI 1 North Connel, 06 Oct.

Hooded x carrion crow: Breeding recorded in 11% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

I Mixed prs & hybrids noted in 10 10km sq, Kintyre.

III 1 Tighnabruaich, 27 May; 7 Ardlamont House, 31 May.

IV Hybrids & carrion crow present throughout most of the year, Castle Sween, except mid-winter period. Also - 1 Oban Bay, 01 Feb & 12 Sep - 14 Nov (inc. 2 on 24 Sep).

Raven *Corvus corax* Fitheach

1572 RN

B W Common. Breeding recorded in 75% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: 97 known territories were visited in mid-Argyll (IV), Mull & Tiree (V) and 72 were found to be occupied. Of these, breeding was proven at 55 territories, not attempted at 11 & not known at 6. Of 55 breeding attempts, 37 successfully fledged at least 1 young, 13 were unsuccessful and at the remaining 5 the outcome was unknown. The mean fledged brood size of 30 nests was 2.9 [CJT].

II Islay: 15 at roost on island in Loch Ballygrant, 10 Feb; 10 together, Erasaidd wood, 28 Oct.

IV Large gatherings noted in Oban area, Aug - Nov, inc. 30 Kilmore, 23 Aug; 21 Lerags, 27 Aug; 48 Moleigh, 11 Sep & 24 Connel, 28 Nov. Most activity was concentrated at Moleigh rubbish dump. A temporary roost developed at Balinoe during Sep; max. count was 91 on 08 Sep [GS].

V Coll: 15 birds counted, 26 May - 06 Jun. Tiree: 5 prs bred.

VI Pr. + 3 fy, Port Appin, 08 Apr (v. early fledging date).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid

1582 SG

B W P Common except Mull (V), where localised & post-breeding influx of juvs. occurs. Breeding recorded in 65% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 4000+ at roost in old distillery, Campbeltown, Jan - Mar; Laggan: c1000 on 14 Mar & c1200 on 20 Sep. Mull of Kintyre: southerly passage of juvs. 21-28 Jun, with peak of 41 on 25 Jun; large "falls" reported at lighthouse, 22-23 Oct.

II Islay: 900 feeding on fields after severe flooding, Loch Gruinart, 08 Mar; peak of c1000 at Bruichladdich pier roost, late Jul.

V Mull: post-breeding influx of juvs. again noted; 75 Loch Spelve, 28 Aug; 75 Lochdon, 11 Sep; 250 Iona, 20 Sep. Coll: very high nesting densities noted in some stone walls, eg. 6 nests in 200m of wall at Gallanach & 5 nests in 400m of wall at Achamore.

House sparrow *Passer domesticus* Gealbhoonn

1591 HS

R Commonly associated with human habitation & distribution therefore rather localised in remote areas. Breeding recorded in 57% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 120 Keil Hotel, Southend, 14 Aug.

IV 25 (max. count) Tarbert, 25 Jan.

V Mull: 70 Iona, 20 Sep. Tiree: 12 The Airport, 24 Jul.

Tree sparrow *Passer montanus* Gealbhoonn nan craobh

1598 TS

P? Current status uncertain, but appears to have declined during last decade. Although clearly a scarce bird, it is probably under-recorded. All records required. 1990#:

I Mull of Kintyre: 5 Balnamoil & 14 lighthouse garden, 03 May. This is the largest single count in at least 10 years. Also - 1 Kilchrist, 15 Jun.

II Islay: 1 Gruinart, 31 Oct.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan beithe 1636 CH
B W P Abundant except Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 80% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Birds commonly forage in cut hay & silage fields out-with breeding season. 1990: passage evident in Mar & Sep.

I c100 Carskief, 17 Jan; 40 Strath, 18 Jan; c600 Crossaig, 03 Mar; c100 Macharloch, 05 Mar; 50 Muasdale, 20 Jul; c200 Southend, 23 Sep; total of 522 >N, Balnamoil, 23-25 Sep; c200 Lephonstrath Bridge, 01 Dec.

II Islay: large flocks inc. c200 Kilchoman, 10 Jan & c800 Cluanach, 20 Feb.

V Mull: c300 Beinn Chladan, 16 Sep; 40 Iona, 23 Dec.

VI 70 North Connel & 40 Benderloch, 06 Oct; 40 Inveroran, 07 Oct.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Bricein caorainn 1638 BL

W P Varying numbers occur Sep-Apr. Few records 1990#:

II Islay: 2 Gartbreck, 05 Jan; 1-2 Cluanach, 20 Feb-27 Mar; 1 Kilchoman, 21 Feb; 1F Port Askaig, 26 Oct.

IV 1M Oban, 13 Mar.

V Mull: 5 Scoor, 22 Oct.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean daraich 1649 GR

R W Locally common. Breeding recorded in 31% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

II Islay: 50+ Cluanach, 14 Jan & 20 Feb; 75 Sunderland, 25 Nov & 06 Dec. Colonsay: c25 prs bred.

V Mull: 70 Glen Clachaig, 22 Oct. Coll: bred at Arinagour.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair choille 1653 GO

B W P Localised distribution. Absent as a breeding species on Colonsay (II), Coll & Tiree (V). Breeding recorded in 32% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration in autumn. 1990:

I c50 Laggan, 02 Oct.

II Islay: largest flock was 14 Port Charlotte, 01 Sep.

IV Small numbers present in Oban area, Jan - Feb (plus exceptional count of 30 Ariogan, 05 Jan), then few seen until autumn (eg. 14 Kilninver, 28 Sep).

V Mull: 10 Loch Beg, 24 Oct. Coll: 4 Arinagour, 18 Mar.

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 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 4 dead under peanut dispenser, Carradale, in early Apr, (presumably due to aflatoxin-infected nuts). Also - c200 Torrisdale, 22 Aug; 20 >N, Balnamoil, 23 Sep.

II Islay: c10 plus at least 2 family groups, Avenvogie Ptn, 05 Jun; flock of c100 Kildalton woods, 16 Aug. Colonsay: 10 House Gardens, 11 Jan.

IV c100 Ardchonnell, 27 Jan.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Gealan lin 1660 LI

B W P Localised distribution. Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Flocking in autumn & winter. 1990:

II Islay: 110 Braibruich, 10 Feb.

IV 2 prs. bred, Taynish NNR.

V Coll: breeding pr. at Arinagour, plus 2 Lonban, 01 Jun. Tiree: 2 Heylipol, 26 Jul.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* Gealan beinne 1662 TW
B W P Localised breeding species on hill ground & coastal moorland, especially on the islands. Breeding recorded in 36% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Flocking in low-lying arable & coastal areas, Aug onwards. Some evidence to suggest emigration from Argyll in autumn, although there may also be an influx of wintering birds to some areas. 1990:

- I Uisaed Pt: 60 on 01 Jan & 28 Feb, 1-5 regular May - early Aug, 35 on 09 Aug, then 20-40 daily until 22 Sep, 180 on 23 Sep, but only c.60 from 24-30 Sep. Mull of Kintyre: present late Mar - Oct, with at least 8 prs. summering; flocks seen from 03 Aug with max. count 115 on 18 Aug. Also - 10 Southend, 05 Mar; 30 Tayinloan, 20 Mar; 75 Cara Island, 20 Jul.
- II Islay: large flocks in 6 localities, Jan - Mar, inc. c200 Eorrabus, 10 Jan & 150 Mulindry, 06 Feb; 55 Slieve, 20 Apr; autumn flocks inc. 40+ Ardnave, 04 Nov & c60 feeding on fodder rape, Gruinart, Oct - Dec. Oronsay: 60 on airfield, 25 Sep.
- IV 8 Oban, 10 Jan; 25 Glac Garbh, 25 Sep; 18 Ulva Laggons, 06 Oct; 30 Dunardry Lochs, 13 Nov.
- V Mull: Grasspoint: 4 on 22 Jul, 20 on 25 Jul, then gradual build-up to peak of 84 on 12 Sep, only 8 remaining by 13 Oct. Also - 10 Tostarie, 07 May; 50 Gribun, 29 Aug; 5 Ben More (summit), 12 Sep; 15 Fiddien, 16 Sep; 50 Loch Spelve, 03 Oct. Tiree: 30 The Airport, 24 Jul.
- VI 30 Ledaig Point, 17 Jul; 20 Port Appin, 04 Sep; 14 Beinn a' Chuirn, 07 Oct.

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. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Flocking occurs in autumn / winter. 1990:

- I Up to 6 seen, Mull of Kintyre, Apr - Sep.
- II Islay: 10 Kildalton, 26 Aug; 20 Laggan river, 15 Oct.
- IV 37 Kilmore, 20 Mar.
- V Coll: breeding pr. at Arinagour, 01 Jun.

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. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990: a good cone crop on mainland sitka spruce during the 1989/90 winter resulted in a large breeding population. A very large influx of continental birds occurred in May & June, with further immigration, involving smaller numbers, apparent Aug - Oct. Another good cone crop over the 1990/91 winter resulted in large numbers wintering in conifer forests. Large flocks & other significant records listed below:

- I Itinerant flocks recorded latter part of May onwards, inc. 83 Torrisdale & 30 Torrisdale Bay, 22 May; 83 Low Glenadale, 12 Jun; 60 Crossaig & 16 Grogport, 26 Jun; 18 Conie Glen, 14 Jul; 44 The Slate, 21 Jul; 8 Loch Garasdale, 24 Jul; 21 Saddell Bay, 08 Aug; 25 Carradale Water, 16 Aug; 80 Kennacraig & 16 Tarbert, 21 Aug. Also - 3 Uisaed Point, 26 Sep.
- II Islay: no evidence of breeding. First birds seen were 2 Port Charlotte, 09 Jun; main flocks - 25 Kilmeny, 11 Jun; 23 flew out to sea, Claggain Bay, 12 Jun; 43 Rhinns ptn, 12 Jun; c20 Kildalton, 11 Aug; 51 Wool Mill, 22 Oct. Colonsay: 35 House gardens, 10 Jun & 10 Balnahard dunes, 25 Jun.
- III Flocks of 20-100 regularly seen in Cowal, Jul - Dec.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- IV 15 Inverliever Forest, 18 Mar; 3 juv. Glen Lonan, 22 Jul; 21 Glen Cruitten, 19 Aug; 10 Taynish, 12 Oct; 10 Fearnoch, 21 Oct.
- V Mull: 1-2 birds seen at several locations during May, then a large influx noted from early June, inc. 30 Carsaig Bay, 09 Jun; 20 Loch Spelve, 10 Jun; 50 Dervaig, 11 Jun; 20 Tobermory & 40 Toll Doire, 15 Jun; 20 Craignure, 17 Jun; 6 Beach & 10 Scoor, 19 Jun. Few birds were reported Jul-Aug, then 8 Kentallen, 21 Sep & 1 Bunessan, 23 Oct. Tiree: a remarkable influx to this tree-less island occurred mid-Aug, where thistle seed appeared to be the birds' main diet. One ad. was apparently still feeding 2 recently fledged juvs. Counts - 1F Hynish, 07 Jun, then 30 on 18 Aug & 5 on 19 Aug.
- VI Barcaldine Forest: 25 on 06 Jul, 10 on 28 Sep, 12 on 22 Oct. Benderloch: 15 on 11 Oct, 20 on 20 Oct. Also - 6 Victoria Bridge, 23 Sep.

Parrot crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

1668

V Rare. 1990#:

V 1 Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, 05 Sep [subject to acceptance by BBRC].

Scarlet rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1679 SQ

S P Rare. Has bred in Scotland in recent years. 1990#: 2 (F & 1st yr M) present at a garden site, 12 Jun - 15 Jul. The male sang frequently and the female was seen gathering nest material on 16 Jun.

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 35% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1990:

I 5 Feorlin ptn, 29 Nov.

II Islay: birds recorded in 4 localities. Colonsay: pr. House gardens, 21 Apr.

III 5 Blairmore, 15 Feb; 4 Kildavaig, 30 May.

IV 6 Raera, 21 Jan; 4 Ariogan, 04 Feb; 7 Cologin, 10 Feb; 4 Crinan Moss, 07 Dec.

V Mull: birds present in at least 6 localities, Jun.

Lapland bunting *Calciarius lapponicus*

1847 LA

P Scarce. 1990#:

I 1 Uisaed Point, 26 Sep.

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. 1990:

I 25 (max. count) Machrihanish airfield, 14 Feb; 12 Westport marsh, 01 Mar; 6FF Balnamoil, 09 Dec.

II Islay: 1 Gruinart, 16 Feb; up to 17 Duich Moss, Nov; 5 Ardnave, 07 Nov; 2 Lossit, 09 Nov; 1 Ardnave, 31 Dec.

V Mull: 7 Maol nan Uan, 28 Jan; 1 Ben More, 22 Sep; 1 The Wilderness, 22 Oct; 1M Grasspoint, 03 Nov.

VI Successful breeding proven a few metres inside of Highland Region! Also - 3 Ledaig Point, 15 Feb; 1 Beinn Achaladair, 21 Apr; 1 Glen Ure, 31 Dec.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag bhealaídh

1857 Y

B W Locally common in dry open ground, arable areas & moorland edges. Breeding recorded in 46% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Birds forage in cut hay & silage fields outwith breeding season. 1990:

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1990

- II Islay: largest flock was 10 Port Ellen distillery, 12 Feb. Colonsay: 8 territories located.

Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag loin 1877 RB

B W Locally common in farmland, scrub & young conifer plantations. Breeding recorded in 56% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season. 1990:

V Mull: 11 Scoor, 12 Aug; 5 Grasspoint, 13 Oct. Coll: estimate of 12-15 prs present, 26 May - 06 Jun.

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. 1990:

- II Islay: 1 Portnahaven, 30 Dec.



RINGING IN 1990

Argyll Bird Report (1991) 7:56-66

Results of bird-ringing in Argyll in 1990

J.C.A. Craik

Scottish Marine Biological Association, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AD

INTRODUCTION

In 1990, ringing in Argyll was carried out by thirteen individuals or groups, five resident and eight visiting. Altogether, 8500 birds of 78 species were ringed, down 12% on 1989. Of the 1990 total, 52% were seabirds, 41% passerines, 5% birds of prey, 1% wildfowl and 1% waders. Large scale ringing was carried out on the mainland and on Sanda, Colonsay, Islay and at seabird colonies in the Sound of Jura and elsewhere. The Treshnish Auk Group did not visit in 1990.

Two privately produced reports on ringing on Colonsay are now available. The first (November 1989 : 4 pp) and the second (November 1990 : 3 pp) *Reports on Bird Ringing on Colonsay and Oronsay* are available from David Jardine, 61 Eastwood Grange Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1UE. Research projects on buzzard and raven, carried out by two research students at the Department of Zoology, University of Glasgow, were continued in Argyll in 1990.

Requests are made for details of sightings of individually numbered birds to be sent to the following people. For the wildfowl, the three-digit number is legible with binoculars or telescope: for choughs, the colours of the leg rings are required.

Mute Swan (leg ring):	D. Trigg, Creagavullin, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QS.
Greenland white-fronted goose (leg-ring or neck collar):	D. Stroud, 5 Parkway, Nassington, Peterborough PE8 6QE.
Barnacle goose (leg ring):	M. Ogilvie, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Islay, Argyll PA49 7UN.
Chough (leg rings):	E. Bignal, Quinhill, Clachan, Tarbert, Argyll (marked birds are most likely on Islay, Jura, Scarba, Colonsay, Mull and Tiree).

Table 1. Numbers of birds ringed in Argyll in 1990

Species	Fully grown	Chicks	Total
Fulmar	3	48	51
Manx shearwater	5	19	24
Storm petrel	200	0	200
Cormorant	0	51	51
Shag	18	266	284
Grey heron	0	11	11
Mute swan	13	4	17
White-fronted goose	16	0	16
Barnacle goose	52	0	52
Red-breasted merganser	1	0	1

RINGING IN 1990

Hen harrier	0	101	101
Sparrowhawk	2	6	8
Buzzard	0	99	99
Golden eagle	0	14	14
Merlin	0	34	34
Peregrine	0	4	4
Oystercatcher	0	19	19
Ringed plover	0	41	41
Lapwing	0	52	52
Black-headed gull	1	37	38
Common gull	0	686	686
Lesser black-backed gull	0	14	14
Herring gull	0	503	503
Great black-backed gull	0	76	76
Kittiwake	46	1	47
Common tern	175	990	1165
Arctic tern	27	261	288
Guillemot	152	533	685
Razorbill	79	223	302
Black guillemot	2	6	8
Puffin	7	2	9
Rock dove	0	3	3
Barn owl	1	19	20
Tawny owl	25	88	113
Short-eared owl	0	3	3
Skylark	1	0	1
Sand martin	98	2	100
Swallow	0	24	24
Meadow pipit	4	5	9
Rock pipit	2	0	2
Grey wagtail	1	1	2
Pied wagtail	1	27	28
Wren	14	0	14
Dunnock	23	0	23
Robin	52	0	52
Redstart	3	37	40
Whinchat	0	12	12
Stonechat	4	3	7
Wheatear	10	38	48
Blackbird	136	8	144
Song thrush	7	4	11
Redwing	3	0	3
Whitethroat	2	0	2
Blackcap	2	0	2
Wood warbler	0	10	10
Chiffchaff	4	0	4
Willow Warbler	27	12	39
Goldcrest	49	0	49
Spotted flycatcher	2	5	7
Pied flycatcher	7	89	96
Long-tailed tit	34	0	34
Coal tit	32	0	32
Blue tit	177	890	1067
Great tit	83	319	402
Treecreeper	5	0	5

RINGING IN 1990

Chough	0	42	42
Crow	0	16	16
Raven	0	16	16
Starling	1	5	6
House sparrow	31	0	31
Chaffinch	500	4	504
Greenfinch	68	0	68
Goldfinch	1	0	1
Siskin	497	0	497
Linnet	5	0	5
Twite	3	0	3
Bullfinch	2	0	2
Yellowhammer	1	0	1
TOTAL	2717	5783	8500

RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1990

The following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries involving movements to or from Argyll reported or noted in 1990. Ringing date and place are given on the first line, together with ring number and the age of the bird when ringed; this age 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

M,F sex

B breeding adult

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

Fulmar

FR98462 1 24.7.86 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
 (dying)x 4.7.89 Malmon, Goteborg och Bohus, SWEDEN
 1082 km 72 deg 1076 days

Storm petrel

2348124 4 26.6.86 Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
 (sick) v 3.3.90 At sea, Aghulas Basin, off SOUTH AFRICA
 10547 km 164 deg 1346 days

2351483 4 5.8.89 Tynemouth Pier, Tyne and Wear
 v 3.8.90 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
 265 km 276 deg 363 days

RINGING IN 1990

2292785	4	7.8.88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	v	2.8.90	Tynemouth Pier, Tyne and Wear
			265 km 96 deg 725 days
2349607	4	22.7.89	Near Seahouses, Northumberland
	v	3.8.90	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			249 km 262 deg 377 days
2349359	4	19.8.89	Dunglass, Borders
	v	3.8.90	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			214 km 250 deg 349 days
2377565	4	10.8.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	v	23.7.90	Fair Isle
			528 km 27 deg 347 days
2351031	4	3.8.87	John o' Groats, Caithness
	v	19.7.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			401 km 201 deg 716 days
2364678	4	22.7.88	Noss Head, Wick, Caithness
	v	20.7.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			385 km 203 deg 363 days
2368094	4	12.8.88	Noss Head, Wick, Caithness
	v	18.8.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
			385 km 203 deg 371 days
Cormorant			
5137687	1	2.7.87	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	17.3.90	Waterford, EIRE
			437 km 195 deg 989 days
5139996	1	17.6.87	A'Chleit, Lochinver, Sutherland
	x	14.5.90	Ledaig Beach, Oban, Argyll
			187 km 180 deg 1062 days
Shag			
1269088	1	21.6.89	Inishmurray, Sligo, EIRE
	x	25.2.90	Ardtalla, Islay, Argyll
			219 km 50 deg 249 days
1187454	1	16.6.84	Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	1.4.90	Near Nine Wells, St Davids, Dyfed
			457 km 176 deg 2115 days
Grey heron			
1190801	1	7.6.89	Loch Feochan, Oban, Argyll
(fish farm)	+	27.11.89	Ardveich Bay, Lochearnhead, Central
			75 km 89 deg 173 days
Mute swan			
Z63892	1	27.8.88	Bara Loch, Lothian
(white ring	vv	21.9.89	Loch Indaal, Islay, Argyll
CTJ)	vv	winter	Loch Indaal
		90/91	226 km 266 deg 390 + days

RINGING IN 1990

Z64577	8F	24.11.89	Ardentinny, Argyll
	x	8.2.90	Kempock Point, Gourrock, Strathclyde 65 km 174 deg 76 days
Z70405	6	8.11.89	Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow
	x	19.5.90	Gairletter, Argyll 69 km 319 deg 192 days
Whooper swan			
Z49245	5M	27.1.83	East Park, Caerlaverock, Dumfries & Galloway
	(fence) x	30.3.90	Clachan Mor, Tiree, Argyll 276 km 309 deg 2619 days
NTT	4M	11.8.88	Skagafjordur, Northern ICELAND
	vv	2.12.89	Near Bowmore, Loch Indaal, Islay, Argyll
NFC	1M	6.8.88	Skagafjordur, Northern ICELAND
	vv	5.12.89	Near Bowmore, Loch Indaal, Islay, Argyll

The following Icelandic family saga is better told in prose than in the usual impersonal codes and conventions. It concerns a family of whooper swans ringed in Iceland with Darvic rings, legible at distance. An adult pair, NBZ and PYJ, were ringed at Svartarvatn, Bardardal, North Iceland (65°21'N 17°15'W) on 15 August 1987. NBZ was at the same site on 4 September 1988. On 17 August 1989, again at the same site, both adults were caught together with their four cygnets several weeks old. The cygnets were ringed PYD, PYF, PYI and PYH. The two adults and three of the cygnets were seen together in Loch Indaal, Islay, Argyll on 1 and 5 December 1989 and had almost certainly been there since 25 November or earlier. The fourth cygnet, PYH, was never recorded on Islay but was seen just across the North Channel on Lough Foyle, Ireland, in January 1990, having apparently been adopted by another family of swans. The two adults and two cygnets (PYF and PYJ) were again on Islay for several weeks in winter 1990-91. They were seen on 14 November and 14 December and did not leave Islay until the last week of December 1990. Next time you see whoopers flying in formation high overhead, calling noisily to each other, remember this 1140 km odyssey.
(Records supplied by M. Ogilvie and A. Fox).

White-fronted goose

Because of its precarious world status, the Greenland race of this species has been intensively studied in recent years in both Britain and Ireland by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Group and Irish Wildlife Service. Eighty-nine percent of the British wintering population occurs in Argyll, with about two-thirds of these on Islay. During three summer expeditions to Greenland, geese were individually numbered with leg rings (in 1979 and 1984) and neck-collars (in 1989), both legible at distance. These facts, together with the high numbers of birds marked in Greenland and resighted in the British Isles, and the striking success of the work in general, give this species pride of place in this account of ringing in Argyll. Intriguing new findings are reported almost every year (see GWFGS Reports 1-6 and comments in previous Argyll Bird Reports). This year is no exception and the following account is taken, some of it verbatim, from the GWFGS Research Report No. 7 (1990).

RINGING IN 1990

Of 96 birds ringed in Greenland in 1979, 71 (74%) had been resighted by the end of winter 1989-90. Naturally, most of these were in the winters immediately after ringing. During winter 1989-90, six were seen in the British Isles, all but one on Islay. Interestingly, one ringed bird was not resighted until winter 1989-90, so there may still be other 1979-ringed birds out there unrecorded!

Of 88 birds ringed in Greenland in 1984, 54 (61%) had been resighted by the end of winter 1989-90. Ten were seen in the British Isles in winter 1989-90, eight on Islay, one at Wexford (Eire) and one on Stronsay (Orkney).

Of 32 birds fitted with numbered collars in Greenland in summer 1989, 26 (an amazing 81%) had been seen on wintering grounds by the end of winter 1989-90. Fourteen were on Islay, five on Tiree, two each at Rhunahaorine and Machrihanish, and one each at Loch Ken, at Corrib (Ireland) and in Iceland (shot on passage). Besides the very high resighting percentage, it is of particular interest that all but one were in Scotland (all but three in Argyll). This was despite a very high level of search in Ireland, especially at Wexford. (A wintering population of 8238 was recorded at Wexford in November 1989, with 4044 in the rest of Ireland. This compared with 14,295 in Scotland, 123 in Wales and 16 in England in the census of autumn 1989.) The geese marked in 1989 were among the most southerly ever ringed in Greenland. Earlier ringing has suggested that the breeding grounds of Wexford birds lie much further north in Greenland than those of Scottish birds. Together, these findings add support to Salomonsen's hypothesis of "leapfrog" migration, the concept that birds breeding furthest to the north winter furthest to the south.

A notable event during the year was the capture and ringing on Islay of sixteen Greenland Whitefronts. Very few birds of this species have been ringed in Great Britain, and these are believed to be the first of this sub-species ringed here. (Information supplied by D. Stroud and M. Ogilvie.)

Greylag goose

?(immature)	M	1986	South Uist
	x	1990	Coll, Argyll

An interesting link between the rapidly growing Tiree/Coll population and the greylags native to the Uists. (Information supplied by D. Stroud).

Barnacle Goose

1195313	6M	16.7.84	Orsted Dal, Jamesonland, GREENLAND
(Colour	vv	5.2.90	Gruinart, Islay, Argyll
ring BYD)			1948 km 156 deg 2030 days

1198151	4F	2.1.87	Gruinart, Islay, Argyll
(Colour	vv	7.8.87	Crescent Lake, Sondermarken, GREENLAND
ring DFS)			2493 km 346 deg 217 days

About 350 different barnacle geese, individually marked, were seen on Islay in winter 1989-90. They had been marked in Ireland, Greenland or Islay. (Information from M. Ogilvie).

Shelduck

GH78808	3	29.8.89	South Bornish, South Uist
	x	8.5.90	Ardskinish, Colonsay, Argyll
			151 km 152 deg 252 days

RINGING IN 1990

Sparrowhawk			
EH96949	1F	9.7.89	Gairletter, Dunoon, Argyll
(road)	x	27.11.89	Glencarse, near Perth, Tayside
			107 km 68 deg 141 days
Buzzard			
HW30569	1	22.6.88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	1.4.90	Troon beach, Strathclyde
			64 km 64 deg 648 days
GH77635	1	21.6.89	Lochan Add, near Lochgilphead, Argyll
	x	11.3.90	Dumbarton, Strathclyde
			56 km 109 deg 263 days
Peregrine			
GH29273	1M	7.6.88	Cowal, Strathclyde
	x	30.11.90	Blarghour, Eredine, Argyll
			33 km 334 deg 906 days
Woodcock			
5275567	4	22.3.88	Heligoland, Germany
(shot)	+	14.1.89	Lochdon, Mull, Argyll
			894 km 286 deg 298 days
Greatskua			
HT17124	1	19.7.86	Unst, Shetland
	x	15.10.87	Colonsay, Argyll
Black-headed gull			
ER52521	1	27.6.90	Ardrishaig, Argyll
	x	3.9.90	Glasgow Airport, Renfrewshire
			64 km 102 deg 68 days
			"Struck by aircraft"
Lesser black-backed gull			
GH47966	1	24.6.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
(shot)	+	15.7.90	Lough Neagh, Tyrone, N. IRELAND
			105 km 219 deg 1117 days
Herring gull			
GG51677	1	29.6.88	Eilean Dubh, Loch Linnhe, Argyll
	x	3.3.90	Glasgow Airport, Renfrewshire
			96 km 139 deg 612 days
Report stated "Aircraft casualty. Boeing 737 not affected"!			
GG62129	1	28.6.89	Eilean nan Caorach, Loch Linnhe, Argyll
(road)	x	25.2.90	A1 near Dunbar, Lothians
			189 km 110 deg 242 days
GJ41804	1	20.6.82	Eilean Dubh, Loch Linnhe, Argyll
	vv	26.10.87	Ainsdale, Lancs.
	vv	30.8.89	Southport, Lancs.
			355 km 154 deg 2628 days

RINGING IN 1990

GH18401	1	18.7.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	9.8.90	Dundalk, Louth, EIRE
			152 km 201 deg 387 days

Additionally, there were reports of six movements of under 100 km within Argyll, and one from near Oban to Glasgow.

Great black-backed gull

HT33015	1	1.7.89	Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, Argyll
	v	18.7.90	Mulroy Bay, Donegal, EIRE 167 km 230 deg 382 days
HT33008	1	1.7.89	Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, Argyll
	x	18.10.89	Hough Bay, Tiree, Argyll 93 km 301 deg 109 days
HW87323	1	22.6.81	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	3.8.90	Sanda 0 km 3329 days
HW74996 (road)	1	2.6.81	Near Sanaigmore, Islay, Argyll
	x	5.3.89	Near Bowmore, Islay, Argyll 11 km 80 deg 2833 days

Common tern

XS77861	1	17.7.84	Near Oban, Argyll
	?	18.4.90	M'bour, SENEGAL 4798 km 192 deg 2101 days
XR60775 (net)	1	14.7.89	Near Oban, Argyll
	+	9.1.90	Lome, TOGO 5627 km 174 deg 179 days
XR20697	1	11.7.86	Near Lochgilphead, Argyll
	vv	1.8.90	Rockabill, Dublin, EIRE 269 km 188 deg 1482 days
XS89521 (predator)	1	21.6.87	Shotton, Clwyd, N. Wales
	x	6.7.90	Near Oban, Argyll 405 km 335 deg 1111 days
XR19869	1	21.6.86	Near Nairn, Highland
	vB	26.7.90	Near Oban, Argyll 165 km 223 deg 1496 days

Guillemot

GP74824	4	30.6.88	Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
	x	18.2.90	Shell Beach, Herm, CHANNEL ISLANDS 823 km 161 deg 598 days
T43823	4	20.6.89	Pigs Paradise, Colonsay, Argyll
	x	12.12.89	Cahersiveen, Kerry, EIRE 528 km 208 deg 175 days

RINGING IN 1990

T51522 (oil)	1	23.6.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	+	4.1.90	Babbacombe, Devon
			552 km 166 deg 926 days
T14548 (oil)	4	21.6.86	Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
	+	16.3.90	River Avon, Bantham, Devon
			711 km 166 deg 1364 days
T51667	1	25.6.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	vv	28.5.90	Isle of May, Fife
			214 km 62 deg 1068 days
T55663	1	23.6.88	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	13.5.90	Aberlady Bay, Lothian
			188 km 64 deg 689 days
T76064	1	18.7.89	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	9.12.89	Ardersier, Moray Firth, Highland
			270 km 20 deg 144 days
T80334	1	23.6.89	Badbea, Caithness
	x	13.4.90	Isle of Mull, Argyll
			255 km 216 deg 294 days

Note the interesting movements between the east and west coasts of Scotland in this species and the last species.

Razorbill

M55195	4	23.6.86	Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
	x	18.2.90	Plage du Rozel, Les Pieux, Manche, FRANCE
			837 km 159 deg 1336 days
M63656	6	25.6.87	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
	x	25.2.90	Jullouville-les-Pins, Manche, FRANCE
			774 km 159 deg 976 days
M55116	4	21.6.86	Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
	x	11.3.90	Ainsdale Beach, Merseyside
			385 km 147 deg 1359 days

Puffin

EK29703 (net)	4	28.6.89	Lunga, Treshnish, Argyll
	+	19.7.89	Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar, ICELAND
			1087 km 315 deg 21 days

Taken in fleyg net and killed on the Westmann Islands. Note rapid movement of 52 km/day.

EN63893	6	24.7.85	Sule Skerry, Orkney
	x	28.8.90	Tobar Fuar, Colonsay, Argyll
			351 km 198 deg 1861 days

Sand martin

3404773	3M	15.7.88	Congis sur Therouanne, Seine, FRANCE
	v	6.6.89	Kilmichael Glen, Lochgilphead, Argyll
			972 km 324 deg 326 days

RINGING IN 1990

C172433 4F 6.6.89 Kilmichael Glen, Lochgilphead, Argyll
v 4.9.90 Icklesham, Sussex
710 km 145 deg 455 days

F831071 3J 28.7.90 North Connel, Oban, Argyll
v 13.9.90 Icklesham, Sussex
734 km 147 deg 47 days

F442148 3 19.8.89 Icklesham, Sussex
v 28.7.90 North Connel, Oban, Argyll
734 km 327 deg 343 days

Swallow

K134519 4F 19.8.88 Argenta, Ferrara & Rovigo, ITALY
v 8.5.89 At sea, 50 km NW of Malin Head
1859 km 312 deg 262 days

F331070 1F 11.8.89 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll
v 14.5.90 Calf of Man, Isle of Man
145 km 161 deg 276 days

Pied flycatcher

C363893 4F 31.5.89 Near Bonawe, Oban, Argyll
vB 25.5.90 Kenmore Wood, Loch Lomond, Strathclyde
42 km 128 deg 359 days

C363436 4F 23.6.88 Near Bonawe, Oban, Argyll
vB 3.6.90 Ardgenavan, Inveraray, Argyll
28 km 142 deg 710 days

Two interesting movements between study areas of Argyll Bird Club's Nestbox Scheme. These two birds were both ringed and later controlled when breeding in nestboxes.

Treecreeper

OP4441 1 4.6.89 School House, Katrine, Central
(road) x 16.7.90 Ardgartan, Loch Long, Argyll
c. 18 km c. 240 deg 407 days

Raven

HT32513 1 14.4.89 Dhiseag, Mull, Argyll
x 11.12.89 Sma' Glen, Tayside
141 km 241 days

The longest recorded movement of this species in the British Isles in 1989.

Greenfinch

NH74796 5M 3.1.90 Kilchrenan, Loch Awe, Argyll
v 18.3.90 Contin, Dingwall, Highland
132 km 15 deg 74 days

VC92746 5F 25.3.89 Ardblair, Blairgowrie, Tayside
v 28.10.90 Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll
128 km 251 deg 582 days

RINGING IN 1990

Siskin				
E500969	5F	16.4.89	Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands	
	v	6.7.89	Barcaldine Forest, Oban, Argyll	
	v	3.3.90	Golspie, Sutherland	
			614 km 347 deg 321 days	
C964204	4M	21.3.89	Exmouth, Devon	
	v	17.3.90	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll	
			665 km 349 deg 361 days	
F259476	3J	26.6.89	Barcaldine Forest, Oban, Argyll	
(cat)	x	5.4.90	Malvern Link, Worcs.	
			527 km 158 deg 283 days	
F669724	5F	19.3.90	Bidston, Wirral, Merseyside	
	v	9.4.90	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll	
			375 km 337 deg 21 days	
F767126	5M	3.2.90	Hutton Gate, Cleveland	
	v	18.3.90	Ardentinny, Argyll	
			295 km 305 deg 43 days	
F653671	6M	15.2.90	Swarland, Northumberland	
	v	18.3.90	Ardentinny, Argyll	
			215 km 292 deg 31 days	
C749280	6M	26.3.90	Drumguish, Kingussie, Highland	
	v	29.3.90	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll	
			104 km 233 deg 3 days	
C496865	5F	20.5.86	Shewglie, Glenurquhart, Highland	
	v	18.2.88	Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll	
	v	31.3.90	Barcaldine	
			99 km 206 deg 1411 days	

Note the relatively rapid movements of C749280 (35 km/day) and F669724 (18 km/day). Note also the remarkable wanderings of E500969 (although the two recovery dates are probably too late and early to allow a definite conclusion of breeding site infidelity). There were also nine reported movements of 104-157 km between Argyll and eastern Scotland, and four of less than 100 km within the Argyll-Glasgow area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the following for submitting records: D. Anderson, G. Austin, E. Bignal, J. Blaxter, R. Broad, T. Daniels, R. Dennis and Highland Ringing Group, D. Ellett, A. Fox, M. Gregory, D. Jardine, B. Lawson and Treshnish Ringing Group, R. & A. Lightfoot, I. Livingstone and Clyde Ringing Group (Sanda), M. Madders, M. Ogilvie, S. Petty, D. Stroud, C. Thomas, D. Trigg and G. White.

REFERENCES

Greenland White-fronted Goose Study (1990). *Greenland White-fronted Geese in Britain: 1987/88-1989/90. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Research Report No. 7.* Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales. (Full references to Reports Nos 1-6 are given in this.)

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Argyll Bird Report (1991) 7:67-74

Wintering Wildfowl in Argyll 1989/1990

S.F. Newton and A.V. Newton

Dunkineely, 17 Princes Crescent, Dollar, Clackmannanshire FK14 7BN.

INTRODUCTION

Birdwatchers have long been attracted to Argyll, and the southern Inner Hebrides in particular, to see nationally scarce species such as barnacle and greenland white-fronted geese and scaup. Although numbers of other wildfowl species seldom exceed criteria for national importance (Kirby *et al.* 1991), the area supports a diverse winter waterfowl fauna. Most species occur in coastal habitats, especially sea lochs.

Most wildfowl counting in the Argyll area is usually done under the auspices of the National Wildfowl Counts scheme (NWC), and for the sites with wader populations, the Birds of the Estuaries Enquiry (BoEE). For these schemes, sites should be counted mid-monthly from September through to March. Since 1980 the number of sites covered in this way has risen dramatically from a handful on Islay and mid-Argyll to the present level of 39 throughout the whole area.

It is hoped that an annual wildfowl summary in this format will appear on a regular basis in the *Argyll Bird Report*. The aim of the present paper is to document sites covered by the NWC and BoEE schemes, to present monthly totals of all wildfowl counted in the county, and to highlight important sites for various species.

SITES AND COUNTS

A total of 34 sites in Argyll were covered regularly over the winter of 1989/90 (Table 1). Two thirds of these were counted in all seven months and the remainder were usually covered on at least five occasions. Of the 34 sites, 32 had been counted at about the same frequency in the previous winter. Regular monthly coverage has not yet been achieved on Tiree but most sites were counted on about three occasions giving a reasonable impression of the situation.

An indication of habitat is also given in Table 1: 60% of sites are loosely termed sea lochs and 30% are inland lochs and lochans. The character of sea lochs varies enormously. Lochs Indaal, Gruinart and Don are predominantly estuarine with extensive areas of mud and sandflats, whilst more typically, the majority have sandy or muddy areas at their heads but are otherwise flanked by rocky or pebbly shores for most of their length. Inland water bodies covered by NWC are predominantly on the islands and are consequently often in very close proximity to the coast eg. all sites on Tiree, most on northwest Mull and Ardnave Loch on Islay.

The remainder of sites include two fairly open coastal sections north and south of the Holy Loch on the Firth of Clyde, and Moine Mhor and the Reef (Tiree) are categorised as bog mosses. New sites covered for the first time in the 1989/90 winter were Campbeltown Loch, Traigh Mhor on the Ross of Mull near Bunessan and the Reef in central Tiree.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Table 1. Argyll site coverage and habitat classification, NWC, 1989/90.

	Site	Habitat	No. Months covered	Covered previous year
I	West Loch Tarbert (head)	SL	7	+
	Campbeltown Loch	SL	6	-
II	Loch Indaal	SL	7	+
	Loch Gruinart	SL	7	+
	Ardnave Loch	I	4	+
III	Holy Loch	SL	7	+
	Dunoon Pier-Ardyne Burn	C	7	+
	Blairmore Farm-Finart Bay	C	6	+
IV	Keills Peninsula & Danna	SL	7	+
	Loch Gilp-Inverneill Bay	SL	7	+
	Loch Leathan	I	7*	+
	Loch Craignish & Loch Begg	SL	7	+
	Loch Crinan	SL	7	+
	Moine Mhor & R. Add Estuary	B/SL	7	+
	Loch Feochan	SL	7	+
	Loch Drimnin	I	7	+
	Loch Scammadale	I	7	+
	Loch Melfort	SL	7	+
	Craiglin Lochan	I	7	+
	Achnamara Village	SL	7	+
	East Loch Sween	SL	6	+
V	-----Mull			
	Loch Don	SL	7	+
	Inner L Scridain & L Beg	SL	6	+
	Loch na Keal	SL	4	+
	Mishnish Lochs	I	7	+
	Loch Cuin	SL	7	+
	Loch na Cuilce	I	7	+
	Loch an Tor	I	7**	+
	Traigh Mhor	SL	4	-
	-----Tiree			
	Loch a'Phuill	I	5	+
	Loch an Eilein	I	4	+
	Loch Bhasapol	I	4	+
	Loch Riaghain	I	2	+
	The Reef	B	2	-
VI	Loch Etive	SL	7	+
	Lower Loch Creran	SL	5	+
	Upper Loch Creran	SL	6	+
	Loch Laich	SL	6	+
	Port Appin	SL	5	-

Habitat key: SL = sea loch; I = inland loch; B = bog/moss; C = coastal (Clyde).

* no birds on one count - loch frozen; ** no birds recorded on any visit.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Table 2. Argyll monthly wildfowl totals. NWC, 1989/90.

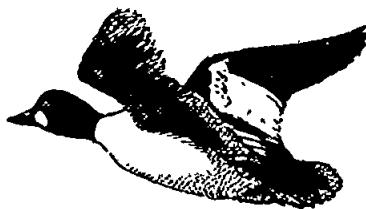
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
GN Diver		9	7	15	6	13	7
RT Diver	3	4	3	4	2	3	7
GC Grebe		1				1	
L Grebe	13	16	30	24	24	26	21
S Grebe	5	13	9	13	4	14	1
Mute	124	146	132	64	109	66	56
Whooper	1	66	18	49	15	13	9
Pinkfoot			7				
GW Goose		44	211	228	7	150	125
Greylag			4	478	168	275	294
Barn G		8	350	100	250		1
Brent G						3	2
Shelduck	4	10	79	87	132	301	410
Wigeon	495	2658	2487	1574	1498	1221	458
Teal	522	901	822	1080	561	397	497
Mallard	1312	885	609	859	771	478	190
Pintail		37	1	5	31	14	27
Shoveler		2	12		2		
Pochard		5	2	7	2	9	2
Tufted	2	3	24	11	20	12	5
G'eye		29	60	174	162	174	195
RB Merg	256	180	162	155	123	153	164
G'ander	3	1	3	5	6	5	
Eider	1088	1300	956	904	1090	825	779
Scaup	140	340	445	371	182	175	177
C Scoter	111	104	6	49	83	104	37
LT Duck					11	10	2
Corm	162	163	194	90	142	58	73
Shag	39	26	7	56	43	35	10
Heron	14	15	18	14	7	4	

GN Diver = great northern diver; RT Diver = red-throated diver; GC Grebe = great-crested grebe; L Grebe = little grebe; S Grebe = slavianian grebe; GW Goose = Greenland whitefronted goose; Barn G = barnacle goose; G'eye = goldeneye; RB Merg = red-breasted merganser; G'ander = goosander; C Scooter = common scoter; LT Duck = long-tailed duck; Corm = cormorant.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

The size of sites varies considerably, ranging from a large sea loch/estuary such as Loch Indaal to a tiny inland lochan such as Craighlin at the head of Loch Sween. The true complexity of habitats and diversity of waterfowl populations vary accordingly.

Table 2 gives the summed monthly Argyll totals of each species by month for winter 1989/90, excluding Tiree. Other waterbirds including divers, grebes, cormorants, shags and herons that frequent the wetlands of Argyll are also included. Similar data for the previous winter (1988/89) are presented in Table 3. Although the recent winter totals include two new sites there were only very small numbers of waterfowl at one (Traigh Mhor) whereas significant numbers of eider occurred at Campbeltown Loch. With the latter exception, the two tables are almost directly comparable and reveal both interesting differences in totals of species between years and some similar parallel trends through the course of a winter. These are discussed in the following species summaries.



SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Divers

Both great northern and red-throated divers are recorded annually in small numbers. With the exception of a single at Loch Craignish, great northern divers were only recorded on four island sea lochs. Maximum counts were 8 at L. Indaal, 5 at L. Gruinart, 3 at Loch Don and 8 at Loch na Keal. Red-throated divers were less numerous and only occurred at L. Indaal (max 4) and L. Don (max 3).

Grebes

No species are very numerous in winter. Great-crested grebes were only recorded in September, February and March at Campbeltown, West Loch Tarbert and L. Feochan (singles at each site). Little grebes are the most widespread species, occurring at 16 sites, mostly on Mull and the mainland. The highest count was 13 at L. Etive in February, and 6 were recorded on the Keills Peninsula (Nov) and L. Don (Jan). With the exception of Ardnave Loch and some of the NW Mull lochs, all were recorded on sea lochs. Wintering slavian grebes are confined to L. Indaal (max 14 in Feb) and Loch na Keal (max 11 in Dec).

Mute swan

Fairly widespread in winter, occurring at 25 sites, mostly in small numbers. However, winter maxima over 10 were recorded at head of West L. Tarbert (32 in Oct), Holy Loch (16 in Oct), Keills Peninsula (20 in Sept), L. Craignish (27 in Oct), L. Crinan (25 in Jan), L. Feochan (10 in Jan), Loch Don (13 in Oct and Nov), L. Etive (18 in Sept), L. Laich (10 in Oct & Nov) and L. a'Phuill (73 in Sept). The latter count almost certainly comprised part of the summer moult flock. Most of the individuals at sites with high autumn counts are probably inexperienced adults and these herds partially break up in mid-winter as pairs presumably move off locally to seek or re-establish breeding territories.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Table 3. Argyll monthly wildfowl totals, NWC, 1988/89.

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
GN Diver		4	7	6	9	10	5
RT Diver					3		
L Grebe	10	25	13	11	10	15	6
S Grebe	1		9	12	25	24	2
Mute	174	166	168	82	63	53	53
Whooper	5	54	28	51	17	2	2
GW Goose		74	210	57	209	125	50
Greylag		92	50	330	250	215	204
Barn G			325				
Brent G	17		3		3		
Snow G					1		
Shelduck	3	9	44	133	183	364	343
Wigeon	1041	1746	1439	2019	1433	1175	594
Teal	694	745	651	693	856	644	368
Mallard	998	910	743	856	1006	401	185
Pintail		2	22	33	48	48	12
Shoveler			9	4	2		
Pochard		4	9	1	2	8	4
Tufted	1	2	27	63	46	60	51
G'eye		7	94	128	119	182	139
Smew			1		1	1	
RB Merg	299	251	177	144	118	127	139
G'ander	2		9	7		7	15
Eider	1816	899	1395	1430	1513	1168	826
Scaup	17	391	426	1230	882	471	303
C Scoter	76		10	62		35	62
LT Duck					3	6	2
Corm	86	154	110	74	64	59	54
Shag	2	18			6		

GN Diver = great northern diver; RT Diver = red-throated diver; GC Grebe = great-crested grebe; L Grebe = little grebe; S Grebe = slayonian grebe; GW Goose = Greenland whitefronted goose; Barn G = barnacle goose; G'eye = goldeneye; RB Merg = red-breasted merganser; G'ander = goosander; C Sco-ter = common scoter; LT Duck = long-tailed duck; Corm = cormorant.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

or are displaced by the resident pair. The Argyll wintering population seems fairly stable (peak count of 146 in 1989/90 and 174 in 1988/89). The difference may be attributable to variations in breeding success. However, by January/February, the numbers at NWC sites are consistently between 50 and 70 individuals.

Whooper swan

Very similar numbers seen in both winters, with the total peaking at about 70 soon after their arrival in October. At most other Scottish haunts whooper swans are primarily birds of agricultural land, especially favouring stubble fields in autumn. Argyll, and Tiree in particular, is one area where this species can still be found in more typical wetland habitats. Most whoopers seem to be autumn visitors to most of Argyll, except on Tiree, as numbers fall rapidly by mid-winter. Peak numbers at the important sites were 17 L. Indaal (Oct & Dec), 13 Keills Peninsula (Jan), 26 Moine Mhor/River Add Estuary (Dec) and 18 Mishnish Lochs (Oct). The situation on Tiree is less clear. The close proximity of sites means that all lochs need to be covered on the same day to get an accurate estimate of numbers; this was only achieved on three occasions, including the September count which preceded the main arrival. The December total was 54 and between 29 and 37 were still present at the end of March. Loch a'Phuill usually holds the highest numbers: on 27 October 111+ landed briefly on the loch before heading off towards Ireland (SSW). Otherwise, 25-50 are more typical of this site during autumn and early winter, with up to 30 at L. Bhasapol (Nov & Dec), 18 L. Riaghain (Dec) and 24 on the Reef (Oct).

Greenland white-fronted goose

Whitefronts are only regularly recorded at two "mainland" NWC sites. The highest count on Danna was 210 (Nov), though 240 were recorded on nearby Ulva in early January. Loch Crinan held 60 in December; and a single was recorded L. Cuin, NW Mull, in November. The boggy fringes of most NWC sites on Tiree usually hold greater or lesser numbers of whitefronts at some stage in the winter. However, many feed on agricultural land and the NWC scheme does not give a good indication of population size. A complete survey of the whole island at the end of March located 987 Greenland whitefronts.

Greylag goose

Recorded at 12 sites including all on Tiree. Loch Crinan and Moine Mhor are the most important sites for this species on the mainland. The former held a maximum of 458 in December and the latter 180 in March. There is undoubtedly interchange between these two sites. Elsewhere on the mainland greylag were only recorded on the coastal strip south of Dunoon (max 24 in March), a group of 4 seen on a single occasion at L. Etive (Nov) and 60 were at L. Laich in early February, but the latter were not detected in the mid-monthly count. Small numbers (<10) were seen infrequently on L. Indaal and L. Gruinart and 17 were at Traigh Mhor on Mull in February. The Tiree goose count recorded 594 for the whole island in late March, though September maxima of 223 and 440 were recorded in the vicinity of Loch a'Phuill and L. Riaghain respectively.

Barnacle goose

A small party of 8 was recorded at L. Cuin (Mull) in October and a single was at L. Scridain in March. The only regular mainland NWC site holding barnacle geese is Danna. Numbers peaked at 350 in November. The spring goose count on Tiree located a minimum of 581 (end March).

Other goose species

Small numbers of other goose species often occur in barnacle and white-front flocks. Counts on Tiree produced 2 pinkfeet and singles of both Canada and snow goose. A small flock of 7 pinkfeet were at L. Cuin, Mull in November.

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Pale-bellied brent geese were only recorded at L. Gruinart with up to 3 in February and March.

Shelduck

Shelduck numbers build up on the sea lochs of Argyll throughout the course of the winter as birds return from their moulting grounds. Very few are present in September and October and the highest counts are always in February and March. Most shelduck occur in the larger and more estuarine sea lochs. Maxima in 1989/90 were 212 at L. Gruinart, 46 at L. Indaal and 79 at L. Don. Other sites with 10-25 birds included Campbeltown Loch, Keills Peninsula, L. Gilp, L. Craignish and L. Laich. L. a'Phuill was the only inland site where shelduck were recorded. 23 in late March.

Wigeon

The most numerous dabbling duck in Argyll. Peak counts are usually between late October and December; numbers fall considerably by March. 1989/90 appeared to be a good year for wigeon and the country total considerably exceeded 2000 in both October and November. Recorded at 27 sites with 6 having peak counts of 250 or more; 334 head West L. Tarbert (Oct), 615 L. Indaal (Nov), 341 L. Gruinart (Dec), 250 Keills Peninsula (Nov), 520 Moine Mhor/R. Add Estuary (Oct) and 352 L. Don (Nov). Three other sites held over 100; Holy Loch (115), L. Craignish (158) and L. Laich (170).

Gadwall

The small breeding population on Tiree usually means a few are recorded during winter. Ten were present on L. Bhasapol in September and the highest number recorded on L. a'Phuill was 5 (Dec).

Teal

A similar distribution to wigeon, recorded at 24 sites, but numbers never as high. The main stronghold appears to be Islay, with maxima of 448 at L. Indaal (Dec) and 310 at L. Gruinart (Nov). Other sites with significant counts (>100) were 124 Ardnave L. (March), 132 Moine Mhor/R. Add Estuary (Dec), 191 L. Don (Oct), 145 L. a'Phuill (Dec) and 150 on the Reef (Nov).

Mallard

The most widespread species in Argyll - recorded at 37 sites. Loch an Tor (Mull) and Port Appin were the two exceptions. The high numbers recorded in early autumn may reflect a sizeable local breeding population. Only four sites held maxima over 200; L. Indaal (262 in Sept), L. Gruinart (292 in Dec), Holy Loch (229 in Sept) and L. Craignish and L. Begg (412 in September). Two other sites are worth noting; L. Crinan with 175 in October and L. a'Phuill with 154 in September.

Pintail

Recorded at two sites on Islay and three on Tiree. L. Indaal supports the only significant wintering population; numbers in 1989/90 were slightly down on the previous year and the peak count was 37 in October. A single drake was present on Ardnave Loch from the end of November through to mid December. A maximum of six were recorded on Tiree in December (4 L. Riaghain and 2 L. a'Phuill.).

Shoveler

This species has a very similar distribution to pintail. L. Indaal held a maximum of 12 in November. L. a'Phuill held 11 in November and small numbers (1-3) were seen at the remaining 4 Tiree sites (Sept-Dec).

Pochard

Loch Drimnin is the only regular mainland site, with a peak count of 9 in February. Pochard were unusual visitors to West L. Tarbert in January and March - perhaps displaced to the sea loch from a frozen inland site. Three sites on Tiree held pochard; highest numbers were on L. a'Phuill with 37 in early December, L. Bhasapol held 5 in early December and Loch an Eilein peaked at 9 (Nov).

WINTERING WILDFOWL

Tufted duck

Another rather scarce diving duck in Argyll. Recorded at 9 sites including all on Tiree. Strongholds are Ardnave Loch (max 40 in Mar) and the December island total for Tiree was 111. Most of the latter were on L. a'Phuill and L. Bhasapol. On the mainland tufted duck were noted at West L. Tarbert (max 39 in Jan), L. Leathan (max 12 in Jan and Feb) and 4 were on L. Drimnin in January.

Coot

The scarcest species of waterfowl in the county. Only recorded on L. Bhasapol, Tiree, with a maximum count of 5 in December.

Cormorant and Shag

Small numbers (1-20) of cormorants were recorded at 23 sites. Only three sites held maxima exceeding 20; Campbeltown Loch, the Clyde south of Dunoon and Port Appin. Shags were present at 5 sites; L. Indaal (max 56 Dec), Keills Peninsula & Danna (max 10 Feb), L. Crinan (max 20 Jan) and at Campbeltown Loch and L. Gruinart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks are due to the following counters for their perseverance in getting sites covered in all weathers; Rev and Mrs Duncan-Jones, Colin Ferguson, Dr J McCulloch, Mike Peacock, John Hamilton, Christine Lawrence, Alex MacKenzie, Rosemary Purvis, Mike Madders, Jackie Bradfield, Hilary Searle, Ella Knight, Andrew Evans, Gordon McKay, Sandra Whyte, Mike Hancock, Andy Knight, Roger Broad, Arthur Jennings and last but not least Steve and Jane Eccles.

REFERENCE

Kirby, J.S., Waters, R.J. & Prys-Jones, R.P. 1991. *Wildfowl and Wader counts 1989-1990*. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge.

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

Apply to the Treasurer for details.



NOTELETS

8 NOTELETS WITH ENVELOPES £1.25

P&P 1 Pack add .35p

2 - 3 Packs add .50p

Each Pack contains 4 different drawings by Phil Snow.

Available from P. Staley, Lincluden, Blairmore, Dunoon, PA23 8TL

S.L. "LADY ROWENA" ON LOCH AWE

* QUIET SAILING — GOOD SITINGS *

"LADY ROWENA's" steam engine enables her to glide unobtrusively on the quiet waters of Loch Awe.

Regular sailings from Loch Awe Station Pier (A85)

June-September from

10.30 every day except

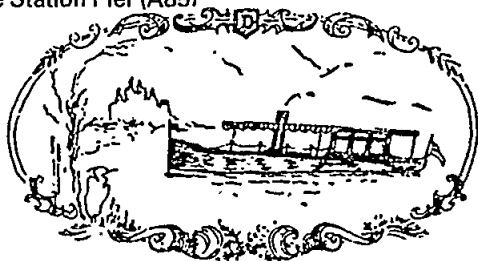
Sat. & Mon. . . . from £2.75.

Weekends in May.

Available for Charter:

£75/hour : Evenings £200/2 hrs.

Special Early Morning Sailings
can be arranged.



Comfortable Seating : Open Foredeck : Enclosed Cabin : Toilet

The Dalriada Steam Packet Co. Ltd.

Tels. : 041 334 2529 or (08382) 440/449

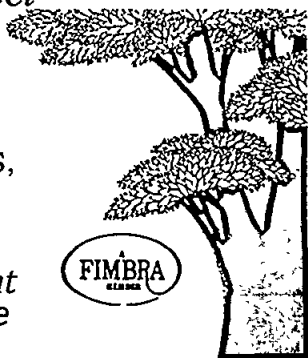
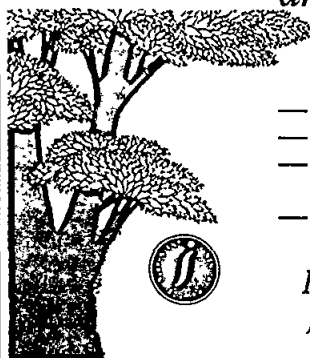
IMPROVE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

*and help protect
the world*

"Ethical & Green"

- Pensions
- Endowments
- Investments (PEPS,
Unit Trusts etc)
- Children's savings
policies

*For independent
financial advice
contact:—*



SKELTON FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.

57-59 High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8TQ · Tel: (0992) 463555

WILSONS GARAGE

AIRDS CRESCENT
AND
TWEEDMILL
OBAN



ROVER



**MAIN
DEALERS
FOR
ARGYLL**

**MODERN
CAR HIRE FLEET**

TEL:
(0631) 63173

FAX:
(0631) 64963

Contact Eric Smith World Travel

**"FOR ALL YOUR
TRAVEL NEEDS"**

**31 Stafford Street
Oban, Argyll PA34 5NH
Tel: 0631 66818/9
Fax: 0631 66820**

Proprietor: Eric C. Smith

'Fern Grove' Kilmun

Ian and Estralita Murray are pleased to invite you
To Dinner with the Personal Touch
everything used is fresh and cooked to order.

We always use local produce and each menu is written daily. As
you will see we try to give you something a little different. We
have never served a chip.

We are certain you will think of us as somewhere special.

Accommodation all with private facilities.

Dinner from
around £15.00

Sensibly priced
quality wine.

Dinner Bed & Breakfast
packages available.

Open for light
lunch and every night.

Booking necessary
to avoid disappointment
KILMUN (84) 334

ICELAND Greenland Spitsbergen Lapland Canada & Alaska



Our 148 page 1991/92 colour brochure offers
the widest ever choice of holidays to this
remarkable part of the world.

For your copy please write or call today



ARCTIC EXPERIENCE LTD.

29 Nork Way, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1PB

24 Hourline: 0737 362321

Halfway Filling Station

AT
DUNBEG, OBAN,
ARGYLL

*Petrol, Oils, Gas,
Groceries, Films,
Newspapers, etc.*

Mon. - Sat.:

6.30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday:

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tel:

Oban (0631) 62784

LEDAIG LEISURE

(LEDAIG MOTORS)

BENDERLOCH, BY OBAN

*FOR OUTDOOR CLOTHING AT
GREAT PRICES. WAX JACKETS,
WELLIES, BODYWARMERS,
SHIRTS, BOILERSUITS ETC.
+ A HUGE RANGE OF TOYS,
CAMPING GEAR, FISHING TACKLE
AND GENERAL HOUSEHOLD
GOODS.*

*C.O.D. SERVICE ON MOST
ITEMS. SEND FOR LISTS.*

TEL: LEDAIG 393

ESSO FUELS, CALOR GAS

CAR BODY PANELS, CAR REPAIRS,
LOCAL RECOVERY

FRANK WALTON PHOTOGRAPHIC

Wide range of cameras and accessories - flashguns -
tripods - wide selection of binoculars - telescopes -
monoculars

Enlarging service for colour and black and white

Kodak express one hour colour processing
Instant passport photographs

Postcards and gifts

FRANK WALTON PHOTOGRAPHIC
122-124 George Street, Oban, Argyll
Tel: 0631 62917

*If you are planning a Bird Watching Expedition to North
Argyll . . . then come to the complete store and post office*

MUNROS OF BENDERLOCH

. . . for all your supplies!

Do you need maps, guidebooks, field guides? We have them all!
Run out of film? Come to us to replenish your camera!

We stock a vast array of foods — fresh, frozen, preserved, dried.

Fresh bread, pies and pasties daily. Fruit and veg.

Whisky, Gin or Highland Spring Water for your hip flask.

Newspapers, books and periodicals for those long evenings.

Or hire a video from our huge stock!

Jigsaws, gifts for the family, postcards, coal and peat.

Powerful midge repellants always in stock!

Large car park — Beach and camping nearby

Open till 11 pm seven days a week

Munros of Benderloch — two miles north of Connel Bridge on the
A828 Oban to Fort William Scenic Coast Route.

Official suppliers to the 1987 Pictish Expedition to Arndamurchan Light.

SEALIFE CRUISES

Our specialised inter-island cruises are for small numbers only — max. 12 persons, and must be pre-booked, thus ensuring *personal attention* at all times.

Spend a fascinating and instructive day exploring the abundance of wildlife on cruises to and landing at:

- a) TRESHNISH ISLES/STAFFA - puffin, skua, orchids, seals etc. etc. Lovely, uninhabited islands and their wildlife.
- b) EIGG/MUCK - killer whales, rafts of Shearwater, gannets etc. Ardnamurchan lighthouse.
- c) ISLE OF COLL - Hire cycles to explore miles of deserted beaches.

Information and bookings to:

Richard and Judy Fairbairns, Sealife Cruises, Quinish, Dervaig,
Isle of Mull. Tel: 06884 223 Fax: 06884 383

Isles of Colonsay and Oronsay - Inner Hebrides



Remote and unspoilt, the islands encompass 20 square miles of paradise for the naturalist - almost 170 species of birds (list on request), also otters, feral goats, a major breeding colony of the grey seal (pupping in September), 500 species of local flora as well as two of the few remaining natural remaining woodlands of the Hebrides and the exotic rhododendron collection in the woodland of Colonsay House.

Historic Sites include St. Columba's pre-Iona foundation at Oronsay Priory, some excellent duns, a Viking ship burial, crannog-sites in Loch Fada etc. There are no day-trippers, no caravanners, etc., but there is a small, comfortable hotel offering table d'hôte cuisine based on local fresh produce (Ashley Courtney recommended). Drive on-off car and passenger ferry ex-Oban Monday, Wednesday, Friday (2½ hour passage). Dinner, accommodation and breakfast from £43 including VAT and service. Free bicycles. Full central heating; all rooms (except singles) with private facilities en suite. There are also three luxury self-catering chalets, which adjoin the hotel; each unit sleeps five, all bed linen is provided plus daily maid service. Off-season rental from £100 weekly. Also special demi-pension arrangements for field study parties. Details on request.

THE HOTEL

Isle of Colonsay, Argyll PA61 7YP (Kevin and Christa Byrne) Tel: Colonsay (09512) 316

BTA commended Country Hotel

TOROSAY CASTLE & GARDENS near CRAIGNURE. ISLE OF MULL

12 acres of idyllic formal, woodland and water gardens set in beautiful scenery, open all year.

Castle open late-April to mid-October.

Ornithologists' paradise — walk through woods, along the shore or across the moor.

Torosay Castle & Gardens

COLUMBA HOTEL

The Esplanade, Oban PA34 5QD.

Telephone: (0631) 62183 (4 lines) Fax: (0631) 64683
Central Reservations Telephone: 0800 833910

Table d'Hôte, à la Carte, Luncheons and Bar Suppers available in our restaurants overlooking Oban Bay and the Islands of Kerrera and Mull.

Enjoy our seafood specialities whilst watching glorious sunsets!

Ideally situated for wildlife trips. Boats for seal observation leave from the pier adjacent to the hotel.

Complete Wedding and Conference services in our new function suite.

**For reservations contact Will Wakefield, General Manager, or
Iain Henderson, Assistant Manager, on Oban (0631) 62183**

PRINTING

FOR A FAST, RELIABLE SERVICE
COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF
PRINT AND DESIGN

Telephone: 3218

or call in to discuss your requirements

Magazines · Brochures · Leaflets
Multi Part Sets · Letterheads
Business Cards · etc

***LET US QUOTE FOR YOUR
NEXT PRINT ORDER***

E. & R. INGLIS

219 ARGYLL STREET
DUNOON

