
THE EIGHTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT



Great Egret TSLAY

P. SNOW ©

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ARGYLL BIRD CLUB
1992

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.

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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 the report and newsletters. 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 3). 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 EIGHTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

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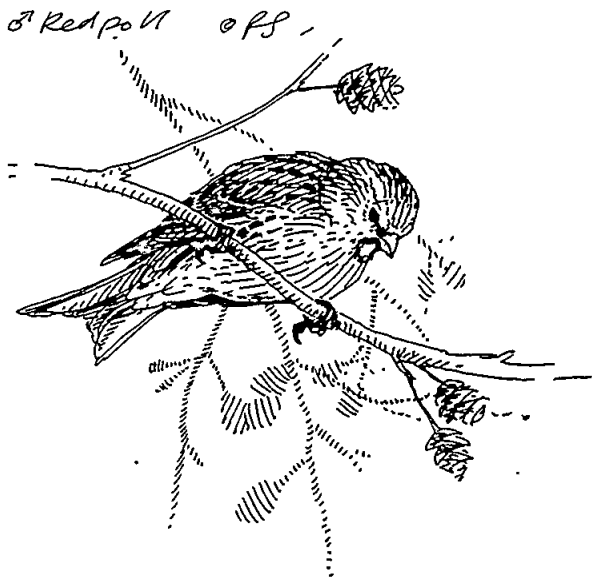
Editorial

A few changes have occurred in this latest edition of the *Argyll Bird Report*. Clive Craik has decided that it will be more informative if the report of birds ringed and recovered in Argyll appeared every two or three years rather than annually. So, this is our first issue without Clive's contribution. However, to compensate far more papers were submitted for publication than in previous years, and I am happy to publish three. I hope potential authors will be encouraged to put pen to paper after reading these. The editorial committee would certainly like to see papers eventually forming up to half the contents of each report. Papers covering topics such as studies of individual species or communities, behavioural observations and identification problems would be welcome.

A number of people have helped greatly with the publication of this report. Peter Staley and Steve Eccles have managed to maintain our revenue from advertising. This has been a considerable achievement as firms have been reluctant to advertise during the current recession. Roger Broad, Liz Still and Nigel Scriven kindly acted as referees for the papers. Mike Madders has yet again put a tremendous effort into producing the systematic list and I thank Malcolm Ogilvie, David Jardine and Mike Madders for their papers. Philip Snow's drawing are superb, for which I am extremely grateful.

After editing the *Argyll Bird Report* for the last three issues, I have decided to retire. I have great admiration for the team I have worked with during this period and I thank them sincerely for all their efforts. During this period I have also had tremendous cooperation and help from the printers, E.&R.Inglis. I wish my successor well.

Steve Petty
Ardentinny, 14 March 1992



BARN OWLS ON ISLAY

Argyll Bird Report (1992) 8:4-9

Barn owls on Islay

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

In the summer of 1987, two students researching into aspects of chough biology and behaviour on Islay drew my attention to the presence of broods of barn owls in four different disused buildings on the island. With their help, a total of 14 young were ringed.

The following year, a systematic search was undertaken of disused farm buildings and houses over most of the island, during which nine active nests were found and 29 young and seven adults were ringed. Having discovered that Islay clearly held a thriving population of barn owls, I have continued the study in subsequent years and present some preliminary results here.

The main purpose of the study has been to find how many pairs breed each year on Islay and to monitor their breeding success. Ringing of the young is also an important part of the study to discover whether this is an entirely closed population or whether young birds might wander away from the island and thus affect numbers of barn owls found elsewhere.

In order to minimise disturbance, not least because some of the same buildings are also used for breeding by choughs, the number of visits paid to each site is kept to an absolute minimum, normally two per season, occasionally three, and sometimes, if timed right for ringing, only one. An increased number of visits would undoubtedly have provided better information on breeding success. The barn owl is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and visits to nests and the ringing of young in this study were covered by licences issued by the Nature Conservancy Council.

PAST HISTORY

The first systematic survey of barn owls on Islay was for the BTO Breeding Atlas project of 1968-72 (Sharrock 1976), when definite breeding was recorded in four of the 14 10-km squares or part squares covering the island. Birds were also seen in two other 10-km squares. Booth (1975) added that birds had been seen in seven different parts of the island in 1970-73. He also reported nesting in holes among rocks and in a root cavity formed by a tree half-blown over and used in both 1971 and 1972.

In 1982-85, the Hawk Trust (now the Hawk and Owl Trust) carried out a survey of breeding barn owls in Britain (Shawyer 1987). Nine breeding sites were identified on Islay, all in old buildings, one each in 1982 and 1983, six in 1984 and one in 1985. Birds were seen during the breeding season in four further areas. The breeding records were confined to four 10-km squares with sightings in three more, only four of which also had birds in 1968-72 (two breeding and two sightings). Of the breeding sites, five have been used during this study, but there was no trace of barn owls at four buildings that had recently been renovated. Nor are birds regularly seen in the four other areas mentioned.

The files of the Islay Natural History Trust contain details of sightings of barn owls, together with a handful of breeding records, since the 1960s. A literature search produced scattered records over the last 100 years, including breeding in a cave in 1934, but nothing to indicate breeding numbers or density.

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Table 1. Summary of barn owl nest sites on Islay, 1987-91.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Usable sites	17	17	16	15	16
Unusable sites	1	1	1	2	2
Active nests	4	9	7	5	10
Pair present (not breeding)	1	0	0	1	1
Single bird present	1	1	3	2	0
Fresh pellets present	3	0	1	1	1
No signs of barn owls	1	5	2	4	4
Total checked	9	15	13	13	16
% checked with active nests	44	60	54	38	63
Not checked	8	2	3	2	0

RESULTS

Breeding was recorded at 18 different sites during the five years of the study, though only 17 of these were available in any one year (Table 1). In addition, single birds were found roosting in three other sites although with no signs of breeding. One site in a house roof was used for a single year but became unsuitable the following year because of renovations and was replaced by a nest-box in an adjacent barn, though it has yet to be used. This is classed as a single site. After 1987 fairly constant effort was put into searching for new sites and checking old ones, with between 15 and 17 sites checked each year and no more than three sites left unchecked in any year. Of these, there were no signs of owls at two sites in 1988, they remained unchecked in 1989 and 1990, but had nesting birds when looked at in 1991. A new site, unchecked in 1988, was discovered in 1989, and another, hitherto unchecked, in 1991.

Ringling has shown that some adults were present at different sites in different years. There were three definite and one less certain pairs of sites linked by the same adult (three of which were female and one undetermined). The mean distances between these linked sites (mean 2.4 km, range 1.3-3.5, $n=4$) was smaller than between active nests found in the same year (mean 5.8 km, range 0.8-14.3, $n=16$). The closest that two pairs bred together (0.8 km) occurred with the establishment of a new site in 1991 next to the most productive pair (19 young reared in five years).

Nests have been found in eight 10-km squares, with a maximum of seven in one square, though not all used in the same year. These include all four of the squares from which Shawyer (1987) reported breeding, but only two of the four recorded by Sharrock (1976). All the nests have been in derelict buildings, either in the roof spaces of single storey buildings (13) or in two-storey buildings (3). One was in a hole in the interior gable of a barn, while the remaining nest was in a hole specially constructed as a chough nest site in the chimney of a roofless cottage. No attempt has been made to search for nests other than in buildings though as has already been mentioned, nests in caves and other hollows have been recorded in the past.

With one exception, the various buildings used for breeding are within or on the edge of farmland. The exception lies inside a young (<7-year-old) forestry plantation though farmland is no more than a kilometre away. Because it is often the more remote farmhouses and bothies which are

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Table 2. Breeding success of barn owls on Islay, 1987-91.

Year	Nests		Eggs		Hatch		Fledge		No. young fledged per successful pair
	Laid	Failed	N	mean	N	n	mean	N mean	
1987	4	0	14	3.5	—	—	—	14	3.5
1988	9	0	38	4.2	3	(1)	3.0	33	3.7
1989	7	3	25	3.6	11	(3)	3.7	13	1.9
1990	5	0	23	4.6	8	(2)	4.0	16	3.2
1991	10	0	36	3.6	19	(6)	3.2	28	3.0
Totals	35	3	136	3.9	41	(12)	3.4	104	3.3

Notes.

1. Hatching data are solely for those nests for which accurate data are available, the number of nests being given in parentheses.

2. The nest failures in 1989 were all before hatching.

Table 3. Fledging success of barn owls on Islay in relation to clutch size, 1987-91

Clutch size	Nests		Number of young fledging							Fledged/nest	
	No.	Failed	1	2	3	4	5	6	All	Successful	
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	1.0	
2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2.0	1.0	
3	9	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	2.3	2.6	
4	14	2	0	1	1	10	0	0	2.3	2.6	
5	6	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	3.7	3.7	
6	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3.7	3.7	
Totals	35	3	2	6	9	12	3	0	3.0	3.3	

abandoned by man, most of the nest sites are within areas of rough pasture with only one surrounded by improved grassland, and nearly all are close to the boundary between the farmland and moorland areas. In addition to the site within the young forestry plantation, five others are less than a kilometre from such habitat, which could be expected to provide plenty of food, particularly field voles (Charles 1981).

The number of active nests has varied considerably between years, with 1988 and 1991 very good years, with 60% or more of checked sites having breeding pairs, while the intervening two years, particularly 1990 (38%), were comparatively poor. Breeding success (Tables 2 and 3) has similarly varied, with 1988 the best year. Although 1991 had most active nests, overall success was actually the lowest of the sequence. Optimal clutch size for production of young appears to be greater than the modal clutch size of four eggs (Table 3), though sample sizes were small.

It must be emphasised that the figures in the tables may not be very

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accurate. Mean clutch size is certainly a minimum figure as it has happened only rarely that a nest visit was made early in incubation, when a reliable estimate could be made, though we have no actual evidence of egg loss. This is probably why it is well below the figure of 4.7 given by Bunn *et al.* (1982), and why the maximum clutch size is no more than six, compared with his nine, though other factors, such as latitude or habitat, may be involved. Similarly, the number of young fledging has often had to be estimated at the time of ringing. However, it should be fairly reliable as most ringing has been carried out on well-grown young and indeed is very close to the 3.1 of Bunn *et al.*

Table 4. Usage of nesting sites and breeding success of barn owls on Islay, 1987-91

Usage of site	No. of sites	Failed breeding	Clutch	Means Hatch	Fledge	Fledged per successful nest
Bred in 5 years	2	0	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.6
" " 4 "	1	0	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0
" " 3 "	2	1	3.5	2.0	1.7	2.0
" " 2 "	2	1	3.8	2.8	2.8	3.7
" " 1 "	11	1	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.1

A somewhat surprising fact is that of the 18 sites where breeding has taken place over the five years of the study, only two have been used in all five years while no less than eleven have only been used once (Table 4). There is some indication of better breeding success at the sites used regularly, perhaps because they are well-established pairs breeding in better habitat, but the evidence is not very convincing and the sample sizes too small to test properly.

A total of 95 young and 15 adults have so far been ringed. Adults have been caught by chance when present at the nest site and unwilling or unable to escape. No deliberate catching of adults has been attempted. No ringed chick has yet been subsequently found breeding. Three young birds have been found dead close to the nest site within three months of fledging, while one was found dead 9 km away a year after ringing. It was within 200 m of another nest site though the significance of this, if any, is unknown. So far there has been no evidence of birds leaving the island though a post-breeding population in 1988 of over 50 birds coupled with the relative infrequency of sightings, does raise the question of whether or not there might be some emigration. On the other hand, it is known from studies elsewhere (summarised in Shawyer 1987) that first winter mortality can be as high as 75% so that if this occurs on Islay the post-breeding population would quickly decline.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The study has revealed a minimum breeding population for Islay of 10 pairs of barn owls. Parts of the island have not been searched at all, including the extreme south-east where breeding was reported in the early 1970s, and buildings in other areas have been less thoroughly covered, while the use of natural sites has not been investigated. The main constraint on a more complete survey was time. It seems probable, therefore, that the true population is greater than 10 pairs. This is higher than any previous estimate. There are, though, some strange gaps in distribution, particularly in the west

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of the island, where there seem to be both nest sites and plenty of suitable habitat, yet no owls. It is possible that the greater exposure of the western part of the island is a determining factor.

So far, four of the 18 sites used for nesting have become unsuitable during the course of the study. A nest box was erected in one barn close to a house that was renovated, but sites for nest boxes were absent near the other three sites. However, ringed adults from two of them have since been found breeding at other new sites suggesting that there is not a serious shortage of available nest sites. Certainly, there are several apparently suitable derelict buildings in various parts of the island. The creation of a completely new nest site in a chimney of a roofless bothy, albeit intended for choughs and usurped by barn owls, opens up even more scope for creating new sites.

Barn owls on Islay appear not to be suffering from the major problems facing them elsewhere in Britain, such as loss of nest sites through barn conversions, rodenticide poisoning and changes in agricultural practices, though there have been at least three road casualties reported in the last four years. However, the well-being of even this comparatively small number of pairs is of interest, particularly since the species is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and is scarce in Argyll. It is therefore intended to continue this study at the present fairly low input of time and energy, but it would be wise to investigate other aspects if and when resources become available. For instance, peak numbers of active nests in 1988 and 1991 suggest that barn owls on Islay may be dependent on field voles with populations fluctuating on a three-year cycle. In addition, Taylor (1991) suggested that 3.2 chicks per pair per annum was needed to achieve population stability in low pastoral farmland in south Scotland. On Islay, barn owls produced 2.8 chicks per pair suggesting that productivity would need to be higher if the population was to increase, unless other demographic factors, for instance mortality, were different.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful firstly to Liz Still and Clive McKay who sowed the first seed; to the various people who helped me in 1988, holding ladders and often being held in turn, less comfortably, by barn owls' feet; and especially to Mike Peacock who, since 1989, has shared the study with me, using his superior climbing skills to penetrate roof-spaces where I was reluctant to go. We continue to argue as to who is the heavier. So far, ancient and woodworm-eaten joists have bent but not broken. I am also most grateful to the landowners and farmers, with particular mention of David Boyd, Factor of Islay Estates, for their willingness to grant permission to visit the different sites and for their interest in the birds. I also thank the Nature Conservancy Council for providing the licences for this work. Finally, I am grateful to Mike Madders and Julia Welstead for comments on an earlier draft and to Steve Petty and two anonymous referees for constructive criticism of the submitted version.

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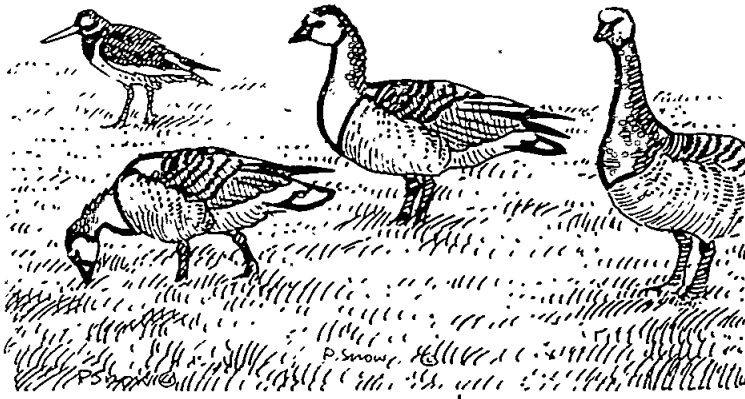
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BUZZARD DIET

Argyll Bird Report (1992) 8:10-12

Prey remains at buzzard eyries in Colonsay and Oronsay.

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INTRODUCTION

As part of a study of the breeding biology of the buzzard on the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay data on prey remains were collected. This short paper presents these data and compares them with previously published information on the diet of buzzards in Argyll and elsewhere.

METHODS

Between 1988 and 1991 prey remains were identified in 36 active eyries during visits in mid to late June to ring nestlings, when the young were at least ten days old. The eyries were spread throughout the two islands and were in habitats representative of all those occupied by the population of around 20 pairs of buzzard (Jardine unpublished data). Rabbit hind paws were collected and the weight of individuals was estimated using a growth

Table 1. Prey items found in buzzard nests on the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay, 1988-1991.

Species	Number of individuals(%)	Estimate of total biomass g(%)
Rabbit	52 (57)	20105 (86)
Brown rat	8 (9)	550 (2)
Total mammals	60 (66)	20650 (88)
Meadow pipit (adults and juveniles)	15 (17)	288 (1)
Wheatear (juveniles only)	4 (5)	92 .
Starling (juveniles only)	2 (2)	148 (1)
Song thrush (adults only)	2 (2)	152 (1)
Blackbird (adults and juveniles)	2 (2)	181 (1)
Snipe (adult)	1 (1)	119 (1)
Red-breasted merganser (adult)	1 (1)	1201 (5)
Lapwing (juvenile)	1 (1)	205 (1)
Rock dove (adult)	1 (1)	270 (1)
Wren (juvenile)	1 (1)	9 .
Chaffinch (adult)	1 (1)	20 .
Total Birds	31 (34)	2685 (12)
Total birds and mammals	91 (100)	23340 (100)

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Table 2. Size and estimated weight of rabbit prey from buzzard nests on Colonsay and Oronsay, 1988-1991. Estimated weights were taken from Cowan (1983).

Hind paw length (mm)	Estimated weight (g)	Number of prey remains	Total weight (g)
40	50	2	100
45	100	-	-
50	150	6	900
55	220	8	1760
60	380	3	1140
65	460	9	4140
70	550	9	4950
75	675	1	650
80	800	1	800
85	1000	1	1000
Total	-		15465

curve derived from Cowan (1983). Other mammalian remains were weighed to allow estimates of total weight to be made. Weights of birds were estimated from data given by Hickling (1983). Nearly all feather remains were readily identified, with only one requiring confirmation by the Royal Scottish Museum. When possible prey remains were removed from the eyrie to prevent double counting. No attempt was made to collect and analyse pellets which may have shed more light on the diet of buzzards.

RESULTS

Ninety-one prey items were identified from 13 species (Table 1). Rabbits were the commonest prey comprising 57% by number and 86% by weight. The weight was estimated for 40 rabbits and nearly all were less than half the adult weight (Table 2). Brown rat was the only other mammal recorded. Eleven species of bird were recorded from 31 different kills. The majority were small passerines and only four non-passerines were recorded. Seventeen of the bird kills, comprising 25% by weight, were juveniles or nestlings.

DISCUSSION

The method I used to assess buzzard diet has two weaknesses. First, small prey items may be missed. For example, earthworms have been shown to be important to buzzards elsewhere. Second, the diets of many raptors vary seasonally, and my study quantified diet just over the latter part of the nestling period. However, the range of prey items found at buzzard eyries on Colonsay and Oronsay is not dissimilar to that found in other studies in Argyll (Maguire 1979) and elsewhere in the Highlands (Swann pers. comm.), both used similar methods.

Maguire (1979) recorded seven mammalian species, including field vole and wood mouse, as well as adder and frog in buzzard diet in Kintyre. Field voles do not occur on Colonsay (Warwick, 1939) although they are often taken by buzzard when present (Tubbs, 1974). Wood mouse and house mouse are present on Colonsay (Warwick, 1939), but were not recorded as prey in this

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study, although the former has been noted elsewhere. The only reptiles occurring on Colonsay and Oronsay are small populations of slow worm and common lizard (Warwick, 1939). There are no amphibians. Neither of the reptiles were recorded as prey in my study although Tubbs (1974) recorded both as prey in the New Forest.

Maguire (1979) also recorded rabbit in all 50 nests in his sample in Kintyre. This was similar to my study where only one nest had no rabbits. Nearly all the rabbit prey were immature. The few adults recorded were not fresh and may have been taken as carrion. The average weight of rabbit prey was only half of the recorded weight of an adult male buzzard, the smaller of the adults.

Tubbs (1974) records of avian prey in the New Forest ranged in size from blackbird to jackdaw. Maguire (1979) records 33 avian prey items of 14 species including only one chaffinch, one starling and three song thrushes. All other prey were larger. On Colonsay and Oronsay most of the bird kills were small species weighing less than 100 g and mainly immature (Table 1). Many of these kills would have been taken when the buzzards chicks were small. The largest bird prey, the red-breasted merganser may have been taken as carrion. Swann (pers. comm.) also found a wide range of avian prey including many small birds at his study in Glen Urquhart, Inverness-shire.

In summary the range of prey found in the eyries of buzzards on Colonsay and Oronsay reflect the locally available prey (Jardine *et al.* 1986).

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GREYLAG GEESE ON COLL AND TIREE

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Wintering and breeding greylag geese on Coll and Tiree

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INTRODUCTION

The recent increase in the breeding and wintering populations of the greylag goose on Coll and Tiree is currently the subject of much discussion between crofters and conservationists, yet the expansion has been poorly documented. It is the purpose of this paper to review the available data for the period 1981-91 and to attempt a preliminary analysis. Areas of further research will be identified.

Reliable counts of wintering greylags are not available prior to 1981, but it is unlikely that the combined Coll and Tiree wintering population exceeded 200-250 birds in the post-war period and it may have been considerably less. Ogilvie and Atkinson-Willes (1983) stated that a wintering flock of 50-100 birds on Coll, "also seen on Tiree" seemed to have been established since the 1940s.

Greylags may have bred on both Coll and Tiree prior to 1932 (Boyd, 1958) and there have been scattered breeding reports prior to the current expansion. Breeding was recorded in two 10km squares on Coll during the BTO Breeding Bird Atlas, 1968-72 (Sharrock 1976) and 9 pairs are recorded as having bred there in 1969-70 (Blatchford 1971). Thom (1986) notes that "two or three pairs" were breeding on Coll in the early 1980s. Breeding has been recorded for the first time in recent years on several other Inner Hebridean islands, including Canna (1980), Rum (1982), Mull (1985) and Colonsay (1986) and it would therefore appear that the breeding range is expanding.

RESULTS 1981-91

Winter numbers

Regular counts of wintering geese on Coll and Tiree have taken place between November and March each year since the winter of 1982/3, although their primary purpose was to count Greenland white-fronted geese and it is only since 1988/9 that greylags have been given equal emphasis. Data from National Wildfowl Counts have also been incorporated in the results presented here, together with incidental records of wintering greylags contributed via the county bird recorder. These disparate methods of data collection place a number of limitations on the analysis. The most serious drawback is that some of the counts are not the result of systematic coverage of all known greylag haunts and are therefore absolute minima. In particular,

Table 1. Numbers of wintering greylag geese on Coll and Tiree.

	81/2	82/3	83/4	84/5	85/6	86/7	87/8	88/9	89/90	90/91
Tiree	57	92	44	291	710	532	782	584	977	1198
Coll	nc	143	261	255	213	137	nc	276	165	142
TOTAL	na	235	305	546	923	669	na	860	1142	1340

nc = not counted, na = not available

GREYLAG GEESE ON COLL AND TIREE

the Coll counts for the winters of 1981/2 and 87/8 are considered to be inadequate and have therefore been discarded. Another problem is that counts on Coll and Tiree were rarely simultaneous and therefore interchange of geese between the two islands may have occurred between the counts.

Table 1 shows the peak winter counts for each island. Despite the caveats noted above, it is obvious that there has been a considerable increase in numbers of wintering greylag on Tiree, although numbers on Coll have not changed significantly. The combined Coll and Tiree total would appear to have increased steadily from a winter peak of less than 250 birds in 1982/3 to over 1300 birds in 1990/91. There are, as yet, no discernible signs of this increase starting to level-out.

Table 2. Bi-monthly counts, winter 88/89.

	Nov	Jan	Mar
Coll	193	276	212
Tiree	584	435	378
Total	777	711	590

In the winter of 1988/9, bi-monthly counts (Table 2) demonstrated that the combined Coll and Tiree greylag numbers declined from an early winter peak and that by mid-March only 78% of the November total remained. The numbers on Coll, however, were slightly higher in March than they had been in November, and this trend is also exhibited by the data from the monthly counts of selected sites covered for NWC on Coll for the winters 1983/4 to 1986/7. The latter in fact record an even greater increase in February/March, but this may be due to pre-migratory concentrations of greylags at the count sites, rather than a large increase in overall numbers. If the drift away of wintering greylags from Tiree noted during the winter of 1988/9 is a regular occurrence, it would be interesting to establish the pattern of dispersal of these birds.

Summer numbers

Figure 1 shows the combined Coll and Tiree totals for the number of summering and breeding birds. Once again, there is disparity in the way in which the data were gathered, caused by differing survey techniques, census dates and thoroughness of coverage. The surveys of 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1991 were the most comprehensive, however, and the data points between these years do not contradict the general trend. The counts suggest that from a summering population of around 50-100 birds in the early 1980s, numbers increased sharply between 1987 and 1990 to a minimum of around 650 birds. Data from 1991 indicate that this rate of population increase may be slowing down, although it is too soon yet to predict when or if the population is likely to stabilise.

Numbers of breeding birds have also increased over this period; only 5 broods (totalling 28 young) were seen in 1985, compared with 79 broods (totalling 234 young) in 1991. This increase is considerably less than that of the numbers of summering birds, although it must be stressed that the breeding figures are absolute minima. The terrain in which greylags breed make nest location extremely difficult and comprehensive nest searching has not been a priority of recent survey work on Coll and Tiree. In addition, the

GREYLAG GEESE ON COLL AND TIREE

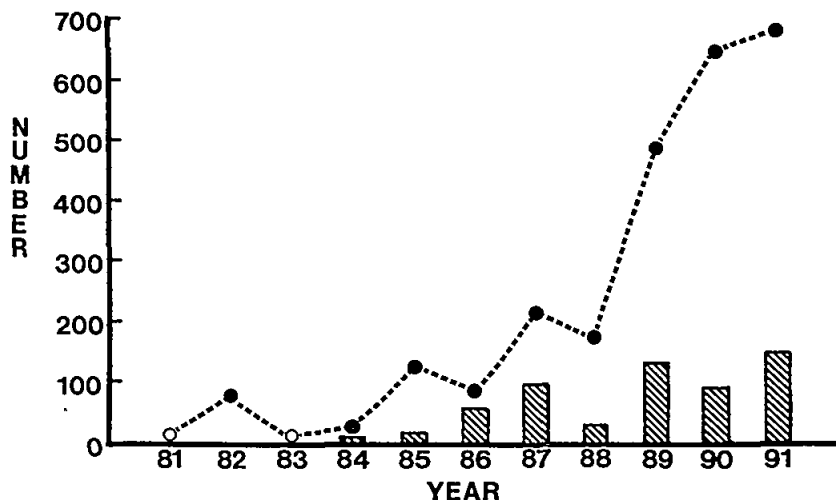


Figure 1. Combined numbers of summering (line) and breeding (bars) greylag geese on Coll and Tiree. Open circles = no count.

numbers of breeding birds are mostly calculated from counts of broods and therefore take no account of failed breeding attempts. It would be premature, therefore, to hypothesise that breeding numbers are perhaps being limited by density dependent factors, such as nest site availability.

Seasonal distribution

The winter and summer counts show a clear distinction in seasonal distribution between the two islands. In the period 1985-91, Coll has held a mean of 66% (range 56-79%) of the combined summer population and a similar proportion of the breeding population. In winter, however, a mean of only 21% (range 10-47%) of the total were recorded on Coll over the same period. A decline in the relative importance of Tiree for greylags as the winter progresses can be observed in Table 2, where 75% of the combined population were on Tiree in November, but only 64% by March. Further counts that year revealed that Tiree held only 48% of the combined total by April and 27% in July.

Comparison of Table 1 and Figure 1 reveals that the increase in numbers of wintering birds occurred ahead of the increase in numbers of observed summering birds. It seems reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the growth in the summering population is a consequence of a proportion of the wintering birds opting to remain on Coll and Tiree through the summer. Some breeding pairs are already established on the Coll breeding grounds in early April (A Knight, pers. comm.) and it is feasible that their presence could encourage any wintering or passage greylag to remain.

Figure 2 shows the four most reliable summer counts as a proportion of the previous winters' peak count. From representing about a quarter of the previous winters' total in 1985, the summering population represented over a half in 1989 and 1991. This suggests that the increased summering population is a result not only of larger numbers of birds wintering, but also a greater proportion staying behind. Figure 2 also suggests that the latter trend may have stabilised and this, coupled with apparent signs of levelling-

GREYLAG GEESSE ON COLL AND TIREE

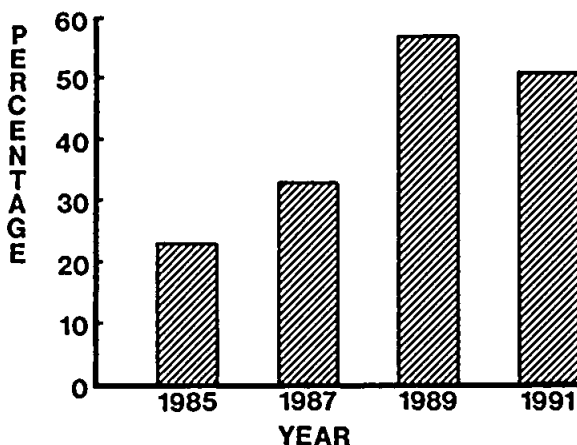


Figure 2. Combined counts of summering greylag geese on Coll and Tiree as a percentage of the previous winters' peak count.

out in the increase of summering numbers, may be the first indications that the summering population is reaching its optimum level. It should be noted, however, that little data exists for the island of Gunna, where a number of birds (probably mainly failed/non-breeders) are known to moult each summer.

Origin of the population

Given the data currently available, it is difficult to speculate upon the origins of the greylag geese that have colonised Coll and Tiree. There is no evidence to suggest that feral greylag populations, established since the 1930s, mainly in southern and eastern Scotland, have fuelled the expansion in the Inner Hebrides. The only significant local feral flock comprises 20-30 birds and is located on the mainland near Oban (c. 70 km distant). The breeding success of these birds appears to be poor and there has been no observed expansion of their range. Greylag geese on Coll and Tiree have therefore most probably originated from populations in either Iceland or the Outer Hebrides, or a combination of the two. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine what degree of interchange currently occurs between the Coll and Tiree population and that found in the Outer Hebrides. Evidence of migration from the latter was considered to be slight by Ogilvie (1978), but recent observations of movements of birds to and from Tiree outwith the main periods of greylag passage have suggested that some interchange does currently occur (A Knight, pers. comm.). Wintering numbers on Coll and Tiree still exceed the summer population by almost 100%, but whether the additional birds are all Icelandic migrants is unknown. Unfortunately, no age counts of wintering greylag flocks on Coll and Tiree have been attempted, so it is not possible to compare annual breeding success with breeding data from the Coll/Tiree or other populations.

Is it possible to calculate whether it would be feasible for the increase in wintering numbers to be accounted for solely by the production of young birds, irrespective of breeding locality? Table 3 shows the number of additional greylags on Coll and Tiree for six winters where the data allows an accurate calculation, together with the percentage of young birds that would

GREYLAG GEESE ON COLL AND TIREE

Table 3. Number by which greylag count exceeded previous winter's count for 6 winters between 1983/4 and 1990/1 and percentage of young necessary in flock to explain increase alone.

	1983/4	1984/5	1985/6	1986/7	1989/90	1990/91
Increase	70	241	397	-254	282	198
% young	22.9	44.1	40.1	0	24.7	14.8

be expected in the overall wintering flock if these alone were to account for the increase. These calculations make no allowance for adult mortality, of course, and are therefore minima. The values calculated for the percentage of young necessary range from 0 - 44% with a mean of 24%. This is rather higher than the annual breeding success for Icelandic greylag geese over the same period (1983/4 to 1990/91), which ranged from 11 - 33% with a mean of 19% (Ogilvie, unpublished data). However, breeding success appears to be inversely correlated with population size (Owen *et al.* 1986) and it is probable that greylags breeding on Coll and Tiree have enjoyed a much higher breeding success than those that breed in Iceland. Although only small numbers of greylag appear to have been breeding on Coll and Tiree during the early years of the increase in the wintering population, they may therefore have contributed disproportionately to overall breeding success. Furthermore, their current contribution to overall breeding success may, in fact, now be sufficient to explain the annual increase in wintering numbers. The summer count of 234 young recorded in the 1991 breeding season, for example, comfortably exceeds the increase of 186 greylags between the winter counts of 1990/1 and 91/2 (Madders 1991). It would therefore seem plausible for improved breeding success to be a major factor in the increase of the Coll and Tiree wintering population. Any recruitment of greylags from outwith the Inner Hebrides into the wintering population would only need to have occurred for 2-3 years during the early part of the increase, thereafter the expansion could have been sustained by locally breeding birds.

The population expansion co-incides with a widespread improvement in grassland management, particularly on Tiree. It would be expected for this to enable wintering geese to return to their breeding grounds in better condition and therefore be more likely to breed successfully. However, the improved grazing may also have encouraged greylags from other wintering populations to move to Tiree and there may be other, extrinsic, factors responsible for the increase in winter numbers on Coll and Tiree.

THE FUTURE

Further research is required to record the numbers, distribution and movements of greylag geese on Coll and Tiree. Breeding success and the dispersal of fledged young need to be monitored more comprehensively and the proportion of young birds in the early winter flocks should also be annually monitored. A limited colour-ringing programme, involving catching birds in both winter and summer, would enable an estimate of the proportion of migratory birds within the wintering population to be calculated and would indicate the degree of interchange with other Scottish greylag populations. If blood samples were taken from summering birds it may be possible to determine the likely origins of the breeding population.

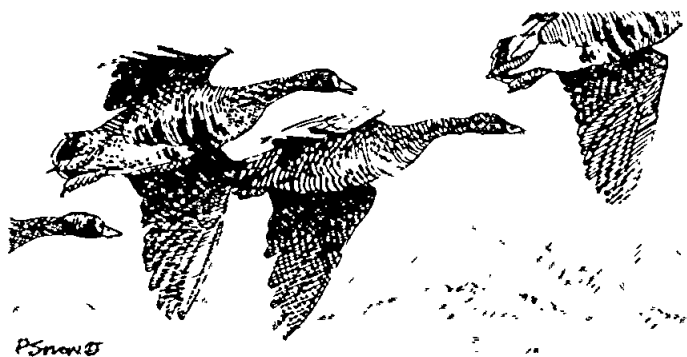
GREYLAG GEESE ON COLL AND TIREE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The counts of wintering greylag geese are the result of the annual Coll and Tiree goose census, funded by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Group. These counts have been conducted principally by Andy Knight, Julia Welstead, Sandra Whyte and myself. Summer counts were undertaken by NCC in 1987 and more recently have been carried out principally by Andy Knight on contract to the RSPB while engaged on other aspects of the island's ecology. National Wildfowl Counts and additional counts have been undertaken by the following: S. Benn, R.A. Broad, D.M. Bryant, T. Curtis, G.M. de Mornay, L.M. Fox, G. Carr, M. Green, M. Hutchinson, D. Jackson, A.C. Knight, M. Madders, S.F. Newton, S. Percival, P. Robinson, D.B. Sexton, D.A. Stroud, J.W. Welstead, S. Whyte. Grateful acknowledgements are due to all. I am grateful to Roger Broad, Malcolm Ogilvie, Nigel Scriven and Julia Welstead for their comments on an earlier draft of this paper. Julia Welstead drew the figures.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Argyll Bird Report (1992) 8:19-67

Systematic list for 1991

Mike Madders

Carnduncan, Gruinart, Bridgend, Isle of Islay, Argyll PA44 7PS

INTRODUCTION

A total of over 6,000 records were entered onto the Argyll bird records database in 1991. Once again, information has been drawn from additional sources such as National Wildfowl Counts, Birds of Estuaries Enquiry, etc. As well as being used for the compilation of this report, this data forms a valuable resource base for use in conservation enquiries, species/habitat management and research. In response to several comments relating to the format of the systematic list, I have replaced the numbered regions (I-VI) with area names, eg. Kintyre, North Argyll, Coll, etc. These should make for an easier and slightly more accurate interpretation of the species accounts. Please note, however, that all the area names used are in effect sub-divisions of the original numbered regions - data from the 1991 report is therefore completely compatible with that from previous reports.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to everyone who submitted records in 1991 and hope that they will continue to support the report in future years. A full list of contributors appears below. 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. The following people made especially important contributions to particular sections of the systematic list: Roger Broad (schedule 1 species), Eddie Maguire (Kintyre records) Gordon Scott (Oban area records) and Malcolm Ogilvie (Islay records). Proof reading & criticism of the draft report was by Roger Broad, David Jardine, Arthur Jennings, Malcolm Ogilvie and Steve Petty. Any mistakes that remain, however, are entirely mine.

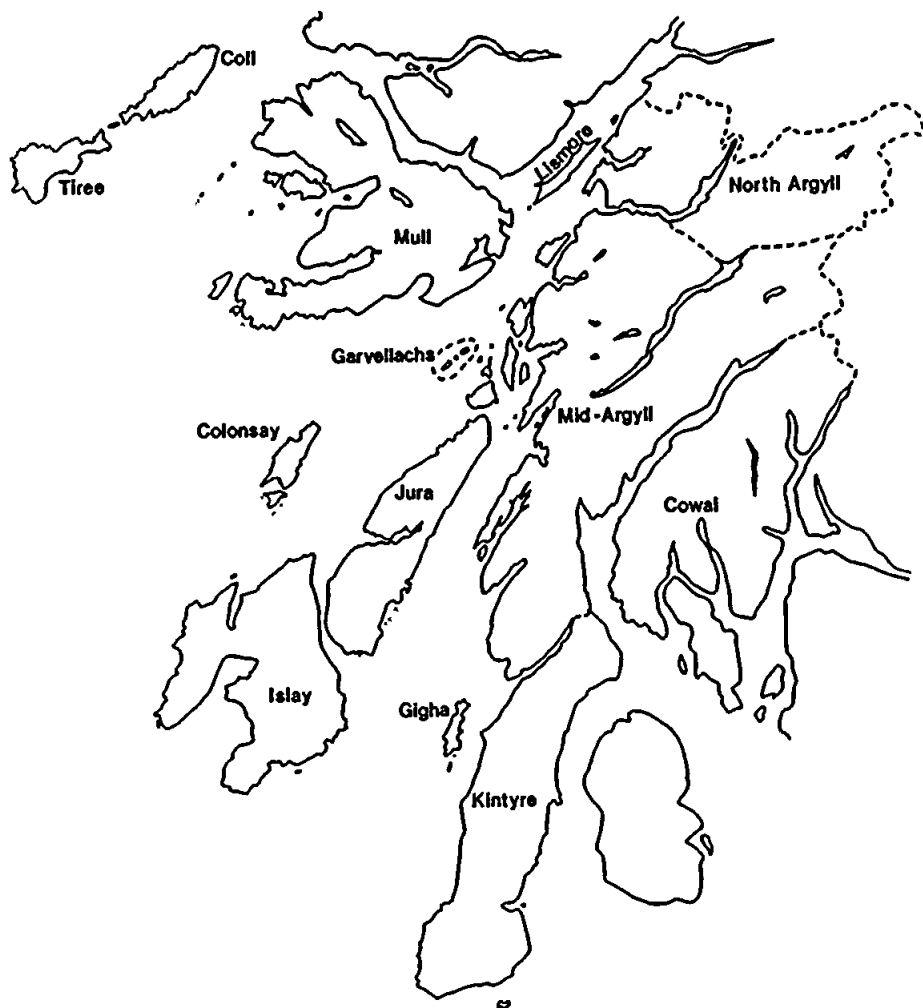
The information in this systematic list is derived from a computerised database written especially for recording Argyll's birdlife. I would like to thank Paul Backhouse for his continuing support in developing and refining this system.

The Argyll Bird Club and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club contributed towards the expenses incurred in recording Argyll's birdlife in 1991.

Contributors in 1991

GM Adam, A Alexander, DA Anderson, E Anderson, J Anderson, RAGA Angus, P Atherton, F Aungier, PRR Backhouse, T Bagworth, CM Baker, B Bartok, BD & PM Batty, L Baxter, D Bennet, L Berry, J Blatcher, V Blaxter, M Bleaney, J Blindell, RM Blindell, A Bloggs, C J Bloor, S Blyth, M Boothman, JA Botham, C Bovaird, DF Bowman, G Boyce, J Bradfield, RA Broad, J Brodin, D Bromwich, D Brooks, D Brown, A Bullen, ID Bullock, S Burnet, S & S Burnett, K Butterworth, R Campbell, P Cashman, P Chanin, K Chard, J Chee, AA Clarke, J & P Clarke, M Clarke, J Clewley, R Craig, S Craig, JCA Craik, WT Cross, F Crystal, T Curtis, JE Dale, T Daniels, I Darling, P & D Dash, H Davidson, I Davidson, J Dawson, GM de Mornay, S Dixon, J Duncan-Jones, A Eastham, J & S Eccles, PJ Edwards, V Egan, DE Ellis, G Elson, M Etherington, A Evans, C Ferguson, FM Fleming, A Forsyth, S Foster, DS Fotheringham, MP Francis, J Frank, A French, S Fulford, J Gardner, K Gartside, S Gibson, ME

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991



Map showing the areas of Argyll used in this report.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Giles, I Gillés, P Goldborn, T Goldsmith, C Gomersall, A Good, EA Graham, J Grange, T Gravett, M Gregory, S Gregory, JB Halliday, MH Hancock, P & A Hanmer, B Harrington, D Harris, JM Harrison, B Harrup, J Hazlett, M Henderson, C Henty, JB Hodgson, AI Hogg, B Hoggar, J Holden, M & O Hollings, B Holt, J Howard, P Howarth, MGB Hughes, MV Jackson, MP James, DC Jardine, M Jardine, K Jarrett, J & T Jenkins, RJ Jennet, A Jennings, MT Jennings, R Johnson, C Johnson, K Johnston, A Kahane, J Keenan, P Kenyon, C Kerr, ERG Kidd, AC Knight, E Knight, G Langsbury, S Lawrence, PW Littler, S MacKinnon, J Mackenzie, P Mackintosh, M Madders, EJ Maguire, C Martin, J Martin, K Mason, W Mattingley, A McCulloch, D McDonald, V McFarland, J McGlynn, R McGowan, JMMcKeand, G McLellan, R Middlemiss, K Miller, S Milligan, KCC Mitchell, A Mooney, PC Moore, T Moran, G Morries, M Moss, NCCS, MA Ogilvie, H Pashley, M Pawlock, MA Peacock, RS Perry, SJ Petty, M Phillips, J Plackett, D Pollard, C Pollock, R Porteous, L Potter, ED Potter, D & L Primrose, C & D Quine, D Rampling, W Ronald, RSPB, NN Russel, TA Ryan, T Salmon, G Scott, H Searle, DB Sexton, C Sharp, B Shepherd, J Shepherd, H Smith, K Smith, TJ Southall, C & A Southgate, M Stables, PT & MJ Staley, J Seabrook, GC Steele, JM Stenning, A Stewart, M Stone, S Swift, FC Tadhunter, S Taylor, BH Thompson, C Thornton, D Thorogood, C Travis, J Trew, D Trigg, MI Trubridge, V Tulloch, DJ & U Turner, G Waite, A Watson-Jones, A Watterson, JW Welstead, C Whitworth, A Whyte, C Whyte, S Whyte, B Wiley, D Williams, I Williams, I Wilson, M & K Wilson, D Wolstencroft, K Wood, D Woodhouse, R Youngman.

BIRD RECORDING IN ARGYLL

Advice to contributors

All bird records are welcomed by the recorder. Sightings should be listed in Vocus 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 Survey 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 1992 records were sent on a regular basis throughout the year, but if this is not possible, please send them by January 31 1993 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 consider records of birds which are rare in either a British, Scottish or Argyll context. Details of unusual species should be sent to the recorder as soon as possible after the sighting. It is helpful if these records are submitted on the standard "unusual record form" available free of charge from the recorder. 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 in the *7th Argyll Bird Report* (1990). In some cases more detail may be requested from an observer before the record is submitted.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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

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 1991 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.

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 1991 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		
>	Direction of flight, eg. > N - flying north		
ptn	Plantation		
sev	Several		
ecl	Eclipse plumaged		
s/pl	Summer plumaged	w/pl	Winter plumaged
1st s.	First summer plumaged	2nd w.	Second winter plumaged
N-pl	Northern plumaged	S-pl	Southern plumaged
Int-pl	Intermediate plumaged	(eg. gold en 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)		

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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
 BTO British Trust for Ornithology
 RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 NCCS Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland
 nc no count

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.

1991

Kintyre: Sound of Gigha - 14 on Apr 15; 20 on Sep 25. Uisaed Pt - 195 > S/320 hrs, Aug-Oct with peak passage Sep 22-24. Islay: 13 L.Indaal, Mar 27. Jura: pair with b/2 on Jun 20. Colonsay: pr. present all summer but no breeding attempt recorded. Cowal: 1 L.Long, Jan 15; 2 Kames, Mar 11. Mid Argyll: breeding reported from one loch. Mull: 7 L.na Keal, May 27; 6 Carsaig Bay, May 29; 6 Calgary, Jun 22. Coll: min of 11 prs. probably attempted to breed with additional prs. on several other lochs.

Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* Learga dhubh 0003 BV

B W P Scarce, although probably under-recorded in winter. Breeding now only in Mid & N.Argyll. Breeding divers are very susceptible to disturbance. 1991: 9 prs. summered with additional non-breeding birds present at 1-2 lochs. 6 prs. proved to breed (2 on rafts) but only one chick known to have hatched. It is not known whether it fledged [RSPB].

Kintyre: Sound of Gigha - 18 on Apr 30; 31 on May 9; 46 on May 22; 9 on Jun 5; 8 on Aug 4; 55 on Aug 26; 28 on Sep 6; 33 on Sep 25; 6 on Oct 25. Islay: 5 Bruichladdich, Mar 17. Colonsay: 1 off Scalasaig, Apr 27. Mid-Argyll: 1 Oban Bay, Jan 5; 2 L.Leathan, Apr 21; 5 L.Nell, Jul 28. Mull: 2 L.na Keal, Feb 13; 2 Carsaig Bay, May 29; 2 L.na Keal, Dec 27. N.Argyll: 2 L.Tulla, May 15.

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 Cowal. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in early May. A few individuals summer.

1991

Kintyre: monthly max. of passage birds -

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Machrihanish Bay	19	46	3	1	0	12	17
Sound of Gigha	41	79	14	2	5	15	268

Peak counts - 268 Sound of Gigha, Oct 25; 21 Westport, May 5; 22 Dalkeith, May 5; 30 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 5; 22 Tayinloan, May 26; 12 Craighouse, Nov 25. Islay: 5 L.Guinart, Mar 29, 15 L.Indaal, Mar 27; 1 L.Gorm, May 24; 5 L.Indaal, Oct 30; 10 Ardnave Pt, Oct 30; 12 Claggain Bay, Dec 4. Cowal: 1 L.Long, Jan 18. Mid-Argyll: 25 Ardpatrik Pt, Dec 1. Mull: 12 L.Tuath, Feb 11; 12 L.Scradain, Mar 24; 15 L.na Keal, Mar 25 & 30; 6 L.Tuath, Jul 6; 1 L.na Keal, Sep 25. Tiree: 16 Crossapol Bay, Dec 29.

White-billed diver *Gavia adamsii* Learga bhlar 0005 V

1991#

Kintyre: 1 imm Machrihanish Bay, May 5 (subject to acceptance by BBRC).

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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).

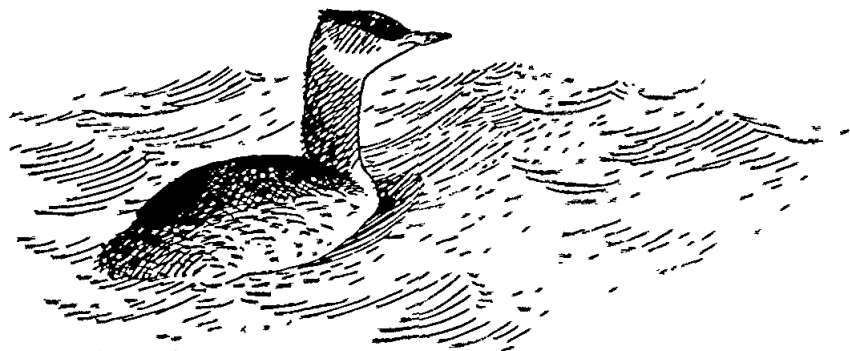
1991

Kintyre: 2 L.na Beiste, May 26. Islay: birds present on at least 5 lochs during breeding season. Colonsay: at least 1 pr. bred. Cowal: 4 St Catherine's, Nov 21. Mid-Argyll: breeding pairs present at Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith; L.Gleann a' Bhearraidh (b/1 on Jul 20); Bellanoch; Glen Cruitten; L.Nell (2 prs); L.Seil; Lochan Dubh; Ballachuan L. Young reared at L.Gleann a' Bhearraidh & L.Nell. Peak winter count - 11 L.Feochar, Feb 5. Mull: 2 prs. bred Mishnish L. Peak count 9 Mishnish L, Sep 15. N.Argyll: probably bred, Lochan na Beithe. Peak count 8 L.Etive, Dec 1.

Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Gobhlachan Iaparan 0009 GG
V Rare. Most records in autumn.

1991#

Kintyre: 1 Uisead Pt, Aug 2. Islay: 1 L.Gorm, Apr 4; 1 L.Indaal, Sep 1-Nov 24. Cowal: 2 L.Long, Jan 30-Feb 17, then 1 until Mar 9. Mull: 2 L.na Keal, Mar 11. N.Argyll: 1 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 27-Feb 28.



Red necked Grebe -
late autumn - P. H. W. @

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

1991#

Islay: 1 L.Indaal, Oct 23-Nov 25. Mid-Argyll: 1 Ardrishaig, Sep 29.

Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* Gobhlachan mara 0011 SZ
W P Regular wintering species in some sea lochs & sounds.

1991

Kintyre: Sound of Gigha - 6 on Feb 10; 19 on Apr 15; 1 on Sep 6; 17 on Oct 25. Islay: passage mid-Apr at L.Indaal; 1 Ardnave L, Aug 29; 1 L.Gorm, Dec 29.

Monthly max:

L.Indaal

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	11	6	41	0	0	0	0	16	36	29	17

Cowal: 4 L.Long, Dec 27. Mid-Argyll: 1 Ganavan, Jan 30 & Nov 7. Mull: 9 L.na Keal, Feb 13-Mar 10; 2 Ulva, Apr 24; 2 L.Spelve, Apr 25; 2 L.na Keal, Aug 27; 12 L.na Keal, Dec 27. N.Argyll: 2 Ardmucknish Bay, Feb 28.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Eun crom 0022 F
B W P Common but localised breeding species, Kintyre, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, Coll & Tiree.

1991

Kintyre: 22 aos Westport, May 24; 18 aos Muasdale, May 25; 27 aos Glenacardoch Pt, May 28. Uisaed Pt. - 864 >S/114 hrs, Aug; 175 >S/106 hrs, Sep; peak passage Sep 14; northern dark morph >S on Aug 1. Mull: 50 ashore Coireachan Gorma, Feb 13; 100 aos Caliach Pt, May 15; 200 aos Lunga, May 26. Garvellachs: 18 aos Garbh Eileach, Jun 29; 26 aos a' Chuli, Jun 29; 212 aos Eilean An Naoimh, Jun 29.

Great shearwater *Puffinus gravis* 0040 GQ
P Rare.

1991#

Kintyre: 1 between Kennacraig & Islay, Aug 31 (subject to acceptance by SBRC).

Sooty shearwater *Puffinus griseus* Fachadh dubh 0043 OT
P Large numbers sometimes recorded Aug/Sep.

1991: few reported.

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt - 5 >S & 1 >N, Sep. Ru Stafnish - 1 >N, Sep 2. Islay: Frenchman's Rocks - 3 on Aug 27; 4 on Sep 5; 3 on Sep 10; 1 on Sep 13.

Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh ban 0046 MX
B P Localised breeding species, Sanda & Treshnish Is. only?

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 800 >S/1 hr, Jun 10; 4,142 >S/114 hrs, Aug; 2,021 >S/106 hrs, Sep; 12 >S/100 hrs, Oct; peak passage Sep 15; last were 2 >S on Oct 13. Ru Stafnish - 16 >S/0.5 hrs, Apr 6; 785 >S/3 hrs, Sep 1. Islay: counts off Frenchman's Rocks (all >S) - 265/1 hr, Aug 20; 280/1 hr, Aug 24; 887/2 hrs, Sep 5, 440/1.75 hrs, Sep 10; 155/1.75 hrs, Sep 13. Mull: breeding confirmed on Lunga with numbers of calling birds in the low hundreds on Jul 14-15. First-2 L.Scridain, Apr 7; 61 off Scoor, Jun 18. Garvellachs: c. 400 offshore, Jun 14.

Storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* Paraig 0052 TM
B P Very localised breeding species, Sanda & Treshnish Is. Breeding birds come ashore late May/Jun. Passage off W coasts, Aug - Sep.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt - 53 >S/2.5 hrs, Jun 12; 71 >S/2 hrs, Aug 16; 22 >S/100 hrs, Oct with peak passage Oct 17; 1 Sound of Gigha, Oct 6. Islay: Frenchman's Rocks - 3 on Aug 20 & 1 on Aug 27. Also - 1 Port Ellen, Oct 19. Mid-Argyll: 1 Oban Bay, Oct 18; wrecked bird found at Kilmichael Glassary, Nov 10. Colonsay: 2 off Oransay, Aug 2. Mull: breeding confirmed on Lunga with at least 50-100 calling birds present in boulder field at N. end, Jul 14-15; half-grown young visible at one nest on Sep 7; 5 Caliach Pt, Jun 14. Tiree: 15 Hynish, Jun 14; 10 Hynish, Jun 15.

Leach's petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Gobhlan mara 0055 TL
P Rare.

1991#

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt - 1 >S, Sep 17; 67 >S/1.5 hrs, Sep 18; 1 >S, Sep 19; 21 >S, Oct 1; 2 >S, Oct 3; 48 >S, Oct 17.

Gannet *Sula bassana* Sulaire 0071 GX
S P Does not breed in Argyll - nearest colonies are Ailsa Craig & Shiant Is.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Common in inshore waters May-Sep.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - of a sample of 5,000 birds >S/217 hrs, Aug 15-Oct 17, 89% were adults, 10% were aged between 2-4 years & only 1% were juvs. Islay: 155 >S/1.75 hrs Frenchman's Rocks, Sep 13. Cowal: 4 L Long, Feb 22.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Sgarbh

0072 CA

R W Breeds in Kintyre, mid-Argyll & Mull. Much less numerous than Shag. Small numbers occur on some inland waters - movement to coastal waters in autumn.

1991

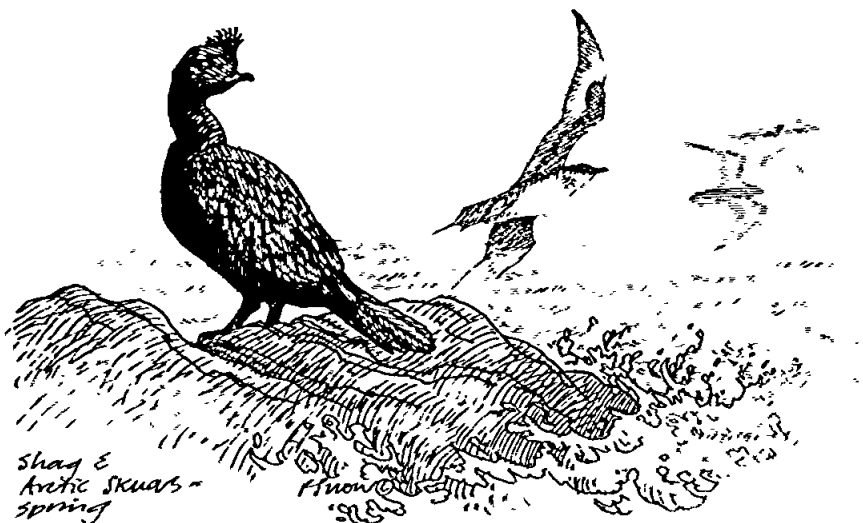
Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 24 >S/3.5 hrs, Oct 19; regular sample counts, Aug-Nov, indicated c. 60% were juvs./imms.

Islay:

Monthly max:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	39	6	2	8	1	0	4	2	8	23	6	20

Colonsay: single regular on L. Turraman, Jan. Cowal: 34 Holy L, Sep 22; 11 Holy L, Oct 12. Mid-Argyll: 46 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, Jul 4; 10 L. Feochan, Feb 5; 9 Dunollie, Sep 12; 10 L. Feochan, Oct 21 & Dec 9; 5 L. Nell, Dec 1. N. Argyll: 15 Port Appin, Feb 24.



Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh an sgumain

0080 SA

R W Very common.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - of 636 birds aged during Sep-Oct, 35% were juvs/imms; numbers of ads. increased from 106 in Sep to 309 in Oct. Mid-Argyll: 221 occ. nests, McCormaig Isles, Jul 4. Mull: 85 occ. nests, Lunga, May 26.

Little egret *Egretta garzetta* Corra gheal bheag

0119

V Rare.

1991#

Mid-Argyll: ad. Lochgilphead, Oct 3-6; the same or a different bird was present

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

at L.Craignish in the previous week.

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea* Corra ghritheach 0122 H
R Widespread. Breeding all regions. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 3 prs. bred Torrisdale Bay, May 4. Islay: up to 3 prs. bred, Foreland Marsh. Colonsay: c.10 prs. bred. Jura: 3 prs. bred. Cowal: at least 4 prs. bred, Ardgartan Forest. Mid-Argyll: 3 prs. bred, Oban; 6 prs. bred, Rubha na Moine.

Mute swan *Cygnus olor* Eala 0152 MS
R Widespread but uncommon breeding species, both inland & at sheltered coastal locations. Scarce breeder in region Kintyre; absent from Colonsay. 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).

1991

Kintyre: 11Campbeltown L, Apr 28; 11 Tayinloan, May 26; 14 A'Chleit, Jun 5. Islay: 21 (max. count) L.Indaal, Oct 25. Cowal: 26 Holy L, Sep 22 & Oct 12. Mid-Argyll: b/3 MacKay's L, Oban, May 28; b/7 L.Seil, May 28; b/5 L.Feochoan, Jun 27; b/4 Sound of Kerrera, Sep 24; also bred Ballachuan L, Bellanoch & Ulva Islands. Counts - 11 L.Feochoan, Jan 8, May 28 & Jul 2; 10 Balure, Jun 4; 30 Linne Mhuirich, Aug 29; 17 Oban Bay, Nov 1; 21 L.Crinan, Nov 12; 21 L.Craignish, Nov 15; 10 L.Nell, Dec 3. Mull: bred Garmony, Lochdon (2 prs.) & at least 3 other localities. Counts - 12 Lochdon, Sep 15. Coll: 6 Breachacha, Nov 14; 2 on Nov 29. Tiree: 38 on Nov 29; 26 L.a' Phuill, Nov 30. N.Argyll: bred lower L.Etive & Inverliever Bay. Counts - 16 L.Etive, Jan 23; 28 Airds Bay, Sep 15; 25 L.Etive, Nov 9.

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

1991#

Kintyre: 9 Stewarton, Nov 2. Islay: up to 4 ads, 1st seen in Oct 1990, seen L.Indaal & L.Skerrols, stayed until at least Feb 22, with a single still present on Mar 6. Colonsay: 2 L.Fada, May 3.

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.

1991

Kintyre: 7 Gigha, Jan 20; 2 L.Nan Gad, Apr 7; 5 on sea west of Gigha, May 28; 11 Chiscan Farm, Oct 5; 12 ads. & 16 imms, Chiscan Farm, Nov 1. Islay: 19 L.Indaal, Jan 10; autumn passage from late Sep, inc. peak of 88 at L.Indaal, Nov 9, declining to 43 by Nov 26, then 5 by Dec 24; total of 103 seen Sep-Nov, Gruinart RSPB reserve. Colonsay: 2 Oransay, Sep 2; total of c. 70 on autumn passage; 18 over Strand, Dec 24. Mid-Argyll: 1 Oban Bay, Jan 2-Apr 23; 5 L.Leathan, Jan 11; 5 L.Ederline Jan 26; 10 L.Seil, Feb 15; 12 Kilchurn Castle, Mar 10; 6 L.Tromlee, Mar 28; 14 Dunardry Lochs, Apr 15; 1 summered, L.Tromlee; 3 L.Nell, Oct 15. Mull: 22 Arle, Mar 25; 23 L.Spelve, Apr 13; 1 L.Cuin, Jun 14; 1 Uisken, Jun 15; 1 Carsaig Bay, Jul 2; 1 L.Tuath, Jul 5, 21 Dervaig, Oct 7; 15 L.Scridain, Oct 21. Coll: 5 on Apr 10; 2 on Nov 29. Tiree: 199 on Apr 10; 79 on Nov 29. N.Argyll: 2 ad. & 5 imm. Killandrist, Feb 2.

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

1991

Kintyre: 1 Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 15; 1 Westport Marsh, May 9; 1 Uisead Pt, Sep 11; 1 Chiscan Farm, Nov 3; 2 Rhunahaorine, Dec 1. Islay: 2 Jan 31-Feb 27; 1 May 11-14; up to 22 feeding in barley field, Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct 12-16; 5 Ballitarsin, Nov 3. Mid-Argyll: 1 Moine Mhor, Jan 15-Mar 22; 34 Glenfeochan, Sep 26; 1 Moine Mhor, Nov 17. Mull: 2 Kellan Mill, Mar 10; 1 L.an Dreaghain, Apr 7; 1 Fidden, Apr 12-13. Coll: 1 on Apr 10. Tiree: 1 on Apr 10; 2 on Nov 29. N.Argyll: 1 Benderloch, Mar 23; 46 Lochan na h-Achlaise, May 5.

White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* Geadh bhlar 0159 WG
W Birds are of the Greenland race *albifrons*. Regular wintering resorts in all regions except Cowal. Argyll holds c.40% of the world population in winter, mainly on Islay.

1991: total of 14,723 counted during Argyll census, Nov 24-Dec 4.
Kintyre: Rhunahaorine - 500 on Jan 24; 644 on Mar 23; 665 on Apr 7; 950 on Apr 16; 1499 on Dec 1. Machrihanish - 1470 on Jan 25; 1240 on Mar 23; 353 on Apr 7; 932 on Apr 10; 748 on Apr 18; 20 by Apr 25, then 205 on Oct 7; 1170 on Oct 20; 740 on Nov 25. Two birds were killed by a Tornado aircraft from RAF Machrihanish, c. 150m above Laggan. Islay: 9,041 (complete count) on Mar 24; last - 6 on May 10; first - 17 on Sep 20; 894 on Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct 18; 10,003 (complete count) on Dec 1. Breeding success average - of 4,785 aged, 12.6% were young birds; mean of 144 broods was 3.3. Colonsay: c. 250 on Mar 23; first - Oct 4; 177 on Dec 1. Mid-Argyll: Moine Mhor - 42 on Jan 15 & Feb 15; 47 on Mar 22; 37 on Nov 26. Danna/Keills - 157 on Feb 5; 190 on Feb 18; 242 on Mar 23; 242 on Apr 1; 287 on Nov 26; first - 4 Kilberry, Oct 6. Mull: 65 on Feb 12; 87 on Mar 24; 75 on Nov 27. Coll: 527 on Apr 10 & 621 on Nov 29. Tiree: 514 on Apr 10; 874 on Nov 29. N.Argyll: 30 Appin, 112 Benderloch & 181 Lismore, Mar 23; 30 Eilean Ramsay, Apr 13; 97 Appin, 77 Benderloch & 72 Lismore, Nov 26.

Greylag goose *Anser anser* Geadh glas 0161 GJ
B W P Increasing breeding population, Coll, Tiree and Mull. Also breeds Colonsay & 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).

1991: total of 3,691 counted during Argyll census, Nov 24-Dec 4.
Kintyre: Machrihanish - 330 on Jan 25; 575 on Mar 23; 287 on Apr 10; 5 on Oct 7; 165 on Oct 20; 200 on Nov 15; 100 on Nov 25. Southend - 65 on Mar 23; 60 on Apr 4; 42 on Nov 25. Rhunahaorine - 320 on Mar 23; 106 on Apr 7; 2 on Jun 5; 30 on Aug 8; 142 on Nov 19; 622 on Dec 1. Also - 1 Westport, May 8; 29 > N past Uisead Pt, Oct 19. Islay: 7 L.Indaal, Jan 17; 14 L.Gorm, Sep 27; 60 (max. count) Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct 15; 56 in Bridend/Mulindry area, Nov 30. Colonsay: 73 on Mar 23; c. 85 over Scalasaig, Apr 14; 96 on Sep 30; 99 on Dec 1. Cowal: pr. probably bred, Strone Pt. Mid-Argyll: 2 prs. bred L.Nell. Moine Mhor/Poltalloch - c. 500 on Jan 13; 410 on Jan 15; 390 on Feb 15; 340 on Mar 25; migratory flocks of up to 350 flying NW over area in late April; 150 on Nov 20; 238 on Nov 26. Also - 157 Old Ulva, Feb 5; 26 Sound of Kerrera, Feb 11; 7 Kilmore, Apr 16; 15 Oban, Jul 23; 19 Killiechoinich, Oct 10; 26 Oban, Dec 21. Mull: bred Mishnish Lochs, Quinish & L.Mingary. Counts - 15 L.Scridain, Mar 14; passage mid-Apr, inc. 392 L.Spelve, Apr 14; 7 Mishnish Lochs, May 14; 18 L.Assapol, Jun 1; 8 Caliach Pt, Jun 6; 11 Lunga, Jun 20; 4 Calgary, Jul 26; 5 L.Mingary, Aug 2; 62 Fidden, Sep 4. Coll: incomplete count located 8 nests, Apr 23-28; 42 broods, totalling 75 young, plus 316-336 ads. without young seen in June. Other counts - 323 on Apr 10; 310 on Apr 23-28; 131 on Nov 29. Tiree:

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

incomplete count located 23 nests, Apr 23-28; 37 broods, totalling 159 young, plus 198 ads. without young seen in June. Other counts - 417 on Apr 10; 452 on Apr 23-28; 1,258 on Nov 29. N.Argyll: 12 Appin, Aug 18.

Snow goose *Anser caerulescens* Geadh ban 0163 SJ
E V A small feral breeding population exists on Mull - this flock winters on Coll.
1991#

Mull: bred on Treshnish estate; 3 on Jul 20. N.Argyll: 1 Cuil Bay, Jan 31-Mar 21 & Aug 18-Dec 20; 1 Appin, Nov 26.

Canada goose *Branta canadensis* Geadh dubh 0166 CG
B W V Resident population on Colonsay & occasional breeding attempts elsewhere.
1991

Islay: up to 3 individuals seen Jan-Mar & Oct-Dec. Colonsay: no breeding data available; 60 on Mar 23 & 74 on Dec 1. Mid-Argyll: bred L.Ederline. Counts - 5 L.Nell, Mar 27; 2 Clachan Beag, Apr 16 & May 1; 4 L.Ederline, Jun 1; 3 L.Ederline, Dec 4. N.Argyll: flock present Jan-Mar & Aug-Dec; 17 Cuil Bay, Jan 31; 18 Appin & 1 Lismore, Nov 26.

Barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* Cathan 0167 BY
W All regions except Cowal. Very large numbers of Greenland race winter on Islay. A few birds occasionally summer - at least some of these are probably injured.

1991: total of 24,490 counted during Argyll census, Nov 24 - Dec 4.
Kintyre: 6 Machrihanish, Jan 25; 2 Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 15; 2 Chiscan Farm Oct 9; total of 14 >S & 10 >N past Uisaed Pt, Oct; 13 Rhunahaorine, Dec 1. Islay: 23,070 on Jan 15; 22782 on Mar 23; 1,000 on Apr 26; 30 on May 3; departure complete by May 27; 3 Blackrock, Jun 27; 4 Nave Island, Aug 20; first arrivals from Sep 21; 78 on Oct 4; 7,000 on Oct 5; 11,100 on Oct 6; 22,222 on Nov 5; 23,232 on Nov 30. Max. feeding on Gruinart RSPB reserve was 18,354 on Oct 18, with 19,524 roosting on reserve the same evening. Very poor breeding season - of 12,293 aged, 4.6% were young birds; mean of 164 broods was 1.7. Colonsay: 470 on Mar 10; 400 on Mar 23; 1 summered with Canada flock; 150 on Dec 1. Mid-Argyll: Danna/Keills - 160 on Jan 19; 375 on Jan 29; 250 on Mar 23; 268 on Nov 26. Mull: 60 Gribun, Jan 20; 30 Fiddien, Feb 12; 40 Gribun, Mar 11; 260 Inch Kenneth, Apr 8; 2 Fiddien, Sep 4; 32 Fiddien, Nov 27. Coll: 250-300 on Apr 10; 520 on Nov 29. Tiree: 1,012 on Apr 10; 736 on Nov 29.

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, arctic Canada & winter mainly in Ireland.

1991
Kintyre: total of 31 >S & 2 >N past Uisaed Pt, Sep 19 - Nov 1; 1 Campbeltown L, Oct 7-12; 1 Tayinloan, Nov 19. Islay: 3 L.Indaal, Jan 17, then 2 until Apr 10; 100+ moved through, May 6; return passage Sep-Oct with max. count of 25 on Sep 20; 4 L.Indaal, Dec 1-31. Colonsay: 2 Port Mor, May 10-16; 1 L.Fada, Sep 30-Oct 4; 1 Port Mor, Dec 6-12. Cowal: 1 Blairmore, Apr 25. Mull: 60 moved through, May 9; 2 singles seen on return passage - Kintyre, Sep 19 & Calgary, Sep 27.

Dark-bellied race, *B.b. nigricans*:
Islay: single, L.Gruinart, Oct 15-Nov 12. Jura: 1 Craighouse, Nov 1.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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

Mid-Argyll: single with greylags at Moine Mhor, Feb 1 to Apr 11.

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).

1991

Kintyre: 22 Westport Marsh, Apr 3; single in juv. plumage at Westport Marsh, Apr 27; 30 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 9; total of 5 juvs. >S past Uisaed Pt, Aug.

Islay:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	28	22	31	35	28	23	29	16	6	2	5	16
L.Gruinart	155	195	172	134	88	nc	26	21	nc	219	77	156

Colonsay: c. 45 Strand, Feb 16. Cowal: 21 (max. count) Holy L, Apr 14. Mull: 12 L.na Keal, Mar 25; 27 Erraid, Apr 13. N.Argyll: 10 L.Laich, Mar 17.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* Glas lach

0179 WN

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

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt - irregular passage Aug 22-Nov 2. Also - 68 Campbeltown L, Oct 24; 238 Westport Marsh, Dec 25.

Islay:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	527	197	139	38	0	0	0	0	504	1799	1041	257
L.Gruinart	108	110	47	41	2	nc	0	0	nc	219	256	210

Colonsay: 29 Strand, Feb 16. Cowal: 145 (max. count) Holy L, Oct 12. Mid-Argyll: 60 L.Feochar, Feb 10; 17 L.Nell, Feb 13; 15 L.Seil, Feb 20; 2 Sior L, May 4; 2 L.Feochar, May 6; 3 L.Nant, May 25; 4 L.Awe, May 29; 3 Carloanan, Jun 15; 30 Clachadubh, Sep 15; 90 Linne Mhuirich, Sep 29; 320 L.Crinan, Oct 8; 100 Duntanachan, Oct 27; 46 L.Sween, Nov 2. Mull: 17 L.Spelve, Mar 11; 87 Glen Forsa, Mar 16; 2 Aros, May 8; 11 Lochdon, Aug 23; 104 Lochdon, Sep 15; 23 Salen, Nov 15. Coll: 50 Feall Bay, Nov 26. Tiree: 59 L.Bhasapol, Nov 28; 165 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28; 148 L.a' Phuill Nov 30. N.Argyll: probably bred, L.Tulla (max. count 14 on May 25). Counts - 70 Ardmucknish Bay, Jan 21; 20 L.Creran, Feb 24 & Mar 17; 42 L.Laich, Mar 17; 100 L.Etive, Nov 9.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Lach glas

0182 GA

B W P Scarce breeding species.

1991

Kintyre: 1 imm F Machrihanish Water, Sep 15; 1M Machrihanish Airfield, killed by peregrine, Nov 1. Colonsay: 1F L.Turraman, Nov 4. Mid-Argyll: 2 Glen Lonan, Oct 27, Nov 9 & Dec 15.

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).

1991

Kintyre: 80 Westport Marsh, Apr 14; Uisaed Pt. - irregular passage Aug-Oct. Islay: 60 L.Tallant, Dec 24.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	123	74	101	4	2	4	0	0	62	70	57	57
L.Gruinart	160	29	11	0	0	nc	0	0	nc	260	320	196

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Cowal: 19 Holy L, Sep 28. Mid-Argyll: 60 L.Feochan, Feb 10; 75 L.Crinan, Oct 8. Mull: 14 L.Beg, Jan 13; 106 Lochdon, Sep 15; 27 Dervaig, Nov 12. Coll: 33 Breachacha, Nov 15. Tiree: 110 L.Bhasapol, Nov 28; 220 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28. N.Argyll: 40 Benderloch Saltmarsh, Jan 13 & Feb 14; 20 Balnagowan L, Jan 20; 34 L.Laich, Jan 20; 17 L.Etive, Dec 15.

Nearctic race *A.c. carolinensis*:

Islay: 1M, various localities, Jan 24-Mar 2.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Lach

0186 MA

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

1991

Islay:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	204	154	77	2	54	107	168	90	60	201	161	214
L.Gruinart	88	47	11	14	45	nc	22	89	nc	69	10	46

Colonsay: 72 in stubble fields, L.Fada, Oct 4 & Nov 4. Cowal: 16 Kilbride Bay, Jan 20; 20 Kilfinan, Mar 9; 58 Holy L, Aug 28. Mid-Argyll: at least 8 prs. bred. Moine Mhor. Counts - 21 L.Nell, Feb 10 & Dec 8; 16 Glen Cruitten, Mar 4; 37 head Of L.Feochan, Aug 25. Mull: 22 L.Beg, Feb 17; 26 Lochdon, Sep 15. Tiree: 67 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28; 22 L.a' Phuill, Nov 30. N.Argyll: 30 Benderloch Saltmarsh, Feb 14; 68 L.Etive, Oct 19 & Dec 31.

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.

1991

Kintyre: 1 imm F Rhunahaorine Pt, Sep 6. Uisaed Pt. - 16 >S, Sep 16-25; 23 >S, Oct 11-19. Islay: 1F Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jun 4-13; max. reserve count was 5, Jan 24 - Feb 1 & Oct 16.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	47	39	53	9	0	0	0	0	9	21	17	33

Mull: 2 Fidden, Apr 7. Tiree: 8 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* Lach a'ghuib leathainn

0194 SV

B W P Most records from Islay & Tiree.

1991

Islay: 1 Ardnave L, Jun 1 & 2 on Aug 5; max. count at Gruinart RSPB reserve was 8 on Nov 26, Dec 1 & 22; 1-4 elsewhere, Jan & Oct - Nov. Mull: 2 Aros, May 6-8. Tiree: 21 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28; 3 L.a' Phuill, Nov 30.

Pochard *Aythya ferina* Lach mhasach

0198 PO

W No proven breeding in recent years. Wintering flocks generally small.

1991

Kintyre: 4 Gigha, Jan 21. Uisaed Pt. - 1 >S, Aug 3; 1 >N, Oct 12. Islay: 150 L.Skerrols, Jan 13; 3 Ardnave L, Nov 19. Colonsay: up to 7 wintered on L.Fada. Mid-Argyll: 2 L.Leathan, Jan 6; 12 L.Seil, Feb 21; 6 Melfort, Nov 13; 19 L.Nell, Dec 3. Mull: 1F Mishnish L, Nov 8-28; 3 L.Assapol, Nov 27. Tiree: 16 L.an Eilein, Nov 28.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

0200

V

1991#

Islay: 1M Ardnave L, Jan 27-Apr 22 (subject to acceptance by BBRC). Mid-Argyll: 1M L.Nell, Feb 14-16.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* Lach thopach 0203 TU
BW Scarce breeding species. Total of 53 prs located during breeding wildfowl survey, 1985 (Broad *et al*, 1986). Breeding recorded in 12% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Common winter visitor.

1991

Kintyre: 20 Tangy L, Apr 14; 1M L.na Beiste, May 1; 3 Dhurnie, May 28; 2 MM >S, Uisaed Pt, Aug 1. Islay: 50 L.Skerrols, Jan 13; 1 Ardnave L, Jun 1; 19 L.Ballygrant, Nov 8; 71 Ardnave L, Nov 19. Colonsay: bred L.Fada. Counts - 16 L.Fada, Feb 23; 7MM 6FF (complete count), Apr 4. Mid-Argyll: 20 L.Seil, Feb 20; 12 L.Leathan, Apr 21; 1M L.Tromlee, Jul 5; 35 L.Nell, Aug 8; 42 L.Nell, Sep 10; 11 Lochan Dubh, Nov 11. Mull: 11 L.Poit na h-I, Nov 27; 15 L.Assapol, Nov 27. Tiree: 17 L.an Eilein, Nov 28; 34 L.Bhasapol, Nov 28; 24 L.a' Phuill, Nov 30. N.Argyll: 10 Balnagowan L, Feb 2.

Scaup *Aythya marila* Lach mhara 0204 SP
W P Large wintering flock in L.Indaal, Islay. Scarce elsewhere. Occasionally summers.

1991

Kintyre: 1F Campbeltown L, Apr 25; 2 Sound of Gigha, May 1; 1F Kennacraig, Oct 5; 1 imm F Campbeltown L, Oct 12. Uisaed Pt. - moulting male present daily, Jul 26-Aug 11; 13 >S, Aug; 8 >S, Sep; 34 >S, Oct with peak passage Oct 16-17. Islay: 3 L.Skerrols, Mar 6; 3 Ardnave L, Nov 19.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	620	461	460	295	16	2	0	0	280	627	950	1430

Mid-Argyll: 5FF L.Feochan, Feb 6; 2 Oban Bay, Apr 28; 1F Oban Bay, Oct 5. Tiree: 4 Balephetrish Bay, Nov 29 - Dec 10.

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.

1991

Kintyre: Machrihanish Bay - 4FF with 30 chicks, Jun 10; 1st flying male after moult was on Aug 30. Counts - 254 Machrihanish Bay, Oct 22; 370 Sound of Gigha, Oct 25; 140 Campbeltown L, Nov 7. Cowal: 60 Kames, Jan 20 & Mar 9; 725 Kyles of Bute, Apr 8; 34 Holy L, Apr 14. Mid-Argyll: 26 Sound of Kerrera, Mar 7; 52 Ganavan, Mar 12; 86 Kilbride, Jul 23; 20 L.Feochan, Sep 8. Mull: 21 Sound Of Mull, Mar 13; 34 Kilfinichen Bay, Apr 14; 205 L.Spelve, Apr 21; 33 Port Donain, May 12; 38 L.na Keal, Sep 25. N.Argyll: 66 L.Etive, Oct 19.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	50	210	138	168	191	253	323	183	195	166	128	102
Oban Bay	164	156	115	92	22	nc	nc	22	22	90	100	103

Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis* Eun buchainn 0212 LN
W P Uncommon winter visitor, mostly offshore.

1991

Kintyre: 12 Sound of Gigha, Apr 15; 12 >N & 62 >S, Uisaed Pt, Oct 14-21; 1 1st yr. Ru Stafnish, Oct 26; 8 Machrihanish Bay, Nov 3; 1 1st yr. Campbeltown L, Nov 7. Islay: 1 Port Askaig, Oct 8; 2 Kilnaughton Bay, Oct 25; 18 L.Gruinart, Oct 26; 4 Ardnave Pt, Oct 30; 16 (max. count) L.Indaal, Oct 30. Jura: 6 Corpach Bay, Mar 30. Mull: 1F L.na Lathaich, Sep 25. Coll: 125 Feall Bay, Dec 8. Tiree: 4 Balephetrish Bay, Nov 29; 4MM Traigh Bhagh, Nov 30.

Common scoter *Melanitta nigra* Lach bheag dubh 0213 CX
B W P Very rare breeding species in Islay & mid-Argyll, although the breeding

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site in the latter area may now be deserted. Present throughout the year, Sound of Gigha & L.Indaal, Islay; scarce winter visitor elsewhere, although birds may be present well offshore.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 11 >S, Jun 13; 68 >S, Aug 8-Oct; 1 Tangy Lodge, May 13; 137 Machrihanish Bay, Dec 25. Islay: up to 10 prs. present at usual breeding site, late May/early Jun, with 4-5 prs. nesting; 2 prs at suitable breeding sites elsewhere. No young seen. Counts - 130 L.Indaal, Apr 14; 1 Port Ellen, Nov 2. Jura: 3 Craighouse, Sep 10. Mid-Argyll: 2 Kames Bay, May 29; 1M Rubha Nan Eun, Jun 1. Mull: 2 L.Cuin, May 8; 1F Lagganulva, May 16. Tiree: 5 Feall Bay, Nov 26. Coll: 3F Caoles, Dec 11.

Monthly max.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	92	85	85	103	58	82	73	69	103	95	76	109
Sound of Gigha	nc	nc	nc	184	160	22	264	341	80	132	80	nc

Velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca* Lach dubh

0215 VS

W Scarce.

1991

Kintyre: 2MM Sound of Gigha, Apr 15; 4MM moulting, Jul-Sep, flying by Sep 10. Islay: up to 3 present L.Indaal, Nov 13-24.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Lach bhreac

0218 GN

W Common. Birds present Sep-May; a few individuals summer.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 1 on Oct 16; 13 >S & 6 >N, Oct 21; 16 on Oct 30. Islay: 64 Kilnaughton Bay, Feb 11; 18 Ardnave L, Jan 27; 24 L.Indaal, Oct 25. Cowal: 10 Kilbride Bay, Jan 20. Mid-Argyll: present late Sep - late Apr: 17 L.Feochar, Jan 7 & Feb 6; 14 Oban Bay, Jan 14; 13 L.Seil, Feb 7; 31 L.Sween, Feb 18; 55 head of L.Caolisport & 75 off Ormsary, Feb 23; 19 L.Nell, Mar 27; 16 L.Leathan, Apr 3; 14 Ganavan, Nov 25 & Dec 19. Mull: 13 L.na Keal, Mar 11; 1 L.na Keal, May 5; 27 L.Poit na h-I, Nov 27. Tiree: 11 L.Bhasapol, Nov 28; 20 L.a' Phuill, Nov 30. N.Argyll: 10 Inner L.Creran, Jan 20; 16 L.Etive, Jan 23 & Dec 20.

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.

1991

Kintyre: 70 moulting, Machrihanish Bay, Jul-Sep. Islay: 105 Laggan Pt, Jun 28; 350 L.Indaal, Sep 9. Cowal: 15 Holy L, Oct 12. Mull: 32 Sgeir Nan Gobhar, Jul 29; 35 L.na Keal, Sep 25; 21 L.Cuin, Oct 13. N.Argyll: 18 L.Etive, Feb 16, Oct 15 & Dec 15.

Monthly max.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	15	40	26	45	46	46	45	114	336	172	16	31
Kintyre	nc	nc	nc	nc	44	31	71	350	765	400	48	nc

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Siolta

0223 GD

B & W. Scarce breeding species, mainly mid-Argyll. Breeding population estimated at 40-50 prs [Broad *et al*, 1986]. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). L.Awe may be a gathering point for Argyll drakes before their moult migration in late May (Carss 1989).

1991

Kintyre: 1M Uisead Pt, Nov 1. Mid-Argyll: bred at L.Awe & L.Nell (b/5 on Jun 27); prs. also present at L.Gleann a' Bhearraidh, Bellanoch, L.Sonachan, L.Seil, Glen Cruitten, Glen Shira, River Euchar, Sior L. & L.an Losgainn Mor, Mar-May.

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Counts - 10MM L.Awe, May 29; 13MM L.Feochar, Jul 29; 10FF L.Nell, Sep 10; 4 L.Leathan, Nov 16. The Feochar summer flock near the outflow of River Euchar appears to be a new development. Mull: up to 5 recorded at regular haunts of L.Torr & Mishnish Lochs; elsewhere, scattered records of 1-2 at Calgary, Dervaig, L.na Keal, L.na Dairidh, L.Poit na h-I, Aros & L.Beg. N.Argyll: 2 Eilean Duirinnis, Jan 3; 1 inner L.Creran, Jan 20; 2 L.Dochard, Apr 27; 2MM L.Tulla, May 25; 5 L.Etive, Oct 19 & Dec 20.

Red kite *Milvus milvus* Clamhan gobhlach 0239 KT
Majority, of recent 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.

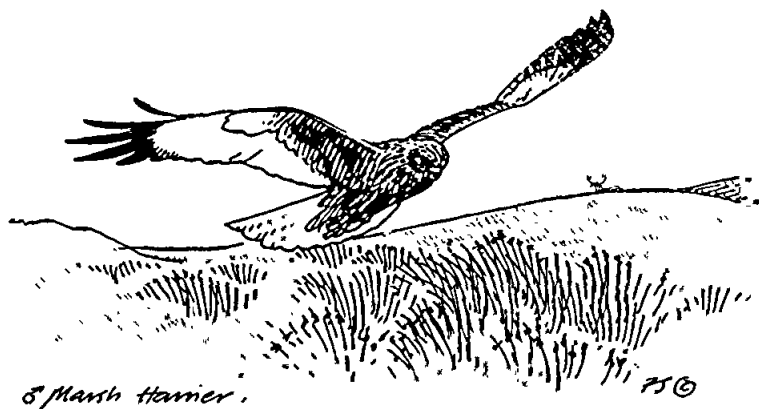
1991#

Kintyre: 1 Machrihanish Airfield, Jan 14. Islay: 1 Ardnahoe, Mar 10; 1 Callumkill, Sep; 1 Easter Ellister, Oct 14; 1 Keills, Oct 20. Mid-Argyll: 1 Glen Lonan, May 2-14; 1 near Ormsary & presumably same bird Lochgilphead, Oct 22. Mull: 1 juv. Grasspoint, Sep 9.

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.

1991: Scotland - 4 successful breeding pairs reared a total of 7 young. All records are requested, ideally with details of age, activity and presence/absence of wing tags.

Mid Argyll: 1 ad. Tayvallich, Feb 2; 1 Imm. Lochan Shira, Jun 8-23; 1 Crinan, Nov 13.



Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Clamhan loin 0260 MR
VP

1991#

Kintyre: 1F Allt Easach, Amod Hill & Lochorodale, May 4; seen again at Arnicle, May 5. Islay: 1 Duich Moss, May 2; 1M Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 19-21. Mull: 1 Bunessan, May 7; 1F Creag Mhor, May 29.

Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* Breid air toin 0261 HH
BWP 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.

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1991: breeding recorded in all regions. A total of 90 nests were located and at least 176 young were fledged. Mean initial clutch size was 4.48 and a mean 2.71 young hatched per nest. Of 78 nests where the final outcome was accurately known, 2.17 young fledged per pair laying [MM]. A total of 145 young were ringed and 119 were fitted with wing tags as part of a national study conducted by the RSPB. All sightings requested of tagged birds: Kintyre: 6 Machrihanish Airfield, Jan 25. Uisaed Pt. - 1 rt. >S c. 1 mile off point, Aug 4; 1 rt. >S, Aug 26; Ad.M >S on Sep 3 & 25. Colonsay: 5-6 birds present, Jan-Mar.

Roost counts -	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gruinart	8	6	13	nc	nc	8	14-16	15
Lochdon	0	0	0	nc	5	4	6-8	nc
Moine Mhor	10	14	15	10	nc	7	17	18

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* Glas sheabhag 0267 GI

? Very scarce. Re-establishment in other areas of Britain appears to be entirely due to escaped or released birds.

1991

Mull: 1 Mishnish Lochs, Sep 12; 1 Tobermory, Oct 15.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* Speireag 0269 SH

B W P Widespread. Breeding recorded in 36% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 5 Ru Stafnish, Oct 12. Colonsay: at least 2 pairs bred.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Clamhan 0287 BZ

B W Common in all regions. Breeding recorded in 78% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 16 Ballochroy, Sep 6. Islay: birds reported to be much more in evidence during the past year. Colonsay: at least 27 territorial pairs identified, of which 22 pairs laid eggs; the mean of 14 clutches was 2.07 eggs; at least 20 nests hatched young; the mean of 14 broods was 1.64 young [DCJ]. Mid-Argyll: Oban area - 36 territorial pairs identified; 29 of these reared young and fledged a mean of 1.28 young per nest [GS].

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).

1991: Summary of information from 2 large study areas [MG *et al*, RSPB *et al*] and additional home ranges: 73 home ranges were monitored; 5-6 apparently vacant; birds were present in 68 with pairs occupying at least 64. Breeding was confirmed in 40 with perhaps as many as 43 laying eggs. Eggs hatched in at least 29 and 32 chicks were fledged from 26 sites. An additional chick was reared to fledging age by a pair on Mull but malformed wing joints prevented it from ever flying. It is excluded from the figures for the number of fledged chicks and successful sites above. An adult male was found electrocuted on Islay below power lines in June but its place was filled, within a matter of weeks by an immature bird.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Iolair iasgaich 0301 OP

S P Very scarce breeding species; recent re-colonist.

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1991: 2 pairs nested, one of which failed at the egg stage, the second successfully raised one chick.

Mid-Argyll: 1 Moine Mhor, Jun 28; 1 Ardentallen Pt, Jul 8; 1 head of L.Feochar, Aug 11. N.Argyll: 1 Lismore, Apr 28.

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 Kintyre. Population in some other areas appears to fluctuate from year to year. Emigration from some areas in autumn (eg. Mull). 1991

Kintyre: bred at Ballygrogan. Islay: bred at 2 sites & prs. present in at least 4 other localities during breeding season. Mid-Argyll: bred at Barnacarry, Creag a' Chapuill, Cologin, Achnacraobh & Moine an-t-Saraiche. Mull: bred at Bith Bheinn, Aoineadh Beag, Shiaba, L.Buie, Cruachan Min, Beinn Bheag, Carsaig Bay, Croig, Glen Forsa, Gribun, Gulan Dhubh, Lagganulva, Scoor, Ulva, Grasspoint & Calgary. N.Argyll: bred at Lairig Hill.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Meirneal 0309 ML
B W P Scarce breeding species, probably under-recorded.
1991: Territorial prs. were recorded in 7 known areas with singles present in 2 more. Additional breeding season reports were received from another 6 areas. 4 nesting attempts were located all of which were successful, fledging a total of 12 young.

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - regular passage, Oct. Laggan: 1-2 present Sep-Dec.



Imm Gyr falcon - P Snow
(part phase)

Gyr falcon *Falco rusticolus* Seabhag mhor na seilg 0318
V W P
1991#

Islay: imm. F (Greenland-type) flew into window & stunned itself, Port Charlotte, Nov 3. Bird was released without obvious serious injury on Nov 4 & spent the day hunting around Gruinart RSPB reserve. Found dead Nov 10 near McArthur's Head. Record subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Seabhag 0320 PE
B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species in all regions. Breeding

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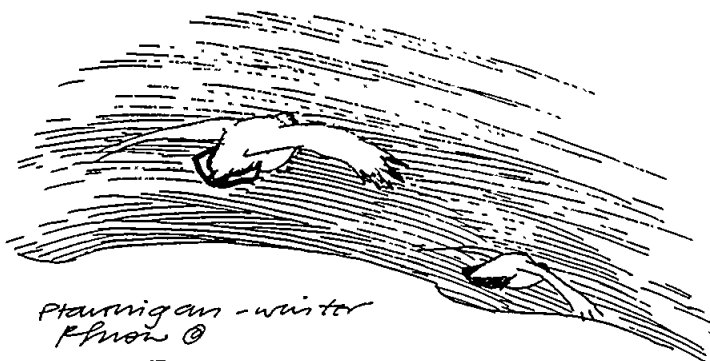
recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991: Good coverage was obtained, mainly by members of the newly formed Argyll Raptor Study Group, as part of a national survey. Only 3 known sites received no attention at all. 69 sites were occupied by prs, 18-19 were occupied by single birds and 11-13 were apparently unoccupied. Uncertainties in the occupancy data were generally a result of uncertainties over the status of single birds seen at alternative nesting crags in territories already occupied by prs. For the sites where the breeding outcome was known: 9 prs. definitely failed, 27 prs. definitely fledged young and 8 additional prs. probably fledged young. A minimum of 43 young were fledged. The average number of young fledged for the 14 successful prs. where the brood size was known was 2.0 chicks/successful pr.

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).

1991

Mid-Argyll: breeding confirmed at L.Fuar Bheinne & L. a' Chaorainn; recorded in seven additional localities. Mull: breeding confirmed at Beinn Nan Carn & recorded in 14 other localities.



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).

1991

Cowal: 2 The Cobbler, May 5. Mull: b/4 Ben More, Jun 20. N.Argyll: recorded on Aonach Eagach, Stob a' Choire Odhair, Meall Dubh, Meall Nan Eun, Meall Tarsuinn, Stob a' Bhruaich Leith, Beinn Dorain, Coire An Lochain, Allt Coire An Lochain, Beinn a' Chochuill, Beinn Eunaich, Ben Cruachan & Stob Diamh.

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).

1991

Kintyre: breeding confirmed in 1 locality & recorded in 4 others. Islay: 5 birds recorded in 3 areas, inc. 2 males lekking, Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 29. Mid-Argyll: recorded in 26 localities; leks inc. 11 MM Cologin, Mar 30; 11 MM

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Kilmichael Glen, Apr 16; 13 MM & 3 FF Fearnach, Apr 17. N.Argyll: 7 MM Clashgour, May 25.

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.

1991#

Mid-Argyll: 1M Inverliever Forest, May 6; also - report from L.Avich area, June. The 1st records from this area for many years.

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.

1991

Islay: c. 20 Kilchiaran, Aug 18; 7 Kilchiaran, Oct 24 (hybrids with Chukar, *A. chukar*).

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.

1991

Islay: 2 L.Gruinart, Nov 22 (introduced here in 1990). Mid-Argyll: 1 Eleraig, June.

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).
1991: 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.

1991

Mull: 17 Gruline, Mar 15; 2 Gleann Seilisdair, May 5.

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

1991

Islay: bred Gruinart RSPB reserve; 1 Grulinmore, Nov 19. Colonsay: bred in 2 localities. Also - 1 Oransay, Feb 9; 1 Kiloran, Feb 10; 1 Glassard, Nov 4; 1-2 Milbuie, Nov 9; 1 Scalasaig, Nov 12. Mid-Argyll: 1 Ariogan, Feb 2, Nov 17 & 27; Dec 28. Mull: 1 L.Cuin, Dec 10. Tiree: 1 Balevullin, Nov 28.

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

1991

Islay: birds calling from 2 sites in June.

Corncrake *Crex crex* Traon 0421 CE
S Localised distribution. Breeding mainly on Islay & Colonsay, Coll & Tiree.

1991

Kintyre: 1 Cove Pt, Sep 5. Islay: census located 11-12 calling birds [MAP].

Colonsay: census located only 6-7 calling birds. Mull: 3 Cairn na Burghs, May

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30 & Jun 20; 1 Calgary, Jul 20; 2 Iona, Jul 20-27; 1 Mishnish Lochs, Aug 1. Coll: complete census estimated 20 calling birds [RSPB]. Tiree: complete census estimated 106 calling birds [RSPB]. N.Argyll: 1 Connel, Jul 3.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc uisge 0424 MH
B W Very localised. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: 1 Durry L, Jan 8; 1 juv. L.na Beiste, Aug 26; 1 Lochan Luig, Oct 25; 2 juv. Rhunahaorine Pt, Oct 25. Islay: bred Gruinart RSPB reserve. Colonsay: 2-3 prs. bred. Mid-Argyll: 1 L.Ederline, Jan 19, Jun 21 & Dec 6; 2 L.Seil, Feb 7, Nov 30 & Dec 15; 1 Glen Cruitten, Feb 22 & Apr 8; 1 Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith, Jun 21; 1 Lochan Dubh, Nov 5; 1-2 Oban, Nov 19 - Dec 18. Mull: 1 Dervaig, Feb 13, Apr 2 & Sep 13; 2 Scoor, Sep 19. N.Argyll: bred at Benderloch & possibly Kilcheran L. Also - 1 Benderloch, Dec 1.

Coot *Fulica atra* Lach a bhlair 0429 CO
B W Uncommon. Breeding recorded in only 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Islay: 3 L.Ballygrant, Jan 9; 2 L.Skerrols, Oct 25. Colonsay: pr. on L.Fada, Feb - Mar, then single on Apr 4 & Oct 16-24. Mid-Argyll: 1 Taynish, Jan 3 & Feb 25; 2 L.Seil, Jan 10; 1 L.Seil, Feb 10 - Mar 23; 4 L.Nell, Feb 13-18; 1 L.Nell, Mar 27 - Aug 25; 7 L.Nell, Dec 10. Mull: 1 Scoor, Nov 27. Tiree: 3 L.Bhasapol, Nov 28.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille brighde 0450 OC
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 70% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: 660 Campbeltown L, Aug 23; 3,709 >S/114 hrs, Uisaed Pt, Aug. Islay: 19 pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve; 61 >S/1 hr, Frenchman's Rocks, Aug 24.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	314	350	514	576	371	292	372	428	420	376	339	312
L.Gruinart	83	344	448	267	418	nc	253	138	nc	41	138	46

Colonsay: up to 74 Strand, Aug - Dec. Cowal: Holy L. - 310 on Jan 18; 450 on Aug 28. Mid-Argyll: 4 prs. bred Moine Mhor. Nocturnal passage, Oban, Mar 10-11; 28 Ganavan, Mar 18; 55 Eilean Fada, Apr 6; 30 Kilninver, Aug 12; nocturnal passage, Oban, Aug 13-15; 26 Ardentallen Pt, Sep 23; 40 Oban Bay, Sep 27; 22 L.Feochar, Dec 23. Mull: 48 L.na Keal, Feb 13.

Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Trilleachan traghad 0470 RP
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 55% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: 38 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 21; 24 Uisead Pt, May 22; 26 Lussa L, May 25; 70 Campbeltown L, Sep 3. Uisaed Pt - light passage, Aug-Sep with peak Sep 15. Islay: 89 L.Indaal Aug 24; 99 Killinallan Pt, Oct 27.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	62	71	40	48	45	32	48	89	20	41	16	4

Colonsay: c. 170 Strand, Dec 12. Cowal: 20 Kilbride Bay, Feb 2. Mull: 30 Lochdon, Aug 23; 25 L.na Keal, Sep 25. N.Argyll: 40 Ledaig Pt, Aug 11. Spring passage of *C. h. tundrae* late May/early June, eg. 38 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 21.

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Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mointich 0482 DO
P Scarce. Has bred, N.Argyll. All records required.
1991
Colonsay: 1 Port Mor, May 30. Mull: 1 Ben Buie, May 8.

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).

1991
Kintyre: 25 Machrihanish Airfield, Mar 31. Uisaed Pt. - irregular southerly passage involving small numbers, Aug-Oct, with peak of 80 >S on Oct 13. Machrihanish Airfield - 7 n/pl on May 24; 488 on Oct 11. Southend - 400 from Oct 28-Nov 4. Islay: recorded during breeding season from 4 localities. Counts - 250 Ardnave Pt, Apr 24; 17 Beinn Bheigeir, Jul 2; 80 Braibruich, Oct 4; 226 Killinallan Pt, Oct 31.

Monthly max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	130	40	365	0	0	0	0	0	0	850	1024	23

Colonsay: up to 100 birds, Oct - Dec. Mull: territorial birds recorded in 8 localities. Passage Mar-May, eg. 13 Knockantivore, Mar 4; 20 Creach Bheinn, Mar 21; 25 Ormsaig, Mar 24; 40 Fiddan Apr 7; 35 Scoor, May 14. Tiree: 18 Loch a' Phuill, Jun 21; 280 An Fhaodhail, Nov 28.

Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Trilleachan 0486 GV
P W Uncommon passage migrant. A few winter.
1991

Kintyre: Main passage Sep 20-23. Uisaed Pt. - 34 >S, Sep with peak passage on Sep 22; 5 >S, Oct. Islay: 2-3 L.Indaal, Jan - Mar; 14 (max. count) Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 7; 1-3 during Oct, then 9 at L.Gruinart, Nov 5; 2 L.Indaal, Nov 19. Colonsay: 1 Strand, Feb 16; 1 golf course, May 25; 1 Oransay, Dec 24.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Carracag 0493 L
B W P Localised breeder & widespread wintering species associated with rough grazings, arable fields & machair. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: 6 prs. bred, Westport Marsh; 18 prs. bred Rhunahaorine Pt. Counts; 340 Laggan, Nov 2. Islay: at least 200 pairs bred Gruinart RSPB reserve; spring passage birds feeding on reserve, Feb-Mar with max. count 1266 on Mar 3; autumn passage max. count was 100 on Oct 5; 20 Drochaid Bheag, Nov 8.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	199	123	128	0	0	0	0	143	221	306	219	173
L.Gruinart	224	44	209	0	64	nc	80	98	nc	377	75	144

Colonsay: poor breeding season reported; c. 600 Garvard/Ardskenish, Dec 1. Cowal: 25 Blairmore, Jan 15. Mid-Argyll: bred Moine Mhor, Sior L. & L.Tromlee. Counts - 100 Slockavullin, Mar 5. Mull: bred Glen Forsa, Torrann & Kilninian. N.Argyll: bred Cuil Bay, Ledaig & Connel.

Knot *Calidris canutus* Luatharan gainmhich 0496 KN
W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage, Aug-Sep. A few winter.
1991

Kintyre: 1 Tayinloan, Feb 12. Uisaed Pt. - small numbers on passage, Jul 16 - Oct 10 with peaks of 16 >S on Aug 3 & 14. Islay: spring passage Mar-Apr with peak count 23 on Mar 27; autumn passage from Aug 10 with peak of 35 on Aug 29; 29 L.Indaal, Nov 2 & 10 still present Nov 22.

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Monthly max. Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
 L.Indaal 3 5 23 8 0 0 0 35 12 0 0 0
 Mid-Argyll: 2 Isle Of Danna, Feb 9. Mull: 1 Lochdon, Aug 23-25. N.Argyll: 2 Ledaig Pt, Aug 11.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Luatharan glas 0497 SS
 W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage May & Aug. A few winter, mainly Islay & Tiree. Occasionally recorded in summer.
 1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - spring passage from early Jun; 60 resting at point on Jun 4 (some song/display noted); return passage Jul-Sep with peak 65 >S/3 hrs, Jul 28; last - 11 on Sep 22. Rhunahaorine Pt - 45 resting at point on Jun 5. Islay: 22 L.Indaal, Jan 25; up to 11 on spring passage May 26-Jun 6; autumn passage from Aug 15 with max. count 45 L.Indaal, Aug 24; 10 L.Gruinart, Nov 15. Colonsay: 7 Oransay, Jul 30; 1 Strand, Oct 12 & Nov 13. Mull: 3 L.Beg, Feb 17; 12 Iona, Aug 28; 1 Calgary, Sep 23.

Little stint *Calidris minuta* Luatharan beag 0501 LX
 P Scarce.
 1991
 Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 4 >S, Sep 17.

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Luatharan crom 0509 CV
 P Scarce/irregular.
 1991
 Islay: 14 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 22; 1-3 on 6 dates, Aug 24 - Sep 11. Colonsay: 3 Ardskenish, Oct 3.

Purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima* Luatharan rioghail 0510 PS
 W P Widely distributed along rocky coasts, Aug-May.
 1991
 Kintyre: 1 attempted to land on deck of M.V. Claymore on crossing from Kennacraig - Islay, Aug 27. Islay: max. count 15 Bruichladdich, Nov 7. Mull: 16 Aoineadh Ros-dail, Mar 21; 40 Staffa, May 8; 3 Iona, Aug 28.

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.
 1991

Kintyre: spring passage May 16 - Jun 7, inc. 66 Uisead Pt, May 22; 44 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 26; return passage from Jul 16 with totals of 702 >S/114 hrs, Aug & 194 >S/106 hrs, Sep. at Uisead Pt; also 46 Campbeltown L, Aug 23; 68 Pollwilline Bay, Aug 23; last 10 Uisead Pt, Oct 6. Islay: probably bred at 1 site. L.Indaal - 125 on Mar 13; 94 on Aug 24; 85 on Sep 10.

Monthly max. Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
 L.Indaal 530 192 70 24 56 13 91 107 120 360 294 136
 L.Gruinart 0 88 1 0 137 nc 27 229 nc 0 21 148
 Colonsay: possibly bred. Counts - c. 130 Strand, Nov 12; c. 150 Traigh nam Barc, Dec 1. Mid-Argyll: 22 L.Sween, May 14. Mull: trilling bird on Lunga, May 30; spring passage May 6-Jun 17, inc. 50 Gribun, May 24 & 20 Fidden, May 26; return passage Aug 23-Sep 15, inc. 100 Lochdon, Aug 30. N.Argyll: territorial pr. Water of Tulla. Also - 6 Ledaig Pt, Jan 17; 12 Port Ramsay, Jan 28.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Gibeagan 0517 RU
P Scarce/irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn.
1991

Kintyre: total of 8 >S & 2 >N, Uisaed Pt, Aug 23-Sep 21. Islay: singles at Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 18 & 29.

Jack snipe *Limnocryptes minimus* Gobhrag bheag 0518 JS
W P Probably under-recorded.
1991

Kintyre: 2 Gigha, Jan 25. Islay: 1 Nerabus, Oct 24; 1 L.Gruinart, Oct 31; 3 Eilean na Muice Duibhe, Sep 15; 1 Cnoc Chaluum Mhoir, Nov 9; 1 Rubha Mor, Dec 29; 1 Cairn Beannachd, Dec 30. Mid-Argyll: 1 Castlesween, Feb 18; 1 Taynuilt, Mar 12. Coll: 1 Breachacha, Nov 14 & 19. N.Argyll: 1 Cuil Bay, Mar 21; 1 Ledaig Pt, Oct 18; 1 Ledaig, Dec 1.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Naosg 0519 SN
B W P Widespread, locally common. Breeding recorded in 51% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

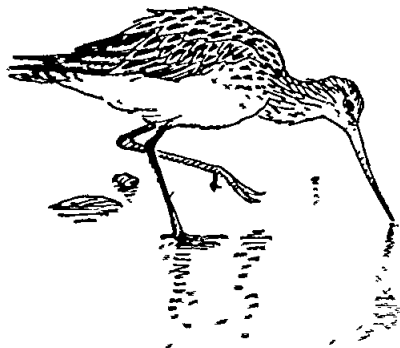
Colonsay: 45 displaying birds located (incomplete census), Jun 23. Mull: breeding confirmed on Lunga.

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).
1991: territorial display noted from Mar 23.

Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* Cearra ghob 0532 BW
P Scarce. Main passage Aug.
1991

Kintyre: return passage from Jul 26. Uisaed Pt. - total of 70 >S, Jul 26-Sep 3 with peak of 47/4 hrs on Aug 22; last 2 Uisead Pt, Sep 3. Islay: 1 L.Gruinart, May 1-2; return passage from Jul 12, inc. 10 Aug 22; last - 1 on Oct 24-25. Mid-Argyll: 1 Linne Mhuirich, Sep 29. Mull: 1 Iona, Aug 21. N.Argyll: 1 Ledaig Pt, Jul 22 & Aug 11.

Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* Cearra ghob mhor 0534 BA
W P Uncommon passage migrant, majority of records in autumn. Wintering



Bar tailed Godwit -
winter

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

birds on Islay & small nos. Colonsay & Tiree; few elsewhere. Birds present in summer at L.Indaal, Islay, in recent years.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - poor return passage - 20 >S/114 hrs, Aug; max. of 5 seen Sep. Islay: spring passage Apr 19-Jun 17 with max. count 125 Blackrock, May 14; return passage from Sep 8, with max. 110 L.Gruinart, Oct 26.

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	122	111	243	115	67	68	57	74	292	171	128	130
L.Gruinart	52	71	0	5	31	nc	0	12	nc	125	2	80

Colonsay: up to 4 birds, Jan-Apr & up to 6, Sep-Dec. Cowal: autumn passage from Sep 15, with max. count 9 on Holy L, Sep 28; last - 6 Holy L, Oct 12. Mid-Argyll: 3 Crinan Ferry, Sep 17. Mull: 2 Jan-Mar, L.na Keal; v. few spring birds, then light autumn passage Aug 24-Sep 24. Coll: 1 Breachacha, Nov 30 & Dec 4.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Eun bealltainn 0538 WM
P Uncommon. Main passage May & Aug. Possibility of a few individuals summering?

1991

Kintyre: spring passage Apr 27-May 25, inc. 45 A'Chleit, May 1; 1 Uisead Pt, Jun 13; poor return passage with only 28 >S/114 hrs, Aug & 4/106 hrs in Sep. Islay: light passage Apr 20-Jun 5; 1 Coultorsay, Jun 23; return passage Jul 23-Sep 24, plus late bird at Kildalton, Oct 10. Jura: 4 Inverlussa, Sep 1. Mid-Argyll: max. count 12 Strathmore, Apr 29. Mull: 6 Kentallen, May 11; 1-3 birds on return passage, Sep 2-15. N.Argyll: 11 L.Laich, Apr 28.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* Guilbneach 0541 CU
B W P Common. Breeding recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: light passage, Aug-early Sep; c.480 at Laggan throughout Sep & Oct. Islay:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	327	357	199	32	33	18	319	648	468	610	396	261
L.Gruinart	361	200	163	159	19	nc	14	504	nc	252	253	90

Cowal: 129 Holy L, Aug 28. Mid-Argyll: 6 prs bred, Moine Mhor. Nocturnal passage over Oban, Mar 10-11; 34 L.Feochar, Sep 23. Mull: 51 Lochdon, Sep 15.

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.

1991

Kintyre: autumn passage Jul 26-Sep 12, with totals of 540 >S/114 hrs Aug & 156 >S/106 hrs, Sep, Uisaed Pt. Islay: 30-49 pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve (large increase on recent years); also bred at Ardlistry. Counts - 75 (max. count) L.Gruinart, Mar 30; 73 (max. count) L.Indaal, Aug 18. Colonsay: bred. Cowal: 48 Holy L, Jan 18. Mid-Argyll: bred L.Nant, Moine Mhor & L.Tromlee. Nocturnal passage over Oban, Mar 10-11, Aug 13 & Sep 16-22. Mull: bred Fidden, Lochdon & L.Cuin; 18 Erraid, Apr 13. N.Argyll: bred L.Creran; 40 Ledaig Pt, Jul 22.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Gearradh bhreac 0545 DR
P Scarce.

1991#

Kintyre: 1 Machrihanish Airfield, Aug 1.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Deoch bhuidhe 0548 GK
B W P Very scarce breeding species (Mull & N.Argyll 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.

1991

Kintyre: 1 Rhunahaorine Pt, Jun 5; then 1-3 passage birds on 4 dates, Jul 28 -
Aug 21. Islay: 1 on May 5, then 1-3 passage birds on 10 dates, Jul 28 - Oct 24.
Colonsay: up to 4 at Strand, Jan-Apr & up to 2, Aug-Dec. Mid-Argyll: calling
bird heard at 1 site, May 19; wintering birds at Brackley & L.Crinan; spring
passage from late Mar, with singles at L.Gilp, Mar 22, Beinn Ghlas, Mar 25 &
Oban Bay, Apr 17; 1-3 return passage birds on 4 dates, Aug 13 - Sep 24. Mull:
summered & possibly bred at 1 site; wintering birds at L.Beg (3), Lochdon (5)
& L.Cuin (2); spring passage Mar 10-Apr 20, with 1-5 birds on 4 dates; passage
from Jul 28, inc. 5 Lochdon, Aug 8; 9 L.Cuin, Aug 19; 3 L.Beg, Sep 18; 6 Croig,
Oct 4 & 4 L.Cuin, Oct 13. Coll: 1 Breachacha, Nov 18. N.Argyll: breeding
confirmed at 1 site & birds in suitable habitat at 2 others; passage birds at
L.Laich (1), Apr 3 & Benderloch Saltmarsh (3), Jul 25.

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

1991

Kintyre: 1 Uisaed Pt, Oct 6. Islay: singles at L.an t-Sailein, Aug 8 & Nerabus,
Nov 17.

Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556 CS
S P Widespread & common breeding visitor. Breeding recorded in 68% of
10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: first Low Glenadale, Apr 25; 8 Lussa L, May 25. Uisaed Pt. - return
passage late Jul/early Aug, with 18 > S/3 hrs, Jul 24; 14 > S/4.5 hrs, Aug 1; 9 > S/
4 hrs, Aug 2; last on Sep 2. Islay: first Kilchiaran (2), Apr 26; last Gruinart
RSPB reserve, Sep 21 (late date). Jura: 1 Ardfernal, Sep 4. Cowal: last Toward
Pt, Aug 27. Mid-Argyll: first head of L.Feochan (2), Apr 20; last - 1 L.Nell, Aug
27. Mull: first L.Ba, Apr 20; last Ulva, Aug 13. N.Argyll: first Glen Strae, Apr
25.

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

1991: recorded in all months.

Kintyre: 20 Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 7; 16 Skipness, Apr 16; 2 Uisead Pt, May 21.
Uisaed Pt. - 38 > S/3 hrs, Jul 28; 81 > S/114 hrs, Aug; 44 > S/06 hrs, Sep. Islay:
50 (max. count) L.Gruinart, Mar 15 & Apr 12; 1 Sanaigmore, Jun 6; 6 Proaig,
Aug 13; 30 (max. count) L.Indaal, Aug 24. Cowal: last Blairmore, Jun 12; first
Dunoon (20), Sep 22.

Mid-Argyll:

Monthly max.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	24	26	22	14	0	0	10	20	23	23	18

Oban Bay
Mull: 20 Gribun, Mar 18; 3 Carsaig Bay, Jun 16; 3 Iona, Aug 28; 6 L.Scrindain,
Sep 19; 22 L.na Keal, Sep 25. N.Argyll: 50 Ledaig Pt, Jan 17.

Red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Deargan allt 0564 NK
S P Rare breeder at one locality only.

1991: 2MM — 1F reported in usual area - breeding suspected but no young
thought to have been reared.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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

1991#

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 1 on Oct 5; 2 on Oct 17 & 1 on Oct 18. Islay: 6 Gartnatra, Sep 24. Mid-Argyll: 1 head of L.Feochar, Sep 25.

Pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* Fasgadair donn 0566 PK
P Scarce.

1991#

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - l/m ad. >S on Jun 6 (unusual date); l/m ad. >S on Sep 15; total of 6 l/m ads. & 32 1st winter birds >S, Oct 1-Nov 2, inc. 26/9 hrs during a NW gale on Oct 17. Ru Stafnish - 2 ads. >S on Sep 19; 1 1st winter bird >S on Oct 26. Mull: 1 off Croig, May 8; 5 Craignure Bay, Jun 10; 3 1st yr. birds off Kintra, Sep 19. Tiree: 1 Mannal, Jun 15.

Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* Fasgadair 0567 AC
S P Small breeding colonies on Jura & Coll. Passage birds off all coasts, Apr-Oct.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt - 12 seen during Jun, then 2 >S, Jul 16; total of 120 observed Aug-Oct with peak passage on Aug 18 & Oct 1; last seen on Oct 13; out sample of 90 return passage birds, 22 were l/m ads, 37 d/m ads, 3 int. ads. & 28 juv./1st winter birds. Islay: 2 records of d/m birds Gruinart RSPB reserve, June; 1 Beinn Mor, Jul 10. Jura: 39 territories were located during a survey of known breeding areas & elsewhere - these were grouped into 4 colonies holding 12, 11, 8 & 8 territories respectively. An estimated 21 territories were successful in rearing young [NCCS]. Colonsay: 4 Port Ban, Jun 17. Mid-Argyll: 2 McCormaig Isles, Jul 4. Mull: up to 3 regular off Lunga, May - Jun; 2 off Grasspoint, Sep 22.

Long-tailed skua *Skua longicaudus* 0568 OG
P Rare.

1991#

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 1st winter bird flew in off sea & crossed point heading S during NW gales on Oct 17. Mull: 1 ad. Fionnphort, Aug 27. Tiree: 1 Balevullin, May 1.

Great skua *Stercorarius skua* Fasgadair mor 0569 NX
S P Uncommon passage migrant & summer visitor. Bred unsuccessfully on Coll in 1989.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 15 >S/220 hrs, Aug 1-Sep 30; 12 >S on Oct 1 & 6 >S on Oct 17 (last). Ru Stafnish - 1 >S on Apr 4. West L.Tarbert - 1 on May 2. Islay: 1-2 off N & W coast during Aug, then late bird in Sound of Islay, Nov 2. Mull: 1 between Mull & Coll, Jun 17; 1 Lunga, Jun 20; 1 Grasspoint, Jul 28; 3 Kintra, Sep 19; 1 off Duart, Sep 21. Tiree: 1 Gott Bay, Jun 15. N.Argyll: 1 Connel, Oct 18.

Little gull *Larus minutus* Crann fhaoileag 0578 LU
P Scarce.

1991#

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - Juv. >S, Aug 29; 2 ads. & 3 juvs. >S, Sep 16; 2 juvs. >S, Sep 17; 1 juv. >S, Sep 20. Mid-Argyll: 1 imm. Oban Bay, Jan 6. Mull: 1 imm. Sound of Iona, Jun 12-14; 1 imm. L.Cuin, Jun 22 - Jul 9. N.Argyll: 1 imm. Ledaig Pt, Jul 11.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Sabine's gull *Larus sabini*

0579 AB

V Irregular.

1991#

Islay: 1 1st w. Port Wemyss, Jan 4 (subject to acceptance by SBRC). Kintyre: 1 imm. Uisead Pt, Oct 3; 1 Sound of Gigha, Oct 6.

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).

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - light passage, Aug-Oct. Islay: 90+ pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve - few young fledged owing to heavy predation by ferrets.

Monthly max.

L.Indaal

L.Gruinart

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

6 16 62 158 20 65 124 49 27 78 16 17

0 49 203 72 28 nc 4 230 nc 2 64 1

Colonsay: 41 pairs bred, Ardskenish. Present Apr - Oct; 43 Strand, Aug 10. Mid-Argyll: 76 Oban Bay, Jan 6. Mull: bred at Lochdon, L.Beg & Tobermory. Counts - 10 Lochdon, Sep 15.

Ring-billed gull *Larus delawarensis*

0589 IN

V Scarce.

1991

Kintyre: 1 1st s. Uisead Pt, May 25-Jun 4. Islay: 1 ad. Port Charlotte, Apr 17-Sep 3. Mid-Argyll: 1 imm. Oban, Jan 14-Apr 15.

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).

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - passage Sep-Oct with peak of 170 > S/6 hrs on Sep 22. Lagan - up to 1,000 birds present throughout Sep & Oct. Islay: c.50 pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve.

Monthly max.

L.Indaal

L.Gruinart

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

150 260 147 604 105 67 189 355 366 292 133 83

214 53 422 65 33 nc 8 50 nc 63 22 35

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.

1991

Kintyre: first - 20 Westport, Mar 27; spring passage inc. 400 Chiscan Farm, Apr 28 & 105 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 9; return passage from late Jul, inc. 114 Chiscan Farm, Jul 30. Uisaed Pt. - light S passage, Aug-Sep with peak of 56/3.5 hrs on Sep 1; 2 records in Oct then last seen on Nov 1. Islay: passage birds at Gruinart RSPB reserve, Mar 12-30, with max. count of 44 on Mar 22; 65 Bridgend, Apr 16. Last were 3 on Nov 19. Colonsay: first - Apr 14. Cowal: first - 2 L.Long, Feb 25; last - 1 Blairmore, Oct 23. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Kilmore, Mar 21. Mull: first - 1 Aoineadh Beag, Mar 12. N.Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 6.

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.

1991

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Kintyre: peak counts at Laggan inc. 2000 on Aug 27 & 3800 on Sep 10. Uisaed Pt - S. passage Sep-Oct with peak of 670/4 hrs on Sep 14.

Islay:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
L.Indaal	452	114	102	158	108	48	66	80	112	136	203	97
L.Gruinart	18	15	26	43	102	nc	0	63	nc	33	15	0

Mid-Argyll: 20 near-fledged pulli killed & eaten by mammalian predator, Jul 4; 342 Oban Bay, Jan 7. Mull: yellow-legged bird at Grasspoint, May 4.

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

1991

Kintyre: 1 2nd w. Westport, Jan 13 & Jun 28. Islay: 1 3rd w. Glenegedale, Jan 1; 1 ad. L.Skerrois, Mar 15; 1 2nd w. Port Askaig, Mar 15; 1 L.Indaal, Oct 11. Colonsay: 1 1st w. Kiloran Bay, Mar 9. Mid-Argyll: Oban - 1 1st w, Jan 3-6 & Nov 26; up to 3 2nd w. birds, Jan 8-May 10. L.Nell - 2 (1st & 2nd w.) on Feb 16. Mull: 1 2nd w. Fishnish Bay, Mar 12-May 12; 1 2nd w. Inch Kenneth, Sep 25; 1 1st w. L.na Lathaich, Dec 8.

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

1991

Kintyre: 1 Gigha, Jan 21; 1 Campbeltown L, Jan 26; 1 Tarbert, Feb 23; 1 2nd w. Rhunahaorine, Feb 24; 1 Uisead Pt, Sep 10; 1 2nd w. Uisead Pt, Sep 22; 1 1st w. Uisead Pt, Oct 17 & Nov 1. Islay: L.Indaal - 1 ad. & 1 2nd w. on Jan 27; 2 2nd w. on Mar 13; 1 3rd s. on May 28; 1 1st w. on Oct 21; 1 1st w. L.a' Chnuic, Oct 23; 1 1st w. Carraig Fhada, Nov 2. Mid-Argyll: 1-2 2nd w, Oban, Jan 7-Jan 26; 1 1st w. L.Nell, Jan 16; 1 2nd w. L.Feochan, Feb 24; 1 1st w. Oban Bay, Mar 4. N.Argyll: 1 1st w. Tralee, Jan 21-Feb 17; 1 1st w. Appin, Mar 29.

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

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - light S passage Sep-Oct with peak of 90/6 hrs on Sep 22. Cowal: 166 Holy L, Sep 15. Mid-Argyll: 150 head of L.Feochan, Mar 23; 100 McCormaig Isles, Jul 4; 105 Ardentallen Pt, Aug 20.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag 0602 KI
B P Main breeding colonies on Islay, Colonsay, Tiree & Treshnish Is.

1991

Kintyre: 1 imm. Westport Marsh, Apr 3. Uisaed Pt - S passage Aug 1-Nov 2, inc. 2283 /114 hrs in Aug, 14,406/106 hrs Sep & 6,235/100 hrs Oct. Jura: 76 aos Eilean Mor, Jun 29. Mull: 600 ashore, Lunga, May 26. Garvellachs: 100 loafing, Eilean An Naoimh, Jun 29.

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

1991

Kintyre: 4 seen regularly off Uisaed Pt, Jun 10-Jul 16, sometimes carrying sand eels, but no proof of breeding in area. Passage birds seen mainly Apr-May & Aug-Oct, inc. 11 Brunerican Bay, Apr 18; 10 Sound of Gigha, May 22; 31 Sound of Gigha, Aug 26. Islay: 1-4 on passage, Jun 8-Jun 16 & Aug 14-Sep 4. Colonsay: 1 Scalasaig, Jun 18. Mid-Argyll: 1 Fladda, Jun 29. Mull: 2 Sound of

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Iona, Jun 14.

Common tern *Sterna hirundo* Stearnag 0615 CN
S P Locally common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991: in a study area extending from Machrihanish to the border with Highland Region, 12 colonies (4 pure, 8 mixed with arctic tern) held 1070 pairs and reared 350 (+/- 100) chicks to near fledging. 58% of pairs and 86% of chicks fledged were at the largest colony. Four colonies each held >20 prs, 7 held 21-120 prs and one held 620 prs of common tern. In the northern part of the study area (Firth of Lorn) mink and otter severely reduced fledging at 4-5 colonies. In the southern part (Sound of Jura) c. 210 prs at 4 sites, which had good fledging success in 1989 and 1990, failed to complete their clutches, moved repeatedly between sites, and reared no chicks, apparently because of severe local food shortage [JCAC].

Kintyre: 60 prs bred Machrihanish. First - Sound of Gigha, Apr 30. Uisaed Pt. - 180 >N/4 hrs, Jul 30; 88 >S/4 hrs, Aug 18; a 1st summer plumaged bird (portlandica phase) was seen regularly at Uisaed Pt during June & 7 were present in a mixed flock of 230 common/arctic terns at Bellochantuy, Jun 7. Last - Uisead Pt. (8), Aug 25. Islay: first - 8 on Apr 29; late bird L.Indaal, Nov 14. N.Argyll: 8 Connel, Jul 10.

Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* Stearnal 0616 AE
S P Locally numerous breeding species. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991: in the same study area used for common tern (see above), 11 colonies (3 pure, 8 mixed with common tern) held 243 prs and reared 44 (+/- 5) chicks to near fledging. 71% of pairs and 91% of chicks fledged were at 3 colonies with 80, 52 and 40 prs arctic tern. The other 8 colonies each held >20 prs arctic tern. Predation and food shortage affected this species in much the same way as common tern.

Kintyre: first - 3 Sound of Gigha, May 2. Uisaed Pt. - 356 >N/4 hrs, Jul 30; 60 >S/4.5 hrs, Aug 8; 22 >S/9 hrs, Oct 1; last on Oct 7. Islay: c.10 pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve & c. 50 prs bred L.Indaal. Mull: 1 Garmony, Jun 13. Tiree: 319-363+ breeding prs. (complete count).

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

1991

Kintyre: first - 4 Rhunahaorine Pt, May 9. Uisaed Pt. - 2 >N on May 15; total of 7 >S, Aug 20-Oct 1. Also - 1 juv. Ru Stafnish, Sep 13. Islay: 4 sites each held 1-10 prs, but breeding confirmed at only 1 site. Mull: 1 Garmony, Jun 14. Coll: at least 15 prs. bred. Tiree: 57 prs located (complete survey).

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.

1991

Kintyre: chicks seen on water from Jul 20; main flightless moult period was Aug 13-Sep 10; 122 >S/3 hrs, Uisaed Pt, Nov 2. Mull: c. 20 ashore, Caliach Pt, May 15; c. 1800 ashore, Lunga, May 26; 30 off Scoor, Jun 20.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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

1991

Kintyre: main flightless moult period was Aug 5-Sep 2. Jura: 15 ashore, Eilean Beag, Jun 29; 20 ashore, Eilean Mor, Jun 29. Mid-Argyll: 10 Sound of Kerrera, Feb 11. Mull: c. 150 ashore, Lunga, May 26. Garvellachs: c. 20 ashore, Garbh Eileach, Jun 29.

Auk spp.

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 1,400 >S/9 hrs, Oct 1; 460 >S/5 hrs, Oct 7; 697 >S/3 hrs, Oct 13.

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

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 26 >N/1 hr, Sep 29; 28 >N/1 hr, Oct 25. Also - 73 Sound of Gigha, Oct 25. Cowal: 1 L.Long, Jan 15. Mid-Argyll: 43 McCormaig Isles, Jun.

Monthly max.

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

Oban Bay

6 15 12 12 10 7 14 11 3 12 12 3

Mull: 40 Caliach Pt, May 17; 16 Crackaig, Jun 22. Garvellachs: 8 Eilean An Naoimh, Jun 29; 13 Garbh Eileach, Jun 29.

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

1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 2 >S, Jan 6; 1 on Sep 7 (v. unusual date). Islay: 1 (dead) Machir Bay, Jan 27; 1 Port Ellen, Dec 22. Colonsay: 1 Kiloran Bay, Jan 6. Mid-Argyll: 1 Poltalloch, Jan 4; 3 Oban Bay, Jan 6; 1 Oban Bay, Mar 13; 1 picked up on A816 near Kilmelford and released on L.Feochan, Mar 19. Mull: 1 Lady's Rock, Mar 11.

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

1991

Kintyre: Ru Stafnish - 14 >S/1.5 hrs, Apr 6; 16 >S/1 hr, Jun 14. An Dubh Sgeir (Gigha) - 5 on May 28. Uisaed Pt. - 5 >S/9 hrs, Oct 1. Islay: 1 Machir Bay, Jan 27; 4 Ton Mhor, Jul 13. Colonsay: 2 (dead) Ardskenish, Jun 20; 1 Port Ban, Jun 26. Jura: 9 ashore, Eilean Mor, Jun 29. Mid-Argyll: remains of half-eaten chick found on McCormaig Isles, Jul 21. This is the first evidence of possible breeding here. Puffin have bred on nearby Carraig an Daimph in recent years, although great black-backed gulls have invariably killed the adult birds. Also - imm. found dead near Oban, Jan 5; 1 L.Fyne, May 11; 1 Dubh Sgeir, Jul 4. Mull: incomplete census located c. 300 occ. holes, Lunga, May 26; 6 Scoor, Jun 20. Garvellachs: 1 Eilean An Naoimh, Jun 29.

Rock dove *Columba livia* Calman creige 0665 DV
R Resident breeder except Cowal, 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.

1991

Islay: bred in derelict buildings, Gruinart RSPB reserve; recorded in all months on reserve, with max. count 113 on Oct 11, feeding in barley field; max. autumn flock elsewhere was 180 Coul, Oct 28. Mull: 10 Glengorm, May 14.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Stock dove *Columba oenas* Calman gorm 0668 SD
 ? Scarce/irregular, Kintyre & Cowal. Possibly under-recorded - all records required.

1991

Mid-Argyll: 2 L.Ederline, Jul 7; 3 Kilbride, Dec 15.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* Calman fiadhaich 0670 WP
 B W Common resident breeding species except on some islands, eg. Mull, where more numerous in winter. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Mid-Argyll: 150 Ganavan, Jan 7; 100 Killiechoinich, Oct 27; 200 Taynuilt, Oct 27.
 Mull: 32 Salen, Apr 8. N.Argyll: 30 N. Shian, Feb 3.

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

1991

Islay: increase in birds around Aoradh, Gruinart RSPB reserve, feeding on barley fed to farm stock; max. count 12, May 23-28. Mid-Argyll: 12 Oban, Oct 30. Mull: bred in at least 4 localities; spring wanderers recorded at Malcolm's Pt, May 28 & Kintra, May 30.

Turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* Calman tuchan 0687 TD
 P Scarce. Majority recorded May/Jun. All records required.

1991#

Kintyre: 1 Machrihanish, Aug 30. Islay: singles at Gruinart, Bunnahabhainn, & Kilchiaran, May 24; 1 Kilnaughton Wood, May 25; 2 at Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 26 & 31. Jura: 1 Lagg, May 23. Colonsay: 1 Balnahard Farm, May 25; 1 Milbuie, Jul 7.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Cuthag 0724 CK
 S P Common. Main host species is meadow pipit. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1 Southend, Apr 26. Islay: first - Apr 25. Colonsay: first - Apr 28. Cowal first - 1 Blairmore Farm, May 2. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Ardencaple, Apr 16; last - 1 juv. Barranrioch, Aug 11. Mull: first - 1 Port Donain, Apr 27; last - 1 juv. Lochdon, Aug 30. N.Argyll: first - 1 Appin, Apr 27.

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.

1991

Kintyre: breeding confirmed in 2 localities & probable in another; additional single birds recorded at Low Clachaig, Ardmish & Machrihanish; remains of 1 bird found on cliff top close to occupied peregrine & raven sites. Islay: at least 10 prs. laid; mean brood size at/near fledging was 2.8 per pair laying [MAO]. Cowal: 1 Kilail Burn, Jun 30. Mid-Argyll: breeding confirmed in 1 locality; additional single birds recorded at Ariogan, Dunollie, Pennyfuir, Struan, Moine Mhor, Tullich, Kilmore, Ardoran, Moleigh, Cologin & Oban. Mull: single birds recorded from Mishnish Lochs, L.Buie & Burg. N.Argyll: 1 Taynuilt, Feb 9.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Eagle owl *Bubo bubo*

0744

E V

1991#

Mid-Argyll: single still apparently resident at Arduaine.

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).

1991

Islay: recorded in 4 localities. Jura: 2 Doire Dhonn, Apr 15; 1 Inverlussa, Sep 2. Colonsay: 1 L.Fada, Jun 23. Mid-Argyll: singles dead on roadside at Dunbeg & Dunach, Aug; also Balinoe & Ariogan, Sep.

Long-eared owl *Asio otus* Comhachag adharcaiche

0767 LE

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

1991#

Colonsay: pr. bred. Mid-Argyll: 1 Tullich, Feb 17 & Jul 20; 1 Fearnoch Forest, Jul 5. Mull: bred, Gruline. Passage bird at Grasspoint, Oct 2.

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).

1991

Kintyre: breeding confirmed in 4 localities, N. Kintyre; 1 Gigha, Jan 30. Jura: probably bred, Achamore. Mid-Argyll: breeding confirmed in 5 localities, inc. 2 prs. at Moine Mhor, also present in at least 11 other localities, Apr-Jul. Mull: breeding confirmed in 7 localities, also present in 24 other localities, Apr-Jul; few winter records, eg. 1 Glen Forsa, Feb 17; 1 Crannich, Nov 9; 2 Mishnish Lochs, Dec 16. Tiree: 1 Crossapol dunes, Nov 29. N.Argyll: 1 Clashgour, Apr 27.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgraiacheag oidhche

0778 NJ

S P Very scarce. Recent breeding confirmed for 3 areas only (in Kintyre & Cowal), all adjacent to Arran, one of the two traditional Scottish strongholds.

1991

Cowal: 1 Hell's Glen, Jul 1.

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. Breeding recorded in 4% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 1-9 seen on 9 dates, May 3-Aug 15. Islay: 1-7 birds seen on 5 dates, May 29-Jul 3, then late bird on Sep 12. Colonsay: 2 Balnahard, Jun 25; 4 golf course, Aug 2. Mid-Argyll: first - 2 Oban, May 17; max. count at Oban was 30 on Aug 1; elsewhere, 1-4 birds seen various dates between May 18-Jul 1. Mull: first - 1 Treshnish Pt, Jun 22; 18 Penmore, Jul 28 was unusually high count. N.Argyll: 1-5 seen, May 15-Aug 20.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Biorra cruidein

0831 KF

Rare. Majority of records are in autumn/winter & are probably dispersing

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

juveniles.

1991#

Cowal: 1 Stronvochlan, Oct 21. Mid-Argyll: 1 R. Add, Jul 3 & 19; 2 Ardrishaig, Sep 20; 1 Dunardry Lochs, Oct 15. Mull: 1 Pennyghael, Aug 25; 1 Aros, Dec 10.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Geocair

0848 WY

V

1991#

Mull: 1 Torlochan, Jun 9-10.

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).
1991: no significant records.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Uiseag

0976 S

B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Emigration of many birds in winter, with remaining birds mainly distributed in coastal & low-lying areas. Breeding recorded in 79% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 30 Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 7. Islay: 180+ Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 27 (in barley stubble) & 100+ Oct - Dec in barley field. Mid-Argyll: at least 51 territories, Moine Mhor.

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).

1991: poor breeding season, with numbers down by 50% on 1990 in some areas.

Kintyre: breeding confirmed at 3 sites. First - 1 Conie Glen, Apr 1; 35 occ. holes Bord a' Dubh, May 16; 14 occ. holes Machrihanish, May 24; 50 occ. holes Saddell, May 24. Islay: breeding confirmed at Kilchiaran, Laggan Bridge & Kintra. First - 1 on Apr 16; 10 occ. holes Laggan Bridge, Jun 25. Last - 1 on Aug 26. Cowal: 5 occ. holes Stronchullin, Jun 25; 20 occ. holes Glenmassan, Jun 25. Mid-Argyll: breeding confirmed at 5 sites. First - 1 Kilmartin, Apr 10; 65 occ. holes Kilmartin quarry; 20 occ. holes Kilmichael Glen woodyard; 20 occ. holes Kilbride; 20 occ. holes Kirnan; 4 occ. holes L. Gleann a' Bhearraidh; 4 occ. holes Ardoran; 10 occ. holes Lower Kinachreachan. Mull: breeding confirmed at 6 sites. First - 6 Glen Aros, Apr 23; 5 occ. holes Glen Forsa, May 5; pr. bred Kilninian & Glen Cannel (new sites?). N. Argyll: first - 1 Appin, Apr 14; 2 Black Mount, May 19; 6 occ. holes Barravourich, Jun 1.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Gobhlan gaoithe

0992 SL

S P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 76% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1 Conie Glen, Apr 13; 1500 Machrimore, May 26 (these passage birds were apparently held up by dense low cloud present for several days in late May); last - 2 Stewarton, Nov 1. Islay: first - Apr 25; max. count 80 on Aug 27; last - 2 on Nov 4. Jura: 36 Inverlussa, Sep 1; 15 Inverlussa, Sep 12. Colonsay: first - Apr 26. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Ardrishaig, Apr 14; last - 1 Lochgilphead, Nov 1. Mull: first - 1 Glen Forsa, Apr 25; last - 2 Tiroran, Oct 3. N. Argyll: first - 1 Appin, Apr 13.

House martin *Delichon urbica* Gobhlan taighe

1001 HM

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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). 1991

Kintyre: first Southend, Apr 14; main arrival May 14. Islay: first - Apr 25; c.10 pairs bred in Old Schoolhouse, Gruinart RSPB reserve. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Ardoran, May 8; last - 2 Glen Cruitten, Sep 24. Mull: first - 4 Glen Forsa, May 12. Tiree: 1 Hynish, Jun 15.

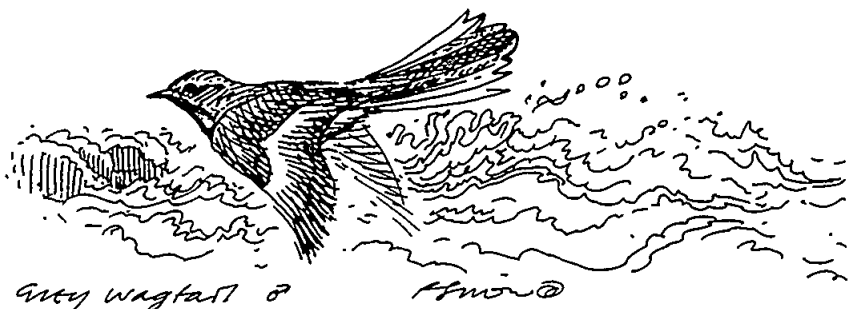
Tree pipit *Anthus trivialis* Riabhag 1009 TP
S P Common breeding species in open deciduous woodland. Breeding recorded in 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1991

Kintyre: 18 territories identified, Mealdarroch NNR; first - 10 Machariach, Apr 13. Islay: 2 Ardmore, Apr 25. Cowal: first - 1 Clach Beinn, Apr 26. Mid-Argyll: first - Taynish, Apr 15. Mull: last - 1 L.Ba, Aug 27. N.Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 16.

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. 1991

Kintyre: 50 Kilean, Apr 7; 100 Torrisdale Bay, Apr 7. Uisaed Pt. - light passage Sep 4-Oct 24 with peak of 250 >S/3 hrs on Sep 7. Mull: 100 Gualachaolish, Mar 21.

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. 1991: no significant records.



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. 1991

Islay: breeding confirmed at Gruinart & the Woollen Mill. Colonsay: bred Colonsay House Gardens & Kiloran. Jura: 5 Ardlussa Bay, Sep 8.

Pied wagtail *Motacilla alba* Breac an t-sil 1020 PW
B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 87% of

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Emigration from most areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive late Feb/early March; departure late Oct. 1991

Kintyre: 16 Machrihanish, Jan 24. Islay: 39 Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 3, then light passage until May 11; 70+ L.Indaal, Aug 24. Mid-Argyll: a roost formed in a reed bed near Ariogan during Aug-Oct, max. count was 150 on Sep 11. N.Argyll: 100 Portnacraish, Sep 4.

White wagtail, *M.a.alba*: (note - because of possible confusion with juv. pied wagtail, great care is needed in identifying white wagtails in autumn). 1991

Kintyre: Uisaed Pt. - 1st on Apr 10, then total of 42 during rest of April & 129 during May (inc. 52 on May 4). Islay: up to 39 recorded on 6 dates, Apr 22 - May 21; 1 on Sep 2. Jura: 1 Fishing L, Apr 3. Colonsay: 10 Ardskenish/Garvard, Apr 25. N.Argyll: 2 Ledaig Pt, Apr 17; 1 Benderloch Saltmarsh, May 17.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* Canarach dearg 1048 WX
W Irregular visitor in varying numbers.

1991#

Kintyre: 1 Southend, Dec 6. Islay: c. 12 Bridgend, Nov 13. Mid-Argyll: 1 Cairnbaan, Jan 14-15; 1 Lochgilphead, Feb 13; 3 Oban, Nov 18; 4 Ardrishaig, Nov 18; 5 Oban, Nov 19; 13 Taynuilt, Nov 24. Mull: 1 L.Beg, Nov 17; 7 Iona, Nov 18; 6 Bunessan, Nov 19; 8 Aros, Nov 27. Coll: 1 Sorisdale, Nov 13; 1 Uig, Nov 13. N.Argyll: 1 Connel, Nov 27; 2 Benderloch, Dec 1.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Gobha uisge 1050 DI
B W Widespread, although scarce on Islay & Colonsay; absent Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 34% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1991

Kintyre: 2 nests in Coney Glen were less than 1 km apart & contained c/3 & c/5 on Apr 10. Islay: breeding confirmed at 2 sites; winter records of singles in 3 additional areas. Mid-Argyll: 6 Barnacarry, Jan 13; 2 Oban, Mar 2. Mull: recorded in 13 localities, Mar-Aug. N.Argyll: recorded at Glen Stockdale, L.Creran, Elleric & Abhainn Shira.

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). 1991

Kintyre: 25 territories identified, Mealdarroch NNR. Mull: 10 prs. Lunga, May 26.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* Gealbhoon nam preas 1084 D
B W P Widespread & common, except some islands. Breeding recorded in 55% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1991

Garvellachs: pr. bred Eilean An Naoimh

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. 1991

Kintyre: 11 territories identified, Mealdarroch NNR. Mid-Argyll: 22 territories identified, Moine Mhor. Garvellachs: Pr. bred Eilean An Naoimh.

Black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Ceann dubhan 1121 BX

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

V

1991#

Coll: 1 Gallanach, May 29.

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).
1991

Kintyre: Pr. bred Low Glenadale. Islay: 1F Port Wemyss, Oct 12. Jura: 2 Inverlussa, Sep 8. Mid-Argyll: poor breeding season reported at Ellary Estate and Taynish NNR. First - Taynish, Apr 18.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Gocan 1137 WC
S P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 74% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: first - 1 Lochorodale, Apr 26. Islay: first - Apr 25; last - Sep 11. Colonsay: only 5 territories identified. Mid-Argyll: 31 territories identified, Moine Mhor. First - 1 Moine Mhor, Apr 16. Mull: first - 1 L. Assapol, May 11. N. Argyll: first - 1M Connel, May 13; last - 1 Connel, Sep 24.

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).
1991

Colonsay: 24 territories identified. Mid-Argyll: 13 territories identified, Moine Mhor; 14 Cologin, Mar 15. Mull: 8 Scoor, Jun 15.

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).
1991

Kintyre: first - 2 Westport, Mar 27. Islay: 18+ pairs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve. First - Kilnave, Mar 16; last - Kilnaughton Bay, Nov 2. Jura: MM widespread by Mar 30. Cowal: last - 1 Beinn Ime, Sep 26. Mid-Argyll: first - 1M Glenfeochan, Mar 25; last - 1 Ariogan, Oct 13. Mull: first - 2MM Uisken, Mar 20; 15 The Wilderness, Mar 15; 10 prs. Lunga, May 26; last - 1 Gribun, Sep 21. Garvellachs: 5 prs. Eilean An Naoimh, Jun 29. N. Argyll: first - 4MM Connel, Apr 15.

"Greenland" race, *O.o.leucorrohoa* (breeds Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes & NE Canada):

1991#

Islay: 1F Ardnave Pt, Oct 11. Jura: 1 Craighouse, Sep 10.

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.
1991#

Islay: 1 Braibruich, May 4; 2 Beinn Bheigeir, Jul 2. Jura: 1 Allt an-t-Sagairt, Aug 14. Cowal: 1M L. Restil, Apr 25. Mull: probably bred at min. of 1 site. Also - 1M Craig, Apr 7; 1M Glen Forsa, May 9; 1M Scarisdale, Sep 21. N. Argyll: 1 Beinn

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

a'Chuirn, May 11; 1M Beinn an Dothaidh, May 11; 1 Glen Kinglass, May 15; 1 Allt Coire an Lochain, Jun 1.

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).
1991

Kintyre: heavy passage (mainly males) late Oct, eg. 80+ Coney Glen, Oct 30. Islay: flocks of 20-30 seen in late Oct. Colonsay: passage mid-Oct, inc. 20 Balnahard dunes, Oct 25.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Liath thruisg 1198 FF
W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter.
1991

Kintyre: few winter flocks of up to 60; last - 20 Glenmucklach, Apr 3; first - Oct 13, then 680 Conie Glen, Oct 30; 6000 Chiscan Farm, Nov 3. Islay: more wintered than usual, eg. 90 Avenvogie, Jan 1. Last - 6 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 11; main autumn passage from mid-Oct. Jura: first - 2 Lagg, Sep 12. Colonsay: passage mid-Oct, inc. c. 100 Balnahard dunes, Oct 25. Cowal: few winter flocks of 33-60. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Ariogan, Oct 11; moderate passage Oct 21-Nov 3, inc. 115 Kilmory, Nov 2 & flocks of 28-100, Oban area, Nov 3. N.Argyll: 100 Connel, Oct 23.

Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* Smeorach 1200 ST
B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 72% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991

Kintyre: light passage mid-Oct. Mid-Argyll: poor breeding season, Taynish NNR. Garvellachs: bred Eilean An Naoimh.

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].
1991

Kintyre: first Southend, Oct 10; then flocks of 50-500 South Kintyre, Oct 12-19, inc. 160 >S/1 hr, Uisaed Pt, Oct 15. Islay: more wintered than usual, eg. 160 Newton, Feb 12. Last - 6 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 20. Colonsay: 1 singing, Apr 25, but no further sightings until Oct 12; c. 50 Colonsay House woods, Dec. Mid-Argyll: last - 1 Kilmory, Apr 24; first - 1 Killiechoinich, Sep 29; then flocks of 33-50, Oct 10-Dec 16. Mull: breeding confirmed at 1 site & pr. present at a 2nd. Also - 15 Penmore, Jul 23; first autumn flock 50 Calgary, Oct 11. N.Argyll: winter flocks of 40-100; last - 1 Achnacree more, Apr 22; first - 6 Connel, Sep 22.

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.
1991

Mid-Argyll: passage flocks of 11-13 in Oban area, Sep 16-Oct 5. Mull: 20 Calgary, Jul 25. N.Argyll: 14 Connel, Sep 23.

Grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* Ceileiriche leumnach 1236 GH
S P Localised breeding species in all regions. Good breeding densities occur

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

in many young conifer plantations. Breeding recorded in 26% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1M Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 30; main arrival early May. Islay: first - May 1. Colonsay: 2 territories located. Mid-Argyll: 15 territories identified, Moine Mhor. First - 1 Moine Mhor, Apr 26. Mull: first - 1 Dervaig, May 1. Tiree: Probably bred; 1 Balemartine, Jun 14.

Sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Glas eun 1243 SW
S P Locally common. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 7 Barrmains, May 25. Islay: first - May 26. Colonsay: 14 territories identified (incomplete census). Mid-Argyll: 6 territories identified, Moine Mhor; fewer than 1990, Taynish NNR. First - 1 Kilmichael Glen, May 10; 1 singing, McCormaig Isles, Jul 4. Mull: first - 1M Kellan, May 16.



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).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1M Cnoc Reamhar, May 7. Islay: first on May 4. Colonsay: 12 territories identified (incomplete census). Mid-Argyll: lower numbers than in 1990, Taynish NNR. First - 1 Kilmichael Glen, May 4; last - 1 Oban, Sep 20. Mull: first - 1 Torloisk, May 23. N.Argyll: first - 1 Connel, May 25.

Garden warbler *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche garaidh 1276 GW
S P Scarce breeding species. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1M Kilchrist, May 14. Islay: first - 1 May 20. Mid-Argyll: first - 2MM Bellanoch, May 24. N.Argyll: first - 2 Connel, Jul 5.

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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.

1991

Kintyre: at least 6 territories, Torrisdale Castle. First - 1M Killellan Lodge, Apr 23; 1 Chiscan Farm, Oct 15; 2MM & 1 r/h at Carradale, Nov-Dec. Islay: singles recorded Sep 6; Oct 13; Nov 7 & Nov 18. Jura: 1F Ardlussa, Oct 8. Colonsay: 1 Scalasaig, May 9; 1 (dead) Colonsay House gardens, Dec 18. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Taynish, Apr 18. Mull: first - 1M Gruline, May 14; 1M Aros, Dec 10-22. N.Argyll: first - 1M Port Ramsay, May 18; 1F Connel, Nov 9 & Dec 7.

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).

1991

Kintyre: first - 1M Saddell, May 7. Islay: singing birds heard in 5 localities. First - 1 May 20. Colonsay: 1 singing, Colonsay House woods, May 30. Cowal: first - 1 Blairmore Farm, May 2. Mid-Argyll: marked decline in numbers compared with 1990, Taynish NNR; first - 1 Ardoran, Apr 29. Mull: first - 1 Kilfinichen Bay, May 2. N.Argyll: first - 1 Connel, May 13.

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.

1991

Kintyre: singing birds heard at Muasdale, Torrisdale, Conie Glen, Lochorodale, Dalsmirren, Waterfoot, Saddell & Collusca. First - 10 Southend, Apr 13; last Uisead Pt, Nov 17. Islay: singing birds at Gruinart & Bridgend Woods, Apr 14-16; 1 Carnduncan, Dec 4. Jura: 1 Kinuachdrach, Apr 14; 1 Ardlussa, Apr 15. Mid-Argyll: singing birds heard at Glen Cruitten, Poltalloch & Taynish. Mull: singing birds heard at Tiroran, Glen Aros, L.Buie & Langamull; also - 1 Dervaig, Dec 15. N.Argyll: 1 Connel, Apr 30.

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).

1991

Kintyre: 95 territories identified, Mealdarroch NNR. First - 80 Southend, Apr 13; last - 1 Southend, Oct 23. Islay: first - Apr 13. Jura: last - 1 Craighouse, Sep 10. Colonsay: first - 1 Milbuie, Apr 22. Cowal: first - 1 Blairmore Farm, Apr 15. Mid-Argyll: 30 territories identified, Moine Mhor. First - 1 Moine Mhor, Apr 15. Mull: first - 1 Kilfinichen Bay, Apr 13. N.Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 12.

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

1991

Coll: 1 Arinagour, Dec 14.

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).

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991



Goldcrest A90

1991

Islay: recorded in 5 localities; first - Jun 10. Mid-Argyll: present in lower numbers than 1990, Taynish NNR; first - 1 Dalavich, May 25; last - 1 Oban, Aug 11. Mull: first - 1 Glen Aros, May 26. N.Argyll: first - 1 Achuaran, Jun 16.

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).

1991

Cowal: bred at Blairmore. Mid-Argyll: Ardenavan - 6 prs bred, 5 prs. were successful & reared a total of 13 chicks (a breeding adult trapped at Ardenavan had been ringed at L.Katrine, Central Region, as a pullus in 1990); possibly bred, Taynish; 1M Dunderave Pt, May 23. N.Argyll: L.Etive - 5 prs bred, 4 prs were successful & reared a total of 26 chicks; 1M Strath of Appin, Aug 23.

Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Ciochan 1437 LT
B W P Widespread & common on mainland, local on some islands & rare on Colonsay, Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Parties of wandering birds widespread in autumn.

1991

Kintyre: 50 Conie Glen, Jul 1; 70 Conie Glen, Jul 16. Islay: 20+ Kildalton Woods, Nov 1.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus* Currac ghiuthais 1442 WT
V

1991#

N.Argyll: 1 Crannach, Water of Tulla, Jun 1.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus* Gulpag stuic 1454 CI
V?

1991#

N.Argyll: 1 Doire Darach, Nov 9 (subject to acceptance by SBRC).

Coal tit *Parus ater* Smutag 1461 CT
B W P Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 62% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration from Argyll in autumn.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

1991

Mid-Argyll: increase in number of territories compared with 1990, Taynish NNR; 30 L. Glashan, Mar 21. Coll: 2 Arinagour, Nov 23.

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).

1991

Kintyre: 8 seen flying over sea off Uisaed Pt, Oct 22. Mid-Argyll: good breeding season reported from Ellary Estate; increase in number of territories compared with 1990, 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).

1991: no significant records.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Snaigear 1486 TC

B W Widespread & common except Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Jura: 1 Kinuachdrach, Apr 14; 1 Lealt, Sep 8.

Golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus* 1508

V

1991#

Islay: 1M Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jun 1; caught & killed a common lizard by repeatedly bashing it against a branch, prior to eating it. Coll: 1F on Jun 10. Both birds seen & photographed by the same observer!

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Sgraiheag 1539 J

B W Locally distributed, mainland only. Breeding recorded in 3% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). All records required.

1991

Cowal: up to 3 seen at Blairmore Farm. Mid-Argyll: 1 Achnamara, Jan 15; 2 River Shira, Apr 25; 1 Hayfield, May 18; 1 River Oude, Sep 15. Mull: 1 Auchnacraig, Feb 21. N.Argyll: 1 N. Shian, Apr 15.

Magpie *Pica pica* Cadhag 1549 MG

R Local on Cowal, rare elsewhere. Breeding recorded in 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: 1 Ballochroy, Oct 25. Cowal: up to 2 seen at Blairmore Farm. Mid-Argyll: 1 Barsloisnoch, Mar 2; 1 Bellanoch, Mar 5; 1 Glen Aray, June; 1 Dalavich, Oct 21-24.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Cathag dhearg chasach 1559 CF

R W Islay is the Scottish stronghold, with smaller nos. on Colonsay & Jura. All records away from Islay required.

1991

Islay: poor breeding season reported; peak flock counts 39 Ardnave, Mar 25; 56 Kilchoman, Jul 30. Jura: 1 Feolin Ferry, Sep 6. Colonsay: 9 prs probably bred, of which 7 produced 16 young. Mid-Argyll: 1 Lochgilphead, Feb 28. Mull: pr. again bred unsuccessfully.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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

1991

Islay: max. count 100, Gruinart RSPB reserve.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* Rocas 1563 RO
B W Common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce Mull & does not breed Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Post-breeding influx of juvs. to some islands, eg. Mull & Tiree.

1991

Kintyre: total of 2,147 nests located at 30 rookeries in Kintyre. Counts - 130 Machrihanish Airfield, Jan 25. Islay: c.75 nests Gruinart Wood; 24 nests, Port Ellen; 54 nests Tigh Cargaman; 17 nests Ballygrant quarry. Max. count 300+ Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct & Nov (in barley). Mull: 20 Kilfinichen Bay, Feb 25; 16 Lee, May 11; 30 L.Beg, Nov 27. Coll: 15 Uig, Nov 16.

Hooded crow *Corvus corone* Feannag 1567 C
B W Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Colonsay: 2 found dead had been ringed as pulli on the island in 1984 & 1986 respectively.

Carrion crow *Corvus c. corone*: birds are spreading gradually through Cowal into Kintyre & mid-Argyll. Breeding recorded in 13% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Islay: 4 Octofad, Aug 17; 2 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Nov 10. Colonsay: flock of 40-50 first seen on stubble, Nov 22; thereafter the birds dispersed throughout Colonsay & Oransay & remained until the year end. Mid-Argyll: pairs recorded at Moleigh, Ganavan, L.Ederline & Poltalloch; singles at Oban Bay, Doide, L.Feochan, Kilmaronaig & L.na Cille. Mull: 2 Carsaig Bay, Feb 18; 1 Grasspoint, Apr 7. N.Argyll: 1 N. Shian, Feb 3; 1 Port Appin, Aug 22.

Hooded X Carrion Crow Hybrid: Breeding recorded in 11% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Mid-Argyll: recorded at Oban, Ganavan, Moleigh & L.Feochan.

Raven *Corvus corax* Fitheach 1572 RN
B W Common. Breeding recorded in 75% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Islay: max. count 21 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 15. Colonsay: at least 8 prs. bred. Cowal: 8 Beinn Ime, Sep 29. Mid-Argyll: up to 100 itinerant birds present in Oban area as a consequence of the rubbish dump at Moleigh; a communal roost in Glen Cruitten estate woods (mostly sitka spruce) formed in Aug, reaching a max. of 103 birds on Aug 29. Mull: 15 Ardnacross, Apr 27; 11 Criadhach Mhor, Jun 11. N.Argyll: 9 Connel, Apr 26.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Druid 1582 SG
B W P Common except Mull, where localised & post-breeding influx of juvs. occurs. Breeding recorded in 65% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Islay: max. count 260 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 23; c. 1200 at roost under

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Bruichladdich pier, Jul. Mid-Argyll: 500 Ariogan, Aug 26; 120 L.na Cille, Oct 6. Mull: 20 Lunga, May 26. N.Argyll: 60 Clachan, Jan 20; 40 1st yr. Ledaig Pt, Sep 10.

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).
1991
Mull: 10 Caliach Pt, May 12.

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.
1991#
Islay: 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, 18th May. Mull: 1 Knock, May 5.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan beithe 1636 CH
B W P Abundant except Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 80% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Birds commonly forage in cut hay & silage fields outwith breeding season.
1991
Kintyre: 35 territories identified, Mealdarroch NNR. Counts - c. 400 Tayinloan, Oct 25. Islay: c. 350 Skerrols, Jan 7; c. 350 Cnoc Amanta, Feb 13; c. 470 Ballygrant, Dec 9. Cowal: 40 Blairmore, Jan 8.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Bricein caorainn 1638 BL
W P Varying numbers occur Sep-Apr. Few records
1991#
Kintyre: 1M Tayinloan, Oct 25. Islay: 2 Ballygrant, Oct 30; 1 Kilmeny, Nov 14. Mull: 2 Dervaig, Apr 28; 1 L.Beg, Nov 17; 1M Frachadil, Nov 20 & Dec 1. Coll: 1 Arinagour, Nov 22.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Glaisean daraich 1649 GR
R W Locally common. Breeding recorded in 31% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1991
Kintyre: c. 180 Homeston, Aug 24. Islay: 80 Skerrols, Jan 7; 20 Drochaid Bheag, Nov 8. Colonsay: 12 Colonsay House Gardens, Jun 28. Coll: 7 Arinagour, Dec 9.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Lasair choille 1653 GO
B W P Localised distribution. Absent as a breeding species on Colonsay, Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 32% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration in autumn.
1991
Islay: 16 L.Tallant, Mar 19; autumn flocks of 10-26 at Bridgend, Gruinart & the Woollen Mill, Aug 15-Sep 10; 40+ flying to roost, L.Allan, Oct 28. Colonsay: 1-2 seen in Jan, then 1 Colonsay House Gardens, Jun 19; up to 6 Nov-Dec. Jura: 9 Craighouse, Sep 10. Mid-Argyll: flocks of up to 19 recorded Jan-Mar, then 3-6 until Jun; 10-40 recorded from Jul until Dec. Mull: 8 L.Beg, Jan 24; 5 Aros Park, Jun 17. Coll: 1 Arinagour, Feb 15.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* Gealag bhuidhe 1654 SK

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

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. Breeding recorded in 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1991

Kintyre: flocks of 16-25 recorded on 3 dates at Uisaed Pt, Sep 10-16. Islay: 1-2 between Mar-Sep, then 12 Bridgend Woods, Oct 20 & 15 Kildalton, Nov 1. Colonsay: 3 Colonsay House Gardens, Jun 21. Jura: 50 Inverlussa, Sep 8. Cowal: good conifer cone crop resulted in large numbers. Study in 7,600 ha estimated 2,300 present, Jan-Mar, 12,400 in Apr-May & 6,800 in May-Jun [FC/Aberdeen University]. Mid-Argyll: arrived in Taynish NNR woodlands mid-summer to feed on seed, after possibly breeding in nearby forestry plantations. Also - 60 Castlesween, Aug 10; 100 Connel, Sep 22. Coll: 2 Arinagour, Dec 14. N.Argyll: 120 N. Connel, Sep 22.

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.

1991

Kintyre: 40 Rhunahaorine Pt, Apr 30. Colonsay: c. 20 Milbuie, May 17.

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.

1991: low autumn numbers reported from several areas.

Kintyre: 22 Uisead Pt, Apr 1; 15 Stewarton, Apr 18; 1-2 during May-Jun, then 25 Uisead Pt, Jul 20; 40 Lochorodale, Jul 26; 80 Uisead Pt. Sep 16; 100 Westport, Oct 20. Islay: reduced nos. wintering. Counts - 50 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 3; 45 Portnahaven, Sep 8; 40 Drochaid Bheag, Nov 8; 38 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Nov 19. Colonsay: absent Jan-Mar, then only low numbers. Cowal: 1 Beinn Narnain, Sep 26. Mid-Argyll: 45 Dunadd, Feb 24; 8 Eilean Mor, Jul 4; 32 Corr Eilean, Aug 12. Mull: 10 Lunga, May 26. Garvellachs: 20 Eilean an Naoimh, Jun 29. N.Argyll: 2 Beinn a' Chreachain, May 11; 4 Clashgour, May 25; 6 Ledaig Pt, Jul 13; 40 Castles Farm, Aug 18; 40 Ledaig Pt, Aug 27.

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.

1991

Kintyre: Ru Stafnish - 70 >S on Sep 16. Islay: 40 Laggan Bridge, Mar 17; 1-6 seen at 7 localities, May-Sep. N.Argyll: 10 Clashgour, Apr 27.

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).

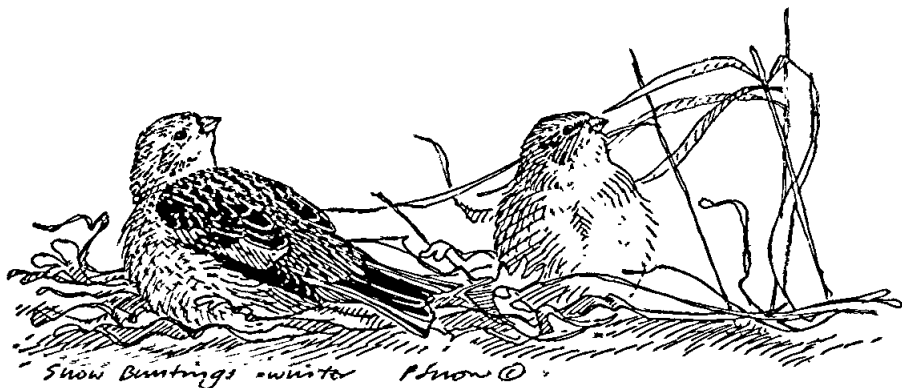
1991

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Kintyre: up to 9 seen in 7 localities, Apr-Jul; 1M Rhunahaorine Pt. Oct 25. **Islay:** seen on 3 dates, Jan-Mar, with at least 35 present, Avenvogie Mar 17; none seen thereafter until 1 on Oct 22. **Colonsay:** 2+ Colonsay House woods, Feb 9; 2 Mill wood, Jul 31; imm. killed by peregrine, Balnahard dunes, Nov 8. **Cowal:** good conifer cone crop in winter/spring resulted in large numbers. Study in 7,600 ha estimated 17,660 present in Jan-Mar, 8,200 in Apr-May & 24,200 in May-Jun [FC/Aberdeen University]. **Mid-Argyll:** 20 Glen Cruitten, Feb 3; plus 2-6 seen in 9 localities, Feb-Jun. **Mull:** 2 Tobermory, May 10; 5 Torosay, May 24

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Corcan-coille 1710 BF
B W Locally common. Absent from Coll & Tiree and irregular on Gigha & Colonsay. Breeding recorded in 35% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1991

Kintyre: 1F Collusca, May 25. **Islay:** 1-3 recorded in 3 localities. **Colonsay** 1 Urugaig, Jun 23. **Cowal:** 4 Blairmore, Feb 17. **Mid-Argyll:** 6 Erines, Apr 13; 4 Castlesween, Oct 16; 10 Cologin, Oct 19; 7 Glen Cruitten, Dec 6; 8 Cruach Lerags, Dec 7; plus scattered records of 1-2 elsewhere. **Mull:** 1-3 recorded in 4 localities. **Garvellachs:** 2 Eilean an Naoimh, Jun 29.



Snow bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealag an t-sneachda 1850 SB
B? W P Has bred N. Argyll in recent years. Varying nos. on passage & in winter. 1991

Kintyre: 2 Drumlemble, Jan 8; 2 Westport, Jan 8; 1M Uisead Pt, Oct 8; 20 Beinn Ghulean, Dec 10. **Islay:** 1 Traigh an Luig, Jan 9; 7 Ardnave Pt, Oct 11; 2 Machir Bay, Oct 24-29; 20 Ardnave Pt, Oct 30. **Colonsay:** 2 golf course, Oct 1. **Mull:** 2 Ben More, Mar 27; 1 Ben Buie, May 8; 1 Scoor, Oct 27; 1 L. na Lathaich, Nov 15. **Coll:** 1 Acha, Dec 5. **Tiree:** 1 Crossapol, Nov 26. **N. Argyll:** 2 Ledaig Pt, Jan 7.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag bhealaidh 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. 1991

Kintyre: 8 Machrihanish Airfield, Jan 25. **Islay:** 15 Port Askaig, Jan 3; 30 Avenvogie, Feb 6; 10 Ballygrant, Oct 28; 12 Keills, Oct 30. **Mid-Argyll:** 15 Kilbride, Jan 12; 20 Slockavullin, Jan 15.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Gealag Ioin 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.

1991

Islay: 42 (max. count) feeding on chicken grain at Grainel, Gruinart RSPB
 reserve, Feb 8. Colonsay: 6 territories identified; c. 10 wintered. Jura: 2
 Inverlussa, Sep 13. Mid-Argyll: 6 territories identified, Moine Mhor. N.Argyll:
 12 Connel, Jan 2.

Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra* Gealag bhuachair 1882 CB

R Declining resident species, now absent from much of former range. Recent
 breeding on Tiree only. There may be some local movement in winter.

1991

Islay: 1 Ardnave, Mar 31.

ADDITIONS TO PREVIOUS SYSTEMATIC LISTS

The following records, previously published in the *Argyll Bird Report*, have
 been ACCEPTED by the British Birds Rarities Committee:

Ring-necked duck	Islay	24/01-11/03/84
	Loch Nell	16/02/91
Green-winged teal	Mull	12/02 & 25/11-31/12/84
	Islay	25/12/89
Crane	Islay	13-25/05/86
Great white egret	Islay	15/06/86
Long-billed dowitcher	Islay	18-19/06/86
L. white-fronted goose	Islay	11-15/03/86
Harlequin duck	Islay	20-24/10/87
Little egret	Danna	28/05/90
Surf scoter	Islay	11-13/05/90

The following records, previously published in the *Argyll Bird Report*,
 have been ACCEPTED by the Scottish Birds Records Committee:

Long-tailed skua	(2) off Coll	12/05/87
	(2) off Tiree	13/05/87
Hobby	Sanda	12/05/88
Rough-legged buzzard	Loch Fyne	02/03/83
	Islay	09/11-05/12/88
Sabine's gull	Islay	30/08/90

The following records, previously published in the *Argyll Bird Report*,
 have been REJECTED by BBRC/SBRC

Red-throated pipit	L Sween	24/09/89
Parrot crossbill	Tiree	05/09/90

The previously published records listed below are not available for
 submission to SBRC. They therefore remain unsubstantiated reports.

Nightingale	Kintyre	25/05/89
Sabine's gull	Kintyre	21&25/09/89; 19&21/09/90;
Hobby	Kintyre	19/08/90
Roseate tern	Kintyre	21/05/90
Long-tailed skua	Kintyre	23/08/90

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1991

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING RARITY RECORDS, DEC 1991

The following records have been submitted to the relevant rarities committee (in brackets) but a decision is still pending. * = not previously published in ABR:

Brown-headed cowbird *	Islay	24/04/88 (SBRC)
Dusky warbler	Islay	30/10/88 (BBRC)
Firecrest	Sanda	23/07/89 (SBRC)
Cory's shearwater	Islay	24/08/89 (SBRC)
Roseate tern	Colonsay	23/08/89 (SBRC)
Roseate tern	Islay (2)	26/08/89 (SBRC)
Roseate tern	Gigha	26/08/89 (SBRC)
Little shearwater	Kintyre	30/08/89 (BBRC)
Pectoral sandpiper	Islay	08/09/89 (SBRC)
Red kite	Kintyre	19/10/89 (ARP)
Little shearwater	Kintyre	23/10/89 (BBRC)
Ring-necked duck	Lochan Add	29/10/89 (BBRC)
Hoopoe	Dunoon	13/10/89 (ARP)
Little Egret	Carradale	14/11/89 (ARP)
American pipit	Tiree	08-12/10/89 (BBRC)
"Black brant"	Islay	20/10/89-17/05/90 (BBRC)
Red-footed falcon	Kintyre	19/08/90 (BBRC)
Ring-billed gull	Oban	23/08/90 (ARP)
Honey buzzard	Mull	28/06/90 (SBRC)
Grey phalarope	Kintyre	19/09/90 (ARP)
Firecrest	Islay	17/10/90 (SBRC)
Sabine's gull	Islay	04/01/91 (SBRC)
Ring-billed gull	Oban	14/01/91 (ARP)
Ring-necked duck	Islay	27/01-03/03/91 (BBRC)
White-billed diver	Kintyre	05/05/91 (BBRC)
Ring-billed gull	Kintyre	25/05/91 (ARP)
Great shearwater	Islay - Kintyre	31/08/91 (SBRC)
Crested tit	Loch Tulla	09/11/91 (SBRC)
Gyr falcon	Islay	03-04/11/91 (BBRC)

Adequate descriptions have not yet been received for the following records. These records should therefore be considered unsubstantiated and will be deleted in the next *Argyll Bird Report* unless descriptions are available for scrutiny by the relevant committee. * = not previously published in ABR:

Woodlark	Sanda	25/06/88
Ring-necked duck	Tiree (3)	08-24/04/89
Little egret	Islay	08/05/89
Pectoral sandpiper	Islay	29/05/89
Hobby	Mull	03/06/89
Little shearwater	Islay	22/08/89
Little shearwater	Islay (3)	25/08/89
Wilson's petrel	Islay	21/08/89
Wilson's petrel	Islay	26/08/89
Dowitcher spp.	Islay	25-26/10/89 (supporting description awaited)
Gyr falcon	Islay	17/04/90
Little shearwater	Kintyre	18/05/90
Caspian tern	Kintyre	01/06/90

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The following records should be added/amended in previous editions of the *Argyll Bird Report*:

1. Add yellow-breasted bunting (1), Tiree, 05/09/81 (K. Verrall). Accepted by BBRC in 1985.
2. Rustic bunting, Tiree, 04/07/87 - claim in 1987 that this was 1st Argyll record is incorrect: there is an accepted record of 1 on Islay in 1980.
3. Yellow-browed warbler, Portnahaven, Islay, 01/11/88 should be deleted from 1988 report. No supportive details are available.
4. "Ring-billed warbler" (1) Islay, 23/03/87 (see records accepted by BBRC in 1988 *ABR*): this should read "ring-billed gull (1), Islay, 21/04/87 (S Holloway)"
5. Scarlet rosefinch (ad F), Argyll, 14/06/89 (P Atherton). Not previously published. Accepted by SBRC.
6. Night heron, Mull, 10-11/04/87. Although probably a correct identification, supportive details have been scant. The record should therefore be deleted from the 1987 report.
7. Red kite, Islay 20/10-24/11/89. This record is no longer subject to SBRC acceptance as stated in 1989 *ABR*. [Tags were visible on this bird, confirming it as one of those released as part of the re-introduction scheme].
8. Gyr falcon (1-2 birds) Mull/Coll/Tiree, 15-24/02/89. Although probably a correct identification, supportive details have been scant. The record should therefore be deleted from the 1989 report.
9. Little egret (ad). Ulva Lagoons, 28/05/90 should be region IV not V as stated in 1990 *ABR*.
10. Add previously unpublished report of greater yellowlegs, Glenegedale, Islay, 25/10/85. This has been accepted by BBRC.
11. The record of great shearwater, Islay, 23/08/89 should be deleted from 1989 report. No supportive details are available.
12. In the species accounts of common and arctic tern, *ABR* 7: 36-37, "> 20 prs" should read "< 20 prs".



Water Rail.

P. J. Knowlton



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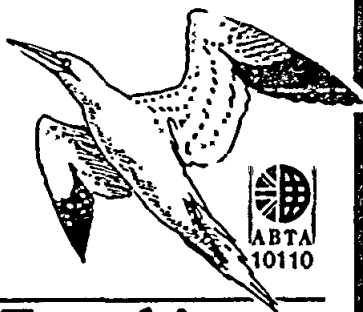
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