
THE NINTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT



**PUBLISHED BY THE
ARGYLL BIRD CLUB
1993**

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 in Argyll, in the District of Argyll and Bute, and 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, by a two-day conference in Oban on fish farming and the environment.

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

The club promotes a greater interest in birds by participation in various recording schemes. Members receive four newsletters a year as well as 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. Much 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 2). Subscriptions start on January 1 and include the newsletters and *Argyll Bird Report* published during the year. Back copies of earlier reports may be available.



THE NINTH ARGYLL BIRD REPORT

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Argyll Records Panel (ARP): R. Broad, D.C. Jardine, Dr A.R. Jennings, M. Madders and Dr M.A. Ogilvie.

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Further copies of this report can be obtained from: N.J. Scriven, Ardentinn Centre, Ardentinn, Dunoon, Argyll. Price £4 including postage.

Other Useful Addresses

SOC Recorder for Argyll: post unfilled.

National Wildfowl and BOEE Count Organiser for Argyll: Dr M.A. Ogilvie, Glencaim, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay PA49 7UN.

BTO Representatives for Argyll: *North Argyll including Mull, Coll and Tiree:* M. Madders (Camduncan, Gruinart, Bridgend, Isle of Islay PA44 7PS). *Islay, Jura and Colonsay:* Dr M.A. Ogilvie (address above).

RSPB's Conservation Officer in Strathclyde: R. Broad (address above).

Secretary of the Argyll Raptor Group: R. Broad (address above).

Editorial

This is the ninth Argyll Bird Report and its appearance coincides with several changes in production.

Firstly, Steve Petty has resigned as editor. During Steve's editorship this Annual Report has become a well established and widely read vehicle, both for the annual Systematic List and for scientific papers relating to the birds of Argyll. All readers and club members will wish to convey their whole-hearted thanks to Steve for his three years of work as editor. It is fitting that his editorship should have been rewarded by the shortlisting of the seventh *Argyll Bird Report* (for 1990) in the Best Annual Bird Report competition, organised by the journal *British Birds* (see *British Birds* 85(6) 1992 299-308).

Secondly, I have now taken over as editor and will do my best to uphold the high standard that Steve Petty achieved.

Thirdly, the change in editor has necessitated a change in printer, as it is easier if these two functions are as geographically close as possible. We have chosen Harlequin Press of Oban and I hope that everyone will be pleased with the results. Many thanks to them for their excellent and helpful cooperation.

Fourthly, the Systematic List, which is the heart of the Bird Report, has been produced as before by Mike Madders, the Recorder for Argyll. This year, however, he has been assisted by a team of four other compilers. Mike gives more details in his Introduction. Here I would add that the Argyll Database, which Mike conceived, developed and maintains, is the essential raw material on which the compilers have worked. The present Systematic List remains very largely the work of one person, the Recorder, and depends entirely on his keeping of detailed records throughout the year. The Club will wish to thank not only Mike in particular for his hard work in this endeavour, but also the compilers and proof-readers for meeting several deadlines and collectively producing an excellent Systematic List. As always, many thanks also to Philip Snow for continuing to provide so many drawings of such high quality, and thanks to Gordon Yates for allowing us to use his excellent photograph, of a peregrine and its brood, on the cover of this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity of encouraging anyone interested in wild birds, wholly or partly in Argyll, to consider publishing their results and observations in this journal. I would welcome offers of papers, short notes, letters or other contributions.

This is the second year in which I have not written a Ringing Report to accompany the Systematic List. It was clear from comments received that the former Ringing Reports were perhaps too elaborate and detailed. I welcome readers' comments on whether a regular report of bird-ringing in Argyll is worthwhile and, if so, how such results might best be presented in future issues of the *Argyll Bird Report*.

County Bird Reports such as this fulfil many different functions. They provide a permanent record of ornithological events each year. They undoubtedly raise the level of ornithological knowledge and awareness of those who read them. By no means

least, they are a thoroughly enjoyable read for those with experience of the county and its birds. Everyone will find something different in the following pages to fire his or her imagination. For some, I suspect that highlights of the 1992 Systematic List will include the talon-grappling, sky-diving duo of golden eagles, the sparrowhawk preying on merlin, the buzzard carrying a large adder, and an incident of serial piracy involving three bird species (I'll let you find out which ones!) Those whose taste is for the unusual or the extreme will appreciate the records of amazing numbers of ravens at Oban rubbish tip, the exceptionally large brood of redstarts raised in one of the nestboxes of the Argyll Bird Club's own Nestbox Programme, the rock dove nesting in January, and the snipe drumming in October. Everyone will be encouraged by the successful launch of the Corncrake Initiative in the outer islands of Argyll. The relentless long-term decline of this species is well known, but the precise 1992 counts and the conservation measures recorded in these pages lighten the gloom with a welcome ray of hope.

As I said, something for everyone. Good reading!

J.C.A. Craik
Editor of *Argyll Bird Report*
April 1993

Systematic list for 1992

Mike Madders

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

INTRODUCTION

For the first time the production of the systematic list of the *Argyll Bird Report* has been a co-operative effort. This has enabled a more rigorous analysis of records. The division of species was based largely upon people's expertise and specialisation. Roger Broad dealt with divers, grebes, raptors and schedule 1 breeding species; Clive Craik with seabirds; David Jardine with passerines and Malcolm Ogilvie with wildfowl. This left me to deal with waders, gamebirds and a few odds and ends, before editing the overall systematic list. I think that the overall quality of the report has benefited greatly from this approach.

The format of the systematic list closely follows that of previous *Argyll Bird Reports*. One important departure, however, is that sightings of rare birds pending acceptance by either the British or Scottish Rarities Committees are now listed separately at the beginning of the systematic list, rather than being integrated with the species accounts.

A lively debate was generated among the compilers and proof readers when it was proposed that the new *British Birds* list of English bird names be adopted in the report. The consensus was in favour of using the existing names, at least for the time being.

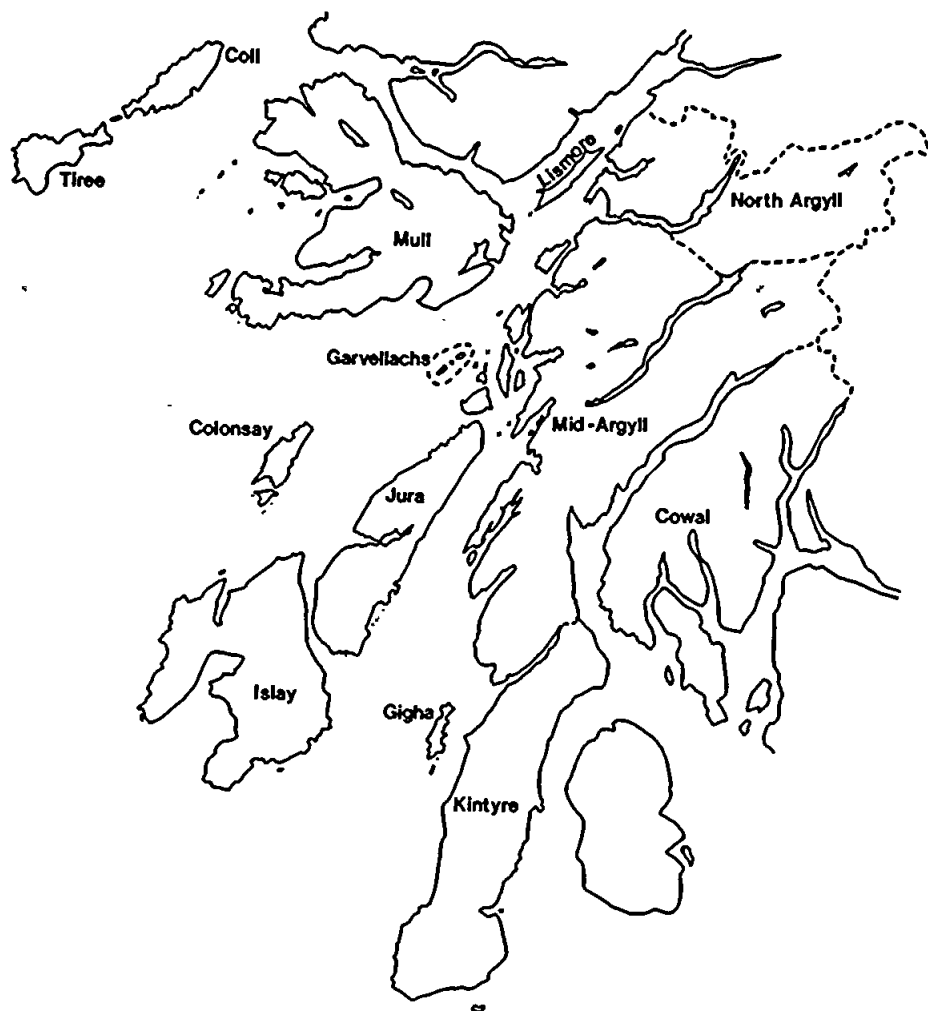
This is my final systematic list for the *Argyll Bird Report*. After five years as recorder I have decided it is time to make way for someone with new ideas and enthusiasm. As yet, no one has been appointed. Please send your 1993 bird records to me, therefore, and I will pass these on to my successor. Please note that owing to pressure of other work I will be unable to acknowledge all records individually in future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to everyone who submitted records in 1992 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 inclusion of such results is indicated by the use of square brackets around the initials of the person(s) or organisation(s) concerned.

Various individuals helped me considerably by compiling reports for specific areas. In this connection, I would like to single out Ian Bullock (Coll), John & Pamela Clark (Colonsay & Oransay), Andy Knight (Tiree), Malcolm Ogilvie (Islay) and Gordon Scott (Oban area). Proof-reading & criticism was undertaken by Roger Broad, Clive Craik, David Jardine, Arthur Jennings, Malcolm Ogilvie and Steve Petty. The blame for any remaining mistakes is entirely mine!

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992



Map showing the areas of Argyll used in this report.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

The information in this systematic list is derived from Bird Sightings Information System (Argyll), a computerised database written especially for recording Argyll's birdlife.

The Argyll Bird Club and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club contributed towards the expenses incurred in recording Argyll's birdlife in 1992.

Contributors in 1992

T ApRheinallt, P Atherton, E Barlow, BD & P Batty, J Blatcher, P Bonavia, J Bradfield, S Brennan, RA Broad, D Brooks, ID Bullock, T Cadwallender, A Campbell, P Cashman, D Cherry, J & PM Clark, DJ Clarke, RA Clarke, JCA Craik, Mr & Mrs Crossan, TP Daniels, GM deMornay, LJ Easton, S & J Eccles, N Elkins, M Etherington, J Fairfax-Ross, J Gardner, S Gibson, EA Graham, JB Halliday, JM Harrison, D Hawkins, K Hay, B & M Herbing, SJ Hingston, D Hunt, M Hutcheson, DC Jardine, K Jarrett, AR Jennings, CM Johnson, C Kerr, RJ King, AC Knight, E Knight, N Laughton, R Liley, M Lilley, L Lusan, CR Mackay, C Maclean, M Madders, EJ Maguire, M Marshall, F McDonald, R McGowan, R McKenzie, J & P McOwat, PM Moore, SJ Morris, E Mulholland, MH Murphy, G Newall, SM Nicolson, MA Ogilvie, MA Peacock, M Petrucciani, A & J Plackett, D & FC Pollard, R Pollitt, ED Potter, D Primrose, J Rhead, N Russell, T Salmon, P Sandilands, RE Scott, G Scott, N Scriven, A & P Shaw, C Smout, MJ & PT Staley, MJ Thomas, J Trew, D & E Trigg, M Trubridge, V Tulloch, G Waite, S Warwick, JW Welstead, C Whitworth, A Whyte, S Williams, JS Wilson, D Wolstencroft, K Wood, JC Wood.

BIRD RECORDING IN ARGYLL

Advice to contributors

All bird records are welcomed by the recorder. Sightings should be listed in Voous order (as in this report) and include the following details: species, number (incl. 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 1993 records were sent on a regular basis throughout the year, but if this is not possible, please send them by January 31 1994 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

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

(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. 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). 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 name	Scientific name	Gaelic name	Euring code	BTO code
eg. RAVEN	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Firbeach	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 1992 sightings are then listed. Histograms, where included, generally 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 1992 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

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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 (eg. Golden plover)
Int-pl.	Intermediate plumaged
d/m.	Dark morph
l/m.	Light morph (eg. Arctic skua)
i/m.	Intermediate morph
r/h.	Redhead (eg. immature / female Goldeneye, Smew, Goosander, Blackcap)
aos.	apparently occupied sites (eg. Fulmar)
10km sq	National Grid Square measuring 10 x 10 km, ie 100 sq km.
SBRC	Scottish Birds Records Committee
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee
NWC	National Wildfowl Count
BOEE	Birds of Estuaries Enquiry

RARE BIRDS IN ARGYLL

The following records have been submitted to either British Birds Rarities Committee, Scottish Birds Records Committee, or Argyll Records Panel (* = not previously published in ABR):

ACCEPTED

Hoopoe	Dunoon	13/10/89	(ARP)
Little egret	Carradale	14/11/89	(ARP)
Red-footed falcon	Kintyre	19/08/90	(BBRC)
Ring-billed gull	Oban	23/08/90	(ARP)
Grey phalarope	Kintyre	19/09/90	(ARP)
Sabine's gull	Islay	04/01/91	(SBRC)
Gyr falcon	Islay	03-04/11/91	(BBRC)
Crested tit	Loch Tulla	09/11/91	(SBRC)

REJECTED

Dusky warbler	Islay	30/10/88	(BBRC)
Little shearwater	Islay	22/08/89	(BBRC)
Little shearwater	Kintyre	30/08/89	(BBRC)
Pectoral sandpiper	Islay	08/09/89	(SBRC)
Little shearwater	Kintyre	25/09/89	(BBRC)
Red kite	Kintyre	19/10/89	(ARP)
Little shearwater	Kintyre	23/10/89	(BBRC)

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Ring-necked duck	Lochan Add	29/10/89	(BBRC)
Firecrest	Islay	17/10/90	(ARP)
Great shearwater	Islay-Kintyre	31/08/91	(SBRC)
Barrow's goldeneye	Loch Linnhe	06/04/92	(BBRC)*

PENDING

Brown-headed cowbird	Islay	24/04/88	(SBRC)*
Firecrest	Sanda	23/07/89	(SBRC)
Wilson's petrel	Islay	21/08/89	(BBRC)
Roseate tern	Colonsay	23/08/89	(SBRC)
Cory's shearwater	Islay	24/08/89	(SBRC)
Little shearwater	Islay	25/08/89	(BBRC)
Wilson's petrel	Islay	26/08/89	(BBRC)
Roseate tern	Islay	26/08/89	(SBRC)
Roseate tern	Gigha	26/08/89	(SBRC)
Buff-bellied pipit	Tiree	08-12/10/89	(BBRC)
"Black brant"	Islay	20/10/89-17/05/90	(BBRC)
Gyr falcon	Islay	17/04/90	(BBRC)
Honey buzzard	Mull	28/06/90	(SBRC)
Ring-necked duck	Islay	27/01-03/03/91	(BBRC)
White-billed diver	Kintyre	05/05/91	(BBRC)
American golden plover	Coll	13&16/11/91	(BBRC)
American wigeon	Campbeltown	02/02/92	(description awaited)
White-billed diver	Islay	06/04/92	(BBRC)
American wigeon	Tiree	19-21/05/92	(BBRC)
European roller	Tiree	20/05-01/07/92	(BBRC)
Great white egret	Mull	08/06/92	(BBRC)
Red-eyed vireo	Coll	03/10/92	(BBRC)
American golden plover	Colonsay	03&05/10/92	(BBRC)

Adequate descriptions have not been received for the records below. These records should therefore be deleted from previous *Argyll Bird Reports*:

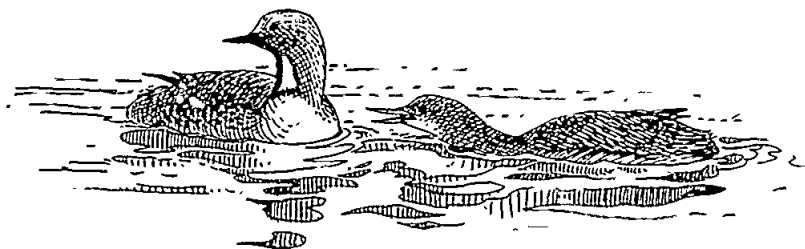
Woodlark	Sanda	25/06/88
Ring-necked duck	Tiree	08-24/04/89
Little egret	Islay	08/05/89
Pectoral sandpiper	Islay	29/05/89
Dowitcher sp.	Islay	25-26/10/89
Little shearwater	Kintyre	18/05/90
Caspian tern	Kintyre	01/06/90

ARGYLL BIRD RECORDS 1992

Because of unfavourable weather conditions in spring 1992, mean arrival dates of many migrants were considerably later than usual, possibly by as much as a week or ten days. Mean arrival dates are, however, much more difficult to determine than are first arrival dates. Because observers almost always report the latter, Systematic Lists such as that published here may fail to reflect important delays in arrival such as that of 1992. Such delays are, of course more important in describing the behaviour of entire populations of birds than are the dates of arrival of one or a few early birds.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* Lcarga 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. 1992: with the exception of Coll, numbers and breeding success poorly documented throughout Argyll.

Islay: recorded on 2 freshwater lochs, Apr 19; 27 L.Indaal, Apr 19; 10 off Port Charlotte, Jun 7; 21 off Port Charlotte, Oct 20. Scarba: 1 pr bred. Colonsay: 1 pr reared b/1. Mid-Argyll: 1 pr bred near L.Awe; recorded on inland water near L.Melfort from Apr 4. Coll: 9-10 breeding prs and 2-3 non-breeding birds; only one pr successful rearing b/2. Falling water levels during severe drought from mid-May probably a major factor in poor breeding success.



Adult RED THROATED DIVER & juvenile. Arran Sound . 20.9.92. PJS

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* Lcarga dhuibh 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.

1992: 8 prs summered with additional non-breeding birds present at 2 lochs. 7 prs are known to have bred (2 on rafts) and to have raised 5 chicks. Black-throats generally nest a little later than the previous species, and the long dry period in May-June probably helped to make this by far the most successful and productive breeding season in recent years. At one site, a chick fledged for the first time in more than 10 years [RSPB]. There was also a small but welcome increase in summer records from inland water areas outwith present breeding areas, eg. Jura and Mull.

Kintyre: 66 Sound of Gigha, Apr 4; 4 Grogport, Oct 10; 8 Skipness, Oct 15. Islay: 1 Ardnave, Mar 3; 1 >S, off Port Charlotte, Jun 1; 4 Claggain Bay, Jun 9. Jura: 1 L.na Conaire, Apr 1; 1 Glen Astaile, Jul 1. Colonsay: 1 Scalasaig, Oct 16. Mid-Argyll:

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1 Dunollie, Jan 28; 1 Ganavan, Feb 28; 2 Craignish, Apr 4. Mull: 2 L. Spelve, May 29; 2 L. na Keal, Jun 6; 2 Croig, Jun 8; 1 Mishnish L, Jul 25; 1 L. Uisg, Aug 4. Tiree: 1 Crossapol Bay, Oct 5.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* Cuir dhruachail 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.
1992

Islay: 20 L. Indaal, Apr 20; 1 Sound of Islay, Jun 17; 2 Claggain Bay, Jul 28. Mid-Argyll: 5 L. Melfort, Jan 5. Mull: 12 Scallastle Bay, Mar 8; 1 Croig, Jun 9. Coll: 10 Breachacha Bay, Oct 18. Tiree: 15 >N offshore in 3 parties, Jun 7.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Spagricon 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).
1992

Islay: bred L. nan Cadhan. Colonsay: 2 prs present, at least 1 of which bred. Mid-Argyll: breeding prs present at Melfort, Lochan Dubh, L. Seil, L. Gleann a' Bhearraidh, L. an a' Bhuilg Bhith, Glen Cruitten, L. Nell & Caol Scotnish. Counts - 7 Ardentallen, Jan 10 & Feb 10. Mull: pr bred Mishnish L. N. Argyll: 11 L. Etive, Jan 10; 9 L. Etive, Dec 27.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* 0009 GG
V Rare.
1992#

Islay: 1-2 L. Indaal, Jan 7 - Apr 20. Cowal: 1 Kames, Feb 9, then 2 on Feb 21.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Coohlachan mara 0011 SZ
W P Regular wintering species in some sealochs & sounds.
1992

Kintyre: 3 Sound of Gigha, Nov 11. Islay: 1 L. Gorm, Mar 16; 50 L. Indaal, Apr 19; 6 off Blackrock, Oct 12. Colonsay: 1 Ardskenish, Jan 12. Mid-Argyll: 1 L. Crinan, Feb 8 & 29; 2 Sound of Kerrera, Mar 16. Mull: 1 L. Spelve, Feb 11 & Mar 17; 5 Sound of Ulva, Mar 6. N. Argyll: 1 Cuil Bay, Oct 25.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Cun crom 0022 F
B W P Common but localised breeding species in Kintyre, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull, Coll & Tiree.
1992

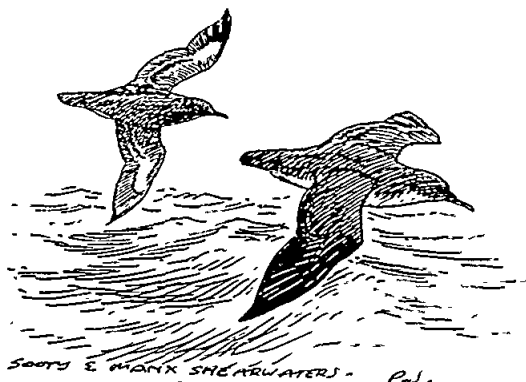
Tiree: 917 aos. Ceann a' Mhara, Jun 4.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* Fachadh ban 0046 MX
B P Very localised breeding species, colonies confirmed only on Sanda & Treshnish Is. The following record of birds on the sea, and similar records in earlier *Argyll Bird Reports*, suggest a colony may await discovery on the Garvellachs.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

1992

Islay: 207 >S /40 mins, Frenchman's Rocks, Sep 2. Garvellach Is: 1,250, Jun 26.



STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* DARAIG 0052 TM

B P Very localised breeding species, large colonies known only on Sanda & Treshnish Is. Breeding birds come ashore late May/Jun. Passage off W coasts Aug-Sep.
1992

Islay: 1 Frenchman's Rocks, Sep 2. Mid-Argyll: 8 at sea off Oban, Sep 1. Mull: 11 Sound of Mull, Sep 1. Tiree: 7 Hynish, Aug 31.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Cobhlan mara 0055 TL

P Rare

1992#

Mid-Argyll: 1 found alive Oban, Sep 11, died in captivity.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* Sulairc 0071 GX

S P Does not breed in Argyll; nearest colonies are Ailsa Craig (40 km E of Mull of Kintyre) and Shiant Is (140 km N of Mull). Common inshore May-Sep: often seen high up sealochs, usually those with wide mouths such as L.Caolisport and West L.Tarbert. Very frequent L.Fyne.

1992

Kintyre: 95-105 fishing Brenfield Bay, L.Fyne, Jun 2. Cowal: first - 1 L.Long, Mar 5.

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, often moving to coast in autumn.

1992

Cowal: 10-32 Holy L./L.Long area, 7 dates Jan 29-Oct 17. Mid-Argyll: 15 occ. nests McCormaig Is (marked decrease from 46 in 1991); 5 birds L.Nell (fresh water), Jul 8; 6 Tullich (fresh water), Aug 21.

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SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Sgarbh an sgamhain 0080 SA
R W Very common coastal species, rare inland. Breeds rocky slopes and cliffs, singly and in small or large colonies.

1992

Mid-Argyll: 210 nests McCornag Is. Tiree: 115 nests Ceann a'Mhara, Jun 4.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CORRA ghrithach 0122 H
R Widespread. Breeds in all regions. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10kmsq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Mid-Argyll: 6 apparently occ. nests Daltote, Apr 20. Mull: 4 heronries monitored on Ross of Mull with 13-16 nests occupied. Coll: 20 nests at usual heronry, plus 2 nests at new site.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* Cata 0152 MS
R Widespread but uncommon breeding species, both inland & at sheltered coastal locations. Scarce breeder in 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).

1992

Poor breeding season reported from most areas, with mink, *Mustela vison*, predation thought to be significant factor in some areas.

Islay: bred L.Ballygrant, L.Allan, Port Ellen, Lagavulin; 14 (max. count) L.Indaal, Sep 18, Oct 15. Cowal: at least 9 prs bred, but success poor; 15-25 in autumn / winter on Holy L. Birds at risk of lead poisoning from high levels of lead shot in the Cothouse gravel pits from clay pigeon shooting. Mid-Argyll: bred L.Nell, McKays L., L.Feochan, L.Seil, Mill Dam; 17 (max. count) Oban Bay, Feb 14. Tiree: 2 prs bred, but only 1 juv. survived. Complete counts - 23 on Mar 27. N.Argyll: 26 (max. count) L.Etive, Sep 13.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* Cata dheang 0153 BS
V

1992#

Kintyre: 2 Westport marsh, Apr 9.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* Cata dhann 0154 WS
W P Common passage species, small numbers winter. A few birds summer in most years & breeding has been recorded.

1992

Kintyre: 21 Lochan Luig, Nov 7. Islay: 1-11, various localities, Jan-Apr; last May 19; autumn passage from Oct 8, incl. low peak of 30 at L.Indaal, Nov 7; total of 284 seen Oct-Nov, Gruinart RSPB reserve, with 53 (max. count), Nov 2; up to 14, Dec. Colonsay: 35 Milbuie, Oct 13; 27 Oransay, Dec 3. Cowal: 35 Ardochuple Lodge, Mar 14; 41 L.Long, Mar 30; 1 Holy L, May 17. Mid-Argyll: 6 L.Seil, Jan 12; 5 L.Leathan,

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Jan 17; 1-14 Oban Bay, Sep 28-Oct 16. **Mull:** 20 L.Don, Mar 30; 43 L.Spelve, Mar 31; 18 L.Beg, Apr 6, 10 L.Beg Apr 21; 1 L.Poit na h-I, May 4-13; 18 Kintra, Dec 7. **Coll:** 9 on Mar 27; 7 on Dec 6. **Tiree:** 87 on Jan 12; 44 on Mar 27; 11 Kilmaluag, Jun 3.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* C_{eadh} gorm 0158 PG

P W Very few winter.

1992

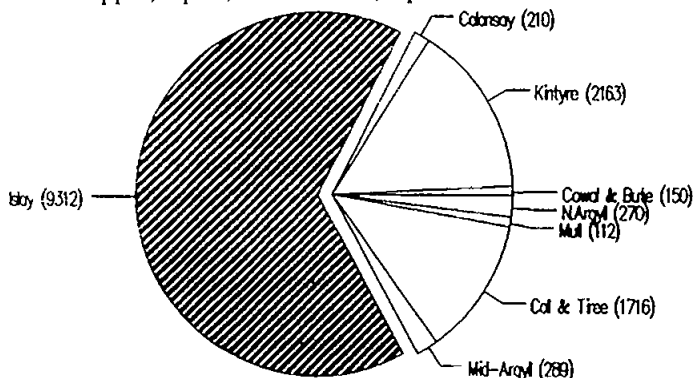
Kintyre: 2 Rhunahaorine, Apr 19; 1 Campbeltown L, Nov 3; 1 Machrihanish, Nov 9. **Islay:** 3-5 various localities, Jan-Mar & Oct-Dec; 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jul 9; 28 on Oct 9; 1 during Oct 10-Nov 13. **Mid-Argyll:** 1 Moine Mhor, Jan 15, Feb 6, Apr 14, Nov 14 & Dec 8; 22 Achavaich, Sep 25; 29 Ariogan, Oct 4. **Coll:** 2 on Mar 26; 1 Breachacha, Apr; 1 Achamor, Nov. **Tiree:** 6 on Mar 27; 2 on Dec 6.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* C_{eadh} dhlar 0159 WG

W Birds are of the GREENLAND RACE *A. a. albifrons*. Regular wintering resorts in all regions except Cowal. Argyll holds ca 40% of the world population in winter, mainly on Islay.

1992

Kintyre: Rhunahaorine - 1,048 on Jan 15; 460 on Apr 19; 726 on Nov 8; 626 on Dec 8. Machrihanish - 725 on Feb 2; 1,291 on Mar 15; 1,200 on Apr 1; 1,085 on Apr 19; 1,110 on Nov 2; 701 on Dec 8. **Islay:** 8,837 on Jan 14; 9,839 on Feb 10; 9,312 on Mar 28 (complete counts); departures NNW noted Apr 22-29; 3 Ballinaby, May 20; 1 summered, Gruinart RSPB reserve. First - 97 on Oct 5; 8,911 on Oct 23-24; 10,905 on Nov 9; 9,600 on Dec 11; 10,676 on Dec 21 (complete counts). Breeding success poor, 2nd lowest since 1964 - of 4,010 aged, 6.68% were young birds; mean of 61 broods was 3.05. **Colonsay:** ca 225, Jan-Mar; arrival on Oct 6; 120 on Oct 20; ca 180 in Nov; ca 200 in Dec. **Mid-Argyll:** Danna - 215 in Jan; 362 in Feb; 250 in Mar; 210 in Apr; 286 in Nov; 288 in Dec. Moine Mhor - 34 in Jan; 38 in Feb; 39 in Mar; 30 in Apr; 28 in Nov; 27 in Dec. **Mull:** 50 on Mar 7; 68 on Mar 25; 25 in Oct; 68 in Dec. **Coll:** 528 on Feb 9; 615 on Mar 25; 438 on Dec 6; v. few juvs. in autumn flocks - 5.7% in sample of 385 aged. **Tiree:** 1,101 on Mar 27; 418 on Dec 6. **N.Argyll:** 104 Lismore, 137 Benderloch & 29 Appin, Apr 4; 155 Lismore, Apr 10.



Numbers of white-fronted geese in Argyll regions : Mar 25 - Apr 4, 1992.

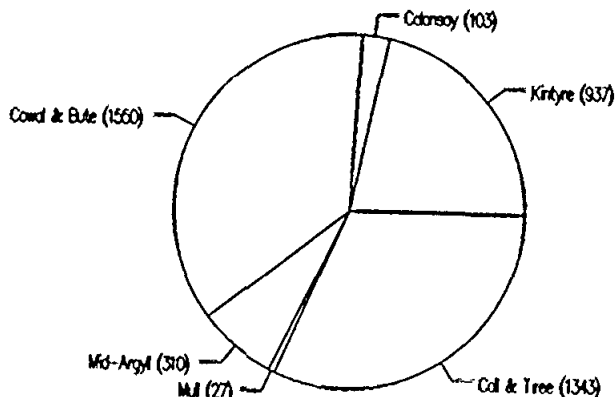
SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* *Ceadh 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).

1992

Kintyre: Machrihanish - 380 on Feb 8; 408 on Apr 5; 159 on Nov 8; 208 on Dec 8; Rhunahaorine - 10 on Nov 8; 166 on Dec 8. Islay: 41 on Jan 14; 16 on Feb 9; 10 on Mar 29; 2 Ardnave L., Jun 22; 36 (max. count) Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct 12; 61 Bridgend Merse, Oct 18; 32 on Nov 3; 47 on Dec 21. Colonsay: ca 120 in Jan/Feb; ca 100 in Mar; many stayed to breed; 79 stripping oat crop at Machrins, Aug 17 & 24; ca 145 in Oct; ca 140 in Nov/Dec. Cowal: 300 Ardlamont Point, Feb 16. Mid-Argyll: Moine Mhor/Poltalloch - 288 in Jan; 420 in Feb; 310 in Mar; 180 in Apr; 340 on Dec 8; 280 on Dec 28. Also - 22 L.Feochan, Mar 24; 60 Oban, Apr 19; 23 Sound of Kerrera, Nov 11; 27 (max. count) L.Nell, where present Feb-May & Aug-Nov, but no breeding reported. Mull: at least 19 prs bred Caim na Burgh, Quinish, Mishnish L, Tobermory; 10-12 ads. + 30 juvs. Caim na Burgh, Jun 21; 118 L.Don, Apr 16; 55 Fiddien, Oct 12. Coll: no breeding reports; 506 on Mar 26; 514 on Sep 5; 174 on Dec 6. Tiree: 53 nests located, 103 nesting prs, 89 non-nesting prs, 236 non-breeders; total ads. 620 with 124 young in 36 broods; other counts - 873 on Mar 27; 1,069-1,273 on Sep 6; 989 on Dec 6.



Numbers of greylag geese in Argyll regions : Mar 25 - Apr 4, 1992.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* *Ceadh ban* 0163 SJ

E V A small feral breeding population exists on Mull - this flock winters on Coll.

1992#

Coll: 2 prs bred; wintering population of 40 on Mar 26; 45, incl. 12 juvs., Aug 18; 46 on Dec 6. N.Argyll: 1 Cuil Bay, Apr 4.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* *Ceadh dubh* 0166 CG

B W V Resident population on Colonsay & occasional breeding attempts elsewhere.

1992

Islay: 3 in Jan-Feb; 6 in Mar; 5 in Apr; 4 in Oct-Dec; most small or medium-sized.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Colonsay: broods seen at L.Sgoltaire; Oransay, & Rubha Dubh, in Jun; counts - *ca* 60 in Jan; *ca* 80 in Oct-Dec. **Mid-Argyll:** bred L.Awe & L.Ederline. **N.Argyll:** 8 Cuil Bay, Apr 4; 17 on Jun 28.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* Cathan 0167 BY

W All regions except Cowal. Very large numbers of Greenland population winter on Islay. A few birds occasionally summer - at least some of these are probably injured. 1992

Islay: 23,533 on Jan 14; 22,870 on Feb 9-10; 25,947 on Mar 28-29 (complete counts); departure - 2,000 Ardnave >NW out to sea in 15 mins, Apr 29; 1 Gruinart, Jun 7; first arrivals from Oct 1; 2,837 on Oct 5; 9,000 on Oct 6; complete counts - 25,202 on Oct 23-24; 21,635 on Nov 8-9; 24,897 on Dec 8; 24,833 on Dec 11-12; 23,685 on Dec 21-22. Very poor breeding success (the worst in 30 years) with 2.55% young in 12,765 aged; mean of 157 broods was 1.31. **Colonsay:** *ca* 600 in Jan-Mar; 1 summered with Canadas, Balerominmore; 1 on W cliffs, May-Aug; arrival Oct 13; 450-500 in Dec. **Mid-Argyll:** 400 Isle of Danna in Jan; 380 in Feb; 270 in Dec. **Mull:** 100 Gribun, Feb 16; 201 on Mar 7. **Coll:** 670 on Mar 26; 3,093 on Dec 6. **Tiree:** 1,443-1,535 on Mar 27; 450 on Dec 6.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* Ceadh got 0168 BG

W P Uncommon passage species. Very few winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the light-bellied race, *B.b. hrota*, which breed in NE Greenland & Queen Elizabeth Is. off arctic Canada & winter mainly in Ireland. 1992

Islay: 4 L.Indaal, Jan-Apr; 150 Port Ellen, Apr 20; 107 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 21; 1 L.Indaal, Jul 11; 6 L.Gruinart, Sep 14; 81 on Oct 9; 4 L.Indaal, Nov-Dec; also 2-4 with Barnacles, Nov-Dec. **Jura:** 21 on sea N of Craighouse, Apr 28. **Colonsay:** 2 Ardskenish, May 20.

DARK-BELLIED RACE *B.b.nigricans*:

Islay: single L.Gruinart-Ardnave, Oct 24 to Dec 8.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* Cra-ghcadh 0173 SU

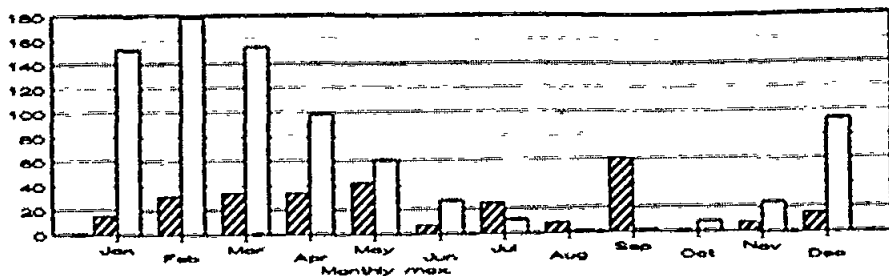
B W Widespread breeding species, especially on sandy coasts. Majority are absent Aug-Nov when the birds migrate to moulting grounds. Breeding recorded in 39% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1992

National breeding survey ensured better coverage than usual:

	Prs	April-May		June-Aug	
		Males	Non-breeding	Adults	Juvs.
Kintyre (1 site)	14	6	13	12	11
Gigha	39		47	10	35
Islay (3 sites)	23	13	95	38	14
Colonsay	34			39	120
Mid-Argyll (8 sites)	43	44	23	52	15

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Mull (1 site)	7	5	5	2	4
Tiree	38	10	28	74	117
Coll	38	1		16	27



Numbers of shelduck at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: L. Gruinart

MANDARIN DUCK

Aix galericulata

0178 MN

V

1992#

Cowal: pr laid c/14 in tawny owl nest box, hatching 10 eggs (also bred successfully in 1991).



WIGEON

Anas penelope

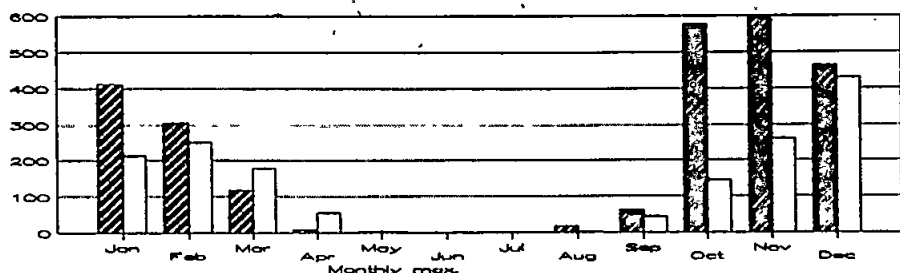
Glas tach

0179 WN

B W P Scarce / irregular breeding species. Common winter visitor to all regions. 1992

Kintyre: 35 Campbeltown L., Nov 3. Islay: 2MM 1F Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 14; 130 L.Nigheadaireachd, Nov 21. Cowal: 200 (max. count) Holy L., Oct 17. Mid-Argyll: 42 Ardoran, Jan 6; 40 L.Nell, Feb 26; 160 L.Craignish, Sep 12; 185 (max. count) L.Sween, Oct; 300 Crinan Moss, Nov 1. N.Argyll: 2 prs with young, L.Tulla, Jun 29; pr breeding, L.Dochard, Jun 29.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992



Numbers of wigeon at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: L. Gruinart

GADWALL

Anas strepera

Lach glas

0182 GA

B W P Scarce breeding species.

1992#

Islay: 2 prs + 1M at one site where breeding attempted. Mid-Argyll: 2 L.Lonan, Mar 5. Tiree: 2 L.an Eilein, Jan 12; 13, May 21.

TEAL

Anas crecca

Crann lach

0184 T

B W P Widespread but uncommon breeding species. Common winter visitor.

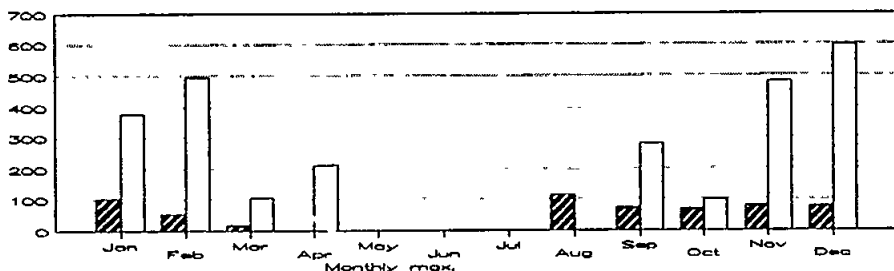
Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: up to 8 broods, Gruinart RSPB reserve; 36 L.Tallant, Oct 14; 75 L.Nigheadaireachd, Dec 21. Cowal: 81 (max. count) Holy L., Feb 9. Mull: 34 L.Poit na h-I, Dec 8. Tiree: 52 L.a'Phuill, Sep 24. N.Argyll: 21 Balnagowan L., Mar 14; 50 L.Laich, Jan 12. Lismore: 23 Kilcheran L., Mar 13.

NEARCTIC RACE *A.c.carolinensis*:

Islay: 1M Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 24-28.



Numbers of teal at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: L. Gruinart

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Lach

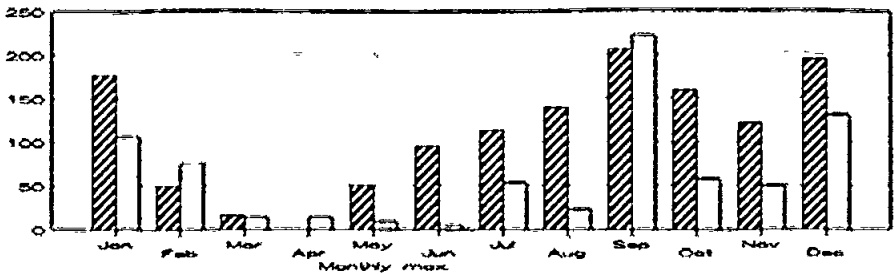
0186 MA

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

1992

Cowal: 74 (max. count) Holy L., Jul 19. Mid-Argyll: 27MM L.Feochan, Jun 11.
N.Argyll: 36 L.Etive, Jan 10.



Numbers of mallard at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.
Hatched: L. Indaal Plain: L. Gruinart

PINTAIL

Anas acuta

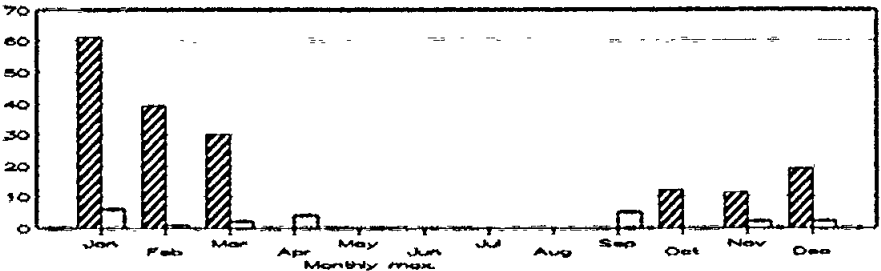
Lach stiùireadh

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.

1992

Islay: 2 prs present in spring at new site until end of April; no evidence of breeding.
Tiree: 2 prs present in May, one chick fledged; 13 L.Riaghain, Jan 12; 4 The Reef, May 5; 2 L.a' Phuill, Aug 4.



Numbers of pintail at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.
Hatched: L. Indaal Plain: L. Gruinart

GARGANEY

Anas querquedula

0191

S Rare non-breeding summer visitor.

1992#

Islay: 1 pr L.Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 16-25, then M only until Jun 6.

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

Lach a'ghnùs teachann

0194 SV

B W P Most records from Islay & Tiree.

1992

Islay: possible breeding at one site - 5MM 2FF present in Apr & 1M in May; max counts - 21 in Jan, 22 in Mar, 17 in Nov, 14 in Dec. L.Indaal - 1-3 Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Colonsay: 1F Ardskenish, Oct 3. **Tiree:** 5 prs bred successfully; 3 L.Riaghain, Jan 12; 2 various localities, Jul.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* Lach mhasach 0198 PO

W No proven breeding in recent years. Wintering flocks generally small.
1992

Islay: 330 (max. count) L.Skerrols, Nov 8; 61 L.Gorm, Oct 12. **Cowal:** 20 L.Restil, Feb 25. **Mid-Argyll:** 2 An Lodan, Feb 9; up to 12 L.Nell, Jan-Feb & Sep-Nov; 7 L.Leathan in Jan & 5 in Dec; 4 L.Melfort, May 2 & 11 on Dec 1. **Mull:** 11 L.Assapol, Dec 22. **Tiree:** 2MM L.Bhasapol, Jul 6.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* Lach thopach 0203 TU

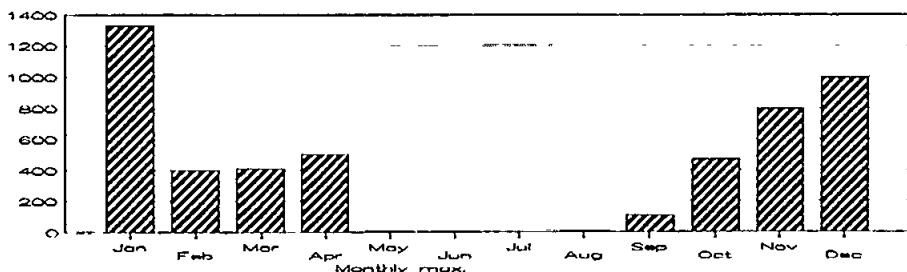
B W Scarce breeding species. Total of 53 prs located during breeding wildfowl survey, 1985 (Broad RA, Seddon AJE & Stroud DA: The waterfowl of freshwater lochs in Argyll. *Argyll Bird Report* 3 1986 77-88). Breeding recorded in 12% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Common winter visitor.
1992

Islay: no confirmed breeding but 2-5 MM present Jun-Jul on Ardnave L., L.nan Cadhan & L.Gorm. Max. counts - 25 Ardnave L., Mar 23; 75 L.Gorm, Sep 20; 25 L.Skerrols, Nov 8. **Colonsay:** 23 East L.Fada, Feb 18; 11 Mid L.Fada, Oct 4. **Mid-Argyll:** 11 L.Seil, Jan 31; 12 Lochan Dubh, Mar 23; L.Nell - 55MM on Jul 22, 60 on Aug 5, up to 23 in Oct-Dec. Also - 22 Dubh L., Dec 28. **Mull:** up to 13 L.Assapol, Oct-Dec. **Tiree:** 3 prs bred successfully; 41 L.an Eilein, Jan 12; 2 The Reef & L.Bhasapol, Jul 6-7.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* Lach mhara 0204 SP

W P Large wintering flock in L.Indaal, Islay. Scarce elsewhere. Occasionally summers.
1992

Islay: pr Ardnave L., May 17-18. **Mull:** 1ML.Poit nah-I, Jun 4. **Tiree:** 1ML.a'Phuill, May 19.



Numbers of scaup at L. Indaal, Islay, in 1992.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* Lach tochtannach 0206 E

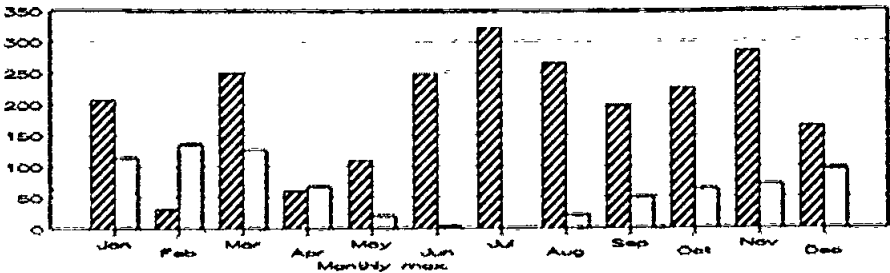
B W P Common in all regions. Breeding recorded in 66% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Large flocks of moulting drakes & 1st yr birds gather at some sites, Jun-Aug.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Many Argyll breeding birds winter in the Firth of Clyde.

1992

Islay: 64MM Kilnaughton Bay, Jun 10. Colonsay: 100 Caolas Mor, Oct 4. Cowal: 44 Kames, Feb 9; 119 Holy L., May 17. Mid-Argyll: 51 Kilbride, Aug 4; 119 Ferlochan, Sep 20. N.Argyll: 79 L.Etive, Sep 13.



Numbers of eider at two sites in Argyll, in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: Oban Bay

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* Cùn òrachainn 0212 LN

W P Uncommon winter visitor, mostly offshore.

1992

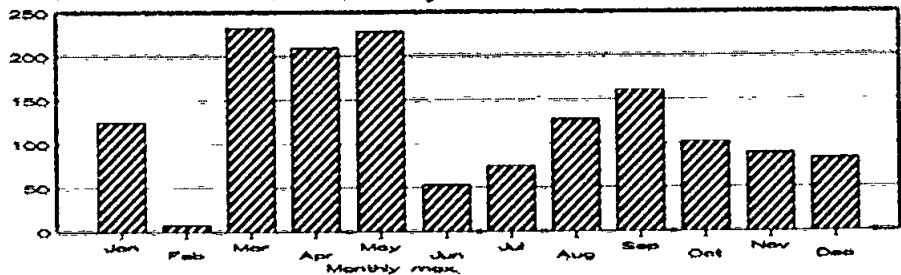
Kintyre: 73 Sound of Gigha, Apr 19; 1F Campbeltown L., Nov 10. Islay: 9 L.Indaal in Jan; 10 in Apr; up to 5, Oct-Dec; 2 Kintra, Apr 6. Cowal: 1F Holy L., Feb 9; 1 on May 16. Mull: 2 L.Ba, Feb 24; 1M on Apr 19; 1F on Apr 23. Tiree: 53 Feall Bay, Jan 4; 2 Balephetrish Bay, Mar 27.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* Lach òrach dabh 0213 CX

B W P Very rare breeding species in Islay & mid-Argyll, although the breeding site in the latter 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.

1992

Islay: up to 6 prs present at usual breeding site May-Jun & 1 pr at suitable breeding site elsewhere but no confirmed nesting; 18 >S past Frenchman's Rocks, Jun 24. Mainland Argyll: 5 on loch where breeding has previously been reported, Jun 6. There have been no records from this loch since 1985. Mull: 20 on sea S of Treshnish Isles, Jun 1; 8 L.Scridain, Jun 1; 1 Croig, Jun 3.



Numbers of common scoter at L. Indaal, Islay, in 1992.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

VELVET SCOTER

Melanitta fusca

Lach duòh

0215 VS

W Scarce.

1992#

Kintyre: 7 Sound of Gigha, Apr 19. Islay: 3 L.Indaal, Mar 26.

GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula

Lach òhrac

0218 GN

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

1992

Islay: L.Indaal - 21 (max. count), Jan 29; up to 11, Feb-Apr & Oct-Nov; 19 on Dec 28. Also - 5 L.Skerrols, Mar 8; 5 L.Gruinart, Mar 22; 10 L.Gorm, Oct 12. Cowal: 19 L.Long, Mar 7. Mid-Argyll: 13 Ganavan, Jan 9; 15 Ardentallen Point, Jan 20; 13 L.Gleann a'Bhearraidh, Feb 15; 14 L.Nell, Feb 19; 24 L.Feochar, Mar 8; 15 L.Leathan, Mar 15. N.Argyll: 15 L.Etive, Mar 5; 15 Creagan, Mar 15; 2 L.Tulla, Oct 23; 32 L.Etive, Dec 27.

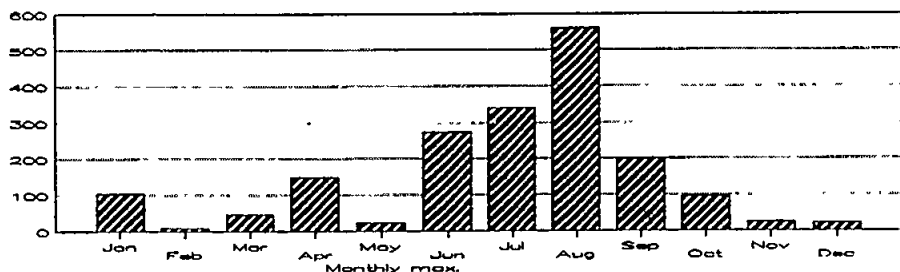
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* Siotca dhearg 0221 RM

B W Common. Breeding recorded in 52% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

Large moulting flocks gather at some offshore sites, Jul-Aug.

1992

Kintyre: 218 moulting offshore, Ballochroy, Jul 15. Islay: moulting flock, L.Indaal, Jun-Sep, at record levels, included in monthly maxima; 162 Kintra, Jun 9; up to 82 moulting, Claggain Bay, Aug-Sep. Mull: 48 Torosay, Jul 28. Tiree: 35 Crossapol Bay, Aug 21. N.Argyll: 14 L.Etive, Sep 13.



Numbers of red-breasted merganser at L. Indaal, Islay, in 1992.

GOOSANDER

Mergus merganser

Siotca

0223 GD

B & W. Scarce breeding species, mainly mid-Argyll. Breeding population estimated at 40-50 prs. (Broad RA, Seddon AJE & Stroud DA: The waterfowl of freshwater lochs in Argyll. *Argyll Bird Report* 3 1986 77-88). 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 DN: Sawbill ducks at fishfarms in Argyll, western Scotland. *Scottish Birds* 15 1989 145-150).

1992

Islay: 1FL.Indaal, Apr 22. Jura: 1F Ardlussa Bay, May 1. Cowal: bred in 4 localities. Also - 1 Craigback, Mar 9; 2FF Holy L., Jul 19. Mid-Argyll: bred L.Nell (b/6 & b/7), R.Euchar (b/8); 2 prs R.Add, May; also present L.Seil, Ardentallen Point, Tullich,

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

L.Feochan, L.an Droighinn, Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith, Kilmartin, Mar-Jun; up to 8 L.Leathan, Jan & Dec; 6 L.Nell, Jan 26; 6 L.Ederline, Jan 17; 3FF L.Avich, Jun 10. Mull: no reports from usual haunts at L.Torr & Mìshnish L.; 6 L.Spelve, Aug 20; 1-3 elsewhere, Feb-Mar & Sep-Oct. Tiree: 1M L.an Eilein, Apr 29; 1M Moss, May 6. N.Argyll: 1-2MM L.Etive, Gleann Measham, Creagan, Abhainn Cam Linne, Mar-May; 2 L.Laich, Mar 15; 1 L.Etive, Jan 10; 7 on Sep 13.

HONEY BUZZARD

Pernis apivorus

0231 HZ

V Rare

1992#

Islay: 1 L.Skerrols, Jun 11.

RED KITE

Milvus milvus

Clamhan gobhlach

0239 KT

Most recent records refer to birds released in Highland Region as part of re-introduction project begun in 1989. All records are requested, ideally with details of activity and presence/absence of wing tags.

1992#

Islay: 1 Port Charlotte, Jun 12; 1 Ballygrant and Gruinart, Oct 20-24. Mid-Argyll: 2 Lochgilphead, Jan 18-19. Mull: 1 Carsaig-Pennyghael, May 7; 1 L.Spelve, Sep 25; 3 Lochdon, Sep 29, for at least a week.



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.

1992: Scotland - for the second year in succession 4 successful prs 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 imm. Gallanach, Oct 4; 1 imm. L.Awe, Oct 19.

HEN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

Breid air toin

0261 HH

B W P Sparse but widespread breeding species. Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Recent studies have demonstrated considerable juvenile

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

emigration and some immigration (RSPB, unpublished).

1992 breeding season: A cold and wet spring caused some early nest failures, but those that hatched enjoyed a high fledging rate. A total of 64 nests were monitored. Of these, 57 nests were successful, rearing a total of 171 young. Mean 1st egg date of 31 clutches was May 8 (range Apr 19-May 28); mean initial size of 40 clutches was 4.1; mean size of 62 broods at last visit was 2.69; mean of 36 fledged broods was 2.28. A total of 157 young were ringed and 156 were fitted with wing tags as part of a national study by RSPB [MM/MAO/MAP].

1992 counts:

Islay: Gruinart roosts - 5 in Jan, 13 in Feb, 10 in Mar, 4 in Oct, 3 in Nov, 4 in Dec. **Mid-Argyll:** Moine Mhor roost - 8 in Jan, 6 in Feb, 5 in Mar, 6 in Apr, 5 in Oct, 10 in Nov, 7 in Dec. An imm. roosted at Moine Mhor, May 27, providing evidence that roosts are sometimes used by non-breeding birds in summer. **Mull:** Lochdon roost - 4 ringtails, Feb 12. **Coll:** M & F present Sep 12-Dec 31.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Spiorcag 0269 SH
B W P Widespread. Breeding recorded in 36% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Cowal: F flushed from recently killed imm. M merlin, near Succoth, Apr.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* Clamhan 0287 BZ
B W Common in all regions. Breeding recorded in 78% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 1 with large adder, Kilchiaran, Jun 18. **Colonsay:** at least 21 prs bred; mean size of 9 clutches was 2.44; mean size of 9 fledged broods was 2.33 [DCJ]. **Mid-Argyll:** 43 breeding prs located in Oban area; outcome at 4 nests unknown; 39 successful nests fledged a mean of 1.10 young per nest [GS]. **Coll:** a very good breeding season; 7 prs reared 16 young, including 3 broods of 3 [IB]. **Tiree:** 2 prs nested, rearing 4 young.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* Colairc 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).

1992: Full results of a national census completed in 1992 will be published elsewhere. Interim summary figures for Argyll are given below. 94-102 home ranges were monitored; the spread of these figures is due to the unresolved relationship between historical and current home ranges, including the apparent amalgamation of previously separate home ranges into larger ranges containing only a single pr. 9-14 home ranges were apparently vacant; birds were present in 85-88 with prs occupying 79-83. Breeding confirmed in 48 10km sq. 57 prs were proved to breed with perhaps as many as 64 laying eggs. Eggs hatched in at least 31 nests and 19 chicks fledged from 17 sites. Overall productivity was low with poor weather in the early spring a contributory factor. Eggs were stolen from a nest in N. Argyll and an adult was found dead in the same home range. Its cause of death could not be determined. Elsewhere, a subadult male was electrocuted on Colonsay, and examination of an adult female that died close to her nest on Mull showed recent injuries inflicted by another eagle. She had partly eaten her own chick [RSPB, MG, *et al.*]

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Islay: series of reports including 3 imms. interacting Neriby, Mar 23 when 2 grasped talons and spun to the ground; 1 imm. Finlaggan, Apr 4 hunting rabbits from fence post.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 0301 OP

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

1991: In retrospect, the figures for 1991 need upward revision to 3 prs. The additional site was built and occupied in 1991 but no eggs were thought to have been laid.

1992: 3 sites were occupied by prs. The nest constructed in 1991 was blown out during the winter and delay while the birds rebuilt in 1992 was probably one reason why this pr did not lay eggs. Two other prs laid clutches but both failed. Failure at one site occurred during a period of bad weather but the possibility of robbery cannot be entirely discounted [RSPB].

Islay: 1 L.Ballygrant, Jun 21; 1 L.Indaal, Aug 9; 1 Gruinart, Aug 21. **Mid-Argyll:** 1 R. Add, Jun 18 & Jul 7; up to 3 ads. **R.Add,** Jul 29 - Sep 2.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* 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).

1992: no significant records.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* 0309 ML

B W P Scarce breeding species, probably under-recorded.

1992: Birds were recorded in several known breeding areas and 6 sites were monitored (Kintyre 2, Islay 1, Cowal 1, Mid-Argyll 2). One pr failed and 5 successful prs fledged 18 young. Despite visits to all known sites, there was again no evidence of breeding on Coll.

Islay: good series of wintering records Jan-Mar and Nov. **Mid-Argyll:** 1 Tayvallich, Feb 2; 1 Inverlussa, Feb 22. **Cowal:** imm. M killed by sparrowhawk F near Succoth, Apr. **N.Argyll:** 1 Connel, Mar 15; 1 Ledaig, Apr 3.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* 0320 PE

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

Breeding recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Breeding recorded in 52 10km sq in 1991 survey [RSPB *et al.*]

1992: little systematic monitoring data but breeding season reports supplemented 1991 survey data.

Islay: breeding confirmed in new area and another pr held a new territory but did not breed. **Jura:** breeding proved in new area and 2 nest crags, previously considered to be alternative nest sites, now each occupied by a pr. **Coll:** additional non-breeding pr located. **Cowal:** b/4 reared at one site is unusually large brood for the area. Chick ringed in 1992 found injured in Co. Mayo, Eire in Sep.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* 0329 RG

R Sparsely distributed in moorland & young forestry habitats. Slight increase in recent

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

years? Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992: no significant records.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus* *Carmachan* 0330 PM
R Very localised, generally above 800m. All records required. Breeding recorded in 5% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992: no significant records.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* *Coitcheach dubh* 0332 BK
R Locally distributed. Recent increase in numbers as a result of birds colonising forestry plantations. Breeding recorded in 21% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 2FF Cnoc an Altair, Apr 26; single M & F at L.Gruinart RSPB reserve, several dates. Jura: M near Tarbert plus freshly dead M killed by raptor (eagle?) at Am Bog-airigh, May 1. Mid-Argyll: 5MM L.Nant, May 18; 5MM L.na Carraigeach, Apr 22; 6MM Fearnach, Apr 13; 8MM Cologin, Mar 28, Apr 4 & Sep 26; 5MM Cruach Lerags, Aug 14. N.Argyll: F in young plantation Clashgour, May 24; 1M, 3FF Clashgour, Oct 23.

CAPercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* *Capull coille* 0335 CP
? Very rare. Has bred. All records required.
1992: unsubstantiated reports from Inverinan Forest (mid-Argyll). No other records.

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.
1992: no significant records.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* *Cearc thomain* 0367 P
R Very localised distribution. Birds introduced in several areas, but this does not appear to result in self-sustaining populations. All records required.
1992#
Islay: 1 Octovullin, Apr 1.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*
S Rare / irregular visitor.
1992#

Two calling birds heard at separate localities, same date.
Islay: 1 Carnduncan, May 29. Mid-Argyll: 1 An Samhladh, near Ford, May 29.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* *Casag* 0394 PH
R Widespread & common. Birds annually reared & released on many estates. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992: no significant records.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* 0396 GF
 F Birds introduced at a small number of estates & gardens. A feral population of ca 20 birds exists at Gruline, Mull.
 1992: no significant records.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Snagán allt 0407 WA
 B W P Scarce, but under-recorded.
 1992

Gigha: 1 on Feb 7. Islay: 1 calling Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 9-29; 1 Ardnave L., May 31. Colonsay: at least 6 present, Oct 4. Coll: 1 RSPB reserve, Nov 3. Tiree: 1 Milton, Jan 10; 5 calling birds located, May 22 - Jul 12.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Craon 0421 CE

S Localised distribution. Breeding mainly on Islay, Colonsay, Coll & Tiree.
 1992: The Corncrake Initiative, a partnership scheme funded by RSPB and SNH, launched in 1992, was well subscribed in the main Argyll Island strongholds. It provided payments to encourage the positive management of hay and silage crops by delaying cutting until after Jul 31 and for harvesting these crops in a corncrake-friendly manner. As part of this initiative, census of the main strongholds located the following totals of calling birds: Islay 10, Colonsay 11, Iona 1, Coll 16, and Tiree 97. The total is similar to 1991 but some redistribution was evident, particularly on Coll where acquisition and management of a new RSPB reserve attracted 10 calling birds. Iona: reports of calling birds from 3-4 areas in May but only one remained through Jun; 1-2 calling birds Treshnish Isles, May 20-Jun 4.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Cearc uisge 0424 MH
 B W Very localised. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992

Islay: bred Gruinart RSPB reserve; 2 Carnain, Jun 9; 1 Lily L., Jun 22; 4 Craighs, Oct 13; 2 L.Ballygrant, Oct 13. Colonsay: 1 East L.Fada, Jun 23. Mid-Argyll: 1 L.Leathan, Jan-Jun; 2 Glen Cruitten, Jan 24; 1 L.Ederline, Jan 31; 1 L.an Dubh, Feb 29; 1 Glean Sheileach, Mar-Apr; 1 Ford, Aug 11; 2 Bellanoch, Dec 22. Mull: 1 Scoor, May 25. Tiree: 1 Clachan Mor, Jun.

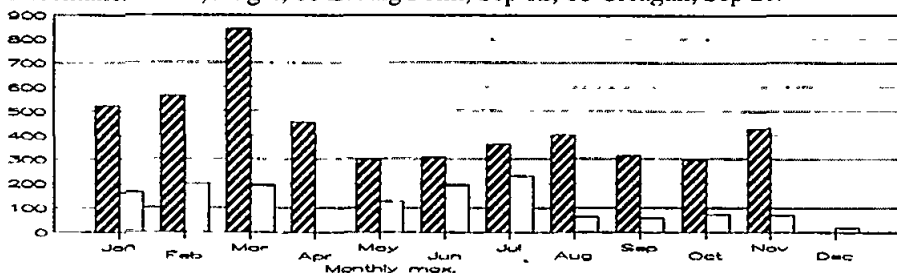
COOT *Fulica atra* Lach a dh'air 0429 CO
 B W Uncommon. Breeding recorded in only 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992

Islay: 1 L.nan Cadhan, Jun 27; 1 L.Ballygrant, Oct 13. Colonsay: 1 dead (believed shot) May 19. Mid-Argyll: L.Nell - 7 on Jan 30; 2 on Mar 18; 5 on Nov 9. Mull: 1 Scoor, May 29. Tiree: 1 L.Riaghain, Jan 12.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Gille brighde 0450 OC
 B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 70% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

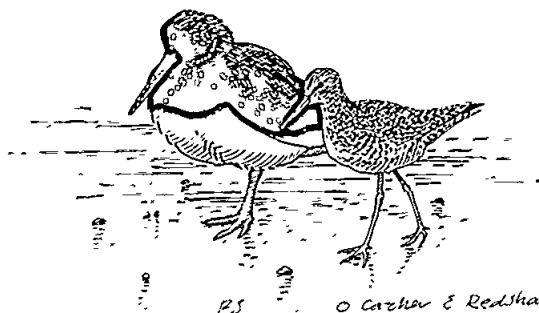
Kintyre: 525 Campbeltown L., Nov 3. Islay: 1 nested within area used for mechanical peat cutting, near Sunderland. Cowal: Holy L. - 124 on Jul 19; 400 on Aug 27 & Sep 13; 393 on Oct 4. Mid-Argyll: 42 Ganavan, Feb 27; 35 Ardentalen Point, May 4; 78 Ardentalen Point, Aug 4; 60 Ledaig Point, Sep 12; 68 Creagan, Sep 20.



Numbers of oystercatcher at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: L. Gruinart



PS

O Carhar & Redshank

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

1992

Islay: 55 Killinallan, Oct 10; 50 Bruichladdich, Dec 18. Colonsay: 260 Traigh Nam Barc, Oct 3; 233 The Strand, Dec 19. Mull: 36 L. Don, Aug 9; 39 Kintra, Dec 7. Tiree: 280 Gott Bay, May 8. N.Argyll: 100 Ledaig Point, Feb 6; 60 Ledaig Point, Sep 1.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* Amadan-mointich 0482 DO
P Scarce. Has bred N.Argyll. All records required.

1992#

Islay: 5 near L.Gorm, Apr 29, 2 still present May 1. Mull: 1 Quinish, May 14. N.Argyll: 2 on hilltop where breeding has occurred in the past, May 2.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* Eadag 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).

1992

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Islay: bred Beinn Bhreac, Beinn Urraidh, L.nam Bhreac & L.nam Manaichean. Counts - 300 Ardnave, Apr 3; 80 N/pl. Sanaig, Apr 22; 200 L.Indaal, Oct 14. Colonsay: 96 Traigh Nam Barc, Oct 5; 70 Tobar Fuar, Oct 19. Mull: 3 L.Beg, Jan 9; 10 Knockantivore, Mar 31; 25 Brolass, Dec 5. Tiree: ca 1,000 The Airport, May 4; 110 Sandaig, Sep 18. Lismore: 80 on Mar 14.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* Criffelachan 0486 GV
P W Uncommon passage migrant. A few winter.
1992

Islay: 9 L.Gruinart, Feb 22; 1 Uiskentuie, Jun 7. Colonsay: 1 The Strand, Oct 15. Mull: 1 L.Beg, Oct 18. Tiree: 4 Salum Bay, Jun 2.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* Carrnacay 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).

1992: birds noted on breeding grounds from mid-Feb.

Islay: pr nested in area used for machine cut peat, Coul, & 2 prs with chicks elsewhere in flooded old peat cuttings. Colonsay: 300 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 5. Cowal: 50 Toward Point, Jan 5; 60 Holy L., Jan 25; 40 Kames, Jan 26; 25 Holy L., Nov 29. Mid-Argyll: 6 Ganavan, Feb 27; 100 Slockavullin, Feb 28; 124 L.Crinan, Mar 15; 47 Torinturk Farm, Mar 18; ca 60 Killinnochonoch, Jul. Mull: 31 Erraid, Dec 7. N.Argyll: 2 Connel, Feb 16.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* Luatharan gainmhich 0496 KN
W P Uncommon passage migrant with main passage Aug-Sep. A few winter.
1992

Islay: L.Indaal - 48 on Mar 17; 16 on May 21; 2 juvs. on Jun 23. Also - 32 L.Gruinart, Sep 15. Colonsay: 1 Kiloran Bay, Sep 3. Mull: 1 Calgary, Sep 12. Tiree: 20 L.a' Phuill, Aug 20. N.Argyll: 1 Ledaig Point, Sep 1; 3 Ledaig Point, Sep 12.

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.
1992

Islay: 80 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Sep 15. Colonsay: 6 Traigh Nam Barc, Aug 8; 6 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 5. Mull: 2 Ardalanish Bay, May 29; 15 Iona, Jun 3; 8 Ardalanish Bay, Aug 21. Tiree: 80 Ruaig, Mar 26; 150 Hough Bay, May 16; 120 Hynish, Aug 7; 150 Hough Bay, Sep 24.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* Luatharan beag 0501 LX
P Scarce.
1992

Mid-Argyll: 1 Oban Bay, Sep 30.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 0502 TK

P Scarce / irregular.

1992#

Tiree: 1 An Fhaodhail, Aug 23.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* LUATHARAN CROM 0509 CV

P Scarce / irregular.

1992

Mull: 5 Ardalanish Bay, Aug 21. Tiree: 1 Miodar, Jun 2.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* LUATHARAN RIUGHAIL 0510 PS

W P Widely distributed along rocky coasts Aug-May.

1992

Islay: Bruichladdich - 12 on Mar 16; 2 on May 2; 9 on Nov 27. Tiree: last - 31 Hough Bay, May 16; first - 2 Hynish, Sep 20.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* GRAILLIG 0512 DN

B W P Very localised breeding species. Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Majority recorded on passage with smaller numbers wintering.

1992

Islay: 5 L.Gruinart, Jun 8; 14 Blackrock, Jul 11; 250 L.Gruinart, Aug 21; 150 Bruichladdich, Dec 18. Colonsay: 245 The Strand, Dec 19. Mull: 58 L.Don, Feb 14; 10 L.Don, Jul 30. Tiree: 652 Gott Bay, May 8; 100 Rubha Chraiginis, May 16; 16 Balephetrish Bay, Jul 29; 96 L.a' Phuill, Aug 20.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* GIBCEAGAN 0517 RU

P Scarce / irregular passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

1992

Islay: 1-3 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 22-30; 1 L.Gruinart, Aug 21; 2 Kintra, Aug 31; 7 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Sep 1. Tiree: 2 L.a' Phuill, Aug 21; 2 An Fhaodhail, Aug 23; 1 Balinoe, Sep 1.

JACK SNIBE *Lymnocyptes minimus* GOBHRAIG ÒHCEAG 0518 JS

W P Probably under-recorded.

1992

Islay: 1 Rockside, Jan 19; 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jan 23; 1 Maol Chuirn-a-mheal, Dec 19. Colonsay: 1 Traigh Nam Barc, Oct 5. Mid-Argyll: 1 Point of Knap, May 2. Tiree: 1 Ruaig, Jan 10.

SNIBE *Gallinago gallinago* NAOSG 0519 SN

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

1992

Islay: at least 19 drumming birds, Gruinart RSPB reserve; 1 drumming, Port Charlotte, Oct 22! Colonsay: survey from road located 23 drumming birds, Jun.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Coiteach coille 0529 WK
B W P Widespread but under-recorded distribution. Breeding recorded in 35% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992: no significant records.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* Ccarraghob 0532 BW
P Scarce.
1992

Islay: 2 L.Indaal, Apr 13; 12 L.Indaal, Apr 21; up to 3 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 22 - May 1; 5 s/pl. Coul, May 7; 4 L.Gruinart, Jun 24; 1 Ardnave L., Jul 28; 1-8 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 15-Sep 16. Tiree: 1 Ruaig, Jan 10; 19 Gott Bay, Apr 29; 20 a' Chrois, May 7; 36 L.Riaghain, May 9; 19 An Fhoadhail, Jul 19; 7 L.a' Phuill, Aug 4; 8 L.a' Phuill, Aug 20. Coll: 18 Totamore, Apr 30.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* Ccarraghob mhòr 0534 BA
W P Uncommon passage migrant, most records in autumn. Wintering birds on Islay & small nos. Colonsay & Tiree; few elsewhere. Occasional summer records.
1992

Islay: L.Indaal - 250 on Apr 20; 130 (Blackrock) on May 26; 230 (Gartnatra) on Jun 8; 143 (Blackrock) on Jun 21; 51 (Blackrock) on Jun 29; 120 on Oct 14. Colonsay: 2 The Strand, Oct 3. Mid-Argyll: 7 > S over Dunadd, Sep 20. Mull: 9 L.Don, Mar 14; 1 L.Don, Jul 14; 1 Quinish, Aug 15; 1 Calgary, Sep 12; 2 Iona, Dec 8. Tiree: 25 L.Riaghain, Mar 27; 7 Ruaig, May 18; 10 Ruaig, Jun 1; main return passage late Sep.

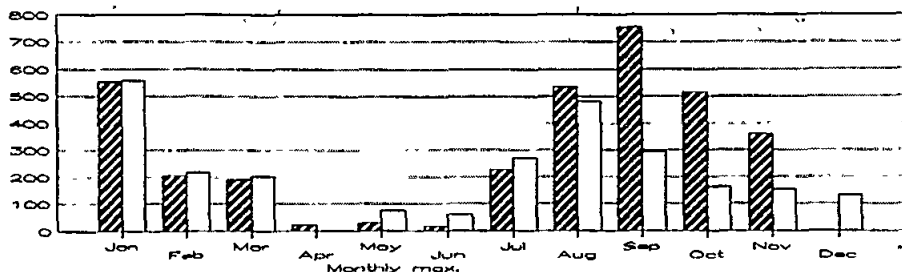
WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* Cùn bealltainn 0538 WM
P Uncommon. Main passage May & Aug. Possibility of a few individuals summering?
1992

Islay: up to 5 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 23-May 1; 30 Traigh an Luig, L.Indaal, May 7 (high tide roost); 3 L.Indaal, May 23; 2 Camduncan, May 29; 5 Traigh Machir, Aug 7; 1-12 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 5 - Sep 1. Colonsay: 1 The Strand, Oct 15. Cowal: 1 Blairmore, May 14. Mid-Argyll: 6 L.Caolisport, May 7; 10 Oban Bay, May 8; 6 Claonaig, May 9; 1 Ganavan, Jul 6; 1 Easdale, Jul 29. Mull: 8 Erraid, Aug 20; 2 L.Don, Aug 19. Coll: 101 on May 8. Tiree: 19 Balephetrish Bay, May 17; 2 L.a' Phuill, Jul 21; 1 L.a' Phuill, Aug 8.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* Cùilbreach 0541 CU
B W P Common. Breeding recorded in 50% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Kintyre: 125 Campbeltown L., Nov 3. Colonsay: 37 Port Sgibinis, Oct 5; 118 The Strand, Dec 19. Cowal: Holy L. - 119 on Mar 30, 115 on Jul 19, 120 on Sep 13 & 172 on Dec 12. Mid-Argyll: 21 Ardoran, Jan 6; 29 head of L.Feochan, Feb 9. Mull: 37 L.Beg, Jan 25; 56 L.Don, Aug 3.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992



Numbers of curlew at two sealochs on Islay in 1992.

Hatched: L. Indaal

Plain: L. Gruinart

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Cam ghlàs 0546 RK
 B W P Localised breeder. Breeding recorded in 40% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Widespread passage migrant & wintering species.
 1992

Islay: 76 prs bred, Gruinart RSPB reserve. Colonsay: 13 Ardskenish, Jun 15; 24 The Strand, Dec 19. Cowal: 34 Holy L., Apr 5. Mid-Argyll: pr bred Barnakill; nocturnal passage, Oban, Aug 9; 23 L.Gilp, Oct 24. N.Argyll: 40 Ledaig Point, Sep 12.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* Ococh dhuidhe 0548 GK
 B W P Very scarce breeding species (only in Mull & N.Argyll 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.
 1992

Islay: 3 Bridgend, Mar 29; 2 L.Indaal, Apr 18; 1-6 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 22-May 31; 1 Craighs, Aug 12-18; 1 Bruichladdich, Sep 15. Cowal: 1 Holy L., Apr 5. Mid-Argyll: 3 Linne Mhuirich, Mar 24; 3 L.Crinan, Jul 25; 2 R. Add, Aug 25 & 28. Mull: 2 birds present in Jun but no proof of breeding; 5 L.Beg, Jan 12; 2 L.Don, Jun 4; 4 L.Beg, Sep 13. N.Argyll: pr present and probably bred at one site.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Luatharan uamc 0553 GE
 P Scarce.
 1992#

Islay: 1 Easter Ellister, Aug 12-15; 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Aug 27. Mid-Argyll: 1 L.Nell, Sep 30. Coll: 4 on Aug 14. Tiree: 1 Hynish, Aug 7-14.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* 0554 OD
 P Scarce.
 1992#

Mid-Argyll: 1 Moleigh, Sep 13; 1 Glen Lonan, Apr 15.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Luatharan 0556 CS
 S P Widespread & common breeding visitor. Breeding recorded in 68% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992

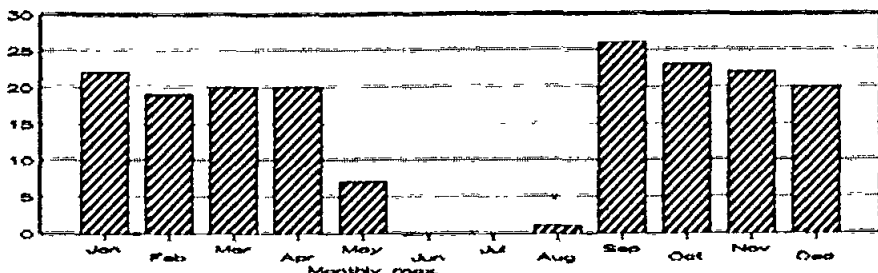
Islay: first - 1 Dunlossit, Apr 23; last - 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Oct 4. Cowal: first -

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

1 L.Eck, Apr 23; departure - 19 Holy L., Jul 19. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 L.Nell, Apr 22; late birds - 1 Ardentalen Point, Sep 14 & 1 Dunollie, Oct 17. N.Argyll: 5 L.Tulla, Apr 22.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* *Trilleachan beag gobhlachan* 0561 TT
WP Widespread & common on rocky shorelines & seaweed strandlines, mainly Aug-May. 1992: recorded in all months.

Islay: 50 L.Guinart, Mar 22. Colonsay: 69 The Strand, Dec 19. Cowal: 20 Holy L., Jan 19. Mid-Argyll: Oban Bay, monthly max. - see figure. Mull: 16 L.Beg, Jan 2; 20 Erraid, Aug 20. Tiree: 40 Kilkenneth, May 16. N.Argyll: 25 Ledaig Point, Sep 12.



Numbers of turnstone at Oban Bay, mid-Argyll, in 1992.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* *Deargan allt* 0564 NK
S P Rare breeder at one locality only. 1992

1F and 2MM at usual site; b/3 hatched and minimum of one chick fledged [RSPB].

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* *Fasgadhair donn* 0566 PK
P Scarce 1992#

Islay: 1 ad > S, Coul Point, Aug 8. Mull: 1 Treshnish, Jul 30. N. Argyll: 2 Eilean Muidile, Lismore, Aug 31.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* *Fasgadhair* 0567 AC
S P The commonest skua in Argyll, regularly seen near large tern colonies. Small breeding colonies on Jura & Coll. Passage birds off all coasts Apr-Oct. 1992

Jura: 2 ads. + 5 fy. Feolin, Jul 1. Mull: 6 Sound of Mull, Sep 2. Coll: very poor breeding season with only 25 prs present.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Skua longicaudus* 0568 OG
P Rare 1992#

Islay: 1 juv. off SE Islay, Sep 25. Coll: 1 Crossapol, Jun 17.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* *Fasgadhair mor* 0569 NX
S P Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor. Bred unsuccessfully on Coll in

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

1989.

1992#

Islay: 1 Sound of Islay, Jul 4. Colonsay: 1 Port Ban, May 29; 1 Kiloran Bay, Aug 1.

Mull: 1 Quinish, May 22. N.Argyll: Singles near Eilean Musdile, Lismore, Mar 14 & Aug 31.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

0575 MU

V Rare

1992#

Mull: 1 ad. Torrans, Dec 15.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

0579 AB

V Irregular

1992#

Kintyre: 1 ad. & 1 imm. Kilbrannan Sound, Sep 9. Colonsay: 1 imm. Ardskenish, Oct 3.

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

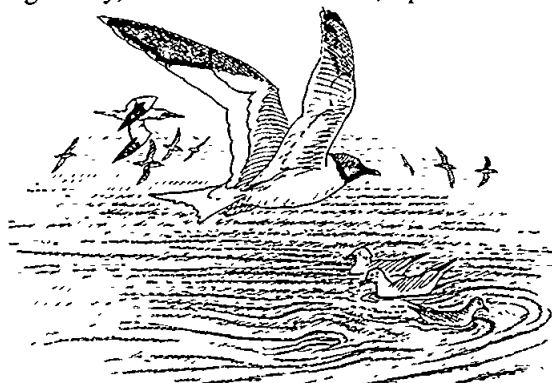
B W P Common except in outer islands. Breeding mostly coastal, usually on small islands. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Breeding success was monitored at 5 Argyll colonies. A total of 523 clutches were laid, producing 50-65+ fledged young. Mink were known to be preying on ads., eggs & chicks at 2 colonies where no young were fledged [JCAC].

Other significant records:

Islay: up to 90 prs attempted breeding but success poor, probably due to predation by feral ferrets, *Mustela furo*, and by peregrine falcon [RSPB]. Colonsay: only 5 prs present at breeding colony; counts - 42 The Strand, Apr 15.



ARRAN SOUND.
- 19.8.92 Ad. E 1st yr SABINES GULLS, COMMON GULLS,
GANNET & M. SHEARWATERS.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

0589 IN

V Scarce

1992#

Kintyre: 1 2nd w/pl. Tarbert, Dec 24. Islay: 1 ad. Proaig, Nov 7.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* [aoileag] 0590 CM
B WP Widespread & common breeding species. Colonies both coastal, where mostly on small islands, and by inland waters. Breeding recorded in 45% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Breeding success at 12 monitored colonies as follows: 795-825 clutches laid; 106-140 young fledged; mink were present at 5 of these colonies [JCAC].

Other significant records:

Islay: ca 50 prs bred in 3 colonies [RSPB]. Mid-Argyll: 180 L.Crinan, Feb 24.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* [aoileag dheag] 0591 LB
S P Common breeding species, generally present Mar-Sep. Breeds coastally, usually on small islands and almost always in association with herring gull. Breeding recorded in 20% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas 1988-90). Occasional winter records.

1992

Islay: first - Feb 15; last - Sep 11. Mid-Argyll: ca 60 prs and 21 large chicks ringed, Eilean na Cille (Sound of Jura), Jul 4; at least 100 prs, and 41 large chicks ringed, Reisa mhic Phaidean (Sound of Jura), Jul 10.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* [aoileag an sgadain] 0592 HG
B WP Widespread & abundant breeding species. Breeds coastally, almost always on small islands. 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 and NE England.

1992

Mid-Argyll: 340 birds McCormaig Is, Jul; ca 1,000 Moleigh (Oban rubbish tip) Dec 27.

YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING GULL *L.a.cachinnans*:

Colonsay: 1 Balnahard, Jul 22.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* [aoileag tairh] 0598 IG
W Scarce

1992

Islay: 1st winter bird(s) 1 Coille, Feb 28; 1 Ballinaby, Mar 5; 1 Sunderland, Mar 10; 1 Bruichladdich, Mar 16; 1 Portnahaven, Mar 25; 1 Kilchoman, Apr 20; 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Nov 2. Mid-Argyll: 1-2 Oban Bay, Jan 6-May 22. Coll: 1 Breachacha, Oct 26.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* [aoileag mhor] 0599 GZ
W Scarce but in general more frequently recorded than Iceland gull.

1992#

Islay: 1 juv. Big Strand, Jan 10; 1 Coulererach, May 30-31. Mid-Argyll: 1-2 Oban Bay, Mar 28-Apr 16, and Oct 9. Tiree: 1 Hough Bay, Jan 10; 1 Sandaig, May 15; 1 Kilkenneth, May 22.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* [Larspag 0600 GB
B W Common & widespread. Breeds coastally, usually on small islands, often as single prs, usually associated with herring gull. Breeding recorded in 22% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas 1988-90).

1992

Colonsay: 50 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 5. **Mid-Argyll:** ca 40 prs breeding and 21 large chicks ringed Ruadh Sgeir, Sound of Jura, Jul 1: this is one of Argyll's largest colonies; 59 Ardentallen Point, Nov 4.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Ruideag 0602 KI
B P Strictly marine, breeding on cliffs. Main colonies are on Islay, Colonsay, Tiree & Treshnish Is.

1992

Islay: 1 Sunderland (4 km inland in westerly gale), Mar 12. **Mid-Argyll:** 500 near Maiden Is, Oban, Mar 16; 330 roosting McCormaig Is, Jul 21. **Tiree:** 950 occ. nests Ceann a'Mhara, Jun 4.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Stcarnag mhor 0611 TE
B P Very rare/irregular breeding species. Uncommon passage migrant.

1992

Islay: 1 Claggain Bay, Jun 9; 2 (inc. 1 juv.) Bruichladdich, Aug 6; 3 Bruichladdich, Sep 3. **Colonsay:** 1 Kiloran Bay, Jun 26. **Cowal:** 3 Blairmore, May 26; 30+ off Ardentinny, early Aug, with max. count of 35, Aug 13; last - Sep 6. **Mid-Argyll:** 1 L.Gilp, May 29. **Mull:** 2 Sound of Iona, Jun 4. **Tiree:** 2 Gott Bay, May 14.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

Jura: ca 200 Eilean nan Gabhar, Jul 12. **Coll:** very poor breeding season - predation by rats and cats? **Tiree:** 715 birds at breeding colonies [ACK].

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* Stcarnag 0615 CN
S P Locally common breeding species, considerably more numerous than arctic tern, at least on small islands close to the mainland. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

As part of a study over a wider area, breeding terns were monitored on islands along the mainland coast between Machrihanish and the Highland border. There were 11 colonies (2 pure and 9 mixed with arctic tern) containing 1186 prs of common tern: these produced 563 +/- 120 fledged chicks. The largest two colonies held 700 (59%) and 269 (23%) prs of common tern and produced 500 +/- 100 (89%) and 40 +/- 20 (7%) fledged chicks. There was heavy predation by otter and mink at the first colony and by otter at the second, reducing fledging numbers respectively to about half and an eighth of what they might otherwise have been in a year when tern feeding conditions were good and unpredated colonies averaged over 1.0 fledged chicks/pr. The other nine colonies held 217 prs of common tern. 23 chicks fledged at four of these colonies. None fledged at five, mainly because of mink and otter predation. As in previous years, the overwhelming contribution of the few largest colonies is stressed, as are the severe

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

effects of mammalian predators in killing large numbers of chicks and eggs every year [JCAC]. The 700 pr colony is believed to be the largest colony of this species in the British Isles.

Other significant records:

Jura: 60 birds, 27 chicks ringed, Am Plotha, Jul 16. Colonsay: 10 Rubha Garbh, Jun 14. Tiree: 2 Gott Bay, May 14.

NB ERRATA: In the sections on both common tern and arctic tern, in the Argyll Systematic Lists for both 1990 and 1991 (Argyll Bird Reports 7 36-37 and 8 48) >20 should be <20 (less than 20).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* Sgearnaid 0616 AE

S P Locally numerous breeding species. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Confusion with last species tends to lead to over-recording of arctic and under-recording of common tern rather than vice-versa.

1992

In the Argyll part of the above study area (see common tern), there were 11 colonies (2 pure, 9 mixed with common tern) holding 212 prs of arctic tern. 72 +/- 5 chicks fledged at seven colonies. No chicks fledged at four colonies, mainly because of otter and mink predation [JCAC].

Other significant records:

Islay: 4-6 prs bred L.Gruinart; 2 Bruichladdich, Apr 27. Jura: 20+ prs, 13 chicks ringed, Am Plotha, Jul 16. Colonsay: 5 prs Kiloran Bay; ca 15 prs Machrins; ca 30 prs Ardskinish. Mid-Argyll: 30 ads. + 40 juvs. Eilean Mor, McCormaig Is, Aug 6 (known not to have bred there).

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Sgearnaid bheag 0624 AF

S P Scarce breeding species confined to Islay, Tiree & Coll.

Note - this species is very sensitive to disturbance.

1992

Islay: no breeding information received. Counts - 2 Bruichladdich, Apr 20; 4 L.Indaal, May 9; 10 Killinallan, May 18; 4 Kilnaughton Bay, Jun 10. Coll: 22 prs at 2 colonies fledged 5 young [IB]. Tiree: 44-47 prs bred [ACK]; 1 Hynish, Apr 29; 4 Hough Bay, May 19.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* Cum dubh an sgadain 0634 GU

B W Highly colonial, locally abundant breeding species. Adults with small young appear on sea far from colonies in July; regularly seen in sealochs in winter.

1992

Tiree: 724 ashore Ceann a'Mhara, Jun 4.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* [etc] 0636 RA

B W Locally common breeding species, although less numerous and with smaller colonies than guillemot. Regularly seen in sealochs in winter.

1992

Tiree: at least 340 ashore, Ceann a'Mhara, Jun 4.

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BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle* · C_{carra-òrcac} 0638 TY
B W Common breeding species on rocky coasts. Breeding recorded in 38% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Mid-Argyll: 11 Oban Bay, Jan 22.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* Buchaid 0654 PU
B P Very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda and Treshnish Is. Small but persistent colony at Carraig an Daimh (Sound of Jura).
1992

Islay: 3 Ton Mhor, Jun 28. Colonsay: 10 >S / 0.5 h, Rubh Aird Alanais, Jun 26; 33 >S / 1 hr Ardskenish Point, Oct 3. Tiree: 3 off Ceann a'Mhara, Jun 4.

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.
1992

Islay: 310 L. Skerrols, Jan 17; 70 on stubble turnip field Bowmore, Jan 30; bird on nest, Gartmain, Jan 30! 180 Killinallan, Dec 8.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* Calman gorm 0668 SD
? Scarce / irregular, Kintyre & Cowal. Possibly under-recorded - all records required.
1992

Mid-Argyll: 1 Kilmartin, Jul 18; 1 Kilbride, May 16.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* Calman padhaich 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).
1992

Colonsay: 50 Beinn a' Tuath, Sep 13. Tiree: 1 Balemartine, May 19.

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).
1992

Islay: 6 Kilchoman Wood, May 14; 20 Port Ellen, Oct 20. Mull: 15 Iona, Jun 4. Tiree: temporary influx involving several flocks of up to 12 birds, May.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Calman tuchan 0687 TD
P Scarce. Majority recorded May-Jun. All records required.
1992#

Islay: 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jul 5. Mid-Argyll: 1 Connel, Oct 4. Mull: 1 Lussa R., Jun 1; 2 Tioran, Jun 19; 1 Scallastle, Jul 25. Tiree: 1 Balephuill Bay, May 20.

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

1992

First: Islay, Apr 19; Colonsay, Apr 20; Cowal, Apr 20; Mid-Argyll, Apr 22. Last: 1 Ardoran (mid-Argyll), Aug 7.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* Combachag 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.

1992

Kintyre: 1 Gigha, Feb 15; 1 Killeen, Jun 26; 1 Crinan, Nov 16. Islay: 11 prs laid; 2 clutches failed; at least 23 young were reared [MAO]. Cowal: pr with 3 young, Ardentinn, Sep 16; birds seen in at least 12 other localities. Mid-Argyll: breeding confirmed at one locality; 1 Glen Sheileach, Jan 12; 1 Fearnoch, Feb 20; 1 Achnamara, Aug 3; 1 Oban, Oct 7; 1 Furnace, Dec 12. Mull: 1 L.Don, Feb 14. N.Argyll: 1 Achnacree, May 4.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* Combachag 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).

1992

Cowal: Glenbranter study area - one of the poorest breeding seasons during the period 1983-92; 20 prs laid and reared 14 young (0.7 chicks per pr laying) [SJP].

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Combachag adharcaiche 0767 LE
 R P W Very scarce, but almost certainly under-recorded. All records required.

1992#

Mid-Argyll: 1 found dead on road, Ariogan, May 3.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Combachag 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).

1992

Kintyre: no data available, but clearly a poor breeding season. Field vole numbers were low in mid-Kintyre during Apr & had declined further by Aug. Islay: no breeding information; 1 Glen Maraiche, Dec 5 was only winter record. Jura: 8 in northernmost part of island, Feb 29 (incl. 1 with prey subsequently robbed by hooded crow, which in turn was robbed by a hen harrier!) Field vole numbers reported to be abundant in early spring. Mid-Argyll: generally scarce in usual breeding areas. In northern part of area, field vole numbers were low in Apr & Aug.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* Sgrachag oidhech 0778 NJ
 S P Very scarce. Recent breeding confirmed for 3 areas only (in Kintyre & Cowal),

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

all adjacent to Arran, one of the two traditional Scottish strongholds.
1992

Argyll: 22 sites were fully surveyed as part of a national census. Wet and cold weather in early spring may have influenced occupancy, although calling birds were located at 4 sites. Two of these had no known history of occupancy. All 4 sites were in forests in the Cowal peninsula. One site had been clear-felled and re-planted with Sitka spruce [MM].



SWIFT *Apus apus* Góðtan 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).

1992

First: Islay, May 11; Mid-Argyll, Apr 25; Mull, May 24; Tiree, May 14. Last: Mid-Argyll, Oct 2; Tiree, Sep 24. Other counts: 2 Jura, Jun 10; 2 Colonsay, Jun 29; 18 Oban Bay, Jun 10 & 21 on Aug 6.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* BIORRA CRUICIN 0831 KF

V Most records are in autumn-winter & are probably of dispersing juveniles.

1992#

Islay: 1 Port Askaig, Aug 21. Mid-Argyll: 1 Caol Scotnish, Nov 2; 1 Ardrishaig, Dec 11. Mull: 1 Bunessan, Apr 2.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 0846 HP

V

1992#

Mid-Argyll: 1 Fearnoch, Jun 1; 1 in garden at Lagganmore, Scammadale, Sep 29.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* 0856 G

? Status uncertain, but appears to occur only irregularly. All records required.

1992#

Cowal: 1 calling, Glenbranter, Sep 16.

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GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* Sreagan darach 0876 GS

B W Widespread in suitable deciduous and coniferous woodland. Breeding recorded in 31% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992: no significant records.



Hoopoe & P. Snow

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Uiscag 0976 S

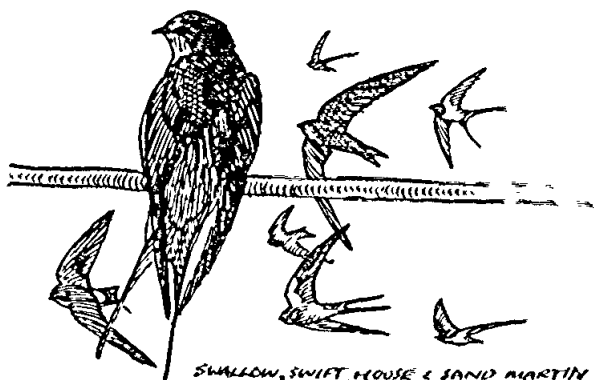
B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Emigration of many birds in winter, with remaining birds mainly distributed in coastal & low-lying areas. Breeding recorded in 79% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 110 L.Guinart, Apr 2; 240 Sunderland, Nov 23.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* Gobhlan gannmhiche 0981 SM

SP Uncommon & localised breeding species. All breeding records required. Breeding recorded in 24% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 13 occ. holes, Laggan Bridge; 11 occ. holes, Laggan estuary; 22 birds at Cattadale (breeding suspected); 1 occ. hole, Kilchiaran. First - Ardnave and Sanaig, Apr 22. Cowal: all old holes at Stronchullin farm destroyed by sand extraction. 15 new holes excavated. Mid-Argyll: first - 2 Dunbeg, Apr 18; 50-70 occ. holes, Kilmartin Quarry; 35 occ. holes Kilmichael Glen woodyard; 2 occ. holes Kilmartin school bank; 16 occ. holes Kilbride. A modest increase on 1991 Mid-Argyll figures.



SWALLOW, SWIFT, HOUSE & SAND MARTIN

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Còbhtan gaoithe 0992 SL
SP Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 76% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: first - 1 The Oa, Apr 21. Cowal: last - 2 Blairmore, Nov 2. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 15; last - 1 Connel, Oct 7. Mull: first - 1 Calgary, Apr 22; 40 L. Spelve, Aug 7. Coll: 8-10 breeding prs (2-3 prs in most years). Tiree: first - May 13; last - Sep 20. N. Argyll: first - 1 L. Tulla, Apr 22.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Còbhtan tairghe 1001 HM
SP Common breeding species on mainland where suitable sites exist; less numerous on the islands & no recent breeding recorded from Colonsay, Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 48% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 2 still feeding young, Ardilistry Gatehouse, Sep 17. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 25. Mull: 20 Bunessan, Aug 14. Tiree: 1 L. Bhasapol, May 4.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Rìadhag 1009 TP
SP Common breeding species in open deciduous woodland and conifer restock sites. Very scarce Islay. Breeding recorded in 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: 1 Bridgend, Jun 4 & 20, then 2 on Jun 25. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Taynish, Apr 7. Mull: first - 1 L. Don, Apr 29. N. Argyll: first - 1 L. Tulla, Apr 22.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* Snathag 1011 MP
BWP 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.
1992

Colonsay: large fall Oransay, Mar 20. N. Argyll: small parties of 20+ on Apr 7.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Cabbhagan 1014 RC
RPW Common resident breeding species around coast. Breeding recorded in 67% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Scarce passage & winter visitor.
1992: no significant records.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Breacan ùrdhe 1017 YW
P Rare
1992#

Islay: bird of BLUE-HEADED RACE *M. flava* at Kilchiaran, May 28.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* Breacan ùan tighearna 1019 GL
BWP Widespread breeding species. Breeding recorded in 61% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Some emigration in winter.
1992: no significant records.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

- PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* Breac an t-sìl 1020 PW
 B W P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Emigration from most areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive late Feb-early Mar; departure Aug-Oct.
 1992
 Kintyre: 45 Southend, Nov 9. Islay: 25 Craigens, Jun 25. Colonsay: fall of ca 50, Scalasaig, Oct 8. Mid-Argyll: 112 >S/hr Moleigh, Aug 21; 127 >S/hr Moleigh, Aug 29; 54 >S/hr Moleigh, Sep 2; 138 Ariogan, Sep 17; main autumn roosts at Ariogan reed beds & Oban north pier.
 WHITE WAGTAIL *M.a.alba* : (note - because of possible confusion with juv. pied wagtail, great care is needed in identifying white wagtails in autumn).
 1992
 Mid-Argyll: first - Dunollie, Apr 27; up to 6 Oban, May 1-8; 3 L.an Leoid, May 6. Mull: 1 L.Spelve, Mar 20.
- WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus* Canarach dearg 1048 WX
 W Irruptive visitor in varying numbers.
 1992#
 Cowal: 1 Whistlefield, Jan 23; 1 Kames, Apr 1.
- DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* Còbha 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).
 1992: no significant records.
- WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Òreachan donn 1066 WR
 B W Very common, although numbers fluctuate. Breeding recorded in 84% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992: no significant records.
- DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis* Cealbhonn nam preas 1084 D
 B W P Widespread & common, except some islands. Breeding recorded in 55% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992
 Colonsay: transitory birds in coastal nettle patches early Oct were probably migrants.
- 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.
 1992
 Tiree: 2 Hynish, Sep 20.
- REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Ceann dearg 1122 RT
 SP Common breeding species in relatively open woodland, except Islay where scarce. In Argyll occurs more frequently in oak than in birch, but also recorded in conifers.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: 2 Finlaggan, Sep 21. **Mid-Argyll**: first - 1 Ariogan and 1 Crinan, May 2; b/10 in nestbox, Ellary.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Còcan 1137 WC

S P Widespread & common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 74% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: first - L.Gorm, Apr 19. **Jura**: first - May 3. **Colonsay**: first - May 28; 11 territories identified (5 in 1991). **Mid-Argyll**: first - 1M Ariogan, May 3. **Mull**: first - 1 Buessan, May 5. **Tiree**: 1 Balemartine, May 18.

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). Some emigration may take place in winter.

1992

Colonsay: 33 breeding prs located (24 prs in 1991).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* Bru ghaol 1146 W

S P Common breeding species in open grassland areas. Breeding recorded in 83% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: first - 1 Traigh Machir, Mar 27; 2 prs Beinn Uraraidh, Apr 19. **Colonsay**: first - 1 Oransay Airstrip, Mar 20; last - 1 Ardskenish, Oct 3. **Mid-Argyll**: first - 1M Ardoran, Mar 20. **Mull**: first - 1M L.Spelve, Mar 15; last - 1 Malcolm's Point, Oct 13.

"GREENLAND" RACE *O.o.leucorrhoa* (breeds Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes & NE Canada). Occurs annually on migration, usually in May or Oct.

1992

Colonsay: 1 Milbuie, May 17.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* Dùbh chreige 1186 RZ

S P Very localised upland breeding species. Breeding recorded in 7% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). All records required.

1992#

Colonsay: pr The Strand, Mar 16. **Mid-Argyll**: 1M Glen Lonan, Sep 16. **Mull**: 1M Glen More, Apr 19.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* Lon duòh 1187 B

B W P Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 77% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992: no significant records.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Lath thrushg 1198 FF

W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter.
1992

Islay: 75 Avenvogie, Jan 9; 350 Avenvogie Cottage, Mar 25; last - 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 21; first - 1 Camduncan, Sep 19. Colonsay: 150 Colonsay House Gardens, Oct 20. Mid-Argyll: 50 Ardoran, Apr 2; last - 2 Connel, Apr 25; main passage Oct 4-17; ca 500 >N over Ariogan, Oct 18, then hundreds >N in Oban area, Oct 19-21; hundreds >S over Kilmore, Oct 25; 150+ >S over Kilmore, Nov 8.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* Smcorach 1200 ST

B W P Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 72% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992: no significant records.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* Spnach dthcarg 1201 RE

W P Abundant autumn passage bird, but relatively few winter. Occasional individuals recorded in late spring. Bred on Mull in 1991.

1992

Islay: 75 Avenvogie, Jan 9; last - 3 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Apr 18; 200 Foreland House, Oct 12; 230 Ballygrant Woods, Oct 13. Colonsay: last - 1 Colonsay House, Apr 17; first - 1 Scalasaig, Oct 3; 40 arrived Scalasaig, Oct 4 followed by thousands on passage during remainder of month. Mid-Argyll: 57 Ardoran, Mar 2; last - 2 Ardoran, Apr 20; first - Oban, Oct 2; main passage Oct 4-17; over 100 Ganavan, Oct 5; flocks of 100-200 >N up Lerags Glen, Oct 10; flocks of 500-1,000 >N over Ariogan, Oct 11; 80 flocks (100-1,000) >N over Ariogan /Ihr, Oct 16; 31 flocks (100-300) >N /Ihr, Ariogan, Oct 18; hundreds >N up Lerags Glen, Oct 19 & 20; hundreds >S over Kilmore, Oct 25; few remaining in Oban area by end of Oct. Mull: last - 1 Kilbrennan, Apr 22. Tiree: last - 1 Hynish, May 9; first - 1 Mannal, Sep 23.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* Smcorach 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.

1992

Colonsay: 8 Kiloran dunes, Jun 18, and 10 School house, Sep 6 were probably migrants. Mid-Argyll: 10 Oban, Jan 19; 35 Dunbeg, Sep 25.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Ceiteiriche teumnach 1236 GH

S P Localised breeding species in all regions. Good breeding densities occur in many young conifer plantations. Breeding recorded in 26% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: 4-5 territories Gruinart RSPB reserve; first - Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 7. Jura: 1 reeling S of Gatehouse, May 3. Colonsay: 1 Milbuie, May 16. Cowal: 1 L.Eck, May 17. Mid-Argyll: 7 territories located in scrub at S end of Tainish NNR;

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at least 6 territories, Moine Mhor; first - 1 Cologin, May 2; last - 1 singing Barnakill, Aug 7.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Glas cun 1243 SW
S P Locally common. Breeding recorded in 41% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: first - 1M Gruinart RSPB reserve, May 9. Colonsay: 14 territories identified; first - May 24. Mid-Argyll: 7 territories located in scrub at S end of Taynish NNR; first - 1 Kilmore, May 3.

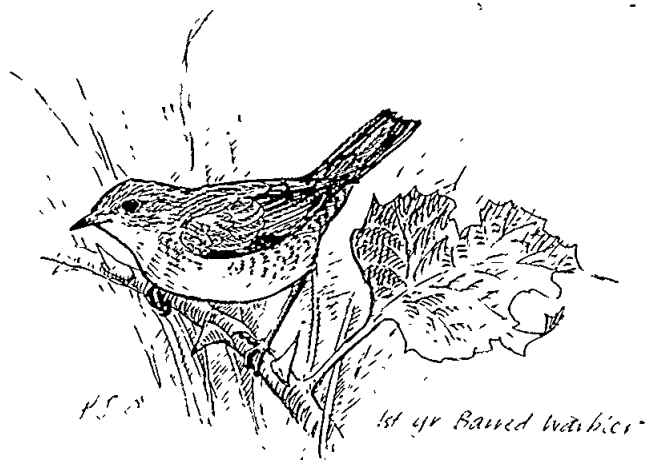
BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

1273 RR

V Rare

1992#

Coll: 1 imm. Arinagour, Sep 30.



LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Cealan coille beag 1274 LW
S P Rare. Possibly breeds.
1992#

Islay: 1 Easter Ellister, Jun 24. Coll: 1 Roundhouse, Jun 2. The first record for the Isle of Coll.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Cealan 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).
1992

Islay: first - The Oa, May 17. Colonsay: 12 territories identified; last - Aug 13. Mid-Argyll: first - Kilbride, May 2.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* Ceileiriche garaidh 1276 GW
SP Scarce breeding species. Breeding recorded in 14% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Mid-Argyll: singing birds located in 6 areas, Taynish NNR; first - 1 Point of Knap, May 2. Coll: 1 Arinagour, Sep 30.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* 1277 BC
SWP Scarce breeding species. Established in policy woodland of many estates, where rhododendron & other scrub often provide 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.

1992

Islay: bred Stone Cottage; 3 Bridgend Woods, May 19; 1 L.Skerrols Wood, Jun 11. Colonsay: singing M Colonsay House, May - Jun. Mid-Argyll: M Minard, Nov & Dec; M & F wintered 1991-2 in Kilmory Castle gardens.

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).
1992

Islay: 2 Ballygrant Woods, Jun 1; 2 Port Askaig, Jun 22. Jura: 5 singing birds reported, Jul. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Kisman, May 1. N.Argyll: first - 1 Lochawe village, May 9.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Catean 1311 CC
SP Uncommon breeding species, scarce in islands. Breeding recorded in 25% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). A few winter.
1992

Islay: 1 wintering Bridgend, Nov 17. Colonsay: first - 1 Colonsay House, May 22; last - Colonsay House, Oct 4. Mid-Argyll: first - 3 Connel and 1 Taynish, Apr 7; last - 1 Glen Cruitten, Sep 2. Mull: first - 1 L.Ba, Apr 2.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Crìonag ghruithars 1312 WW
SP Widespread & very common breeding species. Breeding recorded in 81% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Islay: first - 1 Kildalton, Apr 16. Scarba: 1, Apr 25. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Connel, Apr 18. Mull: first - 1 L.Ba, Mar 31. Tiree: 1 Balemartine, May 19.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* Crìonag òbuidhe 1314 GC
R WP Common breeding species and passage migrant. Breeding recorded in 53% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Colonsay: 1 Oransay House, Aug 18 was migrant.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* Breacan glas sgìobalta 1335 SF
S P Widespread but thinly distributed breeding species. Breeding recorded in 53% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Islay: first - pr Kilchoman Wood, May 14. Colonsay: at least 4 prs bred; first - May 30; last - Jul 20. Mid-Argyll: first - 1 Taynish, May 14. Tiree: 2 Balemartine, May 19.

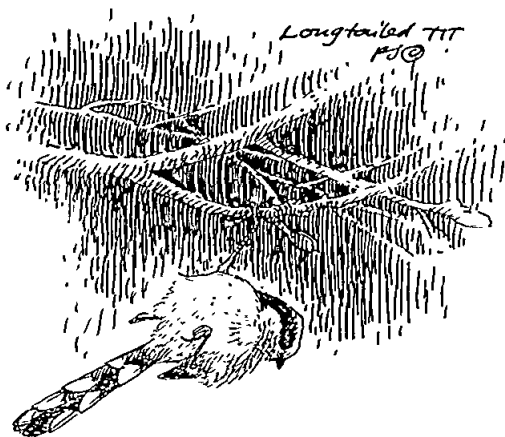
PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Breacan glas 1349 PF
S P Rare. Very localised breeder in oakwoods. Increase in breeding population in recent years is attributable to Argyll Bird Club nestbox scheme (Petty SJ: *Argyll Bird Report* 6 1990 72-77). Breeding recorded in 6% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1992

Cowal: 2 prs reared 7 chicks, Blairmore (2 additional MM also present); 7MM singing in Glenbranter nest box area - 2 nests built but no eggs laid. Mid-Argyll: A chick ringed at Ardenavan in 1991 was controlled as a breeding adult on L.Lomond in 1992. Coll: 1 Arinagour, Oct 3. N.Argyll: 5 prs laid, rearing 18 chicks. 2+ singing MM Glen Kinglass, May.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* Crochan 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.

1992

Colonsay: 9 Mill, Nov 10 and another 8 Colonsay House, Nov 11. Coll: 5 Arinagour, Nov 3.



COAL TIT *Parus ater* Smurag 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.

1992

Coll: 4+ Arinagour, Oct 30 to year end.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* Cailteachag cheann ghorm 1462 BT
R P Widespread & very common breeder in broadleaved or mixed woodland, but rare on Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 65% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992

Coll: 1 Roundhouse, Nov 15 - moved to Arinagour & remained until year end.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* CURRAC dhain tighhearna 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).
1992: 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).
1992
Coll: 1 Uig, Oct 25.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* 1508
V Rare migrant, usually in spring.
1992#
Mid-Argyll: 1M Tainish, May 26.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* 1515
V Rare migrant.
1992#
Mull: 1M Scoor, May 29; 1M Torlochan, Jun 10-11; 1M L.Ba, Jun 12. These possibly were all records of one bird.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* Sgrachag 1539 J
B W Locally distributed, mainland only. Breeding recorded in 3% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). All records required.
1992
Cowal: 1 Blairmore, Mar & Apr. Mid-Argyll: 1 Kilchrenan, May 21; several singles in Oban area, Oct & Nov; 1 Minard, Oct 20; 2 Achnamara, Nov 13. N.Argyll: 1 Ledaig, Jul 24.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* Caidhag 1549 MG
R Local on Cowal, rare elsewhere. Breeding recorded in 2% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
1992
Islay: 1 Smaull-Grulinbeg, Apr 25-26. Cowal: 1 Strone Point, Jan 19; 1 Glenmassan, May 26. Mid-Argyll: 2 seen regularly in Lochgilphead area, Oct-Nov. Mull: 1 Torrans, Nov 5.

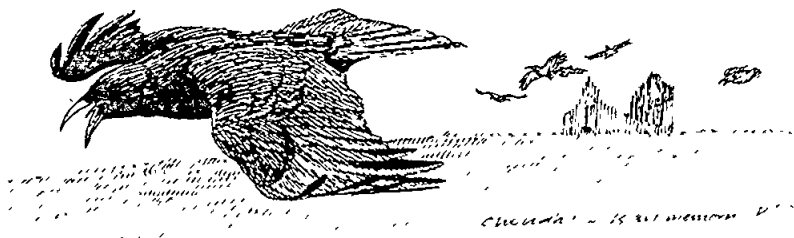
SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

CHOUGH *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Cathag dhcarg chasach 1559 CF
R W Islay is the Scottish stronghold, with smaller nos. on Colonsay & Jura and a recent toehold on Mull. All records away from Islay required.

1992:

88 prs were recorded in Scotland as part of full breeding season census of Britain and Ireland. These figures include all categories -confirmed, probably and possibly breeding. Argyll, particularly Islay, remains the stronghold for Scottish choughs and only one pr was found outside the Argyll recording area. Islay held 74 prs, Jura 3 prs, Colonsay 9 prs and Mull 1 pr. Additionally, 47 non-breeding birds were found on Islay and 8 on Colonsay. Comparative figures from previous censuses were 105 prs on Islay, Jura and Colonsay in 1986 and 76 prs for the three islands in 1982. 105-140 additional non-breeding birds were found in 1986. Full details will be published elsewhere but preliminary details indicate that much of the recent decline on Islay appears to have taken place on The Oa. Of 54 potential nest sites monitored as part of a long term programme: 10 were unoccupied, birds at 10 sites failed to lay eggs and at 34 sites (63%) eggs were produced. From these 34 sites, 22 nests (65%) reared young to fledging and produced a maximum of 64 young. The overall productivity of 1.99 young/nest site where eggs were laid is a little below the long term average for Islay birds [Scottish Chough Study Group, JNCC]. On Colonsay, 9 breeding attempts produced 22 young [JC] and one pr on Mull bred unsuccessfully for the 4th successive year.

Islay: peak flock counts: 20 Ardnave, Jan 26; 95 Kilchoman, Feb 22; 36 Kilchoman, Jun 8; 77 Machir Bay, Jun 26. Jura (all reports from south of L. Tarbert): 2, Feb 19; 2, Mar 17; 2, Apr 4.



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.

1992

Kintyre: 700 Campbeltown, Nov 10. Colonsay: 60 Kiloran Bay, Oct 4. Mid-Argyll: 450 Ariogan, Jul 12; flock of 14 feeding on acorns, Taynish, Nov 13.

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

influx of juvs. to some islands, eg. Mull & Tiree.

1992

Islay: 69 occ. nests Gruinart Wood; 29 nests, Port Ellen distillery; 45 nests, Tigh Cargaman; 5 nests in rookery Port Charlotte village, Apr 2; 15 nests, Ballygrant, Apr 20. Mid-Argyll: 15 nests, Connel; 6 feeding on tideline, Doide, Jan 26 (rare here); 20 Seil, Aug 20. Mull: 25 L.Beg, Feb 17; 40 Tobermory, Mar 24. Coll: up to 25 present, Nov 8 -Dec 6. Tiree: 2 Kilkenneth, Mar 27. N.Argyll: 18 nests, N.Connel; 60 Portnacraish, Jan 19; 70 Strath of Appin, Jan 19.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone* [canary] 1567 C
B W Widespread & common. Breeding recorded in 87% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Colonsay: 100 >N Milbuie, Jan 11. Mid-Argyll: 187 Moleigh tip, Jun 16. Tiree: 2 ground nests, containing c/2 & c/5, among heather.

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). 1992

Islay: 1 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 22; 1 Brahanisary, Mar 8; 6 Claggain Bay, Jun 6; 2 Islay Airport, Jun 25; 3 L. ant-Sailein, Oct 20. Colonsay: ca 50 wintered; last - Apr 16. Mid-Argyll: up to 3 in Oban area, Jan-Apr. Mull: 15 L.Beg, Mar 4; 1 Carsaig, Oct 15.

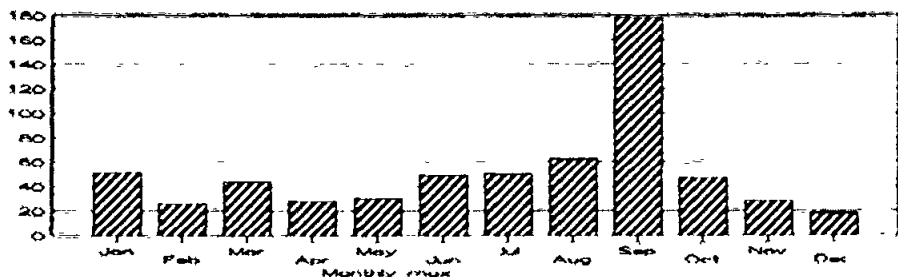
HOODED X CARRION CROW HYBRID:

1992

Mid-Argyll: up to 3 in Oban area, Jan-Apr; then 4-8 there, Jun-Dec.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* [black] 1572 RN
B W Common. Breeding recorded in 75% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). 1992

Islay: max. count 20 Rockside, Jan 19. Colonsay: ca 10 prs bred; first egg, Mar 8. Mid-Argyll: August - main roost in Glen Cruitten woods + smaller roost at Cruach Lerags. Histogram shows maximum counts in the Oban area during the year. Birds made less use of Moleigh tip after April when new regulations led to rubbish being quickly covered up. Tiree: 9 prs present; 5 prs laid, of which 2 produced young.



Numbers of raven at Moleigh (near Oban rubbish tip), mid-Argyll, in 1992.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Òruid 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).

1992

Islay: max. count 2,000 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 22. Colonsay: 300 Traigh nam Barc, Oct 5. Mid-Argyll: 149 Glen Lonan, Aug 23; small flocks >N up Lerags Glen with Redwing, Oct 16. Mull: 30 Dervaig, Mar 17.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* Òruid dhearg 1584

V This is the first record since 1988.

1992#

Coll: Ad. Garden House, Jul 15-Aug 20.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Cgalòhonn 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).

1992: no significant records.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* Cgalòhonn 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 of positively identified birds required.

1992#

Jura: 2 Lagg, Jul 12. This appears to be the first record for Jura this century.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Breacan òiriche 1636 CH

B W P Abundant except Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 80% of 10kmsq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Birds commonly forage in cut hay & silage fields outwith breeding season.

1992

Islay: 250 on kale stubble North Glen, Jan 9; 300 on turnips Avenvogie, Jan 9; 400 Cnoc Amanta, Jan 31; 250 Laggan Bridge, Feb 23. Mull: 200 Tiroran, Oct 3.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* Briccin caorainn 1638 BL

W P Varying numbers occur Sep-Apr.

1992

Islay: 4 Kilmeny, Feb 10; 2 L.Ballygrant, Mar 18; 1M Foreland House, Oct 12; 12 Keills, Oct 12 & 27; 6 Ballygrant, Oct 27. Mid-Argyll: 10 Ardpatrik House, Oct 18; 30 Slockavullin, Nov 15; 3-7 Connel area, Oct 18 - Dec 31; several with chaffinch flocks in Lochgilhead area, Oct 30. N.Argyll: 2-3 L.Tulla, Oct 23.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* Claiscan daraich 1649 GR

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

1992

Islay: 25 Cnoc Amanta, Jan 31. Colonsay: max. count - 35 Milbuie, Mar.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* Lasaig 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.

1992

Colonsay: 20 Machrins, Oct 17. Mid-Argyll: flocks up to 18 noted Jan-Mar in Oban area; 30 Barranrioch, 5 Feb; 12-16 there in Aug-Oct.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Ceasag bhuide 1654 SK
B W P Numbers fluctuate from year to year, but breeding population has clearly increased as a consequence of coniferous afforestation. Absent as a breeding species on Coll & Tiree. Breeding recorded in 54% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).

1992

Cowal: 200 Benmore Botanic Garden, Nov 15.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* Cealan tin 1660 LI
B W P Localised distribution. Breeding recorded in 37% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Flocking in autumn & winter.

1992

Islay: 120 (max. count) Gruinart RSPB reserve, Mar 15; 45 Ardnave L., Mar 15; 50-60 Gruinart RSPB reserve, Jul-Oct. Colonsay: 25 Scalasaig, Oct 3.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* Cealan 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.

1992

Islay: 150 Kintra, Feb 23; 60 Ballygrant, Mar 29; 80 Ardnave, Oct 11; 160 Killinallan, Dec 13; 50 Kintra, Dec 8. Colonsay: ca 50 prs estimated in Jun; 55 Machrins, Oct 3; 80 Eileann nan Ron, Oct 4. Mid-Argyll: 81 Gleann Sheileach, Sep 14. Mull: 100 L. Poit na h-I, Aug 14; 150 Fiddin, Oct 12. N. Argyll: 60 Ledaig Point, Sep 12.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* Ocarcan 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.

1992

Islay: 8 Sunderland, May 14, probably migrants. Colonsay: 20 Colonsay House Gardens, Jun 8.

"GREENLAND" RACE *C.f. rostrata*

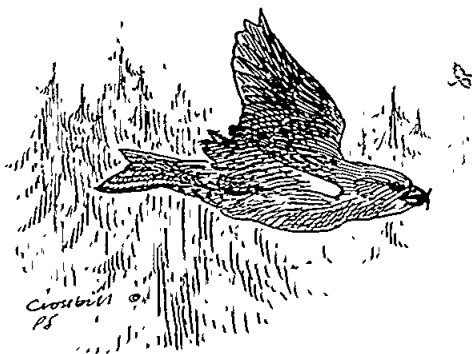
1992#

Coll: 1 Roundhouse, Oct 8 & Dec 18.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* Cam ghob 1666 CR
 B W Numbers & distribution vary depending on abundance of conifer cone crops. Highly irruptive species with large flocks sometimes moving to locate a new seed area, usually in summer. Breeding recorded in 16% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90).
 1992

Kintyre: small influx mid-June. Colonsay: 2-3 on Jun 25 and in Oct. Mid-Argyll: 2 Glen Cruitten, Apr 19 and 3 Erines, May 16 were only spring records; then small parties of 2-6 birds in several localities Jul-Nov. Mull: 1M Toll Doire, Jun 25. N.Argyll: ca 6 L. Tulla, Oct 23.



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).
 1992

Mid-Argyll: 7 Cologin, Jan 11; 20 Cologin, Nov 14.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* Ceatag an t-sneachda 1850 SB
 B? W P Has bred N.Argyll in recent years. Varying nos. on passage & in winter.
 1992

Kintyre: 2 Rhunahaorine Point, Nov 7. Islay: 1 Big Strand, Jun 10; 2 Traigh Machir, Oct 28; 1 Lossit, Oct 30. Jura: 1 Paps of Jura, Feb 19. Colonsay: 2 Balnahard, Mar 16; 2 Kiloran Bay, Dec 18. Mull: 2 Beinn Talaidh, Feb 16. Coll: 1 Torastan, Oct 30; 1 Ballard, Dec 18. N Argyll: 2 W of Cam Chreag summit, Jan 18.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* Buidheag dhealaidh 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.
 1992

Islay: 18 Octovullin, Jan 14. Mid-Argyll: 8 L.Nell, Feb 23; 24 Barranrioch, Sep 16.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Ceatag tom 1877 RB
 B W Locally common in farmland, scrub & young conifer plantations. Breeding

SYSTEMATIC LIST 1992

recorded in 56% of 10km sq (BTO Atlas, 1988-90). Small flocks sometimes gather outwith the breeding season.

1992

Islay: 17 (max. count) Gruinart RSPB reserve, Feb 14; 20 Duich Moss, Feb 23.
Colonsay: 7 prs located. Mid-Argyll: 6 territories located, Taynish NNR.



CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Cealag bhaochair 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.

1992#

Tiree: 9 singing males located.

