

# Argyll Bird Report 2021



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**Puffins** (*Stephen Carter*)

**FRONT COVER Cuckoo** (*Pete Walkden*)  
*Pete Walkden Photography* [www.petewalkden.co.uk](http://www.petewalkden.co.uk)

**The Thirty Third  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the year  
2021**



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# Introduction

Welcome to the 2021 (33rd) Argyll Bird Report and once again a big thank you to everyone who has kindly provided a total of 40,000+ records over the year to make this report possible. The challenges of COVID-19 were unfortunately still with us over the year and resulted in reduced reports for some species and from some areas, however overall, it was a good year for the quality and quantity of bird records, with breeding survey work generally unaffected this year.

During 2021, we sadly lost in the space of just a few months, three highly regarded and loved bird-folk who gave significant years of their lives enhancing the 'bird scene' in parts of Argyll in kind and selfless ways. Each of them will be sadly missed by the folk they knew, encouraged, and helped – Ian Brooke on Islay who wrote the Islay Bird Blog since 2007, Eddie Maguire, the warden at the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory since 1993 and Alan Spellman who compiled bird records for the Mullbirds website over many years.

The Argyll Bird Club has remained strong over the last two testing years and put together a series of well attended interesting zoom talks and a very successful and well participated survey of the Nuthatch, which continues to expand its range in Scotland. More details about the club can be found on the ABC website at – [Argyll Bird Club](#)

The systematic list follows a new order of species and follows the latest Scottish List (BOU/IOC 2021). For simplicity the use of common or vernacular species names are used in this report, being the names that most birdwatchers in our region would generally relate to more easily.

Once again, a good range of species were recorded across Argyll however, as with many other sparsely populated areas of Scotland, compared to say the SE of England, vast areas of land are not often visited, and much must go missed or undetected. The scope to discover more is therefore positively challenging and exciting to any keen birder.

During the year two new species were added to the Argyll list – Arctic Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak – both on the Isle of Tiree. Other notable 'finds' during the year included a UK record count of five Lesser Scaup, Gull-billed Tern, Bee-eater, Long-billed Dowitcher, two Semipalmated Sandpipers, Killdeer, Blyth's Reed Warbler and Bonaparte's Gull. Record numbers of Rosy Starling, Little Egret and Hawfinch were noted, and good numbers of Red Kite and Marsh Harrier, however no breeding reports of these raptors yet. Breeding Great Skua numbers continue to rise. It was a relatively poor year for Nearctic wader species, Yellow-browed Warbler, Dotterel and Pochard, and there was sadly only one record of Turtle Dove. White-tailed Eagles are doing well, some seabirds fared better than others and Corncrake numbers continue to fall once again.

If you would like to get involved more with recording and surveying our bird life the best point of contact is through myself and Malcolm Chattwood for general bird sightings and through BTO representatives listed on page 4 who can advise on breeding bird, uplands and wetlands survey locations.

# Bird Recording in Argyll

## Submitting your bird records

The Argyll bird recorders maintain the Argyll bird database on behalf of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Argyll Bird Club and in recent years have been receiving more than 40,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under Bird Recording which gives threshold guidelines on what to report. The recorders are happy to input casual reports, however when larger volumes of records are submitted, we recommend that these are sent in *Excel* spreadsheet format compatible with the Argyll bird database. We can send you a template or for regular record providers we can send an automated input form. Please email [abcrecorder@outlook.com](mailto:abcrecorder@outlook.com) for more details. Records sent to the BTO's BirdTrack and WeBS can be accessed by the recorders as well as records sent to Birdguides.

## Rare birds

Details and photographs of all rare bird sightings should be sent in (preferably emailed) as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF. Tel: 01546 603967 E-mail: [Argyllbirder@outlook.com](mailto:Argyllbirder@outlook.com) Please use the standard form (available from Jim). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (ABRC) whose members are listed on p. 4, sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), depending on the species/level of rarity.

The list below is made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those marked #) details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description of the bird and if possible, photographs and field notes.

Records of rarities in the systematic list are accompanied by the names of the observers, starting with the finder(s)/identifier(s), (or, in the absence of this information, the person who first reported the bird to the recorder), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different.

Species for which descriptions are required by the Argyll BRC and the Scottish BRC (#). A full list of BBRC species can be found at <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information>

Black Brant #  
Taiga Bean Goose  
Tundra Bean Goose  
European White-fronted Goose  
(race *albifrons*)  
Bewick's Swan  
Egyptian Goose  
American Wigeon  
Green-winged Teal  
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)  
Red-crested Pochard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Surf Scoter (except adult males)  
Smew  
Ruddy Duck

White-billed Diver  
Wilson's Petrel #  
Cory's Shearwater #  
Great Shearwater #  
Balearic Shearwater  
Great Cormorant (race *sinensis*)  
Eurasian Bittern  
Night-heron #  
Cattle Egret #  
Great White Egret  
Purple Heron #  
White Stork  
Glossy Ibis  
Eurasian Spoonbill  
Red-necked Grebe

Black-necked Grebe  
 Honey-buzzard  
 Black Kite #  
 Montagu's Harrier #  
 Goshawk  
 Rough-legged Buzzard  
 Red-footed Falcon #  
 Hobby  
 Spotted Crake  
 Common Crane  
 Avocet  
 Black-winged Stilt #  
 Stone Curlew #  
 Little Ringed Plover  
 American Golden Plover  
 Black-tailed Godwit (continental) #  
 Temminck's Stint  
 White-rumped Sandpiper #  
 Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 Lesser Yellowlegs #  
 Spotted Redshank  
 Red-necked Phalarope (away from  
 traditional breeding areas)  
 Long-tailed Skua (imms only)  
 Sabine's Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Yellow-legged Gull #  
 Caspian Gull #  
 Black Tern  
 White-winged Black Tern #  
 Roseate Tern  
 Little Owl  
 Nightjar  
 Alpine Swift #  
 European Bee-eater  
 Wryneck  
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #  
 Red-backed Shrike  
 Great Grey Shrike  
 Woodchat Shrike #  
 Firecrest  
 Crested Tit  
 Willow Tit  
 Marsh Tit

Bearded Tit  
 Short-toed Lark #  
 Wood Lark #  
 Shore Lark  
 Red-rumped Swallow #  
 Cetti's Warbler #  
 Greenish Warbler #  
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler  
 Yellow-browed Warbler  
 Radde's Warbler #  
 Dusky Warbler #  
 Arctic Warbler #  
 Barred Warbler  
 Lesser Whitethroat  
 Dartford Warbler #  
 Subalpine Warbler  
 Icterine Warbler  
 Melodious Warbler #  
 Blyth's Reed Warbler  
 Marsh Warbler  
 Reed Warbler  
 Rose-coloured Starling  
 Common Nightingale  
 Bluethroat  
 Red-flanked Bluetail #  
 Red-breasted Flycatcher  
 Tree Sparrow  
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)  
 Citrine Wagtail #  
 Richard's Pipit  
 Olive-backed Pipit  
 Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race *littoralis*)  
 Water Pipit  
 European Serin #  
 Common Redpoll (all races other than  
 Lesser)  
 Scottish Crossbill #  
 Parrot Crossbill #  
 Common Rosefinch  
 Hawfinch  
 Cirl Bunting #  
 Ortolan Bunting #  
 Little Bunting  
 Corn Bunting

# Sighting Highlights of 2021

~ January ~

**RING-NECKED DUCK** A male & 2 females from 2020 remained at Loch Bhasapol & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* until 23 Apr. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** Two from 2020 remained around north and east *Tiree* with the last report on 25 Mar. **RED KITE** Singles were at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 1 Jan and Conisby *Islay* on 9 Jan. **WAXWING** Two were at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** Three were off Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 10 Jan. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Jan.

~ February ~

**'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** On *Islay* single Todd's types were at Lower Cragabus, The Oa on 18 Feb and at Ballinaby, Loch Gorm on 25 Feb.

~ March ~

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** A male was at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 4 Mar. **PIED-BILLED GREBE** The long-stayer adult male was noted at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* between 5 Mar and 18 Nov. **STOCK DOVE** Two were at Rowanfield *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Mar, 1 was at Killinononoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar and 1 was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 22 Mar. **CACKLING GOOSE** One, a presumed returning bird (from Oronsay) was at Machrins *Colonsay* on 10-11 Mar. **POCHARD** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Mar. **GOSHAWK** One was at Carradale Forest *Kintyre* on 24 Mar.

~ April ~



**Hawfinch - Coll** (J. Metcalfe/T. Beighton)

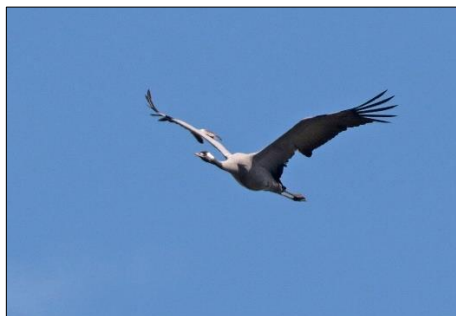


**Lapland Buntings – Tiree** (J. Bowler)

**MARSH HARRIER** One was at Totronald *Coll* on 4 & 13 Apr and a female was at Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Apr. **RED KITE** Singles were at Minen *Kintyre* on 5 Apr and Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 27-28 Apr. **GREEN WOODPECKER** One was heard at Clachaig *Cowal* on 11 Apr. **LAPLAND BUNTING** On *Tiree* 2 were at Loch a' Phuill on 12 Apr, 4 at Sorobaigh Bay on 14 Apr, 1 at The Reef *Tiree* on 22 Apr and 1 on 7 May. **HAWFINCH** Singles were at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 18-19 Apr, Sandbank *Cowal* on 23 Apr, Arinagour *Coll* on 25 Apr,

Lochgair *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr and Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Apr. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** An impressive arrival of 2,000 birds on *Tiree* on 20 Apr. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** One was at The Reef *Tiree* on 21 Apr.

~ May ~



**Common Crane** – *Mull* (A. Prasad)

**GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Lochbuie *Mull* on 1 May. **COMMON CRANE** One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 4-7 May. **GARGANEY** A male was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4-5 & 21 May, a male was at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 15-16 May and nearby at Garvard on 23 May. **GOSHAWK** One was at Innellan *Cowal* on 5 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** One was at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May, 3 there on 19 May and 1 on 26 May. **SNOW GOOSE** A flock of 16 'white-phase' birds flew south over Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May. **TREE SPARROW** One was at Baugh *Tiree* on 10-13 May, 1 was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 15 May and 4 there on 17 May. **GULL-BILLED TERN** An adult was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 May. **MARSH HARRIER** One was at Ardmeanach *Mull* on 11 May and a female was at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 May. **LITTLE STINT** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May. **POMARINE SKUA** One was at sea between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 28 May. **BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** One was in song at Totamore *Coll* on 31 May. **SMEW** A pair was on Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 31 May.

~ June ~



**Rosy Starling** – *Islay* (B. Small)

**BLACK REDSTART** Single fem/imms were at Largiebaan *Kintyre* on 1 Jun, in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jun and at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 6-8 Jun. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** A 2cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2-5 Jun. **ROSY STARLING** A record influx across Argyll of seventeen reports totalling 19 birds between 2 Jun and 17 Jul. **QUAIL** One was heard at Balemartine *Tiree* on 5-6 Jun. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Baleromindhu *Colonsay* on 6 Jun. **SPOTTED CRAKE** One was calling near Gartmain *Islay* on 8 Jun. **GARGANEY** A pair was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Jun. **TURTLE DOVE** One was at Port Ellen *Islay* on 11 Jun. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** An adult male was at Salen *Mull* on 23 Jun. **HAWFINCH** One was at Kames *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jun. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** An adult was at Miodar *Tiree* on 30 Jun. **LITTLE STINT** An adult was at Crossapol *Tiree* on 30 Jun.

~ July ~

**QUAIL** Singles were heard at Danna Island *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jul, Ruanaich, Iona *Mull* on 3 Jul and 2 were heard at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 24-25 Jul. **COOT** One was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 19 Jul until 29 Sep and then last reported at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Dec.

~ August ~



**Sooty Shearwater** – *Mull* (E. Miles)

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** One was at an inland site on *Tiree* on 2-3 Aug, then up to 3 birds at various sites on *Tiree* between 27 Aug-6 Oct. **BEE-EATER** One flew over Baugh *Tiree* on 21 Aug. **WOOD SANDPIPER** Single juveniles were on *Tiree* at Milton on 23 Aug and Loch a' Phuill on 24 Aug. **LITTLE STINT** An adult and 2 juveniles were at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 28 Aug. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Aug.

~ September ~

**BARRED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2-8 Sep and another was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 6-12 Sep. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** A juvenile was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3-18 Sep. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Sep. **REED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Sep. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8-13 Sep. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** A juvenile was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Sep.



**MARSH HARRIER** On *Tiree* a 1cy female was present on 10-11 Sep & 15 Sep and a 1cy male was present between 21 & 29 Sep and last seen on 3 Oct. **LITTLE STINT** Single juveniles on *Tiree* were at Vaul Bay on 11 Sep, Loch Bhasapol on 12 Sep, Gott Bay on 11-20 Sep and at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 17 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** On *Tiree* singles were at Carnan Mor on 12 Sep, at Beinn Hough and at The Reef on 27 Sep. **ARCTIC WARBLER** One was at Balinoe *Tiree* on 12 Sep. **RED KITE** Singles were at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep and Clachan *Kintyre* on 15 Sep.



**Arctic Warbler** – *Tiree* (K. Gillon)

**TREE SPARROW** One was at Hynish *Tiree* on 15-16 Sep and 2 there on 17 Sep. **DOTTEREL** A juvenile was on Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep. **RING-NECKED DUCK** An adult female was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 20-30 Sep and an adult male was also there and at Loch a' Phuill from 26 Sep.



**Ring-necked Duck** – on right, with Tufted Ducks – *Tiree* (J. Dickson)

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** A juvenile was at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 22 Sep and a different juvenile was at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 23-26 Sep. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** A juvenile was at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 22-24 Sep. **GREEN SANDPIPER** One was at Cornabus *Islay* on 23 Sep. **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** A 1cy was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 30 Sep.



**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – *Coll* (D. Jardine) **Little Stint** – *Tiree* (K. Gillon)



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – *Tiree* (J. Dickson)

~ *October* ~

**RING-NECKED DUCK** On *Tiree* the pair from Sep was at Loch Bhasapol during Oct and joined by another female from 25 Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** A juvenile flew past Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct. **POMARINE SKUA** Two flew past Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 1 flew past there on 7 Oct. **LEACH'S STORM PETREL** One flew past Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct. **GREY PHALAROPE** One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 1 was at Saligo Bay *Islay* on 11 Oct and 1 was seen from the Port Ellen *Islay* to Kennacraig ferry on 12 Oct. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** On *Tiree* 1 was at Baugh on 4 Oct and 1 was at Loch an Eilein on 6 Oct. **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** An adult was at Gruinart and other areas across *Islay* from 5 Oct and into 2022. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 5 Oct. **RED KITE** Singles were at Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Oct, Loch na Keal & Killiechronan *Mull* on 16-17 Oct, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Oct and at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct. **ACKLING GOOSE** One, or possibly two, were at Gruinart and other areas across *Islay* from 12 Oct. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14-17 Oct with



**Red-breasted Goose** – *Islay* (B. McMillan)

2 there on 16 Oct. **DOTTEREL** A juvenile was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 15-17 Oct. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** A juvenile was at Rhunahaorine, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 15 Oct. **'SIBERIAN' LESSER WHITETHROAT** Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15-22 Oct, at The Glebe *Tiree* on 21-22 Oct and at Totamore *Coll* on 22 Oct. **'CENTRAL ASIAN' LESSER WHITETHROAT** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21-22 Oct. **SABINE'S GULL** A juvenile was seen off north Iona *Mull* on 16 Oct. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 17-19 Oct. **'TODD'S' CANADA GOOSE** A presumed returning bird was at Balephetrish, Cornaigbeg & Kenovay *Tiree* from 20 Oct and in to 2022. **RING-NECKED DUCK** Two females were at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct. **AMERICAN WIGEON** An adult male was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct-15 Nov. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** One was off Ronachan *Kintyre* on 28 Oct. **RED-NECKED GREBE** One was at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 29 Oct. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** A juvenile was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Oct-1 Nov. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** A juvenile was at Aros *Mull* on 31 Oct -4 Nov.

~ *November* ~

**POMARINE SKUA** Three flew past Aird *Tiree* on 1 Nov and 1 passed there on 26 Nov. **LAPLAND BUNTING** One was at The Reef *Tiree* on 1 Nov. **LESSER SCAUP** A female was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 3 Nov and 5 were there from 21 Nov and at least 4 remained into 2022. **RED KITE** One was at Ballmeanoch *Mull* on 3 Nov, 3 were at Carskey Bay, Southend *Kintyre* on 22 Nov and 1 was at Westport *Kintyre* on 23 Nov. **EUROPEAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** One was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Nov. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14-21 Nov. **KILLDEER** One was at Kilkenneth and Balevullin *Tiree* on 21-23 Nov. **TREE SPARROW** One was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 21 Nov. **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** A returning bird was at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 24 Nov. **COOT** One was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 25 Nov. **LEACH'S STORM PETREL** One flew past Aird *Tiree* on 26 Nov.





**Killdeer** – *Tiree* (J. Bowler)



~ *December* ~

**AMERICAN WIGEON** An adult male, presumably the Skerrols bird in Oct-Nov, was off Bowmore *Islay* on 2 Dec. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** One was at Skerrols *Islay* on 8 Dec. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** A first-winter bird was at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec. **RING-NECKED DUCK** A first-winter male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Dec and in to 2022.



**Great White Egret** – *Islay* (G. Turnbull)



**American Wigeon** – *Islay* (C. Mills)

## Symbols and abbreviations

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
b/3 <i>etc</i>	brood of 3 <i>etc</i>
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
<i>cf</i>	<i>confer</i> = compare
<i>et al.</i>	et alia = and others
ff, mm	females, males
imm.	immature
inc.	including
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
NNR	National Nature Reserve
nr.	near
pr	pair
SBO	Seabird Observatory
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
SRMS	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme
Ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
2CY, 3CY <i>etc</i>	Bird ages: second-calendar year, third calendar year <i>etc.</i>
>	Flying direction

**Birds of Conservation Concern.** (BoCC 5) was published in *British Birds* (December 2021 Vol.114) and the updated species status has been applied to this report.

**RED LIST** is the highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action.

**AMBER LIST** is the next most critical group followed by Green (not given here) species that don't fall into the Red or Amber category.

# Systematic List for 2021

The following systematic list includes entries for 231 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2021 (*cf.* average 223 species during the years 1993- 2020). Cattle Egret has been added to the 2020 total, now at 237 species and a record 240 species were recorded in 2014.

Two new species were added to the list in 2021 - Arctic Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak - and now takes the Argyll list to 367 species.

*All records are listed where 20 reports or fewer and marked with \*. Observer's names are given for description rarities accepted by rare bird committees (ABRC, SBRC, BBRC).*

*The species sequence, vernacular and scientific names have now been changed to follow the latest Scottish List (BOU/IOC v10.2, 2021) as provided on the current SOC website.*

## **BLACK GROUSE** *Lyrurus tetrix*

**RED LIST A scarce, localised, resident breeder. Numbers still likely to be declining at a slower rate after a steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas: with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.**

**Winter/spring/breeding** Reports from (Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Most reports of only 1-2 birds from (sites) in; Cowal (1), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (12) and North Argyll (2). Max counts noted at leks with 11 at a site in Kintyre on 8 Apr, 10 & 7 at sites in Mid-Argyll and 8 at a site in North Argyll. A report of a male at a site on Jura.

**Autumn/winter** Only three reports. One nr Dunollie, Oban Mid-Argyll in Dec, 1 nr Dervaig Mull on 18 Dec and 2 at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 22 Nov.



**Black Grouse** Mid-Argyll Nov 2021 (J. Dickson)



**Ptarmigan Mull** Jul 2021 (E. Miles)

**PTARMIGAN\*** *Lagopus muta*

**RED LIST A localised resident breeding bird: generally above 800m in north and east Argyll and on Mull. All records required.**

**Spring/summer** Two were at Meall an Fhudair (W) *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr, 1 was at Beinn Molurgainn *North Argyll* on 14 May, 1 was at Beinn Dorain *North Argyll* on 26 May, 5 inc. small chicks at Creach Beinn *Mull* on 3 Jul and 'present' at Ben Cruachan *North Argyll* on 26 Jul & 4 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Maol nan Damh, Ben More *Mull* on 16 Nov, and 1 was at Coir a' Mhaim, Glen More *Mull* on 26 Dec. *An estimated population on Mull thought to be in the region of 25-50 birds (per Ewan Miles).*

**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

**A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird.**

**All year** Reports from moorland areas on (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Few reports in total from across Argyll, generally of 1-2 birds. *Numbers decreasing. All future reports encouraged.*

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

**Birds (some hybrids with Chukar *A. chukar*) have been introduced to several areas. Although this species is in Category C of the British list, populations in Argyll do not appear to be self-sustaining.**

**All year** Reports from 7 sites in (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll*). Most reports of just 1-2 birds, however larger counts noted near release sites for shooting e.g. counts of 60+ at sites on Luing *Mid-Argyll* in Aug.





**Red-legged Partridge** *Mid-Argyll* Oct 2021 (J. Boyd)

**QUAIL\*** *Coturnix coturnix*

**AMBER LIST** *A rare and irregular summer visitor: mainly to Kintyre and the islands.*

**Summer/breeding** Calling birds; 1 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 5-6 Jun, 1 at Danna Is *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jul, 1 at Ruanaich, Iona *Mull* on 3 Jul and 2 at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 24-25 Jul.

**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

*May be abundant, in those parts of Argyll, where birds are released for shooting. Reports from Jura and North Argyll are rare.*

**All year** Reports from all Argyll regions however generally under reported. Only a handful of records from *Tiree* and *Coll*, where has become very scarce.

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

**AMBER LIST** *A passage migrant, in varying numbers: few in winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the Pale-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the Dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla have occurred, mainly on Islay and Tiree, with less than 20 records. There has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans on Islay in winter 1989/90.*

**'PALE-BELLIED' BRENT GOOSE** (*B. b. hrota*)

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max counts of 55 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 Apr, 48 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Apr and 40 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Apr. Elsewhere, 3 were at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr, 2 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 19 Apr and last report of 2 at were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 2 juvs at Balvicar Bay, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug and 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug. Most passage through Argyll between 8 Sep and early Oct. Max counts inc., 140 >S at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 8 Sep, 30 >S at Mannal *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 28 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Sep, 11 over Dun Cholla *Colonsay* on 25 Sep, 40 >SE at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 78 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Sep, 106 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Sep increasing to 355 there on 28 Sep, with most birds away by early-mid-Oct but some remaining at Bridgend Merse, Loch Indaal until year end with counts of up to 73 birds. Elsewhere, on Coll 1 at Loch Breachacha on 20-24 Sep, in *Kintyre* 3 at the Mull of Kintyre on 2 Oct and 1 at Ardminish Bay on 6 Oct, in *Mid-Argyll* reports of only 1-2 birds at Loch Gilp, Add Estuary, Luing and Ardpatrik on single days, and on *Mull* 1-3 birds at Loch na Keal, Dervaig and Langamull on single days in Oct.

**‘DARK-BELLIED’ BRENT GOOSE\*** (*B. b. bernicla*)

**Autumn/winter** Two juvs were at the head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17-19 Nov at least.

**RED-BREASTED GOOSE\*** *Branta ruficollis*

**A vagrant: Two records; an adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001 and another adult on Islay from Oct 2012 into Apr 2013.**

**Autumn/winter** An adult was seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Oct and frequented this and surrounding areas until at least 25 Nov, then again from Jan 2022 [J. How *et al*]. Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

**The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with increasingly frequent breeding attempts elsewhere. A transatlantic origin seems probable for at least some of the medium-sized and small individuals seen in winter goose flocks on Islay and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most counts received from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (14), *North Argyll* (14) and *Mull* (9). Max counts received of 187 at Appin *North Argyll* on 18 Jan, 150 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* in Jan-Feb and 100 at Peninver *Kintyre* on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, counts inc., *Coll* with 16 at Cliad on 21 Mar, *Colonsay* with 47 at Kiloran Meadows on 9 Mar, *Cowal* with 60 at Ardyne on 19 Feb, *Islay* with 14 at Coultorsay on 16 Apr, *Mid-Argyll* with 71 at Loch Craignish on 15 Mar, *Mull* with 76 at Gorsten on 14 Mar, *North Argyll* with 94 at Benderloch on 15 Jan and *Tiree* with 5 at Balinoe on 31 Mar.

**Breeding/summer** Most breeding reports from *Mid-Argyll* at 28 sites. Breeding or prs also noted from; *Coll* with 1 pr at Friesland on 1 Jun, *Colonsay* with 15 broods totalling 55 young in May and Jun, *Cowal* at 5 sites, *Islay* a pr at Bridgend on 12 May, *Jura* at Sound of Islay with 25 ads and 7 young on 26 Jul, *Kintyre* at 4 sites, *Mull* at 17 sites, *North Argyll* at 9 sites and *Tiree* with a pr at Milton on 21 Apr but not subsequently.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). Max counts received of 480 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec, 130 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 100 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct and 84 at Appin *North Argyll* on 7 Nov.

**LESSER CANADA and TODD’S CANADA GOOSE\*** *Branta c. parvipes/interior*

**Lesser Canada *B. c. parvipes* and Todd’s Canada *B. c. interior* are races considered by the BBRC. The race *parvipes* breeds W Alaska, E to Yukon Territory and most winter Washington and Oregon. The race *interior* breeds NE Canada from Hudson Bay to Baffin Island and NW Greenland wintering in SE USA. There is however some overlap in breeding ranges and variability in size and plumage of races, therefore separation is not always possible.**

**Winter/spring** On *Islay* single Todd's types were at Lower Cragabus, The Oa on 18 Feb and at Ballinaby, Loch Gorm on 25 Feb. On *Tiree* 2 presumed returning Todd's types both with Barnacle Goose flocks, with 1 present from 5 Nov 2020 were at Balephetrish, Kenovay & Middleton until 15 Mar and the other from 9 Nov 2020 was at Ruaig, Caoles & Kirkapol until 25 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** On *Tiree* a presumed returning Todd's type was at Balephetrish, Cornaigbeg & Kenovay *Tiree* from 20 Oct and in to 2022 [J. Bowler *et al*]. In *Kintyre* a presumed returning bird was at The Laggan from 24 Nov and into 2022 [T. Lowe]. Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

### **BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*

**AMBER LIST** *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinns of Islay.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Max Argyll total count (per NatureScot/International goose counts) of 38,137 in Mar. Max regional counts of 29,798 on *Islay* on 16-17 Mar, 6,191 on *Tiree* on 15-16 Mar, 1,225 on *Coll* on 15 Mar and 700 in *Mid-Argyll* (at Danna) on 15 Mar. Elsewhere, on *Colonsay* a max count of 808 at Kiloran on 8 Mar and several other counts around the island of up to 580 birds between 8-12 Mar and on *Mull* 400 on *Iona* on 9 Feb. Most birds had departed by mid-Apr. Last report of 1 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 5 May.

**Breeding/summer** No reports.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). First arrivals of 13 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Sep, 40 on 19 Sep, 9,051 by 12 Oct and a large arrival of 21,023 there by 16 Oct. Elsewhere, 1 at Balephuill and 4 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 30 Sep and 18 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct. NatureScot International goose Argyll totals for Dec not received. Max counts of 37,800 on *Islay* on 14-15 Dec, 6,215 on *Tiree* on 13 & 15 Dec, 1,417 on *Coll* on 22 Nov, 700 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec and 550 at Ulva/Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec.

### **CAKCLING GOOSE\*** *Branta hutchinsii*

*This species group has recently been accepted by the BOURC as a split from other 'Lesser Canada Goose' types. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these hutchinsii birds being from the Canadian High Arctic. The first accepted Argyll record was in 1984 and many subsequent records are still under consideration by the BBRC.*

**Winter/spring** One, a presumed returning bird (from Oronsay), was at Machrins *Colonsay* on 10-11 Mar [D. Jardine *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** One was in the Gruinart area *Islay* from 12 Oct and into 2022 [J. Overfield *et al*]. Another slightly larger Cackling type individual was reported around Gruinart *Islay* from 19 Oct. Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

### **SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens*

*The small introduced population on Coll breeds on a small off-shore island and is now very sedentary and decreasing. Stragglers among wintering goose flocks of other species are probably often genuine vagrants.*

**All year** The resident flock on *Coll* continues to decrease, with now only 7 noted in winter/spring and down to 6 by 1 Jun until year end. No recent reports of successful breeding within this ageing population.

**Spring** A flock of 16 'white-phase' birds were seen flying from the NW then S over Lochgilphead and Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May. Presumably just some of the many escaped or feral birds reported and moving widely across the UK this spring.

## **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

**AMBER LIST** *A resident: with an increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as 'British/Irish' and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. NatureScot International goose counts in Mar gave an Argyll total of 6,551 and highest counts were on *Tiree* with 2,815 and in *Kintyre* with 2,464. Additional high counts of 3,095 tot count *Tiree* on 8 Feb and 1,300 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 26 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding reports from all areas. Nesting noted from mid-Apr. First b/6 noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 5 May (large no. of broods there by mid-Jun), then b/2 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May, at Dervaig *Mull* on 10 May, 3 broods at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May and broods at outer Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May. Late summer counts of 3,226 on *Tiree* on 23-24 Aug (of which 32.7% were juvs) and 1,405 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug. Moulting flock at Lunga Treshnish Is. *Mull* of 202 birds inc. well grown young by 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. NatureScot International goose Argyll totals for Dec not received. Max counts of 3,068 on *Tiree* (all island) on 22-23 Nov, 1,477 on *Islay* on 14-15 Dec, 531 on *Coll* on 13 Dec and 1,718 in *Kintyre* (exc Gigha) on 8 Dec. A count of 221 at West Tarbert Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Oct. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 320 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov, 220 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct and 156 on *Jura* on 14 Dec.

## **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

**AMBER LIST** *There are variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks but relatively few overwinter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Small nos of 1-7 birds wintered in some areas. Return passage flocks >NW from 31 Mar with most reported from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Higher counts inc., in *Cowal* with 91 >NW over Dunoon on 2 Apr, in *Kintyre* skeins of up to 250 on six days >NW over Carradale between 2-15 Apr and max 450 in two skeins on 11 Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* passage >NW between 31 Mar-29 Apr (mainly over Ardrishaig, Inveraray, Lochgilphead & Moine Mhor) with numerous skeins up to 500 birds and heaviest passage on 11 & 14 Apr, on *Mull* passage between 2-30 Apr with heaviest passage noted between 11-15 Apr and skeins up to 340 birds. On *Tiree* most noted between 12-15 Apr and up to 21 birds, and on *Coll* 40 were at Loch Breachacha on 12 Apr. Birds had moved through by 12 May. Surprisingly, only two singles noted from *Islay*.

**Summer** Only reports were of 1 at Stronvar *Coll* on 7 Jun and 1 at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* from 12 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals noted were 19 >S at Hogh Bay *Coll* on 19 Sep, 32 at RSPB The Oa *Islay* on 23 Sep, 200 >S at Milton *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 30 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 25 Sep and 17 at Ballarulin *Colonsay* on 26 Sep. Generally, very light passage until late Oct with highest counts of 60 over Loch Coillie-Bharr *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct and 21 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Oct, thereafter only 1-12 birds noted from a few sites across Argyll, mainly (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) until the year end.



**Pink-footed Geese** Cowal May 2021 (N. Hammatt)

### **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*

**RED LIST** *Both the nominate European and the Greenland races have occurred in Argyll. The Greenland race A. a. flavirostris winters in a small number of traditional haunts and is also a passage migrant. Argyll holds about 50% of the world population of this race in winter and all the locations where they occur regularly are sites of international importance in the UK.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura). NatureScot International goose counts in Mar gave an Argyll total count of 10,420, with regional counts of 6,878 on *Islay* on 16-17 Mar, 2,123 in *Kintyre* on 13 Mar, 909 on *Tiree* on 15-16 Mar, 214 in *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar, 158 on *Coll* in Mar (max 210 in Feb). In addition, counts on *Colonsay* of 109 at Kiloran on 10 Mar and in *North Argyll* 38 at Benderloch on 30 Jan and 13 at Appin on 14 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** First arrivals were on *Islay* with 23 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 11 Oct and 26 at RSPB The Oa on 13 Oct. On *Colonsay* 30 were at East Loch Fada on 14 Oct and on *Tiree* a movement of 275 on 15 Oct. NatureScot International goose Argyll totals for Dec not received. Max counts of 5,809 on *Islay* on 14-15 Dec, 2,352 in *Kintyre* on 8 Dec (ex Gigha), 668 on *Tiree* on 13 & 15 Dec (inc 41 (9.9%) goslings from 415 birds aged - mean brood size 2.16 (n = 19 families per J. Bowler), 130 on *Coll* on 13 Dec, 159 at Ulva/Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 36 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 5 Dec and 29 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Nov.

### **‘EUROPEAN’ WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE\*** *A. a. albifrons*

*The European race A. a. albifrons is a scarce visitor in small numbers.*

**Winter** An adult was in fields on the east side of Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Nov [D. Brown *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

### **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

**A widespread and fairly common breeding species on the mainland and Tiree: scarcer on the other large islands. Flocks gather at favoured localities throughout the year, especially during moult but in decreasing numbers in autumn and winter.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/North Argyll*). Max counts of 40 on *Tiree* on 19 Jan (of which 31 were at Loch a' Phuill), 19 at Ardencaple Ho., Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb and 18 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of up to 11 birds, with most counts of 1-2 birds.

**Breeding/summer** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). On *Tiree* 14 prs at 10 sites in May and a max count of 35 birds on 19 Jul. First broods (b/7) noted on *Tiree* on 19 May and a b/9 on 24 May. Only report from *North Argyll* of 'present' at Inverawe Ho. in Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Max counts of 54 (including 17 fledged young) on *Tiree* on 24 Aug, 23 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 22 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, 22 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 1 Nov, 17 at Glas Eilean *Jura* on 28 Aug and 16 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct. On *Colonsay* 1 >N at Scalasaig on 8 Sep – a scarce bird for there.



**Whooper Swan** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

### **WHOOPER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*

**AMBER LIST** A common passage migrant: smaller numbers wintering. Loch a' Phuill (*Tiree*) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. A few birds summer in most years and breeding has been recorded.



**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most wintering birds were on *Tiree* where highest site counts of 146 at Loch an Eilein and 102 at Loch a' Phuill on 22 Mar. A total island count of 109 on 19 Jan included 28 (25.7%) cygnets. On *Islay* highest count was 32 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Feb and in *Kintyre* up to 14 were at The Laggan in Jan-Feb. Elsewhere, counts generally of birds stopping off to rest or flying over, with; 120 >N over Kames *Cowal* on 13 Apr, 103 >N over Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, 61 over Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 19 Mar and poss same 61 resting at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar. Numerous flocks of up to 50 birds >N mostly between mid-Mar and mid-Apr.

**Summer/breeding** No reports of breeding. Summering birds included; 7 on *Tiree* in May dropping to 4 in Jun onwards and on *Islay* 4 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart in May with 2 remaining in Jun and onwards.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). First arrivals noted were 2 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Sep and 16 arrived on 29 Sep and then more widespread Argyll arrivals from 30 Sep, with heaviest passage between 6-21 Oct. Highest counts were on *Tiree* with 259 across island sites on 18 Oct. Also, a *Tiree* all island count of 124 on 13 Dec inc. 23 (18.5%) cygnets. On *Islay* only high count received was 118 at Loch Gorm on 15 Oct. At RSPB Loch Gruinart a peak of 36 on 1 Nov and at RSPB The Oa 36 on 15 Oct. In *Kintyre* a count of 119 on 15 Oct, on *Coll* 35 were at Sorisdale on 15 Oct and in *Mid-Argyll* 35 were at Ardencaple, Seil on 11 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 50 birds.



**Shelduck** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2021 (J. Lehmann)

### **SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread, but not very numerous, breeding species around sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.*



**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas, with most from (*Islay/Tiree/Mid-Argyll/Kintyre*). Max counts of 134 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Mar, 27 at Gorsten *Mull* on 15 Feb, 20 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Mar and 20 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). On *Tiree* prs widespread on east coast in Apr. First broods noted; b/2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 May, b/8 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 27 May, on *Tiree* first b/10 at Miodar on 28 Jun, on *Mull* a f with 1 duckling between Lunga and Corran Lunga, Treshnish Is. on 29 Jun and *Mid-Argyll* a b/8 at the Add Estuary on 18 Jun and 4 broods at the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Only 1-3 birds at some sites late Aug-early Nov, then 17 returned at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Nov. Max counts of 30 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Nov, 9 at Gorsten *Mull* on 17 Dec, 7 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov, 6 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec and 6 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec and only 1-2 birds noted elsewhere.



**Mandarin Ducks** Cowal Apr 2021 (A. MacFarlane)

#### **MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

*An introduced species which has bred regularly, at Loch Eck (Cowal), in recent years. The present size of the Argyll population (whose origin is unknown) suggests that it may well now be self-sustaining.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). A male was at Craighouse *Jura* on 21 May (first record for *Jura*) and a male was at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* in May. Most reports were from the S Loch Eck & Benmore areas *Cowal* with a max of only 2 birds reported from three sites.

**Summer/breeding** No reports.

**Autumn/winter** Only report received, with 3 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec.

### **GARGANEY\*** *Spatula querquedula*

**AMBER LIST** *A regular spring visitor to Islay and Tiree and has bred in Kintyre in 1994, on Islay in 1997, and on Coll in 2004.*

**Spring** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4-5 & 21 May. A male was at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 15 & 16 May and nearby at Garvard on 23 May. A pair was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Jun.

### **SHOVELER** *Spatula clypeata*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce and localised breeding species restricted to Islay and Tiree. It is more numerous as a passage migrant and winter visitor: also largely restricted to Islay and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). On *Islay* a max of 43 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Mar. On *Tiree* a max count of 25 (across 2 sites) during WeBS counts on 19 Jan. Elsewhere, 2 were at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 Apr-12 May, a pr was at Loch nan Easgannan *Coll* on 29 Apr and a pr was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 May.

**Breeding** On *Islay* 20 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 13 prs across 8 sites. Elsewhere, an ad fem was with 6 ducklings was at Balvicar pool *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jun and 1 was at Fhionnphort *Mull* on 23 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max counts of 45 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Nov and 16 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 Dec. An eclipse male was at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 7 Sep.

### **GADWALL** *Mareca strepera*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor with most recent records from: Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree. Breeds sporadically on Islay and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). On *Coll* 2 were at Loch Breachacha on 28 Apr. On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart in Mar and 3 on 18 Apr, also 1 was at Cornabus, The Oa on 20 Feb. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Machrihanish SBO on 10 May. On *Mull* 1 was at Loch na Keal on 20 Feb. In *North Argyll* 2 were at Appin on 9 Apr and on *Tiree* 2 were at Loch a' Phuill in Feb-Mar, 4 in Apr and 8 in May.

**Breeding** Up to 4 prs on *Tiree*. A fem with a brood/8 was seen on 6-11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/North Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay* a f/imm was at Loch Gruinart on 2 Sep, 1 on 23 Oct and 2 were at Loch Tallant on 23 Dec. In *North Argyll* a male was at Balnagown Loch, Lismore on 17 Nov. On *Tiree* 4 were at Loch a' Phuill in Sep and 2 there on 29-30 Oct.

### **WIGEON** *Mareca penelope*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce and local breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor to all areas.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 234 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 19 Jan, 230 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan, 197 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, 116 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, 90 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 18 Jan, 60 at Gorsten *Mull* on 15 Feb and 59 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

**Breeding** Probable breeding with 1-2 prs noted on each of *Islay*, *Tiree* and in *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. First autumn arrivals with 4 at the Add Estuary on 7 Aug and 1 at Loch Gilp on 10 Aug, both *Mid-Argyll*, 18 on *Tiree* on 30 Aug, 2 on *Jura* on 1 Sep, 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep and 45 at Gartmain *Islay* on 5 Sep. Max counts inc., 517 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec, 385 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 13 Dec, 374 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8

Nov and 278 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 80 birds.

### **AMERICAN WIGEON\*** *Mareca americana*

**A rare visitor: 17 or more records.**

**Autumn/winter** An adult male was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28 Oct-15 Nov [A. Wetherhill, P. Roberts, M. Shields *et al*] and likely the same bird off Bowmore, Loch Indaal on 2 Dec [C. Mills, S. Lister]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

*An adult male was at Loch Skerrols on the same dates in 2020, therefore likely a returning bird.*

### **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**A common breeding, passage and wintering species**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 115 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan, 105 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Jan, 64 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 15 Feb, 61 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Jan, 55 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb, 52 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb, 32 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 1 Jan and 30 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 20 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** Reports from all areas. On *Islay* 44 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Broods noted at various locations between 5 May and Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 85 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct, 83 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 15 Nov, 81 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 73 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Nov and 67 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 60 birds.

### **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

**AMBER LIST A very scarce breeding species on Tiree and a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor: regular only on Islay and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max counts of 118 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan decreasing to 46 by 9 Apr. On *Tiree* max counts of 7 at Loch Riaghain in Jan and 5 at Loch a' Phuill on 12 Apr. Elsewhere, 1 was at Kilmichael floods, N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 20 Jan. Forming prs on *Tiree* during Apr.

**Breeding** Up to 6 prs at 3 sites on *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Most birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with counts of 41 on 6 Oct, 57 on 1 Nov, 67 on 5 Nov, 71 on 27 Dec and 93 on 30 Dec. Only 1-2 birds at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* Aug to late Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* a group of 5 (ads + imms) spent a few hrs at Loch Gilp on 24 Nov.

### **TEAL** *Anas crecca*

**AMBER LIST A widespread but uncommon breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 582 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan, 434 on *Tiree* WeBS counts (2 sites) on 19 Jan with max there of 225 at Loch a' Phuill on 10 Feb, 127 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 18 Jan, 70 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 59 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 18 Jan and 56 at Dalrannoch *North Argyll* on 8 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports mainly from (*Tiree/Islay*). At least 25 prs across wetland sites on *Tiree*. On *Islay* 8 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 pr at RSPB Ardnave. Scattered prs noted from sites in (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,600 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Nov (max WeBS count there of 934 on 5 Nov), 447 on *Tiree* WeBS counts (2 sites) on 13 Dec, with max there of 340 at Loch a' Phuill on 29 Oct, 125 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec, 120 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 27 Dec, 80 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 80 at Gorsten *Mull* on 17 Dec and 65 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 60 birds.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL\*** *Anas carolinensis*

**A rare visitor: Thirty or more records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.**

**Winter/spring** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Jan and a male at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 4 Mar [J. Bowler].

**Autumn/winter** No reports. Records accepted by the ABRC.

**POCHARD\*** *Aythya ferina*

**RED LIST** An increasingly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, in small numbers, particularly to: *Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. There has been no confirmed breeding in recent years.*

**Winter/spring** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** Five males were at Loch Gorm *Islay* from 31 Oct with 3 remaining to the year end.

**RING-NECKED DUCK\*** *Aythya collaris*

**A very scarce North American visitor: 30 previous records.**

**Winter/spring** A male & 2 fems from 2020 remained at Loch Bhasapol & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* until 23 Apr [J. Bowler *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** An ad fem was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 20-30 Sep [J Bowler], an ad male was at Loch a' Phuill on 26-28 Sep [D. Jardine *et al*] then at Loch Bhasapol on 29-30 Sep, then paired at Loch Bhasapol on 1-17 Oct, 2 fems there 25-30 Oct joined by the male on 8 Nov & occasionally at Loch a' Phuill until year end. A 1cy male was at Loch a' Phuill on 9-17 Dec [J. Bowler *et al*]. Two fems were at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 28-29 Oct and at Loch Gorm on 2-12 Nov [P. Roberts, D. Wood *et al*]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

**A widespread winter visitor: most numerous on Islay and Tiree. Breeds in small numbers on: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree with scattered pairs found throughout mainland Argyll.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from (Cowal/*Islay*/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*/*North Argyll*/*Tiree*). Highest nos were on *Tiree* and max total of 88 at WeBS sites on 15 Feb and a max site count of 72 at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Mar. On *Islay* a max count of 27 at Loch Skerrols on 22 Jan (n/c from Loch Gorm). In *Mid-Argyll* max counts of 19 at Loch Seil on 30 Jan and 8 at Loch Leathan on 14 Feb. On *Mull* 7 at Loch Pottie on 2 Jan.

**Breeding** On *Tiree* 14+ prs with a few broods noted (max b/10) late Jun-Aug. On *Islay* 2 prs fledged 5 young at RSPB Ardnave, no data from Loch Gorm however a count of 49 there on 29 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* 5 ads were at Ardencale on 27 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Coll/*Islay*/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*/*North Argyll*/*Tiree*). Max counts of 237 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 31 Oct, 55 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 15 Nov, 37 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 5 Nov, 7 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5 birds. Sea watch passage noted at Aird *Tiree* with 28 (16+12) >W in 1 hr on 23 Sep.

### **SCAUP\*** *Aythya marila*

**RED LIST A** *winter visitor and passage migrant with most winter reports at Loch Indaal, Islay but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn sea-watches.*

**Winter/spring** A fem was at Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 29 Jan & 19 Apr. One was at Loch Skerrols Islay on 15 Feb - the only report received from Islay.

**Autumn/winter** An ad male was at the Holy Loch Cowal on 1 Oct. On Islay, first report was of 3 at Loch Indaal on 2 Oct then a max count there of 9 on 28 Oct. A fem was at Loch Pottie Mull on 5 Oct. Unusually, 8 were at Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 10 Nov.

### **LESSER SCAUP\*** *Aythya affinis*

**A vagrant: Five records; Islay in Nov 1998, Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005, Loch a' Phuill, Tìree in Nov 2006, Loch Skerrols, Islay in Jan 2009 and Loch a' Phuill, Tìree in Nov 2015.**

**Winter** A juv/1cy male was at Loch Skerrols Islay on 3 Nov [D. Brown *et al*] then an unprecedented group of five juvs/1cy's comprising 4 male and a fem from 19 Nov [A. Wilson], then nos reduced in Dec to 4 birds. Record has been accepted by the BBRC.

*In the UK fewer have been recorded in recent years and it was readmitted on to the BBRC species list however this group of five birds is the most ever encountered at one site in Britain and was also part of a mini-influx into the UK & Europe during Nov-Dec.*

### **EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

**AMBER LIST A** *resident breeding bird: common on all suitable coasts, especially on the Clyde. The Firth of Clyde is a site of national importance for Eiders. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 217 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 19 Mar, 100 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 26 Feb, 60 at Loch Indaal Islay on 24 Jan and 50 at Blairmore Loch Long Cowal on 20 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 50 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports from all coastal areas. First broods (several) noted at Inverneill, Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll on 24 May, a b/1 at Gunna Coll on 27 May, 2 broods at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 28 May and a b/7 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 29 May. Many coastal areas with females and ducklings in Jun-Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 375 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 5 Aug, 218 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 28 Dec, 140 at Hynish Tìree on 27 Sep and 76 at Loch Indaal Islay on 9 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 50 birds.

### **VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

**RED LIST** *Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha, and in smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay. The wintering population in the Sound of Gigha is now much reduced from the population in the 1970s when over 50 were present.*

**Winter/spring** One was found dead at Bruichladdich Islay on 7 Jan, 2 were at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 20 Jan, a 2cy male was at Gunna Sound Tìree on 27 Jan-15 Mar and 1 was at Loch Spelve Mull on 22 Feb.

**Summer** A male was at Easter Ellister Islay on 22 May & 22 Jun. Presumably the long stayer of once captive origin nearby.

**Autumn/winter** One was at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 24 Aug. Flocks of 9 and 8 >W past Aird Tìree on 21 Oct.

## **COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

**AMBER LIST** *Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal, Islay and in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre - a scarce winter visitor elsewhere and very rare breeding reports.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max counts by region of 32 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan, 109 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar, 20 at Loch Caolisport, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb, 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 1 Jan and 2 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 2 Jan.

**Breeding** One or two breeding prs at Loch Gorm *Islay* over many years have not produced young however an ad fem with 5 large ducklings were observed feeding as a group on 30 Aug. This is the first successful breeding on *Islay* for 30+ years.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max counts by region of 57 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Oct, 97 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 24 Aug, 10 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 3 at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 27 Oct and 3 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 20 Dec.

## **LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*

**RED LIST** *An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha (Kintyre), Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree). Most reports from *Islay, Kintyre* and *Tiree*. Max counts of 10 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 6 Jan and 26 off Laggan Point, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Apr, 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar and 8 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 20 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First report of 2 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Oct. Max counts of 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Nov, 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Nov and 7 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 2 Dec. Elsewhere, only 1-2 birds noted at sites inc. 1 at Ardmore Point *Mull* on 21 Oct, 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* from 23 Oct, 2 at Balvicar Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct and a fem at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* from 12 Dec.



**Goldeneye** *Mid-Argyll* Jan 2021 (J. Dickson)

## **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**RED LIST** A common winter visitor: birds are regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr with occasional summer records.

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 76 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Feb & 13 Mar, 15 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 21 Feb, 12 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 14 Mar, 13 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan, 12 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar and 12 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Mar. A late fem was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 5 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First of autumn were 2 fem/1cy's at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 28 Aug. Max counts of 73 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 35 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* in Dec, 12 at Loch Don *Mull* on 17 Dec, 12 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Nov and 11 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 21 Dec. Elsewhere, widespread reports of 1-10 birds. *Generally, nos have been steadily declining in recent years.*

## **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

A rare winter visitor: About 10 records since 1954; last records were at Loch Poit na h-I (*Pottie*), *Mull* on 16 May 2004 and off Bowmore, *Islay* on 21 Dec 2012.

**Spring** A pair was at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 31 May [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. *The first Argyll record since 2012 and the first on Tiree for over 100 years!*

## **GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

A scarce breeding species mainly in: Cowal, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *N Argyll*. The population is more widespread in winter but in small numbers.

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (21) and *Mull* (12). Max counts of 10 at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 26 Feb, 8 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Feb and 7 at Aros Bay *Mull* on 15 Mar. Elsewhere, most counts were of 1-4 birds. On *Islay* 2 were at Uiskentuie on 13 Jan and 1 was at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa on 30 Apr. A male at Loch an Eilein and An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 12 Jan-24 Mar was the first on the island since 2011.

**Summer/breeding** Most reports of prs from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). First b/7 was noted at Balinoe, Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun. A post breeding moulting flock of 35 was at Hunter's Quay, Dunoon *Cowal* on 8 Aug and 11 were at Scallastle *Mull* on 21 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (11) and *Mull* (10). Max counts of 20 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 10 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep, 7 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 7 at Loch Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 21 Oct, 6 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct and 6 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 7 Oct. Notable records elsewhere with, 3 at Arinagour *Coll* on 24 Sep (only the third record for *Coll*) and 3 were at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 27 Dec.

## **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

**AMBER LIST** A common resident breeder: large moulting flocks gather, particularly in Loch Indaal, *Islay* and Sound of Gigha, *Kintyre* during late summer. The Sound of Gigha, *Kintyre* is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Small numbers are found on fresh water.

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 49 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar, 36 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 2 Apr, 26 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan and 25 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 however most flocks were of 10 or less.



**Breeding** Breeding around many shore areas however limited data received. On *Tiree* 10 prs from 4 sites in May. First young noted, with; b/13 at River Eachaig *Cowal* on 6 Jun, b/9 at Loch an Doil, Kildalton *Islay* on 1 Jul, b/7 at Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Jul, broods noted on *Tiree* from 16 Jul and at least 3 broods at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 429 (post breeding moult flock) at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 23 Jul, 77 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Nov, 59 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 5 Dec, 54 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep, 48 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec and 32 at Ostel Bay *Cowal* on 8 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of up to 30.



**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**SWIFT** *Apus apus*

**RED LIST A** *summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). An early arrival of 1 >S over Maudsdales *Kintyre* on 27 Apr then next 1 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 9 May. A bird was back at nest box in Kilmichael Glassary *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May and most arrivals elsewhere from 10 May. Reports from sites in each area were; *Coll* (2), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (2). Out-with known nesting areas, max count was of 12 feeding over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jun.

**Breeding** Limited data received (cf 2020 ABC survey found 40-50 prs in Argyll). In *Mid-Argyll* 10 birds over the Argyll & Bute Hosp site, Lochgilphead on 20 Jun with perhaps 5 prs there, a

max of 12 birds at Kilmichael Glassary where several nest boxes in place and a max count of 16 over Oban on 22 Jul. *The ABC has recently funded and provided nest boxes for this species.*  
**Autumn** Most birds had departed by early Aug after which the only reports were; 12 over Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug and singles at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 13 Aug and last report at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug.



**Cuckoo** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (J. Dickson)

## **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

**RED LIST A** *common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland: less numerous on the outer islands.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First reports of singles from Lerags Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr, Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr and The Oa *Islay* on 10 Apr, followed by scattered reports until a notable increase from 13 Apr onwards, about the same date as last year.

**Breeding** Calling birds reported from sites in; *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (7), *Jura* (none received), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (35), *Mull* (37), *North Argyll* (14) and *Tiree* (4). Some 'larger sites' had numerous reports e.g. at least 7 males calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 17 calling males on *Colonsay*.

**Autumn** Most adults had departed by late Jun. Numbers of reports received by month; Jun (25), Jul (3), Aug (2) and Sep (1). The Aug reports were of a juv being fed by a Meadow Pipit at Claddach *Islay* on 4 Aug and a fledged juv at Ben Feall *Coll* on 17 Aug. The last report was a juv at Garmony Point *Mull* on 14 Sep.

## **ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia*

*A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields out-with the breeding season. The genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons. Those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove. Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, but there is little information on population size.*

**Winter/spring** Reports received from only (*Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 128 at Breachacha *Coll* on 18 Jan and widespread groups of up to 40 on *Tiree* in Jan. No higher counts received from *Islay* or *Mull*.

**Summer/breeding** No specific breeding data received. Scattered nesting prs noted on *Tiree*. Higher post breeding counts inc., 210 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 23 Aug and 150 at Knock *Mull* on 9 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Max counts of 210 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 6 Oct, also several other sites on *Tiree* with up to 140 birds, 65 at Craigens *Islay* on 9 Sep, 60 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, 52 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct and 47 at Breachacha *Coll* on 27 Oct.

**FERAL PIGEON** Small groups reported from most areas, although less so from the island regions where Rock Doves predominate. Higher counts mainly from the larger towns in Argyll with max counts of 120 (two flocks of 60) in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct and smaller flocks in Dunoon *Cowal*. A flock of 22 in Jan around Barnakill farm *Mid-Argyll* and nearby at Islandadd Bridge, Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* had increased to a max 67 on 9 Oct. In *North Argyll* at flock of 19 at South Shian on 5 Dec.

## **STOCK DOVE\*** *Columba oenas*

**AMBER LIST** *A very scarce and decreasing local resident: only regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll in recent years. All records required please.*

**Winter/spring** Two were at Rowanfield *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Mar and 1 was at Killinononoch *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar (these locations are just to N of the Moine Mhor in the Kilmartin valley). One was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 22 Mar. *Only second for Tiree in 20 years.*

## **WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

**AMBER LIST** *A common resident breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks which form on the mainland in winter may include immigrants.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 45 at Ardyne *Cowal* on 19 Feb, 17 at Kiloran Meadows *Colonsay* on 9 Mar and 12 at Achamore *Coll* on 11 Apr. On *Tiree* at Balephuill 1 on 14 Feb, 3 on 21 Apr then max counts of 10 on 23 Apr, 5 on 27 May and 7 on 2 Jun. Counts elsewhere of 1-8 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 70 >S over Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov, 40 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov, 20 at Ardnaclach, Appin *North Argyll* on 3 Nov and 12 at The Lodge, Arinagour *Coll* on 4 Dec. Only 1-9 birds reported at sites elsewhere.

## **TURTLE DOVE\*** *Streptopelia turtur*

**RED LIST** *A scarce but almost annual passage migrant: most frequently recorded during May and Jun.*

**Spring/summer** One was at Port Ellen *Islay* on 11 Jun.

## **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations however is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Under reported and generally recorded as ‘present’. Lower nos noted than usual. Max counts of only 8 at Broadhills, Totronald *Coll* on 20 May, 7 at Crossapol *Tiree* in Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. Max counts received; 20 at Arinagour *Coll* on 21 Jun, 15 at Achamore, Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Aug and 12 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 22 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 12 at The Lodge, Arinagour *Coll* on 4 Dec, 11 at Achmore, Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Oct and 8 at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep.

## **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**AMBER LIST A secretive and under-recorded resident: occurs at low density on the mainland but in larger numbers on the outer islands. Immigration is thought to occur in winter.**

**Winter/spring** Reports of only 1-2 birds from most areas at 12 sites except (*Cowal/Jura/Mull*).

**Summer/breeding** Birds heard calling in suitable breeding areas from sites in *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (6). On *Islay* up to 4 calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Under recorded.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas at 14 sites except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 4 at Lochan Luing, Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 18 Dec and counts of 1-2 birds elsewhere.

## **CORN CRAKE** *Crex crex*

**RED LIST A localised summer visitor, now breeding mainly on: Coll, Colonsay, Iona (Mull), Islay and Tiree. Following recent conservation activities, a long-term decline in numbers has being reversed, although numbers still fluctuate annually.**

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). First arrivals were singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Apr, Arileod *Coll* on 19 Apr, *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and *Islay* at two sites on 24 Apr. Most arrivals were during last week of Apr and early May.

**Summer/breeding** Calling male counts: *Tiree* (285), *Coll* (30), *Islay* (26), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (23) and *Iona* (19). An Argyll total of 383, cf totals of 416 in 2020, 439 in 2019, 487 in 2018 and an Argyll peak of 702 in 2014 (*per* RSPB).

**Autumn/winter** Last bird noted was at Ballard *Coll* on 6 Oct.

## **SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana*

**AMBER LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor: also recorded as an autumn migrant in the past.**

**Spring/summer** One was calling nr Gartmain *Islay* on 8 Jun.

## **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

**AMBER LIST A localised, sparsely distributed, resident breeding species: most numerous on Islay and in Mid-Argyll.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from 15 sites except (*Jura/Kintyre*). Most reports of 1-2 birds and a max count of 4 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Jura/Tiree*). Reports from only one site in *Coll*, *Cowal* and *Mull*. On *Islay* 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Bred on *Colonsay* for the first time in many years. In *Mid-Argyll* becoming more regular at the Ardrishaig and Crinan ends

of the Crinan Canal. In *North Argyll* a pr with a single juv at Benderloch gravel pits late May-Jun. On *Tiree* 2 ads were at Loch Bhasapol in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). All reports of 1-3 birds from sites in *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (2). Generally, under recorded in some mainland regions.



**Moorhen** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2021 (J. Dickson)

**COOT\*** *Fulica atra*

*A former scarce and irregular breeder and an uncommon winter visitor.*

**Summer/autumn** 1cy bird was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 19 Jul-29 Sep, with presumed same bird at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Oct and last noted there on 5 Dec. One was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 25 Nov.

**CRANE\*** *Grus grus*

**AMBER LIST A rare visitor: 21 records; some records of up to three together between 1966-2020. Up to nine individuals were recorded in 2012.**

**Spring** An adult was at Treshnish and Dervaig Farm, NW *Mull* on 4-7 May [A. Prasad *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

*A local breeder in small numbers: widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter with concentrations at Loch Etive, North Argyll and at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and max counts of 19 at Loch a' Chumhainn, Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Jan, 8 at Loch Ederline

*Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr, 6 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 1 Jan and 6 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 5 Jan. Many coastal sites held 1-5 birds.

**Breeding** Limited breeding data, present at many suitable loch locations. A pr at Benderloch gravel pits *North Argyll* present from mid-Apr then with 4 small chicks on 30 May. Singles noted at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 May and at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 14 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 13 at Loch a' Chumhainn, Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Dec, 8 at West Tarbert, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 17 Aug, 8 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 12 Sep and 8 at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-6 at coastal sites.

### **PIED-BILLED GREBE\*** *Podilymbus podiceps*

**A vagrant:** *Three records; one at Loch Peallach, Mull in Jun 1998, one at Salen Bay, Mull on 22 Mar to 6 Apr 2011 and a long stayer/returning male at Loch Feorlin, Mid-Argyll from at least 2014 until 2020 and paired with a Little Grebe producing one young in 2017.*

**All year** Adult male was again at Loch Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* noted on 5 Mar -18 Nov.

*This long stayer was first recorded at this site in 2014 and produced a single hybrid young with a Little Grebe in 2017.*

### **RED-NECKED GREBE\*** *Podiceps grisegena*

**RED LIST A** *scarce winter and passage visitor: Most records are in Sep-Mar; at least 46 records.*

**Autumn/winter** One was off Uiskentuie, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Oct [D. & S. Nevitt, P. Roberts *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

### **GREAT CRESTED GREBE\*** *Podiceps cristatus*

**An uncommon winter and passage visitor: with 1-8 records annually since 1984 and recorded in all months except Jun.**

**Winter/spring** Three were off Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 10 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** One was off Ronachan *Kintyre* on 28 Oct.

### **SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

**RED LIST A** *regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. The Sound of Gigha, Loch na Keal, Mull and Loch Indaal, Islay are sites of national importance for wintering birds.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts in each region of 7 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan, 31 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar, 2 at Loch Craignish on 18 Jan & 2 at Loch Gilp 2-21 Mar, both *Mid-Argyll* and 6 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Feb.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrival was of 7 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 24 Aug. Max counts in each region of 23 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Nov, 38 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Nov, 4 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 46 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 5 Dec and 4 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29 Oct (a *Tiree* record count).

### **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread and common breeding species: in all recording areas. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and numbers often rise noticeably during spring and autumn passage.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 260 (across three sites) on *Tiree* on 11 Mar, 238 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, 215 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 150 at



Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, 121 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 24 Jan and 73 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 13 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all Argyll areas. On *Islay* 21 prs at RSPB Ardnave, 35 prs at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa and 6 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 147 prs at The Reef and first chicks noted on 10 May at Loch an Eilein. On *Mull* 9 prs at Craignure Bay on 23 Apr and 13+ prs on the Treshnish Is.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 325 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 283 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 200 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Sep, 177 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Nov, 150 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Oct and 140 at Finart Bay, Loch Long *Cowal* on 10 Sep.

## **LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

**RED LIST A** *localised breeder and widespread wintering species: numbers highest on Tiree and Islay.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Highest nos on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max counts of 2,700 on *Tiree* all island counts on 12 & 14 Jan, 1,025 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 21 Apr, 472 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan, 186 at Breachacha *Coll* on 18 Jan, 160 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 18 Jan and 122 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 10 Feb. In Argyll regions elsewhere, max counts of 33 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb, 18 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Feb, 9 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 Apr and 7 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** On *Tiree* 304 prs on full survey at The Reef on 18-19 May, with many on eggs from mid-Mar and first b/2 noted on 5 May. On *Islay* 148 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart (*cf* 196 prs in 2019, n/c 2020) and 77 prs at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa. On *Colonsay* (ex Oronsay) 23 prs and 56 prs at RSPB Oronsay (*cf* 72 prs in 2020 on Oronsay).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 2,980 on *Tiree* all island counts on 13 & 15 Dec, 450 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Nov, 200 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 28 Nov and 160 at Breachacha *Coll* on 20 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of up to 50 birds.

## **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

**AMBER LIST A** *moderate but probably decreasing number breed on moorland in several parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter, also during spring and autumn passage, especially on Islay, Tiree, and Mull.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 2,850 on *Tiree* all island count on 19 & 21 Apr and a max site count of 2,450 at The Reef on 15 Apr. On *Islay* 1,345 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Mar, on *Colonsay* 280 at the airstrip area on 20 Apr, on *Islay* 245 at Ballinaby on 20 Apr, in *Kintyre* 200 at Machrihanish airfield area on 15 Feb. Out-with the 'island areas' and *Kintyre* there were max counts of 75 at Blackmill Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr and 34 on Iona *Mull* on 9 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Casual reports, and under recorded, in likely upland breeding areas, with only one report from *Mull* and two reports from *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Birds were arriving back mid-Aug e.g. 15 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 14 Aug and 120 at Middleton *Tiree* on 16 Aug. Max counts of 2,695 on *Tiree* all island count on 13 & 15 Dec, 2,200 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Nov, 105 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 20 Oct, 103 at Machrihanish airfield area *Kintyre* on 15 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-36 birds.





**Golden Plover** Mull May 2021 (P. Walkden)

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

**AMBER LIST** *An uncommon passage migrant, recorded most frequently in Kintyre and on the islands; also, a winter visitor in small numbers, mostly on Islay and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Max counts; 3 at Loch Stornoway, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, 3 at Ardskenish Colonsay on 12 Mar, 2 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 20 Jan and 2 at Gartbreck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Apr. Elsewhere, singles at; Knock *Mull* on 1 Jan, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 3-5 Jan, at Salum Bay *Tiree* on 10 Apr and at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr.

**Summer** One was at Kintra, The Oa *Islay* on 14 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** First reports; 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Aug, a juv at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 20 Sep and a juv at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Sep. Max and higher counts; 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Sep and peak of 18 there on 25 Sep, 12 at Traigh Nostaig, Ardnave *Islay* on 10 Nov, 3 at Rubh' Ardalanish, Ross of Mull *Mull* on 26 Oct and 3 at Miodar *Tiree* on 28 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-2, inc; 2 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov, 1 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov and 1 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct.

**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**RED LIST** *A widespread and fairly common breeding species; present throughout the year. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Winter max counts of 160 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 29 Jan, 150 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 2 Feb and 71 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan. Main passage through Argyll during late Apr-late May. On *Islay* max counts of 1,096 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 11 May and 98 at RSPB Ardnave on 12 May. On *Tiree* 250 at Sorobaidh Bay on 24 Apr, a max site count of 525 at Loch a' Phuill on 13 May and counts of 250-500 birds at Sorobaidh

Bay, Balephetrish & Gott Bay in mid-May. Elsewhere, 145 at Totronald *Coll* on 20 May and 83 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 16 Apr.

**Breeding** Limited data received out-with the RSPB monitored sites. In *Kintyre* at Langa Quarry b/3, b/3 & b/4. On *Islay* 10 prs at RSPB Ardnave, 10 prs at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 49 prs at The Reef surveyed on 17-19 May. In *North Argyll* 3 prs at Tralee, Benderloch on 30 May. First young in *Kintyre* with 2 chicks + ads at Port Righ on 8 May and on *Tiree* a last b/2 at Lower Vault on 15 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Return passage increased from early Aug. Max counts of 400 (across four sites) on *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 250 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Oct, 210 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Oct, 154 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 14 Aug and 100 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 31 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of up to 90 birds.

**KILLDEER\*** *Charadrius vociferus*

**A North American vagrant: Three records; on Colonsay in Jan 1984, Oronsay, Colonsay in Oct 2006 and Islay in Jan 2011.**

**Winter** A first-winter (1cy) was found at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 21 Nov [E. Malcolm] and confirmed at Greenhill on 22 Nov and seen again at Balevullin on 23 Nov [J. Bowler]. Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC. *This will be the first record for Tiree if accepted.*

**DOTTEREL\*** *Charadrius morinellus*

**RED LIST A scarce migrant: mostly seen in late Apr and May. There are occasional breeding records in North Argyll.**

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was on Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep and a 1cy was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 15-17 Oct.



**Dotterel** *Tiree* Oct 2021 (J. Dickson)

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

**RED LIST A** *regular passage migrant: usually in small numbers and mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. No winter reports. First migrants; 1 at Ardferris *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr, 1 at Caliach Point *Mull* on 2 Apr, 1 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 Apr, 1 at Bridgend *Islay* on 11 Apr, 2 at Toward *Cowal* on 12 Apr and 12 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr after which reports more widespread and heaviest passage during last week of Apr to mid-May. Max counts of 100 between Bruichladdich and Octofad *Islay* on 2 May, 66 (across 3 sites) *Tiree* on 13 May and 60 at Stronvar *Coll* on 11 May. Elsewhere, up to 50 birds noted at several sites although most reports were of 1-20 birds. Last spring birds noted on *Tiree* with 1-2 until 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First return passage with 1 at the Garvellach Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jul and 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul. Very few reports and nos noted this autumn and most reports were of singles and only two reports of 2 birds, also being the max count. Most reports c 20+ during Aug & Sep and two reports in Oct (*Tiree & Mull*) and last report was a single at Pennyghael *Mull* on 11 Nov.



**Whimbrel** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (D. Jardine)

**EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

**RED LIST** *An increasingly rare breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter. All breeding records of this declining species are welcome.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 111 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Apr, 105 at Ardyne *Cowal* on 19 Feb, 100 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 22 Feb, 67 at Breachacha *Coll* on 17 Feb and 52 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 10 Feb. Elsewhere counts of 1-50 birds and most counts of 1-15. Most birds had departed wintering areas by mid-Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data and under reported from upland areas. On *Islay* 15 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 3 prs at RSPB The Oa. Birds in suitable upland areas of *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Return passage from early Jul e.g. 15 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul, 45 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 5 Jul and 20 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 Jul. Max counts of 200 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 4 Oct, 155 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 152 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 10 Aug, 128 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Nov, 75 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 29 Dec, 64 at Breachacha *Coll* on 20 Dec, 61 at Gorsten, Loch Don *Mull* on 4 Sep and 50 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-48 birds and most counts of 1-15.

### **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

**AMBER LIST A** *mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 206 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, 61 on *Tiree* WeBS counts (3 sites) on 8 Feb and a max site count of 45 at Gott Bay on 27 Jan, also, 40 at Gorsten *Mull* on 16 Jan, 39 at Caignure Bay *Mull* on 6 Feb, 17 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 9 Mar and 10 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 14 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds. Up to 21 birds remained in east *Tiree* during Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First returning birds with 5 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 16 Jul then 12 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Aug. Max counts of 150 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Nov, 105 at Gartbreck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Nov, 34 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Dec, 22 at Scallastle *Mull* on 27 Sep, 15 over Acha *Coll* on 25 Aug and 12 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec. Elsewhere, counts 1-10 birds. A leg-flagged juvenile at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 10 Sep had been ringed at Retvangen, Norway.

### **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa islandica*

**RED LIST A** *regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree and south Kintyre with occasional winter records. Most Argyll records have been presumed to relate to the Icelandic race L. l. islandica but at least one individual of the nominate race L. l. limosa has been identified (a bird leg flagged as a chick in The Netherlands and seen on Tiree in 2009).*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Only one winter report, with a single at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Mar. First migrant report of 1 at An Fhoadhail *Tiree* on 31 Mar. An impressive influx began on 18 Apr when 117 were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, 100 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 69 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. Nos peaked on 20 Apr when 2,000 arrived on *Tiree* (mostly across three sites) with 900 at Loch Bhasapol, 525 at Loch an Eilein, 450 at Loch a' Phuill, also 311 in total at Loch Gilp & the Add Estuary/Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll*. A record 164 birds were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr (previous max was 68). Nos peaked at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 188 on 21 Apr and then nos were well down across Argyll after 21 Apr as migration resumed in better weather. Up to 5 birds remained at several sites during May and last reports were of 1 at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 8 Jun and 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Jun. Two colour-ringed birds were noted on *Tiree* on 20 Apr – one ringed at the Ouse Washes and the other ringed in the Netherlands but which winters in Portugal.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals of returning adults inc., 2 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 16 Jul and 24 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jul. Returning juvs noted from 14 Aug with 22 at Croig *Mull* and 20 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Aug. Max counts of 100 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Aug, 60



at Friesland *Coll* on 5 Oct, 185 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 10 Sep, 135 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Sep, decreasing to 34 on 9-15 Oct, 16 on 1 Nov and 9 remaining to the year end. On *Islay* the last 5 were noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 13 Nov.



**Turnstone Mull** May 2021 (S. Merchant)

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

**AMBER LIST** A *common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid-summer records are not unusual.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from all coastal areas. Most high counts were from *Tiree* and a max count there of 330 (across three sites) on 19 Apr and a max site count of 160 at The Reef in Feb-Mar. Elsewhere, a peak of 97 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Mar and 62 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan. Small nos, up to 5 birds, were still present at some sites into Jul when returning birds were arriving. A *Portuguese colour-ringed bird* was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23-24 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Jura*). Notable arrivals with 50 at Kirm, Dunoon *Cowal* on 21 Jul and 40 at Westport *Kintyre* on 22 Jul. Max counts of 138 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Nov, 96 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 14 Oct, 85 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 27 Sep, 76 at Kirm, Dunoon *Cowal* on 25 Aug and 70 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 Dec.

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

**AMBER LIST** An *uncommon passage migrant: mostly in autumn, and mainly on Islay and south Kintyre. A few winter, mainly on Islay, and occasional birds occur in summer.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Few reports in winter, with only 1-3 birds at sites in *Colonsay*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*. Highest winter counts were on *Islay* with 22 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Jan and 34 on 15 Mar. A notable

winter count of 13 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Feb. Some spring passage noted, of 1-2 birds on *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Tiree*, inc. red adults, between 16 Apr and 12 May and a max count of 50 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May. In summer, a few birds noted on *Tiree* with 6 at Gott Bay on 7 Jun and 1-2 birds at Miodar on 14 Jun & 12 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First returning birds (mostly juvs) noted at *Colonsay* with 1-2 on 14-15 Aug and a max there of 13 on 11 Sep. On *Islay* 10 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 15 Aug, with 32 there on 18 Aug and 45 at Bridgend Merse, Loch Indaal on 29 Aug increasing to 67 there on 4 Sep. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Machrihanish SBO on 19 Aug, with 2 on 30 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 ads were at Loch Crinan on 5 Aug. On *Mull* 6 were at Scallastle on 4 Sep and on *Tiree* 12 juvs were at Loch a' Phuill on 16 Aug and 22 at Gott Bay on 10 Sep. Highest counts were on *Islay* where nos peaked with 103 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 5 Nov. Apart from *Islay*, birds had generally departed Argyll by mid-Oct, however 3 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* from mid-Dec and into 2022.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

**RED LIST** *An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 1 on 18 Apr, a peak of 5 on 14 May and last 1 on 17 May. One was on Iona *Mull* on 13 May, 1 on *Tiree* on 5 May and a peak of 6 there on 12 Jun.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding was thought likely at one site but not confirmed.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Mull/Tiree*). On *Tiree* the first juv was at an inland site on 2 Aug, then 1-3 birds across island sites, a max of 6 at Balevullin on 5 Sep with 6 still across W *Tiree* on 20 Sep and the last single at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Oct. First 2 juvs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug with a max of 5 there on 30 Aug-6 Sep and last single there on 15 Sep. Elsewhere, 4 were at Fidden *Mull* on 19 Aug.



**Curlew Sandpiper** *Islay* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)



**CURLEW SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris ferruginea*

**AMBER LIST A** *scarce but annual passage migrant: most records in autumn.*

**Spring/summer** An adult was at Miodar *Tiree* on 30 Jun.

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Sep -18 Sep, also this, or another there on 3 Oct, and another (duller) juv at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Sep. A juv was at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 22 & 24 Sep.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

**AMBER LIST A** *mainly passage migrant, most numerous in Islay, south Kintyre, and Tiree. Regular wintering is confined to Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree. A few non-breeders occur on the islands in summer.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Largest nos were on *Tiree* with higher nos Mar-May and max count of 495 (across two sites - Balephetrish & Sorobaidh) on 1 Apr. Max site count there was 370 at Balephetrish Bay on 15 Mar. On *Islay* a max of 200 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 12 May. On *Colonsay* 40 were at The Strand on 17 Jan. Peak passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* of 37 on 14 Apr. Most birds had moved through *Argyll* by mid-Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 576 inc. 494 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 28 Jul. On *Islay* 212 were at Ardnave Point on 10 Nov and 143 at Loch Gruinart on 5 Nov. On *Coll* a peak of 90 at Cliad Bay on 22 Sep and 37 were at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 16 Oct. Elsewhere, reports of just 1 at Ostel Bay *Cowal* and a peak of 13 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* (no regular passage counts were made), and 8 on *Mull*.



**Sanderling** *Islay* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)



**Dunlin** *Islay* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)

#### **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**RED LIST A** *very localised breeding species mainly on Tiree. Numbers are highest on passage but large numbers winter on Islay and Tiree with smaller numbers elsewhere.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Nos generally low out with *Islay* and *Tiree*. Max winter counts of 395 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb and 128 (across three sites) on *Tiree* on 19 Feb. Passage nos increased from early May. On *Tiree* 80 were at The Green on 7 May, 1,000+ at Gott Bay on 8 May and 500 at Loch a' Phuill on 9 May. On *Islay* 2,000 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 May, 4,000+ there on 12 May and 2,035 on 17 May. Elsewhere, higher counts of 102 at Crossapol *Coll* on 5 May and 100+ at Loch Don *Mull* on 10 May. Most passage birds had moved through Argyll by 26 May.

**Breeding** On *Tiree* 50 singing males were at The Reef in mid-May, a nest with 4 eggs noted on 8 Jun and first fledged birds noted from 6 Jul. On *Islay* 1 pr was at RSPB Ardnave and 2 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. No reports received from the usual upland areas of *Mull* and *Mid & North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Return passage noted on *Tiree* from 28 Jul with 355 birds (across two sites), 21 (ads + juvs) at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Aug, 45 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 14 Aug and 25 at Ardmish Bay, *Gigha Kintyre* on 28 Aug. No passage counts were made at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* this autumn. Max counts of only 238 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Oct. On *Tiree* up to 45 at sites until late Nov-Dec then a max of 90 at Sorobaidh Bay on 11 & 15 Dec. Elsewhere, higher counts of 27 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec and 21 at Gorsten, Loch Don *Mull* on 17 Dec.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**RED LIST A** *widely, but sparsely, distributed winter migrant along rocky coasts from Sep to May.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 30 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 12 Apr, 15 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 15 Feb, 11 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Jan, 7 at Southend *Kintyre* on 7 Mar and 6 at Fladda, Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 12 May - the last report of the spring.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First reports of returning birds were 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 17 Aug and 1 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Aug. Max counts of 38 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Dec, 25 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 15 Nov, 11 at Portfield, nr Croggan *Mull* on 13 Dec, 8 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 25 Oct and 7 at Tarbert Harbour *Kintyre* on 9 Dec.



**Purple Sandpiper** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (S. Lawson)

**LITTLE STINT\*** *Calidris minuta*

*A scarce but annual passage migrant: with the majority of records in autumn.*

**Spring** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May and an adult was at Crossapol *Tiree* on 30 Jun.

**Autumn** On *Tiree* an adult & 2 juvs (1cy) were at Hough Bay on 28 Aug, single 1cy's were at Vaul Bay on 11 Sep, Loch Bhasapol on 12 Sep, Gott Bay on 11-20 Sep and at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 17 Sep.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris melanotos*

*A scarce mainly autumn visitor: At least 62 records.*

**Autumn** On *Tiree* a 1cy was at an inland site on 2-3 Aug, then up to 3 birds at various sites inc. Balephuill, Baugh and Loch an Eilein between 27 Aug-6 Oct [J. Bowler *et al*]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.





**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Tiree* Aug 2021 (J. Bowler)

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris pusilla*

*A vagrant: Six records (nine birds) all in Sep; Tiree in 1999 (2), 2012, 2013 and 2016 (2), Islay in 1999 (2), and on the Isle of Luing, Mid-Argyll in 2013.*

*Autumn* A juv (1cy) was at Baigh an Traillaich Coll on 22 Sep [D. & J. Jardine] and another 1cy was at Clachan *Tiree* on 23-26 Sep [M. Thornton *et al*]. Records accepted by the BBRC.



**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Tiree* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)

## **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER\*** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

**A vagrant: Four records; on Islay in June 1986, Apr 2009 and May 2013 and on Tiree in Oct 2019. There are also four acceptable records (1891-2009) of unidentified to species (Long or Short-billed).**

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 29 Oct -1 Nov [J. How, D. Brown, M. Bell *et al*]. Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

## **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

**RED LIST A widespread, but probably under recorded breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland. A small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere.**

**Roding birds are under recorded, and all records are welcome for this species, which is believed to have declined as a breeding species in Argyll (Bird Atlas 2007-11).**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Jura). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 26 Argyll sites in Jan-Apr and a max count of only 6 at Eachaig River Cowal on 13 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received, with some reports (11 sites) from Colonsay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull and North Argyll of birds rodding in late Apr & May. On Colonsay during survey at Colonsay Ho. & woodlands area there were 8 'registrations' of 9 birds on 21 Apr, 10 of 10 birds on 12 May and 26 of 29 birds on 16 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Colonsay/Jura/Kintyre). First report was of 1 at Balnoe Tiree on 14 Oct then two other reports of singles on Tiree in Oct. In Nov, 17 reports across Argyll of 1-2 birds and most sightings in mid to late Nov, then 9 reports in Dec, with a max count of 22 at Cornabus, The Oa Islay during a night-time ringing session. Also, a count of 6 at Ballygown Mull on 29 Dec and 5 on Coll in early Dec, otherwise reports of 1-4 birds.

## **JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

**A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is greatly under recorded: most records are from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Singles from sites in; Coll (1), Islay (2), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (1), Mull (2) and Tiree (3). Also reports of 5 flushed at Gatehouse Jura on 6 Jan and 2 at Dalsmirren Kintyre on 29 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** First reports were on Tiree with singles at Barrapol on 26 Sep and The Reef on 28 Sep. A max of 6 were at Machrihanish Kintyre on 14 Nov and 4 caught and ringed at Cornabus Islay on 10 Dec. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds from sites in; Islay (2), Mid-Argyll (1) and Tiree (2).

## **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

**AMBER LIST A widespread and locally common breeding species: particularly on the outer islands. Higher numbers occur on passage and as winter visitors: mainly on the islands.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 19 at Dervaig Mull on 15 Feb, 11 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 8 Jan and scattered groups of up to 10 on Tiree in early Feb during a cold spell. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-5 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data but presumed widespread. Singing/displaying counts; on Islay with 51 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 7 at RSPB Kinnabus and on Tiree 107 at The Reef in mid-May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 200+ at Kilmoluaig/Balevullin Tiree on 17 Oct, 35 at The Reef Tiree on 15 Sep, 35 at Dervaig Mull on 29 Dec, 18 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 23 Sep and 17 at Canal Loch Coll on 23 Sep. Elsewhere, reports of up to 15 birds.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE\*** *Phalaropus lobatus*

**RED LIST A** *very rare breeding species and irregular passage migrant.*

**Breeding** Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 13 May and 28 Jul. Up to 14 breeding males produced at least 12 broods.

**GREY PHALAROPE\*** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring.**

**Autumn** One was off Hynish Tìree on 2 Oct, 1 was at Saligo Bay Islay on 11 Oct and 1 was seen from the Port Ellen Islay to Kennacraig ferry on 12 Oct.



**Common Sandpiper** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (J. Dickson)

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). One winter record of a single at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 4-5 Jan. First arrivals with 1 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, 1 at Arduaine, Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr and 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 5 Apr. Most arrival reports were between 14-23 Apr. Max counts of 4 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 21 Apr and 4 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 27 Apr.



**Summer/breeding** Limited data. On *Islay* 25 prs were at RSPB Kinnabus, The Oa in Jun. On *Tiree* 15 prs at 11 sites in Jun – a good year and a clear increase in nos. Max counts of 12 at Brenfield shore *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun and 13 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 20 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** No reports from (*Jura*). No passage counts from Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* this autumn. Max counts of 9 at Slocan Leim, (south end) *Gigha Kintyre* on 3 Jul, 12 at Dervaig *Mull* on 17 Jul and 12 at Knock *Mull* on 9 Aug. Generally, 1-4 birds at other sites, with 7 reports in Aug and one report in Sep and last single at Creagmhor Loch, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep.

**GREEN SANDPIPER\*** *Tringa ochropus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce, but almost annual passage migrant, with majority of records in autumn.*

**Spring** Singles were at Lochbuie *Mull* on 1 May and at Baleromindhu *Colonsay* on 6 Jun.

**Autumn** One was at Cornabus *Islay* on 23 Sep.



**Redshank** *Kintyre* Jan 2021 (J. Goudie)

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

AMBER LIST A *localised breeder, mainly on the islands: widespread passage migrant and wintering species.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Widespread at coastal sites, usually of 1-20 birds. Max winter counts of 116 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Mar, 22 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 1 Jan and 21 at the head of West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 24 Mar. Strong spring passage noted on 20 Apr with 203 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, 160 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* and 140 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree*.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. On *Islay* 99 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 28 prs at RSPB Ardnave. On *Tiree* 65 prs at The Reef. On *Colonsay* 5 prs (ex Oronsay) and 9 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Chicks noted on *Tiree* from 24 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 122 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep, 46 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Aug, 40 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 15 Nov, 25 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 12 Sep and 23 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 8 Sep. Elsewhere, widespread counts of up to 20 birds.

### **WOOD SANDPIPER\*** *Tringa glareola*

**AMBER LIST** A *scarce passage migrant: recorded in 22 of the 30 years 1980-2009, and majority of records in late spring.*

**Spring** One was at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May then 3 on 19 May and 1 on 26 May.

**Autumn** Single juvs (1cy) on *Tiree* at Milton on 23 Aug, Loch a' Phuill on 24 Aug, at Loch Bhasapol on 6 Sep (presumed same) at Loch a' Phuill on 7-8 Sep and this or another at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Sep.

### **SPOTTED REDSHANK\*** *Tringa erythropus*

**AMBER LIST** A *scarce passage migrant, almost annual in autumn.*

**Spring** A first-summer (2cy) was at An Fhaodhail and Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 21 Apr [J. Bowler].

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Sep [C. Scott]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

### **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**AMBER LIST** A *scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and regular winter records in some localities.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (14), *Mid-Argyll* (13) and *North Argyll* (8) and generally of 1-3 birds. Max counts of 11 at Gorsten *Mull* on 16 Jan, 7 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr and 6 at Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Breeds in small nos on *Mull, Mid & North Argyll*. Birds noted back in breeding areas from mid-Apr in a few upland lochan areas. One was at Lunga Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 1 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Return passage in many areas from mid-Jul. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites and max counts of 10 across 3 sites on *Tiree* on 14 Jul and a max site count there of 9 at Loch a' Phuill on 16 Aug, 5 at Dervaig *Mull* on 17 Jul, 10 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 1 Sep, 5 at Loch Caithlim *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct and 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Nov.

### **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

**RED LIST** *Normally a strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on Islay, Treshnish Isles and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland. Breeding Kittiwakes are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 250 at Cean a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr, 157 >W in 1 hr at Hynish *Tiree* on 23 Mar, 48 ads >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Mar and 40 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb which flew inland during strong winds.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). At Uragaig *Colonsay* monitoring site there were 25 AONs, at RSPB The Oa *Islay* 47 AONs, at Sanda *Kintyre* 48 AONs on 7 Jul, at Treshnish Is. *Mull* 720 AONs on Lunga at end Jun and at Cean a' Mhara *Tiree* 499 AONs on 17 May (444 small chicks counted on 17 Jun and 670 large chicks on 14 Jul which is well up on 2020) noted as an excellent breeding year on *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Max counts of 3,630 (inc. many juvs) in 90 mins >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 1,000+ off N Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, 885 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 21 Oct and 436 >SW off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 11 Oct. Many other counts elsewhere of up to 160.

**SABINE'S GULL\*** *Xema sabini*

**A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.**

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct [J. Bowler] and another juv was off the north end of Iona *Mull* on 16 Oct [A. Russell]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL\*** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

**A vagrant: Twelve or thirteen previous records. More or less annual in recent years.**

**Winter** A first-winter (1cy) was at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec [D. Jardine]. Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

**AMBER LIST A patchily distributed resident breeder: reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation and scarce in many areas in winter.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 315 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 218 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, 135 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Apr and 130 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 29 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Most breeding data from *Tiree*, where found at 13+ sites and good success with ca 130+ birds fledged from 4 colonies and first fledged birds from 14 Jun. On *Islay* 39 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. No data from *Kintyre* or from a colony on Duncuan Is. Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* however 160 ads at Loch Gilp on 20 Apr and fledged young at the loch from mid-Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 310 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 200 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Nov, 110 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 31 Dec, 75 at Bruichladdich, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct and 65 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug.



**Little Gull** *Mid-Argyll* Nov 2021 (J. Dickson)

**LITTLE GULL\*** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year.*

**Winter/spring** An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 -16 Jan, a 2cy was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 17 Jan, two 2cy were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb and an ad on 1 & 8 Mar. An ad was off Glengorm *Mull* on 4 May. An ad was at the Black-headed Gull colony at Balinoe *Tiree* on 11-13 & 26-29 May.

**Autumn/winter** A 1cy was at the Sound of Mull, off Salen Bay *Mull* on 1 Aug, a 1cy was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Sep, a 1cy was off N Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, a 1cy was at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct and a 1cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 & 22 Nov.



**Mediterranean Gull** *Cowal* Jan 2021 (N. Hammatt)

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL\*** *Ichthyaeus melanocephalus*

**AMBER LIST** A scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter.

**Winter/spring** An un-ringed adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 & 15-16 Jan and a ringed ad was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 15 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** An ad was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul, single 1cy's were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug & 14-15 Sep, a different 1cy was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep, a 2cy was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug, a 1cy was at West Tarbert Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Sep, an ad was at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 28 Sep and a 1cy was at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 Oct.

## **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

**AMBER LIST** *A widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 925 across *Tiree* on 11 Mar with peak site count of 450 at Loch Bhasapol. Elsewhere, max counts inc., 600 at Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 19 Jan, 256 at Dervaig *Mull* on 27 Jan, 212 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Apr, 160 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 20 Jan and 120 at Ardyne *Cowal* on 19 Feb. Birds returned to some *Tiree* breeding sites in late Mar.

**Summer/breeding** On Sanda *Kintyre* 40 AONs. On *Tiree* found at 17+ sites (3 colonies with 60+ AONs) and ca 221+ birds fledged from 5 colonies and first fledged birds from 28 Jun. At Gunna Is. *Coll* 25 AONs produced 30+ young. On *Islay* 7 AONs at RSPB Ardnave and 2 AON's at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* at Egg Shed site, Ardrishaig only 10-11 AONs (cf 25 AONs in 2020) due to site works disturbance, with fledged young from mid-Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most higher counts were from *Tiree* where max counts of 520 at Balephetrish Bay on 17 Dec and 400 at Sorobaidh Bay on 16 Dec. Elsewhere, max counts inc., 124 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 15 Aug, 100 at Bruichladdich, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct and 100 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 13 Nov.

## **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

**AMBER LIST** *A common resident: breeding widely but in small numbers on small islands along the coast.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 51 at Gartbreck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Apr, 30 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 25 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Jan and 24 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Small nos of AONs on *Coll*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* colony visits gave AONs at; Lunga (6), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (25), with up to 74 adults counted when flushed, at Sgeir an Fheòir (4), Sgeir a' Chaisteil (4) and Sgeir na h-Iolaire (1). On Sanda *Kintyre* 23 AONs and 6 AONs near Ringing Stone *Tiree* with fledged birds on *Tiree* noted from 28 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 578 (after gales) at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep, 39 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Nov & 15 Dec, 36 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 16 Oct and 35 at Scallastle *Mull* on 3 Oct.

## **GLAUCOUS GULL\*** *Larus hyperboreus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar.*

**Winter/spring** All reports of singles (most aged as juv/2cy). A 2cy was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 2 Jan, a 2cy was at Caliach Point *Mull* on 12 Jan, a 3cy was at Kilmichael *Kintyre* on 19 Jan, a 2cy was at Loch Indaal *Islay* 27 Jan-12 Feb, a 2cy was at Head of Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan-1 Feb, a 2cy was S of Loch Assapol, Ross of *Mull* on 23 Feb, 1 was at Lagganulva *Mull* on 3 Apr, a 2cy was at Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* and the same bird at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 6 May. On *Tiree* a max of 2-3 juvs (2cy) reported at various locations between 2 Jan and late May with one remaining until 15 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Only reports were on *Islay* of two juvs (1cy) at Bruichladdich on 5 Nov remaining at Loch Indaal to 16 Dec at least and another at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 28 Nov.

## **ICELAND GULL\*** *Larus glaucoides glaucoides*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar, with numbers varying widely from year to year. There are a few summer records.*



**Winter/spring** A 3cy was at Tobermory *Mull* on 3 Jan into Feb, an ad was at Traigh nam Musgan, nr Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan & 16 Apr and a 2cy there on 17 Mar, a 2cy was at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 13 Jan, a 2cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Jan, a 2cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb-8 Mar, a 2cy was at Auchgoyle Bay, Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar and possibly same (new) 2cy at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16-17 Mar, a 2cy was at Airds Bay, Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr and a 2cy was at Carrabus *Islay* on 18 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** A juv (1cy) was at inner Loch Indaal *Islay* from 30 Nov to the year end and a 1cy was at Glengorm *Mull* on 2 Dec. *A below average show of reports.*



**Iceland Gull** *Cowal* Jan 2021 (N. Hammatt)

## **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

**RED LIST A** *widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have been abandoned, and very few now breed inland.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 600 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, 400 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 200 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 22 Feb and 209 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 20 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. On *Islay* at RSPB Ardnave 26 AONs. On Sanda Is. *Kintyre* 442 AONs on 6 Jul. At Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* est. 6 AONs. At least 57 AONs on *Tiree* across six sites and first chicks noted during Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,000+ at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec, 800 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 20 Sep, 725 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep



and 400 at Gialum Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Nov. More adult N. European *argentatus* birds noted than usual at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Dec with perhaps up to 10 good examples.

### **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread breeding species: generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3,235 pairs in Argyll and Bute but numbers have since declined greatly.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas and from sites by month of; Jan (3), Feb (9) and Mar (19). Generally, a scarce bird in winter. On *Colonsay* 3 were at the Strand on 17 Jan and on *Tiree* 20 returning birds (17 ads & 3 x 2cy's) noted on 22 Feb. Arrivals in several areas from mid-Feb however most arrivals not until mid to late Mar. Some birds were back at breeding colonies on *Tiree* on 15 Mar. Higher counts noted inc., 53 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 44 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, 33 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 12 Apr and 24 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* 45 AONs across 5 sites and none at a further 2 sites. In *Kintyre* 20 AONs on Sanda Is. on 6 Jul

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Nos declined from late Aug. Max counts of 69 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep and 37 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Aug. Only 1 report in Nov and 2 in Dec, with singles at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec, at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Dec. A good example of a Scandinavian race bird *L. f. intermedius* was photographed at sea 15 miles N of *Tiree* on 17 Jul.



**'Scandinavian' Lesser Black Backed Gull** (on right) at sea *Tiree* Jul 2021 (N. Keogh)

### **GULL-BILLED TERN\*** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

**A vagrant: Three records; all on Tiree, in Sep 2008, Apr 2010 and May 2019.**

**Spring** An adult was at Balinoe and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 May [J. Bowler, J. Hunter]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.



**Sandwich Tern** *Kintyre* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)

**SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

**AMBER LIST A** *regular passage migrant but very rare, and irregular, breeding species.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Mull/North Argyll*). First arrivals; 2 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 2 Apr, 5 at Rhunahaorine Point & Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 3 Apr and 2 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 4 Apr. Higher counts inc., 12 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 May, 8 at Southend *Kintyre* on 11 Apr, 7 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 11 Apr, 7 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr and 4 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Apr. Elsewhere, singles on *Colonsay* on 19 May and on *Tiree* from 5 May.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding reports, although possible. Mating observed at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. In summer, 1-2 birds noted from *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Tiree*, also 3 ads at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Counts included; 14 (inc. juvs) off N Gigha *Kintyre* at An Dubh-sgeir on 17 Aug, 6 at Toward *Cowal* on 6 Sep, 6 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 19 Sep, 5 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 2 Jul, 5 off NW *Tiree* on 18 Aug, 4 at Traigh Bhaigh *Tiree* on 2 Jul, 4 at Kìrn Point *Cowal* on 21 Jul, 4 at Ardentinny *Cowal* on 10 Sep, 2 at Sorne Point *Mull* on 5 Jul, 2 at Bridgend *Islay* on 30 Aug and last report was of 2 at Dunaverty Bay *Kintyre* on 20 Sep.

## **LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons*

**AMBER LIST** A *scarce summer visitor with regular breeding restricted to: Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Scarce passage migrant and irregular breeder elsewhere.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Tiree*). First report was of 2 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 14 Apr increasing to 17 (15 at Gott Bay & 2 at Traigh Bhaigh) on 17 Apr. Also 3 in SW *Coll* on 20 Apr & 15 on 23 Apr.

**Breeding** Breeding reports; on *Coll* with 28 ads at one site in SW *Coll* on 18 May and 35 ads on 1 Jul however success was low, on *Islay* with 2 prs at RSPB Ardnave and on *Tiree* where 39 prs produced a min of 21 fledged young and also 1 AON at Gunna *Coll/Tiree*.

**Autumn** No reports away from breeding sites at end of Jul and no reports during Aug or later.

## **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

**AMBER LIST** A *locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland. Breeding Common Terns are a feature of Glas Eileanan SPA.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas except (*Islay*). First reports; 6 off NE *Colonsay* on 16 Apr and 1 off N *Jura* on 24 Apr. Only 12 reports received by end of May – *presumably under recorded e.g. none from Islay*. Max counts of 13 at Scallastle *Mull* on 15 May and 6 at Uig *Coll* on 22 May.

**Summer/breeding** Breeds on offshore islands for which little data. On *Tiree* 40 NY (nests with young) at two colonies in Jul with 50 fledged young noted on 12-19 Jul and a max count of 90 (60 ads + 30 juvs) at Soa Point on 28 Jul. On *Mull* 4 were at Staffa on 21 Jul and 40 at Scallastle on 27 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* 20 were W of Kerrera on 27 Jul and birds present (n/c) at Duncuan Is. colony Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*. In *North Argyll* 9 were at Appin on 13 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Few reports after mid-Aug. Max counts of 5 at Gott Bay and 4 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 9 Aug. Elsewhere, an ad feeding a juv, at Strand area *Colonsay* on 15 Aug, 2 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Aug and last single there on 9 Sep, 3 were at Finart Bay *Cowal* on 10 Sep and last singles were in E *Tiree* on 17-18 and 24 Sep.

## **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

**AMBER LIST** A *summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 counted 1,823 pairs in Argyll & Bute.*

**Spring** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay.Mull/Tiree*). First reports of 2 at Ardilistry *Islay* on 21 Apr and 2 at Scallastle *Mull* on 24 Apr and no further reports until 4 May when an arrival of 200 birds feeding at Gunna Sound off *Coll/Tiree*.

**Summer/breeding** Incomplete data. On *Islay* 22 AONs at RSPB Ardnave. On *Tiree* 355 AONs at 11 sites producing *ca* 202 fledged – a good year. On Ghaoideamal Oronsay *Colonsay* a count of 158 birds. Fledged young noted from early Jul on *Tiree*. Small nos noted breeding on *Colonsay, Islay* and *Mull*. A build-up of 2cy birds on *Tiree* with 250 across 3 sites by 6 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Most birds had departed by mid-Aug and only small nos *Islay* and *Tiree* with generally 1-3 birds Sep to early Oct, however 6 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* in 90 mins on 2 Oct and last 3 were off Claddach *Islay* on 5 Oct.



**Arctic Tern** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2021 (S. Lawson)

**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

**AMBER LIST** *Previously an uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing summer visitor which now breeds or holds territory in very small numbers on Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Staffa.*

**Winter/spring** No reports in winter. Spring reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). First reports of 1 at Hagh Bay *Coll* on 12 Mar, 1 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 1 Apr and 2 at Erraid *Mull* on 5 Apr. Max counts of 4 off Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 7 Apr, 3 off Cornaigmore NE *Coll* on 27 Apr and 4 between *Mull* & *Coll* on 4 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data of small nos from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). At RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* 5 Ters and 3 fledged young, also 1 Ter on NW *Colonsay*. On *Coll* up to 5 birds by roadside lochs in Jul. On Treshnish Is. *Mull* at least 5 Ters.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). Passage birds noted from 3 Aug when 4 from the Oban to *Tiree* ferry. Max counts of 12 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 8 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 1 Nov, 7 >SW off Portnahaven *Islay* on 17 Aug and 5 off N *Coll* on 18 Aug.



**Great Skuas** *Mull* Jul 2021 (J. Speirs)

### **POMARINE SKUA\*** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

*A scarce but regular passage migrant; mainly seen in autumn but has been recorded in all months.*

**Spring** One was at sea between *Tiree* and *Coll* on 28 May.

**Autumn/winter** Two >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 1 >SW off there on 7 Oct, 3 >W past Aird *Tiree* on 1 Nov and 1 >W off there on 26 Nov.

### **ARCTIC SKUA\*** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**RED LIST** *Previously the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies, this species has become scarce. The small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll have been in serious decline in recent years. Passage birds can be widespread in spring and especially autumn, but variable in numbers from year to year.*

**Spring/summer/breeding** One was on *Coll* on 9 Apr, 1 was off Caliach Point *Mull* on 11 Apr, 1 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 2 were off Muasdale *Kintyre* on 1 May, 6 were at Lunga, Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 11 May (birds from *Coll*?), 3 were seen from the Kennacraig-*Islay* ferry on 12 May, 2 were off Grasspoint *Mull* on 17 May, 2 were off Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jun, and 1 ad was off Port Askaig *Islay* on 26 Jul. Probable breeding birds on *Coll* with counts of 4 birds on 2 Jun, 5 on 7 Jul and 6 on 28 Jul. A pr held Ter on *Tiree* in late May-Jul.

**Autumn/winter** One >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Aug, also 3 >SW there on 12 Aug, a peak of 8 >SW there on 2 Oct and 1 on 7 Oct. Two were off NE *Islay* on 11 Aug, 1 was off Carradale Point *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 1 was off *Colonsay* on 17 Aug, 1 was off *Coll* on 18 Aug, 1 passed over Bruichladdich *Islay* on 29 Aug, 2 were off Baugh *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 2 off Milton *Tiree* on 17 Sep, 1 off Ardmore Point *Mull* on 21 Sep, 1 off The Oa *Islay* on 23 Sep, 1 was off E Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Sep, 1 was off Aird *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 1 was between Gigha *Kintyre* & *Islay* on 30 Sep, 1 was off N Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Oct and last report was of 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Nov.

### **LONG-TAILED SKUA\*** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

*A scarce and irregular passage migrant: spring and autumn records off western coasts and islands.*

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Rhunahaorine Point, Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct [T. Lowe]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



**Little Auk** *Mull* Nov 2021 (M. Murphy)

## **LITTLE AUK\*** *Alle alle*

**A scarce and irregular winter visitor: usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.**

**Autumn/winter** On *Islay* singles were at Blackrocks, Loch Indaal on 23 Oct, found dead at Claddach on 26 Oct, at Ardnave on 1 Nov, at Port Askaig on 2 Nov and at Bunnahabhain on 7 Nov. On *Tiree* 4 >W off Aird on 1 Nov. On *Mull* singles at Croggan, Loch Spelve on 11 Nov, off Iona on 2 Dec and at was off Calgary on 13 Dec. On *Coll* 1 was found dead at Hagh Bay on 2 Dec and 1 was at Arinagour on 10 Dec. *A better showing later in the year and reflects very large numbers at this time off the east side of Scotland after storms.*



**Common Guillemot** *Mull* Jul 2021 (J. Speirs)

## **COMMON GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

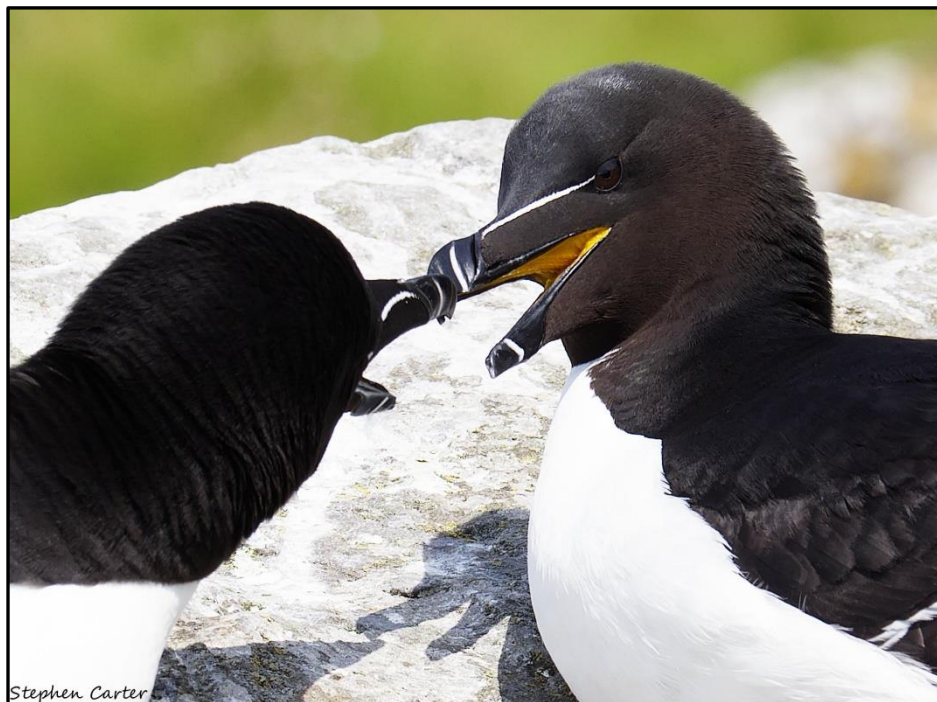
**AMBER LIST A** *highly colonial, and locally abundant, breeding species. Adults with small young appear on the sea far from colonies in late summer. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands and smaller numbers are regular in sea lochs in winter. Breeding Common Guillemots are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from most coastal areas with generally low counts of 1-5 birds. Birds appearing back at nesting cliffs from early Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding data from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Tiree*; On *Colonsay* Dun Tealtaig sample cliff a count of 118.4 individuals (N=5 counts). On *Islay* 193 on cliffs at RSPB The Oa in Jun. In *Kintyre* 5,400 sea count at nesting colonies Sanda Is. in early Jul. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with a combined tot of 11,231 ads. *Mean count last five years is 9,927 birds (range 8,463-11,231) (TIARG)*. On *Tiree* 1,500 ads at Ceann a' Mhara on 7 Apr rising to 3,219 on 17 May and 3,718 inc. 500 small to medium sized chicks on 17 Jun (*a reasonably good year per J. Bowler RSPB*).



**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas, with a max count of 3,000 from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 1 Sep, then generally low count reports of 1-50 birds in Sep-Oct and 1-25 in Nov-Dec. Some reports of dead and dying birds around shores in poor condition later in the year, however no mass wrecks noted.



**Razorbills** Mull Jul 2021 (S. Carter)

### **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

**AMBER LIST A** *locally common breeding species, although much less numerous and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Most reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). Generally, counts of 1-12 birds noted. Max counts of 343 >W in 1 hr off Aird Tiree on 11 Mar, 133 >W off Hynish Tiree on 23 Mar and 93 off Caliach Point Mull on 27 Feb. On Tiree 150 ads were back at nesting colonies on 7 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). On Colonsay at Uragaig sample study area 40 birds there in Jun. On Islay at RSPB The Oa a count of 189 ads in Jun. In Kintyre 450 sea count at nesting colonies Sanda Is. in early Jul. On Mull at Treshnish Is. a tot of 703 birds on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil at end of Jun. On Tiree at Ceann a' Mhara counts of 266, with most on eggs (many more birds on the sea) on 17 Jun, and 248 ads, many with large young on 14 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (North Argyll). Most high counts were from sea areas around Coll and Tiree during Sep-Oct. Sea watch counts from Tiree (with most auks

identified as this species) inc., from Aird; with 626 >W in 1 hr on 23 Sep, 1,675 >W in 1 hr on 21 Oct and 696 >W in 1 hr on 1 Nov, and from Hynish; with 1,230 >SW in 90 mins on 2 Oct and 222 >SW in 1 hr on 7 Oct. Elsewhere, most counts at sea from ferries with 1-60 birds noted Nov-Dec.

### **BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cepphus grylle*

**AMBER LIST** *A widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs.*

*Black Guillemot is a protected feature of Clyde Sea Sill MPA.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts included 194 during coastline count on *Colonsay* (ex *Oronsay*) on 16-23 Apr, 62 at *The Oa Islay* on 2 Apr, 24 at *Oban Bay Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, 19 at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 7 Apr, 14 at N tip of *Jura* on 24 Apr, 12 at *Appin North Argyll* on 10 Apr and 11 at *Sorisdale Coll* on 14 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Sea counts ideally in Apr are a good indication of breeding nos (also see counts above). Counts of 75 at sea around *Sanda Kintyre* on 1 May, 50 at *Sgeir a' Chaisteil*, *Treshnish Is. Mull* on 29 May (TIARG) and 23 off N tip of *Jura* on 29 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max counts of 27 at *Loch na Keal Mull* on 5 Dec and 12 at *Glas Aird Colonsay* on 15 Oct.



**Black Guillemot Mull** Jul 2021 (J. Speirs)

### **PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*

**RED LIST** *A very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles: only very occasionally recorded in winter.*

**Winter/spring** No winter reports but early singles off *Aird Tiree* on 11 Mar and off *Hynish Tiree* on 23 Mar. Birds noted more frequently from 12 Apr off (*Islay/Mull/Tiree*) and larger counts inc.,

175 off Gunna Sound *Coll/Tiree* on 4 May and c. 500 at Sgeir a' Chaisteil, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 29 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. In *Kintyre* 60 AOBs on Sanda. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* an est. of 5,526 AOBs on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (TIARG). None were seen during surveys at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 17 Jun. On *Coll* 42 from the ferry off Arinagour on 24 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Only reports were of 1-13 birds off *Coll*, *Tiree* and NW *Mull* however a max count of 84 >SW in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Aug. Three reports in Oct, one report in Nov and last sighting was of 2 feeding at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 30 Dec.



**Puffin Mull** Jun 2021 (P. Walkden)

### **RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata*

*A scarce widely distributed breeder (on moorland lochs), winter visitor, and passage migrant.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 17 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Jan, 7 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 15 Mar and 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Reports from likely breeding areas in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*) totalling at least 26 sites however likely under recorded due to remote habitat.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 27 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 28 Dec, 18 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 23 Sep and 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Nov.

### **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica*

**AMBER LIST** *A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. Breeding has been confirmed at 13 sites between 1985- 2017. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts of 14 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 3 Apr, 12 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Mar and 6 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 2 Mar. Records of note elsewhere inc; 2 off E *Colonsay* on 11 Mar & 20 Apr, 2 at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 27 Mar, 2 off Craighouse *Jura* on 24 May, 2 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 1 May and 1 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 2 Jan.

**Breeding** Evidence of likely breeding from 2 sites in *Kintyre*, 4 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and 1 site in *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/ Jura*). Max counts of 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Sep, 12 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec and 6 at Ardlamont Point *Cowal* on 22 Nov.



**Black-throated Diver** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (J. Speirs)



**Great Northern Diver** *Mull* May 2021 (P. Walkden)

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

AMBER LIST A numerous winter and passage visitor. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded from Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May and a few individuals summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around Tiree and

***Coll are sites of international importance for wintering birds and Loch na Keal on Mull, Loch Indaal on Islay, West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre and Lochs Beg & Scridain on Mull are sites of national importance.***

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Most significant counts from the Sound of Gigha Kintyre, the Mull sea lochs, Loch Indaal Islay and the Tiree coast. Max counts on Mull (of roosting flocks) with 161 at Loch na Keal on 12 Jan and 127 on 27 Feb. Also, higher counts from sites inc., 80 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 14 Apr, 60 from Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 12 May, 43 off Bruichladdich, Loch Indaal Islay on 12 May, 43 from Oban to Colonsay ferry on 23 Apr, 25 at Port a 'Chapuill Colonsay on 16 May, 22 at Crossapoll Coll on 21 Apr and 18 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 7 Apr.

**Summer** Reports from all areas Jun-Aug except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Reports of 1-6 birds from coastal sites. Two 'singing' at Traigh Bhaigh Tiree on 1 Jul. Two in s/p off Lunga, Treshnish Is. Mull on 27 Jun was first mid-summer record there (TIARG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Still 1-5 birds at several sites in Sep. Passage noted from 23 Sep when 4 >W off Aird Tiree and 3 >S off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, also 4 >S MSBO on 24 Sep and nos increased across sites during Oct. Max counts of 258 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 13 Nov, 103 at Loch na Keal Mull on 5 Dec, 63 at Loch Scridain Mull on 8 Dec and 29 at Loch Indaal Islay on 28 Dec.

## **EUROPEAN STORM PETREL** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

**AMBER LIST A** *summer visitor. The main breeding colonies are on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles with a few pairs on Soa and Staffa. Breeding birds first come ashore in late May or Jun. Most sightings away from breeding colonies are during Jul-Sep, when non-breeders wander extensively. Breeding European Storm-petrel is a feature of Treshnish Isles SPA.*

**Summer/autumn** Reported between 7 Jun and 23 Oct (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree). First report was 6 off Milton Tiree on 7 Jun. A few counts of 1-3 birds, mostly late Jun to late Aug from ferries however 5 (from ferry) off Port Ellen Islay on 17 Jun and 40 (from ferry) N of Coll on 18 Aug. Last reports of singles >SW off Hynish Tiree on 2 Oct and from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 23 Oct.

**Breeding** At Treshnish Is. Mull - mist netting over three nights at end of Jun by TIARG provided catches of 161, 308 and 175 birds. No counts made at breeding colonies on Sanda Kintyre however 49 ads were ringed. *The Treshnish Is. Mull supported 20% of the Great Britain population and between 0.7-1.7% of the Atlantic (north-eastern) population as estimated by Seabird 2000 (TIARG).*

## **LEACH'S STORM PETREL\*** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

**RED LIST A** *scarce, but regular, autumn passage migrant off western headlands; particularly after strong westerlies. There are occasional reports in spring and summer.*

**Autumn** Singles >SW past Hynish Tiree on 2 Oct, from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 2 Oct and >W past Aird Tiree on 26 Nov.

## **FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*

**AMBER LIST A** *common but localised breeding species in all areas apart from Cowal and North Argyll. Large numbers occur on passage off western headlands.*

**Winter** Small nos ashore on calmer days from Jan-Mar from Tiree near breeding colonies and a max count of 600+ at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on 19 Jan & 6 Mar.



**Spring/breeding** Only breeding reports received from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). At Treshnish Is. *Mull* the breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was estimated at 254 pairs based upon apparently occupied sites (AOS). This represents a 7% decrease in the number of breeding birds from the previous year. Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 1,128 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 17 May, 115 on Sanda *Kintyre* on 5 Jul and 71 at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Only records were from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts on sea-watches of only 29 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Aug and out with *Tiree*, only 1-6 from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull*). On *Tiree* 600+ Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on calmer days Nov-Dec.



**Sooty Shearwater** *Mull* Aug 2021 (E. Miles)

**SOOTY SHEARWATER\*** *Puffinus griseus*

*A passage migrant: almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes seen in large numbers from western headlands, islands and on ferry crossings during Aug-Sep.*

**Autumn** Two were off Caliach Point *Mull* on 3 Aug, 2 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Aug and 5 >SW off there on 12 Aug, 2 were W off Portnahaven *Islay* on 17 Aug, 2 were feeding off Balnahard *Colonsay* on 7 Sep, 1 was between *Mull* and *Coll* on 21 Sep, 3 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 2 >W off Hynish *Tiree* on 26 Sep, 1 >W off there on 28 Sep, 1 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 11 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 2 were off Caliach Point *Mull* on 11 Oct and last 1 was off there on 29 Oct.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

**AMBER LIST** *Breeding colonies have been confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers are seen on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First reports were of 4 off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Mar and 1 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Mar. Higher counts inc., from the Oban to Tiree ferry on 26 Apr with 2,000 off Glengorm NW *Mull* & 400 between

*Coll* and *Tiree*. Also, 1,400 from ferry between *Mull* and *Coll* on 4 May with 800 feeding over a large pod of dolphins and 3,000+ were off the Green *Tiree* on 8 Jun.

**Breeding** At Treshnish Is. *Mull* presumed breeding birds were seen and heard at night on *Lunga* and small numbers of birds were seen daily, feeding, or passing offshore (TIARG). On *Sanda Kintyre* 6 chicks were ringed. Est. population thought to be around 300 prs.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Higher counts inc., 755 >SW off *Hynish Tiree* on 12 Aug, 1,500 N off *Coll* (from ferry) on 18 Aug, 500 off *Balnahard Colonsay* on 7 Sep, 277 >W off *Aird Tiree* on 23 Sep and 190 >SW off *Hynish Tiree* on 2 Oct. Last report was 3 >W off *Aird Tiree* on 1 Nov.

## **NORTHERN GANNET** *Morus bassanus*

**AMBER LIST** *Most Gannets in Argyll waters probably come from Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, often seen high up sea lochs and some birds travel inland to cross between Campbeltown Loch and Machrihanish. They are also reported in small numbers Nov to Mar.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas except (*North Argyll*). Smalls nos of ads noted off *Tiree* in Jan with a max of 4 off *Miodar* on 12 Jan and singles noted of NW *Mull* from 4 Jan. More reports in Mar and a count of 84 >W in 1 hr off *Aird Tiree* on 11 Mar and 37 >W in 1 hr off *Hynish Tiree* on 23 Mar. Birds passing overland from Campbeltown to Machrihanish (crossing the Laggan) *Kintyre* noted from mid-Mar on two dates increasing to 17 dates (tot 45 birds) in Apr and 25 dates (tot 140 birds) in May. A tot of 400 between NW *Mull* and *Gunna Sound Coll/Tiree* observed feeding over a large pod of dolphins on 4 May.

**Summer** Generally smaller nos noted in Jun & Jul. Juvs noted from late Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Max counts of 1,210 >SW off *Hynish Tiree* on 12 Aug, included a single flock of 650 and 1,835 >SW off there in 90 mins on 2 Oct. Counts elsewhere inc., 200 >SW off *Frenchman's Rocks Islay* on 22 Sep and 346 >S at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* on 18 Aug. Reports decreased after early Nov and only four reports of singles during Dec, from *Islay, Mull* and *Tiree* with a max of 4 birds.

## **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Breeds in: Colonsay, Cowal, Jura, Kintyre (including Gigha), Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll, with around 230 pairs in recent years. Less numerous than Shag, but numbers have increased recently. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.*

**'Continental' CORMORANT\*** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* *A rare but increasingly frequent visitor to Scotland. Increasing as a breeder at inland sites in England where some hybridisation occurs with nominate Atlantic Great Cormorant. Singles at Loch a' Phuill, Tiree on 13 Oct 2014 and at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll on 18 Nov 2020.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-3 birds. Max counts of 32 at *Vaul Bay Tiree* on 1 Feb, 10 at *West Hynish Tiree* on 7 Feb, 9 at *Aros Mull* on 15 Mar and 8 at the *Sound of Gigha Kintyre* on 15 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** In *Kintyre* 12 AONs on *Sanda Is.* on 4 Jul was only data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-6 birds. Max counts inc., 60 at *Port na Luing Coll* on 19 Nov, 34 at *Scallastle Bay Mull* on 30 Jul, 27 at *Ostel Bay lochan Cowal* on 8 Sep, 25 at *Sanda Lighthouse, Sanda Is. Kintyre* on 19 Aug and 21 at *Craignure Bay Mull* on 4 Oct. A steady passage >S at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre* several days in Oct of 1-10 birds.

**SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

**RED LIST A** *common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland.*

**Winter/spring** Records from all coastal areas. Max counts of 250 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 27 Jan, 120 at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 6 Jan, 112 >W in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 23 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 28 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding counts inc., 20 AONs at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun, 419 AONs on Sanda *Kintyre* on 5 Jul and 91 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 17 May. On Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding was confirmed on Lunga, Sgeir a Chaisteil and Fladda. The breeding populations on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil were 418 and 15 prs (TIARG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max inc. counts of 1,370 at Caolas, Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 30 Aug, 500 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, 240 at Hynish *Tiree* on 29 Sep, 190 at Lismore Jetty, Lismore *North Argyll* on 11 Oct and 140 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Oct.



Stephen Carter

**Shag** *Mull* Jul 2021 (S. Carter)

## **CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

**A vagrant:** *Three records; one on Islay in Oct 2009, one on Mull on 27 Oct 2011 with the same bird on Tiree on 17-25 Nov 2011 and another on Mull at Calgary on 10 Oct-13 Nov 2018.*

**2020:** One was seen and photographed at Dalvore, nr Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct 2020 [J. McLellan]. Photos were sent to David Jardine in May 2021. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

## **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

**A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (14) and *Mull* (12). Max counts of 21 at Loch Don *Mull* on 16 Jan, 21 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Mar, 17 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 6 Mar, 14 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar, 11 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan and 11 at New Danna/Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan.

**Breeding** Data received from sites in; *Colonsay* (4), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (2). Sites with more than 10 AON's inc. 20 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, 18 at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll*, 16 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll*, 14 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil *Mid-Argyll* and 12 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Notable heronries elsewhere inc., counts of 6 AON's in N *Jura* and tot of 11 AON's at three sites on *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 28 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 4 Dec, 18 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 10 Oct, 15 at the Lodge *Coll* on 23 Sep, 15 at Dalinlongart *Cowal* on 10 Aug and 15 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug. Elsewhere, 14 counts of 10-14 birds.

## **GREAT WHITE EGRET\*** *Ardea alba*

**A rare visitor: Fifteen records between 1986 and 2020. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.**

**Autumn/winter** A non-br bird was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 17-19 Oct [S. Gibson, J. Dickson, J. Bowler] and a non-br bird was at a pool by East Lodge, Skerrols *Islay* on 8 Dec [M. Hannett, G. Turnbull]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

## **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

**A scarce visitor: No records prior to 1958 but regular and a marked increase in last decade, mostly in spring and autumn. It has been seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.**

**Winter/spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however a min of 12 and a max of 15 birds probably involved. Reported from sites, with 1-3 birds in; *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (2). Most sites only recorded singles however max counts of 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jan and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Jan & Mar. Counts of two recorded at three sites across Argyll. Most sightings were during Jan to Mar reducing in Apr and four reports in May, none in Jun and one report in early Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Again, total numbers uncertain however a min of 10 and a max of 16 birds probably involved. Reported from sites, with 1-6 birds in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *North Argyll* (3). Many sites had 1-2 birds present. A max count of 6 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* from 12 Aug to late Sep and birds likely spread from there to elsewhere in Argyll. Max counts of 4 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 29 Oct, 3 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Oct- Nov increasing to 4 there in Dec.

*A colour-ringed imm bird observed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll on 11 Oct had been ringed as a fledged juv, from a colony of 31 prs at Wheldrake Ings, York, North Yorkshire on 23 Jul 2021. This bird was still present into 2022.*



**Little Egret** *Mid-Argyll* Jan 2021 (J. Dickson)

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

**AMBER LIST A** *summer migrant, breeding in small but increasing numbers. Occurs more widely on passage.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). First arrivals of singles at Ormidale Cowal on 17 Mar, Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar and Loch Melldalloch Cowal on 26 Mar. Most arrivals were after 1 Apr.

**Breeding** Of the 27 sites checked, attempted nesting at 16 sites of which 10 prs were successful with 19 large young raised. (ARSG). On *Islay* 1-2 birds noted 31 Mar to 15 Sep and on *Mull* 1-2 birds noted 8 May-17 Aug but no evidence of breeding.

**Autumn** Most birds had departed between late Aug and 20 Sep, however a late report of one fishing opposite the Oyster Bar at Head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct.



**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos*

*A scarce, but widespread, resident breeding species. Immatures tend to wander and may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.*

**All year** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports of 1-3 birds. On *Tiree* an imm was at Balephetrish on 1 Apr and 2 imms at Beinn Hough on 23 Nov.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 100 prs. Of the 55 sites checked 51 sites were occupied. A total of 19 fledged young from 29 sites where eggs known to have been laid. (ARSG).



**Sparrowhawk** *Mid-Argyll* Aug 2021 (J. Lehmann)

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**AMBER LIST**

**All year** Reports from all areas. Fewer sightings noted during Apr, May and Jun. Sightings generally of 1-2 birds, occasional 3, however 6 interacting high over ground nr Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 24 Feb. A family party in west *Coll* on 2 Sep.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 500-1,000 prs. Of the 12 sites checked 4 had prs. (ARSG).

**GOSHAWK\*** *Accipiter gentilis*

*A sporadic visitor of uncertain status.*

**Spring** A 3cy+ (prob female) was at Carradale Forest *Kintyre* on 24 Mar [D. Jardine, J. Dickson] and another 3cy+ (prob male) was seen and photographed at Innellan *Cowal* on 5 May [K. Flynn]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

**Breeding** No reports but likely less than 5 prs. (ARSG).

*The true status of this species in Argyll is made difficult due to the secretive nature of the species coupled with under reporting and in some cases misidentification and inadequately documented records. Satellite-tagged birds in central Scotland are now being tracked into Argyll.*

**MARSH HARRIER\*** *Circus aeruginosus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce, but recently more or less annual, passage migrant: records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.*

**Spring/summer** One was at Totronald Coll on 4 & 13 Apr, a fem was at Gruinart flats Islay on 23 Apr, 1 was at Gleann Sellister, Ardmeanach Mull on 11 May and a fem was at The Reef Tiree on 17 May.

**Autumn** On Tiree a 1cy fem was at Balephuill on 10-11 Sep, Barrapol & The Reef on 15 Sep. A 1cy male was at Balephuill on 21 & 29 Sep, Balevullin on 22 Sep, Loch Bhasapol on 28 Sep, Beinn Gott on 1 Oct and Milton on 3 Oct.

*A good series of reports and perhaps reflects an increase in breeding birds elsewhere in the UK.*



**Hen Harriers Mull Dec 2021** (P. Walkden)

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**RED LIST** *A sparse but widespread breeding species: Argyll holds around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly: away from breeding areas, on migration, and in winter with reports from all recording areas.*

**All year** Reports from all areas. Fewer reports during Jun and Jul. Most reports from *Islay* then *Mull* and *Coll* generally of 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 9 (4 mm +5 f/imm) at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 21 Oct, 6 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Mar and 5 at Loch Beg/Loch an Torr *Mull* in Jan & Apr. A max of 6 birds on *Tiree* in early Sep.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 100-150 prs. For the 45 sites checked, 22 were occupied, 18 prs laid eggs and 23+ young fledged. (cf 60+ fledged in 2020 and 19+ in 2019) (ARSG).

### **RED KITE\*** *Milvus milvus*

**A re-introduction programme in Scotland since 1996 has involved releases in Highland, central, and southwest Scotland. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these re-introduced birds.**

**Winter/spring** Singles were nr Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Jan, Conisby *Islay* on 9 Jan, Minen *Kintyre* on 5 Apr and Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 & 28 Apr.

**Autumn** One was at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, 1 at Clachan *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 1 at Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Oct, 1 at Kellan, Loch na Keal & Killiechranan *Mull* on 16-17 Oct, 1 at The Oa & Bowmore *Islay* on 22 Oct, 1 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, 1 at Ballmeanoch *Mull* on 3 Nov, 3 at Carskey Bay, nr Southend *Kintyre* on 22 Nov and 1 at Westport *Kintyre* on 23 Nov.

### **WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

**AMBER LIST A rare but increasing resident breeder in Argyll: wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur widely.**

**All year** Reports from all areas. Most reports from *Mull*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Islay*. Max counts from *Islay* of 8 at Nave Island on 20 Oct and 8 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 20 Dec. Up to 6 at several locations on *Mull* and a max in *Mid-Argyll* of 5 at Craobh Haven on 22 Mar.

**Breeding** Of the 45 occupied Ters checked, 42 prs laid eggs and 29 prs fledged a min of 45 young (ARSG). *This species continues to expand its nos and range in Argyll with now 45+ prs having increased from 14 prs in 2010.*

### **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

**A resident breeding bird: common in all areas and the most abundant raptor in Argyll.**

**All year** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites, occasionally 6 and with max counts of 10 W of Duart Bay *Mull* on 14 Apr, 9 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 24 Oct and 7 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct. An island count of 18 during *Tiree* goose survey on 12-14 Jan.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 1,500-2,000 prs. Reports from all areas. Of the 96 sites checked 43 sites were occupied and fledged a min of 25 young. (cf 63 in 2020) (ARSG).

### **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

**A patchily distributed breeding species: probably most numerous in Kintyre. It is widespread on Cowal, Islay, and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree. All records are requested.**

**All year** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura*). Most reports from *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mull* and *Mid-Argyll*. Reports mainly of 1-2 birds at sites in all months with more reports during Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec. Fewer reports than in 2020. On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 2 & 5 Jan, at Kilmoluaig on 2 Mar and at Balephuill on 9 Oct.

**Breeding** After an excellent breeding season in 2020 coinciding with peak vole nos, 2021 was a very poor year. Of the 93 sites were checked (cf 104 in 2020) prs were only at 13 sites and the mean young per successful nest was just 1.17 (cf 4.62 in 2020). (ARSG).

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**AMBER LIST** A widespread and common resident breeding bird: absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.

**All year** Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree). Few reports Jun-Jul.

**Breeding** Low occupancy and productivity due to low vole nos. Of the 42 sites were checked (cf 38 in 2020 & 70 in 2019) only 10 sites occupied by prs. The mean young per successful nest was 1.12 (cf 2.0 in 2020). (ARSG).



**Tawny Owl Kintyre Jun 2021 (A. Paterson)**

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

A very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor: almost certainly under recorded. All records are requested.

**All year/breeding** Reports from (Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). On Colonsay 4 of the 6 sites checked were occupied with 1 pr fledging 3 young. Fledged young were noted at sites on Seil & Kerrera Mid-Argyll and Gigha Kintyre. Elsewhere, singles were noted; in Cowal at Loch Tarsan on 8 Dec, on Islay at Kinnabus, The Oa on 25 Jun, in Kintyre at Dalsmerran on 26 May, in Mid-Argyll at the Moine Mhor on 1 Oct, a bird filmed hunting in daytime at Taynish NNR on 28 Oct, on Mull at Loch Don on 12 Apr & at Loch Assapol on 25 May, and on Tiree at Balephuill on 4 May, 6 & 13 Oct. Winter ringing in Kintyre N of Campbeltown was very successful with 7 birds caught during Jan-Mar and 5 during Sep-Dec. (ARSG).

## **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

**AMBER LIST A** *widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles (*Microtus agrestis*).*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Most reports of 1-2 birds came from sites on *Mull* (16) and max counts of 6 at Glen More *Mull* on 30 Jun and 4 nr Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb. Winter ringing in *Kintyre* N of Campbeltown with caught 5 during Jan Mar. A ringed bird caught on 21 Mar had been ringed as a nestling in May 2019 at *Glenscorrodale, Arran* (19km, 616 days).

**Summer/breeding** Fourteen sites were checked (no data from *Coll*), 5 sites were occupied by prs and 2+ young fledged, giving 1.00 young/successful nest (*cf* 1.66 in 2020). (ARSG). Bred on *Colonsay* for only the second time – last there in 2006.

**Autumn/winter** Very few reports after Jul. One was caught during the owl winter ringing program N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* in Sep. On *Mull* counts of 4 (site not given) on 11 Nov and 5 were at Treshnish Farm on 26 Dec.



**Short-eared Owl** *Mull* Aug 2021 (P. Walkden)



**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

*A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The only proven breeding record was in Kintyre in 1993.*

**Winter/spring** Reports of singles unless stated from; *Cowal* at Benmore, Cairndow & the Holy Loch in Jan, *Islay* at Bridgend in Jan & Feb, *Kintyre* at East Loch Tarbert & Carradale Bay in Mar, *Mid-Argyll* with 1-2 at Loch Gilp in Jan-Mar and at Crinan Harbour in Jan, *Mull* at Loch Don in Jan-Feb and *Tiree* at Milton Harbour on 14 May.

**Summer/breeding** No confirmed breeding however interesting inland reports of 1 at Moine Mhor area nr East Lodge (Kilmartin Burn) *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul and 2 there on 4 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of singles unless stated from; *Cowal* at Sandbank on 5 Dec, *Kintyre* at Machrihanish SBO on 28 Aug, *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp between 28 Aug and year end, with 2 (m+f) there on 18 Sep & 3 Dec, *Mull* at Loch Don on 12 Jul to year end and at Aros on 19 Sep & 18 Oct.



**Kingfisher** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

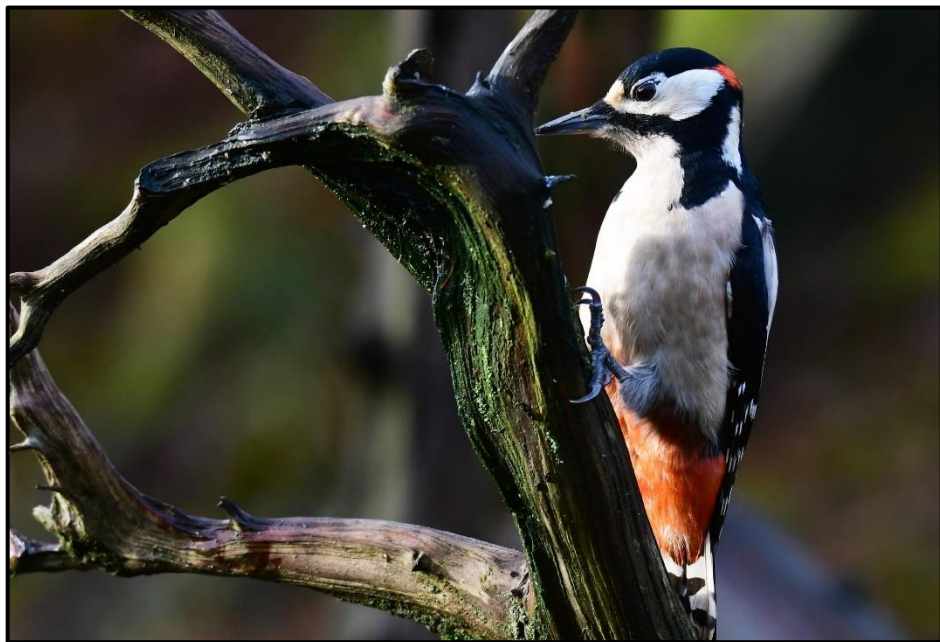
**BEE-EATER\***

*A rare migrant: Seven or eight records since the first in 1981. Latest records being: two birds on Mull on 24 to 26 Apr 2010, one in Glen Aros Mull on 27 May 2014 and up to four on Islay on 26 Jun and 1 Jul 2015.*

**Summer** One was heard as it passed high over Baugh *Tiree* on 22 Aug [I. Livingstone, T. Southall, H. Greetham]. Record was accepted by the ABRC and is the first for *Tiree*.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

*A resident breeder: widespread on the mainland and Mull, with occasional records on Islay.*



**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (B. Anderson)

**Winter/spring** Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (8), *North Argyll* (3). Generally, 1-2 birds reported and a max of 4 together at Black Mount, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 Apr. Drumming heard from late Jan.

**Summer/breeding** At least 5 Ters at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* in late Apr. First fledged young noted at Ardlistry *Islay* on 8 Jun and Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun. A review of *Islay* breeding records points towards 9-12 prs now established at 5-7 sites in 2021 with first breeding there from 2013.

**Autumn/winter** Reports and sites reported from; *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1) mainly of singles. Appears to be greatly under reported.

### **GREEN WOODPECKER\*** *Picus viridis*

**Rare:** infrequent in *Cowal* in recent years as well as in *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *N Argyll*. Breeding may have occurred in *Kintyre* in 1998. All records required.

**Spring** One was heard at Glen Kin, Clachaig *Cowal* on 11 Apr and another thought possibly this species was heard at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May.

### **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread, but declining, breeding bird. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). All reports of 1 -2 birds from sites in *Coll* (5), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Mull* (7), and *Tiree* (3). Most frequent reports were in Mar. Unfortunately, no data from *Jura* where they are known to occur.

**Summer/breeding** Thought to be less than 100 prs. Data from the ARSG; 29 sites were checked of which only 4 were occupied and a min of 13 large young produced. Another poor year and now a priority species for follow up site checks in 2022. *A chick ringed at Calliburn quarry, Kintyre, in June was found injured near Cambourne, Cornwall, in late October; a remarkable movement 584 km.*

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Reports from sites in; *Coll* (4), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (31), *North Argyll* (7) and *Tiree* (16). Counts of 1-2 birds, rarely 3 at sites.



**Merlin** *Kintyre* Nov 2021 (J. Goudie)

### **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**RED LIST** *Breeds very locally on open moorland and bogs: more widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Islay/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports of singles Jan to early May. Most reports were from; *Tiree* (8), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (5), *Mull* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Colonsay* (2). Up to 6 were on *Tiree* in Apr and 9 in early May and presumably Icelandic birds on migration.

**Summer/breeding** Thought to be less than 20 prs. Details from a site on *Mull* (reared 2 young) and two in *Kintyre* (failed) not previously checked (ARSG). No other breeding reports were received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Most reports were of singles, however 3 were around Loch Gorm *Islay* on 31 Oct and up to 6 across *Tiree* in Oct. Most reports were from late Sep to Oct then fewer later in the year. Most reports by region were from; *Tiree* (20), *Islay* (12), *Kintyre* (4), *Coll* (2), *Mull* (1) and *Jura* (1).

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

*A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. There have been indications of a decline in numbers breeding away from coastal areas. Found throughout the year in most areas.*

**All year** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from Islay. Reports from all months however a notable increase in sightings during Aug to Oct. Max count away from nest sites of 5 at The Oa Islay on 2 Apr.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 50-70 prs. A good year, with the highest number of sites checked and occupied sites monitored in the last five years; 35 sites were checked, 20 sites were occupied and raised a min. of 31 large young. (ARSG).



**Red-backed Shrike** Mull Nov 2021 (P. Walkden)

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE\*** *Lanius collurio*

**RED LIST A rare passage migrant: 22 records between 1954 and 2019.**

**Autumn** A 1cy was between Aros Bridge and Aros Castle Mull on 31 Oct- 4 Nov [M. Williams *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

*Of note - two Dor Beetles were found impaled on barbed wire (one still alive) at Totronald Coll on 2 Sep likely to indicate presence of a shrike sp (per Greg Smith).*

**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

*A widely distributed (but scarce) woodland resident on most of the mainland: rarely reported from the islands. There is some immigration in autumn.*





**Jay** Cowal Mar 2021 (J. Marie)

**Winter/spring** Reports, generally of 1-2 birds from sites in; Cowal (9), Mid-Argyll (11), Kintyre (4), Mull (3) and North Argyll (3). Max counts of 8 at Barr an Fhithich, W of Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 17 Apr, 4 at Toward Cowal on 1 Jan and 4 at Lossit House Kintyre on 12 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** All reports from mainland Argyll with generally 1-2 birds at sites and max count of 4 at two sites.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of generally 1-3 birds from sites in; Cowal (4), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (12), Mull (11) and North Argyll (3). Max counts of 6 at Port Ann Mid-Argyll on 5 Aug, 5 at Largiemore Cowal on 13 Oct, 5 at Aird a' Chrotha, Loch Don Mull on 4 Nov. Counts of 4 birds at five other sites. No reports in Sep (cf 2020 when most reports were in Sep (12)).

## **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

**A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Elsewhere, has been a scarce and sporadic visitor (mainly in spring): in recent years appearing to be becoming more widespread.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from (Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Cowal had most reports, (11) sites, then Kintyre (10), Mid-Argyll (7) and Islay (4). Under reported from Cowal where more established and widespread than elsewhere in Argyll and a max of 14 birds noted at one site in Dunoon (on a rooftop). Elsewhere, max counts of 3 at Achnabreck Mid-Argyll on 30 Jan, 2 at Stewarton Kintyre on 27 Feb and 2 (perhaps same) at Southend Kintyre on 6 Mar. Four reports of singles on Islay during 24 Mar-24 Apr may relate to a wandering individual and also the report of a single at Ardfin golf course Jura on 24 Apr. A series of records on Colonsay relate to a released bird.



**Summer/breeding** Only report of breeding out with *Cowal* was a pr in Campbeltown *Kintyre* in May (outcome unknown).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3). Out with *Cowal* all reports were of singles. Again, the *Colonsay* report relates to a released bird.

### **CHOUGH** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

**The Argyll islands hold almost the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay are appreciated.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Max counts; on *Islay* with 18 at Kilchoman *Islay* in Jan-May, 11 at RSPB Ardnave *Islay* on 1 Apr, 7 at Port Lobh *Colonsay* on 21 Apr, 6 at RSPB Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Feb and 6 at RSPB The Oa *Islay* on 18 May. Two (un-ringed birds) were at Baugh *Tiree* on 17 May.

**Summer/breeding** On *Islay* 59 potential nesting sites were checked and of these 41 were occupied. Of the 41 occupied sites, there were 16 not "nest-visited". Of these it was established that 9 failed and the remaining 7 produced 17 young. Of the 41 occupied sites 26 were nest-visited. A total of 74 chicks (of the 80 in these nests) were ringed; 3 ringed chicks were found dead before fledging at 3 different sites; 71 fledged. All but one (blind) of the 6 un-ringed chicks also fledged. (Data provided by Eric Bignal). On *Colonsay* pairs found at four nesting sites and possibly at an additional site and 1-4 chicks were reared. (Data provided by David Jardine).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts received; on *Islay* 65 were at Ardnave on 5 Nov & 52 there on 20 Oct and 12 at RSPB The Oa on 22 & 27 Sep. On *Colonsay* max counts of 12 at *Colonsay* hotel area on 8 Sep and 11 at Port na h-Altha on 25 Sep.

### **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

**A resident breeder, common throughout much of mainland Argyll: scarce on Mull and does not breed on Coll or Tiree. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Higher counts received included; 140 at Ardencape, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb, 75 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan and 50 at Kames *Cowal* on 7 Mar. Under reported and no large counts from usual strongholds in *S Kintyre* and *Islay*.

**Summer/breeding** Birds nest building in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar and fledged juvs noted at Balgie Burn, Dunoon *Cowal* on 30 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Higher counts included; 70 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec and 60 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 16 Nov.

### **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

**AMBER LIST A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on: Colonsay, Coll or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Very under reported and few high counts received. Max count of 92 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Apr. On *Coll* a single was at Grishipoll Point on 8 May and on *Tiree* a flock of up to 15 first-winter birds were at sites in *E Tiree* 6 Jan-18 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Activity at nesting sites from late Feb. On *Islay* 144 nests at RSPB Loch Gruinart.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Few counts received. Most reports of up to 40 birds. Max counts of 273 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Sep, 80 at

Kilchoman *Islay* on 16 Nov and 68 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec. On *Tiree* 2 were at The Glebe, Scarinish on 17 Sep and at Ruaig on 3 Oct.

### **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

**A sedentary resident: mainly in east Cowal and parts of Mid-Argyll, in a variety of mainly low ground habitats. It hybridises readily with Hooded Crow where ranges overlap.**

**Winter/spring** Most reports from usual strong hold areas of *Cowal* however max counts of only 4 at two sites. Elsewhere; on *Islay* 1 at The Oa in Apr & Jun, in *Kintyre* 4 at Campbeltown and loch area in Jan-Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* singles at 5 sites in Jan-Apr, on *Mull* 2 W of Tobermory at 2 sites in Apr and 2 at Loch Spelve in May.

**Summer/breeding** No breeding data received. Several birds paired with Hooded Crow.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports again from *Cowal* at 11 sites and a max count of 15 at Craigendive, Loch Striven on 25 Nov. Elsewhere; on *Colonsay* singles at Balnahard in Aug-Sep, also on Oronsay on 8 Aug (these may refer to a released bird), on *Islay* singles at Gruinart in Sep-Oct and at Kintra on 17 Dec, in *Kintyre* 6 resident in Campbeltown and 6 at the Doirlinn on 20 Sep, also 2 at Ballinamoill, Mull of Kintyre on 20 Sep, in *Mid-Argyll* reports from 16 sites with max of 3 at the Add Estuary on 14 Sep and 4 at Loch Gilp in Oct-Dec, on *Mull* 1 at Loch na Keal in Jul and in *North Argyll* 2 at Glasdrum on 12 Dec.

### **HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix*

**A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Numbers reported generally low, with 1-10 birds from sites. Max counts of 53 at Lower Fernoch, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, 47 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan and 45 at Head of Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** On *Colonsay* 28 Ters of which outcome of 10 unknown, 3 failed and 15 produced 32 young. Several prs on *Tiree* and fledged young from 10 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-10 and several up to 20 birds. Max counts of 49 at Lingerton landfill, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 42 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec, 42 at Head of Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep, 40 at Craighens, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Nov and 38 at Glasdrum *North Argyll* on 12 Dec.

### **HYBRID CROW** *Corvus corone x cornix*

**Hybrids between Carrion and Hooded Crow are most prevalent where the ranges of the two species overlap. Any records are welcome as they will help to document the change in position of the hybrid zone, which is known to have moved north westwards.**

**All year** Reports of small nos from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 10+ at Craigendive, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 25 Nov, 17 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 25 Jul, 6 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct & 24 Dec and 2 at Glasdrum *North Argyll* on 12 Dec.

### **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

**A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts received of 34 at Breachacha *Coll* on 15 Mar, 16 at Clonaig *Kintyre* on 24 Mar and 16 at Dalinlongart *Cowal* on 6 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. On *Colonsay* 9 Ters produced 24 young from 8 nests with 1 nest outcome unknown. On *Tiree* 15 active nests by May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-2 birds with several counts of up to 20. Max counts included; 173 at Lingerton landfill site, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 34 at The Oa *Islay* on 6 Aug, 25 at Heylipol & 18 at Gott Tip *Tiree* on 23 Aug.

**WAXWING\*** *Bombycilla garrulous*

*An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.*

**Winter/spring** Two were in a garden at Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jan.

*A poor year in the UK for reports.*

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*

*A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland: especially conifers.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 9 at Innellan *Cowal* on 25 Apr and 7 at other sites in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*.

**Summer/breeding** Few data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites. Max counts of 8 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 3 Nov and 6 at *Tiroran Mull* on 22 Aug.



**Blue Tit** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (Linda Gibson)

**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

*A widespread and common resident breeder: an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). All reports of 1-10 birds. Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* at 34 sites. One was at feeders in Crossapol *Tiree* on 12-16 Jan & 5 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Generally, 1-8 birds noted at sites and a max of 15 at Rhudle, Drimvore BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May and 10 Ters at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll*. First fledglings noted on 18 Jun in *Mid-Argyll*. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing studies – 29 chicks were ringed which was a poor season.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, up to 6 birds at sites and a max count of 15 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 3 Nov.

## **GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

**A widespread and common resident breeder: only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). All reports of 1-8 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* and a max count of 10 at Rhudle, Drimvore BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing studies – 67 chicks were ringed which was a poor season.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, reports of only 1-5 birds however a max count of 15 at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 3 Nov.

## **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

**RED LIST A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low-lying localities.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Reports well down on last year. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (8 cf 17 in 2020 & 76 in 2019), *Mid-Argyll* (11 cf 14 in 2020), *Kintyre* (5 cf 10 in 2020) and *Islay* (4 cf 7 in 2020). Scattered groups noted across *Tiree*. Only three area reports in Jan (*Coll, Mid-Argyll* & several across *Tiree*) with more birds returning across Argyll during Feb, noted from 21 sites. Higher counts inc., 100 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 30 Mar, 95 at Barloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar, 75 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 4 Mar and 58 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb. Some birds giving a burst of song on brighter days in Jan on *Tiree* and full song noted at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, on *Tiree* on 21 Feb and Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 22 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Little specific breeding data. Reports received from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Most reports from sites on *Mull* (32) and birds noted widely across *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** An unusually low number of reports received and only from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Most birds departing during Sep and early Oct. Only two higher counts received, of 140 at Craighens *Islay* on 28 Sep and 140 on stubble at Ruaig *Tiree* on 13 Dec. Most other reports were <10 birds and on *Tiree* many groups of 10-20 birds on the move in late Sep-Oct.

## **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**AMBER LIST A summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.**

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals were 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 4 Mar, 1 at Glenforsa *Mull* on 6 Mar and 3 at Calliburn *Kintyre* on 25 Mar. More widespread from 31 Mar. Highest counts inc., 150 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 May, 50+ at Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course *Kintyre* on 3 Apr and 50 at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data on breeding colonies received. On *Islay* 23 AOBs at RSPB Ardnave. In *Kintyre* ringing studies monitored four sites. Three sites held 30, 30-50 & 5-10 AOBs. The main site at Langa Quarry held 160 AOBs plus a further 30-40 more scattered AOBs. Some 500 birds were ringed/processed of which 51 ads were re-traps from previous years. In early 2022 the quarry site will be lost to make way for a new golf course development. On *Tiree* 174 AOBs at 11 sites, most Loch a' Phuill (80+ AOBs). On *Coll* 2 AOBs on Gunna Is, is first record for there. In *North Argyll* 40 AOBs at Connel and 30 birds at Tralee gravel pits.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Most birds had departed by mid-Sep. Highest counts; 160 at Bridgend, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Aug with entire flock often resting on the sands, 70 at Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* on 7 Aug, 60 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Aug and 45 at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug. Only 2 reports after 29 Sep with 2 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 30 Oct and 1 at Paltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Oct.



**Sand Martin** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Lehmann)

## **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

***A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.***

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 1 at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 30 Mar and 1 at Kintra *Islay* on 30 Mar then more widespread arrivals from 31 Mar. Counts noted in early Apr of generally less than 8 birds and a max noted of 20 at Achnacreebeag *North Argyll* on 12 Apr. Arrivals later in Apr were held up by cold weather then higher nos arrived in early May e.g. 50 around Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. Nesting noted from late Apr. Many fledged juvs noted at Barsloisnoch and Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul and fledged juvs on *Tiree* by 11 Jul. An adult was still on 3 eggs at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 2 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 85 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep, 60 at Coullabus *Islay* on 8 Sep and 58 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 18 Sep. Several other counts of up to 50 birds, mostly during Sep. Most birds had departed by end of Sep, smaller nos until mid-Oct and scattered reports of 5 singles in Nov, with last reports at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Nov, Ulva *Mull* on 13 Nov and at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 26 Nov.

## **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

**RED LIST A** *common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only a handful of recently recorded breeding attempts on Tiree.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). First reports were 5 at Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, 2 at Strachur Cowal on 31 Mar, 1 at Gorsten *Mull* on 31 Mar and 1 at North



Connel *North Argyll* on 1 Apr. Most arrivals were not until after 9 May after a prolonged period of cold weather. Highest count received of only 16 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. A nest at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* was successful and produced 2+ fledged young. Max count of 22 at Little Eachaig River *Cowal* on 30 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Max counts of 60 at Craighens *Islay* on 11 Sep, 40 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* 5 Aug, 18 at Bridgend *Islay* on 5 Sep and 10 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Aug. Most birds had departed by mid-Sep and last reports were 5 at Kildalton *Islay* on 24 Oct and 1 at Lagavulin *Islay* on 4 Nov.



**Long-tailed Tit** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (Linda Gibson)

### **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

**A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Kintyre/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Appears to have been under reported. Most counts of 1-7 birds and max count of 13 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan and 1 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. Two adults with juvs at Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Again, appears to have been under reported and no reports in Jul and only one report in Sep. Most counts of 1-12 birds and mostly from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (7), *North Argyll* (6), *Cowal* (5), and *Mull* (3). Max counts of 25 at Kildalton *Islay* on 6 Oct, 13 at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 20 Nov and 13 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 23 Nov.

### **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**AMBER LIST** A **widespread and abundant summer visitor.**



**Willow Warblers** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2021 (J. Dickson)

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrival was an exceptionally early male in song (our earliest) at Escart *Kintyre* on 5 Mar (previous earliest was at Caignure *Mull* on 22 Mar 2020) and the next not until 1 at Ardfert *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Mar. Most early arrivals from 1 Apr and more widespread arrivals from 9 Apr and in good nos from mid-Apr. Higher counts inc., 42 at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May, 30 at Foreland *Islay* on 16 Apr and 30 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 25 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Singing males widespread across Argyll from mid-Apr. Higher breeding counts included; 31 Ters at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, 29 Ters at Taynish NNR, 26 Ters at Bellanoch BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr, 21 Ters at Knippoch area *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. On *Tiree* 11 Ters across 5 sites in Jun. Ads feeding 4 fledged juvs at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun and fledged juvs on *Tiree* from 8 Jul. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* one in song at Lunga, on 28 Jun was only fourth record there.

**Autumn/winter** Number of reports decreased, and birds departed by late Aug, when generally up to 7 birds at sites however a count of 50 at Kildalton *Islay* on 3 Aug. Reports in Sep from only (*Coll/Islay/Tiree*) with higher counts of 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Sep then 1-2 birds at sites from mid-Sep and the last report was of 2 juvs at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 1 Oct.

### **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

**A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Cowal* (7) and *Mull* (6). No winter reports. First arrivals of singles at Innellan *Cowal* on 19 Mar, Kames *Cowal* on 20 Mar and Stonefield *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar. More widespread arrivals from

26 Mar. Max counts of 5 in Innellan area *Cowal* on 25 Apr and 4 in Carradale area *Kintyre* on 14 Apr. Migrants on *Tiree* from 2 Apr with a peak of 3 on 21 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. On *Colonsay* 3 Ters. A count of 4 in Carsaig area *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) and most local birds had departed by mid-Sep, then a small influx of likely migrant birds, with reports in; Oct (11), Nov (5) and Dec (3). Generally, reports of 1-3 birds at sites. One at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Dec was of the Scandinavian race *abietinus*.

**‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF\*** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

*A rare visitor: an eastern race of Chiffchaff, still regarded as a sub-species of Common Chiffchaff, rather than a distinct separate species. Rare in Argyll, although small numbers of this race occur during late autumn in Scotland.*

**Autumn** Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Oct and 6 & 22 Dec and at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Nov.



**Wood Warbler** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (S. Carter)



**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

**RED LIST** *A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.*

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reports from only (Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). First reports with an early bird in song at Loch Coille-Bharr Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr then 1 at Craignure Mull on 23 Apr, 6 in song at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 24 and 1 at Barnakill, Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 24 Apr. Singing males reported from sites in; Cowal (4), Mid-Argyll (13), Mull (4) and North Argyll (5). Last report was of 1 at Bonawe North Argyll on 27 Jun.

**Autumn** No reports.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 90 records between 1954 and 2019, the majority on Tiree.*

**Autumn** One was at Balephuill Tiree on 14-15 Oct, 2 there on 16 and 1 still on 17 Oct. A very late bird was a Balephuill Tiree on 14-22 Nov [J. Bowler *et al*].

*After an Argyll record total of at least 37 birds in 2020 there were only three confirmed birds, all from Tiree, although another claim from Islay was not submitted.*



**Arctic Warbler** Tiree Sep 2021 (K. Gillon)

**ARCTIC WARBLER\*** *Phylloscopus borealis*

*No previous records. A scarce but regular autumn migrant from Fenno-Scandia to Scottish Northern Isles and east coast, however a vagrant to the West of Scotland.*

**Autumn** A 1cy was seen and photographed at Balinoe Tiree on 12 Sep [J. Bowler, K. Gillon]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. *This becomes the first record for Argyll.*

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**AMBER LIST A** *locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals of singles at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 23 Apr, at Clochkeil *Kintyre* on 24 Apr, at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and 4 at Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr, thereafter more widespread arrivals from 26 Apr – about four days later than 2020. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (9) and *Mull* (6).

**Summer/breeding** On *Islay* noted as widespread & present at RSPB Loch Gruinart, RSPB The Oa and 3 Ters at RSPB Ardnave. Numerous Ters across *Tiree* from 5 May. Few counts or breeding data received from elsewhere. First fledglings on *Tiree* noted from 18 Jul.

**Autumn** In *Mid-Argyll* 1-2 were at the Moine Mhor until late Aug. On *Tiree* 1-3 birds at several sites early Sep and the last singles at Balephuill and at Sorobaiddh Bay Creek on 11 Sep.

**BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

**A rare visitor: Two records; one at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 3 Jun 2008 and one at Balephuill, Tiree in Sep 2011.**

**Spring** A 2cy+ male was in song (recorded) at Totamore *Coll* on 31 May [G. Smith *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

**REED WARBLER\*** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**A rare visitor in spring and summer: Sixteen records; 14 from the islands (of which nine from Tiree) and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.**

**Autumn** One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



**Grasshopper Warbler** *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2021 (J. Dickson)



## **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

**RED LIST** *A summer visitor: breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.*

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals of 'reeling' birds at Kilchattan, Luing *Mid-Argyll* and Ardfarn *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, thereafter widespread arrivals across Argyll from 21 Apr – about four days later than 2020. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (19) and *Islay* (12). On *Colonsay* 8 Ters. On *Islay* 14 Ters at RSPB The Oa, 12 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 at RSPB Ardnave. On *Tiree* noted at 4 sites and 4 Ters at Balephuill. 'Reeling' heard until 6 Aug.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Jul and a few reports of singles from (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll*) until early Aug. On *Tiree* 1-3 birds remained around Balephuill until late Aug and last single there on 2 Sep.



**Blackcap** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Speirs)

## **BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

*A common summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Winter reports of singles at Dalintart, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb and at Appin *North Argyll* on 22 Feb. First arrivals of singles at Loch Loskin, Dunoon *Cowal* on 31 Mar, Inverreck *Cowal* on 6 Apr, Carradale *Kintyre* on 6 Apr and Ellary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr then more widespread after 12 Apr, with most arrivals noted around 17 Apr. Up to 6 singles at Balephuill *Tiree* during May.

**Summer/breeding** Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll*. Greatly under reported in *Cowal* and *Kintyre*. On *Colonsay* 10 Ters recorded and 10 in song at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from areas by month; Sep (8), Oct (9), Nov (5) and Dec (1). Max counts of at least 10 birds across *Tiree* on 15-16 Oct. In Nov singles from sites in *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

In Dec one was at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 1 Dec and a male was at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 26 Dec feeding on bird cherries.

### **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

**A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.**

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reports from sites in: Cowal (3), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (7), Mull (3), North Argyll (2) and Tiree (2). First arrival was at Largimore Cowal on 27 Apr then next singles at Ardnò Cowal and Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 2 May. Most arrivals after 11 May, several days later than 2020 and fewer reports received this year. No reports during Jul-Aug.

**Autumn** On Tiree 1-2 birds were at Balephuill on 5-13 Sep.

### **BARRED WARBLER\*** *Curruca nisoria*

**A rare passage migrant: 18 previous records: all have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.**

**Autumn** A 1cy was at Balephuill Tiree on 2-8 Sep [J. Bowler, J. Hunter, N. Wall] and another 1cy was at Balemartine Tiree on 6-12 Sep [K. Gillon, T. O'Connor, E. Forbes]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Curruca curruca*

**A rare/scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.**

**Spring/summer** No reports.

**Autumn** Singles, all Tiree, were at Balephuill on 30 Aug, 8-13 Sep and at Heylpol Church on 15 Oct.

### **‘SIBERIAN’ LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Curruca curruca blythi*

**Recently reinstated as a race and not currently assessed. DNA analysis can be used to separate from the Central Asian race *S. c. halimodendri*. One showing characteristics of this race was at Balephuill Tiree in Oct 2014, possibly two more on Tiree in Oct 2016 and one on Islay Nov-Dec 2017.**

**Autumn** One, photographed, was at Balephuill Tiree on 15-22 Oct and another was at The Glebe Tiree on 21-22 Oct [J. Bowler, J. Dickson, S. Gibson *et al*]. One was at photographed at Totamore Coll on 22 Oct [G. Smith].

### **‘CENTRAL ASIAN’ LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Curruca curruca halimodendri*

**No previous record of this small sandy coloured race from southern Kazakhstan, north-west China and south-west Mongolia.**

**Autumn** One seen well and photographed was at Balephuill Tiree on 21-22 Oct [J. Dickson, J. Bowler, S. Gibson]. Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

### **WHITETHROAT** *Curruca communis*

**AMBER LIST A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.**

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (Jura). First arrivals of singles at Craignure Bay Mull on 26 Apr, at Kilmartin Mid-Argyll on 27 Apr, at Machrihanish airbase Kintyre on 28 Apr and at Treshnish Point NW Mull on 28 Apr, then more widespread arrivals from early May – about 10 days later than 2020.

**Breeding/summer** Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (17), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Kintyre* (5), *Tiree* (5), *Coll* (4) and *Cowal* (3). On *Colonsay* 58 Ters recorded, with a further 1 on Oronsay. On *Islay* 24 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and a further 3 at RSPB Ardnave, also noted as present at RSPB The Oa. On *Tiree* males in song at 5 sites and confirmed nesting with fledglings at 1 site.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug and most birds had departed by early Sep. Last reports of singles at The Glebe *Tiree* on 15 Sep, at Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Sep and at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 28 Sep.

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

**A common resident breeding species: augmented by passage migrants.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds from sites and max counts of 4 together in Kilmichael Woodland *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb and (passage) of 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Singing birds noted from late Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas with counts of generally 1-2 birds. Max counts of 10 at Crarae Gardens *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Sep and 9 at Ardlachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* on 23 Nov. First migrants on *Tiree* with 2 at Balephuill on 8 Sep, max of 3 there on 17 Oct and last 1 at Vaul on 18 Oct. On *Coll* a max of 4 at Arinagour on 20 & 29 Oct.



**Wren** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (Linda Gibson)

### **WREN** *Trogloodytes troglodytes*

**AMBER LIST A common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters; additional birds winter on the islands.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Max count of 7 at Dalinlongart *Cowal* on 6 Jan. Birds singing from mid-Mar.

**Summer/breeding** In *Mid-Argyll* at BBS sites singing males in Jun with; 18 at Bellanoch on 2 Jun, 15 at Blarbuie, Kilmichael Forest on 1 Jun and 7 at Rhudle Mill on 18 May, also 14 Ters at Taynish NNR. On *Coll* at least 3 Ters at The Lodge, Arinagour on 11 May. On *Tiree* 31 Ters at 16 sites in May and first fledged b/5 on 23 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted at sites and a max of 8 at Ardhighlas nr Fionnphort *Mull* on 16 Oct.

## **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

***A rare but increasing visitor: currently spreading north and west in Scotland.***

**All year** Becoming more established and recorded in all months with most reports in spring. Reports from (Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll) and in the region of 150 prs.

*In 2021 the Argyll Bird Club carried out an Argyll wide survey. Participation was excellent with over 100 observers providing sightings; this is 2-3 times the participation in recent ABC species surveys. Records were received from 46 ten-km squares (of a total of 126 in Argyll) and 154 one-km squares. Nuthatches were found in 40 ten-km squares (109 one-km squares) and negative reports were received from 6 ten-km squares (45 one-km squares). Breeding was confirmed in 9 locations. A minimum of 112 territories were reported during the survey, however it is likely that the number of occupied in Argyll in 2021 was around 150 pairs. Link: [2021 Argyll Bird Club Nuthatch Survey Results – Argyll Bird Club](#)*



**Nuthatch** Cowal Apr 2021 (A. MacFarlane)

## **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

***A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.***

**Winter/spring** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in Colonsay (1), Cowal (2) Islay (1), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (5) and North Argyll (1). Max count of 4 at Blackmount, Loch Tulla North Argyll on 12 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Max reports of 4 Ters at Tainish NNR Mid-Argyll and 3 Ters in Skipness woodland Kintyre. A nest found in a totem pole at Kilmory Castle grounds Mid-Argyll on 21 Apr.



**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Cowal* (3) *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (2). Generally under recorded.



**Treecreeper** *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2021 (J. Dickson)

### **ROSY STARLING\*** *Pastor roseus*

**A rare summer and autumn visitor: More frequent in recent years.**

**Spring/summer** Seventeen reports totalling 19 birds (an Argyll record). All birds noted here as 2cy+/adult types and singles unless stated and sexed when known. A male was at Pennyghael *Mull* on 2 Jun [M. Graham], at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 2-5 Jun and a second there on 16 Jun [K. Lappin], 2 were at Kilbride Farm, Barbreck *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jun [T. Donachie], at Ruanaichan, *Iona Mull* on 9-13 Jun and another nearby at Machair golf course, *Iona Mull* on 12 Jun [R. Campling, D. Allan, J. & L. Coyle, S. Bowie *et al*], at Bunessan *Mull* on 12 Jun [T. Jefree], a fem was at Lochdon *Mull* on 14-15 Jun [J. & A. Preston *et al*], a fem was at Dalavich *Mid-Argyll* on 14-16 Jun [A. Watson, J. & F. Dickson], a fem was at Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Jun [K. Helm], at Barnhill *Jura* on 17 Jun [R. Fletcher], a male was at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 17 Jun [B.



Small & Naturetrek group], a male was at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 20-21 Jun [G. Turnbull, K. Labib], 2 (a pr) were photographed ‘in courtship’ in a garden at Conisby *Islay* on 24-30 Jun [G. & A. Chasemore], a fem was nr Miodar *Tiree* on 24 Jun [S. MacIntosh, M. MacIntyre] and again nearby at Caoles *Tiree* on 6 Jul [J. Bowler], on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Jun-2 Jul [A. Knight, A. Myers *et al.*], at Salen *Mull* on 2 Jul [F. Winspeare], and at Lossit Farm, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 17 Jul [M. MacDonald]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

*Previous high year totals of nine (2018) and eight (2020) birds - more than doubled this year.*



Rosy Starling *Mull* Jun 2021 (S. Hiscock)

## **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**RED LIST** *A common resident on: Coll, Islay, part of Kintyre, and Tiree, less common on most of the mainland. Flocks containing juveniles appear in many parts in late summer and numbers are boosted by immigration in winter from north-west Europe.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted in (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre/Islay/Tiree*) Several flocks of 500-1,500 birds across *Tiree* in Jan-Mar. Very few counts received from *Islay* and *Kintyre*. On *Coll* 160 at Breachacha on 4 Jan. Elsewhere, only six counts received of 50-100 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Early nesting noted at the Clydesdale bank building, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar. Nesting in trees at Skipness Glen *Kintyre* on 16 May. First fledged juvs at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May and on *Tiree* on 30 May, with mass synchronised fledging across *Tiree* on 31 May. Large flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun on *Islay* and *Tiree*.



**Starling** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted in (*Coll/Islay/Tiree*). Many flocks on *Tiree* of 500-1,200 and max counts there of 3,000 at Balevullin on 12 Sep and 1,600 at Heylipol on 14 Sep. Elsewhere, on the 'islands' 800 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 16 Aug, 700 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Nov, 640 at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 22 Sep and 500 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 25 Sep. Highest 'mainland' counts of 225 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov, 200 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 1 Aug and 180 at New Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov.

**RING OUZEL\*** *Turdus torquatus*

**RED LIST A** *summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required please.*

**Spring/summer** Singles were at Meal Mhor summit *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr, Lower Killeyan, The Oa *Islay* on 11 Apr, at Creag nam Fitheach, nr Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, at Port nan Gallan, The Oa *Islay* on 22 Apr, at Glen Astle, The Oa *Islay* on 16 May and at Loch Feorlin, nr Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 27 May.

**Autumn** Singles were at Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Oct, at Crossapol *Coll* on 20 Oct, at Arinagour *Coll* on 21 Oct, at Heylipol *Tiree* on 21 Oct, at Gatehouse *Jura* on 23 Oct, at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 25 Oct, at Port Ellen *Islay* on 25 Oct, at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26-27 Oct, at Meningie *Tiree* on 27 Oct, at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov and The Oa *Islay* on 3 Nov.

*More records than average in both spring and autumn.*

## **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

*A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally low counts of only 1-6 birds received. Max counts of 15 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan and 10 at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data. A fem on eggs at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar, first fledged birds noted at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 9 May and first fledged birds on *Tiree* from 31 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. An influx of low nos from 16 Oct onwards e.g. 6 with Redwing at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 16 Oct, 12 Port Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 30 Oct. Higher counts inc. 20 at Arinagour *Coll* on 27 Nov, 10 at Vaul *Tiree* on 22 Nov and 14 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 28 Dec.

## **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**RED LIST A** *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or passing through in spring.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Generally low nos. Higher counts of 35 at Stroneskar *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, 15 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 5 Feb and 35 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Mar which was also the last spring report.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). First arrivals; 9 at River Eachaig *Cowal* on 9 Oct and 100 at Garmony Point *Mull* on 12 Oct. Main arrivals from 1 Nov, with most counts of 30-90 birds. Max counts (of 200+) included; 550 at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Nov, 450 at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Nov, 400 at Lower Killeyan, The Oa *Islay* on 19 Nov, 300 at Glasdrum *North Argyll* on 12 Dec, 300 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 14 Nov, 250 on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* and 200 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov.



**Redwing** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

## **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**AMBER LIST** A *passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Generally widespread in low numbers of 1-12 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., 170 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 7 Apr, 150 at *Scarinish Tiree* on 12 Apr, 80 at *Achamore Coll* on 11 Apr, 55 at *Dalvore Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, 50 at *Castleton Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr and 30 at *Foreland Islay* on 30 Mar. Total counts around parts of *Tiree* inc., 650 on 3 Apr and 500 on 12 Apr. One in full song and many in sub-song at *Carnan Mor Tiree* on 13 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. A very early and unusual first report of 1 at *Kilchoman Islay* on 21 Aug that had come down a chimney and was then released. A more typical arrival was 1 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 6 Oct then first larger flocks noted from 13 Oct when 100 at *Dunstaffnage Bay Mid-Argyll*. Many smaller groups of 25-150 birds noted. Max counts of 1,000 at *Craighouse Jura* on 2 Nov, 800 over *Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov, 600 at *Kinnabus, The Oa Islay* on 30 Oct, 275 at *Loch Ba Mull* on 30 Oct, 220 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 16 Oct and 200 at *Barrananaoill Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct. Max total count around parts of *Tiree* of 800 on 21 Oct.



**Song Thrush** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (B. Anderson)

## **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

**AMBER LIST** A *widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. Max counts of 16 at *Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar (loose group feeding in a field), 8 at *Lossit House Kintyre* on 12 Jan and 8 at *Torrisdale Kintyre* on 24 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Birds in song from mid- Feb on sunny days. First nest noted on 1 Apr on *Tiree* where 30 Ters in May and first fledged birds there on 5 May, also fledged birds at *Luining Mid-*



*Argyll* on 5 May. A juv at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May had almost completed a full post-juv moult. A bird noted carrying food to a nest at Stionvar *Coll* on 1 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, just 1-2 birds noted at sites. Higher counts inc., 8 at Arinagour *Coll* on 22 Sep, 6 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov and 10 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 7 Nov. Birds behaving as migrants inc., 4 at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 11 Oct and a pale continental type at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 20 Oct.

### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**RED LIST A** *widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Generally, sightings of 1-4 birds however fewer reports received than usual. Most reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (13). One was at Balinoe *Tiree* on 25 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data reported. Fledged young noted inc., 4 juvs at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 22 May and a group of 7 juvs with 5 ads at Kirman, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-8 birds. Most reports from sites in *Islay* (16), *Mid-Argyll* (7) and *Mull* (6). Max counts of 34 at Ballygrant *Islay* on 8 Aug and 17 at Upper Ballywilline *Kintyre* on 11 Sep.



**Spotted Flycatcher** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (J. Dickson)

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**RED LIST A** *summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges. Regular passage migrant on the islands.*



**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas. First reports were singles at Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Apr, Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May and Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 May then more widespread reports from 12 May. Reports came from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Mull* (15), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (4). At least 7 at Carradale Estate woodlands *Kintyre* on 15 May.

**Breeding** Generally under reported. Birds likely found in most areas with suitable mature deciduous woodland. Fledged juvs noted during Jul.

**Autumn** Most local breeding birds had departed by mid-Aug. Migrants in Sep with 1 at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 16 Sep and 3 singles on *Tiree* where two late Oct reports of singles at The Glebe on 15 Oct and at Balephuill Farm on 20-22 Oct.

## **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants overwintering.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, only 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 8 at Succoth *Cowal* on 25 Mar and 5 at Benmore Gardens *Cowal* on 1 Jan

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. BBS count of 18 at Blairbuie, Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr. A pr bred at Balephuill *Tiree* with fledged birds noted on 25 May (first on *Tiree* since 2007). Fledged birds at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-4 birds. Max count of 11 at Beinn Buide, Glen Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct. Widespread across *Tiree* in Oct.



**Pied Flycatcher** *North Argyll* Jun 2021 (N. Hammatt)

**PIED FLYCATCHER\*** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**AMBER LIST A** *scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in the 1990s-2000s was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers have since declined; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes, with no confirmed breeding records in recent years. Rare but near-annual on passage on the islands, especially Tiree.*

**Spring/breeding** One was nr Millhouse Cowal on 6 May and 1 was at St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe North Argyll on 30 May-2 Jun.

**Autumn** Single 1cy birds on Tiree; at Balephuill on 30 Aug-2 Sep, at Balemartine on 8 Sep and at Vaul on 8-15 Sep. A 1cy was at Arinagour Coll on 16 Oct.

**BLACK REDSTART\*** *Phoenicurus ochuros*

**AMBER LIST A** *less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).*

**Spring/summer** Single fem/imm types were at Largiebaan Kintyre on 1 Jun, Traigh Bhi Tiree on 6-8 Jun and a male was in central Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 5 Jun.



**Redstart** Mid-Argyll Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

**AMBER LIST A** *summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.*

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reports from only (Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree). First reports were singles at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr, Ormidale Cowal on 21 Apr, Ardpatrik Cowal on 22 Apr and 4 in song at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 24 Apr. A migrant male was at Balephuill Tiree on 16 May. Most reports from; Cowal (2), Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (3)

and *North Argyll* (2). At least 6 Ters at *Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll* in May. A family group were at *Mheall Cottage, Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jun.

**Autumn** Only two autumn reports, a 1cy at *Balemartine Tiree* on 8 Sep with another/the same at *Balephuill Tiree* on 11-14 Sep.



**Whinchat** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**RED LIST** *A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). First arrivals were singles at Upper *Killeyan Islay* on 22 Apr, at *Kinnabus, The Oa Islay* on 23 Apr, at *Loch Don Mull* on 24 Apr, 2 at the *Moine Mhor NNR Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and 3 at *Machrihanish airbase Kintyre* on 25 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 27 Apr. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (8), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (24), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (1).

**Breeding** On *Colonsay* 2 Ters. On *Islay* 12 Ters at *RSPB Loch Gruinart* and 14 Ters at *RSPB The Oa*. In *Kintyre* 3 Ters at *Machrihanish airbase* and in *Mid-Argyll* 9-10 Ters at the *Moine Mhor* area. Fledged birds noted in *Mid-Argyll* from late Jun and 3 family groups at *Dalnahasaig, Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jul. No data from *Cowal*.

**Autumn** Reports decreased through Aug. Juvs still present at *Craigens, Gruinart Islay* on 8 Sep and last report of 1 at *Balinoe Tiree* on 12 Sep.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus*

*A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites and a max count of 8 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Mar. Prs returned to many areas during Feb-Mar.

**Summer/breeding** On *Colonsay* 29 Ters, also 2 Ters on *Oronsay*. On *Islay* 9 Ters at RSPB Ardnave, 8 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 16 Ters at RSPB The Oa. In *Kintyre* 8 Ters at Machrihanish airbase in May-Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* 10+ Ters at the Moine Mhor area. On *Tiree* 16 Ters at 16 sites. First fledged young on *Tiree* noted on 29 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-8 birds from numerous widespread sites and a max count of 10 at Crinan Ferry road *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug.



**Wheatear** *Tiree* Sep 2021 (J. Dickson)

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**AMBER LIST A** *common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First reports of singles at Kilninian *Mull* on 20 Mar, Saligo Bay *Islay* on 22 Mar and 2 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 29 Mar. Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) all on 31 Mar, followed by widespread and increased nos from 2 Apr. Max counts noted; 40+ at Quinish *Mull* on 4 May, 40 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 25 Apr, 30 at The Oa *Islay* on 2 Apr, 22 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May. (*migrants likely inc. Greenland type birds*).



**Summer/breeding** Widespread breeding, mainly on the islands, in low numbers. On *Islay* 28 Terns at RSPB The Oa and present at RSPB Ardnave and RSPB Loch Gruinart. No reports received from (*Cowal/Jura*). First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 24 Jun and more widespread there from 14 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Most reports from *Tiree* where a max total count of 50 on 10 Sep and *Islay* with 18 around the Loch Gorm area on 10 Sep. Passage birds noted widely between 10-17 Sep. Reports of singles from 6 sites across (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) in Oct and last report was 1 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 3 Nov.

**‘GREENLAND’ WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

**A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.**

**Spring** An obvious influx on *Tiree* from 25 Apr with ‘dozens’ noted around the island and a single count of 15 birds at Balephuill on 4 May. On *Coll* singles on 5 & 9 May. On Luing *Mid-Argyll* 16 on 5 May.

**Autumn** First birds noted on *Tiree* on 13 Aug when 6 were at Balephuill then 12 noted across the island on 23-24 Aug, 6 on 27 Sep and last single at Vaul on 4 Oct. On *Colonsay* 1 was at Ardskenish on 1 Sep and 4 were at Port na Luing *Coll* on 12 Sep.



**Dipper** *Mull* Nov 2021 (P. Walkden)

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.*

**Winter/spring** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (5) and *North Argyll* (3). *Under reported from most areas.*

**Breeding** Limited data. In *Kintyre*, ringing studies monitored 5 active nests around the Campbelltown area, with 9 chicks ringed from 3 nests. Fledged young noted at Benmore Gardens *Cowal* on 10 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (5) and *North Argyll* (3). *Under reported from most areas.*



**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

**RED LIST A** *resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Largest counts included 70 at Baugh *Tiree* on 1 Feb and 30-40 at Balephuill *Tiree* during Jan-Mar. Few counts from elsewhere and birds usually recorded as 'present'.

**Summer/breeding** First fledged birds noted at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. Max counts of 100 at Gialum Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Aug, 100 at Kildalton *Islay* on 20 Jul and 70 at Salum *Tiree* on 23 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Largest counts mainly on *Tiree* where up to 40 birds at several sites Sep-Dec. Elsewhere, the highest count received was 24 at Fennachrochan, N Lismore *North Argyll* on 11 Oct.



**House Sparrow** *Kintyre* Feb 2021 (J. Goudie)

**TREE SPARROW\*** *Passer montanus*

**RED LIST** *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding was recorded on Islay in 2009.*

**Spring** One was at feeders at Baugh *Tiree* on 10-13 May, 1 was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 15 May and 4 there on 17 May.

**Autumn** One was at Hynish *Tiree* on 15-16 Sep and 2 there on 17 Sep, 1 was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 21 Nov.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

**AMBER LIST A** *widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and does not breed on Tiree. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted. Most reports from (Coll/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull).

**Summer/breeding** Singing birds noted from early Mar. At least 2 prs noted on Tiree following first confirmed breeding there in 2020.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas, with most reports from (Coll/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/ Mull), generally of 1-4 birds.



**Dunnock** Mid-Argyll Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

**AMBER LIST** *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tiree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Tiree). Most reports from sites in; Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (7), Cowal (4) and North Argyll (4). Most reports were in; Apr (11) and May



**Grey Wagtail** *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2021 (J. Speirs)

(10). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds however 4 were at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 20 Apr and 4 at Achahoish *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May. *Fewer reports received than last year.*

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Prs noted mainly from (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). In *Kintyre*, ringing studies monitored 7 successful nests around the Campbeltown area. Fledged juvs noted in Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 21 May and at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 26 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (15), *Mid-Argyll* (17) and *Islay* (6). Most reports were in; Oct (18), Sep (13) and Nov (10). Generally, only 1-2 birds noted however 3 were at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Oct. On *Tiree* 1 was at Balephuill on 2 & 4 Sep.

### **PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

*A widespread and common breeder: absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive in late Feb to early Mar and depart Aug-Oct.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most reports from coastal areas in winter and increasing towards spring. Reports by month; Jan (9), Feb (9), Mar (17), Apr (20) and May (28). Max counts of 20 around *E Tiree* on 15 Mar and 20 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 20 Mar, 16 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar and 14 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 18 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged there noted on 14 Jun. Several family groups with fledged young between Barloisnoch and the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun. Recently fledged young at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 150 at Machrihanish SBO and nearby area *Kintyre* on 2 Oct, 45 at Traigh Ghrianaid *Tiree* on 17 Sep, 35 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Aug and 27 at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 9 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts of 1-25 birds.

### **'WHITE' WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

*A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring and extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.*



**Spring** Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals of 1 at Carrisdale *Kintyre* on 6 Mar, 3 at Craignure *Mull* on 2 Apr, 2 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 2 Apr, 2 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 3 Apr and 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr. Max counts inc., an impressive 180 at Craignure Bay *Mull* on 15 Apr then 16 across 2 sites on *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 20 at Crossapol *Coll* on 5 May and 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 May. Elsewhere counts of 1-4 birds.

**Autumn** Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First reports were of 3 at Kintra *Islay* on 23 Aug and 2 at Beinn Gott *Tiree* on 23 Aug. An influx from 29 Aug when 40 (mostly whites) were at Carnain *Islay* then max counts of 60 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 45 at Machrihanish links *Kintyre* on 19 Sep and 10 at Scallastle *Mull* on 10 Oct, which was also the last report of the year.



**Meadow Pipit** *Mid-Argyll* May 2021 (J. Dickson)

### **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**AMBER LIST** *An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low lying localities.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, only small nos during Jan increasing in late Feb. Max counts of; 300 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Apr, 100 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 28 Feb, 100 at Cornabus, The Oa *Islay* on 1 May and 70 at Lergychoniemore, nr Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-40 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Good numbers and widespread. Often the main host species of Common Cuckoo. Many birds on Ters from mid-Apr. Large numbers of active nests on *Tiree* during May with many fledglings noted from early Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Increase in numbers noted from early Jul with many flocks of 20-50 birds. Higher counts mainly on *Tiree* e.g. 90 at Hough Bay on 6 Sep and 600 across parts of *Tiree* on 9 Sep. Higher counts elsewhere inc., 70 at Ballinamoill, Mull of Kintyre

*Kintyre* on 20 Sep and 55 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 20 during in Nov-Dec.



**Tree Pipit** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

**RED LIST** *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

**Spring/summer/breeding** Reports from only (Cowal/*Mid-Argyll*/*Mull*/*North Argyll*). First reports of singles at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr, Glen Lean Cowal on 12 Apr and Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr. Most reports from (sites) in *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (8). Max site counts of 10 birds at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, 8 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 May and 7 at Rhudle, Drimvore BBS transect *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun.

**Autumn** Last reports of singles at Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 26 Aug and at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug.

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus petrosus*

*A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.*





**Rock Pipit** *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2021 (J. Speirs)

**Winter/spring** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 11 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Jan and 10 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-8 birds, however most reports of 1-2.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all coastal areas. Max counts of 50 at Machrihanish SBO and surrounding area *Kintyre* on 2 Oct, 26 at Torosay *Mull* on 20 Nov and 12 at Heanish *Tiree* on 3 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10 birds.

**‘SCANDINAVIAN’ ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

**A Rock Pipit – a Nordic & Russian sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll is still unclear. Only six accepted records of birds in spring plumage, assessed since 2011.**

A bird at Calgary *Mull* on 4 May was reported as a ‘Scandinavian race’ *littoralis* however no other details submitted.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

**An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather out with the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Cowal* (22), *Mull* (18) and *Mid-Argyll* (17). Max counts of 211 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Jan, 70 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb, 23 at Inverchapel *Cowal* on 22 Mar and 22 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 1 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-14 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (18) and *Mid-Argyll* (17). Max counts of 350 at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Nov, 240 at Leckuary, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Nov and 80 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-60 birds.



**Brambling** *Mid-Argyll* Nov 2021 (J. Dickson)

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers; there have been a few summer records.**

**Winter/spring** Only three reports of singles at; Tobar Beag *Mull* on 1 Jan, at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 27 Feb and at Risabus, The Oa *Islay* on 27 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Very good numbers reported across Argyll from all regions except (*Colonsay/North Argyll*). First arrivals noted; 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Oct and 1 on the Isle of Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Oct, then continued low nos until a notable influx from around 23 Oct into Nov with counts of 10 at Ballygrant *Islay* on 23 Oct, 60 at Upper Glen Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, 50 at Kildalton *Islay* on 24 Oct, 30 at Glen Striven *Cowal* on 31 Oct and 70 at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Nov. A fem at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Dec was unusually late date for the island.

*The highest counts in Argyll for many years and reflects exceptional numbers (many thousands) recorded in eastern UK and through Europe in autumn.*

**HAWFINCH\*** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**RED LIST** *A rare visitor: 45 records between 1953 and 2020.*

**Spring** Six singles reported. A fem was at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 18-19 Apr [J. Bennett, A. McConnell, D. Jardine], a male was at Sandbank *Cowal* on 23 Apr [A. Smith], a male was at Arinagour *Coll* on 24-25 Apr [A. Metcalfe, T. Beighton, G. Smith], 1 (unsexed) was at Lochgair *Mid-Argyll* on 28-29 Apr [J. & J. Sutton], a male was at Dervaig *Mull* on 30 Apr [L. Howard, S. Still] and 1 (unsexed) was at Kames *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jun [M. Reyner]. All records were accepted by the ABRC. *Another above average showing of records.*



**Bullfinch** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (J. Dickson)

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

**AMBER LIST A** *widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). No reports in Jan. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (8), *Cowal* (4) and *Kintyre* (4). Max counts of 8 N of Carradale *Kintyre* on 22 Feb and 6 S of Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb. Counts elsewhere of 1-4 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Tiree*). Most reports in; Oct (14) then Nov (9). Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (6) and *Mull* (6). Max counts of 7 at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 9 Nov, 6 at Keills *Islay* on 23 Nov and 6 at Craighouse *Jura* on 22 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH\*** *Erythrina erythrina*

*A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 32 records between 1989 and 2020, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

**Spring/summer** A 2cy male, occasionally in song, was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 & 5 Jun [J. Bowler].

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 & 11 Sep [J. Bowler] and another 1cy was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 30 Sep [D. Jardine]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

**GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

**RED LIST A** *locally common resident and partial migrant, decreasing nationally due to bird-feeder diseases, with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Counts of 1-5 birds at sites in; *Coll* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (2). A max count of 10 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr.



**Greenfinch** *Kintyre* May 2021 (J. Goudie)

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received. Four juvs noted at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* from 7 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Mull*). Counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (7). Max counts of 27 at Leckuary, Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Nov and 20 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 15 Oct.

**TWITE** *Linaria flavirostris*

**RED LIST A** *local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Few reports away from *Islay* and *Tiree* during Jan-Mar with birds generally returning elsewhere in Apr-May. All higher counts were on The Oa *Islay* where a peak of 122 on 8 Jan. Elsewhere, higher counts of 64 at Breachacha *Coll* on 15 Mar, 45 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 20 Jan and many scattered groups of up to 20 on the island. On *Mull* 50+ at Lunga, Treshnish Is. on 11 May. Counts of only 1-6 from ten sites on mainland *Argyll*.

**Summer/breeding** Prs noted and heard singing at sites in; (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) from Apr with most reports from island areas. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 23 Jun and scattered family flocks of 15-20 around the island in Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from *Islay* and *Tiree*. Most reports by month; Oct (23), Sep (18), Nov (16) and Dec (9). Max counts included; 350 across 2 sites (The Reef & Sandaig) on *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 260 at RSPB The Oa *Islay* on 29 Oct, 220 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 10 Oct. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 80 at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 21 Sep, 70 at Sorisdale *Coll* on 22 Sep, 50 at West Tarbert Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Sep, 30 on Iona



*Mull* on 23 Aug, 27 on Ben Buie *Mull* on 17 Aug, 22 at Loch Iliter, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec and 11 at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep.

**LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

**RED LIST A** *sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn with most reports from Colonsay, Islay and Kintyre.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (*Coll/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Generally absent Jan – Mar other than 86 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Jan and 2 at Aros *Mull* on 22 Jan. Returning birds noted on *Tiree* from 1 Apr then more widespread elsewhere through Apr. Max counts of 100 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 25 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of up to 15 birds.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, first fledged birds noted on *Tiree* from 23 Jun and at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* from 26 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (16), *Tiree* (9), *Colonsay* (8), *Mull* (7) and *Kintyre* (5). Most reports by month; Sep (28), Aug (17), Oct (10), Nov (5) and Dec (2). Max counts; 650 on W side of Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 350 at RSPB The Oa *Islay* on 9 Sep, 210 at The Reef *Tiree* on 28 Sep, 202 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Sep, 100 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep and 74 at Gigha Bay, *Gigha Kintyre* on 28 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-70 birds. Most birds had moved away from *Argyll* by Dec.



**Common Redpoll** *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2021 (I. Schneiderman)



## **COMMON REDPOLL** *Acanthis flammea*

**Includes Mealy Redpoll** *C. f. flammea* & **Greenland Redpoll** *C. f. rostrata* (latter now sometimes known as *North-western Redpoll*, which includes *islandica*). A scarce passage migrant: and irregular winter visitor. Mealy has bred on Tiree and also suspected of breeding on other islands.

**Winter/spring** First arrival of 4 at Balephuill/Loch an Eilein Tiree on 23 Apr. Reports from three other Tiree sites during Apr-Jun. One was photographed in an Oban garden *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. 'Greenland' *rostrata* types: 2 at Balinoe Tiree on 9 Jan, 1 at Mid Loch Fada Colonsay on 22 Apr and 1 at Kiloran Colonsay on 22 & 24 May.

**Summer/breeding** All reports from Tiree. At least 9 prs across 6 sites in May and 8 prs across 7 sites in Jun. Fledged birds noted from 15 Jun. Max count of 24 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor during Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Still 18 at Balephuill Tiree until 27 Oct.

'Greenland' *rostrata* types: 2 at Sorisdale Coll on 22 Sep, 4 at Balemartine Tiree on 30 Sep, 1 at Balephuill Tiree on 7 Oct, 3 on 22 Oct, 2 at Baugh on 11 Oct and a 'grey bird' at Balephuill on 20 & 23 Nov and another 1 at Balephuill on 13 Dec.

## **LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis cabaret*

**RED LIST A** locally common partial migrant, breeding locally: numbers fluctuate from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.

**Winter/spring** Reports from only (Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). No reports in Jan and only single reports in Feb & Mar both (*Mid-Argyll*). First single at Balephuill Tiree on 2 Apr then several reports across Argyll from 16 Apr, increasing into May. Unusually low counts of only 1-3 birds noted.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max count of 12 at Fionnphort Mull on 23 Jul. A single was with Goldfinches at Balephuill Tiree on 15 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 90 at Gallochoillie, Gigha Kintyre on 6 Oct, 40 at Bunnahabhainn Islay on 2 Dec, 35 at Ballyhaugh area Coll on 15 Aug, 20 at Scallastle Mull on 9 Oct and 12 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 15 Nov. Counts of 1-8 elsewhere. Most reports Sep-Nov and only two reports in Dec.

## **CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.

**All year** Reports by month; Jan-Mar (0), Apr (5), May (4), Jun (5), Jul (14), Aug (8), Sep (3), Oct (1), Nov (3) and Dec (1). Reports by region (sites); Colonsay (1), Islay (3), Kintyre (8), Mid-Argyll (17), Mull (4) and North Argyll (5). Max counts of 40 at Knapdale Forest Mid-Argyll on 27 Dec, 13 at Mid Loch Fada Colonsay on 22 Apr, 10 at Strachur Bay Cowal on 12 Sep and 8 at Bellanoch Mid-Argyll on 2 Jun.

**Breeding** No data received.

## **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

A widely distributed resident with recent breeding on Coll, Colonsay and sporadically on Tiree. Flocks occur in autumn.

**Winter/spring** No reports from (Colonsay). Only larger flocks noted during Jan then decreased in Feb and small counts thereafter. Max count of 70 at Port Righ Kintyre on 30 Jan, however most counts were of 10 or less. Most reports came from Mull. Up to 10 birds on Tiree in Jan-Feb then decreased. Fewer reports received than in previous years.



**Goldfinch and Siskin** *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2021 (S. Lawson)

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Bred on *Tiree* with fledged birds at Balephuill on 30 Jun and at Milton on 9 Jul, birds also seen at Balinoe in May, Caolas and Vault in Jun. First fledged birds at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* noted on 11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll*). Max counts of 266 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Sep, 110 at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Nov, 100+ at Glenegedale *Islay* on 1 Oct, 100 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 6 Sep and 100 at Glen Striven *Cowal* on 31 Oct. Many counts of up to 60 elsewhere mainly (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Birds still around in reasonable nos until year end.

### **SISKIN** *Spinus spinus*

**A locally common partial migrant: present in all areas apart from Coll and Tiree where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.**

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (13) and *Mull* (10). Generally lower counts than usual, with max of 20 at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and 20 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 May. On *Tiree* 1-4 at Balephuill in May-Jun. *Fewer reports received than in previous years.*

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. First juvs noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). A significant influx, as with Brambling and presumably of continental origin, from late Oct into early Nov. Max counts received; 300 at Calgary *Mull* on 28 Oct, 200 at Glen Striven *Cowal* on 31 Oct and 175 at

Gatehouse *Jura* on 2 Nov. On *Tiree* a max count of 25 at Balephuill on 14 Oct. At least 10 counts elsewhere of 20-50 birds, of which many remained until the year end.

**LAPLAND BUNTING\*** *Calcarius lapponicus*

**AMBER LIST** A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.

**Spring** Two were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Apr, 4 were at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 14 Apr, 1 was at The Reef *Tiree* on 22 Apr & 7 May.

**Autumn/winter** On *Tiree* singles were at Carnan Mor on 12 Sep, at Beinn Hough and at The Reef on 27 Sep, at Sandaig on 5 Oct and at The Reef on 1 Nov.



**Snow Bunting** *Kintyre* Sep 2021 (J. Goudie)

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

**RED LIST** Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter): along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.

**Winter/spring** Reports from sites in; *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (2). Max counts of 16 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 7 Feb, 13 at Cornabus, The Oa *Islay* on 10 Feb, 10 at Kilbride, Glen Feochan *Mid-Argyll*, also 6 nearby at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb, and 5 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 15 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-2 birds.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Islay* (12), *Kintyre* (1), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (10). First arrivals; 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Sep, 1 at Claddach and 2 at Kilchiaran both *Islay* on 1 Oct. Max counts of 9 at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 11 Nov, 7 at Ardnave *Islay* on 13 Oct, 7 at Machair Bay *Islay* on 5 Dec, 6 at Vaul *Tiree* on 10 Oct, 6 at Loch na Keal

*Mull* on 18 Dec and 6 at Coire Chaorach, Meall Tarsuinn *North Argyll* on 19 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5 birds.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**RED LIST A** *localised resident which is absent from Coll and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from sites in; *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *North Argyll* (1) and *Mull* (4). Max counts of 6 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, 5 at Lily Loch *Islay* on 11 Apr, 4 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr and 4 at Carsaig Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds.

**Summer/breeding** No specific reports of breeding and only four reports of singles in May-Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from sites in; *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Mull* (2). Max counts of 10-15 at Danna Island *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct and 8 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, also 4 there on 9 Dec. Elsewhere, reports of singles.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**AMBER LIST A** *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather out-with the breeding season.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas and generally widespread with mostly 1-6 birds at sites. Max counts of 15 at Clachan *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 8 at Gott tip *Tiree* on 12 Jan and 8 at Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Seen in pairs during Mar. On *Islay* 46 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 25 scattered prs noted across the island. First fledged juvs on *Tiree* from 16 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas and generally widespread in small nos of 1-8 birds at sites. Max counts of 12 at Carnduncan *Islay* on 10 Oct, 12 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct and 10 at Mannal *Tiree* on 15 Dec.

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK\*** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

*A vagrant from North America. No previous Argyll records*

**Autumn** A 1cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 30 Sep [J. Bowler, J. Dickson, S. Gibson, D. Jardine]. Initially glimpsed fleetingly in flight just after 9 am, this bird then gave good views while on power wires for a few minutes, it then became very elusive, only seen again briefly around 1.30 pm at Main Road Farm, Balephuill. Record was accepted by the BBRC. *This becomes a new species for Argyll.*

## Escapes and Introductions

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E. Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin Duck, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

### **MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*

**Category E.** *Probably widespread in Argyll as farmyard birds, but often survive independently, but under-recorded.*

**Spring** One was at Loch Loskin Cowal on 16 Feb to 20 Apr at least.

## *List of Rejected Records, Pending Records and Records for which Details are Still Awaited*

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

**The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been found ‘not proven’ since the publication of ABR 32.**

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	08.09.20	BBRC
Hobby	<i>Mull</i>	02.05.21	ABRC
Honey-buzzard	<i>Kintyre</i>	29.04.21	ABRC
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Kintyre</i>	24.04.21	ABRC

Most records are found ‘not proven’ not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

**Details of the following claimed 2021 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.**

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Yellow Wagtail	Bridgend Merse	<i>Islay</i>	28.10.21
Yellow-browed Warbler	Gruinart Woods	<i>Islay</i>	29.10.21



## Getting Involved

**Argyll Bird Club** The ABC is a registered charity with membership open to all. The club aims to promote an interest in birds in Argyll. We are a friendly club for anybody interested in wild birds, living in, or visiting, Argyll, irrespective of their level of knowledge, experience or skill. Visitors are more than welcome to our two annual indoor meetings which are all-day events held on a Saturday in spring and autumn. The club produces a quarterly magazine, '*The Eider*' and also has a website with sections on 'Recent Sightings' with photographs, News with details of upcoming meetings and trips, 'Publications' and 'Surveys'. Volunteers are always welcome to help with committee matters, bird recording and the website and to contribute to *The Eider*.

**Scottish Ornithologists Club** The SOC exists to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds and their habitats across Scotland and is a birdwatching club with 15 local branches across the country and a growing membership of over 3,000. Like-minded individuals with a passion for birds, nature and conservation are brought together through a programme of talks, outings, conferences and via the Club's quarterly members' journal, *Scottish Birds*. The SOC acts as the umbrella organisation for bird recording in Scotland, managing the network of recording birds in Scotland, or the Local Recorders' Network and the Scottish Birds Records Committee, the latter of which maintains the official Scottish List on behalf of the Club. The database of information Local Recorders collect is an extremely important archive of local bird information – a critical tool for their future conservation.

**British Trust for Ornithology** Through the efforts of volunteers participating in BTO surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment. Volunteer surveyors, members and staff work in partnership to provide unbiased information about birds and their habitats.

In Argyll we have many volunteers who participate in the following surveys and you can get involved by contacting the bird recorder or any of the BTO representatives given on page 2:

**BirdTrack** is an exciting project, through a partnership between the BTO, the RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society, that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. BirdTrack provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these to support species conservation at local, regional, national, and international scales.

**Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)** is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important indicator of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

**The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)** monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to all those (several hundred) individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack & WeBS, the Argyll recording system or to the Argyll bird recorders directly. Also, to the various organisations including, the BTO, Forestry & Land Scotland, NatureScot, the RSPB, Scottish Canals, Scottish raptor monitoring schemes and Argyll Raptor Study Group, the SOC, the Treshnish Isles Auk ringing group and the Heart of Argyll Wildlife Group.

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who placed records onto the Argyll bird database; Morag Rea for (Machrihanish SBO reports from Eddie Maguire, Jo Goudie & David Millward and also the Tiree reports from John Bowler), Dorothy and Peter Hogbin for (Mullbirds records from Alan Spellman, then from Ewan Miles) and Peter Roberts for (Ian Brooke's Islay birds blog and then the Islay Whatsapp group reports). Also many thanks to; John Bowler (for Tiree reports and kindly checking Tiree and Coll data and the species text of this bird report), David Jardine (for Argyll Raptor Study Group and Colonsay reports inc Chough data and also kindly checking the text of this bird report), Eric Bignal (for Islay Chough data), Neil Brown (for Kintyre owl project data and Kintyre ringing study data inc. other raptors, Dipper, Grey Wagtail & Sand Martin) and Nigel Scriven & Rab Morton (for Sanda Isles data).

Many thanks also to Malcolm Chattwood who ably manages the bird database putting all the above records which come in various formats together as well as survey data requests, also to the Argyll BTO representatives John Bowler, Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven & David Wood, to the Argyll Bird Club committee for their valuable support, to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2021 comprised, John Bowler, Jim Dickson, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson, and also to the SBRC & BBRC for their work and feedback on Argyll records.

The following folk kindly gave permission for their photographs to be used and greatly enrich this report; Bill Anderson, Tim Beighton, John Bowler, John Boyd, Steve Carter, Linda Gibson, Keith Gillon, Jo Goudie, Neil Hammatt, Stephen Hiscock, David Jardine, Niall Keogh, Stephen Lawson, James Lehmann, Jo Marie, Andrew MacFarlane, Bob McMillan, Stuart Merchant, Jane Metcalfe, Ewan Miles, Chris Mills, Mike Murphy, Alasdair Paterson, Anand Prasad, Ivy Schneiderman, Brian Small, John Speirs, Gary Turnbull, Pete Walkden.

**Argyll Bird Club**  
Scottish Charity Number SC050823

Founded in 1985, the Argyll Bird Club aims to promote interest in and conservation of Argyll's wild birds and their natural environment. The rich diversity of habitats in the county supports an exceptional variety of bird life. Many sites in Argyll are of international importance. The Club brings together people with varied experience, from complete beginners to experts, and from all walks of life. New members are particularly welcome.

**Activities**

Every spring and autumn there is a one-day meeting with illustrated talks and other activities. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations. Throughout the year there are field trips to local and more distant sites of interest.

**Publications**

The annual journal of the Club is the *Argyll Bird Report*, containing the Systematic List of all species recorded in the county during the year, together with reports and articles. The less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Eider*, gives details of forthcoming events and activities, reports of recent meetings, bird sightings, field trips, articles, and shorter items by members and others.

**Website**

[www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)



**Grey Wagtail** (Stephen Carter)

# ARGYLL BIRD CLUB Membership Application Form

[www.argyllbirdclub.org](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org)  
Scottish Charity number SC050823



To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary  
Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XN

Tel: 01499 500665 e-mail: [membership@argyllbirdclub.org](mailto:membership@argyllbirdclub.org)

I/we wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by bank transfer to Argyll Bird Club

Sort code 80-22-60 account number 21843268

or by cheque payable to Argyll Bird Club and post to the above address

or by standing order – please complete the form and return to the Membership Secretary

**Annual subscription** (please tick box)

<b>Ordinary</b>	£10	[    ]
<b>Junior</b> (25 and under)	free	
<b>Family</b>	£15	[    ]
<b>Corporate</b>	£25	[    ]

# **Main Argyll Birdwatching Sites**

*Listed under the ten regions of Argyll (see map, next page)*

**COLL** 1.Tottronald RSPB Reserve

**TIREE** 2.Balephetrish Bay 3.Balephuill & Carnan Mor 4.Gott Bay 5.Loch a' Phuill 6.Loch an Eilein 7.Loch Bhasapol 8.Sorobaidh Bay 9.Traigh Bhagh/The Reef

**COLONSAY** 10.Colonsay House Woodlands 11.Loch Fada (East, Middle & West) 12.Oronsay 13.The Strand & Garvard

**COWAL** 14.Benmore Gardens 15.Holy Loch & Dunoon coast 16.Loch Eck & Glenbranter Forest 17.Loch Long, Strone Point to Ardentinnny 18.Otter Ferry & Loch Fyne 19.Tighnabruaich, Kames & Kyles of Bute

**ISLAY** 20.Ardnave Loch & Point 21.Bridgend Woods & Loch Skerrols 22.Frenchman's Rocks 23.Loch Gorm 24.Loch Gruinart 26.Machir Bay 27.The Oa peninsula

**JURA** 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

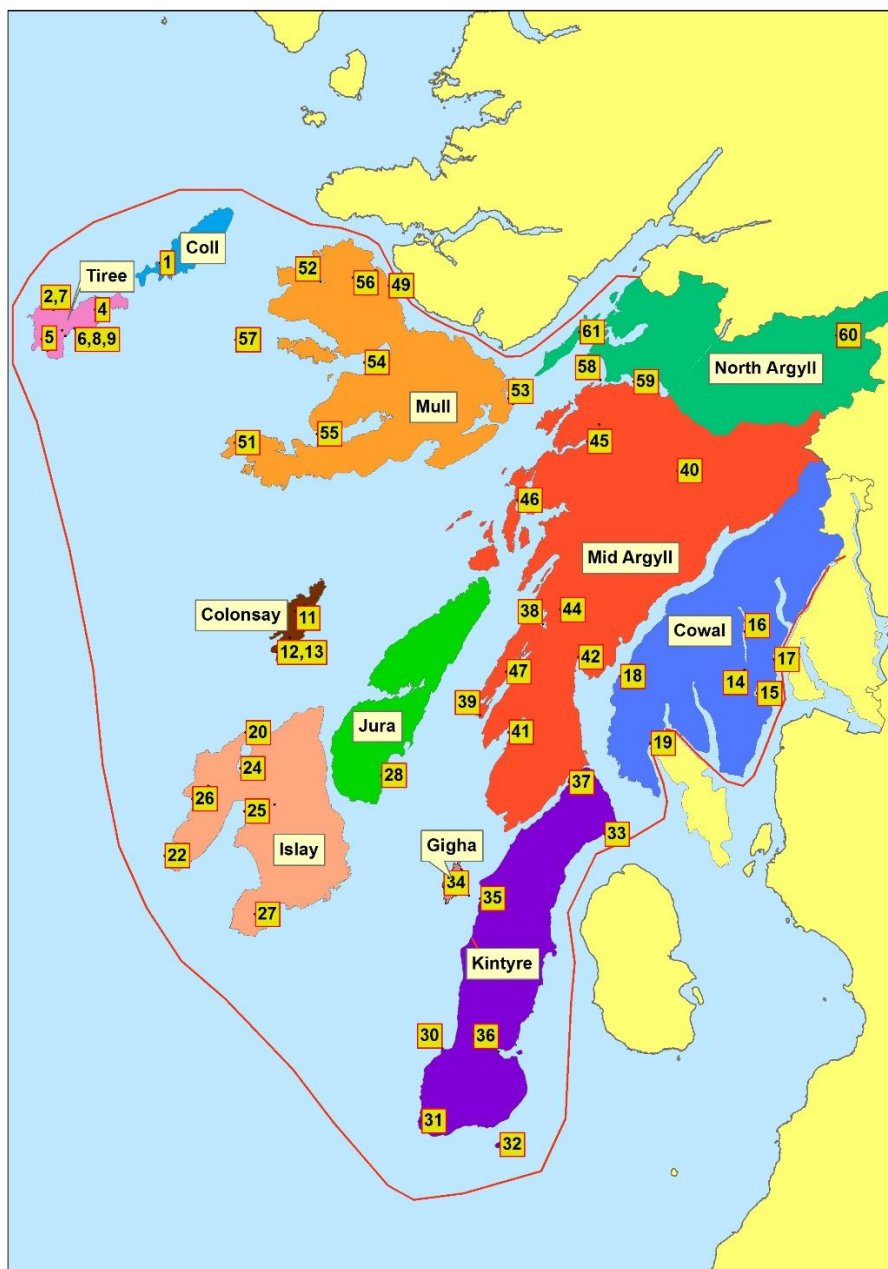
**KINTYRE & GIGHA** 29.Campbeltown Loch 30.Machrihanish SBO (Seabird Observatory) 31.Mull of Kintyre 32.Sanda Islands 33.Skipness & Bay 34.Sound of Gigha 35.Tayinloan & Rhunahaorine Point 36.The Laggan 37.West Loch Tarbert

**MID-ARGYLL** 38.Add Estuary & Loch Crinan 39.Loch Sween, Danna & Ulva Lagoons 40.Loch Awe 41.Loch Caolisport 42.Loch Gilp 43.Loch Nell 44.Moine Mhor NNR (National Nature Reserve) 45.Loch Feochan 46.Seil Island & Isle of Luing 47.Taynish NNR

**MULL** 48.Aros Park & Tobermory 49.Calgary & Treshnish 50.Grasspoint 51.Iona 52.Loch a' Chumbahainn ('Loch Cuin') 53.Loch Don 54.Loch na Keal 55.Loch Scridain 56.Mishnish Lochs 57.Treshnish Isles

**NORTHARGYLL** 58.Ledaig Point & Ardmucknish Bay 59.Loch Etive 60.Loch Tulla 61.Lismore 62.Loch Creran & Loch Laich





*Ten regions of Argyll and main birdwatching sites*