

The *Eider* is the quarterly newsletter of the Argyll Bird Club (<http://www.argyllbirdclub.org>)

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The Eider



A male Blackcap photographed on 13 February in Oban. Increasing numbers of Blackcaps are now over-wintering in Britain ©Stephen Lawson

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Editorial

At long last it's beginning to feel like spring! Yesterday was the first time I've been able to sit outside in the garden with a cup of coffee and feel the warmth of the sun on my back. Our Snowdrops are in full bloom and the Daffodil flowers are just starting to show yellow. Our garden birds were making the most of it too, and a chorus of song was a pleasure to hear. An earlier walk in the forest with our dog had produced my first records of the year for both Goldcrest and Tree Creeper in full song. The

drumming of a male Great Spotted Woodpecker and a Tawny Owl still hooting were added bonuses. Our local Tawny Owls have been very vocal this spring—perhaps indicative of a good food supply (small mammals) and an early start to breeding. Crossbills were busy feeding on seed from an abundance of Sitka Spruce cones, and one of the scarlet males occasionally burst into song from the very tip of a spruce tree. Blue sky, green tree and red bird—what a lovely combination of colours!

Field trips have been well attended over the winter, with nearly the maximum number on both the December and January trips. It's important to stress the need to stay together with the leader during field trips as, if folk peel off on their own it's not always clear what's happened. On the next page you can see details of four spring field trips. These are all to places where we have organised outings in the past. If you have any suggestions for new venues for trips, please get in touch with our chairman or David Jardine.

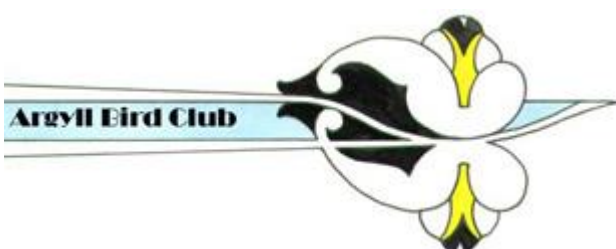
After a bumper edition of the *Eider* in December, contributions to this issue have been hard to come by, resulting in a much smaller newsletter. The success of the *Eider* really depends on members sending in their articles and photographs. Please get in touch if you have an idea for an article, but are not sure if it would be suitable for the *Eider*.

David Jardine has kindly extracted some recent ringing recoveries in Argyll from BTO data (pages 10-12), which are really worth looking at. There are some amazing longevity and movement records. For example, a 33+ year old Manx Shearwater, ringed as an adult on Sanda, was recovered (long dead) in Brazil, a movement of nearly 10,000km, and longevity records for Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin of 29, 23 and 27 years respectively, which all go to show the value of ringing birds.

We hope to see many of you at the ABC's spring meeting at Cairnbaan Hotel on 4 March (programme on page4).

Acknowledgements

Very many thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue—John Aitchison, Malcolm Chattwood, Jim Dickson, Peter & Dorothy Hogbin (photocopying & dispatching the newsletter), David Jardine, Stephen Lawson, Alistair McGregor, Linda Petty (proof reading), Nigel Scriven, and the late Margaret Staley.



Club News

FIELD TRIPS 2023

The number of people on field trips is limited to a maximum of 15. Therefore, it is essential that you contact the leader of a trip beforehand to make sure a place is available, and to receive up-to-date rendezvous details.

If there is a chance that adverse weather might lead to the cancellation of a field trip, please check the club's website or contact the organiser the night before or prior to setting off. Please wear suitable footwear and bring waterproof clothing if rain is forecast.

There will be a risk assessment and safety briefing at the start of each field trip. Trip leaders will keep a record of folk attending each trip.

Saturday 25 March. Bute. Led by Ian Hopkins (e-mail hopkins0079@btinternet.com—mobile phone 07702 123170) and possibly Ron Forrester and Dougie Menzies. Please let Ian know by 10 March if you aim to go on this trip, to check that places are available. Meet Steve Petty at the Colintrave Ferry at 10.00hrs. We aim to share cars to take the minimum number over on the 10.30hrs ferry. Ian will meet us off the ferry on Bute. Please bring a packed lunch. The trip will include several short walks (each 300m maximum) on level ground.

Sunday 30 April. Campbeltown and Machrihanish. Led by Nigel Scriven (phone 01515 706652; e-mail njscriven@gmail.com). Meet Nigel in Campbeltown, at the end of the Old Quay by 'Tea on the Quay Café' opposite the Royal Hotel at 11.00hrs. Car parking is on the quay or along the road towards the Calmac Ferry Terminal. After visiting good birding spots around the town and further east, the group will head for Machrihanish. The trip will involve several short, level walks, each less than 500m. Please bring your own lunch.

Saturday 27 May. Toward and south Loch Striven. Led by Alistair McGregor (e-mail alistairmcgregor16@outlook.com, mobile phone 07754524240). Please contact Alistair if you want to go on this trip, to make sure there are places available and to receive rendezvous details. There will be three short walks of about 1km each along a mix of shore and track, suitable foot-wear is advised. Please bring your own packed lunch.

Saturday, 24 June. A walk on the Island of Kerrera. This will involve a 6-7km walk on tracks around the northern end of Kerrera leaving from the ferry terminal at Gallanach, south of Oban. Please let David Jardine (dcjardine@btinternet.com) know if you are interested in attending. He will send out details in the week before the outing.

Weekend outing to Iona. David Jardine is considering leading an ABC outing for a small group to Iona over the weekend (provisionally 1-3 September). In order to book accommodation he needs firm expressions of interest by 31 March. The intention would be to travel across Mull using the bus, thus saving on ferry tickets for cars (and also parking in Fhionnfort). Vehicles are excluded from Iona, so this will be walking trip. Please contact David (dcjardine@btinternet.com) if you wish to reserve a place.

INDOOR MEETINGS 2023

Spring Meeting. Saturday 4 March. The meeting will be held at the Cairnbaan Hotel (www.cairnbaan.com), near Lochgilphead (phone 01546 603668). Lunches will be available in the hotel. The programme for the meeting is provided on the next page.

Autumn Meeting. Saturday 4 November. The meeting will be held at the Cairnbaan Hotel (www.cairnbaan.com), near Lochgilphead (phone 01546 603668). Lunches will be available in the hotel. The programme for the meeting will be sent by e-mail to club members just prior to the meeting.

Raffle Prizes. Donations of raffle prizes for indoor meetings are always welcome.

ARGYLL BIRD RECORDER

We are still looking for someone to fill the above post. Further details of the post were given in the December *Eider* 2021 (pages 3-4). Please contact Jim Dickson if the post appeals to you.

THANK YOU FOR PAYING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

There was a big change needed when the club replaced its old bank account with a new one when it became a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Please see details about this change of status in the December 2022 *Eider*, page 4. It needed new instructions to be given to your bank if you previously paid by standing order. Most of our members have now successfully paid the subscription for 2023.

We will send out reminders when your subscription is next due and, of course, we are happy to accept payment by direct debit, standing order, bank transfer or even cash! If you have any questions about the changes, do get in touch. Peter Hogbin, Treasurer

FUNDING FOR BIRD CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN ARGYLL

The ABC is willing to fund or part-fund worthwhile bird conservation projects in Argyll. For example, help was given towards the costs of field work for the recent Seabird Monitoring Programme (seabird counts 2015-2019). The club has also helped to fund the provision of nest boxes for Grey Wagtails and Dippers in Kintyre (see article in the June 2021 *Eider*, page 12).

More recently, the club has bought ten Swift nest

boxes, all of which have now been given a home. We can have more boxes made if anyone has a site in mind. If you know of a suitable building, please contact David Jardine (contact details on back page). Applications for funding other projects should be submitted to the secretary (contact details on the back page).

ARGYLL BIRD REPORT 33 (2021)

ABC members can download the latest *ABR* 33 (2021) from:

<https://argyllbirdclub.org/annual-bird-report-download/>

The report can only be accessed by members of the ABC by using a password that has been sent to each member by e-mail. If you are not a member of the club, please consider joining (details on back page).

The club is hoping to publish the next *ABR* (number 34 for 2022) in spring 2023.

Programme for the ABC's Spring Meeting, 2023 Saturday 4 March at the Cairnbaan Hotel, near Lochgilphead

Time	Session
0930	Doors open, coffee and tea
1000-1010	Welcome and introduction— <i>Nigel Scriven</i> , Chairman of the Argyll Bird Club
1010-1030	VSAS Seabird Monitoring Project— <i>Nigel Scriven</i> , Chairman of the Argyll Bird Club
1030-1100	Wildlife plans for the Holy Loch: Two points of view— <i>Neil Hammatt & Alistair McGregor</i>
1100-1130	Coffee/tea
1130-1200	Birding experiences in Argyll— <i>David Palmar</i>
1200-1230	Learning about bees in Argyll— <i>David Jardine</i>
1230-1400	Lunch—available in the hotel
1400-1430	Birds and planning in Argyll— <i>Andy Robinson, RSPB</i>
1430-1500	ABC project conservation plan discussion— <i>Club Members</i>
1500-1530	Tea/coffee
1530-1600	Woodcock Survey and BTO update— <i>Nigel Scriven</i>
1600-1615	Raffle and closing remarks

Non-members are welcome (entrance fee £5)



Oystercatchers and Common Gulls at Holy Loch, Cowal ©Steve Petty

ABC field trip to Loch Gilp and the Add Estuary on 28 January



Members enjoying the winter sunshine ©Jim Dickson

Our group of 14 club members assembled at the Corran Car Park, Lochgilphead—a good turn-out considering three last minute cancellations and was likely helped by the sunny and dry, albeit chilly weather. New club member Mike Murray, had arrived early and already clocked up a group of three Goosanders on the river. We hung around the car park area expecting one further trip enlisted member to appear. However, after a no show we moved along to the Lochgilphead front green.

Usually in mid-winter the head of Loch Gilp has good numbers of gulls, ducks and waders but recently many fewer have been seen, perhaps due to milder winters, or perhaps more disturbance from the now regular hunting spectacle of White-tailed Eagles trying to catch these gulls and ducks!

Looking south into the bright sunshine didn't help us much to pick things out, and trying to explain how to identify birds from their silhouette is rather tricky. Nevertheless, we did

enjoy a bit of welcome sunshine! We totted up a few species, including Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Redshank, Curlew as well as the usual corvid and gull species. The now regular Little Egret had decided to vacate its usual sites and the recent (seen previous day) Kingfisher was not seen—both a bit disappointing.

Our next location was to look out over the mouth of Loch Gilp, and then go a bit further south on foot, to look out over Loch Fyne. First, we congregated at the Scottish Canals Egg Shed Car Park, the site of an easily watched Common Gull colony, which of course don't start nesting until April. Viewing the loch, we saw a Red-throated Diver, some Red-breasted Mergansers, Shags and good numbers of gulls and Ravens flying above at the distant Lingerton Refuse Dump.

Looking out over nice calm waters of Loch Fyne towards Otter Ferry and further south down the loch several divers could be seen far out, but for ease of viewing and simpler identifica-



Fieldfares and Starlings ©Jim Dickson

tion, we concentrated on Red-throated Divers, which were closer in, and not the other likely species further out! Also on the loch were a few Eiders and at least one Black Guillemot, numerous Shags, and distant gulls. On the shore were single Pied and Grey Wagtails and a Rock Pipit. Conversing with a knowledgeable birdwatcher who was enjoying the sunshine at this spot, he told me that there had been a Black Redstart at this very spot between the shore and harbour wall area between Christmas and New Year—a good bird for our Argyll records!

Next stop was Dunadd Hill Fort that provided plenty of room for car parking. Rather than climb the hill we walked around the south side and scanned the great moss and fields of the southern Moine Mhor NNR. A thrush flock containing 80+ Fieldfares and smaller numbers of Redwings was busy searching for earthworms along with a few Starlings, Jackdaws, Rooks and Hooded Crows. We sat down for our picnic lunches, during which time we added Mistle Thrush with a group of six feeding in a field, then a Buzzard and a Stonechat and shortly after—our first Wren. Surprisingly, very few passerines were on show, and despite the ideal conditions, generally most areas seemed to lack birds!

We drove in a very spread out convoy of four cars via Drimvore, across the Moine Mhor towards Crinan Ferry, with one group of folk having a lucky encounter with a female Hen Harrier, while my car entourage had to make do with fleeting glimpses of its prey item—Meadow Pipit.

At Crinan Ferry Car Park we scanned across the mud of the Add Estuary and then walked down to the pier, first looking out and over Loch Crinan, noting our only Goldeneye of the day. From the pier area, several Little Grebes were seen actively feeding, a good number of the regular four wintering gull species seen and some Mallards, Teal and Wigeon, but generally little else, until the relative highlight of a single Greenshank making an appearance. The garden areas of Crinan Ferry provided us with three tit species on feeders as well as Goldfinch.

Some of the trip participants needed to leave at this stage and take

the road north for home, while others continued round to the Islandadd Bridge where the now resident large flock of Feral Pigeons can be found, and one car group were lucky to encounter a Kestrel—a species that is by no means common nowadays. With the trip now coming to a satisfactory end, the remaining folk then returned to their cars parked in Lochgilphead and headed for home. After the trip had officially finished, the Loch Gilp Little Egret cheekily decided to turn up!

Species list (53 species). Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Eider, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander, Red-throated Diver, Shag, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Little Grebe, Buzzard, Kestrel, Hen Harrier, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black Guillemot, Collared Dove, Feral Pigeon, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Carrion Crow, Raven, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Starling, Wren, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Fieldfare, Robin, Stonechat, House Sparrow, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Chaffinch, Goldfinch

Jim Dickson



Grey Wagtail (above) and Wigeon (below)—two species seen during the trip ©Jim Dickson

ABC field trip to Loch Laich on 3 December 2022



The party looking out over the mouth of Loch Laich and Castle Stalker ©David Jardine

A group of 15 members met at the Appin Hall Car Park on a still, overcast day—a rather good one for the time of year. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling and then seen by Frank in the woodland, and four Whooper Swans flying east were good additions to the list—even before the safety briefing took place!

Making their way down to the cycleway, on the old railway track, provided easy walking for the whole trip. The group soon found a small party of Siskins feeding in the trackside Alders. Hidden amongst them was at least one Lesser Redpoll and a few Chaffinches. Also here were a few Redwings, with their distinctive 'seep' calls, and a small party of Long-tailed Tits. The list for the day grew gently as the group walked along through the fields. Where had all the geese, which are usually there, gone?

However, once the first view of the shore was gained, the notebook was working hard, with many species being picked out and identified. The birds were distant as the tide was still reasonably low, but it was rising, allowing the views to improve as the day went on. Almost the first bird seen there was a Little Egret, one of 3-4 which now winter in North Argyll.

There was a good selection of waders present with three Greenshank amongst the 26 Redshank, both good counts for the site. Along with the Oystercatchers and Curlews five Bar-

tailed Godwits were found, with good views of their upturned bills seen through the 'scopes. There were plenty of ducks out on Loch Laich—a few distant Goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers, along with Mallard and 94 Wigeon (an excellent count for the site) along the shore. Strangely there were no Teal present.

In order to let the tide rise further, the party walked along to the old Appin Railway Station to get better views out to sea. However, before getting there, excellent views were gained of at least four Yellowhammers (a new species for some), along with Greenfinch and a Bullfinch by the old railway platforms. Out to sea, Rob picked out a Great Northern Diver, a Black Guillemot and eight Little Grebes, and using his 'scope he found a Mistle Thrush perched on a tree on the island by Castle Stalker. A small group of Greylag Geese flew in, and we had glimpses of a Jay as it returned from the Knapp to the hillside.

After a short stop for lunch the group returned to Jubilee Bridge to get better views of the waders as they were pushed closer to the shore by the rising tide. Seven Dunlin, which were invisible earlier in the expansive mudflats at low tide, now allowed good views as they fed at the water's edge. A young Cormorant fed in the shallow water before roosting on the shore, and Andrew picked out the first, and only, raptor of the (windless) day—a Buzzard. A Meadow Pipit, which landed on the handrail of the bridge, was welcomed as the 50th species of the trip and even-



tually a party of Canada Geese was found in the fields as the group made its way back to the start point, having enjoyed a great day's winter birding.

Species list (53 species). Canada Goose, Greylag, Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Mallard, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Feral Pigeon, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Redshank, Greenshank, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Great Black-

backed Gull, Herring Gull, Black Guillemot, Great Northern Diver, Cormorant, Shag, heron, Little Egret, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Hooded Crow, Raven, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Starling, Black-bird, Redwing, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Robin, Stonechat, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Goldfinch, Siskin, Yellowhammer

David Jardine

John Aitchison's Zoom talk on 8 December

John began his talk with an image of a photographer on ice and the bow of a ship. It was a hero of John's and a pioneer of his trade, Frank Hurley, the cameraman on Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914, working with primitive equipment by today's standards, in such an extreme environment (photo on next page).

His next image was of Richard and Cherry Kearton photographing a nest in the 1890s, using a tripod with extended legs so that Cherry could stand on Richard's shoulders to see

through the camera (photo on next page). This was followed by their stuffed cow bird hide, in which Richard passed out from the heat.

Nowadays things are very different using modern hides, cars and boats, and John went on to share a selection of his experiences across the globe, working with local scientists and local people, to give us stories and images from behind and between the scenes.

In filming for Frozen Planet Series 1, he was able to visit a hut of Captain Scott's in Antarctica. After the mandatory survival training he set



Left photo. Frank Hurley, the cameraman on Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914.



Right photo. Richard and Cherry Kearton photographing a nest in the 1890s.

off to film Emperor Penguins. Upon landing on the ice shelf, the penguins came to visit, and followed the crew everywhere. To avoid getting lost in poor visibility, red flags marked the trail, but the penguins would peck at them, making them fall over and become invisible.

On Akutan Island in the eastern Aleutian Islands chain off Alaska, John went to film the largest gathering of seabirds in the world, Short-tailed Shearwaters, attracted by the huge concentration of krill that also attracts the Hump-backed Whales found there. Further north from there, in the Bering Sea, St. Lawrence Island was the place to film Crested Auklets at night, in broad daylight in summer!

Going even further north again, Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean lies north of Siberia, and is even harder to get to. Staging in a Russian gold-mining town, they eventually managed to get there to film Walruses and some of the 600 Polar Bears on the island. The island was littered with Mammoth bones and tusks. The bears were eating the Walruses, and there was much aggression between the bears.

Flipping back to the Antarctic, John flew to the Norwegian Troll Research Station, then travelled 140 miles inland to film Snow Petrels, further south than any other breeding animal. These all-white birds bathe in the snow to remove orange oil from their normally snow-white feathers.

During a spell filming lions for the *Dynasties* series in the Maasai Mara Nature Reserve in Kenya, one of the disturbing hazards was the poisoning of the lions by Maasai herdsman.

During the *7 Worlds 1 Planet* series, John visited the Primavera Argentinian Antarctic Base to film the Gentoo Penguins leaping out of the

water, and running the gauntlet past the Leopard Seals to get back out to sea. On Bird Island, to the west of South Georgia, he was filming the Grey-headed Albatross, whose population is crashing. The winds have got stronger with climate change and the chicks fall off their nest mounds and can't get back up. Tracking studies have shown that many of the adults die from long-line tuna fishing.

Antipodes Island, southeast of New Zealand, is home to an endemic parakeet, and the Antipodean Albatross, whose females are more prone to perishing from long-line fishing than males, leaving many males without an opportunity to secure a mate.

Closer to home, John's love of wildlife is running in the family, with his children running a Tayvallich climate action group, and participating in the primary school trip to Mull and the Treshnish Islands (with some financial support to the school by Argyll Bird Club). John is also involved in the Friends of the Sound of Jura, linking coastal communities to campaign for marine conservation. As part of this the four MPAs (Marine Protection Areas) that link up the coast from Knapdale to Ardnamurchan have been declared a Mission Blue Hope Spot www.argyllhopespot.scot, part of a worldwide network of marine protected areas promoting marine conservation.

John's talk was a very personal perspective, not just from behind the camera, but between the filming, with all his stories of the effort, highs and lows, arduous travel and discomfort involved in getting to the right place and at the right time to capture the footage to present on our screens. He's been to so many fantastic places, seen some spectacular sights and it was a privilege to have him share them with us.

Nigel Scriven

Recent Recoveries of birds ringed/recovered in Argyll—2021

This note provides details of the more interesting recoveries of birds ringed in Argyll or found here in 2021. These have been extracted from the BTO's online ringing report (Robinson *et al.* 2022), which covers the whole of Britain, and where it is possible to filter for different years, species and specifically for Argyll.

Following the restrictions brought about by covid in 2020, there was an increase in the number of birds ringed in Argyll in 2021 to 5,710 (+ 36%). These recoveries in 2021 provide an insight to the movements and lifespans of some of Argyll birds.

Barnacle Goose

1291151. Adult ringed at Gruinart Farm, Islay, on 10 November 2001, shot at Kalfafell, Fljotshverfi, Vestur-Skaftafellssysla, Iceland on 17 September 2021 (NNW, 1,099km, 19 years 10 months 7 days).

White-fronted Goose

1497000. Adult male ringed near Gaerwen, Anglesey on 26 January 2021, resighted at East Loch Fada, Colonsay on 17 & 21 October 2021 (NNW, 342km, 8 months 21 days).

Wigeon

HT287566. Nestling ringed at Inari, Lappi, Finland on 26 July 2019, shot at Invereyne Farm, Drum, Cowal on 21 January 2021 (WSW, 2,167km, 1 year 5 months 26 days).

Teal

ST314511. Adult male ringed at Enontekio, Lappi, Finland on 15 July 2016, found freshly dead predated by bird of prey at Rubha na Traighe Baine, Islay on 10 October 2021 (WSW, 1,998km, 5 years 2 months 25 days).

Storm Petrel

2311331. Adult ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 28 June 1995, recaptured there on 29 June 2021 (0km, 26 years 1 day).

Storm Petrels ringed on Skokholm Island, Fair Isle, Sule Skerry and North Ronaldsay were recaptured on Lunga in 2021.

Fulmar

FJ42746. Nestling ringed at Ceann A' Mhara, Tiree on 24 July 2021 found

dead at Dunnet Bay, Highland on 22 November 2021 (NE, 321km, 3 months 29 days).

Manx Shearwater

FC29330. Adult ringed on Sanda, Kintyre on 30 June 1988, recaptured there on 15 June 2003 and found long dead at Nereidas, Brejatuba Beach, Parana, Brazil on 2 November 2021 (SW, 9,909km, 33 years 4 months 3 days).

Little Egret

GR60988. First-year bird colour-ringed at Wheldrake Ings, Yorkshire on 23 July 2021, resighted at Loch Gilp on 6 October & 13 December 2021 (NW, 373 km, 4 months 20 days).



A lot of raptor chicks are ringed in Argyll each year. Ringing a Buzzard chick above and a Golden Eagle chick below. The latter can be a bit of a handful! Both photos ©David Jardine

Shag

1408463. Nestling ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 22 June 2004, resighted there on 28 June 2021 (0km, 17 years 6 days).

Cormorant

5213122. Nestling ringed on Eilean Dubh, Lynn of Lorn on 9 June 2007, found dead at sea N of Gannan, Oban on 29 June 2021 (S, 9km, 14 years 20 days).

5248909. Nestling ringed on Corr Eilean, Sound of Jura on 5 June 2012, shot at Crossleys, Dumfries & Galloway on 28 April 2021 (ESE, 160km, 8 years 10 months 23 days).

Sparrowhawk

DA39171. Nestling female ringed at Glenbranter Forest on 5 July 2021, found dead at Dundrennan, Dumfries & Galloway on 28 January 2021 (SSE, 164km, 6 months 23 days).

Oystercatcher

FP56216. Adult ringed Whiteford Sand, Gower, S. Wales on 12 October 2003, found freshly dead Loch Buie, Isle of Mull on 28 July 2021 (N, 534km, 17 years 9 months 19 days).

Curlew

FH83966. Nestling ringed at Deerness, Orkney on 29 June 2019, found long dead on Iona, Mull on 27 February 2021 (SW, 363km, 1 year 7 months 29 days).



Many seabirds are ringed on Lunga, one of the Treshnish Islands. The photo shows a pair of Razorbills ©Steve Petty

Redshank

DK10752. Adult colour-ringed at Newport S. Wales on 22 Feb 2016, resighted Cardiff in April 2016 and January 2017 and at Breachacha Castle, Coll on 15 March 2021 (NNW, 611km, 5 years 21 days).

Kittiwake

EW18349. Adult ringed at Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 29 June 2007, recaptured there on 1 July 2021 (0km, 14 years 2 days).

Black-headed Gull

EY21579. Nestling colour-ringed at Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills on 16 June 2013, seen Callander, Stirling September 2013 & May 2014, Haddington, East Lothian in July 2018, Joppa, Edinburgh in March 2019 and at Stone on 21 August 2021 (WNW, 118km, 8 years 2 months 5 days).

Common Gull

EL43606. Nestling ringed on Kilmarnaig islands, Loch Etive on 22 June 2006, found dead at Saulmore farm, Connel on 20 May 2020 (4km, 14 years 10 months 28 days).

Herring Gull

GC28745. Nestling ringed on Sanda on 29 June 2010, found dead after storm at Douglas, Isle of Man on 15 February 2021 (SSE, 144km, 10 years 7 months 17 days).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

N107439. Adult satellite-tagged in Hamburg, Germany on 23 May 2019, tracked to Cairndow, Loch Fyne on 31 May 2021 (WNW, 1,006km, 2 years 8 days).

Great Skua

MA46031. Nestling colour-ringed on the Isle of Canna, Highland on 26 July 2018, resighted on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 5 June 2021 (S, 62km, 2 years 10 months 10 days).

Guillemot

T82496. Adult ringed on Colonsay on 26 June 1991, recaptured there on 11 June 2021 (0km, 29 years 11 months 16 days).

Y05363. Nestling ringed on Sanda on 4 July 2021, found dead (disease) at Spanish Point Beach, Co Clare, Eire on 17 November 2021 (SW, 370 km, 4 months 13 days).

Razorbill

M85746. Adult ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 24 June 2000, resighted there on 29 June 2021 (0km, 21 years 5 days).

M72749. Adult ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 4 July 1997, found long dead at Scapa, St Ola, Orkney on 22 March 2021 (NE, 342km, 23 years 8 months 18 days).

Puffin

ER48403. Adult ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 13 July 1994, recaptured there on 17 July



During a study, over more than 30 years, many Tawny Owl nestlings have been ringed in Cowal ©Steve Petty

2018 and found dead at Laorin Bay, Mull on 2 August 2021 (NE, 20km, 27 years 20 days).

EG61390. Adult ringed on Lunga, Treshnish Isles on 27 June 2002, recaptured there on 28 June 2019 and found dead at Parque Biológico de Gaia, Faro, Portugal on 12 February 2021 (S, 1,171.7km, 18 years 7 months 16 days).

Tawny Owl

GC6316. Adult female ringed in Glenbranter Forest, Strachur on 17 May 2007 killed by car there on 1 February 2021 (0km, 13 years 8 months 15 days)

Short-eared Owl

GV54159. Nestling ringed at Glenscorrodale, Isle of Arran on 25 June 2019, recaptured at Calliburn Croft, Kintyre on 2 March 2021 (W, 25km, 1 year 8 months 5 days).

Kestrel

EK64918. Nestling ringed at Calliburn Quarry, Kintyre on 3 June 2021, found dead near Camborne, Cornwall on 29 October 2021 (S, 585km, 4 months 26 days).

Swallow

2672054. Nestling ringed on Sanda Island, Kintyre on 14 August 2019, recaptured at Copeland Bird Observatory, Co Down on 18 July 2021 (S, 65km, 1 year 11 months 4 days).

Sedge Warbler

8574996. First-year bird ringed at Treogat, Finistere, France on 13 August 2020, killed by car Ardfern on 23 June 2020 (N, 925km, 9 months 1 day).

Whitethroat

ADN3000. Second-year male ringed at Fanmore, Mull on 12 May 2020, recaptured there in May 2021 and recaptured at the Lower Test Marshes, Southampton on 5 September 2021 (SSE, 694km, 1 year 3 months 24 days).

Meadow Pipit

ACE8876. First-year bird ringed at Bolton, Greater Manchester on 7 September 2019, recaptured at the Oa, Islay on 10 November 2021 (NW, 330km, 2 years 2 months 3 days).

Chaffinch

L317730. Adult male ringed at the Cnoc, Arrochar on 22 March 2014, found dead (hit glass) at Catnish, Glen Orchy on 5 May 2021 (NNW, 27km, 7 years 1 month 13 days).

Twite

AHN5418. First-year female ringed at Seals Sands, Teesmouth on 27 November 2020, recaptured there on 19 March 2021 and resighted on Staffa on 27 June 2021 (NW, 382km, 7 months).

Goldfinch

16563500. First-year male ringed at Laplaigne, Hainaut, Belgium on 19 February 2021, recaptured at Aros Moss, Campbeltown on 7 May 2021 (NW, 818km, 2 months 18 days).

Siskin

AXH2294. Second-year male ringed at Bradfield Moor, S. Yorkshire on 11 July 2020 found dead (hit glass) at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport on 15 May 2021 (NW, 374km, 10 months 4 days).

ALN9934. First-year female ringed at Groeslon, Gwynedd on 18 April 2021 found dead at Inveraray on 14 May 2021 (N, 356km, 26 days).

S804513. First-year male ringed at Durris, Aberdeenshire on 15 April 2017 found dead (hit glass) on 28 April 2021 at Bellanoch, Mid-Argyll (WSW, 221km, 4 years 13 days).

Reference

Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2022) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2021. BTO, Thetford. (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>)

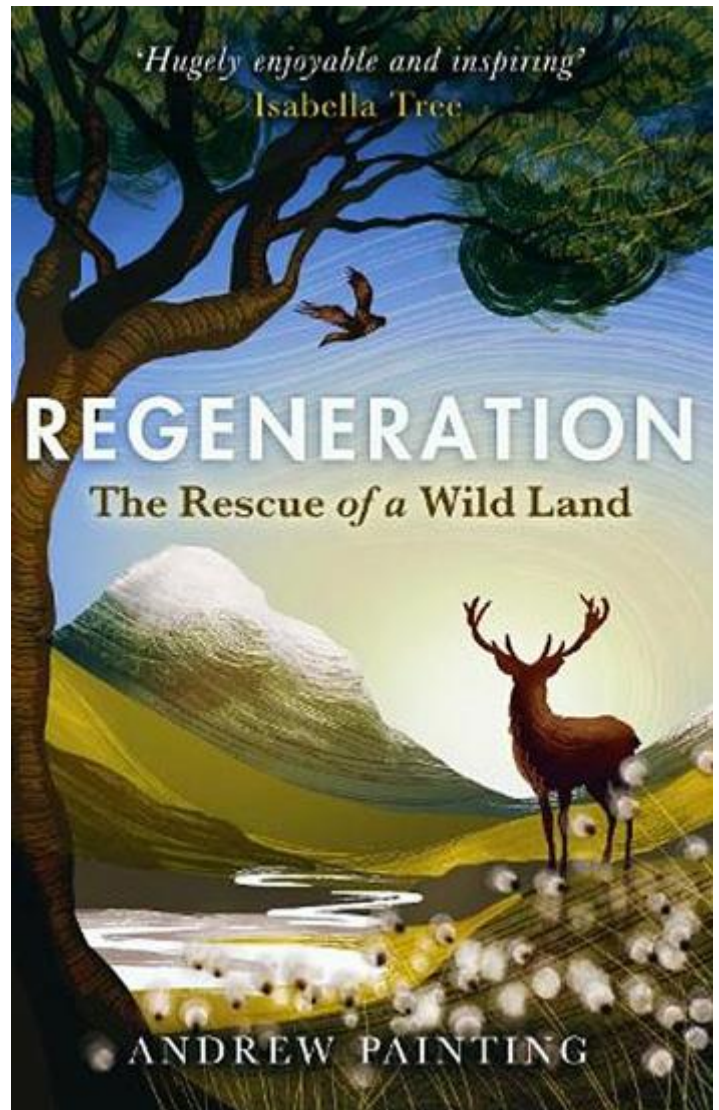
Book review

Regeneration, by Andrew Painting (2022). Paperback ISBN: 9781780277592 (also available in hardback and as an e-book), 304 pages. Publisher: Birlinn Ltd.

Subtitled "The Rescue of a Wild Land," this is another rewilding narrative. When the National Trust for Scotland acquired the Mar Lodge Estate in 1995 they had a traditional highland sporting estate of over 29000 ha (72500 acres) to manage for the benefit of the nation, rather than for rich absentee Swiss landowners. Mar Forest forms the very heart of the Cairngorms and stretches from the western bounds of Glen Feshie, up to the Larig Ghru and Ben Macdui, south to Glen Tilt and east almost to Braemar. The book is in three parts; the woods, the moors and the mountains. The chapters themselves are each titled with the name of a species which provided the theme for the narrative.

This series of stories follows the development of the estate under an ecological management in complete contrast to the century of exploitation for timber and "sport." Central to this has been deer control and regeneration of native trees, with a great deal of monitoring the success and failures of various management approaches. Woven into this are personal observations and encounters with significant experts in the various fields of study, some of whom were very familiar to me.

For anyone with an awareness of the various controversies of upland management, this provides a refreshing alternative scenario. For anyone who knows this sector of the Cairngorms, this provides a great incentive to get out there to see for oneself just how much has changed. This book provides a guide to this recovering landscape and a more wildlife-rich future, so providing the ecosystem services we all need. A great contribution to the modern



mantra for nature areas that are "bigger, better and more joined up."

It is an easy read, eloquently expressed, informative and inspiring. Well worth £9.99 in paperback.

Nigel Scriven



Snipe ©Margaret Staley

Contributions for the June *Eider* should be sent to the editor before the 20 May 2023

Officials and Committee of the Argyll Bird Club (2022-2023)

Chairman: Nigel Scriven, 14 Taylor Avenue, Kilbarchan, Johnstone PA10 2LS
e-mail chairman@argyllbirdclub.org

Vice Chairman: David Jardine, Hazel Cottage, 7 Barrmor View, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UN
E-mail vicechair@argyllbirdclub.org

Secretary: Alun ap Rhisiart, Braeside, Clynder, Argyll G84 0QL
e-mail secretary@argyllbirdclub.org

Treasurer: Peter Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8XN
e-mail treasurer@argyllbirdclub.org

Membership Secretary: Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8XN
e-mail membership@argyllbirdclub.org

ABC Committee: Malcolm Chattwood (Lochgilphead), Gordon Holm (Strone), Lynsey Gibson (Ardrishaig), Alistair McGregor (Dunoon), Steve Petty (Ardentinny), Andy Robinson (Stirling), Frauke Thornton (Dunoon).

Editor of the *Argyll Bird Report*: David Jardine, Hazel Cottage, 7 Barrmor View, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UN. *E-mail* vicechair@argyllbirdclub.org

Editor of the *Eider*: Steve Petty, Cluaran Cottage, Ardentinny, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 8TR
e-mail eider@argyllbirdclub.org

ABC Website: <http://www.argyllbirdclub.org>

Argyll Bird Records Committee

Jim Dickson (Secretary, contact details below), John Bowler, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie & Andy Robinson

Argyll Bird Recorder

Jim Dickson, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF.
e-mail argyllbirder@outlook.com

Assistant Bird Recorder

Malcolm Chattwood, 1 The Stances, Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8QA
e-mail abcrecorder@outlook.com

BTO Regional Representatives in Argyll

Argyll Mainland, Bute & Gigha: Nigel Scriven
phone 01505 706652 *mobile* 07901 636353
e-mail chairman@argyllbirdclub.org

Argyll North (Mull, Coll, Tiree & Morvern): Ewan Miles
e-mail emb.gww@gmail.com

Islay, Jura & Colonsay: David Wood. *Phone* 01496 300118
e-mail david.wood@rspb.org.uk

WeBs Count Organiser, Mainland Argyll & Mull

Nigel Scriven, 14 Taylor Avenue, Kilbarchan, Johnstone PA10 2LS
(phone numbers and e-mail above)



The *Eider* is the quarterly newsletter of the **Argyll Bird Club**. The editor welcomes articles about birds, wildlife conservation and ecology in Argyll, including articles of a wider natural history interest, notices of forthcoming events, book reviews, press releases and letters. Whenever possible, contributions should be submitted to the editor as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or rtf format. But, this should not deter potential contributors, as hand-written scripts are also acceptable. If in doubt about whether an article is suitable, please contact the editor for advice.

Suitable illustrations greatly enhance the attractiveness of the *Eider*, and artists and photographers are encouraged to submit artwork and unedited digital photographs (jpeg files only) of birds and their habitats to the editor. **Please do not embed digital images in word files.** Digital photographs of Schedule 1 species taken at or near the nest will not be accepted for publication unless the photographer was covered by an appropriate SNH licence.

The *Eider* is published during the first week of March, June, September and December. Articles for each issue must be with the editor **before** the 20th day of the month prior to publication. However, it greatly helps if material can be submitted well before these deadline dates. Contributions are accepted in the order they are received, which may result in some late submissions being held over until the next issue. Ideally, contributions should be less than 1500 words

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author/s and not necessarily those of the **Argyll Bird Club**.

Advertising rates: £80 for a full page, £20 for a quarter page, 7p per word for smaller adverts. Payment must accompany adverts, with cheques made payable to the **Argyll Bird Club**. Contact the Editor for further information.

More about the Argyll Bird Club

The club was established in 1985 and currently has 313 members. Its main role is to encourage an interest in wild birds and their habitats in Argyll; an area of outstanding natural beauty and biological diversity.

The club endeavours to provide a friendly and sociable forum for members of all ages, to meet and enjoy their common interest. This in itself provides a challenge as the human population of Argyll is relatively small and widely dispersed. The club hosts two one-day indoor meetings each year, in spring and autumn. The venue of the spring meeting is rotated between different towns, including Dunoon, Inveraray, Lochgilphead and Oban. The autumn meeting/AGM is held in a convenient central location, usually near Lochgilphead. The club organises field trips for members. Your annual subscription entitles you to one copy of the *Argyll Bird Report* (PDF file), four issues of the *Eider* (PDF files) and free admission to the two indoor meetings. New members are always welcome, whether you live in Argyll or not. Membership categories and rates are:

Ordinary	£10
Age 25 and under	free
Family	£15
Corporate	£25

A surcharge of £5 will be added to the above rates, if printed copies of the *Eider* are requested. Subscriptions are due on 1st January and can be paid by cheque, standing order or direct debit. New members joining after 1st October are covered until the end of the following year. Further information can be obtained from the Membership Secretary (see the box opposite).