

# Argyll Bird Report 2023



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Argyll Bird Club



**American Yellow Warbler** *Tiree* Upper *Jim Dickson* Lower *Theo de Clermont*

**FRONT COVER** **Woodcock** © *James Lehmann*

The Thirty Fifth  
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT  
With Systematic List for the year  
2023



Editorial team: David C Jardine, Jim Dickson & Malcolm Chattwood  
on behalf of the Argyll Bird Club

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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2023 (35th) Argyll Bird Report and once again a big thank you to everyone who has kindly contributed to a total of around 80,000 records over the year to make this report possible. We particularly welcome the significant increase in reports from Mull, Islay and also elsewhere, through BirdTrack, eBird, and through the ABC recording system.

While not reaching record number of species recorded in 2022, 2023 was an excellent year when 240 species were found across Argyll; equalling the second highest total ever noted. However, as with many other sparsely populated areas of Scotland, compared to say Central Scotland, vast areas of the county are not often visited, and much must go missed or undetected. The scope remains to discover more, and the area is therefore positively challenging and exciting to any keen birder. (The pie-chart below provides details of the geographical distribution of the records within the Argyll recording area, and this should be borne in mind when reading the species accounts).

During the year one new species was added to the Argyll list – American Yellow Warbler, found on Tiree in a remarkable period at the end of September when there were five different species from the North American continent present on the island.

Other notable ‘finds’ during the year included a second record for Argyll (Shore Lark, found on Mull in November), along with Red-breasted Goose, Pallid Harrier, Lesser Grey Shrike and Red-eyed Vireo all of which have had fewer than five previous records. A hybrid Great Northern Diver x Black-throated Diver was also found in North Argyll in May. This is only the second ever known hybrid between these species and consolidates the evidence of hybrid breeding between these species and the breeding presence of the former species in Scotland.

The systematic list 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 Argyll would generally relate to more easily. Details of where to find species within the new ordering of the list can be found in the contents list.

In 2023 the first confirmed breeding record in Argyll for over 80 years of a *Flava* wagtail was noted in Kintyre when 2-3 fledged young were found being fed by adult Blue-headed Wagtails near Southend. Notably this subspecies has only been recorded breeding in Scotland on fewer than ten occasions. It is also good to be able to report of increases in the populations of Corncrake and Red-necked Phalaropes, two of our rare, but important, breeding species. Conversely the local results of the national breeding survey of Woodcock have not been encouraging. In the BTO national survey, roding birds were only found in 22% of the sites sampled in Argyll, suggesting further decline.

It is always helpful to include evidence of breeding whenever possible and some pointers for which species this would be most welcome are included in the report. It is also helpful if

reasonably precise locations can be provided as this can save time for both the observer and the bird recorder.

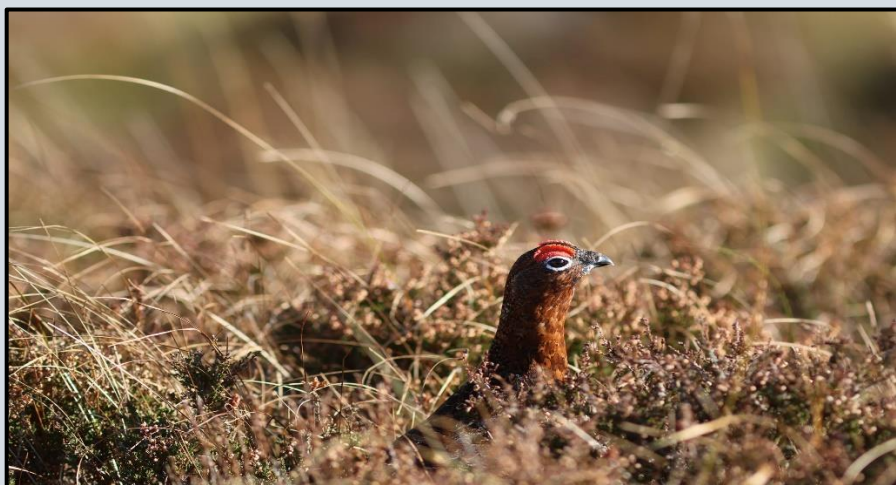
With the next bird atlas likely to appear on the horizon before long we have made some changes to the species texts. Those species which are monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) are now identified in the species headers. We also wish to thank the BTO Regional Representatives (Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven & David Wood) for their help in sourcing the results from the 34 Breeding Bird Survey transects completed in Argyll in 2023. This has allowed the inclusion of the highlights from the surveys helping to give an indication of the occurrence of the more widespread birds (particularly passerines) from a structured survey. We hope in future to be able to provide more information on the local trends for some of the more widespread species from this survey. We also wish to thank RSPB staff based in Argyll for their work and contribution of records to enable us to provide a rounded picture of many of Argyll's important species.

In the 2022 Report we drew attention to impact of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak on wintering geese, seabirds, and the breeding performance of some raptors. Monitoring in 2023 has allowed the scale of these impacts to be assessed, with around a 14 – 19% reduction in the number of wintering Barnacle Geese, varied changes in seabird populations (a large decline in Great Skuas, but more modest in other species e.g. Guillemots) and a recovery in the breeding performance of White-tailed Eagles on Mull.

If you would like to become more involved with recording and surveying birds in Argyll the best point of contact is through Jim Dickson and Malcolm Chattwood for general bird sightings and through BTO regional representatives listed on page 3 who can advise on surveys of breeding birds, uplands and wetlands.

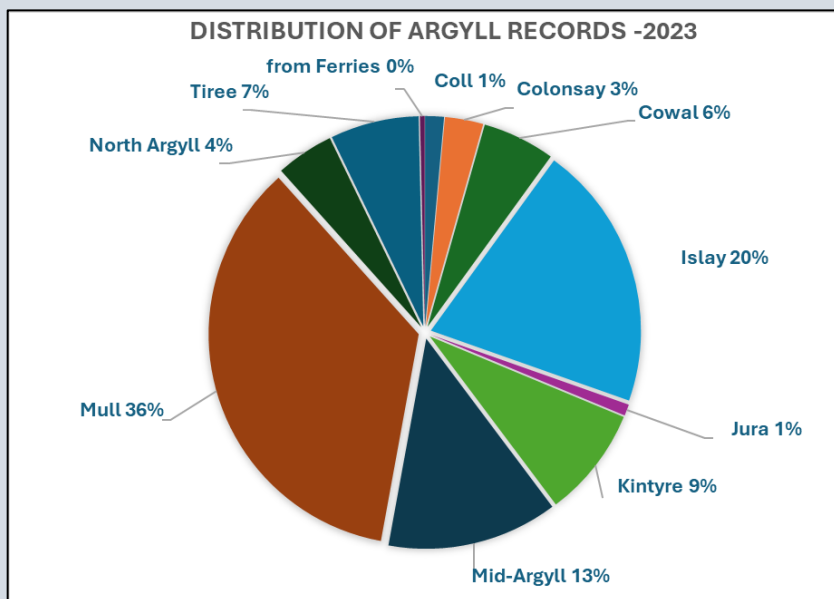
*David Jardine, Jim Dickson & Malcolm Chattwood*

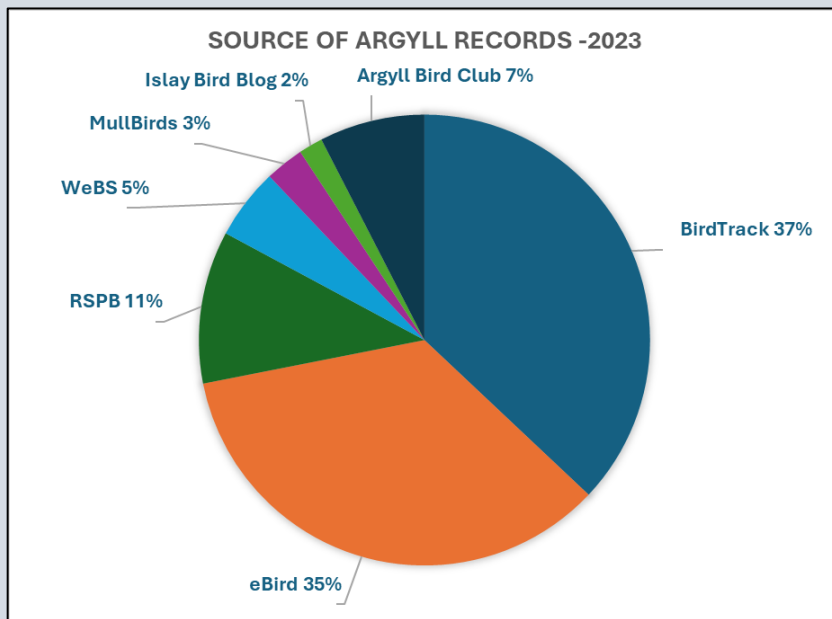
*Editorial Team February 2024*



**Red Grouse *Mid-Argyll* October Ann McGregor**

**Distribution and source of records used in the 2023 Argyll Bird Report**





## 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 60,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records, however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under [Bird Recording – Argyll Bird Club](#) 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 and eBird.

### 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 reporting form (available from Jim). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (ABRC) whose members are listed on p. 3, 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, 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>

List updated 1 Jan 2024.

Black Brant #	Hobby
Taiga Bean Goose	Spotted Crake
Tundra Bean Goose	Common Crane
European White-fronted Goose	Avocet
(race <i>albifrons</i> )	Black-winged Stilt #
Bewick's Swan	Stone Curlew #
Egyptian Goose	Little Ringed Plover
American Wigeon	American Golden Plover
Green-winged Teal	Black-tailed Godwit (continental) #
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Temminck's Stint
Red-crested Pochard #	White-rumped Sandpiper #
Ring-necked Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper
Surf Scoter (except adult males)	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Smew	Lesser Yellowlegs #
Ruddy Duck	Spotted Redshank
White-billed Diver	Red-necked Phalarope (away from
Wilson's Petrel #	traditional breeding areas)
Cory's Shearwater #	Long-tailed Skua (imms only)
Great Shearwater #	Sabine's Gull
Balearic Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Great Cormorant (race <i>sinensis</i> )	Yellow-legged Gull #
Eurasian Bittern	Caspian Gull #
Night-heron #	Black Tern
Cattle Egret #	White-winged Black Tern #
Great White Egret	Roseate Tern
Purple Heron #	Little Owl #
White Stork	Nightjar
Glossy Ibis	Alpine Swift #
Eurasian Spoonbill	European Bee-eater #
Red-necked Grebe	Wryneck
Black-necked Grebe	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #
Honey-buzzard	Red-backed Shrike
Black Kite #	Great Grey Shrike
Montagu's Harrier #	Woodchat Shrike #
Goshawk	Firecrest
Rough-legged Buzzard	Crested Tit
Red-footed Falcon #	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 #  
 Icterine Warbler  
 Melodious Warbler #  
 Blyth's Reed Warbler  
 Marsh Warbler  
 Reed Warbler

Rose-coloured Starling  
 Common Nightingale  
 Bluethroat  
 Red-flanked Bluetail #  
 Red-breasted Flycatcher  
 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)  
 Parrot Crossbill #  
 Common Rosefinch  
 Hawfinch  
 Cirl Bunting #  
 Ortolan Bunting #  
 Little Bunting  
 Corn Bunting

## Sighting Highlights of 2023

~ January ~



**Pallid Harrier** *Islay* Jan (Jonathan Farooqi)

A returning adult **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** from 2022 remained in Gruinart area *Islay* until at least 1 Apr. A male **AMERICAN WIGEON** from 2022 on Loch Gorm *Islay* remained until at least 23 Mar. Two male **POCHARD** on Loch Gorm *Islay* remained until 3 Jan. The wintering **MARSH HARRIER** at Loch Gorm *Islay* was seen until 2 Mar. The **PALLID HARRIER** found in Nov 2022 reappeared at Machir Bay *Islay* on 1 Jan. The **CACKLING GOOSE** remained on *Islay* at various locations until 27 Mar and the other remaining bird was refound at Machrihanish airport *Kintyre* on 23 Jan in the company of a **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** and remained until 1 Mar. A **WAXWING** remained in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* until 7 Jan, being joined by 2 others on 3 Jan. The female-type **SURF SCOTER** found at Loch Indaal *Islay* at the end of 2022 remained until 2 Mar and a returning male was at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 20 Jan and was joined by a female-type on 23 Jan and remained in the area until 2 Mar and 13 Feb respectively. The **COOT** remained on Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* until 13 Jan, and one was on Loch Ballygrant *Islay* from 9 Jan - 22 Feb. A juv **GLAUCOUS GULL** at Machir Bay on 1 Jan was probably the bird which was seen throughout *Islay* until the end of 2023. Others juvs were seen at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and Balemartine *Tiree* on 15 Jan. A juv **ICELAND GULL** was at Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 7 Jan and a **KUMLIEN'S ICELAND GULL** was at Sorobaiddh Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jan. A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was at Gruinart flats *Islay* on 23 Jan. On 25 Jan a **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll*. A 'NORTHERN' **EIDER** found in Campbeltown harbour *Kintyre* on 26 Jan remained until 15 Feb. The seven 'RUSSIAN' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** found on *Tiree* in Dec 2022 were last noted on 20 Jan when 8 were present and two juvs were at Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 26 Jan and an ad at Kilmichael *Kintyre* on 30 Jan. A female-type **VELVET SCOTER** was at Loch na Keal *Mull* from 28 Jan to 14 Apr.

~ February ~



**Ring-necked Duck** *Mid-Argyll* Feb (Jim Dickson)

A juv **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Feb, with another at Traigh Ghrianaidh *Tiree* on 23 Feb. Two **VELVET SCOTER** at Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 7 Feb remained until 2 Mar, another was off Bowmore *Islay* on 11-12 Feb. An ad male **SURF SCOTER** found at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 9 Feb remained to 28 Feb. Several '**RUSSIAN**' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** were on *Islay* with one at Corsapol on 10 Feb, another at Gruinart on 12 Feb, 2 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 13 Feb and a different bird at Gruinart on 20-23 Feb. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 11 Feb. A **LITTLE AUK** was found off Point Sands *Kintyre* on 13 Feb. A male **RING-NECKED DUCK** was re-found at Glenfeochan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb.

~ *March* ~

A juv **GLAUCOUS GULL** was seen in various location on *Tiree* from 2 Mar to 24 Mar when it was joined by an ad at Loch Bhasapol from 10 Mar. An **ICELAND GULL** was between Lismore *North Argyll* and Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar, with another at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Mar. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Mar. An **ALPINE SWIFT** on Iona *Mull* on 16 Mar was a real surprise but was followed by two at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar along with a couple of other possible sightings in *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. A male **LESSER SCAUP** turned up at Ford *Mid-Argyll* from 20 - 23 Mar and a female-type **VELVET SCOTER** was at



**Lesser Scaup** *Mid-Argyll* Mar (Jim Dickson)

Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* from 23 Mar. Another '**RUSSIAN**' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was found at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 24 Jan and the month ended with *Tiree*'s fifth ever **STOCK DOVE** at Balinoe on 31 Mar.



**Alpine Swift** *Mull* Mar (Will Miles)



**Hoopoe** *Colonsay* Apr (David Jardine)



**Golden Oriole** *Tiree* Apr (John Bowler)

~ April ~

A **GLAUCOUS GULL** was on *Mull* at Loch na Keal on 1 Apr and at Loch Tuath on 14 Apr. Two more **STOCK DOVE** were found at Saddell *Kintyre* on 7 Apr and Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr. Two 2CY **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** were found at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr and at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 11 Apr. A **HOOPOE** found at Milbuie *Colonsay* on 10 Apr proved to be a long stayer, remaining until 12 May. Other southern arrivals included a **BLACK REDSTART** at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Apr and an ad male **GOLDEN ORIOLE** at Heylipol *Tiree* on 17 Apr. Mid-month **RED KITE** were on the move with birds noted at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, Salen *Mull* the same day and at Glen Striven *Cowal* on 21 Apr. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was found on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr and an **ICELAND GULL** nearby at The Strand *Colonsay* the same day. It, or another, was at Nave Is. *Islay* on 21 Apr. A **HOBBY** was at Gobagrennan *Kintyre* on 21 Apr and a **DOTTEREL** was found at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 23 Apr. On 24 Apr at Loch Gruinart *Islay* both a **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** and a **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** were present. A **TREE SPARROW** dropped in at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Apr.



**Long-tailed Skua** *Coll/Mull* area May (Guy Stewart)

~ May ~

A **HOBBY** flew over Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 May. A **LITTLE GULL** was at the Sound of *Mull* on 2 May when a **LONG-TAILED SKUA** was off Arinagour *Coll* with other sightings at sea around the island on 3 & 29 May and 3 Jun. On 4 & 10 May a fem **MARSH HARRIER** was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* and a male was there on 14 May. At least one other **HOOPOE** was at Scarinish *Tiree* on 5 - 7 May, Lochbuie *Mull* on 11 May and near Salen *Mull* on 18 May. A **HAWFINCH**



**Black Kite** *Mull* May (Hans-Joachim-Augst)

appeared in a garden near Southend *Kintyre* on 8 May and the only **GARGANEY** of the year turned up at Gruinart *Islay* the same day. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May and a **POMARINE SKUA** was at Lag shore *Mull* on the same date. Single **WOOD SANDPIPER** were found on 12 May on *Tiree* and in *North Argyll*, then at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 May. A male **AMERICAN WIGEON** lingered at Killechronan *Mull* from 15-25 May and a wandering **BLACK KITE** was at Achnahard *Mull* on 30 May.

~ June ~

Spring migrant waders were present on *Tiree* early in the month when 2 - 5 **LITTLE STINT** were seen between 1-11 Jun and 1-3 **CURLEW SANDPIPER** between 1-6 Jun. A **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Gigha *Kintyre* around 1 Jun and the first **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 1 Jun, followed by another at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Jun. A **PIED FLYCATCHER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Jun and a **TURTLE DOVE** was at Kinnabus *Islay* that day, followed by another in NW *Mull* on 23-24 Jun. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Jun with occasional sightings until 26 Jul. A male **AMERICAN WIGEON** was at Loch a' Phuill and Loch an Eilein *Tiree* from 4-11 Jun. Nearby an **ICELAND GULL** was at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 5 - 7 Jun. Unseasonably a male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 8 & 14 Jun and a **GREATER SCAUP** was also there on the later date. A **MARSH WARBLER** and an **ICTERINE WARBLER** were singing together at



**Common Rosefinch** Gigha, *Kintyre* Jun (Keith Helm)

Balephuill *Tiree* on 16Jun. A **QUAIL** was calling at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 25 Jun and it or another was at Totronald *Coll* on 9 Jul. Another **HOBBY** was watched near Dunoon *Cowal* on 28 Jun.



**Blue-headed Wagtail** *Kintyre* Jul (Ann Hand)

~ July ~

A family party of **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL** found near Southend *Kintyre* in early Jul was the first confirmed breeding of a *Flava* wagtail in Argyll since 1922. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** dropped in at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 Jul. Several **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** were found; an ad was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 11-12 Jul and a 2CY was there on 12 Jul - 3 Sep and another 2CY was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 16 Jul. An ad male **ROSY STARLING** at Carradale *Kintyre* on 16 Jul was found dead on 28 Jul. A 2CY **LITTLE GULL** was between Luing & Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul. Two ad **POMARINE SKUA** were off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul and a **CORY'S SHEARWATER** was found during a seawatch at The Oa *Islay* on 29 Jul. A **BONAPARTE'S GULL** initially found at Lochaline, Highland turned up at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 30 Jul remained between there and Duart until 20 Aug.



**Bonaparte's Gull** *Mull* Aug (Nancy Somerville)

~ August ~

A fem/imm **MARSH HARRIER** was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 6 Aug. Single **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** with an ad at Inverneil *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug and a 2CY at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug. Four **POCHARD** were reported at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 11 Aug. Two **GREY PHALAROPE** passed Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Aug followed by one past Cailiach Pt *Mull* on 20 Aug. Two **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** also passed Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Aug and single **POMARINE SKUA** were noted at Hynish *Tiree* and Cailiach Pt *Mull* on 19 Aug and a **GREEN**

**SANDPIPER** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* that day. During a national influx, a **BLACK TERN** passed Urvaig *Tiree* on 20 Aug. A **TEMMINCK'S STINT**, Argyll's sixth, was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Aug. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at the Machrie River *Islay* on 28 Aug and remained on the island around Gruinart until 1 Nov.



**Baird's Sandpiper** *Tiree* Sep (Jim Dickson)

### *~ September*

The month started with a **PIED FLYCATCHER** at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Sep and a **RED KITE** at Barrapol *Tiree* the following day. Also on 2 Sep a **YELLOW WAGTAIL** and a **GREEN SANDPIPER** were found at east Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Early in the month there were reports of a few **LITTLE STINT** and **CURLEW SANDPIPER** from *Islay* and *Tiree*. On 6 Sep the only **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** of the year was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*. In a good month for American waders, single juv **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** were found at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep, Barrapol *Tiree* from 25 Sep - 2 Oct and another at Middleton *Tiree* from 26 Sep - 7 Oct and single juv **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** at Middleton *Tiree* on 13-15 Sep and then Barrapol on 28 Sep & 12 Oct and a new bird was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 29 Sep & 12 Oct and then at Kilkeneth *Tiree* on 4 Oct. A juv **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** was at Vaul *Tiree* on 22 Sep until 3 Oct. On *Mull* a **TURTLE DOVE** remained at Treshnish farm *Mull* from 7 - 9 Sep and a 1CY male **AMERICAN WIGEON** was at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Sep. On *Tiree* a **LAPLAND BUNTING** flew over the Reef on 13 Sep and a **GREATER SCAUP** was on Loch a' Phuill on 15

Sep. Concerted seawatching effort at Caliach Pt *Mull* was rewarded with single juv **LONG-TAILED SKUA** on 19 & 21 Sep and a **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** on 21 Sep. Single **POMARINE SKUA** were noted off Craignure *Mull* on 23 Sep and Hynish *Tiree* on 24 Sep, where a **GREY PHALAROPE** also flew SW. During an unprecedented arrival of North American passerines to Britain, Argyll's third **RED-EYED VIREO** was found at The Glebe *Tiree* on 26 Sep which remained until 3 Oct and Argyll's first **AMERICAN YELLOW WARBLER**, was identified at Kilmoulaig *Tiree* on 30 Sep (but heard on 27 Sep) and also remained until 3 Oct.



**Red-eyed Vireo** *Tiree* Sep (Jim Dickson)

~ October ~

A **BARRED WARBLER** was at The Glebe *Tiree* from on 2 - 3 Oct. A **POMARINE SKUA** passed Caliach Point *Mull* on 7 Oct. Argyll's fourth **LESSER GREY SHRIKE** was found at Smaull *Islay* on 9 Oct then moved to the Braigo & Sanaigmore area *Islay* from 10 - 26 Oct. A returning **CAKCLING GOOSE** was noted at Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Oct - 9 Nov, then around Loch Indaal from 20 - 28 Nov; 3 were at Coull *Islay* on 24 Oct and 2 there on 26 Oct and a **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** was reported at Cornabus *Islay* from 10 - 12 Oct. A confiding **HOOPOE** remained in Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* from 9 - 16 Oct. The **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** returned to Gruinart *Islay* for its third winter on 11 Oct and remained to the end of the year. Single **LEACH'S PETREL** passed Aird *Tiree* on 11 Oct, at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Oct and off north Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct, where a juv **SABINE'S GULL** was seen on the same seawatch. A **CATTLE EGRET** at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 12-13 Oct arrived with an influx of at least 30 **LITTLE EGRET** throughout Argyll and a **GREAT WHITE EGRET** seen at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 24 Oct



**Barred Warbler** *Tiree* Oct (Theo de Clermont)



**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Islay* Oct (David Jardine)

In late Oct there was an influx of **WAXWING** starting with 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct, then singles at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 21 Oct and Port Ann *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, then over 30 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct and 20 at Ardrishaig *Mid Argyll* on 3 Nov and more widespread reports through Nov. On *Mull* a **PIED FLYCATCHER** was found on *Iona* on 14 Oct along with a **LESSER WHITETHROAT**, while a ‘*blythi*’ type **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at

Balephuill *Tiree* from 15-19 Oct. Two **GLOSSY IBIS** were found at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid Argyll* on 17 Oct and then seen at Ardfern *Mid Argyll* the following day. An influx of **RED KITE** started on 17 Oct with many reports from *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. Amongst the migrating thrushes single **RING OUZEL** were found in *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree* and single **HAWFINCH** were noted at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 20 Oct and at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Oct with the Waxwings. A male **POCHARD** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Oct. *Jura*'s first **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** was found at Craighouse on 21 Oct and on the same day a suspected 'NORTHERN' **TREECREEPER** was at Balephuill *Tiree*. A **FIRECREST** graced the gardens at Balephuill *Tiree* from 25 - 27 Oct. On 26 Oct a juv **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** was at Gruinart *Islay* and a fem **AMERICAN WIGEON** identified at Cornabus *Islay* on 25 Oct remained until 12 Dec. A **TREE SPARROW** visited a garden at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* from 29 Nov - 23 Dec and on 30 Oct a 'Siberian' **CHIFFCHAFF** was watched at Meningie *Tiree*.



**Firecrest** *Tiree* Oct (John Bowler)

~ November ~

An adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** flew past Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 Nov. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** dropped in at the Mull of *Kintyre* on 2 Nov. Four **POCHARD** were at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 4 Nov at least. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov then relocated on Loch Riaghain on 13 Dec. A few **LITTLE AUK** reports with 1 at Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, then 2 flew N at the Garvellachs Is. *Mid-Argyll* and another at sea between there and

*Colonsay* on 15 Nov, and also 1 off *Aird Tiree* on 23 Nov. The returning male **SURF SCOTER** was found at *Rhunahaorine Pt. Kintyre* on 16 Nov. A very late **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at *Balephuill Tiree* on 18 Nov and Argyll's second **SHORE LARK**, a male, was found on the south shore of *Loch na Keal Mull* on 19 Nov. Single **GREY PHALAROPE** were found at *Balephetrish Bay Tiree* on 20 Nov and at the *Kerrera Jetty Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov.



**Shore Lark Mull** Nov (Daniel Brooks)

~ December ~

A white morph '**GREATER**' **SNOW GOOSE** believed not to be from the feral population on *Coll* was found at *Caoles Tiree* on 13 Dec and remained until the year end. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at *Loch Riaghain Tiree* on 13 Dec and a **VELVET SCOTER** was at *Rhunahaorine Pt. Kintyre* on 13 Dec. The ad male **RING-NECKED DUCK** re-appeared at *Glenfeochan Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec but only remained until 22 Dec. A 1CY **LITTLE GULL** was *Lady Rock Lismore North Argyll* on 22 Dec.

## 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
c/r	colour ring
<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
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SMP	Seabird Monitoring Programme
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 2023

The following systematic list includes entries for 240 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2023 (cf. average 224 species during the years 1993- 2022). This equals the second highest total ever recorded, only being surpassed by 245 in 2022. One new species was added to the list in 2023 and now takes the Argyll list to 372 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** Most reports of only 1-3 birds from sites in; Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (4) and North Argyll (1). Max count of 4 at Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll on 11 Feb.

**Autumn/winter** Only two reports; 1 at the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse Kintyre on 2 Nov and 2 at Am Breacadh, Knapdale Mid-Argyll on 21 Oct.



**Black Grouse** Mid-Argyll Feb (Jim Dickson)

### **PTARMIGAN\*** *Lagopus muta*

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

**Winter** Three were on Ben Buie *Mull* on 20 Jan, 1 was on Beinn Odhar *North Argyll* on 5 Feb and 1 was on Cruachan Dearg *Mull* on 11 Mar.

**Spring/summer** On *Mull* 1 was on Ben Buie on 15 Apr. In *North Argyll* singles were on Stob Maol on 15 Apr, Beinn Fhionnlaidh on 29 Apr, Beinn Achaladair on 6 May, Beinn Odhar on 22 May and Stob Daimh on 15 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** No records.

*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 reports required.*

**All year** Reports from moorland areas in (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Few reports in total from across Argyll, all of 1-2 birds, except of 6 at Cnoc Buidhe *Kintyre* on 10 Mar. An adult with chick was at Reudle *Mull* on 11 Jun. Max count was 3 at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* on 21 Feb and 22 Mar.

### **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 six areas in (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Most reports of just 1-3 birds, but larger numbers seen; 20 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 21 Oct and 17 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep.

### **QUAIL\*** *Coturnix coturnix*

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

**Spring/summer** Single males calling at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 25 May, at Treshnish farm NW *Mull* on 9 Jun, at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 23 Jun and at RSPB Totronald *Coll* on 9 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 areas (except *Coll*), however generally under reported. Max counts reported of 70 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep and 50 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct. Broods reported at Carradale *Kintyre* and Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*. Only a handful of records from *Tiree*, where they have become very scarce.

### **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

**AMBER LIST** *A passage migrant, in varying numbers, few remain 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 (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). During Jan-Mar reports only from *Islay* where max of 22 at Loch Indaal on 23/1, except for 2 at Vaul *Tiree* on 6 Feb. During spring passage max counts of 300 on *Jura* on 23 Apr, 25 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr and 20 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26 Apr. Five were at Staffa *Mull* on 28 Apr. Elsewhere 1-2 birds between 19 Apr and 1 Jun when the last 2 were at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 2 at Carnain *Islay* on 8 Sep, 2 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 10 Sep then 8 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 13 Sep, Main passage through Argyll between 20 Sep and mid Oct. Max count was 75 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Oct, with most birds away by early-mid Oct but some remaining at Bridgend Merse, Loch Indaal until year end with counts of up to 63 birds. Notable sightings elsewhere, on *Colonsay* 4 on Oronsay on 19 Oct, in *Kintyre* 8 at Machrihanish SBO on 23 Sep and 5 at Lephonstrath on 31 Dec, in *Mid-Argyll* 1 at Toberonochy, Luing on 26 Dec and on *Mull* 15 at Bunessan on 11 Oct and 5 at Bull Hole on 21 Sep.

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

**Autumn/winter** A single adult was with Barnacle Geese at Craigens *Islay* on 17 Nov [M. Ogilvie].

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

*A vagrant. Three records. All adults on Islay with first one seen on 27th Oct 2001, another adult on from Oct 2012 into Apr 2013 and another from 5 Oct 2021 remained to 22 Mar 2022.*

**Winter/spring** An adult in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* from 1 Jan to 1 Apr [J. Farooqi *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** Adult again in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* from 11 Oct to 31 Dec [J. How *et al*]. Presumably the returning bird last seen in spring 2022. Record was accepted by the BBRC as a returning bird.



**Red-breasted Goose with Barnacle Geese** *Islay* Jan (Jonathan Farooqi)

## 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. Max counts received of 290 at Machrihanish airfield Kintyre on 11 Jan, 210 at Drimvore Mid-Argyll on 10 Feb, 144 on Colonsay on 6 Jan, 120 at Craignure Mull on 12 May, Elsewhere, counts inc., Cowal with 25 at the Holy Loch on 28 Feb, Islay with 10 at Loch Gruinart on 24 Mar, Mid-Argyll with 114 at Ardmaddy Bay on 13 Feb and 100 at Loch Beag, Craignish on 16 Jan, North Argyll with 103 at Loch Creran on 21 Jan, Coll with 7 at Grishipoll on 20 Feb and 2 on Tiree from 3 Apr – 30 May.

**Summer/breeding** Noted on 21% of BBS transects (7/34). Most breeding reports from Mid-Argyll at 6+ sites, inc. 9 nests on Eilean nan Gamhna, Kerrera on 4 May and 15 ads with 95 yng at Ulva Lagoons on 2 Jul. Breeding or prs also noted from; Colonsay with 18 broods totalling 71 young in May and Jun and on Islay broods at Ardilistry Bay on 5 May and Proaig (b/6) on 8 Jun. Also, at sites in Cowal (1), Kintyre (1), Mull (5) and North Argyll (3). First broods noted at Ulva Lagoons Mid-Argyll on 20 Apr and East Loch Fada Colonsay on 26 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Tiree). Max area counts received of 2 at Cliad Coll on 15 Nov, 170 on Colonsay on 17 Nov, 214 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Oct, 30 at Kintra Islay on 2 Aug, 23 at Feolin Jura on 27 Nov, 325 at the Laggan / Machrihanish airfield Kintyre on 22 Nov, 325 at the Add Est Mid-Argyll on 19 Nov, 89 at Achabeag Mull on 29 Nov and 210 at Ardnaclach North Argyll on 24 Dec.

## TODD'S CANADA GOOSE\* *Branta c. interior*

*A rare visitor. Todd's Canada B. c. interior race is considered by the BBRC. 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 with other Canada types and variability in size and plumage of races, therefore separation is not always possible.*

**Winter/spring** On Islay reports of 1 at Ballinaby on 15 Feb and 2 at Kintra on 22 Feb [S. Percival]. In Kintyre a presumed returning bird (with a Cackling type) was in the Laggan/Machrihanish airfield area N of Campbeltown from Dec 2022 with last report on 23 Jan [T. Lowe *et al.*]. On Tiree presumably the returning Todd's type was again at Balephetrish on 6 Mar and perhaps at Ruaig on 25 Mar [J. Bowler *et al.*].

**Autumn/winter** On Islay a report of 2 at Gruinart on 9 Oct & 1 on 11 Oct [J. How] and 1 at Cornabus on 10-12 Oct [E. Burrell]. Also, a report of 3 together at Bridgend, Islay thought to be this race [P. Disken]. *Not all records were submitted and others are 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 Rinnns of Islay.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Max Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International goose counts) of 36,218 in Mar. Max area counts of 29,067 on Islay on 14-15 Mar, 5,243 on Tiree on 14-15 Mar, 1,028 on Coll on 13 Mar, 1,817 on Oronsay Colonsay on 19 Jan and in Mid-Argyll, 611 at Danna on 24 Mar. On Tiree over 500 found dead

from HPAI ('Bird flu') during Jan-Feb. Elsewhere, on *Colonsay* a max count of 745 on 19 Jan, 437 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan and 317 on *Iona Mull* on 5 Mar. Most birds had departed by mid-Apr.

**Breeding/summer** A small number of individual sick birds (HPAI) remained on *Oronsay Colonsay* through the summer.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals of 27 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep and 20 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Sep. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max counts of 27,413 on *Islay* on 19-20 Dec, 4,698 on *Tiree* on 21 Nov (cf. 5,771 in 2022), 3,784 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 1 Nov and 798 on *Coll* on 18 Oct (cf. 937 in 2022). Elsewhere, on *Mull* 70 on *Iona* on 14 Oct and 200 at Gribun on 29 Dec, and in *Mid-Argyll* 396 on Luing on 26 Dec and 287 at Danna on 8 Nov.



**Cackling Goose with Barnacle Geese** *Islay* Jan (Jonathan Farooqi)

### **CAACKLING GOOSE\*** *Branta hutchinsii*

*A rare visitor. 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 was in the Gruinart area *Islay* from Oct 2022 with reports of presumably the same bird ranging between Gruinart, Skerrols, Lyrabus, Coullabus, Bridgend, Neriby, Ballinaby between 2 Jan to last report on 27 Mar [J. Farooqui, J. Dickson, J. How *et al*]. One, from Dec 2022, was in the Laggan/Machrihanish airfield area N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* between 1 Jan to last report on 1 Mar [T. Lowe *et al*]. Two birds very similar to Cackling, presumed to be hybrid small Canada type x Barnacle, were at the head of Loch Indaal *Islay* on at least 2 Mar [J. Dickson, D. Jardine].

**Autumn/winter** On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart from 9 Oct until 9 Nov, then presumably same bird at Bowmore & Gartmain areas of Loch Indaal between 20 - 28 Nov [J. How, S. Percival, D. Brown *et al*]. A report of 3 together at Coull Farm *Islay* on 24 Oct, then 2 there on 26 Oct. *Not all reports have been submitted and others are subject to acceptance by the BBRC.*



**Snow Goose** *Tiree* Dec (John Bowler)

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

*A rare visitor. 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* remains, with only 4 noted in winter/spring but increased to 5 by Aug until year end, because of successful breeding, with the first young (1) reared for a number of years.

**Winter** An adult white morph, likely a ‘Greater’ Snow Goose, was at *Caoles Tiree* on 13 Dec and remained to the end of the year [J. Bowler].

### **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 on 14-15 Mar gave an Argyll total of 5,207 and highest counts were on *Tiree* with 2,385 and in *Kintyre* with 1,236.

Additional high counts of 3,263 total count *Tiree* on 2-4 Jan, 768 on *Islay* on 14-15 Mar, 476 on *Coll* on 13 Mar and 237 at Slockavulin *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Noted on 35% of BBS transects (12/34). Breeding reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*) but details patchy. Nesting noted from mid-Apr. First b/5 noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 May, then brood at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. On *Tiree* a late summer count of 3,350 on 29 Aug (of which 35.2% of a sample were juvs) (mean brood = 2.60, n=274) (cf. 3,823 in 2022). 67+ broods reported *Colonsay* (excluding Oronsay). Broods noted at 7 sites on *Mull*. 25 ads with 52 goslings at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max counts of 2,960 on *Tiree* (all island) on 21 Nov, 1,520 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Sep, and 850 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 240 at Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 219 at Toward *Cowal* on 24 Oct and 150 at Achabeag *Mull* on 30 Oct.



**Pink-footed Geese** *Mid-Argyll* Oct (James Lehmann)

### **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 except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Small nos of 1-5 birds wintered in *Islay*, *North Argyll* and *Tiree*. In *Kintyre* up to 15 were in the Laggan from 10 - 27 Jan and 152 were at Sandhaven *Cowal* on 27 Feb. Return passage flocks >NW from 31 Mar when 178 at Loch an Torr *Mull* and heaviest passage noted between 18-25 Apr. Most reported from (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) and few on *Islay* with max there of 26 at Saligo on 19 Apr. Higher counts inc., 1750+ in 7 skeins west along Sound of Mull *Mull* on 25 Apr when 500+ also over Scoor *Mull*, 500 over Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 19 Apr, in *Kintyre* skeins of 575 over Carradale on 18 Apr and 207 on 25 Apr and in *Mid-Argyll* 320 over Glen Lonan on 20 Apr and 254 over Dalvore on 15 Apr. Birds had moved through by 12 May.

**Summer** Single birds remained on *Tiree* in Jun and *Mull* in Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals were 4 noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep with more arriving after dark on 11 Sep in *Mull* and *Mid-Argyll* and 90 at the Oa *Islay*, 70 at Ben Hagh *Coll* and 40 on *Tiree* on 12 Sep. A slow movement thereafter with 202 > SE over Saddell *Kintyre* on 16 Sep the largest noted, until 7 Oct when 500 over *Tiree*, and then 170 over *Coll* and 140 over Dervaig *Mull* on 9 Oct. Passage was completed at the end of Oct and then 1-5 birds noted from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*) in Nov & Dec with 11 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* the largest group reported.



**White-fronted Goose** *Islay* Mar (Theo de Clermont)

### **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/Mull*). NatureScot / International Goose Counts in Mar gave an Argyll total count of 8,837, with area counts of 5,186 on *Islay* on 14-15 Mar, 2,255 in *Kintyre* on 15 Mar, 883 on *Tiree* on 14-15 Mar, 247 on *Coll* on 13 Mar 169 in *Mid-Argyll* on 12 & 14 Mar and 107 on *Colonsay* on 14 Mar. In addition, 7 were at North Shian *North Argyll* on 25 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** First arrivals were on 9 Oct when 97 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 4 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* and 100 over Balephuill *Tiree*. Numbers increased to 327 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11

Oct and 400+ on 13 Oct, and 36 were at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 2 on Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max counts of 4,714 on *Islay* on 19-20 Dec, 564 on *Tiree* on 20-21 Nov and in *Kintyre* 1,281 at the Laggan on 7 Nov and 370 at Rhunahaorine on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, 162 were on *Coll* on 20 Nov, 142 on *Colonsay* on 27 Nov, 39 (incomplete count) at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov and 1 at North Shian *North Argyll* on 26 Dec. A poor breeding season with low juv % reported: *Colonsay* (5.8), *Kintyre* (5.9) and *Tiree* (4.0).

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

*A scarce/rare visitor.*

**Winter** Seven (2ads + 5 juvs) were at Balephuill and Heylipol *Tiree* on 16 Dec 2022 and last noted there on 20 Jan, when they had been joined by a 6<sup>th</sup> juv [J. Bowler]. In *Kintyre* 2 juvs were at Drumlemble on 26 Jan [T. Lowe], an adult at Kilmichael on 30 Jan [A. Russell] and a small individual with perhaps some hybrid features with Lesser White-Fronted (*A. erythropus*) at Rhunahaorine on 24 Mar [T. Lowe]. On *Islay* an adult was at Corsapol on 10 Feb [T. Lowe], an adult at Craigens/Gruinart on 12 Feb [T. Lowe], 2 adults at Port Ellen on 13 Feb and a different adult at Gruinart on 20 -23 Feb [S. Percival]. *All records were 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. Max counts of 37 on *Tiree* on 22 Feb, where max site count of 25 at Loch a' Phuill on 1 Jan. High counts inc., 21 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 10 at Croggan *Mull* on 29 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of up to 8 birds, with most counts of 1-4 birds. On *Colonsay*, where scarce, 1 at Scalasaig on 7-11 Jan.



**Mute Swans** Cowal Jul (Andrew McFarlane)

**Breeding/summer** Confirmed breeding reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) but limited data received. On *Tiree* a good breeding season 14 prs at 9 sites reared 45 young with first brood (b/6) noted on 27 May. On *Islay* 3 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve. Elsewhere, pairs at sites in *Cowal* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3) and *Mid-Argyll* (3). A pair with a 'Polish morph' cygnet was seen in *Kintyre* at Muasdale on 15 Jul & 11 Aug and later at Tayinloan on 16 Nov.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 53 (inc. 25 fledged young) on *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 59 on 13 Sep & 18 Dec. Elsewhere, c70 on *Islay* on 31 Oct, with 40 at Loch Indaal, 43 (inc. 7 juv) at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct and 11 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov. One at Scalasaig *Colonsay* from 4 Nov to year end.

## WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

**AMBER LIST** *BBBP 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 count of 140 at Loch a' Phuill on 18 Feb. A total island count of 117 on 2 & 4 Jan included 34 (29.1%) cygnets, while 185 present on 22 Mar. On *Islay* highest count was 29 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 31 Jan and in *Kintyre* 20 were at Drumlemble on 24 Feb. Elsewhere, counts generally of birds stopping off to rest or flying over, with; 96 at Loch Gruinart and 53 at Kilnaughton Bay (both *Islay*) on 26 Mar, 61 >N Carradale *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 60 at Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, 120 Loch Spelve and 70 Gorsten (both *Mull*) on 27 Mar and 60 >N Garvellach Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr. Elsewhere, several flocks of up to 50 birds >N mostly between mid-Mar and mid-Apr.

**Summer/breeding** No reports of breeding. Summering birds included, at least 4 on *Tiree* in May which remained all summer and on *Islay* 2 at Loch Gruinart from May-Sep, 1 was at Ballinaby *Islay* on 11 Jun and 1 was at Carskiey *Kintyre* on 11 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals noted were on 22 Sep when 4 were at Seil *Mid-Argyll*, 8 at Loch Ba *Mull* and 17 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* then small arrivals across Argyll until heaviest passage between 6-16 Oct. On *Islay* highest counts received were 100 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 11 Oct and 67 at Kilchoman on 10 Oct, on *Tiree* with 100 across 2 sites on 15 Oct and on *Mull*, 34 at Loch na Keal on 9 Oct. Thereafter, on *Tiree* all-island count of 216 on 5 Nov, and 117 on 21 Nov inc. 22 (18.8%) cygnets, on *Islay* 76 at Loch Indaal on 15 Nov, and in *Kintyre*, 32 at Drumlemble on 29 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 birds.

## 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/Kintyre/Mull*). Max counts on *Islay* of 144 at Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb and 15 at Bridgend on 19 May. Elsewhere, 33 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb, 22 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Apr, 18 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 30 Mar and 18 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). On *Tiree* prs scattered around coast in May and 20 prs located on *Colonsay*, but only 4 broods found. First broods noted; b/11 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 28 May, b/4 Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Jun, on

*Tiree* at Miodar on 6 Jun, on *Islay* b/22 at Bruichladdich on 15 Jun, in *Mid-Argyll* a b/5 at Crinan Moss on 19 Jun and on *Coll* b/2 at Gallanach on 2 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Only 1-7 birds at a few sites late Aug-early Nov, but on *Islay* 38 at Loch Gruinart on 18 Aug with 23 still there on 17 Oct and 22 at Loch Indaal on 2 Nov. Numbers on *Islay* rose in Dec with max count of 46 at Loch Gruinart on 15 Dec. The first to return to *Tiree* was on the early date of 2 Nov, with a max of 8 at Salum *Tiree* on 31 Dec. Elsewhere, 1-6 birds.

### 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/Mid-Argyll*). In *Cowal* 5 were at Cambusdhu on 19 Jan and 2 pairs at Inverreck on 6 Apr. Three were on Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** A female with b/8 was on the River Eachaig *Cowal* on 26 May was the only report.

**Autumn/winter** Only one report received, with 2 at Duiletter, Glen Strae *North Argyll* on 7 Aug.

### GARGANEY\* *Spatula querquedula*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *A scarce/rare 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 8 May was the only report.

### SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *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 (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). On *Islay* a max of 56 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb. On *Tiree* a max count of 19 (at 2 sites) on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, a pr was at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 29 Apr and 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 May.

**Breeding** On *Islay* 25 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. A bumper season on *Tiree* with at least 15 prs across 8 sites and at least 11 broods seen at 6 sites. On *Colonsay* b/7 were noted at Machrins on 14 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Max counts of 50 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Dec and 16 on *Tiree* on 18 Dec with 14 at Loch a' Phuill on 31 Dec.

### 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 (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* a single fem was at Druim Mor, Oronsay on 3 & 5 Apr. At Loch Gruinart *Islay* 2 were present in Jan, 2 mm on 2 Mar, and 3 on 7 Apr and a male on 16 May, elsewhere on *Islay* 3 were at Loch Ardnave on 20 Jan. On *Tiree*, a male at Loch an Eilein on 11 Apr, followed by 3 at Balinoe on 17 Apr.

**Breeding** At least 3 prs on *Tiree*. 2 Fem with b/5 and b/8 were seen at 1 site on 17-19 Jun, followed by a fem there with b/7 (large) on 22 Jun, then 3 fems with b/7 (large), b/5 (large) and

b/3 (small) on 28 Jun and a fem with b/8 on 16 Jul. A pr bred on *Colonsay*, with b/1 seen at Loch Cholla on 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay*, 13 were at Loch Gruinart from 14 Oct, declining to 2 on 17 Nov and 1 on 15 Dec, elsewhere 8 at Loch Skerrols on 11 Aug and singles also at Kinnabus and Port Ellen on 13 Nov. On *Tiree*, 26 were at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Aug, with 7 there on 9 Sep and 4 remained until 4 Oct. 2 imms were at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep.

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

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 277 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jan, 240 on *Tiree* on 13 Jan, 235 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 25 Feb, 122 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Jan, 120 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 2 Feb, 114 at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, 109 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 10 Jan, 64 at Aros Est *Mull* on 2 Apr and 57 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Mar. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

**Breeding** Probable breeding with prs noted at sites on each of *Islay* (2), where 2 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and *Tiree* (3). Possible breeding at one site in *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First autumn arrivals with 7 mm at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jun, followed by 4 at Cornabus, the Oa *Islay* on 10 Jul and a pr at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul. But on *Tiree* the first was not until 24 Aug at Loch a' Phuill. Max counts inc., 574 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Oct, 517 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 302 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov, 204 at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct and 200 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 85 birds.



**American Wigeon** *Mull* May (Pete Walkden)

## AMERICAN WIGEON\* *Mareca americana*

*A rare visitor: 18 or more records.*

**Winter/spring** An adult male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 1 Jan - 25 Mar [J. Farooqui, J. Dickson, D. Jardine *et al*]. An adult male was at Killiechronan, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 15- 25 May [S. & A. Beevers, T. de Clermont, E. Miles *et al*]. An adult male was at Loch a' Phuill & Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 4-11 Jun [J. Bowler, J. Dickson]. *It is possible that the same bird may have been involved in these reports.*

**Autumn/winter** A 1cy male was at Gartnatra, nr Bowmore *Islay* on 9-10 Sep at least [J. Dickson *et al*]. A fem was at Cornabus, the Oa *Islay* 25 Oct-12 Dec [E. Burrell, D. Fairhurst *et al*]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

## MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

*A common breeding, passage and wintering species*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 113 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr, 89 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 23 Jan, 60 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug, 52 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 21 Jan, 41 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Jan and 41 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted on 24% of squares (8/34). Reports from all areas. On *Islay* 50 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Broods noted at various locations between 19 Apr and 5 Jul. At Loch Tulla *North Argyll* 5 broods with 46 yng noted on 9 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 172 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Sep, 164 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Aug, 156 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov, 97 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 18 Dec, 86 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 14 Oct, 75 at Eilean Traigh, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec and 65 at Rubh' an Dobhrain *Mull* on 5 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across *Argyll* of up to 60 birds.

## PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *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/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max counts of 68 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan, then 75 on 17 Feb, declining to 30 on 10 Mar. On *Tiree* 1 at the Reef on 16 Jan, 2 at Loch an Eilein on 22-23 Feb. Forming prs on *Tiree* during Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 at Add Est on 22 Mar.

**Breeding** Up to 3 prs at 3 sites on *Tiree*, with b/4 seen on 14 Jun, but none on *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with counts of 40 on 24 Sep, 84 on 17 Nov and 123 on 15 Dec. On *Tiree* only 1-2 birds at Loch a' Phuill 24 Sep to 18 Dec and 2 at Mannal 27 Sep. Elsewhere, 3 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Sep, 1 at Machrins on 8 Oct and 4 at Oronsay on 13 Dec (both *Colonsay*).

## TEAL *Anas crecca*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 444 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 389 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 23 Jan with max there of 191 at Loch a' Phuill on 23 Jan, 240 at the Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Feb, 107 at Canal Loch *Coll* on 14 Mar, 80 at Loch Skerrols



**Teal** *Mid-Argyll* Dec (Jim Dickson)

*Islay* on 11 Jan, 54 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 28 Feb and 52 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 20 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1 - 50 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports mainly from (*Islay/Tiree*). At least 25 prs across wetland sites on *Tiree*. On *Islay* 15 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 pr at RSPB Smaull. Other scattered breeding season records from sites in (*Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 1,286 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov, 370 on *Tiree* WeBS count on 18 Dec with max site count of 255 at Loch a' Phuill on 3 Dec, 200 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Nov, 154 at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Oct, 110 at Aird Luig *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep, 107 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 30 Oct, 97 at Cornabus *Islay* on 27 Oct, 82 at Canal Loch *Coll* on 19 Dec, 70 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Sep and 50 at Dalrannoch *North Argyll* on 26 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1-50 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.*

**Spring/summer** A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Apr [J. How] and possibly again on 12 May. A male was at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 8 & 14 Jun [A. Matthews, J. Dickson *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** A male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Nov and presumed same again at Loch Riaghain on 13 Dec [J. Bowler, P. Marsh]. *All records were 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** Two males were at Loch Gorm Islay on 1-3 Jan at least.

**Autumn/winter** A male was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 20 Oct, a report of 4 at Loch Skerrols Islay on 11 Aug and 4 were at Loch Gorm Islay on 4 Nov at least.

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

**RBBP** *A scarce but increasing winter visitor. 37+ previous records.*

**Winter/spring** A male was at Glenfeochan, Kilmore Mid-Argyll on 20-25 Feb [R. Grove, J. Dickson, D. Jardine, J. Waldie *et al*].

**Autumn/winter** A male was at Glenfeochan, Kilmore Mid-Argyll on 20-22 Dec [R. Grove, D. Jardine]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 147).*

**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 (Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Highest nos were on Tiree and max total of 77 at WeBS sites on 22 Feb and a max site count of 56 at Loch Bhasapol on 30 Mar. On Islay max counts of 20 from Loch Gorm on 25 Mar and 15 at Loch Skerrols on 21 Mar. In Mid-Argyll max counts of 7 at Ardencaple, Seil on 28 Jan and 6 at Dubh Loch, Glen Shira on 19 Jan. Max counts on Colonsay (4), Cowal (1), and Mull (5).

**Breeding** On Tiree a very good breeding season with 10 broods (35 yng) at one site in late Jul and prs at 3 other sites. On Islay 3 fems with 5 yng were at Ardnave Loch on 26 Jul, no data from Loch Gorm however a count of 35 there on 1 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree). Max counts of 70 on Loch Skerrols Islay on 30 Oct, 60 at Tiree WeBS sites on 21 Nov with site max of 56 at Loch a' Phuill on 21 Nov and 55 at Loch Gorm Islay on 5 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-8 birds.

**SCAUP\*** *Aythya marila*

**RED LIST** *RBBP A winter visitor and passage migrant, becoming scarcer. Most winter reports at Loch Indaal, Islay but rare and irregular elsewhere.*

**Winter/spring** No counts received from Islay. A fem was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 15 Jan – 28 Feb.

**Summer** A pair were at Lussa Loch Kintyre on 14 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** On Islay 4 at Loch Indaal on 9 Oct and max counts there of 5 on 16 Oct and 6 on 31 Dec. On Mull 1 was at Salen Bay on 29 Sep. On Tiree 1 was at Loch a' Phuill on 15 Sep, a 1cy there on 30 Sep, 7 Oct, 30 Oct & 2-7 Nov, and presumably same bird at Loch Riaghain on 16 Oct & 10 Nov.

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

*A vagrant. Seven records. Islay in Nov 1998, Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2006, Loch Skerrols, Islay in Jan 2009, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2015 and a group of five at Loch Skerrols Islay in Nov-Dec 2021 rising to six birds by Feb 2022, Loch Bhasapol, Tiree in Nov 2022.*

**Winter/spring** A male was at St. Mary's Loch, nr Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 20-26 Mar [D. Jardine, J. Dickson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

**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 350 on Cowal peninsula on 25 Jan, 248 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 171 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb, 151 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 27 Feb, 145 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 27 Jan, and 130 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Mar. Elsewhere, counts of up to 100 birds.

**Breeding** Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First broods (b/2 & b/1) noted at Duncuan Is, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May, Ormsary (b/5) *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May and on 13 Jun at Traigh Baigh *Tiree*. On *Colonsay* and Oronsay 36 fems found with 57 yng and at least 7 breeding fems on Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 372 from Dunoon - Ardyne *Cowal* on 14 Oct, 371 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Dec, 288 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 191 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Dec and 56 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 14 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.



‘Northern’ Eider (front) *Kintyre* Jan (Jim Dickson)

**‘NORTHERN’ EIDER** *S.m.borealis*

An Arctic form or sub-species of Eider from north-east Canada, Greenland and Iceland however the BBRC welcomes claims of *dresseri* & *v-nigrum* but claims of *faeroeensis* and *borealis* are only sought if accompanied by a ringing recovery.

**Winter/spring** An adult male was with Eiders at Campbeltown harbour *Kintyre* on 26 Jan to 15 Feb [T. Lowe, J. Dickson, D. Jardine *et al*]

**Autumn/winter** The adult male from the spring was noted again at Campbeltown harbour *Kintyre* on 11 Nov [A. & N. Hand].

### **SURF SCOTER\*** *Melanitta perspicillata*

*A rare visitor. 22+ records, occasionally involving several birds.*

**Winter/spring** A 1cy/2cy fem from 31 Dec 2022 remained off Blackrocks, Loch Indaal *Islay* until at least 25 Mar. An adult male was off Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 20 Jan [D. Jardine] and with a fem type there on 23 Jan, 7 & 13 Feb [J. Dickson. T. Lowe]. An adult male was off Ardnave Point *Islay* on 9 Feb, last reported 28 Feb [D. & J. Franklin].

**Autumn/winter** An adult male, possibly a returning bird, was off Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 16 Nov [D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



**Velvet Scoter** *Mull* Oct (Theo de Clermont)

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

**RED LIST** *Scarce but regular at the Sound of Gigha and 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 off Bowmore Loch Indaal *Islay* on 11-12 Feb, 2 males were at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 13 Feb – 2 Mar, a fem type was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 28 Jan – 14 Apr and a fem type was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 23 Mar-1 Apr.

**Summer** A male was again at Easter Ellister & off Bruichladdich *Islay* between 22 May & 28 Jun and usually with a fem Common Scoter. *Presumably the long stayer of once captive origin nearby.*

**Winter** A fem/1cy was off Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 13 Dec.

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

**AMBER LIST** *RBBP 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 (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts by region of 1 off SE *Colonsay* on 28 Apr, 158 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 28 Jan, 86 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Feb, 1+ on *Jura* on 26 May, 10 at Loch Caolisport, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Mar, 4 at Iona *Mull* on 11 May, and 1 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 9 Jan.

**Breeding/summer** Three on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 17 May, the site of successful breeding in 2021, was the only suggestion of breeding. A summering group of 72, mainly males, was off Rhunahaurine Pt. *Kintyre* on 14 Jun and 3 were at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Increase in nos with max counts by region, including many fem/imms, of 18 at Plaide Mhor *Colonsay* on 21 Nov, 230 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Dec, 205 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Dec, 8 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 20 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 26 Sep and 33 around *Tiree* on 29 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 (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Tiree*. Max counts of 33 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 1 Jan, 10 at Laggan Bay *Islay* on 24 Jan, 11 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan and 23 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 24 Jan. Elsewhere 4 were at Feall Bay *Coll* on 24 May and 1 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 6 Apr & 9 May.

**Summer** Notably 3 were at Claggain Bay, 2 at Loch Indaal and 1 at Kintra (all *Islay*) on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). First returning birds were singles at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Oct, at Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct and Calgary Bay *Mull* on 22 Oct. Max counts of 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Dec, 21 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Dec and 19 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 5 Dec. During Nov sightings more widespread with 6 at Feall Bay *Coll* on 20 Nov and singles noted at *Colonsay* (3 sites), at Ardmuckinish Bay *North Argyll* on 15 Nov and 1 inland at Loch a' Bharain *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov. On *Mull* 2 were at Lagganulva on 30 Nov and 2 at Salen Bay on 18-27 Nov. In Dec one remained inland at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec.



**Long-tailed Ducks** *Kintyre* Dec (Jim Dickson)

### **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**RED LIST** RBBP *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 50 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 43 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Feb, 30 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Feb, 25 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 1 Mar, 14 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 20 Jan and 10 at Loch Poit na h'I *Mull* on 13 Feb. Other widespread counts of 1-8 birds.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First of autumn were 2 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 2 Aug. Max area counts of 64 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec, 52 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 Dec, 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Nov, 17 at Head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug, 14 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 26 Dec, but only 4 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of 1-10 birds. *The decline in numbers in recent years has continued.*

### **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/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (20) and *Mid-Argyll* (18). Max counts of 21 (18 mm, 3 ff) at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 May, 9 mm at Colintrave *Cowal* on 21 May and 8 at Java Pt *Mull* on 15 Feb. Elsewhere, most counts were of 1-4 birds. On *Islay* one was at Blackrock on 19 Feb and 2 at Finlaggan on 27 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Reports of prs from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First b/7 was noted at Loch Eck *Cowal* on 29 May. On *Mull* a b/7 was found at Killiechronan on 7 Jul and a b/2 was at Salen on 29 Jul. Post breeding flocks of 45 were at Hunter's Quay, Dunoon *Cowal* on 27 Jun and 20 at Scallastle - Garmony *Mull* on 15 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports of 1-6 birds with max counts of 22 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 27 Aug, 20 at Garmony *Mull* on 1 Aug, 15 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 15 Sep and 13 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep.

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

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *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 areas. Max counts of 80 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 1 Mar, 60 at Ardmuckinsh Bay *North Argyll* on 7 Apr, 56 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 7 Feb, 55 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 25 Mar, 35 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan and 27 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20, however most flocks were fewer than 10.

**Breeding** Breeding around much of the Argyll coastline, however limited data received. On *Tiree* 14 prs from 5 sites in May with 7+ broods noted there from 5 Jul. Elsewhere, broods noted on *Mull* at Loch Don and Aros, at Kildalton *Islay*, at Oronsay *Colonsay* and in *Mid-Argyll* at Add Estuary (4), Loch Gilp (3), Loch Craignish (1), Tayvallich (1) and Danna (1).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 155 (post breeding moult flock) at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Jul, 129 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov, 74 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 25 Oct, 64 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 54 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 40 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Aug and 30 at Loch Long *Cowal* on 28 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of up to 30.

## 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*). Arrivals returned to more normal dates with the first one at Slockavuillin *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, followed by 3 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May and singles in Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May and Portavadie *Cowal* on 5 May and most arrivals shortly afterwards. Reports from sites in each area were; *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (3). Outwith known nesting areas, max counts of 60 at Lochan Cor Chnoc *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun and 30 >S at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 8 Jul.

**Breeding** Provision of nest boxes appears to be assisting this species. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs bred, rearing 5 young (b/3 & b/2) at the Kilmichael Glassary boxes, but no nesting details from Taynuilt. No evidence of nesting at the *Mid-Argyll* hospital, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll*, a known regular nesting site and local stronghold. Breeding season counts in *Mid-Argyll* 22 at Oban on 8 Jul, 10+ at Taynuilt on 16 Jul, 4 at Kilmelford on 22 Jul, 3 at Kilmore on 16 May and 2 at Kilmartin on 22 Jul. In *Cowal*, 11 were at Carrick Castle on 4 Jun, 4 at Kirn on 22 Jun and 4 at Hunter's Grove on 1 Aug and 4 were at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 25 May.

**Autumn** Most birds had departed by early Aug after which the only reports were: 2 at Kinnabus, the Oa *Islay* on 19 Aug, 6 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Aug, 2 at Caliach Point *Mull* on 20 Aug & 26 Aug, and singles at Cornabus, the Oa *Islay* and Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 22 Aug, at Feall Bay *Coll* on 23 Aug and at Ruainich, Iona *Mull* on 1 Sep the last reported.

## ALPINE SWIFT\* *Tachymarptis melba*

*A vagrant. Two records, one at Largybaan, Kintyre on 15 Apr 1993 and one on the Treshnish Isles, Mull on 11 Jul 1994.*

**Spring** One was seen & photographed over Dun I at N end of Iona *Mull* on 16 Mar [W. Miles, M. Oliver, J. Sturgeon *et al*]. Two were at Ganavan Bay, north Oban *Mid-Argyll* noted at 08.30 hrs [D. James] and both again at 16-16:15 hrs [A. Young] and one of these or perhaps another over south Oban *Mid-Argyll* at 11.20 hrs [R. Grove] on 23 Mar. *All records were accepted by the SBRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 147).*

## 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. The first arrivals reported in each area were Glencruitten *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr, Glengorm *Mull* on 10 Apr, Kilnaughton *Islay* on 14 Apr, Vaul *Tiree* on 19 Apr and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr. Thereafter, more widespread reports from 21 Apr onwards.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 59% of squares (20/34). Calling birds reported from sites in; *Coll* (7), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (13), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (40), *Mull* (56), *North Argyll* (23) and *Tiree* (7). Some 'larger sites' had numerous reports e.g. 8 at the Bastard *Kintyre* on 11 May and 7 on *Coll* on 10 May, 6 males calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 22 calling males on *Colonsay*.

**Autumn** Most adults had departed by late Jun. Numbers of reports received by month; Jun (77), Jul (1) and Aug (5). Late juvs were reported at Scallastle *Mull* on 1 Aug and Lower Creagabus, the Oa *Islay* on 2 Aug, other late birds were singles at Pennygown on 12 Aug and Ardtun on 22 Aug (both *Mull*) with the last at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug.



**Cuckoo Mull** Aug (Theo de Clermont)

### **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.*

**Winter/spring** Reports received from all areas. Max counts of 60 at Loch Gruinart on 9 Feb and 60 at Loch nan Gillean on 1 Mar (both *Islay*), 30 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan and 30 at Eorabus *Mull* on 17-18 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 18% of squares (6/34), with max counts of 40 at the Monument, the Oa *Islay* on 2 Jun and 36 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 18 Apr. No specific breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts on *Tiree* where large numbers feeding on Charlock seed at Gott; 250 on 24 Sep, 340 on 3 Oct, 520 on 4 Oct, 430 on 9 Oct and still 120 on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, 370 at Sgeir Carnach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep and 300 there on 26 Dec, 220 at Kilkerran *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, 214 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Oct and 200 at Barr *Islay* on 22-28 Oct.

### **FERAL PIGEON**

*Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, although less so from the island regions where Rock Doves predominate, and higher numbers are found in towns but there is little information on population size.*

Higher counts mainly from the larger towns in Argyll with max counts of 70 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jul. Smaller flocks in Dunoon *Cowal* and on *Mull* where 40 at Loch na Keal on 14 Jul. A flock at Islandadd Bridge, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* had increased to a max 143 on 18 Oct and 41 were at Dunbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Nov.

**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** Singles were at Balinoe Tiree on 31 Mar (5<sup>th</sup> record for Tiree), Saddell Kintyre on 7 Apr and Balliemore, Kerrera Mid-Argyll on 8 Apr.

**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. Max counts of 50 at Dunoon Cowal on 23 Apr, 43 at Saddell Bay Kintyre on 6 Jan, 25 at Achamore Ho, Gigha Kintyre on 4 Feb, 23 at Colonsay Ho. Colonsay on 6 Jan, 21 at Quinish Pt. Mull on 28 Feb, 17 at the Oa Islay on 15 May, 15 at Poltalloch Mid-Argyll on 15 Mar and 13 at Achnaba North Argyll on 6 Jan. Counts elsewhere of 1-10 birds, inc. one at Balephuill Tiree on the early date of 26 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 4 at Kilbridemore Burn, Glen Kin and Loch Tarsan (all Cowal). Limited data received, but 2 singing at Crarae Gdns Mid-Argyll on 21 Apr and 8 prs RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Jura/Tiree). A large acorn crop led to more wintering with max counts of 620 at Barr Glen Kintyre on 21 Nov, 570 at Loch Stornoway on 21 Nov, 300 at Kerrera on 11 Nov and 210 at Barsloisnoch on 28 Oct (all Mid-Argyll), with 80 at Gartnagrenach Bay Kintyre on 25 Oct, 70 at Glen Ralloch Mid-Argyll on 24 Oct and 70 at Ardura Mull on 26 Oct. Elsewhere, several counts of 30-70.



**Turtle Dove** Islay Jun (David Dinsley)

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

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

**Spring** One was at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 2 Jun and one was at a private site in NW *Mull* on 23-24 Jun.

**Autumn** One was at Treshnish Farm, NW *Mull* on 7-9 Sep.

### **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’. Like 2022 only low nos noted. Max counts of only 12 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 11 between Dunoon & Ardyne *Cowal* on 23 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 6% of squares (2/34). Limited breeding data received, but present in all areas in Jun & Jul. First fledged young noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 May. Max counts received; 10 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 6 Jun, 8 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 18 Jul and 7 at Arinagour *Coll* on 4 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 28 at Cornabus on 2 Oct, 23 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 8 Sep (both *Islay*), 22 at Cairnbaan on 19 Nov and 19 at Toberonochy Luing on 26 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*).

### **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 20 sites except (*Cowal/Jura*), with max counts of 4 at Ardantrive reedbed, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb and 3 at Ardtur *North Argyll* on 13 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Birds heard calling in suitable breeding areas from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (4), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (4). On *Islay* at least 3 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Fledged yng seen or heard at Machrins *Colonsay* on 14 Jun, at Carnan *Islay* on 3 Jun, and on *Tiree* at Balephuill, Cornaigmore and the Reef. *Under recorded.*

**Autumn/winter** Reports at 16 sites from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max count of 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Nov, other reports of 1-2 birds with 4 noted on *Tiree* on 10 Nov.

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

**RED LIST** RBBP *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 have been fluctuating recently.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). First arrivals were singles at Balephuill and Barrapol *Tiree* on 13 Apr, Port Mor *Colonsay* on 20 Apr, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 23 Apr and Totronald *Coll* on 26 Apr. Most arrivals were during last week of Apr and early May.

**Summer/breeding** Calling male counts: *Tiree* (293), *Coll* (68), *Islay* (31), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (18), *Iona Mull* (15) and *Mull* (3). An Argyll total of 429, cf. totals of 397 in 2022, 383 in 2021, 416 in 2020, 439 in 2019, and an Argyll peak of 702 in 2014 (*per RSPB*).

**Autumn/winter** Late singles noted at Sligneach, *Iona, Mull* on 2 Sep, where one was found dead on 5 Sep, at Miodar *Tiree* on 7 Sep and on *Islay* at Kinnabus on 10 Oct.



**Corn Crake** *Islay* Jun (David Dinsley)

**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 (*Cowal/Jura*). Most reports of 1-2 birds and max counts of 6 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan, 4 at Ballyhugh Loch *Coll* on 21 Apr and 4 at Ardtur *North Argyll* on 13 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre*). Reports from one site in *Coll* where 2 prs. On *Colonsay* 2 prs, with b/2 at East Loch Fada on 7 Jun. On *Islay* 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* breeding noted on the Crinan Canal and at Ardlarach, Luing. Young reported at Loch an t'Suidhe *Mull*. In *North Argyll* a pr with chick at Tralee Gravel pits on 28 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Mull*). All reports of 1-3 birds from sites in *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1). Max counts of 5 at Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith, nr Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov and 4 on the Crinan Canal *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec. *Generally, under recorded in some mainland regions.*

**COOT\*** *Fulica atra*

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

**Winter/spring** One was at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 2 – 13 Jan, with possibly same bird nearby at Balvicar Lagoon on 7 Jan, and 1 was at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 9 Jan - 22 Feb.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Port-na-Luing *Coll* on 20 Nov and a 1cy was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 21 Nov.



Coot Mid-Argyll Jan (Jim Dickson)

### **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/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Max counts of 10 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Feb, 8 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Jan, 8 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 20 Jan and 8 at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan. Many coastal sites held 1-5 birds.

**Breeding** Limited breeding data, present on many suitable lochs. 6 prs noted on *Colonsay*. Prs with yng also noted at Loch Barnluasgan & Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll*, Linndhu Ho *Mull*, Tralee Gravel Pits *North Argyll*, 1 pr bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 24 at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 18 Aug, 13 at Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Nov, 11 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 7 Sep, 10 at West Loch Tarbert *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov and 8 at Loch Ballachuan, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5.

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

**RED LIST** *A scarce winter and passage visitor. Most records are in Sep-Mar. At least 47 records.*

**Winter/spring** A winter plum bird was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Mar [J. Bowler].

**Autumn/winter** A non-breeding plum was at Ganavan Bay, nr Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct [P. Carroll]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).

### **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** Two were off Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 18-19 Jan, with 1 to 18 Mar at least, 3 off Ardentinn, Loch Long *Cowal* on 26 Feb and 1 off Ronachan Pt *Kintyre* on 10 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** An adult was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Aug, 1 was off Bowmore, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov and 5 were at Blairmore Bay, Loch Long *Cowal* on 29 Dec.



**Great Crested Grebe** *Cowal* Jan (Jim Dickson)

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

**RED LIST** RBBP 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 (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts in each region of 30 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Mar, 35 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 23 Jan, 5 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb and 38 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Feb. A single was at Blairmore Farm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 19 Jan. The last noted in spring was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First arrival was of 3 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Sep. Max counts in each region of 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 22 Oct, 48 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Dec, 29 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Nov, 3 at Ardmuckinish Bay *North Argyll* on 5 Nov and singles on *Tiree* at Loch Bhasapol on 7-15 Nov and Gott Bay on 10-15 Nov.

**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 281 at Otter Ferry on 18 Feb, 174 from Dunoon - Ardyne on 23 & 19 Feb and 125 at the Holy Loch on 12 Mar (all *Cowal*), 194 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan, 169 at Loch Gruinart on 10 Mar and 136 at Loch Indaal on 6 May (both *Islay*), 168 (across two sites) on *Tiree* on 14 Mar, 150 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Jan and 78 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from all Argyll areas. On *Islay* 42 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 8 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 134 prs in a full survey of The Reef and first chicks noted on 27 May at Loch a' Phuill. On *Mull* 12+ prs on the Treshnish Is. and 7 prs found on Eilean Ghaoideamal, Oronsay *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 397 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec, 392 between Dunoon - Ardyne on 16 Dec and 276 at the Holy Loch on 15 Oct (both *Cowal*), 294 at Loch Gruinart on 18 Aug and 150 at Loch Indaal on 2 Nov (both *Islay*) and 90 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 4 Aug.

### 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 2,420 on *Tiree* all island counts on 2 & 4 Jan, 656 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Jan, 101 at Fionnphort *Mull* on 25 Feb, 90 at Cornabus, Oa *Islay* on 15 Feb, 90 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Feb and 80 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 13 Feb. In other areas, max counts of 69 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 20 Feb, 65 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 25 Jan, 13 at Aird Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan, 4 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 1 Feb and 3 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 11 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** On *Tiree* 330 prs in a complete count of The Reef on 11-13 May, with many on eggs from at least 25 Mar and first b/3 noted on 30 Apr. On *Islay* 149 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart (cf. 128 prs in 2022), 1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve (cf. 2 prs in 2022) and pr at Ballimony. On *Colonsay* (exc. Oronsay) 25 prs and 41 prs at RSPB Oronsay (cf. 19 & 46 prs in 2022). Around 10 prs at Barloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb. On *Mull* prs reported at Loch Spelve (4), Torloisk (2), Scarisdale (1), Dhiseig (1), Calliach Pt (1) and Pennyghael (1).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 3,475 on *Tiree* all island counts on 20 - 21 Nov, 883 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Dec, 250 at Crossapol *Coll* on 1 Oct, 130 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 22 Nov, 103 at Garvard *Colonsay* on 2 Aug and 90 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 21 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of up to 30 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*). Large numbers on *Tiree* with 2,640 there on 2 & 4 Jan and increasing to 4,700 at The Reef *Tiree* on 12 Apr. On *Islay* 1,450 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 13 Jan increasing to 1,600 on 29 Mar, on *Colonsay* 400 on Oronsay on 18 Apr and 40 were at Garmony *Mull* on 2 Mar. Elsewhere, counts were of 1-40 birds, with no large flocks noted in *Kintyre*.

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

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Birds were arriving back in late Jul e.g. 1 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 27 Jul, 78 at 78 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 28 Jul, when 30 also at Scallastle

Bay *Mull*. Max counts of 4,320 on *Tiree* all island count on 20 - 21 Nov, 2,160 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Nov, 330 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, 76 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 20 Nov and 60 at Ardtun *Mull* on 3 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1 - 54 birds.

### AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER\* *Pluvialis dominica*

*A rare autumn visitor. 33+ records, all 2001-2022 and mostly from Tiree.*

**Autumn** A 1cy (juv) was at Middleton *Tiree* on 13-15 Sep [K. Gillon] then at Barrapol on 28 Sep [J. Dickson, S. Gibson *et al*] and again at Barrapol on 12 Oct [J. Bowler]. A different (greyer) 1cy was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 29 Sep [T. de Clermont, D. Jardine], then at Kilkenneth on 4 Oct [J. Dickson, T. de Clermont] and at Barrapol on 12 Oct [J. Bowler]. A 1cy was at Gruinart Flats *Islay* on 26 Oct [D. Fairhurst]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).*

### 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; 21 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan, with 12 there on 16 Apr, 6 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan and 3 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 6 May. Elsewhere, singles at; Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, at Fionnphort *Mull* on 3 Apr, east of Salum *Tiree* on 4 Apr, at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 - 20 Apr and at Loch Beg *Mull* on 18 Apr.

**Summer** A 2cy bird was at Baugh *Tiree* on 6 July.

**Autumn/winter** First reports; 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep. Max and higher counts; 9 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Oct and 3 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 20 Nov. Elsewhere, 2 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 2 Nov, 2 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 24 Oct, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 1 there on 17 Oct, and singles at Miodar *Tiree* on 26 Sep, at Baugh *Tiree* on 27 Sep – 1 Oct, at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 27-28 Sep, at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 16 Oct and at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Dec.

### 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 areas. Winter max counts of 225 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 26 Jan, 56 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jan and 63 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 23 Jan. Spring passage was strong from late Apr-late May: on *Islay* max count of 347 at Loch Gruinart on 16 Apr and on *Tiree* 650 (across 2 sites) on 15 May and max site count of 500 at Vaul GC on 3 May. Elsewhere, 105 at Fidden *Mull* on 9 May, 82 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 May and 80 at Crossapol & Feall Bays *Coll* on 24 May.

**Breeding** Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Jura*). On *Islay* 3 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 36 prs found in complete survey of The Reef 19 - 21 Apr. First yng noted at Barranrioch *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May, on 8 May at Carskey Bay *Kintyre*, on 27 May at Largimore *Cowal* and 6 Jun on The Reef *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Return passage increased from early Aug. Max counts of 1,103 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Aug, 530 (across 3 sites) on *Tiree* on 13 Dec, 168 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Aug, 160 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 22 Aug, 132 at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 2 Sep, 130 at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 2 Oct, 100 at Brunerican Bay *Kintyre* on 1 Sep and 97 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 23 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of up to 80 birds.



**Ringed Plover** *Kintyre Jun* (Catherine Cochrane)

**DOTTEREL\*** *Charadrius morinellus*

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

**Spring** Two were at Caliach Point NW Mull on 23 Apr.



**Dotterel** *Mull Apr* (Mike Murphy)

## WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

**RED LIST** RBBP *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 except (*Jura*). One report of a single wintering bird at West Tarbert, Gigha *Kintyre* on 4 Feb. First migrants; 1 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 7 Apr, 4 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 12 Apr, and singles at Garmony *Mull* on 15 Apr, Carradale *Kintyre* on 17 Apr, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* and Ballinaby *Islay* on 19 Apr, after which reports more widespread. Heaviest passage was in late Apr - early May when 64 were at Saligo *Islay* on 25 Apr, 35 at Fidden *Mull* on 28 Apr, 123 were on *Tiree* on 28 Apr and 187 there on 6 May, 28 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 May, 15 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and 13 on *Coll* on 4 May. Thereafter, most counts were fewer than 20, then 1-3 birds lingered into early Jul at sites in *Colonsay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First return passage on 30 Jul with singles at the Add Est *Mid-Argyll* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Numbers generally low with 10 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 14 Aug, 7 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Aug and 6 at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 29 Aug. In Sep & Oct all reports of 1-4 birds. A single wintering bird noted at Gribun *Mull* on 20 & 26 Nov.

## 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 178 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Jan, 166 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jan, 93 at the Holy *Cowal* on 27 Feb, 70 at the Laggan on 2 Feb, 65 at Rhunahaorine on 20 Jan and 56 at Lephenstrath on 24-29 Jan (all *Kintyre*) and 60 at Bridgend *Islay* on 12 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 4 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. Elsewhere, confirmed breeding at Kintra *Islay* and Normann's Ruh *Mull*. Other birds in suitable upland areas of *Mull* in late Apr -May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Return passage from early Jul e.g. 155 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jul, 127 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jul and 63 at Loch Don *Mull* on 20 Jul. Max counts of 314 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Aug, 142 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Oct, 120 on *Tiree* (at three sites) on 20 Nov, 110 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 31 Oct, 101 at Loch Don *Mull* on 7 Aug, 88 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Nov, 87 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 21 Nov, 55 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov and 50 at Breachacha *Coll* on 19 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 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 (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 395 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jan, 39 at Kirkapol *Tiree* on 2 Jan, 35 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Jan, 25 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb & 12 Mar and 13 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds. Up to 60 birds remained during Jun at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 13 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* 12 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First returning birds were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* where nos. rose to 133 on 10 Jul. Max counts of 1,233 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov, 65 on *Tiree* (5 sites) on 28 Aug, 47 at An Carn, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 Nov, 31 at Duart Bay *Mull* on 7 Sep, 27 at Bagh an Trailleich *Coll* on 23 Aug, 26 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 24 Aug, 15 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Dec and 10 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds.

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

**RED LIST** RBBP 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/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) during a modest passage. Wintering birds reported during Jan-Feb when up to 10 on *Islay* at RSPB Loch Gruinart and one at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 23 Jan. First arrival of migrants; 127 at Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Mar and then 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Mar. Nos increased on *Tiree* in early Apr with counts of 48 at Loch a' Phuill on 8 Apr and 55 there on 10 Apr. Nos peaked at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, with 50, on 21 Apr. The largest flock; of 114 was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. Elsewhere, 27 were at Lochdon *Mull* on 30 Apr and singles at 4 other sites on *Mull* in late Apr, 11 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Apr, 8 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and 1 at Totronald *Coll* on 26 Apr. In May, the only large group was 100 at Ardnave *Islay* on 18 May with small numbers on (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*) until mid-May. One was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 May. A few lingered on *Tiree* in Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) during a weak passage. First arrivals of returning adults inc., 25 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Jul, 12 high over Ben Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Jul, followed by 14 at Saligo *Islay* on 31 Jul when 17 on *Tiree*. Returning juvs noted from 11 Aug with 1 at Brunerican Bay *Kintyre*. Max counts of 19 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Aug, 28 on *Tiree* on 28 Aug and 17 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug. Elsewhere, area max counts of 2 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 16 Aug, 4 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 Aug and 5 on Iona *Mull* on 10 Sep. On *Islay* up to 4 were seen at Loch Gruinart during Nov-Dec and 11 were at Loch Indaal on 2 Nov.

### **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 of 1-30 from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Most high counts were from *Tiree* and max counts there of 110 at Sandaig on 30 Mar, 95 at Balephetrish Bay on 5 Apr and 100 at Gott Bay on 17 Apr. Elsewhere, 95 between Dunoon- Ardyne *Cowal* on 23 Jan, 32 at Killinallan Pt. *Islay* on 1 Jan, 32 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Feb and 31 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Small nos, of summering birds were still present at some sites when returning birds were arriving. The first noted on *Tiree* at Miodar on 27 Jul. Max counts of 160 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 9 Oct, 102 between Dunoon – Ardyne *Cowal* on 19 Nov, 72 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov, 61 at Knock *Mull* on 22 Oct, 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Aug, 40 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 22 Aug, 33 at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 15 Nov and 30 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 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 in winter from only (Colonsay/Islay). Low numbers at Loch Gruinart Islay where max of 31 on 24 Mar. Elsewhere, a single at The Strand Colonsay on 11 Jan was the only report. Very small spring passage noted of birds on Kintyre, Mull and Tiree, inc. red adults, between 3-27 May, with max of 25 at Killinallan Islay on 3 May and singles at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 8 May, at Fidden Mull on 9 May and on Tiree at Gott Bay on 3 May and at Loch a' Phuill on 27 May. In summer, a few birds noted, with 1 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 11 Jun, 2 at the Add Est Mid-Argyll on 24-26 Jun and 1 at Gott Bay Tiree on 11 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First returning birds noted at end of Jul when 1 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 23 Jul, 2 at Bowmore Islay on 27 Jun, 1 at Loch Cuin Mull on 27 Jul and 1 at the Add Est Mid-Argyll on 31 Jul. Followed by strong passage in late Aug when area max counts of 29 on Colonsay on 23 Aug, 138 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 18 Aug, 49 at Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 22 Aug, 33 at the Add Est Mid-Argyll on 23 Aug, 24 at Loch Cuin Mull on 17 Aug and 13 at Clachan Mor Tiree on 26 Aug. Highest counts were on Islay where nos peaked with 320 at Loch Gruinart on 5 Sep and 113 were on Tiree on 10 Sep. Birds had generally departed Argyll by mid-Oct, however in Cowal 1 was at the Holy Loch on 30 Oct -7 Nov and 11 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 13 Dec and 12 remained at Loch Gruinart Islay on 15 Dec.



**Ruff** Tiree Oct (Jim Dickson)

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

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

**Spring** On *Colonsay* a record count of 18 on *Oronsay* on 3 May. On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 7 Apr, 2 there on 15 Apr also 1 at Saligo on 7 May. On *Tiree* 2 males were at The Reef on 20 Apr, still mostly in winter plumage and a male in sum plum at Loch a' Phuill on 27 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding activity was noted, locations withheld, with 6 males in May increasing to 7-9 males in Jun with 1-2 females, however no confirmation of success.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay* a juv was at Loch Gruinart on 3 Sep and peaks of 3 there on 22 Sep, 5 on 24 Sep and 5 on 27-29 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult female was at the Add Estuary on 31 Jul. On *Tiree* a juv was at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Aug with peaks of 3 there on 18-22 Aug, 7 on 24 Aug, 9 at Caoles on 23 Aug, 8 at Loch a' Phuill on 11 Sep, 5 there on 24 & 27-29 Sep then 1-2 at sites until last at Balephetrish on 16 Oct.



**Curlew Sandpiper** *Tiree Jun* (Keith Gillon)

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

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

**Spring/summer** On *Tiree* 1 'red' adult and 2 'grey' 2cy's were at Hynish on 1 Jun, with the red bird remaining there to 6 Jun, also 1 at Traigh Ghrianal on 2 Jun and 1 at Gott Bay on 1-2 Jul.

**Autumn** On *Islay* a juv was at Carnain, Loch Indaal on 4 Sep, a juv at Loch Gruinart on 7 Sep, with 3 there on 9 Sep and last 1 there on 15 Sep. On *Tiree* a juv was at Miodar on 6 Sep, 4 juvs at Balephetrish Bay on 6 Sep, a juv at Clachan on 9-11 Sep, a juv at Loch a' Phuill on 15 Sep, a juv at Balephetrish Bay on 28 Sep, a juv at Barrapoll on 28 Sep-4 Oct and a juv at Gott Bay on 9 Oct.

### TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

**RED LIST** RBBP A rare passage migrant. Five records of singles. At Machrihanish, Kintyre in Jul 1974, at Fidden, Mull in Sep 1985, at An Fhaodhail, Tiree in Aug 1992 at Gruinart, Islay in May 2000 and at Gruinart, Islay in May 2014.

**Autumn** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 28 Aug [J. How]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

### 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 (Jura/North Argyll). Largest nos were on Tiree with higher nos Mar-May and max counts of 430 at Balephetrish Bay on 11 Apr and 400 at Gott Bay on 17 Apr, but passage was intermittent with a late count of 200 at Hough Bay on 30 May. Elsewhere, max counts on Islay of 165 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb, 74 at the Strand Colonsay on 23 Jan, 27 at Crossapol Coll on 10 May, 24 at Westport Kintyre on 2 Mar and 10 at Loch Don Mull on 12 Mar. The last birds had moved through Argyll by mid-Jun with 42 at Bellochantuy Kintyre on 6 Jun, 12 were at Oronsay Colonsay on 5 Jun, 31 at Traigh Bhi Tiree on 14 Jun and 15 at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 17 Jun the latest.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura) with first returning birds on Tiree on 1 Jul where max counts of 335 on four beaches on 7 Aug and 320 at Balephetrish Bay on 18 Dec. The proportion of juvs peaked at 21.5% on 11 Sep. On Islay 200 were at Loch Gruinart on 13 Oct and 100 at Loch Indaal on 15 Nov. Elsewhere, high counts of 150 at An Carn, Oronsay Colonsay on 13 Dec, 65 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 22 Aug, 55 at Cliad Bay Coll on 15 Nov, 45 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 14 Aug, and 25 at Loch Buie Mull on 3 Oct.

### 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 areas. Nos generally low outwith Islay and Tiree. Max winter counts of 464 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 20 Jan and 280 at Gott Bay Tiree on 30 Jan. On Tiree passage peaked on 3 May when 665 were present across 4 sites and on Islay 635 were at Loch Gruinart on 6 May. Elsewhere, peak counts of 74 at S Oronsay Colonsay on 21 May, 71 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 30 Apr, 67 at Loch Don Mull on 6 May and 58 at Carradale Bay Kintyre on 8 May. All other counts of 1-48 birds. Most had moved through by late May but on 4 Jun 37 late birds were at Loch a' Phuill Tiree and 33 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre.

**Breeding** On Tiree 51 singing males in a full survey of The Reef in Jun. Singing males noted at 4 other sites in May, with fledged young noted at several sites. Display was noted by 2 prs at a site in North Argyll on 9 May. No reports received from the usual upland areas of Mull and Mid-Argyll, or from Islay.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Jura). Return passage noted from 10 Jul when 98 were at Loch Gruinart Islay, followed by 150 at Loch Indaal Islay on 15 Jul, 55 at Add Est/Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 15 Jul, 30 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 24 Jul, then increasing with 240 on Tiree (4 sites) on 30 Jul, 210 at Traigh nam Barc Colonsay on 2 Aug and 1,661 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 18 Aug. At Loch Gruinart Islay 1,400 were spresent on 2 Nov and 260 were present across 4 sites on Tiree on 17 Nov. Elsewhere, higher counts of 77 at the Strand Colonsay on 20 Nov, 54 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 11 Nov and 35 at Loch Don Mull on 16 Sep.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**RED LIST** RBBP 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 70 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 26 Feb, 60 at Ardnave *Islay* on 12 Feb, 45 at Caoles *Tiree* on 27 Feb, 31 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 24 Mar, 12 at Portfield *Mull* on 13 Feb and 12 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 5 Apr. Last report was of 3 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 6 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). First reports of returning birds were single juvs at West Hynish *Tiree* and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* both on 26 Sep. Few reports received Sep-Nov, with 1-5 birds across 10 sites and max count of 10 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 19 Nov, with nos. increasing from end of Nov with 65 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 28 Nov, 13 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Dec and 11 at Ardnave Pt. *Islay* on 26 Dec.



**Baird's Sandpiper** *Tiree* Sep (Jim Dickson)

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER\*** *Calidris bairdii*

*A vagrant. Twelve records. Five on Islay (in Jun 1979, Sep 1999, Sep 2005, Sep 2011 and Oct 2019), six on Tiree (in May/Jun 2007, Sep 2009, Sep 2011, Sep 2013, Sep 2015 and Sep 2019) and one at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Sep 2008.*

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 21 Sep - 4 Oct [Clyde Ringing Group, D. Jardine, J. Dickson *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.



**Little Stint** *Tiree* Sep (Keith Gillon)

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

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

**Spring** On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 26 May. On *Tiree* 2 were at Gott Bay on 1 Jun, 1 at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 2 Jun, 1 at Loch a' Phuill on 4 Jun with at least 2 there on 5 Jun, with 1 remaining to 11 Jun and 1 at Gott Bay on 1 - 2 Jul.

**Autumn** On *Islay* a 1cy (juv) was at Loch Gruinart on 6 -14 Sep and 2 juvs there on 7 Sep. On *Tiree* a juv was at Clachan on 3 Sep.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER\*** *Tryngites subruficollis*

*RBBP A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor. At least 42 records of up to 56 birds since the first in 1971.*

**Autumn** A 1cy (juv) was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 6 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

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

*A scarce mainly autumn visitor. At least 70+ records.*

**Spring** One was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 -25 Apr [J. How].

**Autumn** A 1cy was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep [J. How]. A 1cy was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 25 Sep - 2 Oct [D. Jardine, J. Dickson, T. de Clermont *et al*], another 1cy was nearby at

Middleton *Tiree* on 27 Sep - 5 Oct [J. Dickson, T de Clermont *et al*], with perhaps the same at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Oct [J. Bowler]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Tiree* Sep (Jim Dickson)

### **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, for the National Survey in 2023.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 56 Argyll sites in Jan-Apr with max counts: 10 at Cornabus Farm *Islay* on 21 Jan and 9 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Mar. Considerable numbers are still shot in winter, but no details are available.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data received, with reports from 4 sites in *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Mull* of birds roding in May. In the BTO National Woodcock Survey roding birds were only found in 4 of the 18 sites surveyed in Argyll (22%); birds were only noted at sites in *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* (*data supplied by David Norfolk, BTO*). On *Colonsay* during surveys at Colonsay Ho. & woodlands area there were 2 'registrations' of 2 birds on 19 Apr, 1 of 1 bird on 24 May and none on 6 Jun – a significant decline on previous years.

**Autumn/winter** Only three reports Jul - Sep. Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First report was of 1 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 21 Oct, then other reports of 1-3 on *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *Tiree* in Oct. In Nov, 22 reports across Argyll of 1-4 birds and most sightings in mid to late Nov, then 20 reports with max counts of 7 at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 26 Nov, 5 on the Dervaig road *Mull* on 25 Nov and 4 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 19 Nov. In Dec 16 reports of 1-2 birds, with 4 at Arinagour *Coll* on 14 Dec and 4 at Kintallen, Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Dec.

**JACK SNIFE** *Lymnocyrtus 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** Generally singles reported from sites in; *Islay* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (3) and *Tiree* (5) with max counts of 3 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 1 Mar and 2 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Mar. Most reports by month with 7 (11 birds) in Mar, then 4 in Jan and last report of 1 at Haunn *Mull* on 30 Apr-5 May.

**Autumn/winter** First reports from *Islay* with 3 at Kinnabus on 9 Oct, 1 at Cornabus & 1 at Gruinart on 13 Oct. Reported from sites in; *Islay* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1) and *Tiree* (1). Max counts, both *Islay*, of 3 at Kinnabus on 9 Oct and at Cornabus on 30 Nov. *Under-reported; all records welcome.*



**Jack Snipe** *Islay* Dec (David Dinsley)

**SNIFE** *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 31 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Jan, elsewhere, 15 at Dervaig *Mull* on 10 Mar, 15 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 1 Mar, 12 at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 2 Jan and 10 at Staffa *Mull* on 21 Apr. Otherwise counts of only 1-6 birds.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 35% of BBS squares (12/34), with counts of 4 at Loch Gaineanhach *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr and 4 at Lochan Sholum *Islay* on 11 May. Singing/displaying counts; on *Islay* with 76 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 9+ at RSPB Oa Reserve, 5 on Oronsay *Colonsay*, on *Tiree* 111 at The Reef on 29-31 May and 3+ at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*. Few other counts but reported from all areas.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Good nos of migrants on *Tiree* from late Sep with max count of 130 at Barrapol on 29 Sep and est. of 500+ on the island. Other high counts of 42 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Oct and 33 at Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of up to 15 birds.

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

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

**Spring/breeding** Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 12 May and 13 Jul. Up to 16 breeding males produced at least 14 broods.



**Red-necked Phalarope** (Keith Gillon)

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

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

**Autumn** On Tiree 2 ads >SW off Hynish Tiree on 13 Aug, 1 was seen from the Tiree - Barra ferry on 5 Sep, 1 >SW off Hynish on 24 Sep, 1 >W off Aird on 11 Oct and 1 was at Balephetrish Bay on 20 Nov. In Mid-Argyll 1 was off the Kerrera jetty on 22 Nov. On Mull 1 >S past Caliach Point on 21 Aug.

**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** No records.

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 2-3 days later than 2022, with singles at Croggan Mull on 10 Apr, Knock Mull on 14 Apr, Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 15 Apr, Ardachy North Argyll on 17 Apr, Kinnabus Islay on 19 Apr, East Loch Fada Colonsay on 20 Apr and Carskiey Bay Kintyre on 21 Apr. Most arrival reports were around the end of Apr. Max counts of 15 at Loch Ba on 23 Apr, 10 at Loch Buie on 7 May and 10 at Loch Cuin on 18 May (all Mull) and 6 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 21 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 21% of squares (7/34). Limited data. On *Islay* 12 prs were at RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* 16 prs at 14 sites in Jun-Jul, 19 AOTs found on *Colonsay*, and 7 AOT at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 9 May. Max counts of 18 at Loch Cuin on 11 Jul and 14 at Loch na Keal on 14 Jul (both *Mull*).

**Autumn/winter** No reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of 6 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Aug, 6 at Tralee Bay, Benderloch *North Argyll* on 30 Aug, 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Aug and 5 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 23 Aug. Generally, 1-3 birds at other sites, with 32 reports in Aug and 2 in Sep. A single at Salen *Mull* on 19 Oct may have been the same bird seen at Loch na Keal on 3 Dec.



**Common Sandpipers** *Mid-Argyll* Jun (James Lehmann)

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

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

**Winter/spring** One was at Gruinart flats *Islay* on 23 Jan.

**Autumn** Singles were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jul, nr Bun-an-uillt, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 19 Aug and at Balinoe *Tiree* on 30 Aug.



**Green Sandpiper** *Islay* Sep (Jim Dickson)

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Widespread at coastal sites, usually of 1-20 birds. Max winter counts of 201 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Mar, 66 at the Holy Loch on 12 Mar, 25 between Dunoon – Ardyne on 14 Mar and 22 at Arrochar, Loch Long on 26 Jan (all *Cowal*). Spring passage noted in Apr with 174 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Apr, 73 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr and 22 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 18 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data received. On *Islay* 99 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 7 prs at RSPB Smaull. On *Tiree* 57 prs in a complete count at The Reef on 29-31 May. On *Coll*, 2 prs at Eilean an t-Sean Chaisteil and on *Colonsay* 9 Ters (exc. Oronsay) and 16 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Passage noted from mid-Aug with 60 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 22 Aug, 54 at Loch Don *Mull* on 10 Aug, 52 at the Add Est/Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and 50 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Aug. Max counts of 172 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Nov, 75 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Oct and 74 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Oct. Elsewhere, 49 between Dunoon - Ardyne *Cowal* on 16 Dec, 31 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov and 27 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 29 Dec with widespread counts of up to 25 birds.

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

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *A scarce passage migrant and rare- irregular breeder: 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 9 May and 2 on 22 May. One was at An Fhaodhail Tìree on 12 May. One was at RSPB Gruinart Islay on 15 May.

**Autumn** One was at Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 10 Jul.



**Wood Sandpiper** North Argyll Jun 2021 (Peter Stronach)

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *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 (Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Most reports from sites in; Mull (14), Mid-Argyll (9) and Islay (1) and generally of 1-3 birds. Max counts of 6 at Loch Beg Mull on 24 Apr, 4 at Loch Gruinart Islay in Jan and 3 at Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 20 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** Breeds in small nos in (Mull/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Birds noted back in breeding areas from late-Apr in a few upland lochan areas. Only casual reports of birds at single sites in Mid & North Argyll.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura) and most reports from sites in; Mull (13), Mid-Argyll (12), Islay (9) and Kintyre (7). First 2 returning ads noted at Loch a' Phuill Tìree on 17-19 Jun. Return passage in most areas from Jul with 2 ads at the Add Estuary Mid-Argyll on 4 Jul and 2 ads & 2 juvs there on 12 Jul, then more widespread from mid-Jul with generally, 1-4

birds at sites and max counts of 31 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Sep, 17 at Loch Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 14-17 Aug, 13 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Nov and 11 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 3 Sep. On the mainland, max counts were 7 at Barr Dubh, Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct and 6 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov.



**Kittiwakes & auks** *Islay* Jun (David Dinsley)

### **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. Max counts of 2,500 feeding flock heading up Loch Fyne, seen from Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 400 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 21 May, 282 >SW in 1hr at Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Mar, 100 at Duart Pt *Mull* on 9 Feb, 70 >N at the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr and 40 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 22 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). A mixed breeding season: On *Colonsay* counts on five sections of the Pigs Paradise colony held 3,075 AON (*cf.* 1,899 in 2018) and at the Dun Tealtaig annual sample cliff there was a count of 33 AON (*cf.* 43 in 2022). At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 131 AONs (75 in 2022), on *Mull* 521 AONs on Lunga, Treshnish Is. (963 in 2022) at end Jun and at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 686 AONs on 15 Jun (604 in 2022) where 880 large chicks on 12 Jul (mean = 1.67 chicks/nest *n* = 290). No count conducted at Sanda *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 3,500 >SW off N Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct, 1,576 >S at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 21 Sep, 1,000 at Lady's Rock, Lismore *North Argyll* on 1 Sep,

800 Keillmore *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep and 400 at the Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug & 20 Sep.

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

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

**Autumn** A juv (1cy) was off north Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct [D. Jardine]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

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

*A vagrant: 13-14 records. Almost annual in recent years.*

**Autumn** An adult was at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 30 Jul then also Craignure & Duart Bays until 20 Aug [T. de Clermont *et al*]. It is felt likely to be the same adult that was at Loch Spelve *Mull* in Aug 2022. An adult flew past Bruichladdich towards Bowmore *Islay* on 2 Nov [D. Brown *et al*]. *The Mull record was accepted by the BBRC as a returning bird from 2022. The Islay record is still under consideration 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., 170 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 120 on the Cowal peninsula on 25 Jan, 77 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, 60 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and 59 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 23 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Back on breeding sites on *Tiree* from 15 Mar, where 171 AON found at 13 sites (*cf.* 286 in 2022) with good numbers of fledged young; first fledged birds from 17 Jun and first juvs *Mid-Argyll* noted on 16 Jul at Loch Crinan. On *Islay* 4 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Single prs noted on *Colonsay* at Plaide Mhor and Eilean Ghaoideamal. No data from *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts inc., 352 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec, 236 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Oct, 204 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Dec, 196 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Sep, 88 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Oct and 79 at Ardentinnay – Strone Pt. *Cowal* on 18 Dec.

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

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

**Winter** No reports.

**Spring** On *Mull* an adult was at the Sound of Mull off Craignure on 2 & 4 May and nearby at Scallastle Bay on 3 May.

**Autumn/winter** A 2cy was at the Sound of Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jul, an adult was off Craignure *Mull* on 21 Aug, possibly same on 21 Sep and nearby at Lochdon on 30 Sep and a 1cy off S Lismore *North Argyll* on 22 Dec.

### **MEDITERRANEAN GULL\*** *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

**AMBER LIST** **RBBP** *A scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter more regular since about 2005.*

**Winter/spring** An adult was off Inverneill, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, an adult at Dervaig *Mull* on 29 Mar, a 2cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr and another or same there on 26 May and a 2cy was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 11 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** An adult was at Knock, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 11 Jul joined by a 2cy on 12 Jul – 3 Sep. A 2cy was at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 16 Jul. An adult was at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug. A 2cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug.



**Mediterranean Gull** (Lhs) *Mid-Argyll* Jul (John Boyd)

## **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 900 at Ugadale Pt *Kintyre* on 2 Feb, 450 Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 4 Feb, 450 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 10 Mar, 340 at Barr Glen *Kintyre* on 11 Jan, 304 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Mar, 235 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 11 Mar and 200 at Loch Cuilce *Mull* on 1 Jan. Elsewhere, other counts inc., 190 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb, 158 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 25 Feb, 150 at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May and 100 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** On *Tiree* 518 AONs (cf. 646 in 202) found at 17 sites (2 colonies with 100+ AONs) and ca 207+ birds fledged from 7 colonies and first fledged birds from 28 Jun. On *Islay* 28 AONs at RSPB Smaull, 2 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 30 AONs at Cruach. On *Colonsay* a sample check found 13 AON (in areas where 10 AON found in 2015). In *Mid-Argyll* at Egg Shed site, Ardrishaig increased to 32 AONs (cf. 25 AONs in 2022). Scattered records of single nests in (*Kintyre/Mull*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max count of 497 on *Tiree* on 18 Dec when 280 at Heylipol Dunes on 18 Dec. Elsewhere, high counts inc., 240 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 8 Dec, 200 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 10 Aug, 200 at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 22 Sep, 196 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Aug, 150 at Smerby *Kintyre* on 5 Aug, 146 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 16 Nov and 128 at Laggan Bay *Islay* on 15 Oct.

## **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., 76 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 42 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Feb, 28 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Jan and 28 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. Small nos of AONs reported on *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* colony visits gave AONs at; Lunga (9 AON), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (30 ad & imm), Sgeir an Fheadir (5 pr) and Sgeir an h-iolaire (1 pr). On *Colonsay* 8 AON on Eilean Ghaoideamal, Oronsay and counts on 18 SMP sections found 9 AON (cf. 9 in 2015). On *Islay*, 6 AON on RSPB Oa Reserve and 2 AON at RSPB Smaull Reserve.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 220 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug, 139 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Nov during grey seal pupping, 65 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, 57 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Nov, 49 at Staffa *Mull* on 7 Aug, 48 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Nov and 36 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug.



**Glaucous Gull** *Kintyre* Nov (James MacDonald)

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

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce but regular winter visitor, most frequent Jan-Mar and a few summer records.*

**Winter/spring** Approx. 13 birds over the year, well down on average. On *Islay* a juv/2cy was seen frequently at Uiskentuie, Loch Indaal from 7 Feb until year end. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Tarbert Harbour on 11 Mar. In *Mid-Argyll* a juv was at Loch Gilp on 1 Jan & another juv there on 4 Feb. On *Mull* a juv/2cy was at Loch Don on 16 Feb, an adult at Loch na Keal on 1 Apr, 1 (unaged) at Loch Tuath on 4-16 Apr. On *Tiree* single juvs/1cy's were noted at Balemartine on 15 Jan, Loch a' Phuill on 23 Jan, Rubha Chraignis on 26 Jan & 21 Mar, Traigh Ghrainal on 23 Jan, Triagh Bhi on 2 Mar, Loch Bhasapol on 22-24 Mar and an adult was at Loch Bhasapol on 10, 21-27 Mar.

**Autumn/winter** On *Islay* 1 was at Port Ellen on 28 Dec & different to the long stayer at Loch Indaal. In *Kintyre* 2 juvs/1cys were at Machrihanish Bay on 28-29 Nov. On *Tiree* single juvs were at Hough Bay on 10 Nov and at Sorobaidh Bay on 31 Dec.

### ICELAND GULL\* *Larus glaucooides glaucooides*

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

**Winter/spring** Approx. 7 birds over the year, well down on average. On *Colonsay* single juvs/2cy's were at East Loch Fada on 7 Jan and at The Strand on 20 Apr. On *Islay* a juv/2cy was at Nave Is. on 21 Apr. In *North Argyll* one (age not given) at Taynuilt on 21 May. On *Tiree* single juvs/2cy were at Loch a' Phuill on 19 Mar, Loch an Eilein on 11 May then moved to Heylipol on 11 May, there to 15 May, Loch Bhaspol on 28 May then Balephuill Bay on 5-7 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** A report of one (age not given) at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Nov and a juv was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 29 Dec.

### 'KUMLIEN'S' ICELAND GULL\* *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

*A rare visitor. A sub-species of Iceland Gull, from arctic NE Canada, with no Argyll records prior to 2011 however an influx of eleven birds during late winter 2011/12 reflected record numbers in the UK and Europe.*

**Winter** A dark juv was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 13 Jan [J. Bowler].

### 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 485 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb, 340 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 299 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Mar and 285 on *Tiree* on 30 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Limited breeding data. On *Islay* at RSPB Oa Reserve 11 AONs and 15 AONs at RSPB Smaull. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* 4 AOTs on Lunga and 4 AOTs on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. At least 39 AONs on *Tiree* across five sites, although two other sites vacant. On *Colonsay* counts of 18 SMP sections found 36 AON (cf. 48 in 2015) and 9 AON at Leac Buidhe, Oronsay. Around 30 AON found at Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,350 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov and 1,300 there on 14 Dec, 735 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Nov, 241 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Sep and 180 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 11 Nov. Several adult N. European *argentatus* birds noted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Dec, with perhaps up to 10 good examples.



**Herring Gull** *Mull Sep* (Theo de Clermont)

**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. Seabirds Count only found 236 pairs in natural sites in Argyll and Bute but did not publish an estimate of the number of urban nesting pairs for Argyll & Bute.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas and from sites by month of; Jan (3), Feb (15) and Mar (52). Generally, a scarce bird in winter. In Jan, 1-2 noted in *Cowal* and 8 ads were back at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Feb. Arrivals in several areas from mid-Feb, however many arrivals in mid Mar. Higher counts noted inc., 45 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 15 May and 42 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* 43 AONs across 4 sites (67 in 2022) and none at a further 3 sites. First fledged young noted Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul. On *Colonsay* 7 AON found on 18 SMP sections checked (cf. 2 in 2015), also 5 prs on Eilean

Ghaoideamal, Oronsay. On *Islay* 1 AON at RSPB Smaull. Breeding also confirmed in (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Nos declined from early Aug. Max counts of 30 at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 11 Aug and 25 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 30 Jul. Reports only from 6 sites in Nov and 2 in Dec, with 4 1cy birds at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec.

### **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/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals; 1 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 21 Mar, 2 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Mar, 2 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 30 Mar and 2+ at Toward *Cowal* on 1 Apr. Higher counts mainly from *Kintyre* inc., 14 at Machrihanish SBO on 30 Apr, 13 at Carradale Bay on 16-18 Apr and 8 at Stinky Hole, Campbeltown on 12 Apr. Elsewhere, 8 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 5 Apr, 8 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 30 Apr, 3 at Keillmore/Danna *Mid Argyll* on 18-23 Apr and 3 at Iona *Mull* on 21 May.

**Summer/breeding** No confirmed breeding reports, although mating birds seen at Dunoon *Cowal* on 27 Apr. In summer, 1-2 birds noted from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*), but no juvs noted in Jul or until 21 Aug. Max counts of 33 at Ardyne *Cowal* on 31 Jul, 10 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jun and 4 at Ulva *Mull* on 19 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Counts included: 7 from Oban *Mid Argyll* – Caignure *Mull* ferry on 23 Sep, 2 at the Oa *Islay* on 13 Aug, 4 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 22 Aug, with 3 noted on *Tiree* at Caolas on 11 Aug and Gott Bay on 21 Aug. A late bird was at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 24 Oct, followed by the last report of 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 28 Oct.

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

**AMBER LIST** *RBBP 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 1 at The Reef *Tiree* on 21 Apr increasing to 40 at Soa Pt. on 12 May. Also, 1 in SW *Coll* on 28 Apr and 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 May.

**Breeding** On *Islay* 3 AON at RSPB Loch Gruinart, while on *Tiree* an excellent breeding season where 33 prs produced a min of 43 fledged young; Gunna *Coll* not checked, however a 11 AON were found at a site on *Coll* on 31 May and at least 1 fledged yng on 30 Jun..

**Autumn** Four were seen at sea, off Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Aug and a single was at Miodar *Tiree* on 3 Aug.

### **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. Seabirds Count reported that the population in Argyll & Bute had declined by 62% since Seabird 2000, largely as a result in the collapse of the colony at the Glas Eileanan SPA.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First reports were of two N of Westport *Kintyre* on 8 Apr. No further reports until 20 Apr when 2 at Caolas *Tiree*, followed by 1 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 23 Apr and 20 at Staffa *Mull* on 27 Apr, becoming more widespread in the following week. Max count of 30 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 21 May.

**Summer/breeding** Breeds on offshore islands for which little data. No nesting on *Tiree* (60 prs in 2022) and no confirmed breeding reports from elsewhere. Max counts of 120 at Sgeir an Gobhar, Sound of *Mull* on 1 Aug and 30 at Duncuan Is, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Few reports after mid-Aug. Later max count of 55 at Loch Don *Mull* on 13 Aug and 64 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug. The last birds were 2 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Oct and 3 at the mouth of the River Forsa *Mull* on 23 Oct.



**Common Terns** *Mid-Argyll* Jul (John Speirs)

### 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. Seabirds Count found 1,549 pairs in *Argyll & Bute* (a decline of 17% since *Seabird 2000*).

**Spring** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First reports of 1 seen from the *Islay* ferry on 14 Apr, 4 at *Kildalton Islay* on 23 Apr, 1 at *Kiloran Bay Colonsay* on 27 Apr, 20 at *Staffa Mull* on 27 Apr and 1 at *Sorobaidh Bay Tiree* on 28 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Good breeding year on *Tiree* where some 330 young fledged from 390 AON at 18 sites around the island. 100 ind. noted on *Coll* on 10 Jul, 200 ind. at *Leac Bhuide, Oronsay Colonsay* on 11 Jul and 200 ind. at *Sgeir na Guisach, Treshnish Is Mull*. Fledged young noted from early Jul on *Tiree*. On *Islay* 8 AON on RSPB *Gruinart Reserve*. A build-up of 2cy birds on *Tiree* with 120 at *Loch Aulaig* on 11 Jul and 200 noted *Scallastle Bay Mull* on 20 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Most birds had departed by mid-Aug and only small nos after late Sep, with 3 on *Tiree* on 26 Sep and 2 there on 11 Oct, 2 on *Coll* on 2 Oct and last report of 2 at *Port Charlotte Islay* on 27 Oct.

## BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

*A scarce and irregular passage migrant usually in Sep with c.25 records (32 birds) since 1980. Last reports were singles at Loch Gruinart, Islay on 6 Sep 2009, MSBO, Kintyre on 14 Sep, 1 & 6 Oct 2010 and 4 at Loch Bhasapol, Tiree 12-13 Sep 2010.*

**Autumn** An adult in body moult >W past Urvaig Tiree on 20 Aug [A. Williams]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

## GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

**AMBER LIST** *Previously an uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor which was an increasing summer visitor, but numbers now reduced as result of HPAI. It 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). Arrival late, with first reports on 27 Apr when 4 on Oronsay Colonsay and 2 at Lag shore Mull. Max counts of 10 at Staffa Mull on 26 Apr and 4 at Caliach Mull on 21 May.

**Summer/breeding** Limited data from previous breeding areas on (Colonsay/Mull/Tiree) and probable breeding areas on (Coll/Islay). Probably as a consequence of the 2021-22 HPAI outbreak a total of only 4 - 5 AOTs in 2023, in areas (Colonsay/Mull/Tiree) which reported 17 in 2022. At RSPB Oronsay Colonsay 1 nest found but outcome unknown, and also 1 Ter on Colonsay. On Treshnish Is Mull, 1 AOT on Lunga, although 3 birds present and 2 AOT on Fladda. A pair seen in May but no AOTs on Tiree. No breeding reports from (Coll/Islay).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). Passage birds noted from 16 Aug when 1 at Frenchman's Rock Islay. Birds remained scarce on passage, but slight increase on 2022 with max counts of 14 at Caliach Pt. Mull on 19 Sep and 21 there on 21 Sep, and 9 >N at Barrapoll Tiree on 29 Sep. Last report was of 3 >W in 1 hr at Aird Tiree on 11 Oct.

## POMARINE SKUA\* *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

**Spring** An adult was off Lag Shore NW Mull on 12 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Two adults were off Ardrishaig, Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll on 26 Jul, 1 >S past Hynish Tiree on 19 Aug, 1 >S past Caliach Point Mull on 19 Aug, a dark adult from Craignure-Oban ferry Mull on 23 Sep, an adult >S Hynish Tiree on 24 Sep, a juv was off Caliach Point Mull on 7 Oct and 2 imms >W off Aird Tiree on 11 Oct.

## ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**RED LIST** *RBBP 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** First reported was one at Turraman Loch Colonsay on 23 Apr, then 1 off W Mull on 29 Apr and 2 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. Mull on 3 May. Thereafter, 1-3 reported regularly in May from Coll, Machrihanish SBO Kintyre, the Treshnish Is. and off Calgary & Caliach Point Mull and from Tiree.

**Breeding** On Coll 3 ads present in May, up to 6 ads in early Jun and 5 on 3 Jul inc. 1-2 juvs. A pr held Ter on Tiree in Jul. No reports from Jura or surrounding area in mid-summer.

**Autumn/winter** Passage birds noted from 1 Aug with 4+ off Caliach Point Mull then 1 off Frenchman's Rocks Islay on 2 Aug and 2 off Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 4 Aug. Higher counts

at regional sites inc. 3 off *Coll* on 13 Aug, 2 off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 13 Aug, 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Sep, 2 off W Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug and off Easdale Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep, 6 off Caliach Point *Mull* on 13 Aug, 10 on 19 Aug & 5 on 21 Sep, a peak of 5 between Oban - Craignure *Mull* ferry on 30 Aug, 1 - 2 off *Tiree* from 13 Aug with peak counts of 4 off West Hynish on 27 Sep and 4 juvs >W at Aird on 11 Oct.



**Arctic Skua** *Mull* Aug (Theo de Clermont)

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

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

**Spring** An adult flew over Arinagour *Coll* on 2 May, and single adults (perhaps same bird) at the NW end of Sound of Mull *Mull* on 3 May, 29 May and 3 Jun.

**Autumn** Singles juvs (1cy) >S off Caliach Point *Mull* on 19 & 21 Aug [T. de Clermont]. All records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 147).

### LITTLE AUK\* *Alle alle*

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

**Winter/spring** One was at Grishipoll Bay *Coll* on 26 Jan. On *Islay* singles were at Loch Skerrols on 11 Jan, Port Wemyss on 13 Jan and (dead) at Kintra on 9 Mar. One (dead) at Point Sands caravan park *Kintyre* on 13 Feb. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Oban Bay on 15 Jan. On *Mull* 1 was at Calgary Bay on 17 - 18 Jan and 1 at Loch Scridain on 17 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** One was at Achamhinish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Nov, 2 at sea north of the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* with 1 between there and *Colonsay* on 15 Nov and 1 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 23 Nov.

### 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 all areas with generally low counts from shore of 1 - 10 birds, but 1,000+ feeding mid Loch Fyne off Inverneil *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 1,000 off Caliaich Pt *Mull* on 15 Feb, 90 >S at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 10 Mar and 80 from the Kennacraig – *Islay* ferry on 25 Mar. Birds appearing back at nesting cliffs from early Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding data from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*; On *Colonsay* counts on five sections of the Pigs Paradise colony held 19,364 ind. (cf. 14,282 in 2018) and at the Dun Tealtaig annual sample cliff there was a count of 118.4 ind. (n=5 counts) (cf. 154.8 in 2022). No counts from Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. On *Islay* 150 ads on cliffs at RSPB The Oa in Jun (cf. 192 in 2022) and 72 at RSPB Smaull Reserve. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with a combined tot of 14,762 ads. (cf. 15,391 in 2022) (TIARG). On *Tiree* 1,400+ ads at Ceann a' Mhara on 7 Apr rising to 3,125 on 16 May and 2,959 on 15 Jun with a further 2,500 offshore (cf. max of 6,846 in 2022) (per J. Bowler RSPB). Taken together these counts suggest that while there has been a slight decline in the breeding population of Guillemots in Argyll since 2022, there has not been a significant reduction as feared by the casualties found in 2022 during the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This reinforces the suggestion that the birds found dead in *Kintyre* and *Islay* in Jul 2022 may have come from the colony on Rathlin, Co. Down.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*); few large counts and max counts of 300 from the Kennacraig - *Islay* ferry on 1 Sep and 100 there on 23 Oct, and 245 from the *Tiree* to Barra ferry on 30 Aug, then generally low counts of 1-50 birds until the end of the year.



**Razorbill** *Islay* Jun (David Dinsley)

**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 all areas except (*North Argyll*). Generally, counts of 1-12 birds noted. Max counts of 150 feeding mid Loch Fyne off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 100 off Bruichladdich *Islay* on 5 Apr and 72 >N in 3 hrs at Machrishaish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Mar. On *Tiree* 500 ads were back at nesting colonies on 7 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* counts on five sections of the Pigs Paradise colony held 1,226 ind. (cf. 1,374 in 2018) and at Uragaig annual sample study area 46 birds (n=5) there in Jun (cf. 47 in 2021). On *Islay* at RSPB Oa Reserve a count of 146 ads in Jun and 127 ads at RSPB Smaull. No population count from Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. On *Mull* at Treshnish Is. a tot of 914 birds on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil at end of Jun (cf. 702 in 2022). On *Tiree* at Ceann a' Mhara counts of 500 on 7 Apr, 298 on 16 May and 155, with most on eggs (many more birds on the sea) on 15 Jun, and 71 ads, many with large young on 12 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most high counts were from sea areas around *Coll, Mull* and *Tiree* during Sep-Oct. Sea watch counts from *Tiree* (with most auks identified as this species) inc., 3,550 > W past Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 11 Oct, 1,500 >W past Aird *Tiree* in 90 mins on 16 Jul, 1,000 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 700 there on 29 Dec, and 440 at sea between Port Ellen *Islay* and Mull of *Kintyre Kintyre* on 27 Jul. Elsewhere, most counts at sea from ferries with 1-50 birds noted Nov-Dec.



**Black Guillemot** *Mid-Argyll* Apr (Stephen Lawson)

## BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus 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 areas. Max counts included 27 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Jan, 20 at Glenramskill Jetty *Kintyre* on 16 Feb, 21 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 21 May and 19 at outer Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Sea counts ideally in Apr are a good indication of breeding nos (also see counts above). Counts of 35 at Staffa *Mull* on 21 Apr, 33 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 12 May, 24 at Small Isles Bay *Jura* on 19 Jul, 22 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 4 Apr, 20 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 6 May, 20 at Fladda *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun, 299 at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* in Apr count, 19 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 27 Jul and 18 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr. No count from Sanda *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max counts of 40 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 24 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Sep, 20 off Iona *Mull* on 1 Aug, 14 at Dunmore *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov and 11 Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov.



**Puffin** *Mull* Jul (Andrew Wallace)

## 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** One was at Ardmere Bay *Mull* on 13 Jan, 1 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 3 dead birds found on *Tiree* in Feb were the only reports until 1 from *Islay* – Kennacraig ferry on 3 Mar and 8 >SW at Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Mar. Birds noted more frequently from 13 Apr off

(*Islay/Jura/Mull/Tiree*) and larger counts inc., 200 on Staffa *Mull* on 28 Apr and 750 Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 28 Apr, rising to 2,000 on 29 May and 400 past Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 21 May. **Summer/breeding** Limited data: present, but no count at Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. None were seen during surveys at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 6 May and 15 Jun. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* an est. of 5,057 AOBs on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (*cf.* 4,917 in 2022) (TIARG). At Staffa *Mull* 250 ind. noted on 28 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Most reports were of 1-2 birds off *Coll, Islay, Mid-Argyll, Mull* and *Tiree* however still 50 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 5 Aug. Last reports were of singles at Cullipool *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep and at Hynish *Tiree* on 24 Sep.



**Red-throated Diver** *Mull* Apr (Theo de Clermont)

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

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 60 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 5 Apr, 20 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, 20 in the Sound of Mull *Mull* on 5 Apr, 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 24 Feb and 9 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Reports from likely breeding areas in (*Coll/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*) but under recorded as confirmed breeding only noted at 1 site.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 49 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Nov, 22 >S at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 Sep and 13 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 9 Oct.

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

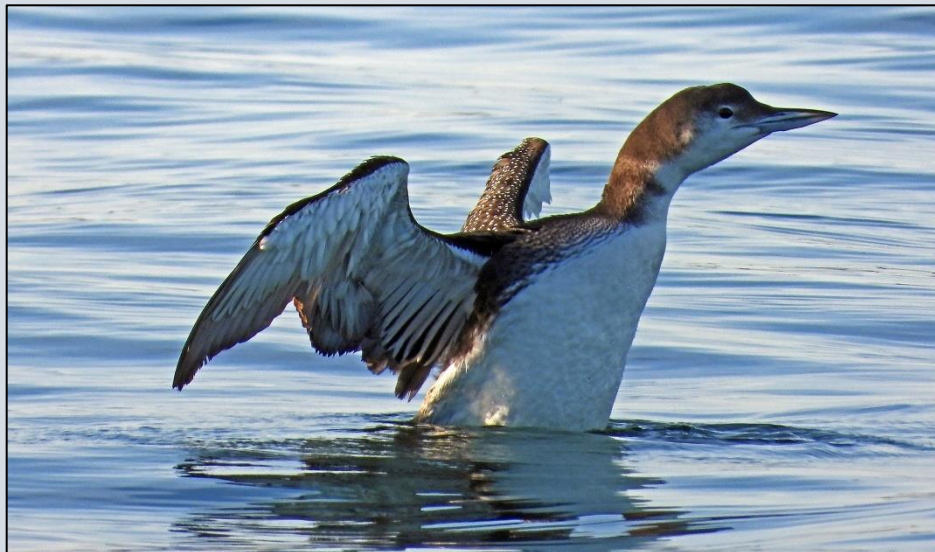
**AMBER LIST RBBP** A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. Breeding was confirmed at 13 sites between 1985- 2017. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Fewer large counts with max of 21 at West Loch Tarbert on 2 Mar, 16 at Carradale Bay on 27 Apr (both *Kintyre*). Records of

note elsewhere inc., 9 off Duncuan Is. Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 9 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb and 18 Mar, 7 at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 1 Mar, 6 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Mar (a record count for the island) and 5 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 8 May.

**Breeding** Evidence of likely breeding from 2 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and 2 sites in *North Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 43 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, with 21 there on 16 Nov, 11 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov and 10 at Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 29 Dec. Most counts of 1-4 birds.



**Great Northern Diver** *Kintyre* Dec (Jim Dickson)

### **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP 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 immatures summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around *Tiree* and *Coll* have been designated as SPAs 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 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 53 at Loch na Keal on 28 Jan, 94 on 25 Feb and 103 on 26 Mar, 56 at Loch Scridain on 28 Feb, 38 at Loch Tuath on 26 Feb and 51 at Loch Buie on 27 Feb. Elsewhere, higher counts from other sites; 114 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Feb, 30 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Mar, 25 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 19 Mar, and 19 off SE *Colonsay* on 28 Apr.

**Summer** Reports from all areas Jun - Aug except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Reports of 1-4 birds from coastal sites, with max of 6 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 27 Aug.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Still 1-4 birds at several sites in early Sep. Passage noted from 26 Sep when 6 >S off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and nos increased across

sites during Oct. Max counts of 224 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Nov, 78 at Loch Stornoway *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov, 67 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Nov, 48 at Loch Scridain & Loch Beg *Mull* on 2 Dec, 39 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov and 30 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Dec.



**Great Northern x Black-throated Diver hybrid** (Gareth Thomas)

**GREAT NORTHERN x BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia immer* x *Gavia arctica*

**Spring** A bird photographed in the company of a Black-throated Diver at an inland loch on 27-29 May [G. Thomas] was re-identified as a hybrid between these two diver species. A hybrid between these two species has only been recorded on one previous occasion. See Jardine & Dickson (in press) for full description.

**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; these islands support 27% of the Great Britain population and between 1.9-2.3% of the Atlantic (north-eastern) population as estimated by Seabirds Count.

**Summer/autumn** Reported between 2 June and 24 Nov from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). First report was 1 at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 2 Jun. A few counts of 1-3 birds, mostly

late Jun to late Aug from ferries, however regular counts at Caliach Pt. *Mull* gave 11 on 25 Jun, 12 on 1 Aug and 12+ on 14 Aug, and on *Tiree* where 16 >SW in 1 hr at Hynish on 27 Jun, 13 >W in 1½ hrs at Aird on 16 Jul, 20 off Urvaig on 20 Aug and 66 from *Tiree* – Barra ferry (one side) on 30 Aug. Elsewhere, 12 at sea between Port Ellen *Islay* – Mull of Kintyre *Kintyre* on 27 Jul, 5 from Kennacraig – *Islay* ferry on 26 Aug and 20 off N Iona *Mull* on 2 Sep. Last reports of singles >N at West Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Sep, on 13 Oct >W off N Iona *Mull* and at Fishnish Bay *Mull* on 24 Nov.

**Breeding** 130 caught for ringing at Sanda Is. *Kintyre* inc. 21 controls and 3 retraps. No census was conducted on Treshnish Is. *Mull* but birds present, and limited ringing carried out with 208 birds caught inc. 37 retraps (*TIARG*).

### LEACH'S 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.*

**Spring/summer** No records.

**Autumn/winter** Two >W off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 1 was at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Oct and 1 was off N Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct.

### 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** Few around in Jan, with small nos ashore on warmer days in Feb-Mar on *Tiree* near breeding colonies and a max count of 600+ at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on 25 Mar.

**Spring/breeding** Breeding reports received from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*), numbers (AOS) down significantly on 2022, although birds were present early in the breeding season. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* 190 AOS were found at Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil, 5+ AOS on Fladda and 1 AOS on Carn na Burgh Mor. Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 310 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 15 Jun (75% down on 2022), in *Kintyre* no count at Sanda Is., although 15 at Keil Point on 18 Mar and 2 at Brunerican Pt on 15 Apr, 63 AOS at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun and 137 AOS at Urugaig sample cliff *Colonsay* in Jun (20% down on 2022) On *Colonsay* counts on five sections of the Pigs Paradise colony held 126 AOS (*cf.* 149 in 2018). On *Coll* 3 AOS were found at a new site.

**Autumn/winter** Only records were from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts; 220 behind a trawler mid-way *Tiree*-Barra on 30 Aug, 79 >W at Hynish *Tiree* on 19 Aug, 40 at the Oa *Islay* on 13 Aug, and 17 at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 29 Aug. Elsewhere, only 1-10 from (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre*).

### CORY'S SHEARWATER\* *Calonectris borealis*

*A rare passage migrant. Nine records, mostly in Aug or Sep. Last report was off Tiree in Aug 2005.*

**Autumn** One >NW off American Monument, The Oa *Islay* on 28 Jul [D. Wood]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

### SOOTY SHEARWATER\* *Ardenna grisea*

*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** On *Tiree* 4 were between *Mull* & *Tiree* on 13 Aug, 2 >W off Hynish on 13 Aug, 4 >S off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 19 Aug, 1 >SW off Aird *Tiree* on 25 Aug, 2 off there on 29 Aug, 2 off Ardmor Pt. *Mull* on 9 Sep, singles off Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 16 & 21 Sep, 2 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Sep, then from *Tiree*; 6 >N off West Hynish on 27 Sep, 3 there on 28 Sep, 4 on 29 Sep and 1 >W off Aird on 11 Oct.



**Manx Shearwater** *Mid-Argyll* Sep (John Speirs)

### **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. The Treshnish Isles supported 0.3% of the Great Britain population as estimated by Seabirds Count.*

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*) First reports were of one off Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Mar, 420 there on 28 Mar. Two off NW *Mull* on 4 Apr and 88 there on 11 Apr, 2 off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Apr and seven off the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr.

**Breeding** At Treshnish Is. *Mull* small groups of birds were seen offshore at Lunga and during the day (up to 20 ind.). Nesting birds were heard returning to their burrows, with lots of activity on 29 Jun. Nine ads were ringed and 7 recaptured from earlier years (TIARG), and 26 nestlings were ringed on Sanda *Kintyre*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Higher counts inc.; 9,000 >W in 90 mins off Aird *Tiree* on 16 Jul, ca 7,000 between *Mull* – *Coll* on 5 Aug, 2,315 >SW in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Aug and 1,637 >SW in 1 hr there on 19 Aug, 2,000 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 31 Jul, ca 1,300+ off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 19 Aug, 1,200 off Rubha Leac nam Laogh, Oa *Islay*

on 2 Jul, 671 in 1 hr off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 16 Aug, and 450 off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul. Last report was of 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Oct.

### **BALEARIC SHEARWATER\*** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

**RED LIST** *A scarce passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers. Usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.*

**Autumn** Two >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 13 Aug [J. Bowler] and 1 >S off Caliach Point *Mull* on 21 Sep [T. de Clermont]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*

### **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 areas. Small nos of ads noted off *Coll*, *Colonsay* and *Tiree* in Jan with a max of 6 off West Hynish *Tiree* on 9 Jan and singles noted off *Cowal*, *Mid-Argyll*, *SE Mull* and *Kintyre* in Jan. More reports in Feb - Mar but numbers remained low until 56 passed Hynish *Tiree* on 28 Mar. Thereafter there were 50 off Dunoon *Cowal* on 23 Apr, 70 at Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 5 May and 200 passed Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 21 May.

**Summer** Good numbers were seen through Jun & Jul, but fewer than in 2022 with max counts of 200 from Oban – *Colonsay* ferry on 4 Jun and 200 off the Oa *Islay* on 2 Jul. Fewer corpses found this summer following many deaths from HPAI in 2022.

**Autumn/winter** Max counts of 1,350 >W in 1 hr off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Oct, 1,000 past the Oa *Islay* on 13 Aug, 328 >SW in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 19 Aug, 200 past Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 29 Aug, 159 at the Bull Hole *Mull* on 21 Sep and 103 at Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 25 Sep. Reports decreased after mid Nov and only two reports of singles during Dec, from *Mull*, and of 1 off SE *Tiree* on 28 Dec.

### **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.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-5 birds. Max counts; 22 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 23 Apr, 15 at Eriska *North Argyll* on 22 May, 12 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Feb and 7 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** In *Mid-Argyll* 51 AONs on Eilean na Cille, Sound of Jura on 10 Jun and 28 AONs on Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne on 26 Jun, were the only breeding records received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-6 birds. Max area counts inc. 25 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug, 24 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Nov, 16 from Dunoon -*Ardeyne Cowal* on 14 Nov and 15 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 31 Oct.

### **SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

**RED LIST** *A common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles and on islands in sea lochs. The colony on Fladda, Treshnish Isles, Mull is the largest in the UK. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 900 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 27 May, 350 at Loch Tuath *Mull* on 1 Apr, 350 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 18 Feb and 111 off S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 May.

**Summer/breeding** Breeding counts inc., 30 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* in Jun, 28 AONs on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun, On *Colonsay* counts on five sections of the Pigs Paradise colony held 40 AONs (cf. 43 in 2018). In *Kintyre*, no count at Sanda Is. and 57 ads with chicks at Tangy on 7 Jun. 111 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 16 May (in Jul mean brood = 1.73 (n=40), declining to 77 on 15 Jun due to wave action (J. Bowler, RSPB). On Treshnish Is. *Mull* 490 AONs were found on Lunga & Sgeir a Chaisteil and Fladda and breeding also confirmed on Fladda (no count) and Sgeir an Eirionnaich. On *Islay*, 18 AONs at RSPB Smaull Reserve. In *Mid-Argyll* 10 AONs Glas Eilean Loch Fyne on 26 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts inc. 1,450 in Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 7 Aug, 240 at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 19 Aug, 210 at Eilean Chalbha, Iona *Mull* on 15 Oct, 170 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 19 Nov, 140 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Nov and 139 Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 18 Sep.



**Cormorants** Sound of Jura Jun (Jim Dickson)

### **GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

*A vagrant: Fourteen records of up to 21 birds since 1901; the most recent being; one at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll on 25 to 26 Sep 2009, Colonsay from 27 Dec 2013 to 5 Feb 2014, Tiree on 13 Jan 2014, and a remarkable influx of up to 8 birds from 21 Dec 2017, with birds reported from Islay (1), Mull (6) and Tiree (1) into 2018, one Tiree on 19 Apr 2018 and one on Islay on 11-15 Sep 2020.*

**Autumn/winter** Two were at Toberonochy then nr Kilchattan graveyard, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct [N. Young] and both moved to Soroba Farm, Ardfarn *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct [A. Allport]. Reports were accepted by the ABRC.

### CATTLE EGRET\* *Bubulcus ibis*

RBBP A vagrant. Five 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, one on Mull at Calgary on 10 Oct-13 Nov 2018, one at Dalvore, Mid-Argyll on 22 Oct 2020 and one near Stewarton Kintyre on 13 Apr 2022.

**Autumn** One was at Balvicar, Seil Is Mid-Argyll on 12-13 Oct [K. Lappin, H. Connel *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.



Cattle Egret Mid-Argyll Oct (John Speirs)

### GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; Mull (71) and Mid-Argyll (42). Max counts of 16 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 2 Feb, 14 at Ardachy North Argyll on 9 Feb, 11 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 21 Jan and 10 at S Oronsay Colonsay on 23 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** Data received from sites in; Coll (2), Colonsay (5), Islay (2), Jura (1), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (4), Mull (1) and North Argyll (2). Sites with more than 10 AON's inc. 28 at Ardachy, Loch Etive North Argyll, 16 at Ardtur, Appin North Argyll, 20 on Ulva Mull, 12 at Port Askaig Islay, 10 at RSPB Gruinart Islay and 26 at Ballachuan, Seil Mid-Argyll. On Colonsay a total of 17 AONs at five sites. Post breeding counts of 9 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 9 Jun and 9 at Tayvallich Mid-Argyll on 22 Jul. A dispersing bird was on Skervule, Sound of Jura Jura on 19 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 17 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Nov, 15 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Aug, 12 at An Carraigan, Loch Scridain *Mull* on 16 Oct. Counts of 10-11 birds at 9 other sites in *Cowal*, *Islay*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

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

*RBBP A rare visitor. 18 or 19 records between 1986 and 2022. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.*

**Autumn** One was nr Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 24 Oct [N. McMahon *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 147).



**Little Egret** *Kintyre* Nov (Andrew Wallace)

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

*A scarce visitor. No records prior to 1958*

*but regular and a marked increase in last decade, mostly from autumn to spring. It has been seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.*

**Winter/spring/summer** Reported from sites in; *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (9) and *North Argyll* (3). Area max total counts on same day *Cowal* (4) *Islay* (7) *Kintyre* (4) *Mid-Argyll* (3) *North Argyll* (1). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however 12-14 birds present. Most sites only recorded 1-2 birds however max counts of 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, and 4 at the Holy Loch and Loch Riddon (both *Cowal*) in Jan, Feb and Mar. Counts of three or more recorded at five sites across Argyll.

**Summer** No evidence of breeding with sightings reducing in Apr, and only 6 reports in May, inc. 2 together in *Cowal*, only one report in Jun and none in early Jul, with first back at Kildalton *Islay* on 13 Jul, then 2 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* from 16 Jul and 3 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 26 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Further increase in wintering birds reported from sites in *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (19), *Kintyre* (12), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (2). Area max total counts on same day; *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1). Total numbers uncertain however at least 30 present and possibly as many as 50 birds involved. Max counts of 10 at Ardpatrik, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre/Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct, 10 at Ormidale *Cowal* on 14 Oct and 10 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Nov. Away from core areas 1 was at two sites on *Tiree* on 11-13 Dec and 4 were at the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 25 Sep.

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

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

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). First arrivals of singles in South *Kintyre* on 8 Mar, Pennyghael *Mull* on 16 Mar, Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, then Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar more widespread in mainland Argyll from 28 Mar and first on *Islay* on 29 Mar.

**Breeding** Of the 26 sites checked, attempted nesting at 14 sites, of which 9 prs were successful with 14 large young raised (ARSG). On *Islay* 1-2 birds noted 29 Mar - 30 Sep and on *Mull* 2-3 birds noted 16 Mar - 10 Oct but no evidence of breeding (ARSG). One was at Gleann Dorch, Loch Tarbert *Jura* on 9 Aug.

**Autumn** Most birds had departed by late Aug to early Sep. One with a damaged wing was at the Add Est. on 27 Oct and 1 in Oban on 28 Oct (both *Mid-Argyll*) were the last reported.



**Osprey** *Mid-Argyll* Aug (James Lehmann)

## **GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos*

**RBBP** *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 (*Tiree*). Most reports of 1-3 birds, but 5 together at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 12 May and 5 around Loch Gorm *Islay* on 24-26 Feb. A juv was around Ben Hagh *Coll* on 25 Apr.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 120 to 130 prs. Of the 86 sites checked, 76 sites were occupied by pairs or single birds. In a better breeding season than 2022, a total of 21 young fledged from 71 sites where the outcome of breeding was known (ARSG).



**Golden Eagle** *Mid-Argyll* Nov (John Speirs)

## **GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

**RBBP** *A sporadic visitor of uncertain status which may be establishing a breeding population.*

**Summer** A primary feather of an adult female was found in central *Cowal* and reports from Forest & Land Scotland staff indicate perhaps 1-2 pairs in that area. (*see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 147*).

## **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**AMBER LIST** *A sparse but widespread breeding species.*

**All year** Reports from all areas. Fewer sightings noted during Jun and Jul, while nesting. Sightings all of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 21 Aug, 3 at Tobermory *Mull* on 4 Oct and 3 at Balephuill / Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 18 Oct & 29 Nov.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 500 to 1,000 prs. Of the 16 sites checked, 12 had prs; a total of least 26 fledged or large young were found at 7 of these (ARSG).



**Sparrowhawk** *Mid-Argyll* Aug (Jim Dickson)

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

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

**Spring/summer** On *Islay* a fem was seen frequently in the Gruinart area from 1 Jan - 10 Mar and a fem seen occasionally there from 2-11 Jun, then on 5 Jul -26 Jul. An ad fem was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 4-10 May and ad male there on 15 May. Elsewhere, reports of singles at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May, Saddell *Kintyre* on 14 Jun and Port an t-Salainn *Mull* on 26 Jun.

**Autumn** On *Islay* a fem was at Machrie River *Islay* on 28 Aug, then seen frequently in the Gruinart area on 13 Sep -1 Nov. On *Tiree* a juv/fem type was at Balinoe on 6 Aug.

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**RED LIST** RBBP *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 Jul and Aug. Most reports from *Mull* then *Islay* and generally of 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 10 at roost site in S *Mull* on 14 Mar, 6 at a roost at Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jul and 5 at Ensay *Mull* on 15 May. A min of 6 birds on *Tiree* in Oct.

**Breeding** 52 (of 136) 10-km sq were surveyed in the 2023 National Survey. At total of 49 confirmed, 21 probable and 7 possible breeding attempts were found, suggesting a total of over 100 prs in Argyll. In an excellent breeding season 50 sites were checked, 29 were occupied by pairs (plus 7 sites with single birds), 26 prs laid eggs and 71+ large / fledged young were found (cf. 9+ fledged in 2022 and 23+ in 2021) (ARSG).

### **PALLID HARRIER** *Circus macrourus*

*RBBP A vagrant. Three records, two in 2011 with one on Mull on 20 and 24 Sept and one in Kintyre on 22 Sept and a juvenile on Islay on 6 Nov 2022.*

**Winter** A 2cy was seen and photographed to the north of Machir Bay Islay on 1 Jan [J. & T. Farooqi]. This was presumably the same juvenile first seen at this location on 6 Nov 2022. Record was accepted by the BBRC as same bird first seen there in Nov 2023.



**Red Kite** Islay Nov (David Dinsley)

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

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

**Winter/spring** Singles were at Kiloran Farm Colonsay on 5 Jan, at Ach nabreck Mid-Argyll on 24 Mar, at Lephenstrath Bridge Kintyre on 19 Apr, at Salen Mull on 19 Apr, at Loch Striven Cowal on 21 Apr, at Stotfield Bay, S Ormsary Mid-Argyll on ca 15 May, at Glenkerran Farm Cowal on 21 May, and at Dalvore Mid-Argyll on 30 May.

**Summer/autumn/winter** On Islay an influx of reports from 17 Oct lasting until 19 Nov with sightings of 1-2 birds from 16 sites across the island, presumably relate to just a few wandering birds. In Kintyre 1 was nr Tayinloan on 20 Oct. In Mid-Argyll 1 was at Keilmore on 15 Oct, 2 at the 'Toad of Lorn' Beinn Mhor on 17 Oct, 1 at Taynish NNR on 19 Oct, 1 at Dunbeg on 27 Oct and 1 at Dalmally on 1 Nov. On Mull singles were at Normann's Ruh on 2 Jul, 24 Sep & 21 Oct, Calgary Bay on 16 Oct, Loch Don on 18 Oct, Salen Bay on 19 Oct, Killiechronan on 19 Oct,

Dervaig on 23 Oct, Ardura on 26 Oct, Glengorm on 26 Oct, Pennyghael on 26 Oct, Loch na Cluice on 27 Oct, Ardow Burn on 30 Oct and Dervaig on 1 Nov. On *Tiree* 1 was at Barrapol on 2 Sep.

**BLACK KITE\*** *Milvus migrans*

*A vagrant. Five records. One at Vaul, Tiree on 16th May 1997, one near Dalmally, North Argyll on 31 May 2010, one at Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll on 3 May 2014, one near Machrihanish, Kintyre on 11 May 2016 and one over Loch Cuin, nr Dervaig Mull on 16 May 2022.*

**Spring** One was seen and photographed at Achnahard, Ardtun, nr Bunessan Mull on 30 May [H-J. Augst, D. Fleet, C. Visse]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.



**White-tailed Eagle** *Mid-Argyll* Aug (Andrew Wallace)

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

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *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/Islay*). Max counts from *Islay* of 9 at Loch Gruinart on 10 Mar, and 7 at Sanaigmore on 27 Mar. Up to 6 at several locations on *Mull* with 10 at Glen More on 7 Apr and 8 at Loch na Keal on 8 Aug & 3 Sep.

**Breeding** Monitoring effort declined slightly with 37 occupied Ters checked, where 28 prs laid eggs and 18 prs fledged a min of 25 young. Breeding performance improved on *Mull* where 0.82 chicks were reared per occupied Ter. However, it was very poor in *Cowal/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll* where there was an average of 0.20 chicks/Ter (ARSG/RSPB).

**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, with fewer larger counts; notably 10 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 21 Nov, 9 at Finlaggan *Islay* on 7 Apr and 9 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 19 Sep.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 32% of BBS squares (11/34). Thought to be in the region of 1,500 to 2,000 prs. Reports from all areas. Of the 80 sites checked, 27 sites were occupied and fledged a min of 28 young (ARSG).



**Buzzard** *Mid-Argyll* Nov (Andy Paton)

### **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 (*Colonsay*). 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-Mar and Sep-Nov. Singles on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 4 Feb and at Carnan Mor on 21 Oct – 18 Dec and at Uig *Coll* from 20 Jul to the end of the year. Four birds were caught during winter ringing in Jan-Mar in *Kintyre* N of Campbeltown, and two on Seil and one at the Moine Mhor (both *Mid-Argyll*) (ARSG). During Sep-Dec, 14 were ringed around the Moine Mhor, two on Seil and two in Scammadale (all *Mid-Argyll*) and 11 N of Campbeltown in *Kintyre* (ARSG).

**Breeding** 2023 saw a further increase in the population as the vole population peaked. Of the 93 sites checked (*cf.* 95 in 2022) 71% were occupied (*cf.* 45% in 2022) and the mean young per successful nest increased to 4.13 (*cf.* 3.19 in 2022) (ARSG).



**Tawny Owl** *Mid-Argyll* Jul (James Lehmann)

### 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/Tiree*). Three noted at Craighouse *Jura* on 25 Oct. Few reports in Jul (3), Aug (3), Oct (3) and Nov (3); none in Dec.

**Breeding** Improved occupancy and productivity due to increasing vole nos. Of the 93 sites checked 27 sites were occupied by prs (29%, cf. 31% in 2022). The mean young per successful nest was 2.17 (cf. 2.0 in 2021) (ARSG). Again, a very late brood fledged on Danna *Mid-Argyll* in Jul.



**Long-eared Owl** *Mull Jun* (Theo de Clermont)

### LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

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

**Winter/spring** Reports from at areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Away from known breeding areas, singles noted at Fionnphort on 7 Mar, Erraid on 15 Apr and Bunessan on 25 Jun (all *Mull*) and on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 5 Feb (dead) & 17 Feb. Winter ringing showed this secretive species

is more common than realised with seven birds caught during Jan-Mar in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown and one on Seil *Mid-Argyll* (ARSG).

**Summer/breeding** On *Colonsay* 3 of the 6 sites checked were occupied with 1 pr fledging 1+ young. Fledged young / breeding was noted at sites in *Coll*, *Cowal* (the first confirmed breeding for many years), *Islay* and *Mull*.

**Autumn/winter** Five birds were caught in winter ringing during Sep-Dec in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown and one at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* in Sep-Dec (ARSG). One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 Oct.



**Short-eared Owl** *Mull Jun* (Theo de Clermont)

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

**AMBER LIST** RBBP 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 all areas except (*Coll/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Most reports of 1-2 birds came from sites on *Mull* (5) and max count of 5 at *Ensay Mull* on 15 May. Winter ringing in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown caught four during Jan-Mar (ARSG).

**Summer/breeding** A better year, eleven sites were checked: 7 occupied sites were found (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Jura/Mull*). Ten young were known to have fledged giving 3.33 young/successful nest (cf. 1.00 in 2022); the outcome was unknown at the other sites (ARSG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) with max count of 3 at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 19 Aug & 19 Sep. Four were caught during winter owl ringing N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* and three at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* in Sep-Dec (ARSG).



**Hoopoe** *Mid-Argyll* Oct (Jim Dickson)

### **HOOPOE\*** *Upupa epops*

**RBBP** *A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.*

**Spring** One was at various locations but mainly around Milbuie *Colonsay* on 10 Apr-12 May, 1 was at The Manse, Scarinish *Tiree* on 5-7 May, 1 was at Lochbuie *Mull* on 11 May and this or another was at Arle Lodge just N of Salen *Mull* on 18 May.

**Autumn** One was at Tayvallich caravan park *Mid-Argyll* on 9-16 Oct.

### **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

*A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The last proven breeding record was in Cowal in 2018.*

**Winter/spring** Reports of singles from; *Islay* at Carnain on 19 Jan, a different bird at Gartmain on 19 Jan, Caol Ila on 20 Jan, *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp on 1 & 10 Jan, Crinan Ferry on 1 Jan, Balure, Loch Etive on 2 Jan & 15 Mar, Inveraray on 19 Jan, Airds Bay on 22 Jan, Loch Gair on 24 Jan, Poltalloch on 28 Mar, *Mull* at Kellan Woods on 15 Jan and Dervaig on 1 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** No confirmed breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of singles by month with first at Tobermory *Mull* on 12 Jul, then Aug (5), Sep (9), Oct (7), Nov (8) & Dec (4) with reports from sites in; *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5) *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (1). A report of 2 birds at Saddell Bay *Kintyre* on 16 Sep and of singles at Clashgour *North Argyll* on 5 Aug and at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 12 & 20 Oct.



**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Mid-Argyll* Nov (Bill Anderson)

### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

*A resident breeder: widespread on the mainland and Mull, and colonising Islay.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (9), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (45), *Mull* (29), *North Argyll* (16). Generally, 1-2 birds reported and a max of 4 together at Torosay *Mull* on 26 Feb. Drumming heard in mild weather on 1-2 Jan, but more generally from late Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 21% of squares (7/34), with max count of 3 at Bellanoch on 18 Apr and 3 at Rhudle on 8 Jun (both *Mid-Argyll*) *Under reported*. First fledged young noted at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun. Confirmed breeding also reported at Lephonstrath *Kintyre*, at Ardilistry *Islay* and in *Mid-Argyll* at Crarae Gdns and Kintallen, Tayvallich.

**Autumn/winter** Reports and sites reported from; *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (12) mainly of 1-2 birds, but in *Mid-Argyll* 3 reported East Loch Awe on 3 Sep.

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

*Scarce/rare reports from 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/summer** A report of a single nr Corranmor, Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* sometime in Feb or Mar. All reports welcome.



**Kestrel Mull** Feb (Pete Walkden)

**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 (*Coll/North Argyll*). All reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Colonsay* (8), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (5), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (22), and *Tiree* (8). 3+ together at *Ensay Mull* on 27 May.

**Summer/breeding** Thought to be fewer than 100 prs. Excluding *Kintyre*, where no breeding reports were received, 19 sites were checked of which 12 were occupied by pairs and a min of 27 large young reared. A much better breeding season than 2022 reflecting the increased vole numbers (ARSG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. All counts of 1-2 birds, except 5 found on *Luing Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec and 3 at *Calgary Mull* on 5 Aug & 23 Sep.

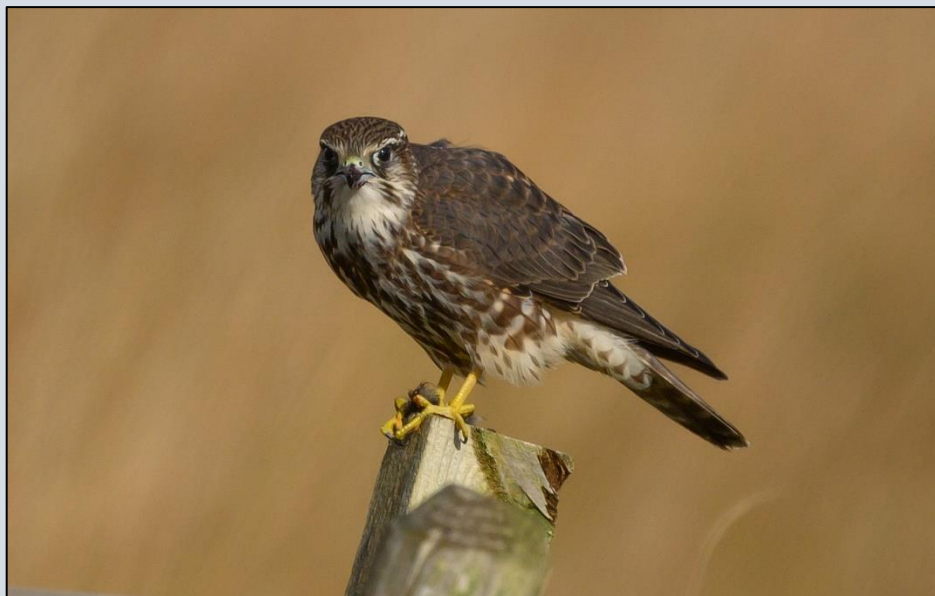
**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**RED LIST** *RBBP 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/Jura/North Argyll). Most reports of wintering individuals Jan to early May. Most reports were from; Mull (12), Tiree (8), Islay (5) with other sites in Coll (1), Kintyre (4), Colonsay (3) and Mid-Argyll (1). Two were on Tiree until 24 Apr, then none until 24 Aug.

**Summer/breeding** Thought to be fewer than 20 prs. The only confirmed was of a pair in Mid-Argyll which fledged at least one young (ARSG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Colonsay/Cowal/North Argyll). Most reports were of singles, however up to 6 across Tiree in Oct and 3 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 1 Nov. Most reports were from late Sep to early Nov then fewer later in the year. Most reports by region were from; Tiree (16), Mull (12), Islay (9), Kintyre (4) and Mid-Argyll (4) and Coll (1).



**Merlin** Kintyre Oct (Terry Cawthorne)

### **EURASIAN HOBBY\*** *Falco subbuteo*

RBBP A rare visitor. Mostly in spring and autumn.

**Spring/summer** A 2cy+ was at Gobagrennan Kintyre on 17 Apr [N. Brown], an adult was at Balephuill Tiree on 1 May [J. Bowler, J. Hunter] and a 2cy was at Bishop's Seat, nr Dunoon Kintyre on 28 Jun [R. Stakim]. All records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).

### **PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

RBBP 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 and in all months. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from *Mull*. Max count away from nest sites of 4 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 15 July and 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Aug and at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 6 Nov.

**Breeding** Thought to be in the region of 50-70 prs. 18 sites were checked, 7 of which were occupied. Eggs were laid at least six of these, five of which were successful raising a min of 13 young (ARSG).



**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Islay* Oct (Steve Percival)

### **LESSER GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius minor*

*A vagrant. Three records. Singles on Mull on 5 Sep 1974, Coll on 26 Oct-2 Nov 1988 and Tiree on 6 Aug 2008.*

**Autumn** A first-winter (1cy) was found at Smaull Farm *Islay* on 9 Oct later moving to Braigo nr Sanaigmore where it remained until at least 26 Oct [A. Rudd, J. Dickson, P. Roberts *et al*]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*

### **RED-EYED VIREO** *Vireo olivaceus*

*A vagrant. Two records. Singles at Arinagour, Coll on 3 Oct 1992 and at Caoles, Tiree on 9 Oct 2008.*

**Autumn** A first-winter (1cy) was at the Glebe, Scarinish *Tiree* on 25 Sep -3 Oct [D. Jardine, J. Dickson, H. Douglas, S. Gibson *et al*]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*

## **GOLDEN ORIOLE\*** *Oriolus oriolus*

**RED LIST** RBBP *A rare and irregular passage migrant, mainly in spring.*

**Spring** A male was at the Lodge Plantation, Arinagour *Coll* on 17 Apr and presumably the same bird was seen and photographed later that day at Heylipol *Tiree*.

## **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

*A widely distributed (but scarce) woodland resident on most of the mainland; rarely reported from the islands.*

**Winter/spring** Reports, generally of 1-2 birds, from sites in; *Cowal* (7), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (8). Max counts of 6 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, 5 at Forest Lodge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 19 Feb and 4 at Ardchattan Priory *North Argyll* on 29 Mar. A single at Glen Hervie on 2 Feb suggests the colonisation of *Kintyre* is complete.

**Summer/breeding** NBBS: noted in 18% of squares (6/34). All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with generally 1-2 birds at sites. 1 Ter on Tainish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. b/2 noted at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jul and b/3 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 11 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of generally 1-3 birds from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (12) and *North Argyll* (6). Max counts of 8 at Mishnish *Mull* on 15 Oct, 6 at Garmony *Mull* on 16 Aug, 6 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 15 Oct and 5 at Loch Stornoway woods *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov. One at Achamore *Coll* in late Oct was the first seen on the island.

## **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 all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). *Cowal* had most reports, (26) sites, then *Kintyre* (9), *Mull* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (5) *Islay* (3) and *North Argyll* (2). On *Cowal* where more established and widespread than elsewhere in Argyll, a total of 20 seen between Dunoon – Blairmore on 19 Jan and 5 between Dunoon – Ardyne on 24 Apr. The reports of singles on *Islay* during 15 Mar - 19 Apr and on *Mull* during 30 Mar – 24 May, may relate to wandering individuals. On *Colonsay* a bird released there was regularly seen in Scalasaig and it or another was on Oronsay on 21 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Not recorded in any BBS squares. There were no reports of breeding outwith *Cowal*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (15), *Kintyre* (9) *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (1). Outwith *Cowal* and *Kintyre* all reports were of singles, and notably one was at Craighouse *Jura* on 7 Sep.

## **CHOUGH** *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

RBBP *The Argyll islands hold 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*). Max counts; on *Islay* 42 were at Ardnave on 24 Mar, 40 at Kilchoman on 25 May and 13 at the Oa on 3 Feb. On *Colonsay* 5 were on Oronsay on 16 Jan and 4 were at Traigh nam Barc on 29 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34). On *Islay* 42 occupied sites were found, with breeding confirmed at 34 of these. A total of 63 young were ringed at 22 sites (*Data provided by Eric Bignal*). On *Colonsay* 4 breeding pairs were found, with three nests rearing 7 young and the outcome unknown at the final nest. Four non-breeding birds, including a chick ringed in 2022 were present during the breeding season (*Data provided by David Jardine*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts received; on *Islay* 46 at Ardnave on 26 Dec, 33 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 4 Nov, 32 at Sanaigmore on 31 Dec, 20 at Portnahaven on 12 Sep and 18 at the Oa on 25 Sep. On *Colonsay* 9 were at Oronsay on 26 Sep. Singles were reported at the Bay at the Back of the Ocean, Iona *Mull* on 14-15 Oct; this c/r individual was a 2023 fledgling from Ardnave *Islay*, and an unringed bird was at Vaul on 16 Oct and at Hynish on 22 Oct (both *Tiree*).



**Chough** *Islay* Mar (David Dinsley)

## **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. Higher counts received included; 500 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 400 at Lephonstrath on 2 Feb and 150+ at Drumblemb on 8 Mar (both *Kintyre*), 46 between Dunoon – Ardyne Cowal on 19 Feb and 21 at Totronald *Coll* on 23 Jan. *Under reported.*

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 12% of BBS squares (4/34), with max counts of 3 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 29 May and 3 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun. Birds nest building in Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr and occupied nests on Colonsay (2 sites) were the only breeding reports. *Under reported.*

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Higher counts included; 230 Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 215 on *Islay* on 29 Oct, 70 at Toward Cowal on 23 Oct and 41 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 8 Dec.

## 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 (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Very under reported and few high counts received. Max count of 100 at Scammadale on 13 Feb and 80 at Ardlarach, Luing on 23 Jan (both *Mid-Argyll*), 100 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 60 at Fionnphort *Mull* on 25 Feb and 30 at Tralee Bay *North Argyll* on 17 Feb. One was at Heylipol Dunes *Tiree* on 31 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/34). Activity at nesting sites from late Feb. On *Islay* 139 AON at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Kintyre* rookeries counted (AONs), 24 at Southend, 35 at Keill Pont, Southend and 10 Escart Fm., also active at Killieonan and Ardnacross Bay. Also 36 AONs at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll*. 200 were at Sunderland Fm. *Islay* on 13 Jun. One at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20-26 Jul was unusual.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Max counts of 200 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Dec, 100 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct and 70 on Iona *Mull* on 15 Oct. On *Tiree*, 1 was at Kenovay and Balephetrish on 31 Aug, followed by 16 1cy birds at Ruaig on 23 Oct, a few of which stayed to the year end.

## 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 28 at Brox Wood Sandbank *Cowal* on 19 Jan and 12 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 28 May. Elsewhere, 1-3 reported at sites in *Mid-Argyll* (24), *Mull* (17), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (9), and *North Argyll* (8), with max counts in *Kintyre* of 10 at Tarbert on 30 Mar and in *Mid-Argyll* of 5 at Lochgilphead on 17 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 15% of squares (5/34). No breeding data received. Several birds paired with Hooded Crow.

**Autumn/winter** More reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (23) than from *Cowal* (15) indicating the spread of this species. Elsewhere, 1-2 reported at sites in *North Argyll* (5), *Kintyre* (12), *Islay* (10), *Mull* (10) and *Tiree* (1), with max counts of 36 at Arrochar *Cowal* on 10 Nov, 4 at Saddell *Kintyre* on 16 Sep and 4 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. One was at Balemartine *Tiree* on 29 Nov, the first for several years.

## 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 received of 60 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 25 Jan, 50+ at Kilbrennan *Mull* on 17 Mar, 50 at Balure of Shian *North Argyll* on 26 May, 47 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Jan, 38 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, 38 flying to roost on *Colonsay* on 29 Apr and 35 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 71% of squares (24/34), with max count of 13 at Dalvore on 29 Apr and 10 at Rhudle on 11 May (both *Mid-Argyll*). On *Colonsay* 45+ Ters noted, with a further 21+ on Oronsay *Colonsay*; 28 monitored, of which outcome of 6 unknown, 3 failed and 19 produced 41+ young. On *Islay* 11 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve and 6 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. 70+ were at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, most reports of 1-10 birds. Max counts included: 116 Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Aug, 76 at head of Loch Melford *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Sep, 57 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Sep, and 50+ at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 5 Nov.

#### **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/Mull/North Argyll*). Max counts of 15 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 3 Mar, 13 on Loch Awe side *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Sep, 12 at Arrochar *Cowal* on 10 Nov and 10 Kilberry Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 in (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*) and singles at Tobermory *Mull* on 12 Jun and Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 23 May.

#### **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 120 at Tobermory *Mull* on 20 Feb, 112 at Lington Landfill, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 65 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* on 18 Apr and 55 Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 38% of squares (13/34). Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. On *Colonsay* 8 Ters, which produced 23+ young from 8 successful nests. On *Tiree* 17 Ters; 4 proved breeding produced 7 young from 2 successful nests. Elsewhere, another 22 Ters reported and at least 33 yng reared from 11 sites (ARSG).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-2 birds with several counts of up to 20. Max counts included; 50 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 9 Sep, 44 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 22 Aug, and 40 at Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 7 Nov.

#### **WAXWING\*** *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

**Winter/spring** A single was in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* from 1-15 Jan, with 3 reported there on 6 Jan.

**Autumn/winter** The first were 2 on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 14 Oct. On *Coll* 5 were at Achamore in late Oct. On *Colonsay* 3 were at Kilchattan and 1 at Colonsay Hotel on 21 Nov. On *Islay/Jura* 1 was at Port Askaig on 27 Oct, 21 at Bowmore on 30 Oct, 1 at Portnahaven on 5 Nov, 13 at Craighouse on 5 Nov, 5 at Port Charlotte on 7 Nov, 1 at Port Ellen on 10 Nov, 1 at Finlaggan on 21 Nov and 3 at Risabus on 25 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was at Port Ann on 23 Oct, 14 at Dunollie Castle on 28 Oct, 44 in central Oban on 29 Oct & into Nov, 2 at Crinan Ferry on 2 Nov, 20 at Ardrishaig on 3 Nov, 20 at Inveraray Castle on 14 Nov, 2 in Lochgilphead on 14 Nov, 1 in Dalmally on 15 Nov. On *Mull* 2 were at Pennyghael on 5 Nov. A reasonable sized influx and most noted for several years.



**Waxwing** *Mid-Argyll* Nov (Andrew McFarlane)

### **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 (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Higher counts of 10+ Gleann Lean *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Mar and 10 at Arrochar *Cowal* on 25 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 44% of squares (15/34), with max counts of 12 at Kilmichael Forest on 17 Apr, 15 at Bellanoch on 18 Apr (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 11 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 3 May. 7 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites. Max counts of 20 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 26 Oct, 13 at Glen Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug and 11 at Bridgend Woods *Islay* on 26 Nov. Noticeable influx into gardens following failure of spruce cone crop, where numbers harder to assess, but 66 ringed at the Beaver Centre, Barrandaimh *Mid-Argyll* 31 Jul -18 Sep and 40 in a garden at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 20 Nov.

### **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/Tiree*). Most reports from *Mull* at 50 sites. Most reports of 1-6 birds with 10 at Crarae Gdns *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr and 10 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 5 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 35% of squares (12/34), with max counts of 16 at Tom Dubh, *Cowal* on 7 May and 11 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May. 9 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. In Kintyre nest box ringing study an improved year with 39 chicks ringed (*cf.* 12 in 2022).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). Generally, up to 6 birds at sites, but 30 caught for ringing at Brochroy *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec, 14 in a Cairnbaan garden *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec and 11 at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct. Notably 2 were at Acha *Coll* on 19 Nov and 1 at Arinagour *Coll* on 3 Dec.



**Blue Tit** *Mid-Argyll* Nov (Bill Anderson)

### **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*), with max counts on 14+ at Forest Lodge *North Argyll* on 19 Feb and 12 at Dunollie Wood Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May. Most other counts were 5 or fewer.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 38% of BBS squares (13/34), with max count of 10 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May. 5 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. Confirmed breeding reports from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing study 95 chicks were ringed (*cf.* 71 in 2022).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). All reports of fewer than 10 birds, although many in gardens and 86 ringed at the Beaver Centre, Barrandaimh *Mid-Argyll* 31 Jul – 18 Sep.

**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. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (64 cf. 39 in 2022), *Islay* (34 cf. 34 in 2022) *Mid-Argyll* (18 cf. 8 in 2022) and *Kintyre* (11 cf. 14 in 2022). In Jan only reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll/Tiree*) and max count of 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Jan. More birds returned across Argyll during Feb, when noted from 18 sites. Higher area counts inc. 50 at Loch Gruinart on 13 Mar and 50 at Loch Finlaggan on 25 Mar (both *Islay*), 34 at Ardalanish *Mull* on 25 Feb, 22 at Toberonochy, Luing on 1 Mar, 22 at Danna on 24 Mar (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 20 at Machrins *Colonsay* on 26 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 70% of squares (24/34), with max counts of 16 at Monument, the Oa *Islay* on 9 May, 13 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr and 12 at Cruachan Min *Mull* on 21 Jun. Breeding season reports received from all areas. Little specific breeding data other than 150 prs found on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Confirmed breeding noted at Quinish *Mull* and the Oa *Islay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal*), but relatively few. Quite a few birds lingered into Nov. Max counts received: 280 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 4 Oct, and 80 there on 30 Oct, 150 Machir Bay *Islay* on 17 Nov and 20 at Port Haunn *Mull* on 5 Aug. Most other reports were <10 birds and only 14 reports in Nov and 5 reports in Dec, when 45 were at Ruaig *Tiree* on 4 Dec.



**Shore Lark** *Mull* Nov (Freddie Montague-Dennis)

## **SHORE LARK** *Eremophila alpestris*

*A vagrant. One record of three birds at Bowmore and nearby at Ardlararch Islay on 18 to 19 Oct 1976.*

**Autumn/winter** One was seen and photographed by the roadside and shore near Dhiseig, south shore of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Nov [D. Brooks, F. Montague-Dennis]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

## **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 Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar, 2 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar and 2 at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 21 Mar then more widespread thereafter. Highest counts inc., 250 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 2 May, 200 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 7 May and 180 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Noted in 15% of BBS squares (5/34). Limited data on breeding colonies received. 120 AONs were at Langa Quarry *Kintyre*, on *Islay* 20 AONs at Cnoc Iolairean, on *Colonsay* 12 AONs at Kiloran Bay and 7 AONs on Oronsay and on *Tiree* 20 AONs at The Reef, where the first fledged yng at Balephuill on 30 Jun. Elsewhere, colonies reported at Ardnave *Islay*, Drimvore *Mid-Argyll*, Scarisdale Pt. *Mull* and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura*). Most birds had departed by mid-Sep. Highest counts: 160 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 21 Aug, 16 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 9 Aug, 15 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Aug and 15 at Loch Ba *Mull* on 24 Aug. The last reported was 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Oct.



**Sand Martin** *Mid-Argyll* May (James Lehmann)

## **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

*A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrivals were singles at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, then Glen Aros, Croggan and Garmony (all *Mull*) on 2 Apr, Colintrave *Cowal* on 5 Apr,

Inverval and Gruinart (both *Islay*) on 6 Apr and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Apr. Counts noted from late Apr of generally fewer than 10 birds and a max noted of 100 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 7 May.

**Summer/breeding** Noted in 29% of BBS squares (10/34). Limited breeding data received; 16 prs noted on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. On *Tiree* the first fledged juvs were noted on 1 Jul and a pr at Carradale *Kintyre* reared two broods fledging 11 yng (*cf.* 8 in 2022). A late pair were still feeding young at Dun Urganil *Mull* on 25 Sep.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 300 in 40 mins over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Aug, at Lephensrath *Kintyre* numbers built in late Sep with 80 on 12 Sep, 150 on 22 Sep and peaking at 250 on 22 Sep when most departed with only 40 on 23 Sep. Elsewhere, 90 at Carradale golf course *Kintyre* on 9 Sep, 60 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep and 60 at Muasdale *Kintyre* on 9 Sep. Thereafter, fewer seen in Oct with 9 on *Tiree* on 11 Oct the highest count. Only two reports in Nov, with 5 at Ardilistry Bay *Islay* on 2 Nov and the last at Laphraoig *Islay* on 23 Nov.



**Swallow** *Mid-Argyll Jun* (Jim Dickson)

### **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 (*Colonsay*). First early reports were on *Islay* with 1 at Port Wemyss on 25 Mar, 2 at Kilnaughton on 28 Mar and 1 at Kinnabus on 7 Apr, followed by 2 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 8 Apr, 2 at Salen *Mull* on 10 Apr and 2 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 12 Apr, with many arriving in early May. Highest count received of only 7+ at Loch Ba *Mull* on 23 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** Not recorded in any of the BBS squares (34). Limited breeding data received. AONs were noted at Cairnbaan (5+) and Inverneil (5+) (both *Mid-Argyll*), Ugadale *Kintyre* and Bruichladdich *Islay*. Max count of 35 (inc. juvs) at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jul. Young were still in a nest at Pennyghael *Mull* on 3 Sep.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of 80+ at Ardgartan, Loch Long *Cowal* on 10 Sep, 60 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 23 Sep and 40+ at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 27 Aug. Most birds had departed by early Sep, with a late bird at Feochaig *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and the last report was of 8 at Kildalton *Islay* on 21 Oct.

## 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 (*Tiree*). Most counts of 1-2 birds and max counts of 12 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 27 Jan, 10 at Inveroran *North Argyll* on 22 May, 9 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* all Jan and 9 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 4 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 12% of squares (4/34), with max count of 5 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 20 Jun. Otherwise, limited data with breeding confirmed at Inveroran *North Argyll*, Fishnish *Mull*, at Shuna, Bridgend and Achnabreac (all *Mid-Argyll*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-12 birds and mostly from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (27), *Mull* (24), *North Argyll* (17), *Islay* (14), *Cowal* (10) and *Kintyre* (9). Good evidence of autumnal influx with one seen on cliffs at the Oa *Islay* on 9 Oct and at least 11 on *Tiree* in late Oct with 1 remaining to 10 Nov. Max counts of 42 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 40 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 7 Nov, 26 Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 4 Nov, 25 at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 4 Nov, 18 at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 15 Oct. Notably on *Coll*, 3 at Acha on 19 Nov and 2 at Arinagour on 29 Nov and singles elsewhere.

## WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**AMBER LIST** *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrival was 1 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, followed by 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Mar, 1 at Laphroaig *Islay* on 2 Apr, 1 at Gobbagrennan *Kintyre* on 2 Apr, 3 at Risabus *Islay* on 5 Apr and singles at Dervaig and Pennygown (both *Mull*) on 7 Apr, more widespread arrivals from 9 Apr. Higher counts inc., an arrival of *ca* 100 at Dervaig *Mull* on 11 Apr and 30 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 16 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 73% of squares (25/34), with higher counts of 23 at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jun, 19 at Glen Aros *Mull* on 13 May, 18 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 3 May, 17 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 2 May and 15 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. On *Tiree* 11-12 Ters across 5 sites in Jun. At Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* 24 Ters on BBS (*cf.* 25 in 2022). First fledged yng reported at Achabeag *Mull* on 6 Jun and on *Tiree* from 15 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Number of reports decreased, and birds departed by late Aug and in Sep reports from only (*Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) with late singles on *Tiree* at the Glebe on 1-3 Oct, Loch an Eilein on 2 Oct and the last at Vaul on 22 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** No winter reports. Reports from all areas in spring. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (23) and *Cowal* (18). First arrivals of singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Mar,

at Kames *Cowal* on 24 Mar, at Tullochgorm *Mid-Argyll* and Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 25 Mar, and then 2 at Kinnabus *Islay* on 26 Mar. More widespread arrivals from 30 Mar. All counts of 1-3 birds, except on 31 Mar when 4 at Loch Lossit *Islay* and 4 at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 19 May. **Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34), with max count of 2 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun. Otherwise, limited breeding data. On *Colonsay* 3 Ters noted.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*) and most local birds had departed by mid-Sep. Late birds in Oct when 3 on *Iona Mull* on 16 Oct and singles on *Tiree* at Balephuil on 3 Oct, at Meningie on 16 & 19 Oct, Cornaigbeg on 24 Oct and at Vault on 25 Oct. In Nov, singles at Crossapol *Tiree* on 10 Nov, at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 18-21 Nov and the last at Torosay *Mull* on 2 Dec.

**‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF\*** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

*A rare visitor. An eastern race of Chiffchaff. Less than annual, occurs usually in late autumn or winter.*

**Autumn** One, calling, was at Meningie *Tiree* on 30 Oct.



**Wood Warbler** *Tiree* Sep (Keith Gillon)

**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** Reports from only (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First reports were of singing birds at Dallinlongart *Cowal* and Cruachan Power Stn. *North Argyll* on 28 Apr, followed

by birds at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 30 Apr, at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and Salen *Mull* on 2 May.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 6% of squares (2/34). Singing males reported from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (16) and *North Argyll* (8).

**Autumn** Singles at Kilchrist Castle *Kintyre* on 8 Aug and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Sep were last noted.

### YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER\* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

RBBP *A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals. At least 134 birds between 1954 and 2022, the majority on Tiree. A record 37 birds occurred in 2020.*

**Autumn** One was heard calling at Craighouse *Jura* on 21 Oct [N. McMahon and group]. A first record for *Jura*. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

### SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

AMBER LIST *A locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.*

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First arrivals of singles at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr, at Kinnabus *Islay* and on *Colonsay* on 27 Apr, at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* and Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Apr, at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 30 Apr and at Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 2 May. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (20) and *Mid-Argyll* (15).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 18% of squares (6/34) with highest count of 4 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 9 Jun. On *Islay* noted as widespread & present at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 29 found prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. Numerous Ters across *Tiree* from 8 May and 10+ Ters from roads at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*. Few counts or breeding data received from elsewhere. First fledglings on *Tiree* noted from 13 Jul and at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 15 Aug.

**Autumn** A scattering of records in late Aug, with singles at Iona *Mull* on 20 Aug, at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 23 Aug, Baugh *Tiree* on 28 Aug and 2 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug. In Sep, reports only from Balephuill *Tiree* where 2 present to 12 Sep and 3 on 11 Sep.

### MARSH WARBLER\* *Acrocephalus palustris*

RED LIST RBBP *A rare passage migrant. Six records, all on Tiree with one at Balephuill on 8-10 Jun 2007, one at Carnan Mor on 28 May 2012, one at Mannal, Tiree on 28 May 2014, one at The Glebe, Scarinish on 4 Jun 2016, one at Balephuill on 3 Jun 2018 and one at Balephuill on 19 Sep 2020.*

**Spring/summer** A male was in song at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16-20 Jun [J. Bowler]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

### ICTERINE WARBLER\* *Hippolais icterina*

RBBP *A rare passage migrant. Seven records. Islay on 28 Aug 1976, Taynuilt in Jun 1984, Tiree on 2 Jun 1987, Islay on 4 to 5 Sep 1993, Tiree on 9 Jun 2016, 7 Sep 2018 and 21 May 2020.*

**Spring/summer** A male was in song at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16-17 Jun [J. Bowler]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

### 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** Reports from all areas. First arrivals of ‘reeling’ birds at Ardfern, Moine Mhor, Bridgend and Dalvore (all *Mid-Argyll*) and Ostel Bay and Millhouse (both *Cowal*) on 17 Apr, thereafter widespread arrivals across Argyll from 23 Apr. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *Mull* (12).

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 21% of squares (7/34), with max counts of 5 at Meall nan Eun, the Oa *Islay* on 2 May and 3 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr. On *Colonsay* 9 Ters. On *Islay* 11 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve, 17 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 4 Ters at RSPB Smaull. On *Tiree* 4 Ters at Balephuill with 2 juvs noted there on 13 & 27 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Jul and reports mostly of singles from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*), although 3 still reeling at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jul, where the last juv was noted on 12 Aug.



**Blackcap** *Kintyre* Nov (Ann Hand)

### **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. Winter report of birds at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 11-16 Jan, at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 19 Jan, at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan, at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Feb, at Airidhglass *Mull* on 28 Feb and at North Connel *North Argyll* on 16 Mar. First arrivals of singles at Ardrishaig and Oban (both *Mid-Argyll*) on 30 Mar, at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Apr and at the Lussa Burn *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, then more widespread after 13 Apr, with most arrivals noted around 20 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 26% of squares (9/34), with max counts of 4 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun. Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*, and also in *Kintyre*. On *Colonsay* 10 Ters recorded and 6 Ters RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. 7 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS and at least 3 Ters Crarae Gdns. (both *Mid-Argyll*). No reports of confirmed breeding.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from areas by month; Sep (4), Oct (16), Nov (17) and Dec (2). Max counts of at least 6 birds across *Tiree* on 19 Oct. In Nov, at least 5 were on *Tiree*, 3 were at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 2 were at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov and singles were at sites in *Islay* (3) and *Mull* (2). In Dec, singles were at Kilnaughton Bay on 12 Dec and Kildalton on 29 Dec (both *Islay*).



**Garden Warbler** *Tiree* Oct (Theo de Clermont)

### **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

*A scarce but increasing summer visitor. Breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.*

**Spring/summer** First arrivals; singles at Ardentinnny *Cowal* on 17 Apr, at Lussa Glen *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May and Inveroran *North Argyll* on 4 May. Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (15), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (13) and *Tiree* (1). A migrant was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4-7 Jun.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 6% of squares (2/34), with 3 noted at Tom Dubh *Cowal* on 7 May. 3 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. No confirmed breeding records and no reports in Jul.

**Autumn** A single at Balephuill on 19 Aug, was the earliest autumn date on *Tiree* and another was at the Glebe *Tiree* on 2 Oct.

### **BARRED WARBLER\*** *Curruca nisoria*

*A rare passage migrant. 21 previous records. All have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.*

**Autumn** A 1cy was at The Glebe, Scarinish *Tiree* on 2-3 Oct [T. de Clermont, J. Dickson]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Curruca curruca*

*A rare/scarse passage migrant in both spring and autumn. Most recent records have been from the islands.*

**Spring** On *Tiree* singles, both giving some song, were at Cornaigbeg on 1 Jun and at Balephuill on 7 Jun.

**Autumn** One was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 3 Oct, 1 was at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct [D. Jardine] and a late bird at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Nov could not be assigned to a race. *Records were accepted by the ABRC.*

### **'SIBERIAN' LESSER WHITETHROAT\*** *Curruca curruca blythi*

*A rare visitor. Recently reinstated as a race and not currently assessed as DNA analysis required to separate from the Central Asian race S. c. halimodendri. Birds showing characteristics of this 'Siberian' on Tiree; race in Oct 2014, possibly two more in Oct 2016, one in Oct 2021 and one in late Sep-Oct 2022. Also, one on Islay Nov-Dec 2017 and one on Coll in Oct 2022.*

**Autumn** One at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15-19 Oct showed features of the *blythi* race [J. Bowler].

### **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/summer** Reports from all areas. First arrival was an early individual at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 11 Apr, followed by singles at Loch Torr *Mull* on 24 Apr, at Kinnabus *Islay* on 27 Apr, Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, Carradale *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and Kiloran dunes *Colonsay* on 30 Apr, then more widespread arrivals from early May. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (66), *Mid-Argyll* (30), *Kintyre* (11), *Islay* (10), *North Argyll* (8), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (6), *Tiree* (5) and *Coll* (5).

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 35% of squares (12/34), with max counts of 10 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* on 7 May, 6 at Lochan Sholum *Islay* on 11 May and 6 at Ulva *Mull* on 20 Jun. On *Colonsay* 40 Ters recorded, with another on Oronsay. On *Islay* 26 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart, and 23 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* males in song at 3 sites but breeding not confirmed.

**Autumn** Reports decreased during Aug and all birds had departed by early Sep, except for singles at Hynish on 8 Sep and at Vaul on 15 Sep (both *Tiree*).

### **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla*

*A rare visitor with only 10 previous Argyll records. The last records were on Tiree in Nov 2020 and Oct 2022.*

**Autumn** A 1cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25-27 Oct [J. Bowler, A. Robinson, J. Hunter]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).*

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

*A common resident breeding species. Augmented by passage migrants.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds from sites. Max counts of 12 at Achnabreac *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar, 10 at Arrochar *Cowal*, on 24 Feb, 6 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 6 at Achabeag on 14 Feb and 6 at Loch Torr on 15 Feb (both *Mull*). Good spring passage on *Tiree* where 30+ birds at 10 sites between 5 Mar and 30 Apr including 8 at Balephuill on 18 Mar and 6 on 31 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 38% of squares (13/34), with max counts of 19 at Kilbride more Burn Cowal on 2 May and 13 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr. 6 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 3 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas with counts of generally 1-2 birds. Max count of 12 at Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 4 Sep. First migrant on *Tiree* was 1 at Balephuill on 1 Sep, with 13 scattered birds in Sep, 16+ in Oct, and 6 in Nov with max of 5 at Balephuill on 30 Sep – 4 Oct and the last 2 at Balephuill on 21 Nov.

**WREN** *Troglodytes 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 counts of 10-11 at sites in *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4) and *North Argyll* (1). Birds singing from late Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 76% of squares (26/34), with max counts of 26 at Bellanoch on 3 Jun, 20 at Kilmichael Forest on 4 Jun (both *Mid-Argyll*), 19 at Tom Dubh Cowal on 7 May and 19 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 21 Apr. On *Tiree* 34+ Ters at 18 sites and first fledged b/6+ on 11 Jun. 23 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, 1-4 birds noted at most sites, with max counts of 16 on *Iona Mull* on 23 Sep and 14 on *Danna Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct.



**Nuthatch** *Mid-Argyll* Oct (Bill Anderson)

### **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

*Now becoming an established breeder in mainland Argyll and Mull. A survey in 2021 found around 150 pairs. Still scarce in Kintyre and the island regions.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from (sites) in Cowal (8), Mid-Argyll (21), Mull (1) and North Argyll (7). All reports of 1-2, except 3 at Ardinglas Cowal on 5 Apr, 3 at Crarae Gdns. on 21 Apr and 3 at Taynish NNR on 20 Apr (both Mid-Argyll).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34), all of single birds. 2 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS Mid-Argyll. Confirmed breeding from Ardrishaig, Kilmahumaig and Taynuilt (all Mid-Argyll). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Arduaine Gdns. Mid-Argyll on 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from (sites) Cowal (5), Mid-Argyll (18), Mull (1), North Argyll (6). All sightings of 1-2 birds, except in Mid-Argyll where 4 at Glen Nant on 11 Aug.

Results of 2021 survey at: [2021 Argyll Bird Club Nuthatch Survey Results – Argyll Bird Club.](#)



**Treecreeper** Mid-Argyll Feb (Jim Dickson)

### **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris britannica*

*A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.*

**Winter/spring** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in Colonsay (1), Cowal (19), Islay (8), Jura (1), Kintyre (6), Mid-Argyll (23), Mull (16) and North Argyll (7). All reports of 1-2 birds except 3 at Achamore Gdns, Gigha Kintyre on 16 Apr, 3 at Lochbuie Mull on 19 May and 3 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla North Argyll on 28 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 24% of squares (8/34), with max count of 3 at Tom Dubh Cowal on 7 May. Min 6 Ters on Colonsay, 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay, 2 prs at Crarae Gdns. Mid-Argyll and yng noted at Linndhu House Mull on 9 Jul. Otherwise, limited data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports sites in Colonsay (2), Cowal (4), Islay (4), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (22) and North Argyll (9). All reports of 1-2 birds except 5 at Glen Nant Mid-Argyll on 11 Aug and 4 at Loch Spelve Mull on 19 Aug. *Generally under reported.*

### ‘NORTHERN’ TREECREEPER *Certhia f. familiaris*

**Autumn** One showing characteristics of this race was a Carnan Mor Tiree on 21-22 Oct [J. Bowler].



**Rosy Starling** Kintyre Jul (Jim Dickson)

### ROSY STARLING\* *Pastor roseus*

*A rare summer and autumn visitor. More frequent in recent years with peak of 19 birds in 2021.*

**Summer** An adult male was in Carradale Kintyre on 16 - 28 Jul [S. Moorcroft, J. Dickson, A. Paterson *et al*]. Was found dead on 28 Jul and later presented to the National Museum of Scotland (Accession No: NMS Z 2024:117) *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

### STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

**RED LIST** *A common resident on Coll, Colonsay, 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 (Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). Several flocks of 500-800 birds across Tiree in Jan-Apr and in Kintyre 700 were at Glen Hervie on 2 Feb, 200 at

Rhunahaorine on 14 Mar, 200 at Clochkiel, the Laggan on 27 Mar and 190 at Drui machro, Gigha on 14 Mar. On *Mull* 280 were at Bunessan and 250 at Fionnphort on 25 Feb and 150 at Dervaig on 23 Feb. Elsewhere, most counts were below 100 birds.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 24% of squares (8/34), with max counts of 91 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* on 13 May, 41 at Fidden *Mull* on 11 Jun and 18 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Jun. Otherwise, limited data supplied. First fledged juvs at Barrandaimh *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May and there was a mass synchronised fledging across *Tiree* on 30-31 May. Large flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun on *Colonsay* and *Kintyre* e.g. 560 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 17 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Many flocks on *Tiree* of 300-800 and max counts there of 1,300 at Balephetrish Bay on 27 Nov, 800 at Kirkapol on 11 Sep, 800 at Kennovay on 12 Oct and 800 at Hough Bay on 10 Nov. Elsewhere, 650 at Bowmore on 9 Sep, 800 at Orsay on 11 Sep and 1,000 at Cnoc na h-Eilde on 17 Nov (all *Islay*), 300 on Iona *Mull* on 3 Sep, 272 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 20 Nov, 250 at Garvard *Colonsay* on 23 Aug and 200 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 22 Oct.



**Starling** *Mid-Argyll* Dec (Jim Dickson)

**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 Black Mount *North Argyll* on 1 Apr, at Ben Cruachan *North Argyll* on 13 Apr and at Gribun *Mull* on 2 May.

**Autumn** On *Islay* 1 was at Port Askaig on 21 Oct and 2 at Ardnave on 23 Oct. In *Kintyre* an adult male was at Lephenstrath Farm on 21 Oct -2 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult male was at Kilmartin on 20 Oct and 1 was at Glen Ralloch, nr Tarbert on 24 Oct. On *Mull* an adult male was at Calgary

Bay on 29 Oct. On *Tiree* 1-2 were at Carnan Mor/Balephuill on 20 Oct, 3 there on 21 Oct and 1 on 31 Oct.



**Ring Ouzel** *Kintyre* Nov (Jim Dickson)

### **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 22 at Balure of Shian *North Argyll* on 27 May, 15 at Java, Caignure *Mull* on 21 Jan, 15 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 15 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 19 May, 13 at Dunollie Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May and 13 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 11 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 59% of squares (20/34), with max counts of 7 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* on 7 May and 5 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun. Three pairs on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. 2 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. First fledged birds noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May, at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 29 May, at Ruaig *Tiree* on 29 May and Achabeag *Mull* on 31 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. A small influx in late Oct e.g. 150 on *Jura* on 25 Oct, 80+ in SW *Tiree* on 20 Oct and 30 Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. Higher counts inc. 53 between Invermeil *Mid-Argyll* and Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 5 Nov and 30 at Achabeag *Mull* on 3 Nov.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**RED LIST** RBBP A *passage migrant and winter visitor. Abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or passing through in spring.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Generally, reports in low numbers of 1-60 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., 200 at Kilchoman *Islay* on 1 Mar, 120 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan, 100 at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 24 Feb and 95 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar. Last noted was 1 at Dervaig *Mull* on 3 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). First arrivals; 34 over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 3 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 10 Oct, 8 at Dervaig *Mull* on 11 Oct and 20+ at Knockrioch *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Oct. More widespread arrivals after 18 Oct inc., 650 at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 18 Oct, 800+ around SW *Tiree* on 20 Oct, 315 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 20 Oct, 350 Risabus *Islay* on 20 Oct, 90 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct and a max count of 2,000 between Stewarton and Lephénstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 31 Oct.



**Redwing** *Mid-Argyll* Oct (Jim Dickson)

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP 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 (Coll/Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll). Generally widespread in low numbers of 1-35 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., 1,000 around *Tiree* in flocks of up to 100 in Jan-Feb with 350 at Balephuill on 16-17 Mar and 20 still there on 2 Apr, 85 at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb, 50 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 10 Jan, 40 at Laphroaig *Islay* on 28 Jan, 40 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar, 35 at Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 28

Jan and 35 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb. Last spring record was 1 at Loch an Torr *Mull* on 16 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). First arrivals; singles at the Glebe, Scarinsh *Tiree* on 30 Sep and Calgary Bay *Mull* on 6 Oct, then 200+ at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Oct, 1,200 there on 14 Oct, 100+ at Garmony *Mull* on 9 Oct, 100 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 9 Oct, 40 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 9 Oct, 35 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Oct and 120 over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, after which more widespread with higher nos, generally flocks of up to 250 birds in late Oct. Max counts noted; 7,000 south of Stewarton to Southend *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, 3,000+ around SW *Tiree* on 20 Oct, 650 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct, 480 at Ballymeanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct and 370 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct. Generally low nos of 1-20 noted after Oct, but still up to 600 around *Tiree* on 20-21 Nov.



**Song Thrush** *Mid-Argyll* Mar (Jim Dickson)

### **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 15 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 29 Apr, 12 at Garmony on 8 Mar and 10 at Lochbuie on 6 Mar (both *Mull*).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 62% of squares (21/34), with max counts of 9 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 17 Apr, 8 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr and 5 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 3 May.

Birds in song from mid-Feb on sunny days. 16 prs found on transects on the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 30+ Ters found on *Tiree* in May. 3 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. The first fledged birds noted on 3 May on *Tiree* from the wheel of a parked car at the airport, at 2 sites on *Mull* on 10 May and at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, just 1-2 birds noted at sites. Higher counts inc. 50+ on *Tiree* during influx on 20 Oct, 20 at Claddach *Islay* on 21 Nov and 14 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Oct. Continental type *philomelos* migrants noted on *Tiree* in Nov.

### **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 (*Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-4 birds, however 6 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 10 Jan, 6 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Jan & 17 Feb, 6 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan and 6 at Quinish Pt *Mull* on 28 Feb. Most reports from sites in *Mull* (40) and *Mid-Argyll* (22).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max of 4 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, otherwise limited data submitted. 2 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. 1 breeding pr noted *Colonsay* Ho. *Colonsay*. Post-breeding flocks of 50 noted Garmony *Mull* on 31 Jul and 27 at Cornabus, Oa *Islay* on 27 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, sightings of 1-8 birds. Most reports from sites in *Islay* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (10) and *Mull* (22). Max counts of 60 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 28 Aug, 45 at Quinish *Mull* on 28 Aug, 40 at Loch Seil on 22 Aug and 39 at Crinan Ferry on 19 Aug (both *Mid-Argyll*).



**Spotted Flycatcher** *Mid-Argyll* May (James Lehmann)

### 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 except (*Jura*). First reports were singles at Crinan Wood *Mid-Argyll* and Risabus, Oa, *Islay* on 3 May, then at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May and Croggan Road *Mull* on 6 May. More widespread reports from 10 May. Reports came from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (25), *North Argyll* (7) and *Tiree* (4).

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34). Generally under reported, but 4 Ters found on *Colonsay*, and 2 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. 2 prs found on *Jura* on 19 Jul and 2 Ters Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. b/2 found in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and 3 yng fledged at Lephenstrath *Kintyre*. Fledged juvs noted at Kildalton Woods *Islay*, Lower Ranachan *Kintyre*, Coshandrochaid *Mid-Argyll* and Garmony *Mull*.

**Autumn** Most local breeding birds had departed by mid-Aug, with late singles reported at Achnaba *North Argyll* on 30 Aug, at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Aug, at Vaul *Tiree* on 6 Sep and Lochan na Guailne Duibhe *Mull* on 9 Sep, with 2 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 13 Sep the last.



**Robin** *Mid-Argyll* Mar (Jim Dickson)

### 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 on *Mull* of 12 at Linndhu House on 10 Apr, 10 at Garmony on 8 Mar, 10 at Tobermory on 28 May, 10 at Ulva Ferry on 5 May and 9 at Balure of Shian *North Argyll* on 29 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 50% of squares (17/34), with max counts of 21 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr, 12 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 2 May and Eas a Chosain, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May. 9 Ters in Tainish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. A pr nested three times in garden at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* first nest began on 2 Mar (was predated), then 1<sup>st</sup> fledging on 17 May and 2<sup>nd</sup> on 25 Jun. None bred on *Tiree*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports of 1-4 birds. Max counts of 37 on Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep and 20 at Gartnatra *Islay* on 28 Oct. Widespread across *Tiree* in late Sep-Dec with arrival of 11 at Carnan Mor on 30 Sep.



**Pied Flycatcher** *Tiree* Sep (Keith Gillon)

**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*. Few confirmed breeding records in recent years. Rare but near-annual on passage on the islands, especially *Tiree*.

**Spring/breeding** One was at Gallanach Beg, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May, a 2cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Jun, singles at Upper Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 21 May, at Inveraray on 10 Jun and Inveraray Castle grounds on 29 Jun (perhaps same?), (both *Mid-Argyll*), and 2 at Inveroran, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 10 Jul. No evidence of breeding proven.

**Autumn** Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1-3 Sep, at Vaul *Tiree* on 2-4 Sep, at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 14 Oct and at Appin *North Argyll* on 23 Oct.

**BLACK REDSTART\*** *Phoenicurus ochuros*

**AMBER LIST** RBBP *A less than annual passage migrant. Most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).*

**Spring** One was at Loch Spelve Mull on 12 Apr and a fem type was at Main Road Farm, Balephuill Tiree on 29 May.



**Redstart** Tiree Jun (John Bowler)

**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** Reports from only (Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll /Tiree). First reports were singles at Achnaba North Argyll on 10 Apr, at Aros Woods Mull on 11 Apr, Lussa Glen Kintyre on 19 Apr, at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 20 Apr and Ormidale Cowal on 25 Apr. Most reports from sites in; Cowal (11), Mid-Argyll (13), Mull (13), North Argyll (5) and Cowal (4). Migrant females were at Balephuill Tiree on 1 & 30 May and 2 Jun.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34), with max of 6 at Rhudle Mid-Argyll on 11 May. 4 Ters Loch Tulla North Argyll in May and present at Taynish NNR BBS Mid-Argyll but no Ters found. Ad seen food-gathering at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 12 Jun.

**Autumn** The last report was one at Achnacree North Argyll on 7 Aug.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**RED LIST** *A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*



**Whinchat** *Islay* May (David Dinsley)

**Spring/summer** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Tiree*). First arrivals were singles at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* and Glen Astle and Kinnabus (both *Islay*) on 25 Apr, at Ardachuil *Mull* on 28 Apr, then 4 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 29 Apr and 1 at Balnahard *Colonsay* on 30 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 1 May. Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (14), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (37) and *North Argyll* (3).

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 24% of squares (8/34), with max on 6 at Lochan Sholum *Islay* on 11 May. On *Islay* 12 Ters on RSPB Loch Gruinart, 24 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve (*cf.* 20 in 2022) and fledged brood found at Kilchoman on 24 Jul. 2 Ters found on *Colonsay* and fledged b/3 at Achafad Quarry *Kintyre* on 28 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 families found at Moine Mhor on 2 Jul and a family at Dunadd on 12 Jul.

**Autumn** Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) but decreased through Aug. Last reports were of 1 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 14 Sep, 2 at Ben Buie *Mull* on 16 Sep and two late singles at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 20 Oct and Smaull *Islay* on 27 Oct.

## **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 max counts of 10 at Glengorm on 6 May and 10 at Port Donain on 27 May (both *Mull*). Prs returned to many areas during Feb-Mar.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 41% of squares (14/34), with max counts of 7 at Ulva *Mull* on 20 Jun and 4 at Glenmuckrach *North Argyll* on 18 May. On *Colonsay* 31 Ters, and also 3 Ters on Oronsay. On *Islay* 29 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 26 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve. In *Mid-Argyll* 12 Ters at the Moine Mhor area. On *Tiree* 17-18 Ters at 14 sites in Apr. First fledged young noted on 18 May at Lowlandman's Bay *Jura* and on *Tiree* on 27 May.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, 1-8 birds from numerous widespread sites and max counts of 35 on *Jura* on 25 Oct, 20 on *Gigha Kintyre* on 28 Aug, 14 at *Binnein Furachail*, *Luing Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and 12 at *Ensay Mull* on 4 Sep.



**Stonechat** *Kintyre* Nov (Andrew Wallace)

## WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**AMBER LIST** A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

**Spring** Reports from all areas. First reports were 10 days later than 2022, of singles at Cornabus *Islay*, Machrihanish and Port Righ, Carradale (both *Kintyre*), Loch na Keal *Mull* and Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 21 Mar, then a single at Sloc Mor *Coll* on 23 May. There was an obvious arrival on 28 Mar, followed by widespread and increased nos. Max counts noted; 45 at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 24 Apr and 40 at the Oa *Islay* on 18 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 35% of squares (12/34), with max counts of 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Apr, 7 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 29 Apr and 7 at Ulva *Mull* on 20 Jun. On *Islay* 26 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 15 Jun (and more widespread there in Jul). Fledged young also noted on Shuna, Easdale Island and Kerrera (all *Mid-Argyll*), at Torastan *Coll* and Barmains *Kintyre*.

**Autumn** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Only small nos noted with max counts of 20 at Cruachan Treshnish *Mull* on 7 Aug and 20 at Heanish *Tiree* on 6 Aug. Passage birds noted widely in late Sep, with max count of 8 at Killinallan *Islay* on 22 Sep. Reports of 1-2 from 15 sites across (*Colonsay*/*Islay*/*Kintyre*/*Mull*/*Tiree*) in Oct and last report was 1 at the Oa *Islay* on 30 Oct.



Wheatear *Kintyre* Jun (Catherine Cochrane)

## 'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR *Oenanthe, o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant. Probably under-recorded.

**Spring** The first bird was seen on Sanaigmore *Islay* on 7 Apr, followed by 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Apr and many on *Colonsay* on 20 Apr. Numbers remained low through spring on the islands with 6 at Meningie *Tiree* on 26 Apr. Elsewhere, 2 at Drimvore on 1 May and 2 at Lochgilphead

on 3 May (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 1 at *Claonaig Kintyre* on 3 May. The last reported were 1 at the *Oa Islay* on 10 May and 2 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 12 May.

**Autumn** First birds noted on *Tiree* from 13 Aug when 3 were at Hynish then small nos. through Aug, rising to 32 on 11 Sep inc. 12 in a loose group on Beinn Hynish, with 2 at The Reef on 3 Oct the last. Elsewhere, singles were at the *Oa Islay* on 13 Sep and West Tarbert, *Gigha Kintyre* on 14 Sep.

### **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* (5), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (12) and *North Argyll* (2), with 7 on *River Euchar Mid-Argyll* on 13 Feb. *Under reported from most areas.*

**Breeding** Not recorded in any BBS squares (34). Limited data. In *Kintyre*, ringing studies around the Campbeltown area monitored 6 sites, where 4 active nests found, with 12 chicks ringed from 3 successful nests, with one failed nest. Occupied nests / fledged young noted on the *Aros Rover Mull* on 6 May, the *River Eachaig Cowal* on 24 May and at *Lephenstrath Kintyre* on 24 Jun. Other reports of 1-3 birds.

**Autumn/winter** Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (2). *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 38 at *Oronsay* on 13 Apr, 30 at *Scalasaig* on 11 Jan (both *Colonsay*), 35 at *Iona Mull* on 27 May, 30 at *Balephuill Tiree* in Jan - Feb and 30 at *Kilmartin Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan. Few counts from elsewhere and birds usually recorded as 'present'.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 12% of squares (4/34), with max counts of 10 at *Crossapol Pt. Tiree* on 18 Apr and 8 at *Dalvore Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun. First fledged birds noted at *Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr. Max post-breeding counts of 160 at *Oronsay Colonsay* on 23 Jul, 75 at *Iona Mull* on 24 Jul and 70 at *Druma Voulin Kintyre* on 8 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 190 at *Whitehouse Tiree* on 26 Aug, 130 at *Ruaig Tiree* on 28 Sep 90 at *Bruichladdich* on 8 Sep and 80 at *Drochaid Ath a'Chardaigh* on 5 Sep (both *Islay*), 50 at *Blackmill Bay, Luing* on 8 Aug and 50 at *Kilmartin* on 2 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*). Otherwise, the highest counts received from other sites were 40 at *Ardminish, Gigha Kintyre* on 30 Oct and 40 at *Toberonochy, Luing Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec.

### **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** On *Islay* singles were at *Coultorsay* on 1 Jan and at *Kinnabus* on 21 May. On *Tiree* 1 was at *Balephuill* on 26 Apr - 5 May.

**Autumn** One was at *Lephenstrath Bridge Kintyre* on 29 Oct -23 Dec.



**Tree Sparrow** *Kintyre* Nov (Ann Hand)



**Dunnock** *Mid-Argyll* Jul (Jim Dickson)

### DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

**AMBER LIST** *A widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and first bred on Tiree in 2020. 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, but 6 at Java, Caignure on 30 Jan and 6 at Camas on 5 May (both *Mull*) and 6 at Kames, Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 12 Apr. Most reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 5 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 9 Jun and 4 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jun. Singing birds noted from late Feb. Second brood fledged at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun. Singing males noted on *Tiree* but breeding not confirmed.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas, with most reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*), generally of 1-4 birds, but 15 noted on *Jura* on 25 Oct and 8 on *Iona Mull* on 16 Oct.

### YELLOW WAGTAIL\* *Motacilla flava*

**RED LIST** *A scarce passage migrant. Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi on Mull on 16 May 1985 and 3 males on Tiree on 20 May 2005. Some birds in autumn are often very difficult to assign to race.*

**Spring** A pair of 'Blue-headed' bred at a site near Southend *Kintyre*. First seen taking food to a presumed nest site on 7 Jul then at least 2 probably 3 fledged young noted there on 10 Jul [A. & N. Hand *et al*]. According to *The Birds of Argyll* this is the first confirmed breeding in Argyll since 1922.

**Autumn** A 1cy male (prob *flavissima*) was nr Bun-an-uillt, east side Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep [J. Dickson]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

### 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/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (30), *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Islay* (11) and *Cowal* (10). Most reports were in; Apr (31) and May (23). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds, however 3 were at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 19 Mar.

**Summer/breeding** Not noted in any BBS squares. Limited data received. Prs noted mainly from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). In *Kintyre* study area 2 nests found in 5 checked; 10 yng fledged (b/5 & b/5). Fledged juvs noted at Craigmore Cottage *Mull* on 27 May, at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jun and Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 5 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (10) and *Mull* (30). Most reports were in; Aug (38), Sep (47) and Oct (31) with fewer in Nov (16) – Dec (7) as birds migrate to their wintering grounds. Generally, only 1-3 birds noted, however 5 were at Caol Phaoileann *Mull* on 10 Aug and 5 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 31 Aug. On *Tiree* 2 were at Balephuill on 31 Aug and singles there on 2 Sep and at Baugh on 30 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 to Oct.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Most reports from coastal areas in winter and increasing towards spring. Reports by month; Jan (13), Feb (20), Mar (41), Apr (94) and May (107). Max counts of 53 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 19 Apr, 45 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 26 Mar, 17 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Apr, 15 at Abhuainn na h-Uamh *Mull* on 27 Apr and 14 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 16 Feb.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 41% of squares (14/34), with max counts of 14 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* on 18 Apr and 5 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* on 7 May. Otherwise, limited breeding data, but widespread. Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged there noted on 6 Jun. On *Islay* 5 prs noted on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 30 at Brunerican Bay *Kintyre* on 1 Sep, 30 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Sep, 23 at Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 28 Aug and 20 at West Tarbert, Gigha *Kintyre* on 22 Aug. Elsewhere, many counts of 1-17 birds.

### **'WHITE' WAGTAIL** *Motacila alba alba*

RBBP *A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring and extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.*

**Spring** Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First arrivals of singles at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 18 Mar, Carradale *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 9 Apr, Croggan *Mull* on 10 Apr, then 3 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Apr. Few seen on passage with max counts of 15 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Apr and 10 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 1 May.

**Autumn** Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First reports were of 5 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Aug with a single at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* and 3 at Gallanach *Coll* on 15 Aug. Numbers reported were low with max counts of 12 on Iona *Mull* on 2 Sep, 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Sep and 7 at West Hynish *Tiree* on 9 Sep. Very few after mid-Sep with singles at Baugh *Tiree* on 9 Oct and Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Oct the last noted.

### **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 e.g. 37 at Calgary *Mull* on 23 Feb. Higher counts of: 130 at Caliach Pt. on 11 Apr and 65 at Kellan, Loch na Keal on 30 Mar (both *Mull*), 110 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 & 27 Apr, 100 at Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, 50 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 2 Apr and 35 at Cruach nan Capull *Cowal* on 21 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-40 birds.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 82% of squares (28/34), with max counts of 54 at Loch Gaineanhach on 19 Jun, 26 at Ormsary Estate on 14 Jun, 26 at Creag na h-Iolaire on 18 Jun and 26 at Loch na Sgilleog on 18 Jun (all *Mid-Argyll*), Good numbers and widespread. On RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 200 prs recorded. Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Increase in numbers noted from early Aug with flocks of 20-50 birds, with one large movement of 500+ at sea W of *Mull* noted on 6 Sep. Other high counts inc., 110 on Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep, 100 at Treshnish farm *Mull* on 5 Aug and 80 at The Reef *Tiree* on 8 Sep. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 20 during in Nov - Dec.

### 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** Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Tiree). First reports of singles at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr, Ardtur *North Argyll* on 13 Apr, Clachaig *Cowal* on 17 Apr, Lussa Glen *Kintyre* on 19 Apr and Grasspoint *Mull* on 21 Apr, with a more general arrival by 20 Apr. Most reports from (sites) in *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (3) *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (21) and *North Argyll* (9). Max site counts of 8 at Kilchoan, Loch Melford *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and 5 at Gruline *Mull* on 12 May.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 8 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May and 7 at Tom Dubh *Cowal* on 7 May. 3 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*.

**Autumn** A single at Ardachy *North Argyll* on 17 Aug was the only bird reported.

### 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.*

**Winter/spring** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 20 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jan, 13 at Quinish on 28 Feb and 13 at Loch Don on 12 Mar (both *Mull*), 12 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 2 Jan and 12 at Gallanach, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds, however most reports of 1-2.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 12% of squares (4/34), with max counts of 6 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* on 7 May and 6 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 8 Jun. Otherwise, limited breeding data. At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 45 prs recorded. At least 6 prs noted on Eilean Ghaoideamal, Oronsay *Colonsay*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Max counts of 25 at Skipness on 21 Oct, 22 at Carradale on 23 Oct and 20+ at Muasdale on 10 Sep (all *Kintyre*) and 20+ at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds.

### ‘SCANDINAVIAN’ ROCK PIPIT\* *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

*A rare visitor but true status in Argyll is still unclear. Less than ten records of birds in spring plumage.*

**Spring** A bird showing features of this race was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 5 Jun [J. Dickson]. It was paired with a ringed *petrosus* bird and both were collecting food for young. This is presumably the same bird at this location on 31 Mar 2022.

### 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* (45), *Mid-Argyll* (69) and *Mull* (76). Max counts of 350 at Salen on 12 Feb, 90 at Glen More on 4 Mar and 81 at Fanmore on 4 Apr (all *Mull*), 70 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 23 Jan, 60 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb, 50 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4-5 Jan and 50 at Tralee Bay, Benderloch *North Argyll* on 17 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of fewer than 50 birds.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 59% of squares (20/34), with max counts of 19 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 2 May, 18 at Dalvore on 11 May and 18 at Bellanoch on 3 Jun (both *Mid-Argyll*). 8 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise, limited breeding data received.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (51) and *Mull* (50). Max counts on *Islay* of 200 at Bowmore on 17 Nov, 150 at Uiskentuie on 11 Dec and 150 at Storakaig on 28 Dec. In *Kintyre*, 200 at Port Rìgh on 18 Sep, 150 at Machrihanish SBO on 11 Oct and 140 at Ru Staffinish on 26 Sep, 120 at a Cairnbaan garden *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Dec in a snowstorm and 100+ at Oban airport *North Argyll* on 8 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-80 birds.



**Brambling** *Mid-Argyll* Oct (Jim Dickson)

### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**RBBP** *An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.*

**Winter/spring** Very scarce, with only four reports: singles at Salen *Mull* on 9 Feb, Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb and on *Tiree*, a male at Kirkapol on 11 -13 Apr and a female at Balephuill on 14 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** In contrast to the previous winter many more reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports were in Oct (46); 16 which came to roost at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 Oct were the first to arrive. Reports declined to 17 in Nov, with only 3 in Dec. Notable counts included; 21 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 1 Nov, 12+ at Lochdon and Grasspoint *Mull* on 22 Oct, 8 at Salen *Mull* on 27 Oct, 7 at Lephénstrath *Kintyre* on 20 Oct, 6 at Toward *Cowal* on 21 Oct, 4 on *Jura* on 25 Oct, 4 at Rockside *Islay* on 2 Nov, 3 at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct and singles at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Oct and Loch Awe village *North Argyll* on 18 Oct.

### **HAWFINCH\*** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**RED LIST** **RBBP** *A rare visitor. 53 records between 1953 and 2022.*

**Spring** A male was at Waterside, Southend *Kintyre* on 4-6 May [M. Bakes].

**Autumn** A fem was at Balephuill Tiree on 20 Oct [J. Bowler]. One was at Lochavullin, central Oban Mid-Argyll on 31 Oct [N. McMahon]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).*



**Bullfinch** *Mid-Argyll* Apr (Jim 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 all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports from sites in; Islay (8), Mid-Argyll (14) and Mull (18). Max counts of ca 20 on Scallastle forest track on 6 Jan, 10 at Achabeag on 15 Feb and 6 at Loch an Torr on 2 Feb (all *Mull*), and 6 at Lephonstrath Kintyre on 17 May. Counts elsewhere of 1-5 birds. Notable records include one at Colonsay Ho. *Colonsay* on 25 Apr and a male at Balephuill Tiree 13 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 18% of squares (6/34), with max count of 4 at Bellanoch Mid-Argyll on 3 Jun. 3 Ters on Taynish NNR BBS Mid-Argyll. Otherwise, limited data received; fledged yng noted in Mid-Argyll at Kilmichael Glen, Tayvallich and Balliemore, Kerrera, with the first fledglings seen at Cairnbaan on 18 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Most reports in; Aug (19) then Oct (18). Most reports from sites in; Mid-Argyll (16), Mull (12) and North Argyll (10). Max counts of 20 at Lussa Forest Kintyre on 12 Dec, 9 at Loch Avich Forest Mid-Argyll on 15 Dec, 8 at Finlaggan Islay on 11 Dec and 7 at Mull of Kintyre lighthouse on 2 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5 birds.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH\*** *Erythrura erythrina*

*RBBP A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred. 37 records between 1989 and 2022, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

**Spring** A fem/2cy male was at Gigha Cottage, Gigha Kintyre on 1 Jun [K. Helm].

Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of records rejected, pending etc on page 147).



**Greenfinch** Mid-Argyll Nov (Andy Paton)

**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). Counts of 1-7 birds at sites in; Coll (3), Cowal (14), Islay (14), Jura (2), Kintyre (6), Mid-Argyll (13), Mull (28), North Argyll (7) and Tiree (7). Max counts of 20 at Kinnabus, Oa Islay on 19 Mar, 18 at Crossapol Tiree on 26 Jan and 10 at Port Righ, Carradale Kintyre on 23 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 9% of squares (3/34). Limited data received. Fledged yng noted in Kintyre at Saddell and Port Righ, where 21 present on 25 Jun, in Mid-Argyll at Balliemore, Kerrera and Cairnbaan, on Coll at Totronald, at Balephuill Tiree and on Iona Mull.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay). Counts of 1-9 birds at sites in; Cowal (7), Islay (7), Jura (3), Kintyre (7), Mid-Argyll (8), Mull (14), North Argyll (4) and Tiree

(14). Max counts of 40 at Toward *Cowal* on 20 Oct, 20 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 25 Nov, 16 at Dunaverty on 7 Nov, 16 at Port Rìgh, Carradale on 26 Nov (both *Kintyre*), 15 on *Jura* on 25 Oct and 11 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep.



**Twite** *Islay* Apr (David Dinsley)

**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, but some reports from sites on *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Luing* *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *North Argyll* (1) but birds generally returning elsewhere in Apr-May. All higher counts were on *The Oa Islay* where a peak of 485 on 24 Jan. Elsewhere, higher counts of 140 at *Neriby Islay* on 28 Feb, 60 at *Sorobaidh Bay Tiree* on 16-26 Jan, 40 at *Coullabus Islay* on 27 Feb and 35 at *Ballyhaugh Coll* on 1 Jan. Noted at sites on *Mull* (25) with max count of 20 at *Rubh' Ardalanish Mull* on 27 Mar. Few reports from *Colonsay*, where max of 12 at *Machrins* on 20 Apr. In *Kintyre* 80 were at *Clochkeil*, *The Laggan Kintyre* on 2 Feb and 1 - 4 at *Machrihanish SBO* through to spring. Reports from 7 coastal sites in *Mid-Argyll* with max of 12 on *Luing* on 28 Feb, and 9 were at *North Ledaig North Argyll* on 14 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 18% of squares (6/34), with max count of 5 at *Crossapol Pt. Tiree* on 18 Apr. Prs noted in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) from Apr with most reports from island areas. 8 prs recorded RSPB *Oa Reserve Islay* and 1 pr RSPB *Loch Gruinart*. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 20 Jun and following a good breeding season scattered family flocks of 15-20 around the island in Jul. Fledged yng noted at *Gleann na Beinne Fada Mull* on 6 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Reports by month; Aug (31), Sep (30), Oct (47), Nov (25) and Dec (9). Max counts included; 185 at *The Oa Islay* on 6 Oct, peaking there at 280 on 7 Nov and elsewhere on *Islay*, 170 at *Coull Farm* on 19 Nov, 170 at *Lower Ballitarsin* on 19 Nov and 107 at *Gartbreck* on 2 Nov. On *Tiree*, 180 at *Gott* on 11 Sep and 155 at *The Reef* on 3 Nov. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 70 at *Ballyhaugh Coll* on 30 Sep, 50 at *Machrihanish Kintyre* on 11 Nov, 45 at *Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll* on 22 Sep, 38 on *Iona Mull* on 2 Sep and 25 at *Machrins Colonsay* on 8 Oct. One was at *Toward Cowal* on 23 Oct.

**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 all areas. No records during Jan-Feb away from *Tiree* where 1 - 10 burds noted at 3 sites on 23 - 26 Jan. First returning birds on *Islay* on 1 Mar, but more generally there from late Mar, and on *Tiree* from 31 Mar then more widespread elsewhere through Apr. No large counts with max counts of 50 at *Rockmountain Islay* on 1 Mar and 30 at *Lephenstrath Kintyre* on 22 Apr.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 32% of BBS squares (11/34), with max counts of 8 at *Monument, Oa Islay* on 2 Jun, 7 at *Fidden Mull* on 11 Jun and 7 at *Mid Loch Fada Colonsay* on 21 Apr. Otherwise, limited breeding data. 10 prs found at RSPB *Oa Reserve Islay*. Noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged birds noted on 14 Jun. Fledged yng also noted at *Oronsay farm Colonsay*, *Ardnave Pt Islay*, *Balliemore*, *Kerrera Mid-Argyll* and *Achabeag* and *Gleann na Beinne Fada* (both *Mull*).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (30), *Islay* (21) and *Kintyre* (20). Reports by month; Aug (69), Sep (92), Oct (50), Nov (14) and Dec (2). Max counts; on *Islay*, 353 at *Gruinart* on 9 Oct, 350 at *Coullabus* on 9 Sep and 244 at *Kinnabus* on 5 Sep. Elsewhere, up to 1,000 at *Gott Tiree* on 23 Sep, 300 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 14 Aug, 122 at *Torr*

*Mull* on 1 Sep, and 100 at West Tarbert, Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Sep. Otherwise, 1-80 birds, inc., 60 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid Argyll* on 29 Aug and 40 at Ballyhough *Coll* on 29 Sep.

### COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

RBBP *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 now breeds annually on Tiree, and also suspected of breeding on other islands.*

**Winter/spring** First arrival of 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Mar. Reports from six other *Tiree* sites during Apr-Jun. Also reported in *Mull* where singles reported at West Ardhru on 2 Apr, Fishnish and Balmeanch on 9 Apr and Tobermory on 14 Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* where 2 ff and m at Cairnbaan on 27 Apr and 1+ at Crinan on 10 May and 2 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 3 May.

**Summer/breeding** Most reports from *Tiree*. At least 11 prs across 6 sites in May and 9 - 11 prs across 6 sites in Jun. Fledged birds noted from 18 Jun - 16 Aug at Balephuill and 25 June at Heylipol. Max count of 12 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor from 18 Jul. Elsewhere, 2 were displaying at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 18 Jun and singles were seen on *Mull* at Glengorm on 8 Jun and at Aros on 25 Jun.

**Autumn/winter** Up to 16 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor *Tiree* during Aug, with 20 there on 10 - 12 Sep and 16 left roost there on 5 Nov. Two there on 11 Nov and 1 at Crossapol on 11 Nov were the last reported. The only other report was of 1+ at Loch Don *Mull* on 7 Aug. Single 'Greenland' type birds were noted on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 10 Oct and Cornaigbeg on 31 Oct.

### 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 all areas. Very few reported with 23 at Garmony *Mull* on 11 Jan the max winter count. Spring passage very light with max counts of 10 at Scarisdale on 6 May, and Tobermory on 28 May (both *Mull*).

**Summer/breeding** BBS; noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 7 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun and 7 at Glen Kin *Cowal* on 1 Jun. Otherwise, limited breeding data. 16 prs in transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Reports in summer from all areas except (*Colonsay/Tiree*). Max counts of 20 at Glen Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul, 12 at Loch Frisa *Mull* on 5 Jun, 12 at Achaminish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Jul and 10 at South Shian *North Argyll* on 8 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas. Only two flocks reported; 300 at Clachbreck *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct and 14 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 19 Aug. Counts of 1-8 elsewhere, including 5 at Clabhach *Coll* on 16 Sep. No reports in Nov and Dec.

### CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

*An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.*

**All year** Good numbers reported early in the year, but the failure of the spruce cone crop led to a dearth of reports later. Reports by month; Jan (6), Feb (15), Mar (16), Apr (26), May (15), Jun (9), Jul (0), Aug (1), Sep (4), Oct (2), Nov (1) and Dec (0). Reports by region (sites); *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (7). Max counts of 35 at Fishnish on 9 Apr, 22 at Lochan na Guailne Duibhe on 9 Sep (both *Mull*), 20+ at Forest Lodge *North Argyll* on 16 Apr and 9 >SE over Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Oct.

**Breeding** BBS: noted in 15% of squares (5/34), with max of 4 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jun. Fledged juvs noted at Achnaslishaig Hill on 27 Feb and Carradale Water on 4 Jun (both *Kintyre*) and at Forest Lodge *North Argyll* on 9 May & 15 Jun.

### **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

*A widely distributed resident with recent breeding on Coll, Colonsay and sporadically on Tiree. Flocks occur in autumn.*

**Winter/spring** Reported from all areas. Few flocks noted with 37 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 Jan, 25 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Feb the only large counts. However, most counts were of 10 or fewer. Most reports came from *Mull*.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 7 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and 4 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun. Five prs found on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. First fledged birds noted at Achabeag *Mull* on 6 Jun, at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 11 Jun, at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jun and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Jun (where 2 prs reared 5 yng). Breeding also reported at Milton and Vaul (both *Tiree*), and Kames, Tighnabruaich *Cowal*.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports from sites on (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 300 at Oronsay airfield *Colonsay* on 18 Sep, 150 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Sep, 120 at Achabeag *Mull* on 23 Aug, 100 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, and 100 at Loch Gruinart on 3 Sep, 80 at Kilnave on 2 Sept and 75 at Bowmore Dist. on 9 Sep (all *Islay*). Many counts of up to 50 elsewhere mainly (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Birds still around in reasonable nos until year end inc. 60 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 15 Dec.



**Siskin** *Mid-Argyll* Mar (Jim Dickson)

### 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). Most reports from sites in; Mull (48), Mid-Argyll (24) and Mid-Argyll (18). Counts generally low: 23 at Achabeac Mull on 24 Jan, 20 at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll during Jan, 15 at Bridge of Orchy North Argyll on 8 Mar and 15 at Craignure Mull on 27 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10, and singles at Balephuill Tiree on 8 & 30 Apr and 2 there on 30 May.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 29% of squares (10/34), with max counts of 10 at Glen Aros Mull on 14 Jun and 7 at Rhudle Mid-Argyll on 8 Jun. Otherwise, limited breeding data. First juvs noted at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 18 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (Coll). Many departed in the autumn with reports in Aug (25), Sep (1), Oct (19), Nov (15) and Dec (5) with some larger counts; 200 at Bunnahabhainn on 2 Nov, 50 at Loch Skerrols on 22 Oct and 33 at Eallabus on 29 Oct (all Islay), 50 at Loch Ba Mull on 11 Dec and 20 at Killeen Kintyre on 12 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds.



**Lapland Bunting** Kintyre Nov (Ann Hand)

### LAPLAND BUNTING\* *Calcaeus lapponicus*

**AMBER LIST** *A scarce passage migrant. Recorded most frequently in autumn.*

**Winter/spring** One was at Sanaigmore Islay on 11 Feb, 1 was nr W Kenovay Tiree on 17 Apr, 1 flew over Crossapol Point Tiree on 18 Apr and 1 was at south end of Oronsay Colonsay on 20 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** One flew >S calling The Reef *Tiree* on 12 Sep, 2 there on 3 Oct and 1 on 16 Oct. One flew over MV Loch Frisa off N Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Oct. In *Kintyre* singles were seen on the road to Mull of Kintyre at Beinn na Lice on 2 Nov and at Machrihanish on 11 Nov.

### **SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

**RED LIST** RBBP *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** Many fewer sightings than last few years. Only reports were singles at Caliach Point *Mull* on 1 Jan, Clriad Bay *Coll* on 8 Feb, Southend on 8 Mar and Taylinloan on 8 Mar (both *Kintyre*) and at Tragh Bhi *Tiree* on 7 Apr.

**Autumn/winter** First arrivals were 4 on Beinn Achallader *North Argyll* on 17 Oct, 2 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 17-18 Oct, 2 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 18 Oct and 1 at Craigens *Islay* on 20 Oct. Max counts of 10 nr Knock *Mull* on 22 Oct and 4 at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 13 Nov. Elsewhere, 1-2 from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (6), *Mull* (1) and *Tiree* (3).



**Yellowhammer** *Mull* May (Pete Walkden)

### **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**RED LIST** *A localised resident which is absent from Coll, Colonsay 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* (5), *Jura* (2) *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (14), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1). Max counts of 10 on *Jura* on 2 Jan, 8 on *Islay* on 28 Feb, 7 on *Danna* on 24 Mar and 6 at *Kilmartin* on 9 Mar (both *Mid-Argyll*). Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds, inc. 1 singing at *Kilmoluaig Tiree* on 20 Apr (the 1<sup>st</sup> on the island since 2013 and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> since 1912).

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/34). A fledged brood was found at Normann's Ruh Mull on 29 Aug and singing males were found at sites in *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Mull* (3).

**Autumn/winter** Reports from sites in; *Islay* (7), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (1). Max counts of 19 at Gartmain, L Indaal *Islay* on 18 Nov, 12 on Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct. Elsewhere, reports of 1-6 birds.

### 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 45 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 2 Jan, 60 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Feb and 9 at Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 4 Jan.

**Summer/breeding** BBS: noted in 26% of squares (9/34), with max count of 6 at Loch Sholum *Islay* on 22 Jun. On *Islay* at least 79 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 55 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve, and 32 Ters on Colonsay & Oronsay *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* ca 20 scattered prs noted across the island, with 2 fledged juvs from 13 Jul.

**Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll*) and generally widespread in small nos of 1-8 birds at sites. Max counts of 60 at Dalvore on 16 Oct and 15 at Loch Stornoway on 21 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 9 at Port Righ, Carradale *Kintyre* on 1 Oct.

### AMERICAN YELLOW WARBLER\* *Setophaga aestiva*

*No previous Argyll records. A North American 'New World Wood Warbler' with four Scottish records prior to 2023.*

**Autumn** A 1cy male was first seen at Kilmoluaig just south of Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 30 Sep having been heard there first but not seen on 27 Sep and remained at this location until 3 Oct allowing at least 25 folks to come and see it. [D. Jardine, S. Gibson, T. de Clermont, J. Dickson *et al*]. *Record still subject to acceptance by the BBRC and would become a new species for Argyll. Two others were recorded in Scotland, both Shetland, in 2023 during an exceptional and unprecedented arrival of North American passerines in Britain and Ireland from around 23 Sep onwards. (see article in SB Vol. 43(4) pp376-7).*

## 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.

### **GYRFALCON x SAKER** *Falco rusticolus x cherrug*

**Category E.** *Escaped falconer's bird.*

**Autumn** One with jesses was hunting around Loch Eatharna *Coll* was finally caught in the hotel beer garden [Greg Smith] – it was eventually reunited with its owner in London. Note - *A large brown falcon Saker x Lanner? was photographed at Milton Tiree on 18 Sep 2022 was presumably an escaped falconer's bird.*

### **MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata*

**Category E.** *Probably widespread in Argyll as farmyard birds, but often survive independently, but under-recorded.*

**Spring/summer** Singles were noted in *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Scammadale on 1 May and at Loch Ederline on 16 Jul, and two strays were at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 20 Apr.

### **INDIAN PEAFOWL** *Pavo cristatus*

**Category E.** *Infrequent past reports from Cowal, Kintyre and Mid-Argyll.*

One was at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 15 Apr and noted at Strathcoil *Mull* in Jun.

## References

Jardine, D.C & Dickson, J.M. (in press) Great Northern Diver x Black-throated Diver *Gavia immer* x *Gavia arctica* hybrid in Argyll, 2023. *Scottish Birds*

## *List of Rejected Records, Pending Records and Records for which Details are Still Awaited*

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been found ‘not proven’ since the publication of ABR 34

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Kintyre</i>	7/9/2000	BBRC
Alpine Swift	<i>Mull</i>	27/3/2023	SBRC
Pallid Swift	<i>Mull</i>	27/10/2023	BBRC
Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	27/3/2023	ABRC
Nightjar (2)	<i>Mull</i>	14/9/2023	ABRC
Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	17/9/2023	ABRC
Honey-Buzzard	<i>Coll</i>	4/5/2023	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 2023 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.**

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Great White Egret	L. Gruinart	<i>Islay</i>	24 February
Firecrest	Dervaig	<i>Mull</i>	14 March
Red-necked Grebe	Kellan	<i>Mull</i>	15 March
Alpine Swift	Crinan Harbour	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	25 March
Ring-necked Duck	L. Ballygrant	<i>Islay</i>	29-30 March
Tundra Bean Goose	Bellanoch	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	17 April
Hobby	Tobermory	<i>Mull</i>	21 May
Little Ringed Plover	Bruichladdich	<i>Islay</i>	16 June
Goshawk	Ford – L. Awe	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	3 September
Long-tailed Skua	Off Craignure	<i>Mull</i>	21 September
American Golden Plover	Iona	<i>Mull</i>	23 September
Hawfinch (2)	Cruachan	<i>N. Argyll</i>	31 October
White-billed Diver	Ulva Ferry	<i>Mull</i>	31 October

## 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 3.**

**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

We are indebted to all those (several hundred) individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack & WeBS, eBird, 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 Scheme 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 Jo Goudie & David Millward, and also the Tiree reports from John Bowler), Dorothy and Peter Hogbin for (Mullbirds records from Ewan Miles) and Peter Roberts for (Islay reports from Islay Bird Blog and WhatsApp group). Also, many thanks to; John Bowler (for Tiree reports and kindly checking Tiree and Coll data and the species 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 regional representatives Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven and David Wood, to the Argyll Bird Club committee for their valuable support, to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2023 comprised; John Bowler, Theo de Clermont, 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, Hans-Joachim Augst, John Bowler, Daniel Brooks, Terry Cawthorne, Catherine Cochrane, Theo de Clermont, Jim Dickson, David Dinsley, Jonathan Farooqi, Keith Gillon, Stewart Guy, Ann Hand, Keith Helm, David Jardine, Stephen Lawson, James Lehmann, James MacDonald, Andrew McFarlane, Ann McGregor, Will Miles, Freddie Montague-Dennis, Mike Murphy, Alasdair Paterson, Steve Percival, Nancy Somerville, John Speirs. Also, many thanks to Pete Walkden *Photography* ([www.petewalkden.co.uk](http://www.petewalkden.co.uk)) and Andrew Wallace *Photography* ([www.awallacephoto.uk](http://www.awallacephoto.uk))

*Argyll Bird Club*  
Scottish Charity Number SC050823

Founded in 1985 and reformed in 2021 as a SCIO, 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.  
[www.argyllbirdclub.org/the-club/membership](http://www.argyllbirdclub.org/the-club/membership)

### **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)



**Bramblings & Chaffinches** *Kintyre* (Alasdair Paterson)

# 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)

Online at: <https://argyllbirdclub.org/the-club/membership/>

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

Bank of Scotland 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.Totronald 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 Ardentinny 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

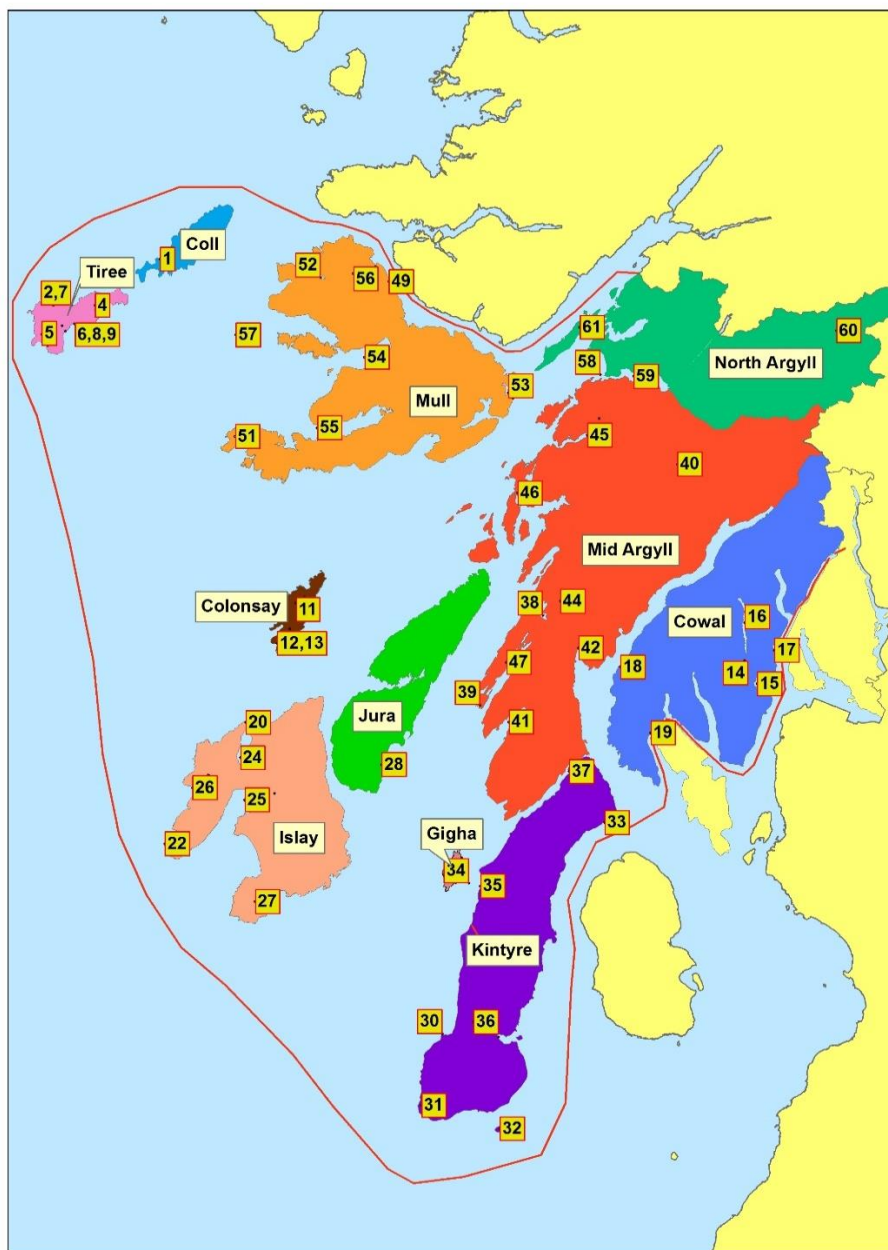
**JURA** 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

**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

**NORTH ARGYLL** 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*