

Argyll Bird Report 2024



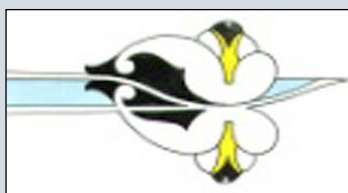
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Argyll Bird Club



Merlin *Mid-Argyll* © Steve Carter

FRONT COVER **Dipper** *Mid-Argyll* © Frank Cavanagh

The Thirty Sixth
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2024



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

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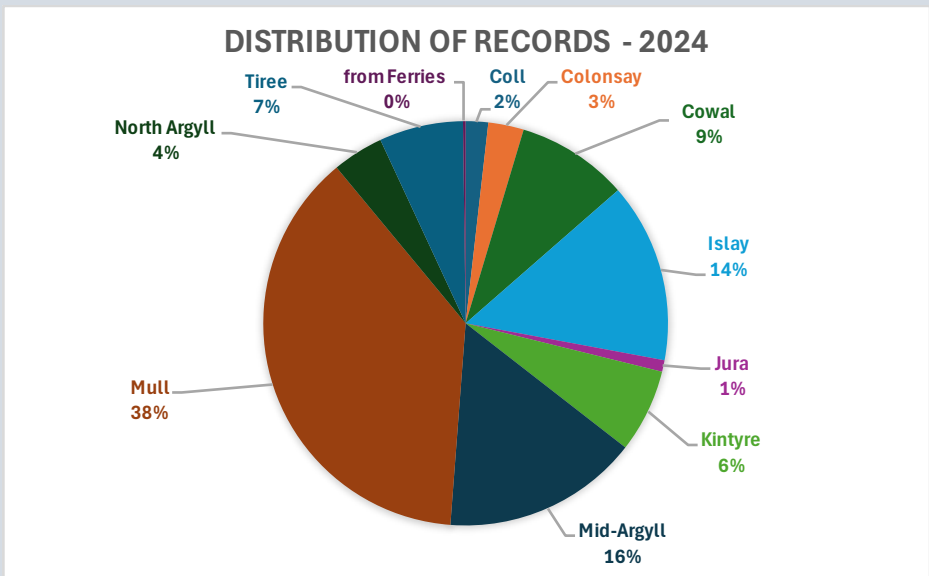
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Introduction

Welcome to the 2024 (36th) Argyll Bird Report and thank you to everyone who kindly contributed to nearly 79,000 records over the year, making this report possible. With 236 species recorded during the year across Argyll, 2024 was an average year, not reaching the record number of species recorded in 2022 and four fewer species than 2023.

As with many other sparsely populated areas of Scotland, vast parts of the county are not frequently visited compared to say Central Scotland, which means some observations may go undetected. The area offers opportunities for new discoveries, presenting a positive challenge and interest for any keen birder. (The pie-chart below provides details of the geographical distribution of the records within the Argyll recording area and should be considered when reading the species accounts). The increase in records from areas with fewer previous records, such as Coll and Cowal, is noted, but records from Jura remain low.



2024 saw an unprecedented influx of Great Shearwaters from late August until early November, along with record numbers of Great White Egrets and Hobbies. One new species for Argyll, Pallid Swift, was found on Islay in November, and to the credit of all involved, the record has been accepted by BBRC. Another potential new species, Ross's Goose, found in Kintyre in December, is still under consideration by the BBRC. Notably, very low numbers of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported, and we speculate is possibly linked to Bird Flu (HPAI).

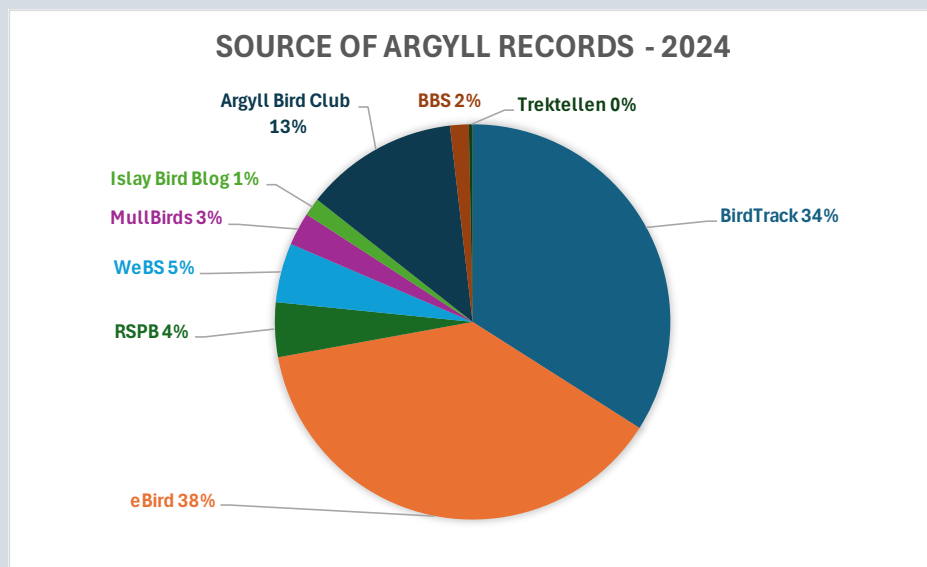
Several rare species and sub-species were only recorded only once during 2024: Grey-bellied Brant (1st for Argyll), Red-breasted Goose, Todd's Canada Goose, Ross's Goose* (1st for Argyll), Lesser Scaup*, Nightjar, Pallid Swift (1st for Argyll), Coot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper,

Spotted Redshank, Sabine's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-billed Tern* (5th for Argyll), Balearic Shearwater, Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, Goshawk, Bee-eater, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Grey Shrike* (5th for Argyll), Short-toed Lark (4th for Argyll), Blyth's Reed Warbler (4th for Argyll), Reed Warbler, Barred Warbler, Rosy Starling, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtail. (* records still subject to acceptance). Conversely, a few annual or near-annual species usually noted were not recorded in 2024 e.g. Tundra & Taiga Bean Goose, Red-necked Grebe, Honey-buzzard, Spotted Crake, Common Crane, Long-tailed Skua, Ring-billed Gull and Hawfinch.

The systematic list follows the latest Scottish List (BOU/IOC 2021). For simplicity, common or vernacular species names are used in this report, as they are the terms most birdwatchers in Argyll are familiar with. Details of where to find species within the new ordering of the list can be found in the contents list.

In 2024, the first confirmed breeding record of Hobby in Argyll was noted in Kintyre, with the presence of a fledged juvenile in August at a date before dispersal takes place. It is also good to report stable populations of Corncrake and Red-necked Phalaropes, two of our rare but important breeding species. However, the declining trend of roding/breeding Woodcock continues, with no birds reported on Colonsay, where they have been present for over a century.

2024 marks the first inclusion of records from Trektellen; these valuable contributions from the Migration Count website are welcomed. This year, eBird provided the largest source of records, followed closely by BirdTrack (see pie-chart below). However, records submitted through the ABC recording spreadsheet, from RSPB staff, and from structured surveys such as WeBs and BBS remain particularly valuable.



Including evidence of breeding whenever possible is always helpful, though only about 1% of records between 1 May and 31 July noted breeding status. The usefulness of some records is limited by lack of precise location data, with almost 25% of records not including the number of birds, merely noting their presence. (A further 27% of records indicate a single bird at a location, which may reflect an under-count of those present). While such records have some value in recording species range, observers are encouraged to provide precise locations and counts, which are more beneficial for conservation as they enable better tracking of abundance.

With the next bird atlas likely on the horizon, we have retained changes to the species texts. Species 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 sourcing results from the 40 Breeding Bird Survey transects completed in Argyll in 2024. The increase in monitored sites (from 34 in 2023) is welcomed, and we thank all survey participants. These records have allowed highlights from the BBS to be included, providing an indication of the occurrence and changes in common birds (particularly passerines) from a structured survey. We also thank all RSPB staff based in Argyll for their work and contribution of records, helping to provide a comprehensive picture of many of Argyll's important species.

For those interested in becoming more involved with recording and surveying birds in Argyll, the best points of contact are Jim Dickson and Malcolm Chattwood for general bird sightings, and BTO regional representatives listed on page 3 for surveys of breeding birds, uplands, and wetlands.

David Jardine, Jim Dickson & Malcolm Chattwood
Editorial Team
February 2025

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* spread sheet 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 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 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 2025.

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

Surf Scoter (except adult males)
Smew
Ruddy Duck
White-billed Diver
Wilson's Petrel #
Cory's Shearwater #
Great Shearwater
Balearic Shearwater
Great Cormorant (race *sinensis*)
Eurasian Bittern
Night-heron #
Cattle Egret #

Great White Egret	Woodchat Shrike #
Purple Heron #	Firecrest
White Stork	Crested Tit
Glossy Ibis	Willow Tit
Eurasian Spoonbill	Marsh Tit #
Red-necked Grebe	Bearded Tit
Black-necked Grebe	Short-toed Lark #
Honey-buzzard	Wood Lark #
Black Kite #	Shore Lark
Montagu's Harrier #	Red-rumped Swallow #
Goshawk	Cetti's Warbler #
Rough-legged Buzzard	Greenish Warbler #
Red-footed Falcon #	Pallas's Leaf Warbler
Hobby	Yellow-browed Warbler
Spotted Crake	Radde's Warbler #
Common Crane	Dusky Warbler #
Avocet	Arctic Warbler #
Black-winged Stilt #	Barred Warbler
Stone Curlew #	Lesser Whitethroat
Little Ringed Plover	Dartford Warbler #
American Golden Plover	Icterine Warbler
Black-tailed Godwit (continental) #	Melodious Warbler #
Temminck's Stint	Blyth's Reed Warbler
White-rumped Sandpiper #	Marsh Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Reed Warbler
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Rose-coloured Starling
Lesser Yellowlegs #	Common Nightingale
Spotted Redshank	Bluethroat
Red-necked Phalarope (away from traditional breeding areas)	Red-flanked Bluetail #
Long-tailed Skua (imms only)	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Sabine's Gull	Yellow Wagtail (all races)
Ring-billed Gull	Citrine Wagtail #
Yellow-legged Gull #	Richard's Pipit
Caspian Gull #	Olive-backed Pipit
Black Tern	Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race <i>littoralis</i>)
White-winged Black Tern #	Water Pipit
Roseate Tern	European Serin #
Little Owl #	Common Redpoll (all races other than Lesser)
Nightjar	Parrot Crossbill #
Alpine Swift #	Common Rosefinch
European Bee-eater #	Hawfinch
Wryneck	Cirl Bunting #
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #	Ortolan Bunting #
Red-backed Shrike	Little Bunting
Great Grey Shrike	Corn Bunting

Sighting Highlights of 2024

~ January ~



Red-breasted Goose Islay © Neil McMahon

Wintering birds from 2023 of note included: an adult **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** until 4 Apr and two **CACKLING GEESE** until 9 Mar on *Islay* in the Gruinart area, a **SNOW GOOSE** at Miodar *Tiree* until 19 Feb, an **AMERICAN WIGEON** at Loch Gorm *Islay* again on 17 Jan and single juv **GLAUCOUS GULLS** on *Islay* until 29 May and on *Tiree* until 17 Mar. A **SPOTTED REDSHANK** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Jan. A **RED KITE** flew over Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 3 Jan. A juv **ICELAND GULL** was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 4-9 Jan and a juv was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 20 Jan. A **WAXWING** was at Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan and six were noted on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan. Single **MEDITERRANEAN GULLS** were noted at Salen *Mull* on 9 Jan and nr Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Jan. A **LEACH'S PETREL** was at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Jan. A male **SURF** & two **VELVET SCOTERS** were noted with other scoters at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Jan. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** nos peaked at five in Loch Long *Cowal* on 18 Jan. A **RED KITE** was noted nr Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan and two at Rest & Be Thankful *Cowal* on 27 Jan. A 3cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 26 Jan. A male **RING-NECKED DUCK** presumed returning bird from previous winter, was at Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan. A **LITTLE AUK** off Port Ann, flew up Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* and a **LAPLAND BUNTING** was noted at Slum *Tiree* both on 29 Jan.

~ February ~



‘Todd’s’ Canada Goose *Kintyre* © Tom Lowe

The male **RING-NECKED DUCK** was re-found at Glenfeochan *Mid-Argyll* on 3-7 Feb and seen again later in Mar. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was at Killinallan *Islay* on 6 Feb. Three **GREEN SANDPIPER** were at Linndhu, nr Tobermory *Mull* on 18 Feb. A ‘**RUSSIAN**’ **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Feb & again on 8 Mar. A presumed returning ‘**TODD’S**’ **CANADA GOOSE** was at East Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 27 Feb.

~ March ~

An adult **LITTLE GULL** was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* between 4-28 Mar, also a 2cy was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 15-21 and another 2cy there 24 Mar. A presumed ‘**GREY-BELLIED**’ **BRANT GOOSE** was at Vaul *Tiree* between 9-27 Mar. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch Iliter, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar. Six **WAXWING** were at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar. An adult **GOSHAWK** was on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar. A **STOCK DOVE** was at Gruline *Mull* on 21 Mar. A **RED KITE** was on Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar.

~ April ~

A **STOCK DOVE** was at Ardtur *North Argyll* on 1 Apr. A **HOOPOE** was at Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Apr. Three **DOTTEREL** were on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr. A fem **AMERICAN WIGEON** was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 5-6 Apr. A **RED KITE** was nr Tobermory *Mull*



Dotterel *Mid-Argyll* © Ann McGregor

on 6 Apr. A fem **MARSH HARRIER** flew over Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Apr. A **LITTLE AUK** was off Caolas *Tiree* on 12 Apr. A **GLOSSY IBIS** was on Luing *Mid-Argyll* in early Apr (perhaps present from Mar to late Apr). A **WAXWING** was at Tobermory *Mull* on 15 Apr. A male **GOLDEN ORIOLE** was at Fearnoch, Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr. Two **TREE SPARROW** were at Kinnabus *Islay* on 21 Apr. A fem **BLACK REDSTART** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr. A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was on Oronsay, *Colonsay* on 28 Apr. A male **GARGANEY** remained at Bunessan *Mull* from 28 Apr -1 May. Three **DOTTEREL** were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 Apr.

~ May ~



Gull-billed Tern *Mull* © John Smallman

Two **GARGANEY** were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 May, a male remained to 15th and a male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 May. A **BEE-EATER** flew over Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 May. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** was at Cornabus *Islay* on 6-7 May, two were at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* from 15 May and one was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 & 31 May. A **HOOPOE** was at Crannich *Mull* on 8 May. A 2cy male **SURF SCOTER** was at Calgary Bay *Mull* from 9-29 May. A fem **YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*flava*) was at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 9 May. Single **GLAUCOUS GULLS** were at Tobermory *Mull* on 13 May, at 2cy Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* 15 May and in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May. A 2cy male **AMERICAN WIGEON** was at Cornabus *Islay* between 14-31 May. Two **CURLEW SANDPIPER** were at Lochdon *Mull* on 16 May. A **TURTLE DOVE** was at Tarbert *Jura* on 17 May. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at the north end of Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 16 -17 May. A **'RUSSIAN' WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 May. Single **RED KITE** were at Whitehouse *Kintyre* on 20 May & at The Oa *Islay* on 21 May. Single **POMARINE SKUA** were off Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 23 May and off E of Lismore *North Argyll* on 30 May. Two **CURLEW SANDPIPER** were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 May. A **WAXWING** was at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 24 May. A **HOBBY** was at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 24 May. A **TURTLE DOVE** was at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May. A **BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25-26 May. A fem-type **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 May. A fem-type **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 May. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at The Glebe *Tiree* on 29 May. An adult male **ROSY STARLING** was in Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 29-31 May. A fem-type **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Gigalum, S Gigha *Kintyre* on 31 May. A **GULL-BILLED TERN** was at Bunessan *Mull* on 31 May -3 Jun.



Red-breasted Flycatcher Tiree © John Bowler



Common Rosefinch Gigha © Keith Helm

~ June ~

A **RED KITE** one was at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Jun. Two **RING OUZEL** were at Cruachan *North Argyll* on 4 Jun. Singing male **QUAIL** were nr Claonaig *Kintyre* on 6 Jun and at Greenhill *Tiree* on 15 & 22 Jun. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at South Pier, Gigha *Kintyre* on 7 Jun. A **LITTLE STINT** was



Great White-Egret *Gigha* © Colin James Cross

at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 12 Jun. A **NIGHTJAR** was sound recorded in south *Kintyre* on 12 Jun. A **RING OUZEL** was at Scallastle *Mull* on 15 Jun. An imm **POMARINE SKUA** seen from the Oban-Craignure *Mull* ferry on 8 Jun & an adult was off Staffa *Mull* on 16 Jun. Single **TREE SPARROWS** were at the Monument, Oa *Islay* on 21 Jun, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 23 Jun and at Bunessan *Mull* on 26 Jun. A **LEACH'S PETREL** was seen at sea south of Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun. A **HOBBY** was at Loch na Cloiche *Coll* on 25 Jun. A fem-type **GOLDEN ORIOLE** was nr Grogport *Kintyre* on 27 Jun.

~ July ~

A **HOBBY** was at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul. A **POMARINE SKUA** was off NW *Mull* on 8 Jul. A **TREE SPARROW** was at S Gigha *Kintyre* on 13 Jul. A fem **MARSH HARRIER** was at Gruinart *Islay* on 21 & 28 Jul.

~ August ~

SOOTY SHEARWATER saw a good run of records starting with four between *Mull* & *Coll* on 6 Aug rising to 140 between SE *Tiree* & Treshnish Is. *Mull* by 30 Aug. A **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** joined a raft of Manx off Scarinish *Tiree* on 8 Aug. A male **MARSH HARRIER** was at Cornabus *Islay* on 9 Aug. An imm **POMARINE SKUA** at sea seen from *Tiree-Barra* ferry N of *Tiree* on 14 Aug, also a good count of 46 **STORM PETREL**. A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was at Loch Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 15 Aug. A **MUTE SWAN** family with two 'polish' morph cygnets remained at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* 21 Aug-7 Oct. A juv **HOBBY** was at Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 24 Aug. A **BLACK REDSTART** was at Knock *Mull* on 26 Aug. Single 1cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULLS** were at Scallastle *Mull* and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* both on 27

Aug. A count of 5,000 **MANX SHEARWATER** off SE of *Tiree* on 28 Aug. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 28 Aug. An influx of **GREAT SHEARWATER** records began with 33 SE of *Tiree* & NW *Mull* 30 Aug. A **CORY'S SHEARWATER** was off Milton *Tiree*, also off there an adult & imm **POMARINE SKUA** all on 30 Aug. A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was at The Reef *Tiree* on 30 Aug.

~ September



Grey Phalarope *Kintyre* © Jo Goudie

GREAT SHEARWATER - two were off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Sep then a gap until next report of 10 off S *Coll* on 30 Sep. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** 12 were off Hynish *Tiree* on 2 Sep then higher counts of 67 flew past Hynish on 16 Sep and 50 off Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 30 Sep. A returning adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** from 2023, was noted again at Garmony *Mull* on 2-4 Sep. A **RED KITE** was at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 3 Sep. Two juv **LITTLE STINT** were at Carnain *Islay* on 2nd increasing to four on 3 Sep. An adult **LESSER GREY SHRKE** was nr Craignure *Mull* on 7 Sep. Single **LESSER WHITETHROAT** were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7-8 & 12-18 Sep and at The Manse, Scarinish *Tiree* on 9 Sep. Two fem/2cy **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** were at Middleton *Tiree* on 9 Sep, both remaining on the island until 22 Sep and one until 6 Oct. A **GREY PHALAROPE** was at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 10 Sep. **MANX SHEARWATER** nos peaked at 28,350 in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Sep. An Argyll record site count of 14 **LITTLE EGRET** together at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 10 Sep. A **LEACH'S PETREL** was off Aird *Tiree* on 11 Sep. A **SHORT-TOED LARK** was at Cornabus *Islay* on 10-14 Sep. An **ICELAND GULL** was at Saligo *Islay* on 13 Sep. A **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at

Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep then two there on 28 Sep. A total of six **LEACH'S PETREL**, an imm **POMARINE SKUA** and two **GREY PHALAROPE** passed Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Sep. A 1cy **BARRED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Sep. Two **RED KITE** were at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep. A juv **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** was at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20-26 Sep. A **TURTLE DOVE** was at Balephuill Bay / Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Sep. A juv **LITTLE STINT** was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21 Sep. An influx of **GREAT WHITE EGRET** with an exceptional count of 13 flying NE past Ardnave Point *Islay* on 20 Sep, then two at Gruinart *Islay* on 21st, one at Luing *Mid-Argyll* 21st, one flew north at Loch Long *Cowal* on 23rd and one was at Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** flew calling over Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Sep. A small influx of **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLERS** from first report of one on *Tiree* on 21 Sep and a total of 13 across *Tiree* by mid-Oct. One was at Dervaig *Mull* on 23 Sep. A **COMMON REED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Sep. A **RED KITE** was at Brackley *Kintyre* on 25 Sep. A **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Garvard *Colonsay* on 29 Sep.

~ October ~



Cattle Egret *Tiree* © Theo de Clermont

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER saw a daily peak of 5-6 on *Tiree* on 3 Oct, three on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Oct, one W side of Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Oct, one at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct and one Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 25 Oct. '**SIBERIAN**' **CHIFFCHAFF** singles were on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 3-7 and Kilmoaluag on 6-7 Oct, and at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 7 Oct. Single **GREY PHALAROPE** were off Eilean Musdile, Lismore *North Argyll* on 3rd and inland at Torloisk Rd *Mull* on 21 Oct. **RED KITE** singles were noted from several locations across *Mull* in Oct. A 1cy **CATTLE EGRET** was at The Glebe, Scarinish *Tiree* on 4 Oct. A juv **SABINE'S GULL** was off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Oct. An **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** was still present

on *Tiree* to 6 Oct. A **TURTLE DOVE** was at Portnahaven *Islay* on 7 Oct. Two **GREAT WHITE EGRET** were Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 7 Oct and one was at head of Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll/Cowal* on 28-29 Oct. An adult **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 - 10 Oct, joined by a 1cy female on 16 Oct and both stayed until 11 Nov, also an adult male was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 10 - 21 Oct. The first **SNOW BUNTING** of the autumn was of one at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Oct. A 1cy **RING OUZEL** was at Balephuill *Tiree* between 8-12 Oct. A 1cy **LITTLE GULL** was seen from the *Mull* ferry on 10 Oct and one was off NE *Coll* on 28 Oct. A **POMARINE SKUA** was seen from the *Mull* ferry on 10 Oct and one was off NE *Coll* on 30 Oct. The adult **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** returned, from last winter, to Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Oct. **GREAT SHEARWATER** nos increased dramatically, with high counts of 1,000+ off *Coll* on 12 Oct, 600 from the Oban-Barra ferry, again off S *Coll* on 14 Oct. A **CORY'S SHEARWATER** was off Aird *Tiree* on 12 Oct. Two **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** were at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre/Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct. Two **RED KITE** were at Dalvore, Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct. A **CACKLING GOOSE** was at Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Oct. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was at Sandaig *Tiree* on 17 Oct. A male **POCHARD** was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 19 Oct, then three males there on 24-30 Oct. A 1cy fem **LESSER SCAUP** was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 20-23 Oct. A 'RUSSIAN' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Oct. A **CURLEW SANDPIPER** was at Balinoe *Tiree* on 23 Oct. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 25 Oct.

~ November ~



Great Shearwater *Coll* © Jim Dickson

Two **VELVET SCOTER** were at Salen Bay *Mull* on 1-10 Nov. A 3cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Nov. **SNOW BUNTING** nos peaked at 18 at Ardnave Point *Islay* on 3 Nov. **GREAT SHEARWATER** nos increased, with higher counts of 765 between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 2 Nov, 600 between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 3 Nov and a peak of 5,700 around Hawes Bank N of *Coll* on 4 Nov. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** nos peaked at ca 300 around Hawes Bank N *Coll* on 4 Nov. A 1cy **LITTLE GULL** was off Arinagour *Coll* on 3 Nov. Single

‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF were at The Glebe *Tiree* on 3 Nov and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9-11 Nov. Three late **MANX SHEARWATER** were at Hawes Bank N *Coll* on 4 Nov. A male **POCHARD** was at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Nov. A **GREY PHALAROPE** was off Tobermory in the Sound of *Mull* on 7 Nov. A juv **PALLID SWIFT** was at Coullabus *Islay* on 9 Nov. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov and then nearby at Loch Gilp on 12 Nov, also two were at Loch Craignish/Beag *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov. **BLACK REDSTART** were at Bowmore Harbour *Islay* – with a male there on 9th and fem on 10 Nov. The **RING-NECKED DUCK** male & juv fem remained at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* to 11 Nov. **POCHARD** nos peaked at five males at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov. A **POMARINE SKUA** was off Milton *Tiree* on 11 Nov. Two **‘RUSSIAN’ WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** were at Loch na Cille, Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov. A 1cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 15-16 Nov. A **ACKLING GOOSE** was at Cornabus *Islay* from 15 Nov. Two male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** were at Gruinart floods *Islay* on 18 Nov. Two **VELVET SCOTER** were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Nov. Single **RED KITES** on *Mull* were at West Ardhru on 21st and at Dervaig on 23 Nov. An adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov.

~ December ~



Ross's Goose *Kintyre* © Jim Dickson

A male **POCHARD** remained at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* all month. A returning male **RING-NECKED DUCK** from last winter, was at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec, then at Loch

Glenfeochan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Dec. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 3 Dec. An adult **ROSS'S GOOSE** was found at Glen Lussa, Peninver *Kintyre* on 5 Dec and remained in *S Kintyre* into 2025. A 1cy/fem **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 8-13 Dec. A **COOT** was at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 9-10 Dec. A juv **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 Dec. Two **VELVET SCOTER** were at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 12 Dec. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was again at Gruinart floods *Islay* on 13 & 30 Dec. An adult **LITTLE GULL** was off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 26 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	British Birds 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	Scottish Birds 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 2024

The following systematic list includes entries for 236 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2023 (cf. average 225 species during the years 1993- 2023). One new species (Pallid Swift) was added to the list in 2024 with another (Ross's Goose) still under consideration by the BBRC and would take the Argyll list to 374 species if accepted.

*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.

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 all areas except (*Coll/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). During Jan-Mar most reports from *Islay* where max. of 34 at Loch Indaal on 5 Jan, elsewhere 5 at Lephénstrath *Kintyre* on 1 Jan, singles at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 10-12 Feb, on *Mull* at Fidden on 2 Feb and *Iona* on 19 Mar and on *Jura* 17 were at Glas Eilean on 3 Mar and 35 at Craighouse on 27 Mar. On 3 Apr 7 were still present at Glas Eilean *Jura* and 15 remained at Loch Indaal *Islay* until 16 Apr. During spring passage 17 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Apr, with 26 there on 19 Apr. On 20 Apr, 35 >N at Port Mor *Colonsay* and 49 were (at 2 sites) on *Tiree*. Elsewhere, 1-2 birds between 21 Apr and 13 May when the last single was at Loch Indaal *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were early with 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Aug and 13 there on 24 Aug. Main passage through Argyll was on 9-10 Sep when 254 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and 74 >S Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 10 Sep. Thereafter numbers lower but some remaining at Bridgend Merse, Loch Indaal *Islay* until year end with 71 on 4 Nov and 24 on 24 Dec. Notable sightings elsewhere, 7 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Sep, 15 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 9 Sep, 8 at Hynish *Tiree* on 26 Sep and 5 at Minard, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Oct. Otherwise counts of 1-5.



‘Pale-belled’ Brent Geese Islay October © David Dinsley

‘GREY-BELLIED’ BRANT* (*Branta. bernicla spp?*)

This form has been proposed, although no formal subspecies description has been made as yet, for a population of birds breeding in western/central Arctic Canada (mainly Melville Island), and wintering on Puget Sound on the American west coast around the U.S./Canada border. These birds are intermediate in appearance between Black Brant B. b. nigricans and Pale-bellied Brent B. b. hrota, having brown upperparts and grey underparts which give less of a contrast with the white flank patch. It has also been proposed that, rather than being a separate subspecies, it is actually a result of interbreeding between these two forms, given that this population exhibits mixed characters.

Winter/spring A first-winter (2cy) was tentatively identified as this ‘type’ at Upper Vault Tiree on 9-10 Mar & Ruaig on 11 Mar [J. Dickson]. Likely the same bird had been seen in these areas with a similarly plumaged bird between 16 Oct 2023 & 31 Mar [J. Bowler, D. Daunt]. *This type is not currently assessed by the BBRC.*

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 Returning adult (first noted 2021) in the Loch Gruinart area Islay from 2023 to 4 Apr.

Autumn/winter Returning adult in the Loch Gruinart area Islay from 11 Oct to year end [T. de Clermont *et al.*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC as a returning bird.

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 330 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan, 240 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 210 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb, 161 at Gorsten *Mull* on 8 Mar, 150 at Ardnacloch, Appin *North Argyll* on 7 Jan & 10 Feb, 124 at Ardentallen Pt *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan and 104 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Mar. Elsewhere, counts inc., 78 on *Colonsay* on 12 Jan, 31 at Feolin Fm *Jura* on 23 May, 8 at Kenovay *Tiree* on 19 Apr and a pair on *Coll*.

Summer/breeding Noted on 17.5% of BBS transects (7/40) (*cf.* 21% in 2023). Most breeding reports from *Mid-Argyll* at 4+ sites, inc. 20 ads with 43 yng at Danna/Loch na Cille on 26 May and *ca.* 15 prs Crinan Moss. Breeding or prs also noted from; *Colonsay* with 18 broods totalling 74 young in May and Jun and at sites in *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2) and *Mull* (3). Two broods were noted on the Treshnish Is. *Mull*. First broods noted at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 30 Apr, Scallastle *Mull* on 7 May and Port na Luing *Coll* on 9 May. 185 noted at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 21 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max. area counts received of 138 at Garvard *Colonsay* on 27 Nov, 250 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 27 Nov, 6 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Oct – 7 Nov, 50+ at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 18 Nov, 410 at the Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Nov, 200 at Gorsten *Mull* on 16 Nov, 320 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 13 Aug and 10 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 20 Aug.

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 In *Kintyre* a returning bird, first noted in Dec 2022 and previously accepted by the BBRC, was again in the Laggan/Machrihanish airfield area N of Campbeltown on 27 Feb [T. Lowe].

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max. Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International goose counts) of 37,141 in Mar (*cf.* 36,218 in 2023). Max. area counts of 27,648 on *Islay* on 12-13 Mar, 5,944 on *Tiree* on 26 & 28 Mar, 1,407 on *Coll* on 15 Feb, 2,248 on Oronsay & *Colonsay* on 12 Mar and in *Mid-Argyll*, 548 at Danna on 9 Mar. Elsewhere, 130 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar and 259 on Iona *Mull* on 19 Mar. Most birds had departed by mid-Apr.

Breeding/summer A small number (1-5) were reported from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) through until the end of Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals on 17 Sep of 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 5 at Eallabus (both *Islay*) and 2 at Ruaig *Tiree*. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max. counts of 29,880 on *Islay* on 26-27 Nov, 5,739 on *Tiree* on 10-11 Dec (*cf.* 4,698 in 2023), 6,000 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on

15 Oct and 300 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 13 Dec. Elsewhere, on *Mull* 99 on Iona and 150 at Gribun on 25 Oct, and in *Mid-Argyll* 372 on Luing on 5 Dec and 295 at Danna on 4 Dec.



Cackling Geese (with Barnacle) *Islay* January © Max Hellicar

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 On *Islay* 2 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart, Bridgend & Ballygrant on 14-16 Jan and 9 Mar. [D. Beadle, M. Hellicar, J. Morris *et al.*]. Presumed same 2 that were last seen at Coull Farm on 24 Oct 2023.

Autumn/winter A small dark individual was seen at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Oct [per Birdguides] and again at Cornabus & The Oa area on 15 Nov until year end [E. Burrell, D. Dinsley *et al.*]. Records are subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

ROSS'S GOOSE* *Anser rossii*

A vagrant. No previous Argyll records. Breeds in the North American Arctic tundra with most wintering in California. Numbers dropped to 2-3,000 individuals in the 1950's but currently number 2-3 million birds with a subsequent increase in European records. Previously only included on Category E (introductions or escapees from captivity) but following a review by BOURC in 2021 following an emerging pattern of occurrence the first accepted British record to Category A was in 1970. Since then, a further 17 birds have been accepted up to 2022 – roughly one bird every two years.

Winter An adult (3cy+) was discovered in an under watched area of south *Kintyre* at Glen Lussa, north of Peninver on 5-6 & 10 Dec [J. Dickson, D. Jardine. A. Paterson] and subsequently noted near Machrihanish airfield *Kintyre* on 13 Dec. It was initially thought to be the same bird as one in Ayrshire (Sep-Dec) some 40 miles due east, however found to be a different bird due to date comparisons. Record is subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

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. A count of only 5 birds during the year.

Winter An adult white morph, likely a 'Greater' Snow Goose (first seen 13 Dec 2023) remained at Caoles *Tiree* and noted on 1-9 & 25-29 Jan, 2 & 19 Feb and was seen nearby at Miodar on 12 Feb [J. Bowler *et al*].

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. NatureScot / International goose counts in Mar gave an Argyll total of 5,562 and highest counts were on *Tiree* with 2,303 and in *Kintyre* with 1,401. Additional high counts of 3,429 total count *Tiree* on 11-12 Jan, 918 on *Islay* on 12-13 Mar, 687 on *Coll* on 15 Feb, 396 on *Gigha Kintyre* on 2 Mar, 335 at *Killellan, Ardyne Cowal* on 18 Jan and 260 at *Toberonochy, Luing Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb.

Summer/breeding Noted on 45% of BBS transects (18/40) (*cf.* 35% in 2023). Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/North Argyll*) but details patchy. Nesting noted from early-Apr. First b/7 noted at *Machrins Colonsay* on 26 Apr, then b/4 *Blackmill Bay, Luing Mid-Argyll* on 11 May, but not until 15 May on *Tiree* at *Balevullin* pools. On *Tiree* a late summer count of 3,244 on 26-27 Aug (of which 36.7% of a sample were juvs) (mean brood = 2.74, n=303) (*cf.* 3,350 in 2023). On *Colonsay* (excluding *Oronsay*) 54 broods with 215 yng reported in May & Jun. Seven broods totalling 22 yng noted at *Knock Mull* on 9 Jun and a single brood was noted on *Treshnish Is. Mull*. At *Ulva Lagoons/Loch na Cille Mid-Argyll* 28 ads with 48 goslings on 23 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max. counts of 3,361 on *Tiree* (all island) on 10 & 11 Dec, 1,598 on *Islay* on 26-27 Nov, and 600 at mouth of *River Ba Mull* on 15 Oct. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 273 at *Rhunahaorine Kintyre* on 18 Sep, 250 at *Mid Ardyne Cowal* on 27 Nov and 232 at *Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep.

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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Small nos of 1-17 birds wintered in (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll/Tiree*). In *Mid-Argyll* 10-17 were around *Barsloisnoch* from 1 Jan – 29 Mar, increasing to 24 on 12 Apr, and 11 were at *Cornaigmore Tiree* on 20 Feb. Return passage flocks >NW from 13 Mar when 50 over *Port Righ Kintyre* and heaviest passage noted between 17-27 Apr. Most reported from (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) where most skeins were of 45-100 birds, but none reported on *Islay*. Higher counts inc., 490 on *Mull* on 17 Apr, *ca.* 200 at *Lochgilphead/Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr and 150 at *Duart Castle Mull* on 8 May, following which 1-2 birds reported until 25 May.

Summer Single birds reported in Jun and Aug from *Mull, Lismore North Argyll* and *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 200 noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 355 over Dervaig *Mull* and 10 over Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep with 850+ over *Mull* and 135 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Sep. On 24 Sep, on *Mull* 627 went over Caliach Pt and 300 over Iona, while on *Islay* 369 were at Loch Gruinart and 120 at Cornabus, and 120 were over *Tiree*. On 26 Sep 850 were over *Tiree* and 305 were over Gallanach *Coll*, with numbers declining after 27 Sep. A slow movement thereafter until 70 over Feolin Ferry *Jura*, 122 over Whitehouse *Kintyre* and 455 over West *Tiree* on 8 Oct. Passage was completed at the end of Oct and then 1-7 birds noted from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) in Nov & Dec with 7 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 6 Dec the largest group reported.



‘Greenland’ White-fronted Geese *Islay* March © David Dinsley

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 8,112 (8.1 % decline on 2023), with a count of 4,926 on *Islay*. In *Kintyre* 1,776 were at the Laggan, 239 at Rhunahaorine, 80 at Clachan and 65 on Gigha in Mar, 746 were on *Tiree* on 26 & 28 Mar, 128 on *Coll* on 15 Feb, 88 in *Mid-Argyll* in Mar and 102 on *Colonsay* on 12 Jan. In addition, 19 were at Fidden *Mull* in Jan, 14 at Loch a Chnuic Bhric on *Jura* in Mar, and in *North Argyll* 63 were on Lismore in Mar and 29 at Benderloch in Jan.

Autumn/winter First arrivals were on 4 Oct when 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, followed by 188 >SW over *Tiree* on 8 Oct, when numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay* increased from 75 on 8 Oct to 900 on 10 Oct, when 118 at Drumlemble *Kintyre*. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec not fully received. Max. counts of 4,183 on *Islay* on 26-27 Nov, 605 on *Tiree* on 10 -11 Dec and in *Kintyre* 355 at Rhunahaorine on 12 Dec and 124 at Clachan on 18 Nov, but no counts from The Laggan. Elsewhere, 90 were on Gunna *Coll* on 9 Dec, 125 on *Colonsay* on 27 Nov, 69 (incomplete count) at Danna/Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec and 1-3 at sites in (*Mull/North Argyll*). A poor breeding season reported with low juv %: *Kintyre* (5.9) and *Tiree* (4.5).

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

A scarce/rare visitor. Breeds in the far north of Russia and winters further south and west in Europe and Asia.

Winter/spring A presumed returning adult was again in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* on 21 Feb, 5 & 8 Mar [J. Farooqui, T. de Clermont *et al*]. An adult was at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 20 May [J. Bowler].

Autumn/winter A presumed returning adult was again in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* on 22 Oct [C. McKay]. Two were at Loch na Cille, nr Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov [RAFOS group]. *All records of new birds 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 except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max. counts of 57 on *Tiree* on 12 Jan, where max. site count of 32 at Loch a’ Phuill on 12 Jan. High counts inc., 29 at Loch a’ Phearsain *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 20 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 18 Mar, 9 at Add Est *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar and 9 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 May. Elsewhere, counts of up to 7 birds, with most counts of 1-4 birds.

Breeding/summer Confirmed breeding reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) but limited data received. On *Tiree* 12 prs at 8 sites; 5 prs failed and 7 successful with first brood (b/6) noted on 24 May. Overall, a fairly good breeding season with 24 cygnets fledging. On *Islay* 3 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve. Elsewhere, pairs at sites in *Kintyre* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max. counts of 64 (inc. 21 fledged young) on *Tiree* on 19 Aug, 59 on 23 Sep and 61 on 9 Dec. Elsewhere, 26 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on

30 Oct – 6 Nov, 30 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct and 20 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 - 11 Nov, which included 2 'polish morph' cygnets (in b/3) which were present from 21 Aug – 16 Nov.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

AMBER LIST *RRBPB 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 12 Jan. A total island count of 154 on 11-12 Jan included 21 (17.5%) cygnets, but only 18 remained on 27 Mar. On *Islay* highest count was 29 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 26 Feb and in *Kintyre* 14 were at Drumlemble on 12 Feb. Northward passage noted at Port Righ *Kintyre* with 31 on 20 Mar, 80 on 26 Mar, 40 on 24 Apr and 60 on 26 Apr. Elsewhere, counts generally of birds stopping off to rest or flying over, with; 82 at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 24 Mar, 50 at Fiddon on 4 Mar and 50 at Loch Assapol on 27 Mar (both *Mull*), 31 over Beinn Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Mar and 22 over Lismore *North Argyll* on 6 Mar. Elsewhere, several flocks of up to 30 birds >N mostly between mid-Mar and mid-Apr.

Summer/breeding No reports of breeding. Summering birds included, up to 4 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* from May-Sep and singles elsewhere on the island, 1-2 during May-Aug in (*Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals noted were on 21 Sep when 2 were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*, followed by 33 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 24 Sep, then small arrivals across *Argyll* until larger arrival in early Oct and main passage in late Oct. On *Islay* highest counts received were 207 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 25 Oct when 340 over the island, on *Tiree* with 361 across 4 sites on 10 Oct (with 12% juv), on *Mull*, 134 at Loch na Keal on 25 Oct, also 80 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Oct and 31 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov. Thereafter, on *Tiree* all-island count of 124 on 10-11 Dec, on *Islay* 76 at Loch Indaal on 7 Nov, and in *Kintyre*, 44 > SW over Lephenstrath on 15 Nov and 16 at Loch an Torr *Mull* on 15 Nov. 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/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max. counts on *Islay* of 193 at Loch Gruinart on 8 Mar. Elsewhere, 41 at Gorsten *Mull* on 8 Mar, 32 (at two sites) on *Tiree* on 26 Feb, 20 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, and 20 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 13 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). On *Tiree* prs scattered around coast and a few inland in May and 9 prs found on *Colonsay*. First broods noted; b/10 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 25 May, b/5 at Milton *Tiree* on 28 May, at Portnahaven *Islay* on 1 Jun, in *Mid-Argyll* at the Add Est. on 5 Jun and on *Coll* a b/2 was at Bagh an Traileach on 6 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Only 1-3 birds at a few sites late Aug-early Nov, when birds started to return from moult migration. Thereafter, max. counts of 101 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Dec, 13 at Loch Caolisport on 16 Nov and 8 at Ardpatrick on 18 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*), otherwise, 1-5 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 Dornoch Pt., Loch Eck on 18 Jan, and 4 at Camusdhu, Loch Eck on 19 Jan, followed by 1 at Kilmun on 17 Apr. In Mid-Argyll 3 were at Loch Ederline on 24 Mar and 1 at the River Awe on 9 May.

Summer/breeding No reports.

Autumn/winter No reports.



Garganey Mollard April © Tony Jeffree

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 Loch an t-Suidhe, Bunessan Moll on 28 Apr -1 May, 2 males were at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 1 May, a male there on 15 May and a male was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 18 May.

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/Tiree). On Islay a max. of 47 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 8 Mar. On Tiree 16 were at Loch a' Phuill on 10-15 Jan. Elsewhere, a pr was on Oronsay Colonsay on 6 May.

Breeding On Islay 20 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. A good season on Tiree with 12-15 prs across 10 sites and at least 4 broods seen.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max. counts of 123 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep declining to 38 on 13 Dec, and 19 on *Tiree* on 9 Dec. Two were at the Laggan on 11 Nov and one at Lussa Loch on 6 Nov (both *Kintyre*).

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 (*Islay/Tiree*). On *Islay* 1 was at Kilnaughton Bay on 12 Jan, then 2 there on 15 Jan, and 1 was at Kinnabus on 7 Apr. At Loch Gruinart 1 was present in Feb increasing to 2 on 29 Mar and peaking at 5 on 10 May. On *Tiree*, a male was at Loch a' Phuill from 26 Feb – 29 Mar.

Breeding On *Tiree* 4-6 prs at 6 sites, but only one brood seen on 10 Jun, but none on *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay*, a male was at Loch Gruinart from 12-31 Oct, with a pair noted on 25 Oct, and a single on 17 Nov and 13 & 24 Dec. Four were at Loch an Eilein on 12 Oct and 2 at Loch Bhasapol on 19 Aug (both *Tiree*). Two at Carn Mor, Loch Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov.



Wigeon *Mid-Argyll* August © Jim Dickson

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 except (*Jura*). Max. counts of 700 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Jan, 214 on *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 189 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 11 Mar, 150 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 8 Feb, 113 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Feb and 106 at Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Mar. 48 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

Breeding Probable breeding with prs noted at sites on each of *Islay* (1), where one pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart and two prs on *Tiree*. Possible breeding at one site in *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First autumn arrivals with 2 at the Kilmun Cowal on 25 Jun, followed by 5 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul and 7 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 21 Jul. Max. counts inc., 680 at Bridgend Bay *Islay* on 30 Oct, 624 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 444 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 22 Sep, 305 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Oct, 148 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov, 168 on *Tiree* WeBS sites on 11 Nov and 117 at Aros Est *Mull* on 20 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 100 birds.

AMERICAN WIGEON* *Mareca americana*

A rare visitor; 23 or more records.

Winter/spring An adult male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* seen from the Ballinaby side on 17 Jan and presumed to be returning bird from last winter [D. Beadle, M. Hellicar, J. Morris]. A 2cy+ fem (probably adult) was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 5-6 Apr [J. Dickson, D. Jardine, F. Cavanagh]. A 2cy male was a Cornabus *Islay* on 14-31 May [E. Burrell *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 193 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 12 Jan, 153 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Feb, 84 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 3 Jan, 77 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 11 Mar, 60 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 54 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 12 Mar and 44 at Holy Loch Cowal on 15 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted on 30% of squares (12/40) (*cf.* 24% in 2023). Reports from all areas. On *Islay* 45 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 6 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. Broods noted at 17 locations between 20 Apr and 5 Jul in all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*)

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 163 at Loch Indaal on 27 Oct, 139 at Loch Gruinart on 13 Dec (both *Islay*), 121 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 11 Nov, 118 Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Aug, 110 at Ballachuan Loch, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Oct, 82 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 22 Sep and 75 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 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/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max. counts of 110 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 14 Jan, then 115 on 9 Feb, and 113 on 8 Mar and 2 at Cornabus on 4 May. On *Tiree* a male at Loch a' Phuill on 10-20 Jan and a fem at Loch an Eilein on 12 Feb. Forming prs on *Tiree* during Mar.

Breeding Up to 4 prs at 4 sites on *Tiree*, with one brood seen on 16 Jun, but none on *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Most birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with counts of 10 on 26 Sep, 69 on 7 Nov, 77 on 18 Nov and 99 on 13 Dec. On *Tiree* 6 >S Hough Bay on 8 Oct, 8 at Loch an Eilein on 11 Oct, 2 at Loch Bhasapol on 11 Nov and 1-3 birds at Loch a' Phuill on 10 Oct to 11 Dec. Elsewhere, a male was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov and 1 at Garmony *Mull* on 8 Nov.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 742 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 9 Feb, 442 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 12 Jan with max. single site count of 305 at Loch a' Phuill on 12 Jan., 200 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 24 Mar, 185 at South Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Feb and 89 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1 -50 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports mainly from (*Islay/Tiree*). At least 33 prs across wetland sites on *Tiree*. On *Islay* 10 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 1 pr at RSPB The Oa. Other scattered breeding season records from sites in (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Max. counts of 1,120 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct, 445 on *Tiree* on 9 Dec and 117 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1-50 birds.



Teal *Mid-Argyll* January © Jim Dickson

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* *Anas carolinensis*

A rare visitor: 33 or more records since 1980, mostly on *Islay* or *Tiree*. Some records may well involve returning individuals.

Winter/spring A male was at Bun-an Uillt, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Jan [D Beadle, M. Hellicar, J. Morris]. A male was at Loch Illiter, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Mar [S. Dalrymple].

Autumn/winter Two males were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Nov and one there on 13 & 30 Dec [J. How]. 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 No records.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* a fem/imm was at Loch a' Phuill on 7 Oct, 3 mm were there on 5 Nov increasing to 5 mm on 11 Nov and one male remained until end of year. On *Islay* a male was at Loch Gorm on 19 Oct, increasing to 3 mm on 24-30 Oct. In *Kintyre* a male was in Campbeltown Loch on 4 Nov.

RING-NECKED DUCK* *Aythya collaris*

RBBP *A scarce but increasing winter visitor. 39+ previous records.*

Winter/spring A returning male was at Glenfeochan, Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Feb [D. Jardine, J. Waldie] & Luachrach Loch, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 3 & 26 Mar [T. de Clermont, J. Waldie].

Autumn/winter An adult male was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Oct-11 Nov [T. de Clermont, J. Dickson, S. Gibson, J. Bowler] and was joined by a 1cy fem on 16 Oct-11 Nov [J. Bowler]. The returning male was at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec [R. Lightfoot] and again at Glenfeochan, Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 18-28 Dec [D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Highest nos were on *Tiree* where a count of 69 at Loch Bhasapol on 14 Apr. On *Islay* max. counts of 25 from Loch Finlaggan on 18 Jan and 15 at Loch Skerrols on 2 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* max. counts of 9 at Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe on 14 Feb and 7 at Loch Glenfeochan on 3 & 4 Feb. Max. counts on *Colonsay* (4) and *Mull* (7).

Breeding On *Tiree* 15 prs at 6 sites with 10+ broods (53+ yng) noted. No breeding reports from elsewhere, but 1-7 birds noted in Jun & Jul in (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*).

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts of 75 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 11 Nov with site max. of 70 at Loch a' Phuill on 6 Nov, 54 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 29 Oct, 18 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 2 Nov, 12 at Loch Leathan on 12 Dec and possibly the same 12 at Loch Ceann a' Chroin on 15 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 10 at Loch Poit na h-I *Mull* on 17 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-11 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 On *Islay* a max. count of 8 at Loch Indaal during Jan dropping to 1 in Feb. On *Mull* a fem was at Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie) on 10 Feb. On *Tiree* a male was at Loch a' Phuill on 15 Jan and a new male there on 12-16 Feb.

Autumn/winter In *Cowal* a fem was at the Holy Loch on 22 Oct. On *Islay* 2 were at Loch Indaal on 13 Oct, also seen at Loch Skerrols on 20 Oct, a max. of 5 at Loch Indaal on 3-4 Nov and a fem which lingered on Loch Skerrols until 25 Dec. In *Mid-Argyll* a fem was at Glenfeochan, Kilmore on 5 Oct. On *Mull* 3 were at Loch na Keal on 7 Oct. On *Tiree* a 1cy fem was at Loch Bhasapol on

13 Sep then at Loch a' Phuill on 19-21 Sep, at Loch Bhasapol on 7 Oct, then Loch a' Phuill on 11 Nov and an adult male was at Loch a' Phuill on 8 Oct to 11 Nov.

LESSER SCAUP* *Aythya affinis*

A rare visitor: Nine records of 14 birds. 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, 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 and a male at St Mary's Loch Mid-Argyll in Mar 2023.

Autumn/winter A 1cy female was at Loch Skerrols Islay on 20 Oct-23 Oct [N. McMahon, P. Roberts *et al*]. Record under consideration 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 278 at Scallastle Bay Mull on 19 Mar, 247 at Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 10 Jan, 246 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 10 Jan, 161 at Poll Gorm Colonsay on 22 Apr, 128 at Blairmore Fm, Loch Long Cowal on 13 May and 120 at Loch Indaal Islay on 7 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of up to 100 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First broods noted at Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll on 23 May and on 1 Jun at Traigh Bhagh Tiree. On Colonsay and Oronsay 28 fems found with 48 yng and at least 6 breeding fems on Lunga, Treshnish Is. Mull.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 375 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 12 Dec, 185 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 22 Sep, 150 at Loch Indaal Islay on 13 Oct, 88 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 28 Sep, 85 at Traigh Bhagh Tiree on 23 Sep, 80 at Eilean Traighe, West Loch Tarbert, Mid-Argyll on 29 Oct, 53 at Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 17 Nov and 52 at Blairmore Fm, Loch Long Cowal on 3 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.



Surf Scoter (with Common Scoter) Kintyre January © Jim Dickson

SURF SCOTER* *Melanitta perspicillata*

A rare visitor: 25+ records, occasionally involving several birds.

Winter/spring An adult male was at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 10 Jan [J. Dickson. D. Jardine]. A 2cy male was at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 9-29 May [A. Ash *et al*] *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

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 Two at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 10 Jan and one there the following day were the only birds reported

Summer A male was again at Easter Ellister *Islay* between 31 May & 3 Jul. *Presumably the long stayer of once captive origin nearby.*

Winter Two fem/1cy were in Salen Bay *Mull* from 1-10 Nov, followed by 2 fem/1cy off Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 18 Nov followed by a male and fem/1cy there on 12 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 22 Apr, 200 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Jan, 89 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 29 at Loch Caolisport, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, 8 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Jan, and 14 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 12 Mar.

Breeding/summer Two on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 12 May, the site of successful breeding in 2021, was the only suggestion of breeding. A summering group of 7 was at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul and 6 were at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 17 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts by region, of 1 on *Colonsay* on 28 Sep, 250 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct, 110 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, 22 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec, 4 at Scallastle Bay on 8 Nov and 4 at Feith Bhan on 8 Nov (both *Mull*) and unusually, 1 inland at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* from 11 Oct – 4 Nov.

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 all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/North Argyll*). Most reports from (*Islay, Kintyre and Tiree*). Max. counts of 25 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 - 27 Feb, 21 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 12 Jan, 15 at Laggan Bay *Islay* on 8 Apr, and 13 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan. Elsewhere, 3 were at Feall Bay *Coll* on 11 Apr and 3 at Java Pt, Craignure *Mull* on 13-14 Jan. The last birds were 9 at Kintra *Islay* on 21 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree*). First returning birds were 12 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct. Max. counts of 22 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 30 Dec, 11 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, 7 at Laggan Bay *Islay* on 9 Nov and singles at Craighouse *Jura* on 19 Oct and at Loch Eatharna *Coll* on 3 Nov.



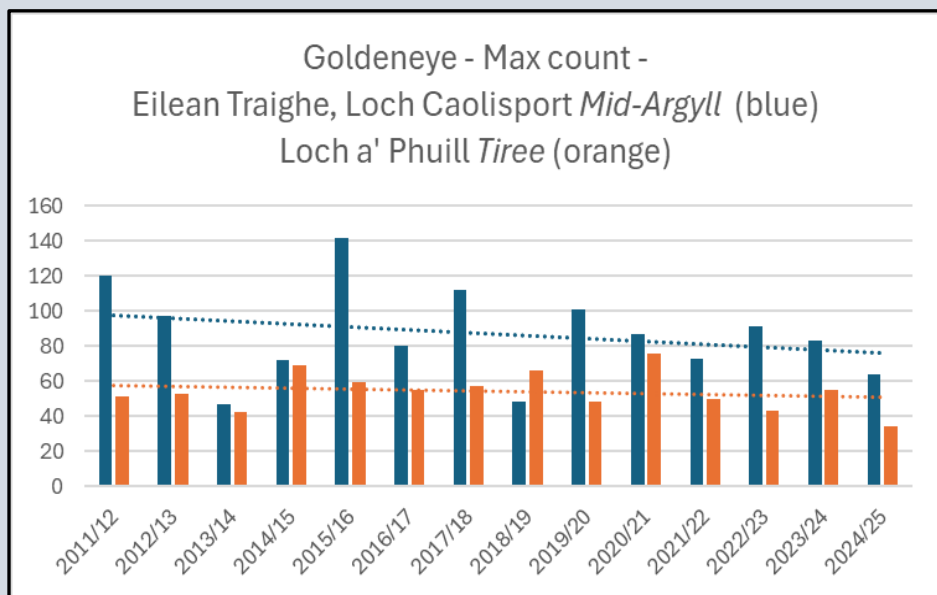
Long-tailed Duck *Kintyre* October © Jo Goudie

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/Colonsay/Jura*). Max. area counts of 83 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan, 55 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Mar, 37 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 4 Jan, 19 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Jan, 11 at Machrihanish SBO on 3 Jan, 11 at Lussa Loch on 10 Feb and 11 West Loch Tarbert on 10 Jan (all *Kintyre*), and 9 at Loch Poit na h'I Mull on 10 Feb. Last birds in spring were 2 at Carse *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May. Other widespread counts of 1-8 birds.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First of autumn was a fem/imm at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Oct. Max. area counts of 64 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec, 34 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 26 Dec, 15 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Dec, 9 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Dec, 8 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 8 Dec, but only 5 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 4 Nov. *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* (26) and *Mid-Argyll* (8). Max. counts of 9 Ardkinglas *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 8 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr and 7 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May. On *Islay* two were at Loch Skerrols on 22 Feb, with one remaining on 4 Mar and 1 at Loch Kinnabus on 2 Apr. Elsewhere, most counts were of 1-4 birds.

Summer/breeding Reports of prs from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). A fem with b/3 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 28 July was the only brood reported. Post breeding flocks of 18 at Hunter's Quay *Cowal* on 16 Jul and 11 at Croig *Mull* on 9 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports of 1-6 birds with max. area counts of 44 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec, 14 at Cairndow *Cowal* on 24 Oct, 11 at West Ardhru *Mull* on 26 Sep, 19 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 22 Sep and 4 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 1-9 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 50 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 25 Feb, 47 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 14 Mar, 30 at Bowmore *Islay* on 24 Feb, 30 at Loch Craignish

Mid-Argyll on 15 Jan and 23 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20, however most groups were fewer than 10.

Breeding Breeding around much of the Argyll coastline, but limited data received. On *Tiree* 14 prs at 6 sites in May with 4+ broods noted there from 8 Jul. Elsewhere, broods noted on *Mull* at Loch Don, Knock and Kilfinichen, in *Mid-Argyll* at Add Estuary (2), at Arinagour *Coll* and Lussa Bay *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Max. counts of 234 (post breeding moult flock) at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Jul and 93 there on 18 Nov, 85 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Nov, 77 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov, 57 at Duart Bay *Mull* on 2 Sep and 48 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of up to 40.



Red Grouse *Mid-Argyll* April © Ann McGregor

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird. All reports required.

All year Reports from moorland areas in (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Few reports in total from across Argyll, all of 1-2 birds, except of 4 at the Ensay Burn *Mull* on 23 Sep, 4 at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* on 22 Nov and 3 at Barr Glen *Kintyre* on 29 & 30 Jan and 8 Apr. Two broods (b/8 & b/6) were noted on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Aug.

PTARMIGAN* *Lagopus muta*

RED LIST *A localised resident breeding bird, generally above 800m in north and east Argyll, and on Mull where the population is estimated to be 25-50 birds. All records required.*

All year On *Mull* 2 were at Maol nan Damh, Ben More on 1 Apr. In *North Argyll* singles, unless stated, were at; Drochaid Ghlas on 29 Mar, 2 at Ben Cruachan on 4 May, Beinn Udlaigh on 6

May, Stob a' Choire Odhair on 18 Jun, Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a' Chochuill on 11 Jul, Ben Cruachan on 19 Oct, Sron nan Cabar on 29 Oct and Meall na Eun on 30 Oct and 2 were found on Cruach nan Cuilleann Cowal on 23 Apr. *Under recorded and often dependent on reports from hill walkers.*



Black Grouse *Mid-Argyll* April © Ann McGregor

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 1-4 birds from sites in; *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (6) and *North Argyll* (2). Max. counts of 8 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan and 8 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 11 Feb. Noted at Culbuie *Islay* on 16 Feb.

Autumn/winter Only three reports; in *Mid-Argyll* 6 males were at Dalvore on 20 Oct and 7 males at Dunbeg on 27 Oct, and in *North Argyll* 6 males at Loch Tulla on 17 Nov.

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/Jura/North Argyll*), however generally under reported. Max. counts reported of 200 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar and 50 inc. 'tenebrosus' type birds at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec. BBS: noted on 22.5% of squares (7/40) (*cf.* 18% in 2023) with max. BBS counts of 6 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* and 4 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*. Broods

reported at Scalasaig (b/5) *Colonsay* on 12 Jun and Gruinart (b/2) *Islay* on 22 Aug and also at Calgary *Mull*. Only two records from *Tiree*; single males at Balemartine on 1 Apr and Balephuill on 7 Apr.

QUAIL* *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Spring/summer Single males calling at Escart Farm, nr Claonaig *Kintyre* on 6 Jun and at Greenhill, Sandaig *Tiree* on 15 & 22 Jun.

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 1-4 birds, with 8 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, the only larger count.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

AMBER LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal. Last accepted records were at Glen Forsa, *Mull* on 3 Aug 2010 and Lochdon, *Mull* on 1 Jun 2022.

Spring/summer A bird was heard churring in an area of cleared and newly planted woodland in south Kintyre late evening on 12 Jun and was sound recorded as part of the ABC Nightjar project started in 2024 and funded by the ABC and SOC. (See list of rejected, pending etc. records on page 130)

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. Following a very early bird at Tobermory *Mull* on 15 Apr, first birds were 2 at Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr and 2 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on the same day. Followed by singles at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 7 May and most arrivals shortly afterwards. Reports from sites in each area were; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (7), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (4). Outwith known nesting areas, notable counts of 20 on *Coll* on 15 Jul, 17 Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Jul, 6 at Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 14 Jul and 5 at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 25 May. A single at Keils on 22 Jul was only the eighth record for *Jura*.

Breeding Provision of nest boxes appears to be assisting this species. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs bred at the Kilmichael Glassary boxes which failed on first clutch but second broods fledged on the late dates of 29 Aug and 3 Sep, but no nesting details from Taynuilt or the *Mid-Argyll* hospital, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll*. Breeding season counts in *Mid-Argyll*; 30 at Oban on 5 Aug, 10 at Portsonachan 2 Jun, 6 at Lochgilphead on 15 May & 12 Jul, 6 at Kilmelford on 28 May, 2 at Inveraray on 11 Jul and 1 at Kilmartin on 14 Jul. In *Cowal*, 11 were at Carrick Castle on 22 May, 4 at Kirm on 23 Jul, 3 in Dunoon on 27 May and 2 at Sandbank on 24 May and 6 were at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 13 Jul.

Autumn Most birds had departed by mid Aug after which 4 were at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 24 Aug, 1+ at Kilmun *Cowal* on 25 Aug, 3 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug, 8 > S at Cairnbaan *Mid-*

Argyll in a big movement of hirundines on 29 Aug and 3 > S at Lephénstrath Kintyre on 1 Sep the last reported.



Pallid Swift Islay November © Jacob New

PALLID SWIFT* *Apus pallidus*

A rare visitor to Scotland from the Mediterranean region with no previously accepted records in Argyll.

Autumn One was seen flying over Coullabus Islay on 9 Nov and present for several hours [F. & P. Cavanagh, J. New, P. Roberts *et al.*]. Record accepted by the BBRC and becomes the first Argyll record.

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 Knock Scalbert Kintyre on 2 Apr, Kilmichael Glen Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr, Kinnabus Islay on 7 Apr, Bunnesan Mull on 10 Apr, Strathlachlan Cowal on 17 Apr and Milbuie Colonsay on 20 Apr. Thereafter, more widespread reports from 21 Apr onwards.

Breeding BBS: noted in 65% of squares (26/40) (*cf.* 59% in 2023). Calling birds reported from sites in: Coll (4), Colonsay (8), Cowal (17), Islay (20), Jura (9), Kintyre (5), Mid-Argyll (36), Mull (86), North Argyll (11) and Tiree (7). Some 'larger sites' had numerous reports e.g. 6 at Rhudle

Mid-Argyll on 17 May and 6 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 May, also 7 calling males at RSPB Gruinart and 6 males calling at RSPB Oa Reserve (both *Islay*) and 1 calling male on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 19 calling males on *Colonsay*.

Autumn Most adults had departed by late Jun. Numbers of reports received by month; Jun (36), Jul (4) and Aug (0). The last birds reported were at Glen Forsa *Mull* on 18 Jul and Sorisdale *Coll* on 19 Jul.



Cuckoo *Mid-Argyll* May © Jim Dickson

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 140 at Sgeir Carnach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 75 at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* on 15 Feb, 50 at Loch nan Gillean *Islay* on 23 Feb, 40 at Cornaigmore *Coll* on 10 Apr and widespread groups of up to 40 on *Tiree* in Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 22.5% of squares (9/40) (cf. 18% in 2023), with max. count of 35 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. Eight prs noted at RSPB The Oa *Islay* and 9 nests found at the Blow Hole, Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Max. counts 405 at Carrabus *Islay* on 29 Oct, 365 at two sites on *Tiree* on 9 Sep, 270 at Airigh Ghlas on 21 Nov and 270 at Ballinaby

on 8 Oct (both *Islay*), 220 at Sgeir Carnach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Sep and 89 at mouth of River Ba *Mull* on 25 Oct.



Rock Doves *Tiree March* © Jim Dickson

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 50 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May. Other flocks in Dunoon *Cowal*, North Connel *North Argyll* where 68 on 23 Oct and on *Mull* where 20 at Loch Don on 2 Sep & 19 Oct. A flock at Islandadd Bridge, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* had increased to a max. 106 on 27 Oct.

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.*

Spring One was at Craighens *Islay* on 11 Mar, two were at Knock *Mull* on 21 Mar, one at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* on 1 Apr, one on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Apr and one at Loch Spelve area *Mull* on 19 Jun.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas (except *Jura*). Good numbers in *Mid-Argyll* where 160 at Kintarbert Lodge on 27 Jan and 70 at Duntrune on 1 Jan. Elsewhere, max. counts of 60 at Loch a' Gheoidh, Sunderland *Islay* on 3 Jan, 30 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 10 Jan and 10 at Cruach Ardura *Mull* on 10 Feb. Three were at Clid *Coll* on 5 May, 2 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 9 May and a max. of 9 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 40% of squares (16/40) (*cf.* 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 6 at Rhudle and 5 at Dalvore (both *Mid-Argyll*). Limited data received, but singing birds reported at Carse House and Barnakill (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 9 prs RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Fewer large counts with max. of 110 at Coullabus *Islay* on 1 Sep, 100 Cattadale *Islay* on 1 Nov, 80 at Rubh' an Dobhrain *Mull* on 19 Dec and 50 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 11 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-20.

TURTLE DOVE* *Streptopelia turtur*

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

Spring Singles were at Tarbert *Jura* on 17 May and at Connel *Mid-Argyll* 25 May.

Autumn Singles were near Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Sep and at Portnahaven *Islay* on 7 Oct.

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. Relatively few reports with max. counts of 37 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 24 at Salen *Mull* on 1 May, 13 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 10 at the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 2 Jan and 10 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan. Two remained at Crossapol *Tiree* throughout Jan and 5 were there in Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15% of squares (6/40) (*cf.* 6% in 2023), with max. count of 7 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. Noted in all areas in Jun & Jul. On *Tiree* 4 prs noted at Loch an Eilein, 2 prs at Crossapol and 2 prs at Ruaig and 4 prs were noted in Arinagour *Coll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Max. counts of 43 at Cullipool, Luing on 6 Oct and 23 at Toberonochy, Luing on 5 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*) on *Islay* 21 were at Bowmore and 10 at Imeraval on 2 Nov.

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 from most areas except (*Cowal/Jura*), with 1-2 in most of 16 sites, with max. counts of 7 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 3 Apr and 6 at Ardantrive reedbed, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan. Three at Canal Loch *Coll* on 11 Apr, with a single also noted on Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Mar.

Summer/breeding Birds heard calling in suitable breeding areas from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (5). On *Islay* at least 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Fledged yng seen or heard at the Reef and Loch Bhasapol *Tiree*. Up to 6 were on Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* in late Jun. *Under recorded.*

Autumn/winter Reports at 12 sites in all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max. count of 5 at Ardantrive, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct and 4 at Dervaig *Mull* on 17 Dec, with other reports of 1-2 birds, incl. one in Cairnbaan garden *Mid-Argyll* from 15 Nov -22 Dec.



Water Rail *Mid-Argyll* November © Jim Dickson



Corn Crake *Coll* May © Linda Gibson

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 been reversed, although numbers have been fluctuating recently.*

Spring Reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). First arrivals were at Conisby Islay on 6 Apr, Iona Mull on 9 Apr, Friesland Coll on 17 Apr, Balephuill (3) Tiree on 20 Apr, and Oronsay and Kiloran (both Colonsay) on 22 Apr. Most arrivals were during early May.

Summer/breeding Calling male counts: Tiree (296), Coll (61), Islay (21), Colonsay/Oronsay (14), and Iona Mull (21). An Argyll total of 413, *cf.* totals of 429 in 2023, 397 in 2022, 383 in 2021, 416 in 2020, and an Argyll peak of 702 in 2014 (*per* RSPB).

Autumn/winter A late brood was noted at Ruaig Tiree on 2 Sep when a single was also at Salum Tiree on 2 Sep. One was on Iona, Mull on 3 Sep and the last noted on Oronsay Colonsay on 7 Sep.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from 28 sites except (Jura/Kintyre). Most reports of 1-2 birds and max. counts of 4 at Kilcheran Loch, Lismore North Argyll on 6 Jan, 4 on Cowal on 28 Mar, 4 at Gruinart Floods Islay on 10 May, 3 at Ballyhogh Loch Coll on 12 Apr and 3 at Balnagown Loch, Lismore North Argyll on 6 Jan.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree). On Islay 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In Mid-Argyll breeding noted at Ardencaple, Seil and young were reported at Loch an t'Suidhe Mull. In North Argyll a pr with young at Balnagown Loch, Lismore on 24 Aug and a juv was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 12 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Kintyre). All reports of 1-2 birds from sites in Coll (3), Colonsay (1), Islay (5), Mid-Argyll (2), North Argyll (1) and Tiree (1). Max. count of 4 on the Ulva Lagoons Mid-Argyll on 19 Aug. *Generally, under recorded in some mainland regions.*

COOT* *Fulica atra*

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

Winter A 1cy was at Loch Rhiaghain Tiree on 9-10 Dec and remained to the year end.

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 sites in (Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Max. counts of 10 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 11 Mar and 7 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 15 Jan. Many coastal sites held 1-5 birds.

Breeding BBS: noted in 2.5% of squares (1/40) (*cf.* 2.9% in 2023). Limited breeding data, present on many suitable lochs, but no broods reported. 1 pr bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve Islay.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura). Max. counts of 23 at Loch Peallach Mull on 8 Aug, 14 at Loch Creran North Argyll on 14 Dec, 11 at West Loch Tarbert Kintyre on 18 Nov, 11 at Loch Craignish on 14 Nov and 9 at Knipoch, Loch Feochan on 14 Sep (both Mid-Argyll). Elsewhere, counts of 1-8.

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 One was at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 2 were off Strone Point on 14 Jan, 5 off Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 1 off Hunter's Quay *Cowal* on 5 Feb, 2 off Ardentinn *Cowal* on 8 Feb, 2 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 15 Feb and 1 off Uiskentuie, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 15 Feb.

Autumn/winter Two were at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 14 Oct.

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/North Argyll*). Max. counts in each region of 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Feb, 18 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 11 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan and 21 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Jan & 14 Mar, 2 at Ardmuckinish Bay *North Argyll* on 3 Jan. A single was at Blairmore Farm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 14 Jan. The last noted in spring was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 28 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrival was of 1 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Sep. Max. counts in each region of 26 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct, 31 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, 8 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Dec, 12 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 9 Dec and a single on *Tiree* at Loch Bhasapol on 11 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 440 (across five sites) on *Tiree* on 19 Feb, 237 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Jan, 215 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, 214 at Loch Gruinart on 8 Mar and 124 at Loch Indaal on 22 May (both *Islay*), 190 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 6 Feb and 100 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30% of squares (12/40) (cf. 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 31 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 30 at Port Mor *Colonsay*. On *Islay* 37 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 9 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Coll* 88 prs at RSPB Totronald reserve and on *Tiree* first chicks noted on 24 May at Loch a' Phuill. On *Mull* 19 prs noted on the Treshnish Is., and 21 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 336 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 293 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov, 211 at Loch Gruinart on 13 Dec and 203 at Loch Indaal on 1 Nov (both *Islay*), 168 at Port Ann *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 129 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 3 Oct, 119 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 22 Sep and 110 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 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 2,315 on *Tiree* all island counts on 19-20 Feb, 1,200 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Jan, 320 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 30 Jan, 160 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Feb, 126 at Smaull

Islay on 20 Feb and 102 at Fiddon *Mull* on 10 Feb. In other areas, max. counts of 82 at Breachacha Castle *Coll* on 12 Feb, 48 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 9 Feb, 46 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 7 Feb, 43 at Tobernoch, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb and 3 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 20% of squares (8/40) (*cf.* 18% in 2023), with max. counts of 28 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 12 at Oronsay *Colonsay*, *Clid Coll* and Fiddon *Mull*. On *Tiree* 44 prs in the wetland compartments on The Reef and first chick noted on 4 May. On *Coll* 97 prs on Totronald reserve. On *Colonsay* (exc. Oronsay) 29 prs and 50 prs at RSPB Oronsay (*cf.* 25 & 41 prs in 2023). On *Islay* 151 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart (*cf.* 149 prs in 2023), 3 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve (*cf.* 1 pr in 2023) and prs at Machir Bay and Ballinaby. In *Mid-Argyll* at least 2 prs at Add Est./Moine Mhor and 1 pr at Torbhlaren. On *Mull* prs reported at Kinlochspelve (3), Loch Buie (2), Croggan (1+) and McKinnon's Cave (1).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max. counts of 2,470 on *Tiree* all island counts on 10 - 11 Dec, 940 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 30 Oct and 172 at Loch Indaal the same day (both *Islay*), 132 at Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 13 Dec, 140 on *Colonsay* on 1 Oct, 97 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 10 Dec and 66 at Cornabus *Islay* on 11 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of up to 55 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*). Mid-winter numbers lower on *Tiree* with only 1,360 there on 11-12 Jan during a cold spell but increasing to 5,750 at The Reef *Tiree* on 17 Apr. On *Islay* 1,500 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 3 Jan declining to 300 on 8 Mar, on *Colonsay* 500 on Oronsay on 19 Apr. 160 were at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 30 Jan, 130 at Fiddon *Mull* on 28 Apr, 111 at Totronald *Coll* on 26 Apr and 91 at Aird Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan. Elsewhere, counts were of 1-90 birds.

Summer/breeding Casual reports, and under recorded, in likely upland breeding areas, with reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Birds were arriving back in Jul e.g. 22 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 1 Jul and 40+ at Ardmeanach *Mull* on 22 Jul. Max. counts of 2,180 on *Tiree* all island count on 10-11 Dec, 1,720 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Oct, 125 at Achnahard *Mull* on 12 Dec and 120 on *Colonsay* on 1 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1 - 35 birds.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare autumn visitor. 36+ records, all 2001-2022 and mostly from Tiree.

Autumn Two 2cy+ birds were found at Middleton *Tiree* on 9 Sep and subsequently in other west *Tiree* locations, with one bird remaining until 22 Sep and the other bird last seen on 6 Oct [J. Bowler *et al.*]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

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 Most reports from *Islay* where 14 at Loch Gruinart on 4 Jan, with 10 there on 5 Mar, 3 at Gartbreck on 7 Jan, 2 Salum *Tiree* on 13 Mar, elsewhere a single at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 May.

Autumn/winter First reports; 2 at Loch Guinart *Islay* on 30 Aug. Max. and higher counts; 27 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Dec. Elsewhere, 2 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 30 Oct, 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 2 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Nov & 4 Dec, and a single at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Nov.



Ringed Plover *Kintyre* May © Jo Goudie

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 660 across 4 sites on *Tiree* on 29 Jan with max. of 260 at Sorobaidh Bay, 70 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, 60 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Jan and 39 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 10 Jan. Modest spring passage from mid-Apr - late May: on *Islay* max. count of 177 at Loch Gruinart on 15 Apr and on *Tiree* 425 (across 3 sites) on 15 May and max. site count of 190 at Ruaig on 15 May. Elsewhere, 60 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 May, 50 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Apr and 40 at Cliad Bay *Coll* on 10 Apr and 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 27 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 12.5% of squares (5/40) (cf. 9% in 2023), with max. counts of 34 at Killinallan Point *Islay* and 31 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. Probable breeding found in all areas. On *Islay* 4 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 1 pr at RSPB Smaull reserve and on *Coll* 14 prs on RSPB Totronald reserve. First yng noted on 21 May at Crossapol *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage increased from early Aug. Max. counts of 605 (across 2 sites) on *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 340 at Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 8 Nov, 300 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug, 150 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Nov, 134 at Rhunahaorine Pt

Kintyre on 23 Aug, 73 at Fiddon Mull on 17 Nov and 70 at Kilbride Bay Cowal on 21 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of up to 80 birds.

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 Three were Rhuba na Lice, Kerrera Mid-Argyll on 20 Apr, 1 was at Beinn a' Bhuidh (E) North Argyll on 25 Apr and 3 at Druim Mor, Oronsay Colonsay on 29 Apr.



Whimbrel Islay May © David Dinsley

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 (Coll/Jura). Reports of wintering birds: a single at Machrihanish Links Kintyre on 30 Jan, 4 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 9 Feb and 1 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 7 Mar. First migrants; singles at Dervaig Mull on 7 Apr, at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll and Garmony Pt Mull on 8 Apr, at Salen Mull on 9 Apr and at Traigh Bhi Tiree on 11 Apr and 2 at Claddach Islay on 12 Apr, after which reports more widespread. Heaviest passage was in late Apr - early May when notable counts inc. 147 at Rockside Islay on 3 May, 55 on Tiree on 6 May, 51 at Killiechronan Mull on 29 Apr, 20 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 21 Apr and 17 at Oronsay Colonsay on 25 Apr. Thereafter, most counts were fewer than 10, then 1-8 birds lingered into early Jul at sites in Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). First return passage on 8 Jul when 28 at Machir Bay Islay, then singles at Ardnave Loch Islay on 13 Jul, at Calgary Mull on 19 Jul and 3 at Port Righ Kintyre on 21 Jul. Numbers generally low with 12 at Loch a' Phuill

Tiree on 28 Aug, 8 > S at Frenchman's Rocks on 22 Aug and 7 at Loch Gruinart on 19 Aug (both *Islay*) and 5 at Treshnish *Mull* on 29 Sep. In Sep & Oct all other reports of 1-5 birds with late singles at Loch Don *Mull* on 22 Oct and Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 28 Oct and a wintering bird at Salen *Mull* on 6 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 171 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Feb, 167 at the Holy *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 150 at An Carn, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Jan, 123 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 7 Feb, 105 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 18 Feb, 86 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 18 Feb and 65 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 9 Feb and 55 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 12 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds and most counts of 1-15. Most birds had departed wintering areas by mid-Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited data and under reported from upland areas. On *Islay* 17 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart, 4 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 1 nest found at Cornabus, but no other breeding reports, however birds in suitable upland areas of *Mull* in late Apr -May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage from mid-Jul e.g. 88 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Jul, building to 152 on 27 Jul and 110 at Sanda Is *Kintyre* on 27 Jul and 45 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Aug. Max. counts of 239 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep, 160 on *Tiree* (at two sites) on 4 Oct, 137 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 10 Aug, 97 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 70 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 27 Nov, 66 at Loch Don *Mull* on 2 Sep, 65 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Sep and 61 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 4 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds but most counts of 1-15.



Bar-tailed Godwit *Kintyre* June © Jo Goudie

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 970 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Jan, 87 at two sites on *Tiree* on 26 Feb, 58 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Feb, 22 at Loch Don *Mull* on 23 Mar and 17 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds. On passage, 84 passage birds were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 31 May, 58 at Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Jun, and up to 100 birds remained during Jun on *Islay* and 70 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Jun and with 1-9 noted elsewhere.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Returning birds noted from early Jul when 41 (inc. 3 in sum. plum.) were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 8 Jul, also at Loch Gruinart *Islay* where nos. rose to 204 on 15 Jul and 20 >S at the Cairns of Coll *Coll* on 20 Jul. Max. counts of 436 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Nov, 68 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Sep, 40 at An Carn, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 & 30 Oct, 32 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 22 Sep, 13 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* from 16 Nov and 12 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 14 Dec. 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 all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll*) during a strong passage. Wintering birds reported during Jan-Feb when 1-2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 2 at Killiechranan *Mull* on 7 Feb. First arrival of migrants; 1 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 8 Mar, 2 at Breachacha Bay *Coll* on 11 Mar, then 15 at Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Mar and 36 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Mar. Nos increased on *Tiree* in early Apr with a total of 83 on 11 Apr, rising to 190 on 18 Apr and then 1,499 on 19 Apr when 420 at Loch Riaghain and 385 at Vaul. Most had left by 23 Apr when only 49 were present. At RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* numbers rose from 64 on 14 Apr, to 155 on 17 Apr and peaked at 324 on 19 Apr, also on *Islay* 23 were at Cornabus on 21 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 70 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Apr, 18 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr, 4 on *Mull* and 1 juv at Toward Pt *Cowal* on 23 Apr. Later 16 were at Heylipol *Tiree* on 6 May, 15 were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 May and 13 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 May, and other small groups seen on (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*) where a few a few lingered into Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*) during a moderate passage. First arrivals of returning adults inc., 35 >SW at sea W of *Coll* on 20 Jul, 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Jul followed by 53 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Aug. Returning juvs. noted from 17 Aug with 2 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree*. Max. counts of 71 on *Tiree* on 1 Sep inc. 55 juv. at Meningie, 50 at Uiskentuie *Islay* on 17 Aug and 16 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 23 Aug. Elsewhere, area max. counts of 4 at Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Aug, 1+ at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Sep and 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Jul & 18 Aug. During Nov-Dec, singles were seen on *Tiree* at Balephetrish Bay on 4 Nov and at Loch a' Phuill between 9 – 13 Dec. On *Islay* up to 14 were seen at Loch Gruinart on 2-5 Nov, with 3 there on 18 Nov, but only one present on 30 Dec.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

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

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) of 1-30. Most high counts were from *Tiree* and max. counts there of 185 at Balephetrish Bay on 24 Jan, 125 at The Reef on 7 Feb, and 118 at Ruaig on 6 Mar. Elsewhere, 144 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, 61 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 14 Mar, 60 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 7 Jan, 47 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 20 Mar, 46 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 18 Jan and 32 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Feb.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Small nos., of summering birds were still present at some sites when returning birds were arriving. The first were noted at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 3 Jul. Max. counts of 200 on *Tiree* on 30 Sep, 133 at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 66 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 16 Sep, 65 at Ardnave *Islay* on 31 Oct, 53 at Scarisdale Pt. *Mull* on 9 Nov, 45 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 16 Oct and 30 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct.

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/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Low numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay* where max. of 20 on 12 Jan. Elsewhere, 12 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 22 Mar, 5 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Jan, 12 at Ceann Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan and singles on *Tiree* at Gott Bay on 13 Feb and Balephetrish Bay on 25-29 Mar. 17 were at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 3 Apr and one was at Aros Est *Mull* on 14-16 Apr. Very small spring passage noted of birds on *Kintyre* and *Tiree*, inc. red adults, between 11-21 May, with max. of 10 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 15 May and 6 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 20 May and singles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 May, and at Loch a' Phuill and Ruaig (both *Tiree*) on 15 May. In summer, a few birds noted, with three at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jun and singles on *Tiree* at Loch a' Phuill on 11 Jun and Gott Bay on 1 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). First returning birds noted in Jul when 4 were at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul. On 20 Jul, 8>S past the Cairns of Coll *Coll* and 15 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Followed by passage from mid-Aug when 10 on Iona *Mull* on 15 Aug and 11 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 24 Aug. Area max. counts of 5 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Oct, 1 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep, 172 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Oct, singles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 & 8 Nov, singles at Loch Gilp on 16 Sep and Danna on 5 Oct (both *Mid-Argyll*), 4 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 18 Oct and singles at Triagh Bhi on 21 Sep and Gott Bay on 27 Sep (both *Tiree*). Birds had generally departed Argyll by late-Oct, with only 7 remaining at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Nov.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

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

Spring Few seen on passage, but on *Coll* one was at Breachacha on 7 May, and other reports from *Tiree* where the first were 2 at Balevullin on 29 Apr and 3 males at Loch a' Phuill on 31 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding activity was noted, locations withheld, with up to 12 different males and at least 1 female, with breeding thought very likely, but unsuccessful.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). On *Islay* singles at Loch Indaal on 19 Aug, at Cornabus on 29 Aug, and 4 were at Gruinart Floods on 24 Aug and there was a late juv. there on 25-30 Oct. On *Tiree* single juvs. were at The Reef on 26 Aug, at Middleton on 27 Aug and Balevulin on 9 Sep, and numbers peaked with 3 at Middleton on 11 Sep and 3 at Loch a' Phuill on 13 Sep, with fewer until end of Sep with a last juv. male at Barrapoll on 28 Oct.

CURLEW SANDPIPER* *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Spring/summer Two were at Lochdon Mull on 16 May and 2 were at Druim Mor, Oronsay Colonsay on 23 May.

Autumn One was at Balinoe Tiree with Golden Plovers on 23 Oct. *A less than average show this year.*



Sanderling Kintyre June © Ewan Urquhart

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

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

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll). Good numbers wintering on Tiree with 480 found on 29 Jan and 460 on 12 Feb. Passage peaked on 11 Apr when 730 were at Balephetrish Bay, with numbers dropping by late May. Elsewhere, max. counts on Islay of 60 at Ardnave on 4 Jan, 142 on Oronsay Colonsay on 12 Feb and 54 at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 17 May. The last birds had moved through Argyll by mid-Jun, with larger numbers than usual e.g. 194 on Tiree on 9 Jun, 16 on Iona Mull on 10 Jun and 36 at Breachacha Coll on 10 Jun. Departing/arriving birds were difficult to separate but 3 were at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 25 Jun and 7 at Kirkapoll Tiree on 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura) with first returning birds on Tiree on 1 Jul where max. counts of 303 on the four main beaches on 26 Aug and 305 there on 22 Oct. The

proportion of juvs. peaked at 29.4% on 23 Sep. On *Islay* 575 were at Loch Gruinart on 29 Aug and 140 at Eilean Nostaig on 24 Nov. Elsewhere, high counts of 69 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Dec, 60 at An Carn, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Oct, 46 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 29 Aug and 30 at Feall Bay *Coll* on 30 Aug. On other areas, 15 were at Benderloch *North Argyll* on 28 Aug, 5 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug and 4 were at Kilbride Bay *Cowal* on 21 Sep.

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 except (*Jura*). Nos generally low outwith *Islay* and *Tiree*. Max. winter counts of 663 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Jan and 290 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 27 Jan. On *Tiree* passage peaked on 9 May when 450 were present across 3 sites and on *Islay* 1,285 were at Loch Gruinart on 12 May. Elsewhere, peak counts of 56 at Ardminish Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Mar, 54 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 21 May, 46 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Apr, 42 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May and 40 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 May. All other counts of 1-34 birds. Most had moved through by late May but on 9 Jun, 28 late birds were at Arnabost *Coll*, 80 on *Tiree* on 10 Jun and 15 on Iona *Mull* on 14 Jun.

Breeding On *Tiree* 25 singing males in the wetland compartments at The Reef. Singing males noted at 5 other sites in May and small numbers of fledged young at 3 sites in Jul. Birds were noted at 2 inland sites in *North Argyll* in early May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Return passage noted from 1 Jul when 34 were at Gott Bay *Tiree*, followed by 45 at Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Jul, then increasing in Aug when 320 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 9 Aug, 480 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Aug, and elsewhere 50 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 42 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug and 42 at Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 23 Aug. At Killinallan *Islay* 415 were present on 7 Nov and 92 were present across 2 sites on *Tiree* on 12 Dec. Elsewhere, 60 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Dec, was the only count over 50 birds.

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/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max. counts of 55 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 26-29 Jan, 25 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 18 Jan, and 20 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Jan & 6 Mar and 14 at Ardnave *Islay* on 4 Jan. Last report was of 12 at Treshnish Is *Mull* on 27 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). First report of returning birds was of three at West Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Oct. Reports received from 11 sites in Oct-Dec with max. counts of 15 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 8 Nov and 14 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Dec.

LITTLE STINT* *Calidris minuta*

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

Spring An adult was at An Fhoadhail *Tiree* on 12 Jun.

Autumn Two 1cy (juvs) were at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 2 Sep increasing to 4 juvs there on 3 Sep and a juv was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21 Sep. *A less than average show.*

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER* *Tryngites subruficollis*

RBBP A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor. At least 43 records of up to 57 birds since the first in 1971.

Autumn A 1cy (juv) was at Ruaig Tìree on 19 - 26 Sep [K. Gillon, J. Bowler, J. Dickson, N. Wall]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce mainly autumn visitor. At least 74+ records.

Spring One was at Druim Mor, Oronsay Colonsay on 28 Apr [M. Vaughan].

Autumn One photographed in flight (unaged) was at Garvard Colonsay on 29 Sep [R. Ahmed]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*

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 (Coll/Jura/North Argyll). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 36 Argyll sites in Jan-Apr with max. counts: 9 at Bealach nan Sac Cowal on 11 Jan, 6 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 26 Feb and 5 at Quinish Mull on 17 Jan. Considerable numbers are still shot in winter in some areas, but no details are available.

Summer/breeding Limited data received, with reports from only 5 sites in Islay (1), Mid-Argyll (1) and Mull (3) of birds in May. On Colonsay during the BTO Woodcock Survey at Colonsay Ho. & woodland area no Woodcock were found, the first time since recording began.

Autumn/winter Only one report Jul – Sep; one Linndhu House Mull on 13 Aug. Thereafter, reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll) First report was of one at Loch Gruinart Islay on 20 Oct followed by one at Balephetrish Hill Tìree on 22 Oct, then other reports of other singles on Islay and Tìree in Oct. In Nov, only 14 reports across Argyll of 1-4 birds with max. counts of 5 at Garvard Colonsay on 17 Nov. In Dec only 6 reports: with 8 at Cornabus, Oa Islay on 30 Dec, 6 at Creag Mhor Islay on 26 Dec, 6 at Moine Mhor Mid-Argyll on 17 Dec and singles at Balephuill Tìree on 8, 14 & 26 Dec.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

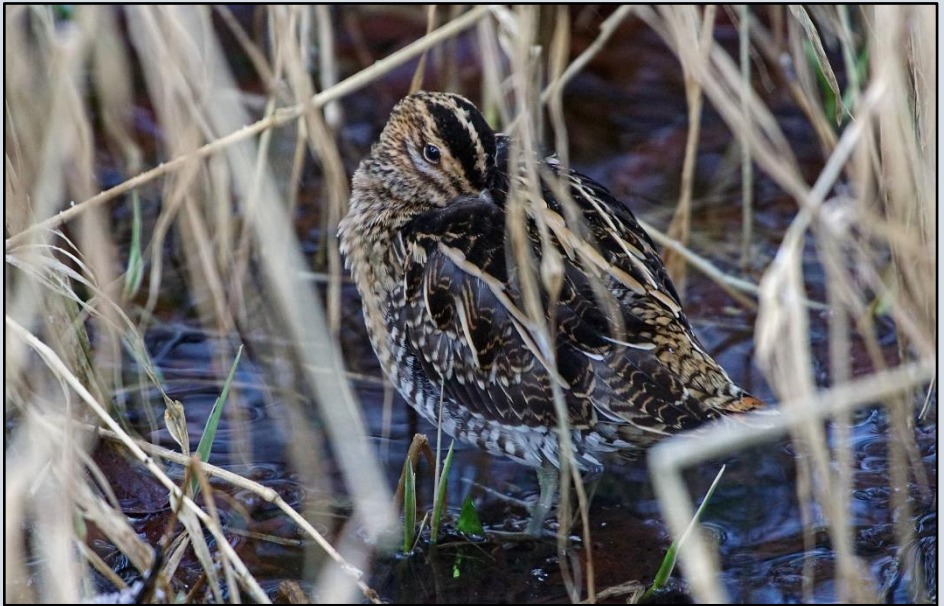
A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is greatly under recorded: most records are from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tìree.

Winter/spring All reports of singles from sites in; Islay (2), Kintyre (1), Mull (1) and Tìree (3) except of 2 at Ballinaby Islay on 16 Jan and 3 at RSPB Oa Reserve Islay on 17 Jan. Most reports by month with 6 (6 birds) in Mar, then 4 in Jan and 3 in Feb. Last report of 1 at Calliach Mull on 17 Mar.

Autumn/winter Very few reports. Only singles noted at Tarbert Jura on 23 Sep, at Torra on 19 Oct, at Kinnabus on 24 Oct, at Loch Gruinart on 6 Nov and at Ardnave on 24 Nov (all Islay) and Cuin, Dervaig Mull on 20 Dec. *Under-reported; all records welcome.*



Jack Snipe *Kintyre* February © Tom Lowe



Common Snipe *Mid-Argyll* January © Jim Dickson

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max. counts of 23 at Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Feb, 19 at Knock *Mull* on 11 Mar and 14 at Caliach *Mull* on 20 Feb & 12 Mar, 14 at Loch Finlaggan *Islay* on 15 Mar and 12 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 11 Mar. Otherwise counts of 1-10 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 25% of BBS squares (10/40) (*cf.* 35% in 2023), with max. count of 3 on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Singing/displaying counts; on *Islay* with 65 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 8+ at RSPB Oa Reserve, 3 on RSPB Oronsay reserve *Colonsay*, on *Tiree* 77 at The Reef wetland compartments on 20 May and 15 Ters at Totronald *Coll*. Few other counts but reported from all areas except (*Jura*). First chicks noted on *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Good nos on *Tiree* from early Sep with max. count of 80 at Hynish on 20 Sep and est. of 250+ on the island. Other high counts of 19 flying south off Calgary Pont *Coll* on 28 Aug and 14 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 30 Oct. Elsewhere, reports of up to 6 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 15 May and end Jul. 14 breeding males present at 6 sites, which reared at least 13 broods. Also noted, a colour-ringed individual ringed as a chick on Fetlar, Shetland in 2022 (also present on Fetlar in 2023),

GREY PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

Autumn In *Kintyre* 1 was at the Machrihanish SBO on 10 Sep. On *Tiree* 2 >W off Aird on 11 Sep and 2 >SW off Hynish on 14 Sep. One was at sea off Eilean Musdile, Lismore *North Argyll* on 3 Oct. On *Mull* 1 was by the roadside nr Achleck on 21 Oct and 1 was at the Sound of Mull off Tobermory on 7 Nov.

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 1-2 weeks earlier than 2023, with singles at Craighouse *Jura* on 21 Mar, mouth of River Ba *Mull* on 31 Mar, Croggan *Mull* on 3 Apr, Ormsary and Loch Feochan (both *Mid-Argyll*) on 7 Apr, Keil, Southend *Kintyre* on 10 Apr, Finart Bay *Cowal* on 11 Apr, and Laggan Bay *Islay* on 12 Apr. Reports widespread by late Apr. Max. counts of 10 at Loch Ba on 9 May, 12 at Gorsten on 8 May and 10 at Fidden on 25 May (all *Mull*) and 11 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 May and 8 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 22.5% of squares (9/40), (*cf.* 21% in 2023), with max. count of 6 at Carraig Fhada *Islay*. Limited data. On *Islay* 25 prs were at RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* 17+ prs in May-Jul, 14 AOTs found on *Colonsay*, and 2 prs at Kilmartin gravel pit *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jun. Max. counts of 20 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 10 Jun and 12 on return passage at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jul and 9 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max. count of 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug. Generally, 1-3 birds at other sites, with 17 reports in Aug and 6 in Sep, with the last, a single, at Salen *Mull* on 27 Oct.



Common Sandpiper *Mid-Argyll* July © Jim Dickson

GREEN SANDPIPER* *Tringa ochropus*

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

Winter/spring Three reported near Linn Dhu House, nr Tobermory *Mull* on 18 Feb.

Autumn One was at Loch Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 15 Aug and 1 at The Reef *Tiree* on 30 Aug.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Widespread at coastal sites, usually of 1-20 birds. Max. winter counts of 134 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Mar, 52 at the Holy Loch (*Cowal*) on 15 Jan, 35 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Jan and 28 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 26 Mar. Little spring passage noted in Apr with 28 at Laggan Bay *Mull* on 14 Apr, 25 at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 19 Apr and 28 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 22 Apr the only notable groups.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. On *Islay* 114 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 13 prs at RSPB Smaull. On *Tiree* 46 prs at The Reef wetland compartments on 12 Jun, and on *Coll* 43 prs on RSPB Totronald reserve. On *Colonsay* there were 9 Ters (exc. Oronsay) and 23 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*. There were 4 Ters. at Crinan Moss *Mid-Argyll*. The first hatched young were noted at Balinaby *Islay* on 15 May and on *Tiree* on 24 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Autumn passage light with 30 at the Add Est/Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug and 30 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 9 Sep the largest flocks noted. Max. winter counts of 112 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Oct and 47 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Dec. Elsewhere, 32 Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 30 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 24 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 18 Nov. Widespread counts of up to 24 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 Cornabus, Oa *Islay* on 6-7 May. One was at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 15 May and 2 there on 31 May. Singles were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 & 31 May.

SPOTTED REDSHANK*

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

Winter One was at the east side of Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Jan [P. Edwards]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 130)*

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 all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (35), *Mid-Argyll* (13) and *North Argyll* (8) and generally of 1-3 birds. Max. counts of 13 at mouth of River Forsa on 14 Jan, 10 at Gorsten on 18 Feb (both *Mull*), 9 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in 8 Mar and 7 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeds in small nos in (*Mull/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Birds noted back in breeding areas and display from late-Apr. Only casual reports of birds received from single sites in *Mid-Argyll* and *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*) and most reports from sites in; *Mull* (20), *Mid-Argyll* (14), and *Islay* (11). First returning bird noted at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 1 Jul, then next at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul then more widespread from late-Jul with generally, 1-5 birds at sites and max. counts of 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Nov, 15 at Loch Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 26 Sep and 11 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Oct. One was at Tarbert *Jura* on 23 Sep. On the mainland, max. counts were 7 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 18 Nov, 6 at Loch Riddon *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 6 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Oct and 5 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19 Oct.

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. Formerly scarce in winter and very scarce inland. Breeding Kittiwakes are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max. counts of 650 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 1 Mar, 250 feeding between *Mull* and *Coll* on 18 Jan, 210 >N in 30 min. Port Mor *Colonsay* on 25 Apr and 180 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 25 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). An improved breeding season: On *Colonsay* at the Dun Tealtaig annual sample cliff there was a count of 40 AON (*cf.* 33 in 2023). At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 136 AONs (*cf.* 131 in 2023), on *Mull* 724 AONs on Lunga, Treshnish Is. (*cf.* 521 in 2023) at end Jun and at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 655 AONs on 14 Jun (*cf.*

686 in 2023) where 940 large chicks on 12 Jul (mean = 1.53 chicks/nest n = 612). No count from Sanda Kintyre.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Max. counts of 1,800 off Milton *Tiree* on 11 Nov, 1,000 off Arinagour *Coll* on 3 Nov, 398 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Dec, 500 at Port na Callich on 22 Aug and 350 at Scallastle Bay on 27 Aug (both *Mull*), 100 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 21 Oct and still 250 between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 19 Dec.

SABINE'S GULL* *Xema sabini*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.

Autumn A juv (1cy) >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 5 Oct [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. Note: A 1cy was present at fish cages opposite Salen Bay, Sound of Mull on the Morvern Highland Region side on 28 Aug to 4 Sep.



Bonaparte's Gull *Mull* September © Theo de Clermont

BONAPARTE'S GULL* *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

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

Autumn A returning adult, first seen on *Mull* in 2022 & 2023 was at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 2-4 Sep [T. de Clermont *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC as a returning bird.

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 except (*Coll/Jura*). Max. counts inc., 350 at Killiechranan *Mull* on 5 & 6 Feb, 147 at Largiemore *Cowal* on 12 Feb, 130 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Mar, 126 at

Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Jan, 112 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Jan and 90 at Kames fish farm, Loch Melford *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan.

Summer/breeding Birds late back at breeding sites on *Tiree* with few settled on 22 Apr: a total found there in May of 307 AONs at 12 sites (*cf.* 171 in 2023) but few fledged young seen; first fledged birds from 20 Jun and first juvs. *Mid-Argyll* noted on 7 Jul at Loch Crinan. On *Islay* 9 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. No other breeding information received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max. counts inc., 1,650 in Loch Fyne, off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll/Cowal* on 26 Dec, 264 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 200 at Lady Rock *Mull* on 3 Oct, 167 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Sep, 98 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 30 Oct and 68 at Blairmore Farm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 3 Oct.

LITTLE GULL* *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

Winter/spring On *Tiree* a second-winter (3cy) was at Sorobaidh Bay on 26 Jan and an adult was at Loch Bhasapol on 4-6 & 28 Mar. On *Mull* a first-winter (2cy) was at Killiechronan on 15 Mar, Knock on 21 & 24 Mar and perhaps a different 2cy at Port an t-Salainn, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 24 Mar.

Autumn/winter A 1cy was at sea off S *Coll* on 28 Oct and presumably the same bird in with feeding Kittiwakes there on 3 Nov, seen off Milton *Tiree* on 3 Nov and again at sea off S *Coll* on 5 Nov. An adult was seen feeding off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL* *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

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

Winter/spring One (age not given) was at the Sound of Mull off Salen *Mull* on 9 Jan and one (age not given) was at Largiemore, N of Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 12 Jan.

Autumn/winter In *Mid-Argyll* an adult was at Loch Gilp on 15 Jul, a 1cy there on 27 Aug & 15 Sep, two 1cy's on 28 Sep, one, prob 3cy/ad, with dark brown legs on 2 Nov and another adult there on 24 Nov. On *Mull* a 1cy was at Scallastle Bay on 27 Aug.

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 1,105 at six sites on *Tiree* on 19 Feb, inc. 350 at Gott Bay and also 450 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 13 Feb, 445 at Toberonochy, Luig *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Feb, 400 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Jan, 400 at Knockan *Mull* on 19 Mar and 300 at High Peninver *Kintyre* on 11 Jan. Elsewhere, other counts inc., 245 at Rhunahaorine on 10 Jan and 240 at Brunerican Bay on 10 Mar (both *Kintyre*), 235 at Dervaig *Mull* on 10 Mar, 150 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 3 Mar and 85 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 7 Jan.

Summer/breeding On *Tiree* 384 AONs (*cf.* 518 in 2023) found at 14 sites, but a poor season with only 68 fledging from 7 colonies (*cf.* 207+ in 2023) and first fledged birds on 25 Jun. On *Islay* 32 AONs at RSPB Smaull, 3 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 4 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve. In *Mid-Argyll* at the Egg Shed, Ardrishaig the colony increased to 120 birds (*cf.* 32 AONs in 2023).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 550 at Ardnave *Islay* on 24 Dec and 470 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 12 Aug. Elsewhere, high counts inc., 320 at Carnain *Islay* on 28 Oct, 300 at

Duart Bay *Mull* on 3 Nov, 200 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 21 Oct, 164 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 10 Sep and 98 at Eilean Glas, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug.

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., 168 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 44 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Jan, 36 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 30 at Fionnphort *Mull* on 24 May and 25 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 23 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Confirmed breeding only reported on (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). At Treshnish Is. *Mull* colony visits; Lunga (6 AOT) and Sgeir an Chaisteil (6 AOT), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (60 ad & many chicks), Sgeir an Fheòir (2 AOT) and Fladda (8 ads). On *Islay*, 3 AONs on RSPB Oa Reserve and in *Mid-Argyll*, 4 AONs noted at Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne. On *Tiree*, 22 AON noted across 7 sites and two vacant sites and first fledglings noted on 5 Jul at Loch a' Phuill.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc., 250 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Sep during grey seal pupping, 125 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Sep, 108 at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 10 Dec, 57 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 24 Aug, 41 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 28 Oct and 40 at the mouth of the River Forsa *Mull* on 8 Dec.



Glaucous Gull *Tiree* March © Jim Dickson

GLAUCOUS GULL* *Larus hyperboreus*

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

Winter/spring On *Islay* a 2cy at Loch Indaal from 2023 until 29 May and a 2cy was at Machir Bay on 3 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* a report of one (age not given) in Oban Bay on 24 May. On *Mull* one

(age not given) was at Tobermory on 13 May. On *Tiree* a juv. from 2023 was at Sorobaidh Bay on 10 Jan and various locations until 17 Mar, this or another juv >W past Vault on 24 Jan. An adult was at Sorobaidh Bay on 27 Feb and a 2cy was at Loch Bhasapol on 15 May.

Autumn/winter A juv. was at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 10 Dec. *Approx. 8 birds over the year, perhaps our lowest number in many years.*

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 In *Cowal* a juv was at The Holy Loch on 4-11 Jan. On *Mull* a juv was at the Sound of Mull opposite Salen on the Morvern (Highland) side on 8-10 Jan and an adult there on 2-4 Feb and unknown if these ventured across the Sound into Argyll waters. On *Tiree* a juv was at Sorobaidh Bay on 29 Jan.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* single juvs (1cy) were at Saligo Bay on 13 Sep, Loch Kinnabus, The Oa on 15 Nov and perhaps same at Laggan Bay on 17 Dec. *Only 4-5 birds over the year which is perhaps our lowest number recorded.*

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. Additional counts through WinGS, with max. of 1,120 at Lingerton *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan, 911 at Holy Loch *Cowal* on 16 Jan, 340 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 325 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 12 Jan, 286 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Feb, 270 at Strath Fm, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 26 Jan, 260 at Loch Charrastaoine *Tiree* on 26 Jan, 200 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 15 Mar and 200 at Toberonochy, Luing on 22 Feb and 200 at Ormsary on 7 Jan (both *Mid-Argyll*).

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On *Islay* at RSPB Oa Reserve 8 AONs and only 1 AON at RSPB Smaull. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* 3 AOTs on Lunga and 1 AOT on Sgeir a' Chaisteil. At least 38 AONs on *Tiree* across four sites in May, although one other site vacant and 53 prs noted at 3 other sites earlier in the spring.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 1,580 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 235 at Blairmore Fm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 3 Oct, 226 at Eilean Glas, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug, 212 at 3 sites on *Tiree* on 10 Dec and 170 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 14 Dec.

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 except (*Jura*) and from sites by month of; Jan (4), Feb (11) and Mar (40). Generally, a scarce bird in winter. In Jan, 1-2 noted in *Cowal* and *Mid-Argyll*, and 9 ads were back at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb. Arrivals in several areas from mid-Feb, with first 2 on *Tiree* on 7 Feb however most arrivals in mid Mar. Higher counts noted inc., 136 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 29 May inc. 2 *intermedius* type birds and 57 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 May.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On *Tiree* 44 AONs across 4 sites in May (43 in 2023) and none at a further 3 sites. 2+ prs noted at Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. First fledged young on *Tiree* noted on 12 Jul. Notable mid-summer sightings include 45 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 22 Jun, 40 at Breachacha *Coll* on 10 Jun and 35 feeding at sea of Calgary Pt *Coll* on 20 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Nos declined from mid-Aug, with passage noted; 54 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep and 28 at Loch a' Phuill and 26 at Heylpol (both *Tiree*) on 19 Aug. Reports only from 5 sites in Nov and 3 in Dec, when singles reported at 2 sites in *Islay* and one in *Kintyre*.

GULL-BILLED TERN* *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A vagrant: Four records; all on *Tiree*, in Sep 2008, Apr 2010, May 2019 and May 2021.

Spring An adult was at Loch na Lathaich, Buinessan *Mull* on 31 May-3 Jun [J. Smallman]. Record under consideration by the BBRC.



Gull-Billed Tern *Mull* May © John Smallman

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; 2 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 2 Apr, 1 at Ardpatrik *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, 1 at Carrabus *Islay* on 5 Apr, 1 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr, with 6 there on 7 Apr, 2 at Bowmore *Islay* on 6 Apr and 12 Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Apr. Higher counts mainly from *Kintyre* inc., 20 at Machrihanish SBO on 27 May and 8 at Carradale Bay on 24 May Apr, and 8 at Toward pt *Cowal*

on 22 Apr. Elsewhere, 4 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Apr and 4 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 22 May, otherwise counts of 1-2 birds.

Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding reports. In summer, 1-2 birds noted from (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*), but no juvs noted until 18 Jul at Eilean Glas, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll*. Max. counts of 9 at Ardminish Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 Jul, 7 at The Green *Tiree* on 26 Jul, and one was seen off *Coll* on 23 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Counts included: 101 at Toward Pt *Cowal* on 12 Aug, with 43 there on 23 Aug, 55 on 8 Sep and 3 on 14 Sep. Elsewhere, singles at Duart Pt *Mull* on 17 Aug, the Oa *Islay* on 22 Aug, 4 around *Tiree* on 2 Sep, 2 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 3 Sep, an ad at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 12 Sep, followed by the last report of 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep.

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/Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). First report was of 1 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 15 Apr. The first on *Islay* was at Kilchoman on 12 May.

Breeding On *Islay* 2 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart, while on *Tiree* a co-ordinated count on 20 Jun found 79 ads at 34 AONs at 9 sites, but a poor breeding season with only 13 fledged young found; apparently none on Gunna *Coll*, however 10 AONs were found during survey on *Coll*, although the colony failed later. On Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay *Colonsay* a single pair reared 1 young.

Autumn The last noted were 15 at Eilean Deadh-bhreac *Coll* on 13 Jul, 7 at Aird *Tiree* on 18 Jul and 12 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Jul. A c/r bird at Gott Bay *Tiree* had been ringed as a chick in Co. Wicklow on 7 July 2014.

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 (*Cowal/Jura*). First area reports were of singles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Apr and Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 9 Apr, then 2 at The Strand *Colonsay* and 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 May, becoming more widespread in the following week. Max. count of 17 at Fishnish Bay *Mull* on 30 May and 11 at Eilean Musdile, Lismore *North Argyll* on 24 May.

Summer/breeding Breeds on offshore islands for which little data. 2 prs nested amongst gull colony at Heanish *Tiree* but no young reared. A pr at Linne Mhuirich *Mid-Argyll* reared 2 yng and fledged young seen at Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Jul. Max. counts of 30 at A' Chroic *Coll* on 19 Jun and 17 at Staffa *Mull* on 2 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*), with few after mid-Aug. Later max. counts of 40 at Glas Eileanan, Sound of Mull on 3 Aug and 20 at Scallastle Bay on 27 Aug (both *Mull*). The last birds were a single at Balephuill *Tiree* and 2 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 22 Sep.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

AMBER LIST A summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: *Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree*. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabirds Count found 1,549 pairs in Argyll & Bute (a decline of 17% since Seabird 2000).

Spring Reports from all areas except (Cowl/North Argyll). First reports; an early bird at Vaul Tiree on 8 Apr, followed by singles at Balure of Shian North Argyll on 12 Apr and Balephuill Tiree on 21 Apr, then 4 at Port Charlotte Islay on 22 Apr and 2 at West Loch Tarbert Kintyre/Mid-Argyll on 23 Apr.

Summer/breeding On Tiree 125 young fledged from 240 AON at 17 sites around the island, with fledged young noted from 1 Jul. 50 ind. noted on Coll on 4 Jul with good fledging reported, 45 pr bred on Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay Colonsay and 264 nests (with 750-800 ind.) at Sgeirean na Guisach, Treshnish Is Mull. On Islay 5 AON on RSPB Gruinart Reserve. 120 noted at Eilean Musdile, Lismore North Argyll on 23 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowl/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll). Still quite a few birds around in late-Aug; 221 (192 juvs.) at Gott and Sorobaidh Bays Tiree on 23 Aug and 100 at Airne na Sgeire Coll on 31 Aug, but only small nos after mid-Sep, with the last, singles, on Colonsay on 28 Sep and off Hynish Tiree on 6 Oct.



Great Skuas Coll July © Jim Dickson

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/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First reports of 1 at Salum Tiree on 8 Apr, 2 on Oronsay Colonsay on 11 Apr, and singles at Staffa

Mull on 19 May and off Insh Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May. Max. count of 5 at Lunga, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 11 & 12 May (cf. a max. of 10 in 2023).

Summer/breeding Limited data. At RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* 3 AOT but no young reared, and also 1 Ter on *Colonsay*. On Treshnish Is *Mull*, 1 AOT on Lunga and 1 AOT on Fladda. No AOTs on *Tiree*. No breeding reports from (*Coll/Islay*). 10 were noted at sea west of *Coll* on 20 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Passage birds noted from 13 Aug when 1 at The Oa *Islay*. Birds remained scarce, fewer than 2023, with max. counts of 11 at Lunga, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 18 Aug and 6 around *Tiree* on 31 Aug. Last reports were of 3 off Hynish on 6 Oct and 3 >W in 1 hr at Aird on 12 Oct (both *Tiree*).

POMARINE SKUA* *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Spring/summer One was reported from the Oban to Craignure ferry *Mid-Argyll/Mull* on 8 Jun.

Autumn/winter One >S past Caliach Point *Mull* on 8 Jul, an imm >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Sep, one was reported from Oban to Craignure ferry *Mid-Argyll/Mull* on 10 Oct, a sub-adult was off The Cairns of Coll *Coll* on 30 Oct and an imm was off Milton *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 The first reported were 3 at Caliach *Mull* on 21 Apr, then a further 2 birds off W *Mull* on 9 May and 1 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 12 May. Thereafter, 1-5 reported regularly in May from the Treshnish Is. and off Calgary & Caliach Point *Mull*, and around *Coll* and *Tiree*. One was at Carsaig Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May.

Breeding On *Coll* no breeding census, but 2 ads present in May, up to 4 ads in early Jun and 5 on 23 Jul. A pr held Ter on *Tiree* from May - Jul. No reports from *Jura*, but singles, at least two different birds, were seen on 8 different dates in Jun on *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Sightings increased from mid-Aug with 5 off the Cairns of Coll *Coll* and 3 off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 17 Aug, singles of Ardmore Is on 21 Aug and The Oa on 22 Aug (both *Islay*), 6 off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 1 Sep, 1-2 seen daily at Loch Gruinart *Islay* between 8-11 Sep & 27 Sep, 1 on *Colonsay* on 28 Sep, 4 off Milton on 4 Oct and 4 off Hynish on 6 Oct (both *Tiree*), with other sightings around *Coll/Mull/Tiree* of 1-2 birds until the last singles off Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Nov and juvs off Nevada Pt *Coll* on 3 Nov and off Milton *Tiree* on 4 Nov.

LITTLE AUK* *Alle alle*

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

Winter/spring Only two reports of singles, seen from Port Ann > NE up Loch Fyne between Glas Eilean & Otter Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan and at Caolas *Tiree* on 12 Apr.

Autumn/winter A long-dead bird found at Ardnoe Point *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Sep.

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 and bays 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 800 feeding off NE *Coll* on 26 Feb, 500 from Oban-Colonsay ferry on 19 Apr, 300 off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 7 Apr, and 200 off Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 24 Jan. Birds appearing back at nesting cliffs from early Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*, with most colonies reporting a decline in numbers, except on *Tiree*. On *Colonsay* at the Dun Tealtaig annual sample cliff there was a count of 105.2 ind. (n=5 counts) (cf. 118.4 in 2023). No counts from Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. On *Islay* 127 ads on cliffs at RSPB Oa Reserve in Jun (cf. 150 in 2023). At Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with a combined total of 13,828 ads. (cf. 14,762 in 2023) (TIARG). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* a max. of 3,806 on 14 Jun (cf. max. of 3,125 in 2023) (per J. Bowler RSPB).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*); few large counts and max. counts of 400 between *Mull* - *Tiree* on 9 Aug, 205 from the *Tiree* to Barra ferry on 14 Aug and 162 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, and, then generally low counts of 1-80 birds until the end of the year.



Common Guillemots *Mull* July © Jim Dickson



Razorbills *Mull* July © Steve Carter

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, counts of 1-12 birds noted. Max. counts away from breeding colonies of 300 feeding off NE *Coll* on 26 Feb, 200 between *Tiree* & *Mull* on 18 Jan and 200 off Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 24 Jan.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* at Uragaig annual sample study area 46 birds (n=5) there in Jun (cf. 46 in 2023). On *Islay* at RSPB Oa Reserve a count of 88 ads in Jun and 16 ads at RSPB Smaull. No population count from *Sanda Is. Kintyre*.

On *Mull* at Treshnish Is. a total of 1,204 birds on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil at end of Jun (cf. 914 in 2023). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* max. count of 363 on 12 Jul, many with mid-sized chicks. **Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Fewer high counts this year with 500 off Milton *Tiree* on 3 & 18 Nov the max. noted, with 200 still between *Tiree* & *Mull* on 19 Dec. At Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* 100+ were noted on 11 Oct and 73 there on 19 Oct. Small numbers remained at sea throughout the Argyll area with 40 noted from the Oban-Colonsay ferry on 27 Nov and 200 between *Tiree* and *Mull* on 19 Dec.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*

AMBER LIST *A widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs. Black Guillemot is a protected feature of Clyde Sea Sill MPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max. counts included 49 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Jan, 22 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 11 Mar, 15 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Jan and 15 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Apr.

Summer/breeding Sea counts ideally in Apr are a good indication of breeding nos. (also see counts above). 14 in dawn count at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 11 Apr, 20 at Staffa and 25 at Lunga, Treshnish is. (both *Mull*) on 20 May and 20 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May. No survey at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*, but 34 at Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 20 Jul, 30 on *Coll* on 15 Jul, 144 at Sanda *Kintyre* on 23 Apr and 50 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 25 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max. counts of 71 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Sep, 41 N of *Tiree* on 14 Aug and 12 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19 Oct.



Puffin Mull July © Steve Carter

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 off NE *Coll* on 26 Feb was the only early report, with 100+ reported back at Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 1 Apr. Birds noted more frequently from 12 Apr off (*Coll/Mull/Tiree*) and larger counts inc., 220 on Staffa *Mull* on 27 Apr and 300 Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 2 May, rising to 2,500 on 24 May. Three at the Oa on 20 Apr was the only report from *Islay*, small numbers also reported from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*) e.g. 3 off St Catherine's *Cowal* on 13 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data: present, with no count at Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. None were seen during surveys at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 16 May and 14 Jun. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* an est. of 6,452 AOBs on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (cf. 5,057 in 2023) (TIARG). At Staffa *Mull* 300 ind. noted on 9 & 11 Jun.

Autumn/winter Most reports were of 1-2 birds off (*Coll/Islay/Mull/Tiree*) however still 2,000 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 1 Aug. Last reports were of 2 >SW at Hynish *Tiree* on 27 Aug, 8 off *Coll* on 28 Aug and one off Salen *Mull* on 10 Sep.



Red-throated Diver *Mull* July © 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 28 at Loch Scridain (inner) *Mull* on 11 Jan, 22 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Feb, 14 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Jan, 12 at Rubha na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May, 12 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 21 Apr and 10 at Urvaig *Tiree* on 29 Jan.

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

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max. counts of 38 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Oct, 32 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Oct, 28 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Nov, 23 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 2 Oct and 21 off Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec.

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/Cowal/Jura). Few large counts with max. of 26 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan. Records of note elsewhere inc., 6 at Port Rìgh on 24 Jan and 6 at Carradale Bay on 4 May (both *Kintyre*), 5 at Loch Buie on 6 & 15 Jan and 5 at Traigh na Cille on 4 May (both *Mull*).

Breeding Evidence of likely breeding from 1+ site in *Mid-Argyll* and 1+ site in *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Max. counts of 16 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre/Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 12 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Sep, 8 at Loch Caolisport on 27 Dec and 8 off Ardrishaig on 18 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*), 6 at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 10 Aug and 6 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 14 Nov. Most counts of 1-5 birds, inc. singles at Kilmun on 6 Sep and Kilbride Bay on 21 Sep (both *Cowal*).

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 and the *Tiree* coast. Max. counts on *Mull* with 108 at Loch na Keal on 8 Apr and 104 on 24 Mar, 69 at Loch Scridain on 15 Jan, and 44 in the Sound of *Mull* on 15 Jan. Elsewhere, higher counts from other sites; 97 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 87 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jan, 55 off Crossapol *Tiree* on 7 Jan, 32 off SE *Colonsay* on 28 Apr, and 15 at Loch Indaal on 24 Feb and 15 at Claggain Bay on 12 May (both *Islay*).

Summer Reports from all areas Jun - Aug except (*Cowal/Colonsay/Islay/North Argyll*). Reports of 1-4 birds from coastal sites, with 10 at Sorobaidh Bay on 7 Jul and 7 at Traigh Bhagh on 12 Jun (both *Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Still 1-4 birds at several sites in early Sep, with 15 at Skipness *Kintyre* on 18 Sep and nos increased across sites during Oct. Max. counts of 91 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 9 & 14 Dec, 64 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, 60 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 29 Oct, 55 at Loch Scridain & Loch Beg *Mull* on 11 Nov, 31 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 14 Dec, 24 off *Tiree* on 14 Dec and 11 at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 25 Oct.

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 12 May and 6 Oct from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). First report was 1 at Lunga, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 12 May. A persistent feeding

group of *ca.* 200 was found off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 14-15 Jun, with 60 still there on 2 Jul. On a pelagic off W *Coll ca.* 100 were attracted to chum on 20 Jul and 46 were noted from *Tiree* – Barra ferry on 14 Aug and 50 on this crossing on 28 Aug. On *Tiree* 23 >SW in 1 hr at Hynish on 27 Aug, with regular reports of small numbers around (*Coll/Mull/Tiree*). Elsewhere, 10 feeding at sea off Westport *Kintyre* on 27 Jul and 7 off *Jura* on 22 Jul and counts of 1-3 from *Islay* and ferries to *Colonsay* and *Islay*. Last reports of 3 >SW at West Hynish *Tiree* on 14 Sep, and singles off *Iona Mull* on 15 Sep and off Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Oct.

Breeding A predated bird was found on Sanda Is. *Kintyre* inc. on 27 Jul. No census was conducted on Treshnish Is. *Mull* but birds present, and limited ringing carried out with 458 birds caught inc. 74 retraps (*TIARG*).



Storm Petrel Mull July © Jim Dickson

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.

Winter One was reported at Balure, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 13 Jan.

Summer One at sea S of Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* 1 >W off *Aird* on 11 Sep, 3 >SW off Hynish and another 3 >SW there later, both on 14 Sep.

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 No records in Jan, with small nos. ashore on warmer days in Feb-Mar on *Tiree* near breeding colonies and a max. count of 400 at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on 22 Feb. Reports of 1-5 from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull).

Spring/breeding Breeding reports received from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). At Treshnish Is. Mull 193 AOS were found at Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil. Elsewhere, 655 AOS at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Jun (111% up on 2023), in *Kintyre* no count at Sanda Is, 58 AOS at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun, 28 AOS at RSPB Smaull *Islay* and 126 AOS at Urugaig sample cliff *Colonsay* in Jun (8% down on 2023). On *Coll* 33 AOS noted at Totronald.

Autumn/winter Only records were from (Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max. counts; 200 back at cliffs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 11 Nov, 64 >W in 1 hr at Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep and 50 still at Lunga, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 1 Aug. Elsewhere, max. counts of 19 at the Oa on 17 Dec and 15 at Frenchman's Rocks on 10 Sep (both *Islay*).



Fulmar *Mull* July © Steve Carter

CORY'S SHEARWATER* *Calonectris borealis*

A rare passage migrant. Nine records, mostly in Aug or Sep. Last reports were off Tiree in Aug 2005 & Islay in 2023.

Autumn Singles were off Milton *Tiree* with other shearwaters on 30 Aug & 12 Oct [J. Bowler]. Records are under consideration by the SBRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 130).

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 Higher numbers than average this autumn with summary of higher counts: Around Coll; 18 on 30 Aug, 100 off Cairns of Coll on 14 Oct, 40 there on 17 Oct, 20 on 28 Oct, 300 at Hawes Bank (off NW Coll) on 4 Nov and 263 there on 12 Nov with last report of 2 on 7 Nov. Off Islay; 2 past Frenchman's Rock's on 22 Aug. Off NW Mull; first 4 between Mull & Coll on 7 Aug, 100+ off Treshnish Is. on 29 Aug, also 100 off Lunga, as seen from *Tiree*, on 30 Sep. Off *Tiree*; 11 off Gunna Sound on 28 Aug, 140 off Milton on 30 Aug, 67 > SW Hynish on 16 Sep, 50 off Gunna Sound on 30 Sep, 40-50 off Hough Bay on 3 Oct, 10 off Milton on 4 Oct, 7 off Hynish on 6 Oct and the last 2 off Milton on 3 Nov.



Great Shearwaters (and a Sooty Shearwater) Coll November © Jim Dickson

GREAT SHEARWATER* *Ardenna gravis*

A rare passage migrant: Mostly in autumn with last reports from Sep 2007.

Autumn A massive influx recorded in waters around Coll, *Tiree* and off NW Mull towards Ardnamurchan, Highland. Significant numbers occurred in British waters and to a lesser extent in Scottish waters from late summer to mid-Nov. Argyll reports were first noted on 30 Aug and last group was seen on 12 Nov and peaked at around 6,000 birds on 4 Nov around Hawes Bank off N Coll, however presumably some remained longer as no further 'at sea' recording.

A summary of the main counts received: First reports were 33+ at sea from the Sea Life Mull (SLM) vessel, between Coll & Treshnish Is Mull and 27 from Milton *Tiree* [J. Bowler] on 30 Aug.

A gap in sightings after 1 Sep then 10+ off Gunna Sound *Coll* on 30 Sep, 1,000+ between NE *Coll* & Rum, Highland on 12 Oct, 600+ there on 14 Oct, 1,000+ there on 31 Oct, 600 between *Coll* and Gunna Sound on 3 Nov, 5,700+ in total from S Gunna Sound *Tiree* & around Hawes Bank, N *Coll* on 4 Nov and last report of 815+ around Hawes Bank N *Coll* on 12 Nov. *All reports have been accepted by the ABRC. Many thanks to the many fortunate observers that sent in reports and include:* [SLM crew and volunteers, J. Bowler, T. de Clermont, C. Davies, J. Dickson, S. Gibson, R. Grove, J. Hall, J. Harris, K. Hoey, D. Jardine, C. McNerny, E. Miles, H. Revell, I. Ricketts, A. Robinson, A. Russell, A. Tait, J. Waldie].

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/North Argyll*). First reports were of 2 in the outer Sound of Mull *Mull* on 9 Mar, then 1 off Langanmull *Mull* on 20 Mar. Four were off Port Ellen *Islay* on 29 Mar, 1 off Milton *Tiree* on 2 Apr and 1 between *Islay* and *Colonsay* on 3 Apr. Thereafter many records from *Coll/Mull/Tiree*, elsewhere, 5,000 reported from *Islay* ferry on 15 Jun and 1,200 off the Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jun.

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. 10 ads were ringed there (TIARG), and 3 nestlings were ringed on Sanda *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/North Argyll*). Higher counts inc.; a remarkable passage of 28,350 >W in 1 hr off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep, with 3,100 >W there in 1 hr on 11 Sep. 4,000 – 5,000 were feeding off Milton *Tiree* on 28 Aug and 1,500 were still off Hynish *Tiree* on 29 Sep. Elsewhere, ca 3,500 were off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 22 Aug, 816 >S in 2 hrs at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 22 Aug and 200 off Iona *Mull* on 3 Oct. Small numbers remained with other shearwaters into late Oct/Nov and the last report was of 2 at sea off Caliach Pt *Mull* on the late date of 12 Nov.

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 One in a raft of 500 Manx Shearwaters off SE *Tiree* on 8 Aug [J. Bowler]. *Record was 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. Smalls nos. of ads noted off *Coll*, *Kintyre*, *Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree* in Jan-Feb with a max. of 20 off Milton *Tiree* on 2 Jan. More reports in Mar with higher numbers off *Kintyre*; 22 off Machrihanish SBO on 10 Mar and 30 at Carskey Bay on 18 Mar. Thereafter numbers remained modest, with max. counts of 48 off Cove Point *Kintyre* on 5 May and 40 off Hynish *Tiree* on 28 May.

Summer Good numbers were seen through Jun & Jul, with similar nos to 2023 with max. counts of 200 from Oban – *Colonsay* ferry on 30 Jun and 200 off Keils *Jura* on 30 Jul.

Autumn/winter Max. counts of 260 >W in 1 hr off Aird *Tiree* on 10 Sep, 234 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 15 Sep, 185 >SW in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 27 Aug, 100 at Port na Caliach *Mull* on 22 Aug and 100 at Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 12 Oct. Reports decreased after mid-Nov and only three reports in during Dec, from *Kintyre*, *Tiree* and 3 off Frenchman's Rock *Islay* on 31 Dec.



Gannet *Kintyre* June © Jo Goudie

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; 20 at Connel *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 18 at Craigens, Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Mar, 12 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 4 Jan, 12 at Strath of Appin *North Argyll* on 26 May, 10 at Balephetrish Bay on 6 Mar, 10 at Hough Bay on 12 Mar (both *Tiree*) and 10 at Barnacarry Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May.

Summer/breeding 28 AONs on Glas Eilean, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jun and 2 AONs Pigs Paradise *Colonsay* were the only breeding records received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-6 birds. Max. area counts inc. 24 between Craignure & Duart *Mull* on 22 Aug, 20 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 17 Oct, 20 at West Tarbert *Kintyre* on 18 Nov, 19 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov and 10 at Blairmore Farm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 3 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 700 at Calaich *Mull* on 21 Apr, 400 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 17 Apr, 360 at Soa *Tiree* on 26 Feb and 102 at Ardnave Pt *Islay* on 5 Feb.
Summer/breeding Breeding counts inc., on *Islay*, 1 AON at RSPB Smaulh Reserve and 25 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve, 32 AONs on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun. On *Colonsay* 44 AONs at Urugaig and 26 AONs at Pigs Paradise sample site (cf. 23 in 2023). In *Kintyre*, no count at Sanda Is. 72 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 16 May (on 12 Jul mean brood = 1.71 (n=17)), declining to 63 AONs on 12 Jul and 12 AON at Happy Valley *Tiree* (J. Bowler, RSPB). 59 AONs noted at Totronald *Coll.* On Treshnish Is. *Mull* a significant decline in numbers with 126 AONs found on Lunga & Sgeir a Chaisteil (cf. 490 in 2023), with breeding also confirmed on Fladda (no count) and Sgeir an Eirionnaich. In *Mid-Argyll* 10 AONs at Glas Eilean Loch Fyne on 26 Jun.
Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc. 602 at Eag na Moile *Coll* on 17 Aug, 600 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Sep, 500 at Traigh Bhi on 21 Sep and 450 in Gunna Sound on 14 Aug (both *Tiree*), 177 at Ardnave Pt *Islay* on 3 Nov and 128 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Nov.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

A vagrant: Fifteen records of up to 23 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, one on Islay on 11-15 Sep 2020 and two on Luing then at Ardforn Mid-Argyll in Oct 2023.

Winter/spring One was at Ard Luing, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr [P. Malcolm, C. Davies, K. Rogers *et al*] also rumours of it perhaps being around for some time (weeks?) before and after this date and could even relate to it being one of two birds present on Luing the previous Oct. *Report for 12 Apr was accepted by the ABRC.*

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (15) and *Mull* (8). Max. counts of 16 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Jan, 15 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Jan, 11 at S Oronsay *Colonsay* on 31 Jan and 10 at Scallastle *Mull* on 14 Jan.

Summer/breeding Data received from sites in; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (5), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *North Argyll* (2). Sites with more than 10 AON's inc. 23 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, 16 at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll* and 20 at Ballachuan, Seil *Mid-Argyll*. On *Colonsay* a total of 15 AONs at five sites and 9 AONs at RSPB Gruinart *Islay*. Post breeding counts of 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Jun and 9 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max. counts of 19 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 17 Nov, 18 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 22 Sep. 16 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19 Oct and 15 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Nov. Counts of 9-10 birds at sites in *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *North Argyll* (2).

CATTLE EGRET* *Bubulcus ibis*

RBBP A rare visitor. Big increase in numbers and expanding breeding range in England and more occurrences in Scotland. Seven 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, one near Stewarton Kintyre on 13 Apr 2022 and one at Balvicar Mid-Argyll on 12-13 Oct 2023.

Autumn One was at The Glebe, Scarinish Tiree on 4 Oct [J. Bowler, T. de Clermont, J. Dickson et al]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. Follows a recent pattern of occurrences in late autumn.



Cattle Egret Tiree October © Jim Dickson

GREAT WHITE EGRET* *Ardea alba*

RBBP A rare visitor. 19 or 20 records between 1986 and 2023. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.

Spring A 2cy+ was at Fairy Isles, Loch Sween Mid-Argyll on 16-17 May [T. Girling] and a 2cy+ was at South Pier, Isle of Gigha Kintyre on 7 Jun [T. Salmeron, C. Cross].

Autumn All reports of birds in non-breeding plumage: On Islay a flock of 13 >NNE between Ardnave and Nave Is. on 20 Sep [C. & J. McKay], 2 were at RSPB Loch Guinart Floods Islay on 21 Sep [L. Kingston, P. Roberts]. In Mid-Argyll 1 was at Blackmill Bay, Luing on 21 Sep [R. Lightfoot], 1 was at Clachan Bridge, Seil on 28 Sep [S. Fenwick] and this or another reported at

Loch Craignish on 28 Sep, 1 was at Craobh Haven on 5 Oct [M. Hampton], 1 was at the Add Estuary on 9 Nov [A. Paton] and later at Loch Gilp on 11 Nov [L. Sweeney] and 2 at Loch Beag nr Loch Craignish on 19 Nov [P. Price]. In *Cowal* 2 were at Ardachuple, Loch Riddon on 6 Oct [S. Kelly] and 1 was at Cairndow on 28 Oct then Inverfyne/Clachan on 29 Oct [D. Jardine, J. Dickson]. Last report was 1 at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 3 Dec [D. Dinsley]. It appears likely that the *Mid-Argyll* & *Cowal* records may all relate to just two mobile birds. *All reports were accepted by the ABRC.*



Little Egret *Islay* July © David Dinsley

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

A scarce but increasing 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 Reported from sites in: *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *North Argyll* (2) and on *Tiree*. Area max. total counts on same day; *Cowal* (4) *Islay* (6) *Kintyre* (3) *Mid-Argyll* (5), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (2). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however perhaps 16-20 birds present. Most sites only recorded 1-2 birds however max. counts of 6 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* between 17 Feb - 5 Apr and 5 at Achnamara *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May, with 4 nearby in *Mid-Argyll* at both the Add Estuary between 10 Feb - 12 Apr and at Ulva Lagoons on 31 Mar. Away from core areas 1 was at sites on *Tiree* between 10 Jan-22 Apr with 2 together present on 20 Mar.

Summer No evidence of breeding and sightings reduced during Apr. In Jun three reports of singles from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (3) and *Cowal* (1). First report of a juv was 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* with 2 ads on 14 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reported from sites in: *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (6), *Kintyre* (12), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (1). Area max. total counts on same day; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (13), *Kintyre* (14), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (2). Total numbers uncertain however at least 35 present and possibly as many as 45-50 birds involved. Max. counts of 14 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 14 at Ardfern, Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov, 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Oct and 9 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep. Away from core areas 2 were at Craignure *Mull* on 23 Jul then singles at several sites on *Mull* with perhaps only 2 birds involved 30 Sep - 17 Dec and singles were on *Tiree* on 17-22 Oct and 24-27 Nov with both birds moribund on the later dates.

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/Tiree*). First arrivals slightly later with singles in Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, then Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Mar and in *Cowal* on 29 Mar, becoming more widespread in mainland Argyll from early Apr.

Breeding Of the 39 sites checked, nesting attempted at 17 sites and a single bird was present at another. The outcome was unknown at 3 sites, 7 sites failed, at which 2, interaction with White-tailed Eagles may have been a factor, and, 7 prs were successful with 12 large young raised (ARSG). On *Islay* 1-2 birds noted 16 Apr - 17 Sep and on *Mull* 1-2 birds noted 12 Apr - 6 Sep but no evidence of breeding (ARSG). One was at Eilean an Easbuig *Jura* on 11 Jul.

Autumn Most birds had departed by late Aug to early Sep. At least one lingered in the Add Est. / Loch Gilp area *Mid-Argyll* in late Sep with occasional sightings to 9 Nov.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

RBBP *A scarce, but widespread, resident breeding species, thought to be in the region of 120 to 130 pairs. Immatures tend to wander and may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.*

All year Reports from all areas. All reports of 1-3 birds, except two reports of five birds and five reports of four birds together on *Mull*. An ad. was at Ben Hynish *Tiree* on 1 & 26 Apr.

Breeding Of the 89 sites checked, 77 sites were occupied by pairs or single birds. A total of 21 large young were found in 71 sites where the outcome of breeding was known to the large young stage, 13+ of which fledged (ARSG).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Spring An adult was at Tir an Oig Quarry, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar [D. Jardine]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 130).

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 and many more in Sep & Oct. Sightings all of 1-2 birds.

Breeding Thought to be in the region of 500 to 1,000 prs. Of the 15 sites checked, 8 had prs and egg-laying was confirmed at 6 sites; two young fledged at one site and 3+ at another, the outcome was not established at the others (ARSG).

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 On Tiree an adult female was at Balephuill & flew to Balemartine on 9 Apr.

Autumn On Islay a female was at Gruinart on 21 & 28 Jul and perhaps same bird at Loch Gorm on 28 Aug, and a male at Loch na Gabhar, nr Cornabus on 9 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 except (North Argyll). Fewer reports during Jul and Aug. Most reports from Islay then Colonsay and generally of 1-4 birds at sites. Max. counts of 5 at Loch Gorm Islay on 16 Aug and 5 on Oronsay Colonsay on 26 Sep. A min. of 6 birds on Tiree in Oct.

Breeding Thought to be over 100 prs. During breeding season 41 sites were checked, 18 were occupied by pairs (plus 4 sites with single birds), 15 prs laid eggs and 28+ large / fledged young were found (cf. 71+ fledged in 2023 and 9+ in 2022) (ARSG).



Red Kite Mid-Argyll October © James Lehmann

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-established birds.

Winter/spring Singles were at Lephonstrath Bridge Kintyre on 3 Jan, at Salachary, nr head of L. Craignish Mid-Argyll on 25 Jan, 2 at The Rest & Be Thankful Cowal on 27 Jan, at Ballachuan,

Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, at Tobermory *Mull* on 6 Apr, at Whitehouse *Kintyre* on 20 May, at The Oa *Islay* on 21 May, and at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jun.

Autumn/winter Singles were at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 3 Sep, 2 at the Add Est/Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep, at Brackley *Kintyre* on 25 Sep, at Dervaig and nearby *Mull* between 3-9 Oct, and perhaps same at Loch Scridan and nearby *Mull* between 22 Oct - 23 Nov, and 2 (ad & 1cy) were at Barsloisnoch & Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Oct.



White-tailed Eagles *Tiree* October © Theo de Clermont

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 of 12 at Coullabus *Islay* on 12 Oct, 7 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Aug, 6 on *Jura* on 12 Oct, 6 on *Tiree* on 4 Apr and 6 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 2 Jul & 5 Sep.

Breeding Monitoring effort declined with limited information from *Mull*. 32 occupied Tere found, where 22 prs laid eggs and 18 prs fledged a min of 22 young (outcome unknown at one nest). Overall breeding performance improved slightly to 0.92 chicks reared per occupied territory (where outcome known) (cf. 0.67 in 2023). Monitoring in 2024 was based more on the younger expanding population in (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*) and does not include details from several established pairs on *Mull* (ARSG).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

A resident breeding bird: common in all areas and the most abundant raptor in Argyll, thought to be between 1,500 to 2,000 pairs.

All year Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites, with fewer larger counts; notably 8 on Lismore *North Argyll* on 6 Jan, 8 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan, 7 at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 4 Mar and 7 at Bunnahabhainn *Islay* on 16 Sep.

Breeding BBS: noted in 22.5% of BBS squares (9/40) (*cf.* 32% in 2023). Reports from all areas. Of the 80 sites checked, 33 sites were occupied with breeding proven at 19; three sites failed, 10 were successful and fledged a min of 14 young and the outcome was unknown at the remainder (ARSG).



Barn Owl Kintyre May © Neil Brown

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

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

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/North Argyll). 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. Three were at Bridgend Bay Islay on 28 Dec. Singles on Tiree at Balephuill on 12 Jan, at Hough in mid-Feb, and on Jura at Keills on 22 July and N Craighouse on 18 Sep. Three birds were caught during winter ringing in Jan-Mar in Kintyre N of Campbeltown, and one in Scammadale (Mid-Argyll) (ARSG). During Sep-Dec, 3 were caught N of Campbeltown in Kintyre (ARSG).

Breeding Breeding performance declined in 2024 following a crash in the vole population. Of the 91 sites checked (cf. 93 in 2023) only 44% were occupied (cf. 71% in 2023) and the mean young per successful nest fell to 2.05 (cf. 4.13 in 2023) (ARSG).



Long-eared & Short-eared Owls Kintyre January © Neil Brown

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 Only two reports; singles at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr and Bagh Crossapol *Mull* on 26 Apr. Winter ringing caught one bird during Jan-Mar in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown (ARSG).

Summer/breeding On *Colonsay* none were found in 6 sites checked. Fledged young / breeding was noted on *Kerrera Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 23 & 25 Jul and at the Glebe on 22 Oct. Singles at Loch Skerrols on 26 Jun and at Claddach on 16 Aug (both *Islay*) were the only other reports. One was caught in winter ringing during Sep-Dec in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown in Sep-Dec (ARSG).

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/North Argyll*). Most reports of 1-2 birds came from sites on *Mull* (5) and max. counts of 10 on *Mull* on 21 Apr, 4 at Creag a' Chromain *Mull* on 10 May, 4 at Ardmenish *Jura* on 29 Mar and 3 at Barr Glen *Kintyre* on 5 Mar. Winter ringing in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown caught two during Jan-Mar (ARSG).

Summer/breeding An 'average' year, nine sites were checked: three occupied sites were found (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Jura/Mull*). At least one young fledged giving 1.00+ young/successful nest (*cf.* 3.33 in 2023); one site failed and the outcome was unknown at the other site (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) with max. count of 2 at Aros Moss *Kintyre* on 26 Nov. One was caught during winter owl ringing *N* of Campbeltown *Kintyre* in Sep-Dec (ARSG).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

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

All year Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/North Argyll/Tiree*). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Sgriob-ruadh *Mull* on 13 May.

Breeding While occupancy did not decline in response to the falling vole population, there was a reduction in productivity. Of the 45 sites checked 14 sites were occupied by prs (31%, *cf.* 29% in 2023). The mean young per successful nest was 1.67 (*cf.* 2.17 in 2023) (ARSG).

HOOPOE* *Upupa epops*

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

Spring One was in paddocks behind Coll Medical Practice, Arinagour *Coll* on 2 Apr and one was in a garden at Crannich, W of Aros *Mull* on 8 May.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. Likely breeds at several suitable locations across Argyll. The last proven breeding record was in Cowal in 2018.

Winter/spring Reports of singles from sites in: *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (6) and *North Argyll* (1). Most frequent sightings came from the Holy Loch *Cowal*, around Head of Loch Indaal and River Sorn *Islay* and at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding During Apr, May & Jun single birds were noted in suitable breeding areas at Upper Glen Massan *Cowal*, Bridgend and Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and at Dervaig *Mull* where two were noted in Jun and a male was with 2 juvs there on 30 Jun which appears to be the first breeding record for *Mull* and perhaps the Hebrides.

Autumn/winter Reports of singles from sites in; *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9) *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (1). Most reports in *Cowal* were from around the Holy Loch area however one was at Ardyne SW *Cowal*. On *Islay* 2 were at Bridgend on 19 Oct and 5 Nov, and on *Mull* 2 were at Dervaig on 24 Aug and 2 Oct.

BEE-EATER* *Merops apiaster*

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

Spring An adult flew south over Carnan Mor, Balephuill Tìree on 3 Jun [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Mid-Argyll* August © Jim Dickson

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

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

Winter/spring Reports from sites in; Cowal (18), Islay (6), Jura (2), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (35), Mull (27), North Argyll (10). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Inverawe Ho. Mid-Argyll on 5 Jan. Drumming heard in mild weather on 5 Jan, but more generally from late Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 20% of squares (8/40) (cf. 21% in 2023), with max. count of 3 at Rhudle (Mid-Argyll). First fledged young noted at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 15 Jun and at Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 18 Jun. Breeding activity also reported at Arrochar Cowal, Lephénstrath Kintyre, Kerrera Mid-Argyll and Benderloch North Argyll. *Breeding under reported.*

Autumn/winter Reports by sites from; Cowal (3), Islay (2), Mid-Argyll (13), Mull (13) and North Argyll (3) mainly of 1-2 birds, but 4 at Airds, Taynuilt Mid-Argyll on 3 Sep. In very mild weather one was drumming at Bonawe Furnace, Taynuilt Mid-Argyll on 28 Dec.

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 single record of a bird heard at Glenan, nr Portavadie Cowal on 27 May.

2023: A report of one at Corranmore, nr Ardfert Mid-Argyll sometime in Feb/Mar.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread, but declining, breeding bird, thought to be fewer than 100 pairs. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). All reports of 1-2 birds from sites in Colonsay (4), Cowal (4), Islay (5), Kintyre (4), Mid-Argyll (15), Mull (32), North Argyll (2) and Tiree (6). Five seen on Lismore North Argyll on 6 Jan, 3 were on Luig Mid-Argyll on 13 Jan, 3 at Cruachan Treshnish on 15 Apr and 3 at Calgary on 25 May (both Mull)

Summer/breeding Excluding Kintyre, where no breeding reports were received, 14 sites were checked of which 4 were occupied by pairs and a min of 4 large young reared, but the outcome was not established at two sites. (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. All counts of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Luib Fin Mull on 23 Oct.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

RED LIST *RBBP Breeds very locally on open moorland and bogs, thought to be fewer than 20 pairs: more widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Most reports of wintering individuals Jan to early May. Most reports (sites) were from; Tiree (21), Mull (11), Islay (5) with other sites in Mid-Argyll (4), Colonsay (3) and Kintyre (2). Two were on Tiree until Apr and last on 30 Jun, then none until 4 Sep.

Summer/breeding Two breeding attempts were found; a pair in Mid-Argyll fledged at least two young and a pair in North Argyll reached the large young stage but the fledging outcome was not established (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). Most reports were of singles, however at least 4 across Tiree in Oct and 3 at The Oa Islay on 13 Oct. Most reports were from late Sep to early Nov then fewer later in the year. Reports by region (sites); Tiree (18), Islay (16), Mull (11), Colonsay (3), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (2), Cowal (1) and Coll (1).

EURASIAN HOBBY* *Falco subbuteo*

RBBP *A rare visitor. Mostly in spring and autumn.*

Spring/summer A 2cy+ was at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 24 May [A. & N. Hand], a first-summer (2cy) was at Arinagour *Coll* on 25 Jun [B. Jones, G. Smith], a first-summer (2cy) was at Dalvore, Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul [J. Boyd] and a recently-fledged juv was at Glenbarr *Kintyre* on 24 Aug [L. Donnelly], providing evidence of the first confirmed breeding in Argyll. *A higher than average number of reports. All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



Hobby *Mid-Argyll* July © John Boyd

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 *Islay*. Max. count away from nest sites of 4 at Dhiseig *Mull* on 5 Sep and 3 at Creag Mhor *Islay* on 27 Jul.

Breeding 16 sites were checked, 6 of which were occupied (one with only a male present). Eggs were laid at least four of these, which were successful raising a min of 6 young (ARSG).

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

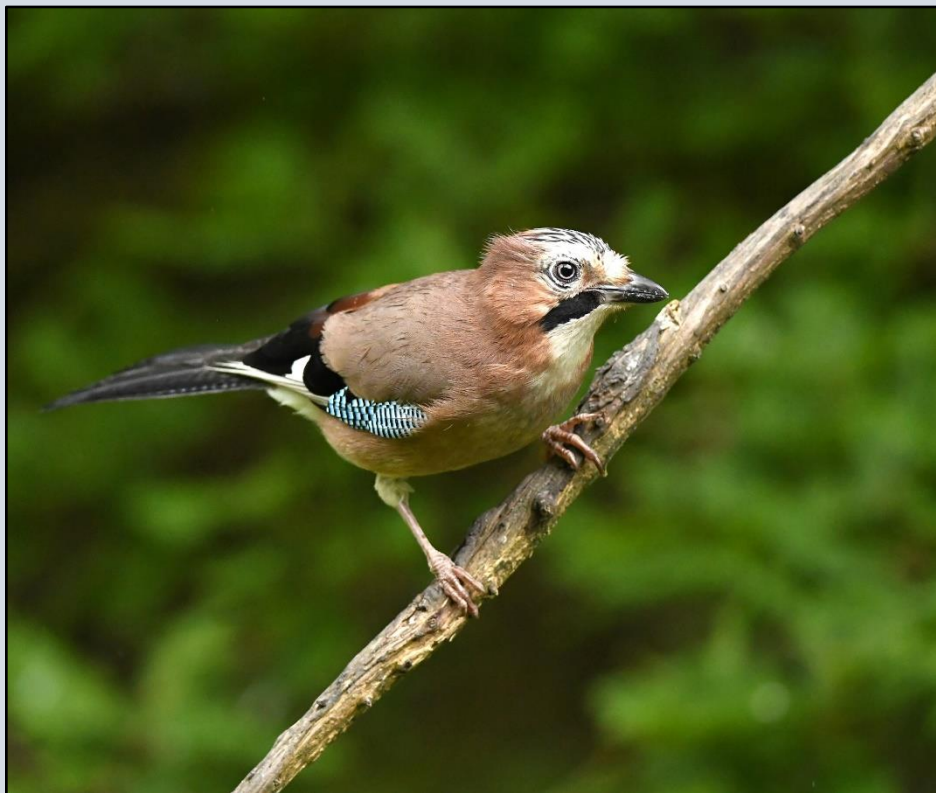
A vagrant. Four records. Singles on Mull on 5 Sep 1974, Coll on 26 Oct-2 Nov 1988, Tiree on 6 Aug 2008 and Islay 9-26 Oct 2023.

Autumn An adult was at Upper Achnacroish, nr Craignure *Mull* on 7 Sep [C. Austick]. This belated report was subsequently identified from a phone video recording. *Record under consideration by the BBRC.*

GOLDEN ORIOLE* *Oriolus oriolus*

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

Spring A male was heard and sound recorded at Fearnoch, W of Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr [G. Smith] and a female-type was seen at Closeburn, nr Grogport *Kintyre* on 27 Jun [A. Gull].



Jay *Mid-Argyll* June © Caroline Anderson

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* (8), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (9) and *North Argyll* (4). Max. count of 8 at Loch Stornoway *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (*cf.* 18% on 2023). All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with generally 1-2 birds at sites. b/3 noted at Loch Craiglin on 8 Jul and b/2 at Cairnbaan on 30 Jul (both *Mid-Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports of generally 1-3 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (6), *Kintyre* (20), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (4). Max. counts of 9 at Rubh' an Domhrain on 2 Oct and 4 at Loch Don on 22 Oct (both *Mull*).

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 (52) sites, then Mull (12), Kintyre (9), Mid-Argyll (9), Islay (2), Colonsay (1) and North Argyll (1). On Cowal where more established and widespread than elsewhere in Argyll, 15 were at Dunoon Hospital area on 7 Mar. The reports of a singles on Islay on 10-11 May and on Mull during 15 Feb -17 May refer to wandering individuals. On Colonsay a bird released there in 2021 was regularly seen in Scalasaig.

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

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in; Colonsay (1), Cowal (6), Islay (1), Jura (1), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (2) and Mull (2). Outwith Cowal all reports were of singles, except for 2 at Scalasaig Colonsay on 11 Dec.



Chough Islay June © David Dinsley

CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

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/Mull/Tiree). Max. counts; on Islay 40 were at Kilnave on 11 Mar, 20 at Machir Bay on 12 May and 10 at Machrie Hotel on 1 Jan. On Colonsay 6 were on Oronsay on 7 Feb. A single bird seen at Ruaig Tiree on 24 Jan was possibly the bird seen there in 2023 and may have been the bird seen at Calgary Bay Mull on 3 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.5% of squares (5/40) (*cf.* 9% in 2023). On Islay 40 pairs made breeding attempts; 31 were successful and 9 failed. These 31 pairs fledged a minimum of 89 young (2.8/yng per successful nest, 2.2/yng per breeding attempt). 6 other young pairs were prospecting, but did not lay eggs. (*Data provided by Eric Bignal*). On Colonsay 5 breeding pairs were found, with three nests fledging 8 young, one failed and the outcome was uncertain at the final nest, but may have reared 4 young. (*Data provided by David Jardine*).

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Colonsay/Islay). Max. counts received; on Islay 35 at Ardnave on 31 Oct & 17 Nov, 33 at Sanaigmore on 29 Oct, 18 at Lossit on 28 Jul, 18 at the Oa on 10 Aug and 10 at Machir Bay on 29 Oct. On Colonsay 9 were on Oronsay on 15 Aug.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Higher counts received included; 1,000 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 17 Jan, 118 at Barsloisnoch on 12 Apr and 80 at Toberonochy, Luing on 13 Jan (both Mid-Argyll). *Under reported.*

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 5% of BBS squares (2/40) (*cf.* 12% in 2023), with max. count of 15 at Killinallan Point Islay. Fledged yng noted Port Charlotte Islay on 26 Jun and birds nest building in Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 11 Dec during mild weather. *Under reported.*

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura/Tiree). Higher counts included; 340+ at Gruinart Wood Islay on 15 Oct, 200 Kilmartin on 11 Sep, 100 at Lochgilphead on 22 Dec and 100 at Toberonochy, Luing on 5 Dec (all Mid-Argyll).

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/Jura). Very under reported and few high counts received. Max. count of 200 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 1 Jan, 97 at Toberonochy, Luing Mid-Argyll on 13 Jan, and 30 at Fidden Mull on 20 Feb. At least 5 were at Heylipol Dunes Tiree during Jan – Mar and 2 were on Oronsay Colonsay on 11-13 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (*cf.* 3% in 2023). Activity at nesting sites from late Feb. On Islay 138 AON at RSPB Loch Gruinart and *ca* 35 AON in Port Charlotte. In Kintyre 5 AONs at Escart Fm. and 9 AONs at North Connel North Argyll. On 3 Jun 22 were at Clachan, Lismore North Argyll and 65 were at North Craigs Kintyre on 29 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Max. counts of 400+ at Loch Gruinart on 15 Oct and 116 Uisge na Criche mouth on 29 Sep (both Islay), 64 at Toberonochy, Luing on 5 Dec and 57 Scammadale on 9 Dec (both Mid-Argyll), and 30 on Iona on 3 Oct and also 30 at Ardfenaig on 3 Oct (both Mull). On Tiree, 1 was at Crossapol on 11 Nov.

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 (44 sites) with max. counts of 83 at Holy Loch on 18 Jan and 63 at Arrochar on 11 Jan. Elsewhere, 1-3 reported at sites in Colonsay (1), Islay (6), Kintyre (11), Mid-Argyll (29), Mull (12), and North Argyll (5), with max. counts in of 6 at Tobermory Mull on 5 May and 4 at Machrihanish Water Kintyre on 13 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 7.5% of squares (3/40) (*cf.* 15% in 2023). No breeding data received. Several birds noted paired with Hooded Crow.

Autumn/winter Most reports from sites in Cowal (19). Elsewhere, 1-2 reported at sites in Islay (13), Kintyre (4), Mid-Argyll (13), Mull (6), North Argyll (5) and Tiree (6), with max. counts of 10 at Arrochar Cowal on 15 Aug, 10 at Ganavan Mid-Argyll on 8 Oct, 9 at Broxwood, Sandbank Cowal on 8 Sep and 6 at Benderloch North Argyll on 11 Sep. On Tiree singles were at Heylpol dunes on 14 & 25 Aug, Hynish on 6 Oct, Balinoe on 2 & 17 Oct, Balemartine on 6 Oct, Sorobaidh Bay on 10 Dec with two at Balephuill on 12 Oct.

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 150 at Oronsay Colonsay on 10 Feb, 40 at Rhunahaorine Kintyre on 10 Jan, 34 at Loch an Eilein Tiree on 10 Jan. 31 at head of Loch na Keal Mull on 23 May, 30 at Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 23 May and 30 at Lochan a' Phuill Mull on 19 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 52.5% of squares (21/40) (*cf.* 71% in 2023), with max. count of 39 at Oronsay Colonsay and 13 at Fidden Mull. On Colonsay 38+ Ters noted, with a further 25 on Oronsay Colonsay; on Colonsay 15 nests monitored, of which outcome of 4 unknown, 1 failed and 10 produced 21+ young. On Islay 11 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve and 5 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Non-breeding groups of 40 were at Oronsay Colonsay on 7 Jun and 32 at Add Est. Mid-Argyll on 30 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, most reports of 1-10 birds. Max. counts included: 44 at head of Loch Feochan Mid-Argyll on 30 Sep, 40 at Oronsay Colonsay on 28 Sep & 24 Nov and 40 at Kilchoman Islay on 29 Oct.

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 14 at Arrochar Cowal on 11 Jan and 4 at Barsloisnoch Mid-Argyll on 5 May. Elsewhere, counts of 1-3 reported, inc. 2 at Ballygown Mull on 3 Aug.

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. Notable decline in max. counts received: 54 at Crossapol Pt. Tiree on 26 Apr, 40 Laggan Bridge Islay on 22 Feb and 32 at Barr Glen Kintyre on 9 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 35% of squares (14/40) (*cf.* 38% in 2023). Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. On Colonsay 10 Ters, which produced 17+ young from 5 successful nests,

1 failed, 4 outcome unknown. On *Tiree* 17 active nests noted. Elsewhere, another 34 Ters reported and at least 32 yng reared from 12 sites (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-2 birds with several counts of up to 20. Max. counts included; 49 at Ardlarach *Islay* on 30 Oct, 50 at Hynish *Tiree* on 21 Sep, 40 at An Sgrìodan *Mull* on 9 Aug, and 32 at Beinn Mhor, *Oa Islay* on 4 Sep.



Ravens Kintyre January © Neil Brown

WAXWING* *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

Winter/spring In *Mid-Argyll* one was at Ford on 4 Jan, 6 were at Barnabuck, Kerrera on 29 Jan and 6 were at Ardrishaig on 22 Mar. On *Mull* one was at Tobermory on 15 Apr and on *Colonsay* one was at Kiloran on 24 May.

Autumn/winter No reports.



Coal Tit *Mid-Argyll* December © Jim Dickson

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 (*Jura*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Higher counts of 10 at Inverliever on 1 Jan, 10 at Loch Barnluasgan on 7 Apr (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 10 at the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 4 Jan. One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 45% of squares (18/40) (*cf.* 44% in 2023), with max. counts of 8 at Kilmichael Forest, and Bellanoch (both *Mid-Argyll*) and at Meall na Caorach *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites. Max. counts of 35 at West Glen *Cowal* on 5 Sep, 10 at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 6 Sep and 10 at Grogport *Kintyre* on 9 Aug. A large cone crop in the Sitka Spruce forests meant that sightings in gardens were scarce in contrast to 2023, but this may also have reflected poor breeding season.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A widespread and common resident breeder. An infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). Most reports from *Mull* at 48 sites. Most reports of 1-6 birds with 15 at Tom Dubh *Cowal* on 11 May and 8 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30% of squares (12/40) (*cf.* 35% in 2023), with max. counts of 11 at Tom Dubh, *Cowal* and 10 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*. A poor year in *Kintyre* nest box ringing study with only 11 chicks ringed (*cf.* 39 in 2023). A pr bred successfully in a garden nest-box at Arinagour *Coll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, fewer reported with most of 1-3 birds and max. counts of 6 at Cairnbaan *Mid Argyll* on 28 Nov, West Glen *Cowal* on 5 Sep and at the head of Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 27 Sep, suggesting poor breeding season.

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. count of 8 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* most days in Jan. Most other counts were 6 or fewer.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 42.5% of BBS squares (17/40) (*cf.* 38% in 2023), with max. count of 10 at Tom Dubh *Cowal*. No confirmed breeding reports received. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing study 97 chicks were ringed in 16 boxes (*cf.* 95 in 2023). Max. counts were 6 at Corrynachenchy *Mull* on 21 Jul and 5 at Kiels *Jura* on 22 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Tiree*). All reports of fewer than 5 birds. Notably one was at Gallanach *Coll* on 25 Sep.



Skylark *Tiree* March © Jim Dickson

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* (72 cf. 64 in 2023), *Mid-Argyll* (30 cf. 18 in 2023), *Islay* (27 cf. 34 in 2023) and *Kintyre* (13 cf. 11 in 2023). In Jan only reports of singles from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). More birds returned across Argyll during Feb, when noted from 21 sites. Higher area counts inc. 80 at Ruaidh Tìree on 26 Feb, 80 at Ardnave Islay on 5 Mar, 75 at Cornaigmore Tìree on 13 Mar and 69 at Balvicar, Seil Mid-Argyll on 22 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 67.5% of squares (27/40) (cf. 70% in 2023), with max. counts of 34 at Airigh Mhic-’ille Mhoire *Jura*, 19 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 18 at Beinn a’ Chaolais *Jura*. Breeding season reports received from all areas. Little specific breeding data other than 128 Ters. found on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 39 prs in RSPB Oronsay *Colonsay* in-by fields.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*), but relatively few. Max. counts received: 400 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 2 Oct, 75 Carrabus *Islay* on 29 Oct, 43 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 28 Sep and 40 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Sep. Most other reports were fewer than 10 birds and only 3 reports in Nov and 4 reports in Dec, when 5 were at Airigh Ghlas *Islay* on 2-23 Dec.



Short-toed Lark *Islay* September © David Dinsley

SHORT-TOED LARK* *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A vagrant: Three records; one on Tiree in Aug 2008, another Tiree in Oct 2010 and one on Oronsay, Colonsay in Oct 2011.

Autumn One was at Cornabus *Islay* on 10-14 Sep [E. Burrell, D. Dinsley *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC and becomes the first record for *Islay*.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

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

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 3 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Mar, 2 at Pennygown and 2 at Loch Don on 23 Mar (both *Mull*), and 1 at Loch Trallaig and 2 at Loch Leathan (both *Mid-Argyll*) on 29 Mar then more widespread thereafter. Highest counts inc., 110

at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Jun, 58 at Coire Sgamadail *Mull* on 1 Apr, 48 at Killinallan Pt. *Islay* on 11 May and 40 at the Kyles of Bute viewpoint *Cowal* on 6 May.

Summer/breeding Noted in 25% of BBS squares (10/40) (*cf.* 15% in 2023). Limited data on breeding colonies received. At Langa Quarry *Kintyre* 224 adults ringed, but only 14 juvs. following a mass failure of first broods. On *Colonsay* 14 AONs at Kiloran Dunes, 11 AONs at Port a' Chapuill and 11 AONs on Oronsay, in *Mid-Argyll* 6 AONs at Arda Reidh, and on *Tiree* 28 AONs on The Reef and 60 birds at Loch a' Phuill on 18 May.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Most birds had departed by late Aug. Highest counts: 170 at Creag Mhor *Islay* on 23 Aug and 60 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Aug, with remaining counts of 10 birds or fewer. The last reported were 3 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 5 Sep.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals were singles at Loch a' Bharain *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar, then Glen Aros *Mull* on 2 Apr, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, Bushmill, Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Apr, Kinnabus and Kilnaughton Bay (two)(both *Islay*) on 6 Apr, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Apr and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 6 Apr. Counts of generally fewer than 10 birds and a max. noted of 30 at Claddich *Islay* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Noted in 30% of BBS squares (12/40) (*cf.* 29% in 2023). Limited breeding data received. 8 prs noted on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* (*cf.* 16 prs in 2023). On *Tiree* the first fledged juvs were noted on 6 Jul and last on 12 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max. counts were lower than 2023; 120 at Craighens, Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep, 105 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 2 Sep, 42 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 25 Aug and 40 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Aug. Thereafter, fewer seen in Oct with 24 heading south at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 15 Oct the highest count. Only one report in Nov, of 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 6 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

RED LIST *A common summer visitor on the mainland, less numerous on the islands with only a handful of recently recorded breeding attempts on Tiree.*

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). First early reports were of singles at Colintrave *Cowal* on 3 Apr, at Loch a' Chumhainn on 7 Apr, Sgriob-Rhuaid on 7 Apr and Croggan, Loch Spelve on 7 Apr (all *Mull*), and Cornabus *Islay* on 7 Apr. Thereafter small numbers were seen in the islands with 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Apr the first on the mainland before many arrived in early May. Highest count received were of 15 at Carsaig House *Mull* on 19 May and 10 at Feolin Farm *Jura* on 23 May.

Summer/breeding Noted in 7.5% of the BBS squares (3/40) (*cf.* 0% in 2023). Very limited breeding data received. AONs were only noted at Garra Ealabus, Loch Gruinart *Islay*. 9 juveniles noted Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 4 Aug. Max. count of 30 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 21 Jul and 30 at Keils *Jura* on 22 July.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Max. counts of 190 heading south at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 1 Sep and 100 there on 19 Aug. Elsewhere 75 were at Craighens, Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep, and 40 at Colintrave *Cowal* on 31 Aug. Most birds had departed by early Sep, but a late passage was noted at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* when 47 flew south on 3 Oct and 57 on 4 Oct and the last report was of 1 at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* on 8 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 (*Coll/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most counts of 1-2 birds and max. counts of 9 at Cairnbaan on 4 Feb and 6 at the River Lochy on 29 May (both *Mid-Argyll*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (*cf.* 12% in 2023), with max. count of 3 at Tobar Beag *Mull*. Otherwise, limited data, with no confirmed breeding reported. 22 noted at Carradale *Kintyre* on 18 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Most counts of 1-10 from sites in *Mull* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *North Argyll* (4), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (2), *Colonsay* (1) and *Kintyre* (1). Max. counts of 30 at Kildalton *Islay* on 16 Sep, 13 at Port Rìgh, Carradale *Kintyre* on 17 Sep, 12 at Ellabus *Islay* on 29 Oct and 12 at Craighouse *Jura* on 18 Sep.



Wood Warbler *Mid-Argyll* May © Steve Carter

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

RED LIST *A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.*

Spring/summer Reports from only (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First report was of a singing bird at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, followed by birds at Taynish *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, at West Ardhru on 1 May and Pennyghael on 3 May (both *Mull*).

Breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (cf. 6% in 2023). Singing males reported from sites in; *Cowal* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (16) and *North Argyll* (5). 11 noted at Ardura Community Forest *Mull* on 27 May.

Autumn Singles at Linndhu House on 25 Jul and Dun Urgadul on 8 Aug (both *Mull*) were last noted.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Tiree* October © Theo de Clermont

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

RBBP *A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals. At least 135 birds between 1954 and 2023, the majority on Tiree. A record 37 birds occurred in 2020.*

Autumn A total of 19 birds between 21 Sep and 25 Oct. On *Islay* singles were at W Loch Gruinart on 7 Oct [C. McKay] and at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa on 25 Oct [D. Wood, D. Dinsley], in *Mid-Argyll* 3 were at Slaterich, Kerrera on 5 Oct [A. McGregor], on *Mull* one was at Dervaig on 23 Sep and on *Tiree* up to 13 included a total of 7 different birds at Balephuill between 21 Sep & 14 Oct, also singles at The Glebe, Scarinish on 30 Sep-9 Oct, at Balemartine on 3 Oct, at Vaul Haven on 3 Oct, at Vaul Seaside on 3 Oct, a presumed bird at Hough Bay on 3 Oct and at Balinoe campsite on 7 Oct [J. Bowler, T. de Clermont, J. Dickson, S. Gibson]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 130).*

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was 1 at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 19 Mar, followed by singles at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 30 Mar, at Mealldalloch Lodges and at Brox Wood, Sandbank (both *Cowal*) and two at Sunadale *Kintyre* on 31 Mar, with

more widespread arrivals from 7 Apr. Higher counts inc. 36 at Aros Cottage on 18 May and 35 at Craignure on 13 May (both *Mull*) and 35 at Druimyeon More, Gigha *Kintyre* on 23 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 77.5% of squares (31/40) (*cf.* 73% in 2023), with higher counts of 26 at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll*, 22 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*, 21 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*, 20 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay*, 17 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 17 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. 76 prs noted RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* 13 prs across 6 sites in Jun, at least 11 of which fledged yng. 3 prs RSPB Oronsay in-by fields *Colonsay*. First fledged yng on *Tiree* from 16 Jun. **Autumn/winter** Number of reports decreased, and birds departed by late Aug and in Sep reports from only (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) with 7 at Carradale on 19 Sep the max. count. Late birds were on *Tiree* at Melness on 1 Oct and a juv at Balephuill on 1-7 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 Two at Carse House, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Feb were the only wintering birds noted. Reports from all areas in spring except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (37), *Mull* (28) and *Cowal* (19). First spring arrivals of singles at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* and Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 18 Mar, Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 19 Mar, on *Mull* on 19 Mar, Kinnabus, at the Oa *Islay* and Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar. More widespread arrivals thereafter. All counts of 1-3 birds, except on 12 May when 4 at Achnaba *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.5% of squares (5/40) (*cf.* 9% in 2023), with max. count of 2 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. On *Colonsay* 3 Ters. noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mull*) and most local birds had departed by mid-Sep. Birds in late Oct when singles at Creagh Mhor *Islay* on 28 Oct and at Caolas *Tiree* on 28 Oct. In Nov, 1-2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1-2 & 5-11 Nov, 1 at Milton *Tiree* on 3 Nov and the last 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov.

‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF* *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

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

Autumn On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 3-7 Oct and 9-11 Nov, Kilmoluaig on 6-7 Oct and at The Glebe on 3 Nov. On *Islay* one was at Kinnabus, Oa on 7 Oct.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Spring Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). First arrivals of singles at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Apr, at Durry Loch, The Laggan *Kintyre* and on *Mull* on 25 Apr, at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 26 Apr and at Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* and Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Apr. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (28) and *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *Islay* (10).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 20% of squares (8/40) (*cf.* 18% in 2023), with highest counts of 6 on Oronsay and 5 at Mid Loch Fada (both *Colonsay*). On *Islay* noted as widespread & present at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 35 found prs at RSPB Oa Reserve, 9 prs Oronsay in-by fields *Colonsay*. Numerous Ters across *Tiree* from 8 May and 4+ Ters from roads at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*. Few counts or breeding data received from elsewhere. First fledglings on *Tiree* noted from 6 Jul.

Autumn A scattering of records in late Aug from *Tiree*, also 2 at Coshandrochit *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Aug and 1 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 30 Aug. In Sep, reports only from Balephuill *Tiree* where 2 present to 1-8 Sep and another single on 12-13 Sep.



Blyth's Reed Warbler *Tiree* May © John Bowler

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER* *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

A vagrant: Three records; one at Carnan Mor, Tiree on 3 Jun 2008, one at Balephuill, Tiree in Sep 2011 and one at Totamore, Coll on 31 May 2021.

Spring A 2cy+ male was in song at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25-26 May [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

COMMON REED WARBLER* *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A rare visitor in spring and summer: Seventeen records; 15 from the islands (of which 10 from Tiree) and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.

Autumn One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Sep [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 except (Coll/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). First arrivals by region of 'reeling' birds at Ardfern and Moine Mhor (both *Mid-Argyll*) on early date of 8 Apr, at Kilbridemore *Cowal* on 13 Apr, at 3 sites on *Islay* on 20 Apr, at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr and at

Kiloran *Colonsay* on 22 Apr, thereafter widespread. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (13) and *Islay* (10).

Breeding BBS: noted in 20% of squares (8/40) (*cf.* 21% in 2023), with max. count of 3 at Meall nan Eun, the Oa *Islay*. Seven Ters. found on *Colonsay*. On *Islay* 17 Ters. at RSPB Oa Reserve, 20 Ters. at RSPB Loch Gruinart, and 2 Ters. at RSPB Smaull. 4 Ters. in forest restock at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn Reports decreased during Jul and reports mostly of singles from (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*), although 2 still reeling at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Jul with 1 there on 1 Aug, and last was noted on 2 Aug at Inverneill Forest *Mid-Argyll*.



Grasshopper Warbler *Mid-Argyll* April © Jim Dickson

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. No winter reports. First arrivals of a single at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 19 Mar, at Ardentinny *Cowal* on 24 Mar, then none until 31 Mar when one in Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*, followed by singles on 1 Apr at Ledaig *North Argyll*, at Balephuill *Tiree*, at Traighuaine *Mid-Argyll* and at Tobermory *Mull* on 3 Apr and Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 5 Apr, then more widespread after 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 27.5% of squares (11/40) (*cf.* 26% in 2023), with max. counts of 7 at Loch Frisa *Mull* and 6 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. On *Colonsay* 11 Ters. recorded, 7 Ters. RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Three fledged juv found at Coshandrochaid *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from areas by month; Sep (7), Oct (18), Nov (8) and Dec (2). Max. counts of 3 birds (m & 2 ff) at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Oct and 3 (2 mm & f) there on 17 Oct. In

Nov, at least 6 were on *Tiree*, 2 at Tobermory *Mull* on 11 Nov and a single at Port Rìgh *Kintyre*. In Dec, singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Dec and Caol Ila *Islay* on 18 Dec.



Garden Warbler *Mid-Argyll* May © Steve Carter

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

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

Spring/summer Arrival was later than 2023 with the first on 28 Apr at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* and near Campbeltown *Kintyre*, followed by birds at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll* and Glendaruel *Cowal* on 1 May and Tobermory *Mull* on 3 May. Reports from increased number of sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (13), *North Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (2). Migrants were on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 20 May and Balemartine on 2 Jun.

Breeding BBS: noted in 10% of squares (4/40) (cf. 6% in 2023), with 6 noted at Tom Dubh *Cowal*. No confirmed breeding records and no reports in Aug.

Autumn On *Tiree* 2 were at Balephuill on 1 Sep, with 1 remaining to 6 Sep, followed by another single there on 18 Sep. The last bird was 1 on *Colonsay* on 30 Sep.

BARRED WARBLER* *Curruca nisoria*

A rare passage migrant. 22 previous records. All have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.

Autumn A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER WHITETHROAT* *Curruca curruca*

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

Spring On *Tiree* single males in subdued song were at The Glebe, Scarinish on 29 May and at Balephuill on 3 Jun.

Autumn One *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 7-8 & 12-18 Sep and at The Manse, Scarinish on 9 Sep. Also, a report of one (race not assigned) at Baile Mor, Iona *Mull* on 25 Oct.

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. The first arrivals were at Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Apr, Bagh Chrossapol *Mull* and Dunlossit *Islay* on 26 Apr, on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Apr, at Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr and Cove Point *Kintyre* on 1 May, then more widespread arrivals from early May. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (14), *Jura* (7), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (36), *Mull* (73), *North Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding BBS: noted in 32.5% of squares (13/40) (cf. 35% in 2023), with max. counts of 9 at Carraig Fhada *Islay*, 7 at Lochan Sholum *Islay* and 6 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay*. On *Colonsay* 32 Ters. recorded, with another on Oronsay. On *Islay* 17 Ters. at RSPB Loch Gruinart, 10 Ters at RSPB Smaull reserve and 22 prs at RSPB Oa reserve. 2 Ters. noted at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn Reports decreased during Aug and all birds had departed by early Sep, except for one at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 16 Sep and on *Tiree*, one at Balevullin on 12 Sep and one at the Glebe on 13 -21 Sep, except on 20 Sep when 2 were present.



Goldcrest *Tiree* March © Jim Dickson

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A common resident breeding species. Augmented by passage migrants.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, 1-2 birds from sites. Max. counts of 14 at Aros Cottage *Mull* on 18 May and 10 at Sutherland's Grove *North Argyll* on 31 May. Good spring passage on *Tiree* from 4 Mar - 21 Apr inc. 25 around 4 sites on 4 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 25% of squares (10/40) (*cf.* 38% in 2023), and lower max. counts than 2023 of 7 at Meall na Caorach *Mull* and 7 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*. 5 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, where fledglings seen 10 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) with counts of generally 1-2 birds. Max. count of 6 at Eallabus *Islay* on 29 Oct and 6 at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct. Light migration on *Tiree* with the first 1 at The Glebe on 13 Sep; only 6 birds in Sep, 6 in Oct, and 2 in Nov when the last noted was at Balephuill on 10 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+ at sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), and *Mull* (1). Seven roosted in an old Swallow nest at Kintra *Mull* on 1 Mar. Birds noted singing from mid-Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 72.5% of squares (29/40) (*cf.* 76% in 2023), with max. counts of 20 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*, 18 at Carraig Fhada *Islay*, 15 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*, 15 at Kilbridmore Burn *Cowal* and 15 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay*. Now becoming widespread on *Tiree* where 41+ Ters. at 19 sites and first fledged b/4+ on 11 Jun. 73 Ters. at RSPB Oa reserve and 8 prs RSPB Oronsay in-bye fields *Colonsay*. 2 Ters. at Barnakill *Mid-Argyll*, and fledged yng noted on Sanda *Kintyre* on 27 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted at most sites, with max. counts of 14 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Sep and 10 at Grogport *Kintyre* on 9 Aug.

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* (13), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (31), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (3). All reports of 1-2, except 4 at Kilchoan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb and 1 Mar, but involving 5 different birds. One at Carradale *Kintyre* on 2 May was notable.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (*cf.* 9% in 2023), inc. 3 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*. Confirmed breeding from Asknish and Cruachan Power Stn. (both *Mid-Argyll*). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 7 at Cruachan Power Stn. *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (sites) *Cowal* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (3). All sightings of 1-3 birds, with notable sightings of singles on Iona *Mull* on 4 Oct, and at Kilcheran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 11 Dec. *Results of 2021 survey at: [2021 Argyll Bird Club Nuthatch Survey Results – Argyll Bird Club.](#)*

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris britannica*

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

Winter/spring Reports from sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (16), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (4). All reports of 1-2 birds except 3 at Dervaig *Mull* on 5 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 10% of squares (4/40) (*cf.* 24% in 2023), with max. count of 3 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, otherwise, no breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports sites in Cowal (4), Islay (6), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (10), Mull (11) and North Argyll (5). All reports of 1-2 birds except 3 at Dun Corr-bhile, Inveraray Mid-Argyll on 21 Sep. Generally under reported.

ROSY STARLING* *Pastor roseus*

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

Summer An adult male was in Tayinloan Kintyre on 29-31 May [L. Gilchrist, Z. Weir *et al*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



Starlings Tiree March © Jim Dickson

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 (Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree). 1,200 were noted across Tiree on 17 Jan with 1,000 at Balephetrish Bay on 12 & 19 Feb, and in Kintyre 900 were at Machrihanish Water on 30 Jan. On Islay 500 were at Loch Muichart, Oa on 20 Feb and 100 at Craighens, Gruinart on 11 Mar. On Colonsay, 600 were on Oronsay on 12 Feb and 130 at Ardskenish on 23 Apr, and on Mull 250 were at Fidden on 10 Feb. Elsewhere, counts were below 100 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 25% of squares (10/40) (*cf.* 24% in 2023), with max. counts of 150 at Crossapol Pt. Tiree, 36 at Fidden Mull and 13 on Port Mor Colonsay. Limited data supplied. First fledged juvs at Moss and Balephuill Tiree on 2 Jun with many more the following day, some 5 days later than usual. Flocks of juvs built up in numbers from mid-Jun with 190 at The Reef Tiree on 6 Jul, 120 at the Ensay Burn mouth Mull on 16 Jul, 70 on Iona Mull on 31 Jul and 68 at Kilnaughton Bay Islay on 6 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura). Many flocks on Tiree of 400-900, with an estimated total of 2,300 on 16 Sep and max. counts of 1,400 at Heylipol on 16 Nov, 1,200 at Loch

an Eilein on 12 Nov, and 1,100 at The Reef on 23 Aug. Elsewhere, 310 at Eilean Nostaig *Islay* on 23 Sep, 300 on Iona *Mull* on 3 Oct, 300 at Cattadale, Southend *Kintyre* on 10 Dec, 210 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Oct and many counts up to 100.



Song Thrush *Mull* April © Theo de Clermont

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 usually of 1-6 birds. Max. counts of 22 at Langanull *Mull* on 20 Mar, 18 on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 12 at Druimachro, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 62.5% of squares (25/40) (cf. 62% in 2023), with max. counts of 10 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal*, 7 at Eas a Chosain, Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* and 6 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*. 7 prs found on transects on the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 30+ Ters. on *Tiree* in May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Generally, just 1-2 birds noted at sites. Higher counts inc. 20 at Garmony *Mull* on 5 Sep, 20 at Tormisdale *Islay* on 25 Dec and 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* during a Redwing influx on 25 Oct. One was heard singing at Bonawe Furnace *Mid-Argyll* in mild weather on 28 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

RED LIST A widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On *Coll* and *Tiree* it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-4 birds, however 6 at Coille bhreac-liath *North Argyll* on 31 Mar, 6 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan and

5 at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan. Most reports from sites in *Mull* (39) and *Mid-Argyll* (22).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 17.5% of squares (7/40) (*cf* 29% in 2023), with max. of 2 at Tobar Beag *Mull*, otherwise limited data submitted. Fledged brood noted at Sanaigmore *Islay* on 20 Jun. Post-breeding flocks of 11 noted at Bloody Bay Garmony *Mull* on 21 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Kintyre/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-6 birds. Most reports from sites in *Islay* (15), *Mid-Argyll* (8) and *Mull* (11). Fewer large flocks with max. counts of 24+ at Garmony *Mull* on 7 Aug, 12 at Cnoc Dhomhnuill, Luing on 6 Aug and 10 at Kilmartin gravel pit on 3 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*).

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 (*Jura*). Generally widespread in low numbers of 1-35 birds. Most common around *Tiree* where 400-500 in flocks of up to 60 in Jan-Feb declining to 275 on 1 Mar and few after 13 Mar, until an influx of 90+ on 26 Mar. Elsewhere numbers lower; 70 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan, 45 at Toward *Cowal* on 18 Jan, 40 at Ballinaby *Islay* on 2 Jan and 35 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jan. The last spring record was 1 at Baugh *Tiree* on 6 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First arrivals; 2 at Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 21 Sep, 2 at Tobermory *Mull* on 3 Oct, 1 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 6 Oct, then 4 at Loch Arish *Islay* and 10+ on *Tiree* on 7 Oct. 212, a mixture of *iliacus* and *coburnii*, were on *Tiree* on 8 Oct, but larger numbers were noted until later when 600+ were at Fishnish *Mull* on 18 Oct, 200 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 20 Oct, 952 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Oct, 3,600, mainly *iliacus* passing through *Tiree* on 25 Oct, 1,000 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, 1,200 on *Mull* on 31 Oct and 1,600 over Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov after which passage declined rapidly. Around 400 in groups up to 50 were present on *Tiree* on 10 Dec, but elsewhere only 1-20 reported.

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 25 at Feith Bhan *Mull* on 14 May and 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 67.5% of squares (27/40) (*cf* 59% in 2023), with max. counts of 7 at Ardtun and 7 at Killiechronan (both *Mull*). Four pairs on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. The first fledged birds were noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. A small influx in early Nov e.g. 250 at Dun Urganul, Tobermory *Mull* on 1 Nov, 50 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Nov, 25 at Aros *Mull* on 10 Nov and 12 together at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Nov. 15 at Vaul *Tiree* on 10 Dec was the only other modest count.

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 (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). Generally, reports in low numbers of 1-60 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., 200 at the Woolen Mill *Islay* on 22 Feb,

111 across *Tiree* at 5 sites on 28 Jan and 85 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 9 Feb. Last noted were singles at Giol, the Oa *Islay*, at Bealach nan Sac and Dunloskin Wood (both *Cowal*) on 21 Apr. **Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals were later than 2023; 2 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* and 3 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 19 Oct, then 5 at Claonaig Bay *Kintyre* on 25 Oct and 25 at Barsloisnach *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Oct. A big movement took place on 31 Oct, when 1,500 were at Ardchnonnel *Mid-Argyll* and 300 on *Mull*, and into early Nov., with 130 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Nov, 100 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 4 Nov and 120 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov. Thereafter numbers diminished with 50 at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 11 Dec the max. count in Dec.



Fieldfare *North Argyll* October © Linda Gibson

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 on *Mull* at Scallastle Bay on 15 Jun and a fem at Calgary on 30 Jun. In *North Argyll* 2 were at Cruachan Reservoir on 4 Jun.

Autumn The only report was of a 1cy male at Carnan Mor/Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 -12 Oct.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

RED LIST A summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges. Regular passage migrant on the islands.

Spring/summer Reports from all areas. First reports were singles at Acharonich *Mull* on 20 Apr, at Ardchattan *North-Argyll* and Succoth Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May. More widespread reports from 10 May. Reports came from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (14), *Jura* (3),

Kintyre (6), *Mid-Argyll* (30), *Mull* (34), *North Argyll* (15) and *Tiree* (2). Five were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 7.5% of squares (3/40) (*cf.* 9% in 2023), with max. of 4 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*. More breeding reported, 2 Ters. at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Confirmed breeding at Arinagour *Coll*, Portnahaven, Bushmill, Bun-an-Uillt and Bunnahabhain (all *Islay*), Lephonstrath (4 Ters.) *Kintyre*, Creagmhor Loch, Kilmartin, Kilmichael Glassary, Stroneskar (2 Ters.) and Tayness (2 Ters.) (all *Mid-Argyll*), Port Chill Bhaonain *Mull*, and Balnagown (Lismore) *North Argyll*.

Autumn Most local breeding birds had departed by late-Aug, with late birds reported at Port Chill Bhraonain *Mull* on 31 Aug, two at Airds, Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep, then singles on *Tiree* at the Glebe on 17-19 Sep, Balephuill on 19 Sep and the last at Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 19-23 Sep.



Spotted Flycatcher *Islay* May © David Dinsley

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants overwintering.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, only 1-4 birds at sites. Max. counts of 21 singing males at Coilesson *Cowal* on 16 Mar, 10 at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan and 10 at Dun Uragadul *Mull* on 14 Sep. Last wintering bird seen on *Tiree* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 60% of squares (24/40) (cf. 50% in 2023), with max. counts of 15 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*, 11 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 8 at Loch Tarsan *Cowal*. 12 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve. Successful breeding noted on Sanda Is and Gigha (both *Kintyre*), Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* and Lismore *North Argyll*. None bred on *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-4 birds. Max. counts of 28 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Sep, 10 at West Glen *Cowal* on 5 Sep and 10 at head of Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 27 Sep.



Robin *Mid-Argyll* May © Jim Dickson

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula parva*

A rare passage migrant: Sixteen records; on Islay in Nov 1974 and Oct 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010, two singles on Tiree in Oct 2012, two in Jun and two Sep/Oct on Tiree in 2014, singles on Tiree in Oct 2016, Sep 2017, Oct 2019, Jun 2020, May & Sep 2022.

Spring A fem/2cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 May [J. Bowler, J. Hunter]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

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 Gruline *Mull* on 5 May, followed by a male at Holy Loch NR *Cowal* on 17 May and a fem at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 25 May. *No evidence of breeding.*

Autumn Singles were at Iona Abbey *Mull* on 6 Aug, a 1cy at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Sep and another 1cy at Vaul *Tiree* on 19 Sep.



Black Redstart *Tiree* April © John Bowler

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 A fem was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr.

Autumn One was at Knock *Mull* on 26 Aug, and a m + f were at Bowmore harbour *Islay* on 9-10 Nov.

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/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First reports were singles at Achnacreebeg *North Argyll* on 16 Apr, at Dunadd on 19 Apr and Barsloisnach on 20 Apr (both *Mid-Argyll*), at Traigh na Cille, Dervaig *Mull* on 5 May and at the Kyles of Bute viewpoint *Cowal* on 6 May. Most reports from sites in; *Cowal* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Mull* (8) and *North Argyll* (5).

Breeding BBS: noted in 5% of squares (2/40) (cf. 9% in 2023), with max. of 4 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn The last report was of a 1cy male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 7 Sep.

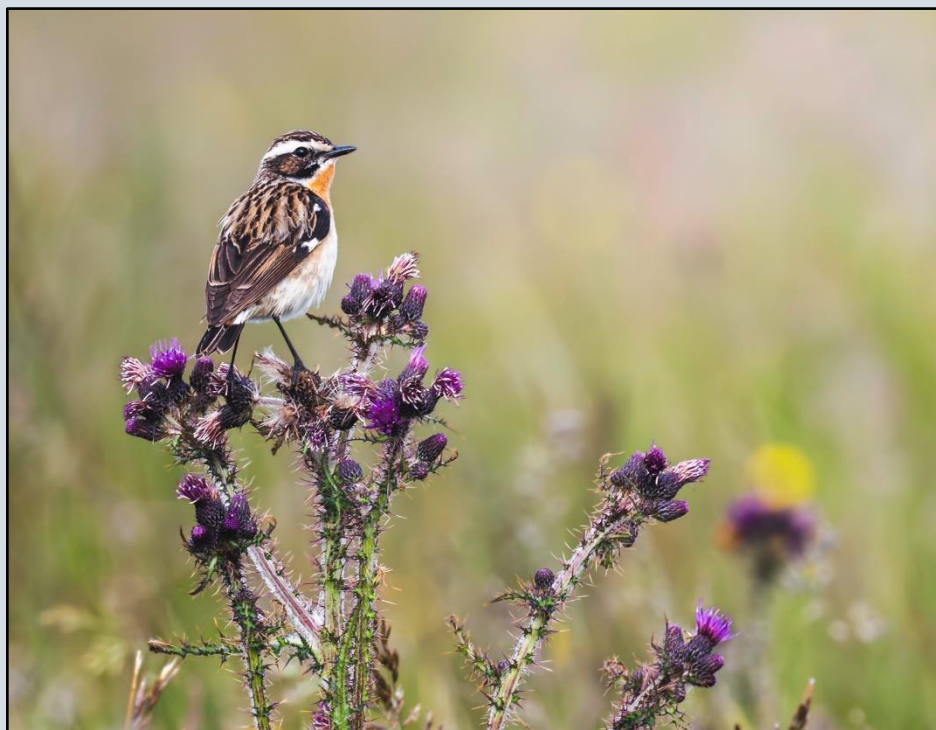
WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

RED LIST *A sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First arrivals were singles at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr, at *Smaull Islay* on 23 Apr, at *Kinnabus Islay* on 24 Apr, at *Balemartine Tiree* on 25 Apr and *Loch Ba Mull* on 26 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 1 May. Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (33), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (2).

Breeding BBS: noted in 17.5% of squares (7/40) (*cf.* 24% in 2023), with max. counts of 6 at *Glean Lean Mull* and 5 at *Lochan Sholum Islay* and *Lochan a' Tana Jura*. On *Islay* 16 Ters. on RSPB *Loch Gruinart*, 8 Ters. on RSPB *Smaull* reserve and 19 Ters. at RSPB *Oa* reserve (*cf.* 24 in 2023). 1 Ter. found on *Colonsay* and a fledged b/2 at *Langamull Mull* on 14 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* 4 Ters. noted at *Moine Mhor* and a fledged b/2 at *Upper Gylen, Kerrera* on 29 Jun.

Autumn Reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) but decreased through Aug. Last reports were of 1 at *Coshandrochaid* on 22 Aug and 2 at *Moine Mhor* on 29 Aug (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 2 juvs. at *Craigens, Gruinart Islay* on 1 Sep.



Whinchat *Islay* June © David Dinsley

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. count of 6 at Allt na Traighe Gile on 24 Mar, at Creag a' Chromain on 10 May and at Grasspoint on 19 May (all *Mull*). Prs returned to many areas during Feb-Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 17.5% of squares (15/40) (cf. 41% in 2023), with max. counts of 4 at Ardtun and Gleann Lean (both *Mull*). On *Colonsay* 23 Ters, and also 6 Ters. on Oronsay. On *Islay*, 36 Ters. at RSPB Gruinart, 15 Ters. at RSPB Smaull reserve and 20 Ters. at RSPB Oa reserve. On *Tiree* 18+ Ters. at 14 sites in Apr. Additional fledged broods notes at sites in *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (5) and *Mull* (1). First fledged young noted on 11 May at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* and on *Tiree* on 25 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, 1-8 birds from numerous widespread sites and max. counts of 21 at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 5 Sep and 16 on *Iona Mull* on 21 Sep.



Wheatear *Islay* April © David Dinsley

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

AMBER LIST A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First reports slightly earlier than 2023, of singles at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 17 Mar, Carradale Bay *Kintyre*, and Gribun *Mull* on 18 Mar, Ardnave *Islay* and Langamull *Mull* on 20 Mar and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 24 Mar. There was an obvious arrival on 26-27 Mar, followed by widespread and increased nos. Max. counts noted; 20 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 1 Apr and 15 at the mouth of the Ardo Burn *Mull* on 26 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 32.5% of squares (13/40) (cf. 35% in 2023), with max. counts of 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay*, 9 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 8 at Beinn Chreagach, Ulva *Mull*. On *Islay* 29 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 14 Jun (and more widespread there in Jul). Fledged young also noted at Portnahaven *Islay*, Lephénstrath and Sanda Is. (both *Kintyre*) and Port Chill Bhraonain *Mull*. An obvious influx of ca. 40 birds was noted on *Tiree* on 31 Jul.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Only small nos noted with max. counts of 20 on *Iona Mull* on 3 Aug and 18 there on 26 Aug, and 12 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*

on 5 Sep. Passage birds noted widely in late Sep and reports of 1-2 from 8 sites across (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*) in Oct, with 5 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 1 Oct and the last report was of 1 at Peninver *Kintyre* on 25 Oct.

‘GREENLAND’ WHEATEAR *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant. Probably under-recorded.

Spring The first birds were 8 on *Tiree* at 3 sites on 23 Apr, which preceded a fall on 26 Apr when 30+ were seen on the island and 8 at Uragaig *Colonsay*. Birds lingered and remained widespread on *Tiree* into early May when 15+ were in the Balinoe/Balephuill area on 7 May. Elsewhere, one was at Arduaine *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May.

Autumn First birds noted on *Tiree* from 12 Aug when 10 were at summit of Ben Hynish then small nos. through Aug, rising to 22 on 20 Sep with one at Sorobaidh Bay on 12 Oct the last there. Elsewhere, two were at Kilbride Bay *Cowal* on 21 Sep, singles at Loch Gruinart on 19 Sep, Cornabus and Upper Killeyan on 20 Sep and 5 at Eilean Nostaig on 23 Sep (all *Islay*) and 2 at Rhunahaorine / Gorinanane *Kintyre* on 19 Oct.



Dippers *Kintyre* April © Neil Brown

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* (10), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (16) and *North Argyll* (6), with 3 at Benmore *Cowal* on 20 May the highest count. *Under reported from most areas.*

Breeding BBS: noted in 2.5% of squares (1/40) (cf. 0% in 2023). Limited data. In *Kintyre*, ringing studies around the Campbeltown area found 3 broods and for the first time a second brood at one site, which failed. Occupied nests / fledged young noted at Dalmore, Southend and Lephenstrath (both *Kintyre*), the River Eachaig *Cowal*, Bridgend *Mid-Argyll*, on the Aros Rover *Mull* and at Loch Tulla *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (12) and *North Argyll* (1). *Under reported from most areas.*

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/summer On *Islay* 2 were at Kinnabus, The Oa on 21-22 Apr and singles at The Monument, The Oa on 21 Jun and at Port Charlotte on 23 Jun. In *Kintyre* one was at a site in South Gigha on 13 Jul. On *Mull* one was at Buessan on 26 Jun.

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 50 at Druimyeon More, Gigha *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, 45 at Oronsay Fm. *Colonsay* on 26 Jan, 40 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* in Feb -May, 25 at Iona *Mull* on 27 May and 22 at Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan. Remaining counts fewer than 20, and birds usually recorded as 'present'.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 17.5% of squares (7/40) (cf. 12% in 2023), with max. counts of 27 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 13 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree*. 10 prs noted at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. First fledged birds noted on 8 Jun at Balephuill *Tiree* and Lephenstrath *Kintyre*. Late broods noted at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Aug. Max. post-breeding counts of 80 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Jul, 60 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 1 Jul and 40 at Iona *Mull* on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max. counts on *Tiree* of 110 at Whitehouse on 26 Aug, 70 at Heylipol on 4 Oct and 55 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 16 Sep. On *Islay*, 80 at Bowmore on 2 Nov and 80 at Bruichladdich on 20 Dec and on *Mull*, 100 at Normann's Ruh on 10 Oct and 40 on Iona on 26 & 30 Aug. All other counts of 30 birds or fewer.

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 8 at Tobermory on 9 May and 5 on Iona on 6 May (both *Mull*) and 5 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan. Most reports from (*Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 37.5% of squares (15/40) (cf. 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 6 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* and 5 at Ardtun *Mull*. 10 prs noted at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*.

The only confirmed breeding reported was of fledged young on Lismore *North-Argyll* on 24 Aug. None reported from *Tiree* between 1 May and 23 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas, with most reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Mull*), generally of 1-4 birds, but 8 on *Iona Mull* on 21 Sep, 5 at *Knipoch Mid-Argyll* on 14 Sep and 5 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 25 Oct during a large Redwing influx.



Yellow Wagtail *Tiree* May © Rebecca Dickson

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. A pair of Blue-headed race *M. f. flava* bred in south *Kintyre* Jul 2023 and fledged 2-3 young – first recorded breeding in *Argyll* for 100 years.

Spring A 2cy+ fem (prob *flava*) was at *Balephetrish Tiree* on 9 May [Clyde Ringing Group, J. Bowler]. Record was 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/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (28), *Cowal* (12) and *Mid-Argyll* (12). Few reports in Jan (12) and Feb (5), then more widespread in Mar (43), Apr (43) and May (45). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds, however 4 were at *Pennygown Mull* on 22 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: singles noted in 10% of squares (4/40) (cf. 0% in 2023) with max. counts of 5 at the mouth of the River *Forsa* and 4 at *Craignure* (both *Mull*). In *Kintyre* study area 6 broods

found, which fledged 24 yng, with one nest predated. Fledged juvs noted at Linndhu Ho. *Mull* on 20 May, at Kilmartin Gravel Pits *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jul, Bridge of Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul and at Lephenstrath *Kintyre*, on 12 Jun, where a nest was predated by Hooded Crows on 12 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (6) and *Mull* (21). Most reports were in; Aug (28), Sep (25) and Oct (1) with fewer in Nov (6) – Dec (4) as birds migrate to their wintering grounds. All counts were of 1-3. On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 31 Aug and on 30 Oct.



‘White’ Wagtail *Kintyre* April © Jo Goudie

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 (21), Feb (14), Mar (54), Apr (67) and May (129). Max. counts of 10 on seaweed at Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 10 Jan, 25 at Corran Ban, Ardnave *Islay* on 21 Apr and 20 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 37.5% of squares (15/40) (cf. 41% in 2023), with max. counts of 14 at Oronsay *Colonsay* and 13 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree*. Otherwise, limited breeding data, but widespread and first fledged young noted at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May. Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged there noted on 16 Jun. On *Islay* 5 prs noted on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve and 7 prs RSPB Oronsay in-by fields *Colonsay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 43+ at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 5 Sep,

40 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Oct, 30+ at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 2 Oct, 28 at Ardnave *Islay* on 23 Sep and 24 at Carradale Pt *Kintyre* on 11 Aug. Elsewhere, many counts of 1-22 birds, inc. 17 leaving roost in Corryvreckan pub, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug.

‘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 all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). First arrivals of singles at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 19 Mar, at Carse House *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, then 4 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar and singles at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 29 Mar and Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Apr. Few seen on passage with max. counts of 10 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 22 Apr, 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, 8 at Baleromin Dhu on 24 Apr and 8 on Oronsay on 28 Apr (both *Colonsay*). A single at Tralee *North Argyll* on 9 May was the last noted.

Autumn Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First reports were of 2 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 31 Jul & 9 Aug, 1 at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Aug, 3 at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Aug, then 1 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug. Numbers reported were low with max. counts of 17 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep and 12 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 2 Sep. Very few after mid-Sep with 2 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct and 8 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 7 Oct with 12 Pied Wagtails 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. Higher counts of: 50 at Lephinkill *Cowal* on 1 Jan, and on *Mull* of 40 at Lochan a’ Phuill on 19 Mar, 50 at Gribun Sands on 2 Apr, 25 at Pennygown on 3 & 17 Apr and 30 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. on 12 May. Elsewhere, counts of 1-30 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 85% of squares (34/40) (cf. 82% in 2023), with max. counts of 41 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*, 40 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*, 30 at Oronsay *Colonsay*, 25 at Dun Bhlaran *Mid-Argyll* and 23 at Beinn a’ Chaolais *Jura*. Good numbers and widespread. On RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 128 prs recorded and 62 prs on RSPB Oronsay in-by fields *Colonsay*. Breeding confirmed in (*Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Increase in numbers noted from early Aug with flocks of 20-50 birds, with max. counts of 120 at Balephuill on 22 Sep, 120 at Ruaig on 23 Sep, 100 at Barrapol on 12 Sep (all *Tiree*), 100 at mouth of River Forsa *Mull* on 17 Aug and 75 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 23 Sep. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 12 during in Nov- Dec, except 50 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 18 Nov.

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/Tiree*). First reports of singles at Glen Lochy *North Argyll* on 2 Apr, at Barguilean Farm, Glen Lonan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr, Salen *Mull* on 21 Apr, Barr Glen *Kintyre* on 10 Apr, Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 16 Apr, Bealach nan Sac *Cowal* on 19 Apr, and, with a more general arrival from 20 Apr. Most reports from (sites) in *Cowal* (10), *Kintyre* (2) *Mid-Argyll* (27), *Mull* (36) and *North Argyll* (10). Additionally, singles were at Ardlussa *Jura* on 26 Apr and on *Islay* in early May at Kildalton, Lochan Sholum,

Callumkil and Loch nan Diol. Max. site counts of 6 at Rubha Ghall, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 May and 5 at Knock *Mull* on 12 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 25% of squares (10/40) (cf. 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 8 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*, 5 at Tom Dubh *Cowal* and 5 at Glen Aros *Mull*.

Autumn Two were at Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 15 Aug, followed by singles at Coshandrochit *Mid-Argyll* on 17, 19 & 20 Aug, with one on Iona *Mull* on 7 Sep the last noted.

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 36 at Loch Don *Mull* on 14 Jan, 22 at Corran Ban, Ardnave *Islay* on 21 Apr, 14 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 1 Mar and 10 at Lunga, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 12 May. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds, however most reports of 1-2.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 7.5% of squares (3/40) (cf. 12% in 2023), with max. counts of 4 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* and 2 at Port Mor *Colonsay*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 35 prs recorded.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 15 at Port Righ on 23 Aug, 14 at Carradale Bay on 2 Dec and 10 at Grogport on 9 Aug (all *Kintyre*), and 12 at Cnoc an t-Suidhe on 12 Dec and 10 at Salen on 27 Oct (both *Mull*). Elsewhere, counts of fewer than 10 birds.

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* (55), *Mid-Argyll* (69) and *Mull* (96). Max. counts of 100+ at Lochbuie House on 19 Mar and 50+ at Pennyghael on 17 Mar (both *Mull*), 90 at Brox Wood, Sandbank *Cowal* on 25 Feb, 75 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Feb and 50 at the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 24 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of fewer than 50 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 65% of squares (26/40) (cf. 59% in 2023), with max. counts of 23 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*, 21 at Dalvore and 19 at Kilmichael Forest (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 18 at Loch Tarsan *Cowal*. Otherwise, limited breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (48), *Islay* (26) and *Mid-Argyll* (26). Lower max. counts suggesting poor breeding season; 180 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 4 Nov, 110 at a Cairnbaan garden *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Dec during a cold snap, 100+ at Normann's Ruh *Mull* on 10 Oct, 90 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Sep, 80 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 25 Nov and 55 in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

RBBP An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.

Winter/spring Only 10 reports: in Jan, singles were at Port Donain *Mull* on 14 Jan and at Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan. In *Cowal*, 4 were at Largiemore on 12 Feb and 1+ at Kilmun on 14 Feb. Two were at Balure of Shian *North Argyll* on 8 Mar and a fem at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar. A small passage was noted with 2 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 5-6 Apr, 2 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 8 Apr, and singles at Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr and at the Lodge *Coll* on 11 Apr.

Autumn/winter Very few records. A fem-type was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 Oct and a male was there on 29 Oct. Another single was at Blackrock, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 30 Oct. In Nov singles

were found at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Nov, Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 7 Nov, and at Killichronan on 13 Nov and Mishnish Lochs on 17 Nov (both *Mull*), while in Dec, 1 was at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 8 Dec and 5 at Quinish *Mull* on 15 Dec.



Bullfinch *Mid-Argyll* April © 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/Colonsay/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Cowal* (18), *Mid-Argyll* (21) and *Mull* (24). Max. counts of 10 at Loch na Cuilce on 9 Apr, 6 at Meall an Inbhire on 20 Jan, 6 at Loch an Torr on 21 Jan and 6 at Quinish House on 18 Feb (all *Mull*), 6 at Mid-Letter *Cowal* on 16 Mar and 8 at Grogport *Kintyre* on 31 Mar. Counts elsewhere of 1-5 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: singles or pairs noted in 15% of squares (6/40) (*cf.* 18% in 2023). 2 prs on RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*. Otherwise, limited data received; young noted being fed at Craignure *Mull* on 22 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Tiree*). Notable dip in records in Sep, when moulting; Aug (11), Sep (3), Oct (17), Nov (11) & Dec (14). Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (10) and *Mull* (16). Max. counts of 13 at Loch Allan *Islay* on 1 Nov and 11 at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 17 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-7 birds.

COMMON ROSEFINCH* *Carpodacus erythrina*

RBBP A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred. 38 records between 1989 and 2023, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.

Spring An elusive non-singing bird in fem-type plumage was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 May and a fem/2cy male was at Gigha *Kintyre* on 31 May – remarkably a day earlier than one in the finder’s garden in 2023 [K. Helm].

Winter A fem/1cy male was at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* from 8-13 Dec [A. & N. Hand, J. Dickson, D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



Greenfinch *Mid-Argyll* November © Jim Dickson

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*). Remains a scarce bird with counts of 1-7 birds at sites in; *Coll* (5), *Cowal* (16), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (29), *North Argyll* (14) and *Tiree* (5). Max. counts of 10 at *Arrochar Cowal* on 12 Apr and 10 at *Lochan a’ Phuill Mull* on 19 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 10% of squares (4/40) (*cf.* 9% in 2023), with max. count of 3 at *Dalvore Mid-Argyll*. Limited data received. Fledged young noted in *Mid-Argyll* at *Dalvore* and *Cairnbaan*, and at *The Glebe* and *Balephuill Tiree*. 20 were noted at *Loch Cliad Coll* on 6 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). Counts of 1-7 birds at sites in; *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (6). Max. counts of 7 at *Crannich Mull* on 15 Sep and 6 at *Balephuill Tiree* on 15 Sep.

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.*



Twite *Tiree* April © John Bowler

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 *Kintyre* (5), *Luing Mid-Argyll* (1) and *Mull* (2) but birds generally returning elsewhere in Apr-May. Counts much lower than 2023 where on *The Oa Islay* where a peak of 57 on 9 Jan (*cf.* 485 in 2023). Elsewhere, higher counts of 93 at *Gott Tiree* on 26 Feb, 75 at *Sunderland Farm Islay* on 20 Feb and 40 at *Ardlarach, Luing Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar. Noted at sites on *Mull* (19) with max. count of 50+ at *Balmeanach, Gribun Mull* on 11 Apr. Few reports from *Colonsay*, where max. of 10 at *Pigs' Paradise* on 25 Apr. In *Kintyre* 30 were at *Achamhinish, Gigha Kintyre* on 2 Mar and 1-2 at *Machrihanish SBO* and *Carskey/Lephinsthath* through to spring. Reports from 3 coastal sites in *Mid-Argyll* and one inland site in *North Argyll*, where 5 were at *Cruachan Dam* on 30 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 7.5% of squares (3/40) (*cf.* 18% in 2023), with max. counts of 4 at *Crossapol Pt. Tiree* and 4 at *Oronsay Colonsay*. Prs noted in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) from Apr with most reports from island areas. 14 prs recorded RSPB *Oa Reserve Islay*, 2+ pr RSPB *Smaull reserve Islay* and 1 pr on RSPB *Oronsay* in-by fields *Colonsay*. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 20 Jun and following breeding season scattered family flocks of 15-20 around the island in Jul. Colour-ringed individuals noted on *Colonsay* in Apr & May were from *Islay* and *Lancashire*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Most reports from *Islay, Mull* and *Tiree*. Reports by month; Aug (16), Sep (30), Oct (42), Nov (6) and Dec (1). Max. counts included; on *Tiree*, 235 at *The Reef* on 29 Oct and 120 at *Barrapol* on 28 Oct, and 140 at *Culbuirg Fm, Iona Mull* on 3 Oct, 100 at *Upper Killeyan, Oa Islay* on 19 Sep, 100 at *Saligo Islay* on 12 Oct and 90 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 16 Oct. Elsewhere, in (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) counts of 1-14.

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 except (*Jura*). No records during Jan, and only 3 in Feb: 1 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 9 Feb, 11 at Linndhu Ho *Mull* on 18 Feb and then 80 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 19 Feb, with more birds returning during Mar and more widespread through Apr. No large counts with max. counts of 25 at Pigs' Paradise on 25 Apr and 30 on Oronsay on 5 May (both *Colonsay*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 22.5% of BBS squares (9/40) (*cf.* 32% in 2023), with max. counts of 26 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*, 14 at Fidden *Mull*, 12 at Oronsay *Colonsay* and 10 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. 17 prs found at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* and 8 prs on RSPB Oronsay in-by fields *Colonsay*. Noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged birds noted on 9 Jun. Fledged yng / confirmed breeding also noted at Rubha na Faing, Port Charlotte and Loch Arish (all *Islay*), Ardmish, Gigha *Kintyre* and on Lismore *North Argyll*. A post-breeding flock of was 50 noted at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 7 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (22), *Islay* (19) and *Tiree* (16). Reports by month; Aug (51), Sep (43), Oct (25), Nov (9) and Dec (0). Lower max. counts than 2023; 380 at The Reef *Tiree* on 24 Sep, 130 at Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Aug, 120 on Iona *Mull* on 21 Sep and 85 on Oronsay airfield *Colonsay* on 26 Sep. Otherwise, 1-50 birds, inc., 40 at Coshandrochaid on 22 Aug and 30 at Loch Scammadale on 14 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*).

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 males at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr. Reports from six other *Tiree* sites during Apr-Jun. Also reported in *Colonsay* where 3 were at Uragaig on 23-26 Apr, in *Kintyre* where 4 were at Gialum, Gigha on 26 Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* where singles at Cullipool, Luing on 29 Apr and Stonefield Castle Hotel on 3 May also on *Mull* where 20+ reported at Doire na Cuaille on 10 May.

Summer/breeding All reports from *Tiree*. At least 12 prs across 7 sites in May, 10 prs nesting in 7 sites in Jun and 5 prs with fledged yng at 2 sites in Jul. Fledged birds noted from 24 Jun - 13 Jul at Balephuill.

Autumn/winter Up to 12 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor *Tiree* during Aug, with 16 there on 17 Sep, 15 on 30 Sep and then 25 on 1 Oct. Two at Heylipol Church *Tiree* on 7 Oct were the last reported. The only other reports were of 2 at Craig Ben Lodge on 4 Aug and 7 at Garmony Point on 22 Aug (both *Mull*). 'Greenland' type birds '*rostrata*' were noted on *Tiree* at Balephuill, a single on 7 Sep, 4 on 15-18 Sep and 1 on 30 Sep, and 3 at Balemartine on 26 Sep, with the last a single at Balephuill on 1 Oct. *From 1 January 2025 former Redpoll species will be treated as a single species.*

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 early in the year with reports in Jan (1), Feb (4) and Mar (2). Numbers remained low through spring with max. counts; 13 on *Mull* on 17 May, 8 at Tom Dubh *Cowal* on 11 May and 8 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May.

Summer/breeding BBS; noted in 25% of squares (10/40) (cf. 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 4 at Rhudle and 4 at Dalvore (both *Mid-Argyll*). Otherwise, limited breeding data. 11 prs in transects at the RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* and used nest found at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll*. Reports in summer from all areas except (*Tiree*). Max. counts of 12 at Lochawe Village *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jul and 10 at Port na Saille *Mull* on 7 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Several flocks reported in autumn; 110 on *Colonsay* on 1 Oct, 100 at Crinan Harbour *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Oct and 70 at Craignure *Mull* on 4 Sep, but fewer in Nov & Dec, except on *Mull*, where 100 at Linndhu Ho on 15 Dec and 74 at Loch Ba on 13-14 Dec. *From 1 January 2025 former Redpoll species will be treated as a single species.*

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.

All year The low numbers in late 2023 continued into the early part of 2024, but a bumper spruce cone crop and an influx in May, led to increased sightings. Reports by month; Jan (2), Feb (3), Mar (3), Apr (7), May (34), Jun (24), Jul (19), Aug (15), Sep (19), Oct (14), Nov (7) and Dec (2). Reports by region (sites); *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (9), *Islay* (9), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (31), *Mull* (49), *North Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (1). Max. counts of 25+ at Loch Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jun, 17 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 15 May, 15 at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, 15 at Tiroran on 3 Sep and 15 at Knock on 16 Jun (both *Mull*). On *Tiree*, 1>S at Balephuill on 16 Oct.

Breeding BBS: noted in 10% of squares (4/40) (cf. 15% in 2023), with max. of 6 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. The abundant cone crop led to early breeding with a fledged juv reported near Cladich *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Dec.

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 except (*Jura*). Few flocks noted with 25 on *Iona Mull* on 21 May, 15 at Pennyghael *Mull* on 27 May and 11 at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan the largest reported counts. Most counts were of 10 or fewer. Most reports came from *Mull*.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 35% of squares (14/40) (cf. 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 7 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* and 6 at Ardtun *Mull*. Four prs found on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Otherwise, limited breeding data other than fledgings reported on Lismore *North Argyll* on 24 Aug and 4 pairs nesting at 3 sites on *Tiree* where no young seen until 14 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Most reports from sites on (*Cowal/Islay/Mull*). Max. counts of 120 at Portnahaven on 2 Sep, 70 at Carnain, Loch Indaal and 120 at Cornabus on 21 Oct (all *Islay*), 100 at the Ardow Burn on 13 Sep and 45 on *Iona* on 21 Sep (both *Mull*) and 45 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug. Counts of up to 30 elsewhere. Birds still around in reasonable nos until year end inc. 22 at Hynish *Tiree* on 11 Dec.



Siskin *Mid-Argyll* April © 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* (42), *Mid-Argyll* (41), *Cowal* (11) and *North Argyll* (11). Larger counts later in the spring: 60 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 May, 49 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 25 May, 35 at Tighnabruaich *Cowal* on 24 Apr and 31 at Barcaldine *North Argyll* on 31 May. Elsewhere, most counts of 1-10, and singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Apr & 16 May and 2 there on 2 & 24 May and 1 Jun.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 52.5% of squares (21/40) (*cf.* 29% in 2023), with max. counts of 9 at Loch Frisa, 7 at Tobar Beag (both *Mull*) 7 at Rhudle and 7 at Kilmichael Forest (both *Mid-Argyll*). Otherwise, limited breeding data. First juvs noted at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 26 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). More remained in the autumn with reports in Aug (14), Sep (11), Oct (25), Nov (11) and Dec (5) with some larger counts; 55 at Glen Feochan on 11 Dec, 50 at Loch Barnluasgan on 3 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*), 40 at Loch Skerrols on 20 Oct and 35 at Kildalton on 2 Nov (both *Islay*), and 30 at Craignure on 16 Nov and 30 at Linndhu House on 16 Dec (both *Mull*). Elsewhere, counts of 1-20 birds.

LAPLAND BUNTING* *Calcarius lapponicus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce passage migrant. Recorded most frequently in autumn.*

Winter/spring One was at Killinallan *Islay* on 6 Feb.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* singles flew over the Loch a' Phuill area calling on 23 Sep & 8 Oct and a fem/1cy was at Sandaig on 17 Oct.



Lapland Bunting *Tiree* October © John Bowler

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 Very few sightings. Only reports were singles at the Oa *Islay* on 15 Jan and 2 & 19 Feb, Lower Killeyan *Islay* on 30 Jan, at Balinoe *Tiree* on 27 Mar and Claddach *Islay* on 12 Apr.

Autumn/winter First arrivals were singles on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Oct, Ardnave Pt *Islay* on 15 Oct, Kenovay *Tiree* on 19 Oct and Ardionra, Iona *Mull* on 20 Oct, followed by 5 at Ardnahoe *Islay* on 21 Oct and 10 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 22 Oct. A single was at Crackaig *Jura* on 26 Oct. Max. counts of 18 at Ardnave Pt *Islay* on 3 Nov. Elsewhere, 1-3 from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (5), *Mull* (1) and *Tiree* (2).

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* (4), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (24). Max. counts of 20 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 29 Mar, 15 at Ballitarsan *Islay* on 19 Feb, 15 at Loch Don *Mull* on 18 Mar, 12 at Leac na Ban, Knapdale *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr & 20 May and 8 at Glen Battrick *Jura* on 19 May. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: not noted in any squares (0/40) (cf. 3% in 2023). The only report of breeding was a singing male at Killiechoinich *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (1). Max. counts of 12 on *Jura* on 19 Oct, 8 at Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct and 6 at Gorsten *Mull* on 28 Oct. Elsewhere, reports of 1-5 birds, inc. 2 at Bealach nan Sac *Cowal* on 18 Oct.

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 14 at Killinallan on 1 Jan, 8 at Ardnave on 4 Jan (both *Islay*), 10 at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 18 Mar and 12 at Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 22.5% of squares (9/40) (*cf.* 26% in 2023), with max. counts of 6 at Gleann Lean *Mull*, 5 at Port Mor *Colonsay* and 4 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. On *Islay* 41 prs at RSPB Oa reserve, 42+ prs at RSPB Gruinart and 16+ prs at RSPB Smaull reserve. 2 prs in RSPB Oronsay in-by fields and 29 Ters found on *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* ca 20 scattered prs noted across the island, with fledged juvs from 17 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*) and generally widespread in small nos of 1-8 birds at sites. Max. counts of 37 at Octovullin on 4 Nov, 35 at Airigh Ghlas on 2 Dec, 12 at Ardnave on 28 Oct (all *Islay*), 16 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Oct and 11 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Oct.

Escapes and Introductions

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E. Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin Duck, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Category E. *Probably widespread in Argyll as farmyard birds, but often survive independently, but under-recorded.*

Spring/summer Two were at Port Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 6 Jan, 2 strays were at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 20 Apr and 1 was at Loch Ederline *Mid-Argyll* on 21 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.

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 35

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	17/04/2024	ABRC
Goshawk	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	19 /09/2024	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 2024 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Spotted Redshank	Loch Laich	<i>North Argyll</i>	10/10/2024
Nightjar	Kilberry	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	28/05/2024
Cattle Egret	Port Appin	<i>North Argyll</i>	10/05/2024
Cory’s Shearwater	Craignure	<i>Mull</i>	03/7/2024
Long-tailed Skua	Tobermory	<i>Mull</i>	07/09/2024
Hawfinch	Loch Skerrols	<i>Islay</i>	07/11/2024
Yellow-browed Warbler	Kilmartin	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	24/10/2024
Yellow-browed Warbler	Dunoon	<i>Cowal</i>	01/11/2024
White-rumped Sandpiper	Machrihanish	<i>Kintyre</i>	25/12/2024

Getting Involved

Argyll Bird Club The ABC is a registered charity with membership open to all. The club aims to promote an interest in birds in Argyll. We are a friendly club for anybody interested in wild birds, living in, or visiting, Argyll, irrespective of their level of knowledge, experience or skill. Visitors are more than welcome to our two annual indoor meetings which are all-day events held on a Saturday in spring and autumn. The club produces a quarterly magazine, '*The Eider*' and also has a website with sections on 'Recent Sightings' with photographs, News with details of upcoming meetings and trips, 'Publications' and 'Surveys'. Volunteers are always welcome to help with committee matters, bird recording and the website and to contribute to *The Eider*.

Scottish Ornithologists Club The SOC exists to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds and their habitats across Scotland and is a birdwatching club with 15 local branches across the country and a growing membership of over 3,000. Like-minded individuals with a passion for birds, nature and conservation are brought together through a programme of talks, outings, conferences and via the Club's quarterly members' journal, *Scottish Birds*. The SOC acts as the umbrella organisation for bird recording in Scotland, managing the network of recording birds in Scotland, or the Local Recorders' Network and the Scottish Birds Records Committee, the latter of which maintains the official Scottish List on behalf of the Club. The database of information Local Recorders collect is an extremely important archive of local bird information – a critical tool for their future conservation.

British Trust for Ornithology Through the efforts of volunteers participating in BTO surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment. Volunteer surveyors, members and staff work in partnership to provide unbiased information about birds and their habitats.

In Argyll we have many volunteers who participate in the following surveys, and you can get involved by contacting the bird recorder or any of the BTO representatives given on page 2:

BirdTrack is an exciting project, through a partnership between the BTO, the RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society, that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. BirdTrack provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these to support species conservation at local, regional, national, and international scales.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important indicator of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

Acknowledgements

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 2024 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; Caroline Anderson, John Bowler, John Boyd, Neil Brown, Steve Carter, Frank Cavanagh, Theo de Clermont, Colin James Cross, Jim Dickson, Rebecca Dickson, David Dinsley, Linda Gibson, Jo Goudie, Ann Hand, Max Hellicar, Keith Helm, Tony Jeffree, James Lehmann, Tom Lowe, Ann McGregor, Neil McMahon, Jacob New, John Smallman, Ewan Urquhart.

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

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

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB

Membership Application Form

Scottish Charity number SC050823



To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Rachel Harris, Membership Secretary membership@argyllbirdclub.org
Alternatively post it to: Rachel Harris, Membership Secretary, Argyll Bird Club, Beech Hill, Inverneill, Lochgilphead, PA30 8ES Tel: 01546606186

I/we wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club

Name(s) _____

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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 Ardentinnay 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

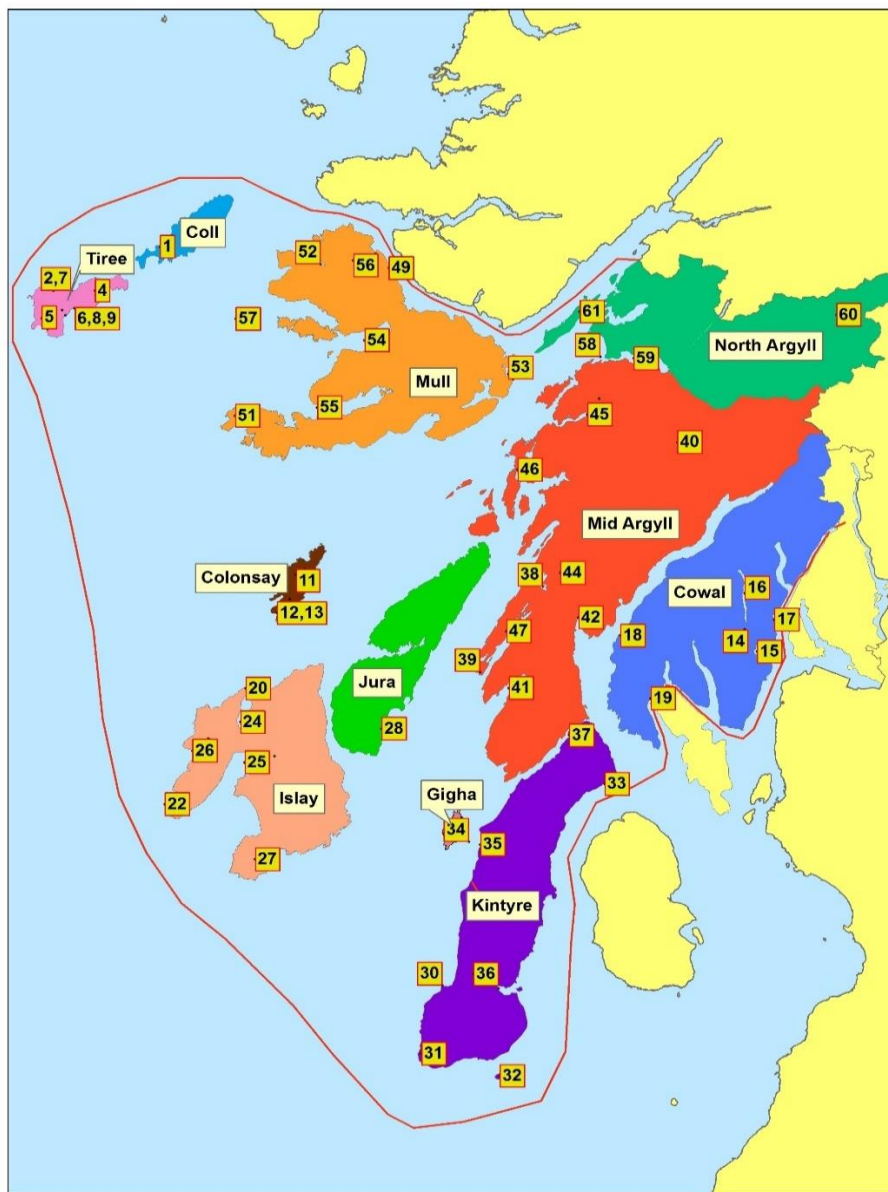
JURA 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

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