

Argyll Bird Report 2025



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FRONT COVER – Veery at Easter Ellister, Islay 13 Oct 2025 (Jack Morris)



Above – Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Iona, Mull 10 June 2025 (Alan Lewis)

The Thirty Seventh
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2025



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

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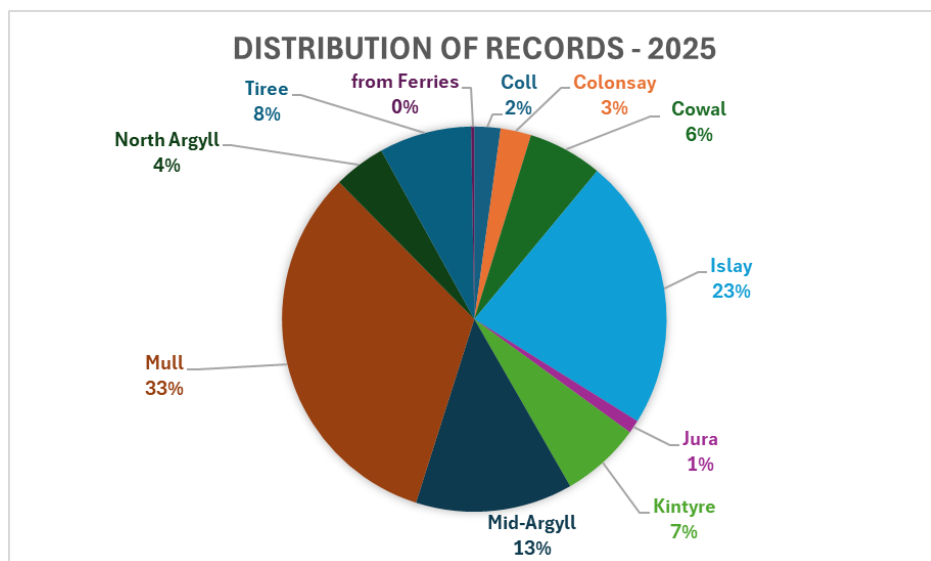
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Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 (37th) Argyll Bird Report and thank you to everyone who kindly contributed to around 100,000 records over the year, making this report possible. With potentially 245 species recorded in Argyll in 2025 (subject to BBRC acceptance) this would surpass the record year of 2022 by one.

As with other sparsely populated areas of Scotland, vast parts of Argyll are not frequently visited compared to say Central Scotland, which means some birds 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). Along with the general rise in records, the increase in reports from under-reported areas of *Coll*, *Colonsay*, *Jura* and *North Argyll* (which all had fewer than 5000 sightings during the year) is welcomed.



Four potential new species for Argyll were found this year; Blue-cheeked Bee-eater was found on Iona in June, A Black-winged Pratincole on Coll in August, a Veery on Islay in October and an Eleanora's Falcon on Islay in November (all subject to acceptance by the BBRC). In addition, a Caspian Gull report from July 2016 would also be new if accepted by the SBRC. Pied Crow on Islay in March-April and a North American Wood Duck on Tiree in April and again in July were both of unknown origin, however they have both been submitted to the BBRC to be held on file pending any future reviews of their 'wild' status in Britain.

Several rare and scarce species were only recorded only once during 2025: Red-breasted Goose, Ross's Goose, Lesser Scaup, Alpine Swift, Red-necked Grebe, Stone-curlew, American Golden

Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher*, Green Sandpiper, Black-winged Pratincole*, Wilson's Petrel, Great Shearwater, White Stork, Great White Egret, Goshawk, Pallid Harrier*, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater*, Green Woodpecker, Eleonora's Falcon*, Woodchat Shrike, Crested Tit, Hume's Warbler*, Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Firecrest, Veery, 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 2025 e.g. Tundra & Taiga Bean Goose, Dotterel, Cattle Egret, Honey-buzzard, Spotted Crake, Ring-billed Gull, Rose-Coloured Starling. Notably again, very low numbers of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported, and we speculate this is possibly linked to Bird Flu (HPAI). It was a better than average year for sightings of Black Tern, Sabine's Gull, Leach's Petrel, Glossy Ibis, Common Crane, Hoopoe, Kingfisher, Hobby and Common Rosefinch.

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.

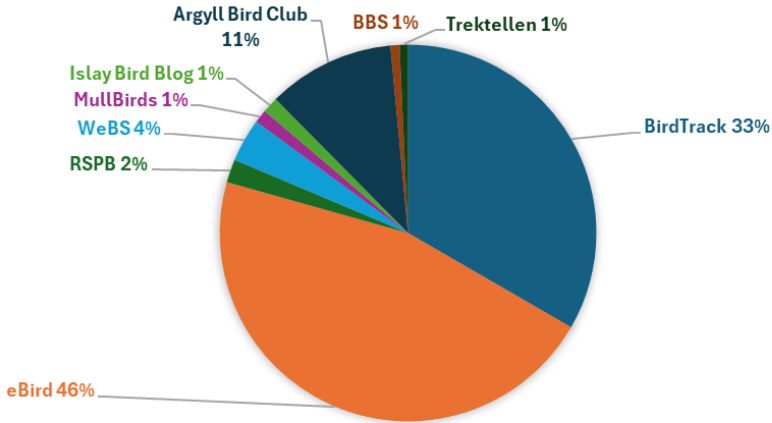
There was a very welcome increase in the number of records provided with breeding evidence (7% of the records during the period 1 April – 31 July) as these provide important information on the status of species around Argyll and for certain species contributes to the work of the UK Rare Birds Breeding Panel (RBBP). Becoming practiced in recording the breeding status will help observers contribute to the forthcoming Bird Atlas.

It is good to report stable populations of Corncrake and Red-necked Phalaropes, two of our rare but important breeding species. A recovering vole population meant that several of our raptors which specialise in this prey item had an improved breeding season and it was encouraging to get complete colony counts from two of the most important seabird colonies in Argyll on *Colonsay* and *Sanda Kintyre*. This group of species seems to have had a reasonable year.

A feature of 2025 is that many of the arrival dates of spring migrants were earlier than 2024 and it would be an interesting project for someone to plot the changes in arrival dates in Argyll of this group of species over the last few decades.

This year, eBird again provided the largest source of records, followed by BirdTrack (see pie-chart below). However, records submitted through the ABC recording spreadsheet, from RSPB staff, and from structured surveys such as WeBS, BBS and Trektellen remain particularly valuable because of the detailed information provided, often missing from the mass sources. Only 76% of the records received had a count of birds, with the remaining 24% only recording presence. (A further 26% 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.

SOURCE OF ARGYLL RECORDS - 2025



We also wish to thank the BTO Regional Representatives (Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven & David Wood) for sourcing results from the 33 Breeding Bird Survey transects completed in Argyll in 2025. We thank all survey participants and encourage more people to become involved in this structured survey. The highlights from the BBS have been included, providing an indication of the occurrence and population changes in common birds (particularly passerines). This year we present evidence of contrasting trends in the populations in (based on occurrence in the BBS survey plots) of Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff in Argyll.

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 2026*

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 80,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records, however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under [Bird Recording – Argyll Bird Club](#) which gives threshold guidelines on what to report. The recorders are happy to input casual reports, however when larger volumes of records are submitted, we recommend that these are sent in *Excel* spreadsheet format compatible with the Argyll bird database. We can send you a template or for regular record providers we can send an automated input form. Please email abcrecorder@outlook.com 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: 07985726209 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 #	Surf Scoter (except adult males)
Taiga Bean Goose	Smew
Tundra Bean Goose	Ruddy Duck
European White-fronted Goose	White-billed Diver
(race <i>albifrons</i>)	Wilson's Petrel #
Bewick's Swan	Cory's Shearwater #
Egyptian Goose	Great Shearwater
American Wigeon	Balearic Shearwater
Green-winged Teal	Great Cormorant (race <i>sinensis</i>)
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)	Eurasian Bittern
Red-crested Pochard #	Night-heron #
Ring-necked Duck	Cattle Egret #

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

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

Sighting Highlights of 2025

~ January ~

Wintering birds of note from 2024 included: On *Islay*, a **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** present until 1 Apr, a male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** in the Gruinart area seen again on 1 Jan, and a **CAACKLING GOOSE** until 1 Apr. An adult **ROSS'S GOOSE** from Dec 2024 remained in the south *Kintyre* area until 20 Mar, an adult **RING-NECKED DUCK** remained in the Oban area *Mid-Argyll* until at least 27 Jan and on *Tiree* a **POCHARD** remained from 2024 to 7 Mar, as did a **COOT** until 10 Feb. Four **BRAMBLINGS** were around NW *Mull* on 1 Jan. An adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, and an adult **LITTLE GULL** was there on 10 Jan. Two **GREAT CRESTED GREBES** were at Gairletter Point *Cowal* on 12 Jan. Two **LITTLE AUKS** were seen from the *Islay* ferry SE of Texa island, a **STOCK DOVE** was at Sunderland Farm and a female **SCAUP** was at Loch Skerrols, all *Islay* on 13 Jan. A **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Cornabus *Islay* on 14 Jan. An adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20-23 Jan. Three **LITTLE AUKS** were seen from the *Colonsay* ferry off the Garvellach Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan.



ROSS'S GOOSE *Kintyre* January 2025 *Andy Paton*

~ February ~

A **SCAUP** was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 2 Feb. A **COOT** was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 4 Feb. An **ICELAND GULL** was at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 4 Feb. A 'RUSSIAN' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Feb & two there on 12 Feb. A 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 - 22 Feb and an adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was there on 21 Feb. A **POCHARD** was on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 22 Feb. A 2cy **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Westport Beach *Kintyre* on 26 Feb. An adult **LITTLE GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb.

~ March ~



BLACK REDSTART *Mid-Argyll* March 2025 *Jim Dickson*



HAWFINCH *Mid-Argyll* March 2025 *Lynsey Gibson*

A 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Mar then nearby at the Add Estuary on 12 Mar. An adult '**RUSSIAN**' **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** was at Craigens *Islay* on 4 Mar. A **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Machir beach *Islay*, and a male **MARSH HARRIER** flew over the dunes at Carskiew *Kintyre* on 5 Mar. A male **SURF SCOTER** was off

Port Charlotte *Islay* on 7 Mar. A female **HAWFINCH** was at a bird table in Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* and a 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at Glenrioch, Stewarton *Kintyre* on 10 Mar. An early **SWALLOW** was seen at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar. Two **GREAT CRESTED GREBES** were noted off Ardbeg *Islay*, and three **VELVET SCOTERS** were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar. A **HOOPOE** was in a garden at Creag Mhor, Gruinart *Islay* remaining in the area on 21 Mar -2 Apr. A 2cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Bridgend, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Mar. A **PIED CROW** (of unknown origin) was in a garden at Portnahaven *Islay* on 28 Mar and apparently had arrived a few days earlier and was last noted on 7 Apr. A male **BLACK REDSTART** was at Inverliever, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 28-30 Mar.

~ April ~



CRANE *Tiree* April 2025 John Bowler

A female **RING-NECKED DUCK** was on Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 2 Apr. Two **SCAUP** were on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 3 Apr. Single male **RING OUZELS** were at Sanaigmore *Islay* and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Apr. A female-type **BLACK REDSTART** was at the road towards Ardnave *Islay* on 6 Apr. A **HOOPOE** was at Ardalanish *Mull* and a 2cy **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 6 Apr. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** flew over Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Apr. An **ALPINE SWIFT** was at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* and two **RING OUZELS** also there on 10 Apr. A male **RING OUZEL** was at Inver House *Jura* on 10 Apr. A male **SURF SCOTER** and two **VELVET SCOTERS** were off Port Charlotte *Islay* on 10 Apr. A male **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* and a 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 11 Apr. A female-type **BLACK REDSTART** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13-14 Apr. Two **TREE SPARROWS** were at

Bruichladdich *Islay* on 13-14 Apr. Two **VELVET SCOTERS** were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Apr. A male **MARSH HARRIER** flew over Kilnave, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Apr. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. A **RING OUZEL** was on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*, two 2cy **LITTLE GULLS** were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* and a **SPOTTED REDSHANK** was in central *Tiree*, all on 22 Apr. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was at Crossapol *Tiree* and a 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 23-28 Apr. A 2cy **ICELAND GULL** was at sea south off Ardnamurchan *Mull* waters and a male **RING OUZEL** was noted at Gribun *Mull* on 24 Apr. A **COMMON CRANE** flew west at Totronald *Coll* on 26 Apr, and was seen later near the Ringing Stone & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27-28 Apr. A **VELVET SCOTER** was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Apr. A **STONE-CURLEW** was at the Ross of Mull near Kintra *Mull* on 30 Apr.

~ May ~



FIRECREST Cowal May 2025 Stuart Kelly

A **COMMON CRANE** was at East Backs, Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 2 May. A **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** was at Gruinat *Islay* and a **STOCK DOVE** there on 6 May. Single **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**, **CRESTED TIT** and **WOOD SANDPIPER** were all in the Loch Tulla area *North Argyll* on 7 May. A **TREE SPARROW** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 May. A **NORTH AMERICAN WOOD DUCK** was in west *Tiree* on 9 May. Single **WOOD SANDPIPERS** were at Fidden *Mull* and at Gruinat *Islay* on 10 May. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at The Oa *Islay*, a **HOBBY** was at Tobermory *Mull*, and a **RING OUZEL** was in Glen Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 11 May. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May. A **SNOW GOOSE** was in the Loch Gorm area *Islay* on 13-14 May. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 May. A **COMMON CRANE** and a singing **FIRECREST** were in the Holy Loch area *Cowal*, a **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** was at Upper Cragabus *Islay* and a **HAWFINCH** at Balephuill *Tiree*, all on 14 May, with the **CRANE** remaining until 21 May. A **GARGANEY** was at Gruinat *Islay* on 16 May. A **QUAIL** was heard at Keillbeg, near Danna *Mid-Argyll* and a **REED WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 May. A **CURLEW SANDPIPER** was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17-18 May, and a **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 May. A **COOT** was at Toberlonachy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* and a **TREE SPARROW** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 May. A **GARGANEY** was at the Reef, a 'Grey-headed' **YELLOW WAGTAIL** and two **CURLEW SANDPIPERS** were at Loch a' Phuill, all on *Tiree* on 20 May. A **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Manna *Tiree* on 21 May and a **MARSH WARBLER** also there on 22 May. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 May. A **SOOTY SHEARWATER** was off *Coll* on 24 May. A **BLACK REDSTART** was at Glen Bellart *Mull* on 24 May. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and a **GREEN WOODPECKER** was at Benmore *Cowal* on 25 May. Four **POMARINE SKUAS** were off *Coll* on 26 May. A **LITTLE GULL** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 29-30 May, a **QUAIL** was heard at Manna *Tiree* on 30 May and a female **SCAUP** was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 31 May.

~ June ~

A **TREE SPARROW** was at Black Crofts *North Argyll* on 1 Jun. In *Cowal* 2+ **NIGHTJARS** were sound recorded at three sites between 1-10 Jun, one was seen & heard at a site near Kilberry *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jun, and one, sound recorded, at a site near Lochdon *Mull* on 12-13 Jun. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at The Reef on 3 Jun then at Loch a' Phuill, both *Tiree* on 8-12 Jun and again on 23-24 Jun. A female **SCAUP** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2-12 Jun. An adult **POMARINE SKUA** was at Gunna Sound *Tiree* and an adult **LONG-TAILED SKUA** at sea between *Mull* and *Coll* all on 3 Jun. A **SNOW GOOSE** was at Baugh, then Sandaig & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5-7 Jun. A **QUAIL** was heard at Loch nan Torran *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun. A **BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER** was on Iona *Mull* on 9-10 Jun. A male **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was at Duart Bay *Mull* on 13 Jun. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Gruinat *Islay* on 16 Jun. A 2cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Machrihanish beach *Kintyre* on 20 Jun.

~ July ~

A **GREEN SANDPIPER** was at Lephenstrath Farm *Kintyre* on 14 Jul. A **VELVET SCOTER** was at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Jul. A **NORTH AMERICAN WOOD DUCK** was

seen again in west *Tiree* on 24 Jul (same bird as in May). A **COOT** was at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 31 Jul.

~ August ~



BONAPARTE'S GULL *Mid-Argyll* August 2025 *Jim Dickson*



MELODIOUS WARBLER *Tiree* August 2025 *John Bowler*

SOOTY SHEARWATERS were noted in small nos. from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree* during the month from 4 Aug. A **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** was off *Aird Tiree* on 4 Aug, and one was in with a **MANX SHEARWATER** flock off *Portavadie*, *Loch Fyne Mid-Argyll* on 7 Aug. An adult **POMARINE SKUA** was seen from the *Islay* ferry on 5 Aug. An adult **LITTLE GULL** was at *Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll*, and a female **MARSH HARRIER** was at *Loch Gorm Islay* on 8 Aug. Two adult **POMARINE SKUAS** were off *Aird Tiree* on 9 Aug. An adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** was at the *Add Estuary & Loch Crinan Mid-Argyll* on 11-15 Aug. A **MARSH HARRIER** was at the *Add Estuary Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** was at *An Fhaodhail Tiree* on 19 Aug. A **LITTLE GULL** was at *Ardnadrochit Mull* on 23 Aug. A 1cy **LITTLE STINT** was at *Loch a' Phuill Tiree* on 24 Aug. A **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** was off *Bowmore Islay* on 28 Aug. A **SABINE'S GULL** was off *Frenchman's Rocks Islay* on 29 Aug, and one passed *Hynish Tiree* on 31 Aug. Four **LITTLE GULLS** passed *Caliach Point NW Mull* and a **WILSON'S STORM PETREL** was off *Hynish Tiree* on 31 Aug. A 1cy **MELODIOUS WARBLER** was at *Balephuill Tiree* on 31 Aug – 4 Sep.

~ *September*



WHITE STORK *Tiree* September 2025 *Hayley Douglas*

CURLEW SANDPIPERS were recorded in record nos. on *Tiree* from 4 Sep, with an all-island peak of 52 on 9 Sep, and last single there 13 Oct, with smaller numbers reported from *Islay*, *Mid-*

Argyll & Mull. A 1cy **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Balinoe on 1 -10 Sep and Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12-13 Sep. An adult **LONG-TAILED SKUA** was at Loch Buie *Mull* on 3 Sep. On *Tiree* a **TURTLE DOVE** at Ruaig on 3 Sep, then at Balevullin on 8 Sep and at Clachan on 11-13 Sep. A **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** was at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 4 Sep and another was at Crossapol *Tiree* on 15 Sep. A 1cy **SPOTTED REDSHANK** was at Gott Bay, a 1cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** at Scarinish and a **LEACH'S PETREL** passed Hynish, all *Tiree* on 7 Sep. Two **GLOSSY IBIS** frequented the Gruinart area *Islay* from 7 Sep and two were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8-14 Sep. A 1cy **LITTLE STINT** was at Vault Bay *Tiree* on 8 Sep. A **GREY PHALAROPE** was at Balephetrish Bay, four **BLACK TERN** were at Loch a' Phuill, both *Tiree* on 9 Sep and a single was off Hynish *Tiree* on 10 Sep. Single **LITTLE STINTS** were at Vault on 8-12 and at Loch a' Phuill on 13 Sep, both *Tiree*. A **LITTLE STINT** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep and four were at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Sep. A **WOOD SANDPIPER** was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 11-12 and two there on 16 Sep. An adult female **MARSH HARRIER** was at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Sep. A **LITTLE STINT** was at Fidden *Mull*, and an adult **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** was at Balevuillin *Tiree* on 12 Sep. A **MEDITERRANEAN GULL**, seven **LEACH'S PETRELS**, two **LITTLE GULLS** and a **SABINE'S GULL** passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 13 Sep. An adult **POMARINE SKUA** was between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 13 Sep. A **LESSER WHITETHROAT** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Sep. A 1cy **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Sep. Three **LITTLE GULLS** passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 15 Sep. A **BLACK TERN** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Sep. A Swedish ringed **WHITE STORK** appeared on *Tiree* on 16 Sep, remaining there until 23 Sep, but later died after taken into care. A **SABINE'S GULL** was off Hynish *Tiree* on 17 Sep. A 1cy **LONG-TAILED SKUA** was off Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep. Single 1cy **BARRED WARBLERS** were on *Tiree* at Balephuill and at Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Sep. Two **LEACH'S PETRELS** were off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*, and a **BLACK TERN** was off SE *Mull* on 19 Sep. Single **SABINE'S GULL** and **POMARINE SKUA** were off Caliach Point *Mull* and a **LEACH'S PETREL** was off NE *Coll* all on 20 Sep. A 1cy **BARRED WARBLER** was at Airleod *Coll* on 22 Sep. Two **LITTLE GULLS** were off Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep. A **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Glenegedale *Islay* on 25 Sep. A **BLACK TERN** was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 25 Sep -1 Oct. A 2cy **LITTLE GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Sep. On *Tiree* a putative '**MEDITERRANEAN**' **FLYCATCHER** (*M. s. balearica*) was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep - 4 Oct. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** flew over Sandaig *Tiree*, and a **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** was off Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 28 Sep.

~ *October* ~

A **HOBBY** was on Luing *Mid-Argyll*, a 1cy **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** and 1cy **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** were both at Ballinaby *Islay*, all on 1 Oct. Two **SABINE'S GULLS** passed Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 2 Oct. **SOOTY SHEARWATERS** were noted passing *Tiree* on 3-4 Oct, with a peak of 10 there on 4 Oct. On *Islay*, a 1cy **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was at Sanaigmore, the **BLACK TERN** again at Loch Gorm and a **GLOSSY IBIS** at Gruinart, all on 3 Oct. A 1cy **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** was at Vault Bay on 4 Oct then moved to Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* until 15 Oct. Seawatching reports from Aird *Tiree* after



WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Tiree* October 2025 *Theo de Clermont*

Storm Amy included three **SABINE'S GULLS**, three **LEACH'S PETRELS**, three **GREY PHALAROPES** and three **POMARINE SKUAS**, plus a single **POMARINE SKUA** off Vaul, all on 4 Oct. Seven **LEACH'S PETRELS** and two **LITTLE GULLS** passed Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 5 Oct. On *Islay* a peak count for this autumn of nine **LITTLE EGRETS** at Gruinart, a 1cy **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was still present at Sanaigmore and six **LEACH'S PETRELS** passed Sanaigmore. A **LEACH'S PETREL** was south of Fishnish, Sound of *Mull* on 5 Oct. A new 1cy **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** was at Hough Bay and a 1cy **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Barrapol, both *Tiree* on 6 Oct. An adult male **SURF SCOTER** was at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct. A **GLOSSY IBIS** was at Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Oct. A 1cy **VEERY** was at Easter Ellister and a **ACKLING GOOSE** was at the head of Loch Gruinart, both *Islay* on 13 Oct. Two **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLERS** were at Balephuill *Tiree* from 14 Oct. A **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** was at Bruichladdich, a **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** was along the shore SW of Bowmore, both *Islay* on 15 Oct, and another **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** was on *Tiree* on 15-27 Oct. A **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** was at Kilchoman House woodland *Islay* on 16 Oct. A **'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16-19 Oct. A **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** was caught and ringed at Gobagrennan area, S. *Kintyre* on 17 Oct. The returning adult **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** was at Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Oct. An adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Oct. A **GREAT WHITE EGRET** was at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19-29 Oct. A **HOOPOE** was at Inverlussa, nr. Lochdon *Mull* on 20-23 Oct. A **HUME'S WARBLER** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Oct. A male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, and



LEACH'S PETREL *Kintyre* October 2025 *Jo Goudie*

three adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULLS** were at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 24 Oct. Two **WAXWINGS** were at Lagavulin *Islay* and two were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Oct. A 1cy **LONG-TAILED SKUA** was off Aird *Tiree* on 26 Oct. A 1cy **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* and a **COOT** at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 27 Oct. A 1cy female type **LESSER SCAUP** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and two male **POCHARD** at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 31 Oct.

~ *November* ~



CAKCLING GOOSE *Islay* November 2025 *Robbie Brookes*

The female **LESSER SCAUP** at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* remained until at least 9 Nov. The **CAKCLING GOOSE** was at Nearabus *Islay* on 1 Nov and remained on the island until the year end. The male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** was again at Gruinart floods *Islay* on 3 Nov. A **LAPLAND BUNTING** was at Heylipol *Tiree* and a female/imm. **BLACK REDSTART** was at Carnain *Islay* on 8 Nov. Single **COOT** were at Canal Loch and at Ballyhaugh Loch on *Coll* both on 10 Nov. A 1cy **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 11-17 Nov. A 'SIBERIAN' **CHIFFCHAFF** was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 11 Nov. A 1cy **SPOTTED REDSHANK** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Nov and remained into 2026. On *Islay*, a 1cy **ELEONORA'S FALCON** was at Loch Gruinart, a 1cy **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** was at Portnahaven, a **RED-NECKED GREBE** was at Loch Indaal and a 1cy fem **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at Loch Skerrols, all on 12 Nov. A 1cy **COMMON ROSEFINCH** was in a garden at Calgary *Mull* on 23 Nov. An adult male **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at Tangy Loch *Kintyre* from 25 Nov.

~ *December* ~



SPOTTED REDSHANK *Mid-Argyll* November 2025 Jim Dickson

The **SPOTTED REDSHANK** remained at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* all month. A 1cy male **RING-NECKED DUCK** was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8-12 Dec. A **VELVET SCOTER** was at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8th & two were there on 15 Dec. A **COOT** was at Ballyhaugh Loch *Coll* on 8 Dec. A **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** was at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 11 Dec. A **CAKCLING GOOSE** was at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec remaining into 2026. Five **RING-NECKED DUCKS** were at Tangy Loch *Kintyre* on 12 Dec, some remaining into 2026. Three **RING-NECKED DUCKS** were at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* from 13 Dec and into 2026. A 'TODD'S' **CANADA GOOSE** was at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 19 Dec. A **POCHARD** was at Loch

Gorm *Islay* and an adult **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec. An adult **ROSS'S GOOSE** (same bird from last winter) was again at Drumlemble *Kintyre* from 21 Dec and into 2026. An adult **BONAPARTE'S GULL** was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec and a 1cy **GLAUCOUS GULL** also there on 22 Dec. The male **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** seen again at Guinart *Islay* from 23 Dec, and two males were there on 31 Dec. A **TREE SPARROW** was at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Dec and a **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 30 Dec.



WOODCOCK *Mid-Argyll* January 2025 Steve Carter

Symbols and abbreviations

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ad./ads.	adult/adults
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
AOT	apparently occupied territories
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
b/3 etc	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
1cy, 2cy, 3cy etc	Bird ages: second-calendar year, third calendar year etc.
>	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 2025

The following systematic list includes entries for (245) Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2025 (*cf.* average 225 species during the years 1993- 2024). The Argyll list stands at 374 species to the end of 2024 (Pallid Swift and Ross's Goose were added in 2024). Five potential new species (four in 2025) are still under consideration: Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Black-winged Pratincole, Veery, Eleonora's Falcon, all BBRC, and a Caspian Gull from 2016 by the SBRC. Pied Crow and American Wood Duck were of unknown origin, but both potentially wild and may be considered by the BBRC in future.

Green-winged Teal, Hooded Crow and Common/Arctic Redpolls are all now treated as subspecies following a unified global avian taxonomy – AviList – was published in June 2025, the product of collaboration between teams from BirdLife International, the IOC World Bird List, the eBird/Clements Checklist.

*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). A list of records that were not accepted and also for those that haven't yet been submitted appears after the main systematic list. 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 (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). During Jan-Mar most reports from *Islay* where max. of at 26 Loch Indaal on 12 Jan, with 27 there on 21 Feb, and the last reported on 3 Apr. Elsewhere 1 was at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Jan and on *Jura* 36 were at Glas Eilean on 15 Feb, with 5 lingering there until 11 Apr. On *Tiree*, 60 >N at Gott Bay on 11 Apr, and 30 >NW at Crossapol on 23 Apr. Also on 23 Apr, 3 were at Craignure *Mull*, with one at Balphetrish Bay *Tiree* on 3 May was the last reported.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals were on 1 Sep when 200 >S at Frenchman's Rock and 328 at Loch Gruinart (both *Islay*), but only 59 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Sep, when birds were also at Fiddin *Mull* and 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*. Main passage was between 4-15 Sep when numbers peaked at 189 at Loch Gruinart on 11 Sep, 113 at Carnain, Loch Indaal on 12 Sep and 158 >S at Frenchman's Rocks on 15 Sep (all *Islay*), elsewhere during this period 1 was at Arnabost *Coll* on 11 Sep, 4 were at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 11 Sep, 2 were at Loch Crinan on 8 Sep and 9 at Keillmore on 12 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*), 1 was at Pennygown on 6 Sep, 1 at Lower Ardtun on 8 Sep and 12 on Iona on 13 Sep (all *Mull*) and on *Tiree* 14 were at Balephetrish Bay on 3 Sep. Thereafter numbers elsewhere were of 1-5 birds, except 25 at Baugh *Tiree* on 19 Sep. On *Islay* the peak winter count was 46 at Blackrock on 7 Dec.

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

Autumn/winter A ‘probable’ single adult was with a Pale-bellied on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov [D. Jardine].

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 and each winter until present.

Winter/spring Returning adult in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* from 11 Oct 2024 was last noted there on 1 Apr.

Autumn/winter Returning adult in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* from 18 Oct into 2026. *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 415 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan, 150 at Loch Don *Mull* on 14 Feb, 125 at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar, 97 on *Colonsay* on 25 Jan, 80 at Balinoe *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Jan, 69 at Craighouse *Jura* on 17 Mar, 65 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 16 Mar and 60 at Corrylach, Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 22 Jan. Elsewhere, counts inc., 89 at Ardtur *North Argyll* on 20 Mar, 35 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 8 Jan, 25 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Apr, 12 on *Coll* on 30 May and 9 at Loch Aulraig *Tiree* on 22 May.

Summer/breeding Noted on 33.3% of BBS transects (11/33) (*cf.* 17.5% in 2024). Breeding or prs also noted from sites on; *Coll* (2) where a pr nesting on Gunna and anecdotally elsewhere, *Colonsay* with 17 broods totalling 64 juvs. in May & Jun, *Islay* (3) inc. 1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve, *Jura* (3) where 9+ prs. *Kintyre* (1) where nesting at Ardminish, Gigha, *Mid-Argyll* (4) inc. 15 prs with 90 yng and a further 8 prs with no yng at the Add Est. on 6 Jun, *Mull* (3+) breeding was not confirmed on the Treshnish Is. and *North Argyll* (3) inc. 9 prs. at Fennachrochan and 8 prs at Eilean nan Caorach, both Lismore. First broods noted on Kerrera on 25 Apr and Add Est. on 12 May (both *Mid-Argyll*). 230 noted at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 13 Jul and 23 at Arileod *Coll* on 2 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. area counts received of 745 around the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 300 at Ferlochan *North Argyll* on 3 Aug, 193 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Nov, 172 at Loch Don *Mull* on 29 Nov, 130 at Dallivady and 70 at Killean on 14 Nov (both *Kintyre*), 34 on *Colonsay* on 13 Oct, 20 on *Jura* on 22 Nov, 8 at Arinagour *Coll* on 15 Oct, 5 at Caol Isla *Islay* on 14 Oct and 4 at Loch na Buaille *Tiree* on 4 Oct.

NORTH AMERICAN CANADA GOOSE group* *Branta c. interior / parvipes*

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

LESSER CANADA GOOSE *Branta c. parvipes*

Autumn/winter On *Islay* a bird showing good features for this type was found at Gruinart flats on 11 Oct [T. de Clermont *et al.*] and remained until at least 13 Nov, also at Ballinaby and Loch Indaal. *Record is under consideration by the BBRC. This or more likely another candidate was photographed at Kinnabus on 28 Dec but not submitted.*

TODD'S CANADA GOOSE *Branta c. interior*

Autumn/winter On *Islay* one was photographed at Ronnachmore, S. of Bowmore on at least 15 Oct [T. de Clermont, J. Morris], also other dates and locations, however further information scant. In *Kintyre* one was photographed at Rhunahaorine on 19 Dec [S. Piner]. On *Tiree* one was photographed at several sites around Balephetrish on 15-27 Oct [J. Bowler]. *Records are under consideration by the BBRC. (see list of records still awaited etc on page 151).*

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max. Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International Goose Counts) of 39,580 in Mar (*cf.* 37,141 in 2024). Max. area counts of 31,566 on *Islay* on 18-19 Mar, 5,872 on *Tiree* on 13-14 Mar, 368 on *Coll* on 18 Mar, 1,220 on Oronsay & *Colonsay* on 19 Mar and in *Mid-Argyll*, 500 at Danna on 19 Mar. Elsewhere, other counts on *Coll* on 26 Feb, 630 at Breachacha and 60 at Cornaigmore., 8 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Jan, 253 at Toberonochy Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, on *Mull*, 350 at Fidden on 30 Mar and 300 on Inch Kenneth on 31 Mar, and 2 at Achnacreebeag *North Argyll* on 9 Apr.

Breeding/summer Reported in small numbers (1-2) from (*Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) during Jun - Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Other than 2 which appeared at Ruiag *Tiree* on 1 Sep, the first arrivals of 13 at Claddach *Islay* on 17 Sep followed on 21 Sep by 14 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Max. Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International Goose Count) of 36,935 in Dec, inc. max counts of 29,566 on *Islay*, 6,114 on *Tiree* and 1,251 on *Coll*. Elsewhere, other counts: 1,597 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Oct, 282 at Toberonochy Luing on 5 Nov and 344 on Danna on 12 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*), 211 on *Mull* on 27 Oct, 21 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 6 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 26 Sep.

ACKLING 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* one from 16 Oct 2024 overwintered and was noted occasionally around the Gruinart area until last report on 1 Apr. Another, new individual, was in The Oa area and nearby at Leorin on 21 Jan - 23 Feb [E. Burrell, D. Dinsley, D. Wood *et al.*].

Autumn/winter On *Islay* one was in the Loch Gruinart area on 13 Oct and remained into 2026 [T. de Clermont, J. Morris *et al.*] and another arrived at Loch Gruinart on 18 Oct and seen again on 19 Oct [J. Morris, T. de Clermont], perhaps same bird arrived there on 17 Oct [C. McKay] and was last noted on 21 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* one was at Dunadd, N. of Lochgilphead on 10 Dec remaining at Drimvore and surrounding area into 2026 [M. Broadbent, P. Stronach *et al.*]. *Records are under consideration by the BBRC.*



CACKLING GOOSE *Islay* February 2025 *David Astins*

ROSS'S GOOSE* *Anser rossii*

A vagrant. One accepted record from Kintyre in December 2024 into 2025. 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/spring An adult (2cy+) first found at north of Peninver *Kintyre* on 5 Dec 2024 remained into 2025 in *Kintyre* at Clockkeil on 2 & 29 Jan, near Machrihanish airfield on 8 & 29 Jan & 20 Mar & at Muasdale on 17 Mar. [J. Dickson, D. Jardine *et al.*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC. First record for *Argyll*.

Autumn/winter An adult (2cy+), presumably the bird from last winter, was seen at Drumlemble, The Laggan *Kintyre* from 23 Dec to year end [A. Murray *et al.*] and likely seen a few days earlier on 21 Dec [D. Brown].

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 in Jan, 3 in Mar, Oct & Dec.

Winter An adult white morph, likely a 'Greater' Snow Goose (first seen Tiree on 13 Dec 2023) remained there Jan-Feb 2024 and possibly same bird in 2025 with Greylags at Loch na Gile on 22 May and then at Balevullin on 31 May, Baugh on 5 Jun, at Sandaig on 6 Jun and at Loch a' Phuill on 6-7 Jun. Perhaps the same bird was reported earlier at Loch Gorm Islay on 13-14 May and presumably the same as on Barra, Outer Hebs. on 11 Jun.



SNOW GEESE Coll March 2025 David Jardine

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 5,866 and highest counts were on *Tiree* with 2,559 on *Islay* with 1,491, 624 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* and 96 on *Jura*. Additional high counts of 3,314 total count *Tiree* on 30-31 Jan, 150 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar and 93 on *Iona Mull* on 12 May

Summer/breeding Noted on 30.3% of BBS transects (10/33) (cf. 45% in 2024). Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/North Argyll*) but details patchy. Nesting noted from early-Apr. First b/5 noted on 5 May at Balephuill *Tiree* and fledged juv. at Dervaig *Mull* on 12 May. On *Colonsay* (excluding Oronsay) at least 62 broods reported in May & Jun, of which a sample of 49 had 175 yng. In *Mid-Argyll*, 3 nests around Loch Gilp, 7 broods on Luing, 2 at Cuan Sound, 3 broods on Seil and other broods reported from Danna, Knippoch and Drishaig. On *Mull* broods reported from Dervaig and *Iona*, with none noted on Treshnish Is., and from Lismore *North Argyll*. The moult flock north of Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* reached 198 on 25 Jun. On *Tiree* a late summer count of 3,565 on 26-27 Aug (cf. 3,244 in 2024), a sample of 2,726 of which 38.1% were juvs. (mean brood = 2.76, n = 377).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Available NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec of 7,257. Max. counts of 3,510 on *Tiree* (all island) on 24 & 25 Nov, 1,700 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Sep, 250 at Loch Cuin on 7 Aug, 159 on *Iona* on 19 Sep (both *Mull*), and 100 at Ferlochan *North Argyll* on 3 Aug.

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 (*Jura*). Small nos of 1-11 birds wintered in all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). In *Kintyre* 8-11 were around the Laggan / East Backs *Kintyre* from 1-29 Jan, and 4 were at Gartnatra / Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 24-30 Mar. Return passage flocks >NW from 1 Apr when 100 over Tighnabraich *Cowal*, 228 over Lochgilphead & Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* and 50 over Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* with heaviest passage noted between 2-10 Apr and 18-30 Apr. Most reported from (*Coll/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) where most skeins were of 40-200 birds, but none reported on *Islay*. Higher counts inc., 420 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr, 400 at Loch na Keal on 24 Apr, 360 at Craignure on 7 Apr, 250 at Glenmore on 8 Apr (all *Mull*) and 250 over Kilmun *Cowal* on 30 Apr, following which 1-3 birds reported until 30 May, except 40 at Fidden *Mull* on 4 May.

Summer One-two birds reported in Jun - Aug from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals were 30 noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Sep, then a major arrival on 18 Sep when 67 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 65 over Cairnbaan and 62 over Lochgilphead (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 155 over *Iona*, 150 over Eorabus and 200 at Loch an Torr (all *Mull*). More arrived on 20 Sep when 1,000 were over Kirriegour *Kintyre* and 200 over Corrynachenchy *Mull* and groups of 1-120 elsewhere. Thereafter, most counts of 1-15 birds except 30 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Oct and 60 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 24 Oct. 1-4 birds noted from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) in Nov & Dec with 30 >N at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Nov and 20 on *Tiree*, inc. 8 at Balinoe on 25 Nov and 9 at Killinochonoch *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Dec.

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 7,104 (12.4 % decline on 2024), with a count of 4,852 on *Islay*. In *Kintyre* 1,302 were at the Laggan and 322 at Rhunahaorine and 18 on Gigha in Mar, 868 were on *Tiree* on 13-14 Mar, 139 on *Coll* on 18 Mar, 142 in *Mid-Argyll* at Danna and Keills in Mar. Other counts include 64 on *Colonsay* on 21 Jan, 56 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Feb, 3 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Feb and in *North Argyll* 55 were on Lismore on 17 Feb and 19 at Baravulin on 16 Feb. Two at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 30 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* on 23 Apr were the last reported.

Autumn/winter First arrivals were on 4 Oct when 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, followed by 17 at the Oa *Islay* and 21 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 5 Oct, when numbers at Loch Gruinart *Islay* increased to 120. NatureScot / International Goose Count Argyll totals for Dec total of 7,304, inc. counts of 4,496 on *Islay*, 1450 at Machrihanish, 385 at Rhunahaorine, 141 at Clachan, 80 on Gigha, and 2 at Glenbarr (all *Kintyre*), 590 on *Tiree*, 120 on *Coll*, 37 on Danna and 3 at Barloisnoch (both *Mid-Argyll*). Other available counts inc. 80 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 23 Oct, 75 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov, 23 over Loch na Cuilce on 1 Nov, 10 at Calgary on 2 Nov and 2 at Grasspoint on 5 Nov (all *Mull*) and 603 on *Tiree* (all island count) on 24-25 Nov.

'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 Two adults were in the Loch Gruinart area *Islay* 9 Feb - 4 Mar [J. Graham, N. Parsons, T. de Clermont *et al.*] and seems likely involved returning birds from Feb-Mar & Oct 2024.

Autumn/winter An adult, perhaps returning bird from previous winters, at Gruinart flats *Islay* on 9 Nov [F. Cavanagh]. A ringed and 'neck-collared' adult female was at Dalivaddy, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 14 Nov [J. Dickson, D. Jardine]. *It had been trapped and ringed at Vorstweg, Netherlands on 5 Nov 2024 and last seen on Hirta, St. Kilda, O Hebs on 7 Oct 2025. All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max. counts of 45 on *Tiree* on 22 Jan, where max. site count of 39 at Loch a' Phuill on 21 Jan and many other high counts. Few high counts elsewhere: 11 at Loch Gruinart on 14 Mar and 9 Ardnave Loch on 10 Jan (both *Islay*). Otherwise, counts of up to 7 birds, including 6 at Lochan nan Caorach *Jura* on 7 Mar, but most counts of 1-4 birds.

Breeding/summer Confirmed breeding reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Tiree* 12 prs at 9 sites; 6 successful prs with first brood (b/6) noted on 4 Jun. Overall, a good breeding season with 25 cygnets fledging. On *Islay* 3 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart,

1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve and prs reported at 5 other sites and on *Jura*, 3 prs, inc. 1 with b/2 at Craighouse on 27 Jul. Elsewhere, pairs at sites in *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3) and *Mull* (1). Polish morph cygnets reported at Ardencaple, Isle of Seil and Loch Gilp (both *Mid-Argyll*). **Autumn/winter** Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max. counts of 61 (inc. 18 fledged juvs.) on *Tiree* on 11 Aug, where also 48 on 8 Sep and 37 on 8 Dec. Elsewhere, 29 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct, 25 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 13 Sep and 17 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov.



WHOOOPER SWANS *Mid-Argyll* January 2025 *Dani Elle Frea Ney*

WHOOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

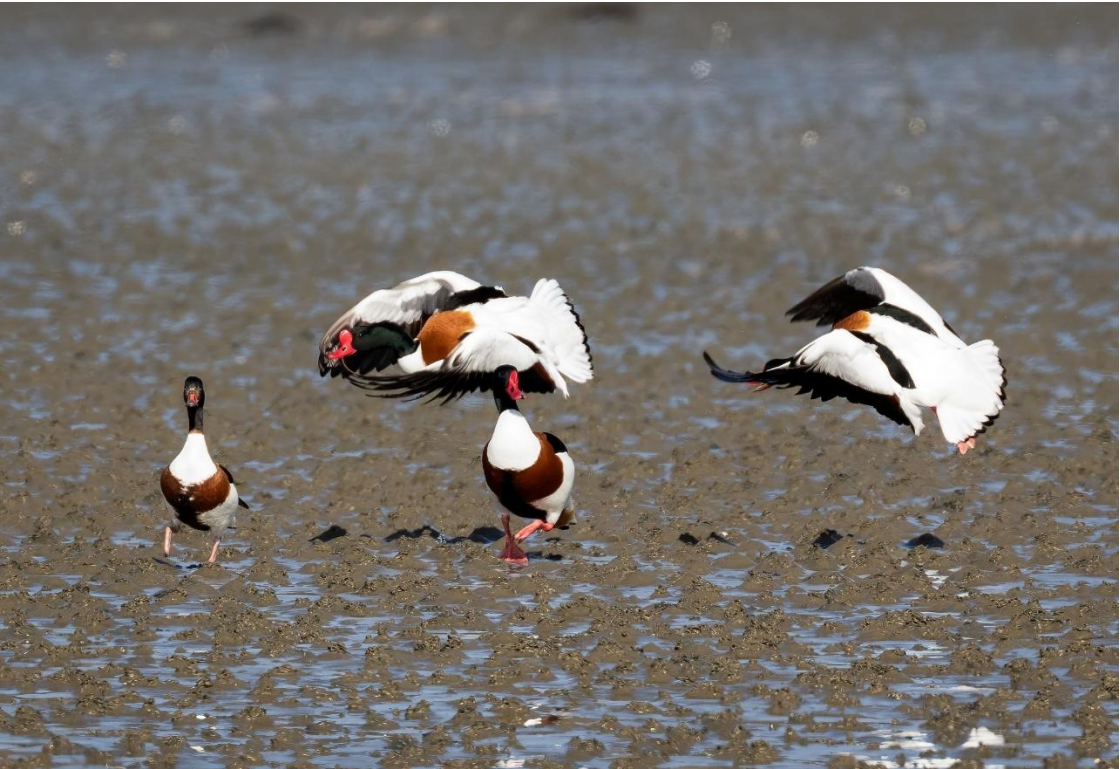
AMBER LIST RBBP *A common passage migrant: smaller numbers wintering. Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. A few birds summer in most years and breeding has been recorded.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). Most wintering birds were on *Tiree* where highest site count of 148 at Loch a' Phuill on 31 Mar. A total island count of 115 on 22 Jan included only 13 (11.3%) cygnets, but total increased to 172 on 13 Mar. On *Islay* highest count was 47 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 Mar and 44 were at Loch Don *Mull* on 11-12 Mar. Northward passage noted from late Mar, when 22 were noted at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 Mar, with many on 31 Mar inc. 30 At Lochgoilhead *Cowal*, 54 at Duntrune *Mid-Argyll* and 15 at Normann's Ruh *Mull*, and on 1 Apr when 140 over Cairnbaan and 91 over Inveraray (both *Mid-Argyll*), 45 past Port

Righ *Kintyre* and 26 at Finart Bay *Cowal*. Thereafter, counts generally of 1-15 birds stopping off to rest or flying over, with few after the end of Apr.

Summer/breeding No reports of breeding. Only singles noted in Jun-Jul, possibly involving no more than two birds at sites on *Islay & Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/North Argyll*). First arrivals noted were on 19 Sep when 15 >S at Port Askaig *Islay*, followed by a small arrival on 20 Sep, inc. 1 at Sandbank *Cowal* until larger arrivals during Oct, when 153 were across 6 sites on *Tiree* on 4 Oct, 65 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Oct, 46 at Loch Eatharna *Coll* on 20 Oct, 21 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 7 Oct and 21 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 24 Oct. Thereafter, on *Tiree* an all-island count of 131 on 15-16 Dec, on *Islay* 31 at Loch Gruinart on 8 Dec and 31 at Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 birds.



SHELDUCKS *Mid-Argyll* April 2025 *James Lehman*

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

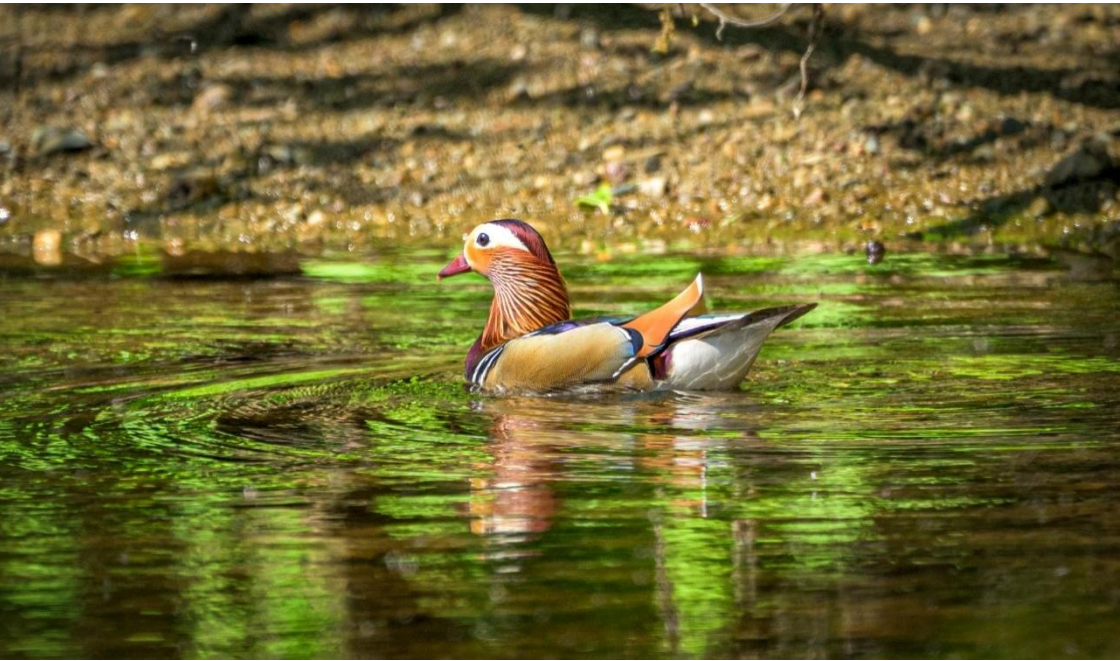
AMBER LIST A *widespread, but not very numerous, breeding species around sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas, with most from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull*). Max. counts on *Islay* of 298 at Loch Gruinart on 14 Mar. Elsewhere, 28 at Loch Don *Mull* on 20 Apr, 22 at Ormsary,

Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 14 at Grob Bagh, Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Feb and 14 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr.

Summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). On *Tiree* 6+ prs scattered around coast and a few inland in May. First broods noted; at Braibruich *Islay* on 16 May, b/9 at Glenramskill *Kintyre* on 20 May, at Broxwood, Sandbank *Cowal* on 23 May, b/6 at Clachan *Tiree* on 5 Jun and b/7 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 8 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Only 1-14 birds at a few sites late Aug-early Nov, when a few birds started to return from their moult migration. Thereafter, max. counts of 26 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Dec, 12 at Ardpatrik on 8 Dec and 6 at Loch Gilp on 31 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*), otherwise, 1-5 birds.



MANDARIN DUCK *Cowal* May 2025 *Stuart Kelly*

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/North Argyll*). In *Cowal* 2 were at Invernoaden on 3 Mar and a pair at Dunoon on 29 Mar. Two were at the Ford Lochs on 20 Jan and 2 were at Ederline on 10 May (both *Mid-Argyll*). Four were in Glen Orchy *North Argyll* on 14 Apr.

Summer/breeding On *Mull*, a male was reported at Aros on 4-5 May and again at Aros Castle on 8 Jun.

Autumn/winter Two at Aros Park *Mull* on 28-30 Oct, was the only report.

GARGANEY* *Spatula querquedula*

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

Spring A male was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 May, and a male was at the Reef *Tiree* on 20 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/Mull/Tiree*). On *Islay* a max. of 82 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 Jan. On *Tiree* 19 were at Loch a' Phuill and 9 at Loch Riaghain on 21 Jan. Elsewhere, a pr were at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 23 Apr, and singles on *Mull* at Scarisdale on 31 Mar and at Fidden on 2-3 Apr.

Breeding On *Islay* 20 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. A good season on *Tiree* with at least 15 prs across 10 sites and at least 5 broods seen.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Max. counts lower than 2024, with count of 40 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Oct rising to 46 on 8 Dec, and 17 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23 Dec.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera*

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

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). None reported in Jan, with the first on *Islay* at Craighens on 11 Feb, increasing to 4 at Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb and 5 there on 5 Mar. On *Tiree*, the first 2 were at Loch a' Phuill on 6 Apr, with a max count of 9 (across 3 sites) on 22 Apr. A female was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Apr.

Breeding/summer On *Tiree* 3-7 prs at 5 sites, but no broods seen, and no broods noted on *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). On *Islay*, 4 reported at Loch Gruinart on 13 Sep was the only record. On *Tiree*, 3 were at Loch Riaghain and another at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Oct and 2 at Loch a' Phuill on 10-11 Oct were the last reported. Elsewhere, 5 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Sep & 4 Oct, 4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 Oct and 2 at Keills *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Sep.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Area max. counts of 619 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 558 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 192 at the Eilean Glas, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 175 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 28 Feb, 98 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar, and 77 at Aros *Mull* 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*, where two prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and on *Tiree* two possible breeding prs. Probable breeding at one site in *North Argyll*, and late pairs seen at two sites on *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). First autumn arrivals with 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun, followed by 9 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 14 Jun, rising to 45 there on 13 Jul. Max. counts inc., 390 at Gartnatra on 26 Oct and 364 at Loch Gruinart on 8 Dec (both

Islay), 326 at Loch Gilp on 5 Dec and 191 at Add Est. / Loch Crinan on 12 Oct (both *Mid-Argyll*), 154 on *Tiree* WEBS sites on 8 Dec, 66 at Ardnadrochit, Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Nov, 66 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 6 Dec and 62 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 30 Aug. Elsewhere, many counts across *Argyll* of up to 50 birds.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 151 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 103 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 22 Jan, 102 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Jan, 50 at Canal Loch *Coll* on 14 Jan, 35 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 45 at Clachan Beg, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan, 25 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Jan and 24 at Loch Don *Mull* on 10 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted on 24.2% of squares (8/33) (*cf.* 30% in 2024). Reports from all areas. On *Islay* 44 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, 5pr at RSPB Smaull Reserve and 8 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. Broods noted at 28 locations between 21 Apr and 9 Jul in all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Kintyre*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 160 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Dec, 89 Loch Coalisport on 11 Nov and 81 Oban Bay on 13 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*), 76 at Loch an Keal *Mull* on 20 Oct, 65 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug, 65 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Nov and 64 at An Fhaodail *Tiree* on 16 Sep. 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*). Reports from *Islay* restricted to Loch Gruinart area, with max. counts of 182 on 10 Jan, then 83 on 17 Feb, and 60 on 26 Mar. On *Tiree*, 2 at Loch Bhasapol on 20 Feb, then prs forming during Mar with 2 birds reported at 2 sites.

Breeding At least 2 prs at 2+ sites on *Tiree*, but no broods seen, and none on *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Numbers built at Loch Gruinart *Islay* with counts of 21 on 20 Sep, 33 on 1 Oct and 110 on 2 Nov. Two at Gartnatra, Loch Indaal on 26 Oct were the only birds reported elsewhere on *Islay*. On *Tiree* all reports were of single fem/imms. during Sep-Oct when noted at 3 sites, except 2 at Loch a' Phuill on 13 Oct and 4 there on 23 Oct. A male was on Loch a' Phuill on 23 Dec.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Area max. counts of 790 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 10 Jan, 348 on *Tiree* WeBS count on 22 Jan with max. single site count of 160 at Loch a' Phuill on 22 Jan, 97 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Jan, 55 at Dalrannoch, Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 3 Jan, 41 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 9 Jan, 40 at Canal Loch *Coll* on 28 Feb, 38 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 27 Jan, 38 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 27 at head of Loch Tarbert *Jura* on 15 Jan and 15 at Gorsten *Mull* on 10 Jan.

Breeding Breeding reports mainly from (*Islay/Tiree*). Up to 36 prs across wetland sites on *Tiree*, with two broods reported. On *Islay* 11 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve and 1 pr at RSPB Oa Reserve. A brood was found at Cornabus *Islay* on 15 May. Other scattered breeding season records from sites in (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Kintyre/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Area max. counts of 1,560 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Oct, 730 at Dalivady *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, 395 on *Tiree* on 15 Dec, 174 at the Eilean Glas, Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec and 60 at Lowlandman's Bay *Jura* on 12 Oct. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1-50 birds.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* *Anas crecca carolinensis*

A rare visitor: 34 or more records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree. Some records may well involve returning individuals. Now treated as same species as Eurasian Teal

Winter/spring A male, first noted on 18 Nov 2024 remained at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* until 1 Jan at least [J. How].

Autumn/winter A male, perhaps a returning bird was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 24 Oct and last noted on 31 Dec when 2 males were present [J. How *et al.*].



PINTAIL *Islay* March 2025 Steve Carter

POCHARD* *Aythya ferina*

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

Winter/spring A male was at Loch a' Phuill & occasionally Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* from 1 Jan -7 Mar.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 3 were at Loch Skerrols on 1 Nov.

RING-NECKED DUCK* *Aythya collaris*

RBBP *A scarce but increasing winter visitor. 41+ previous records.*

Winter/spring A returning adult male from 2023 & 2024 was at Luachrach Loch, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan and again nearby at Glenfeochan, Kilmore *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Jan and 21 Apr [J. Dickson, D. Jardine, J. Waldie *et al.*]. A 2cy+ female was at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 2 - 3 Apr [M. Eden, A. Whitehouse *et al.*] and an adult male was there on 11-12 Apr [P. Roberts *et al.*].

Autumn/winter On *Islay* a 1cy fem was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 12-13 Nov [L. Edwards-White, M. Culshaw, P. Roberts *et al.*]. A pair with the presumed same 1cy female from Loch Skerrols were together at Loch Ballygrant on 13 Dec and still present on 20 Dec [B. Stitchell]. In *Kintyre* a pair were on Tangy Loch on 25-27 Nov, then 4 (2 prs) there on 11 Dec [A. Murray], increasing to 5 (2mm, 3f/imms) on 12 Dec, then only a pair there on 15 Dec [J. Dickson] and none there on 22 Nov, however 5 again in early Jan 2026. On *Tiree* a 1cy male was at Loch a' Phuill on 8-12 Dec [J. Bowler]. *This autumn saw record numbers recorded in Argyll and reflects high numbers in GB & I. All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



RING-NECKED DUCK *Mid-Argyll* January 2025 *Jim Dickson*

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

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

Winter/spring Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Highest nos were on *Tiree* where a count of 79 at Loch Bhasapol and 9 at Loch Riaghain on 14 Apr. On *Islay*

max. counts of 23 from Loch na Cachie on 31 Mar & 3 Apr. Elsewhere max. counts of 11 at St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe *North Argyll* on 28 Jan and 5 at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan.

Breeding On *Tiree* 17+ prs at 6 sites with 10 broods (49 yng) noted, with first yng noted on 6 Jun. Female with b/5 Ardencaple Ho, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jun. No breeding reports from elsewhere, but 1-7 birds also noted in Jun & Jul in (*Colonsay/Islay*).

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts of 77 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 17 Nov with site max. of 51 at Loch a' Phuill on 9 Nov, 77 at Loch Skerrols on 30 Oct, 50 at Loch Gorm on 23 Sep (both *Islay*) and 12 at Tangy Loch *Kintyre* on 15 Dec. 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* only reports of single fems. at Bowmore on 13 Jan and Loch Skerrols on 2 Feb. On *Tiree* a pair were at Loch a' Phuill on 3 Apr and a fem. at Loch Bhasapol on 31 May and at Loch a' Phuill on 2-12 Jun.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 1 was at Loch Indaal on 10 Oct, 3 there on 16 Oct and a pr there on 27 Oct, 2 were at Loch Skerrols on 1 Nov. On *Tiree* a juv fem. & male were at Loch an Eilein on 4 Oct, an ad male there on 22 Oct, ad male with 3 imm/fem at Loch Bhasapol on 24 Oct and 1 imm/fem. at Loch a' Phuill on 29 Oct. An imm/fem. was at the Canal Loch *Coll* on 10 Nov. A hybrid (Tufted x Scaup?) imm. was at Loch an Eilein on 9 Oct and at Loch Bhasapol on 17 Nov – 15 Dec (both *Tiree*).

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 a' Phuill *Tiree* on 31 Oct – 9 Nov [J. Bowler]. *Record under consideration by the BBRC. (see list of rejected, pending etc records on page 150).*

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 409 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 125 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 7 Jan, 108 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 88 at Tighnabraich *Cowal* on 13 Apr, 83 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 9 Apr, 74 at Vaul *Tiree* on 31 Mar and 73 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 15 May. Elsewhere, counts of up to 70 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). First broods noted at Tighnabraich *Cowal* on 21 May, at the Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 22 May, at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 May and on 26 May at Gott Bay *Tiree*. On *Colonsay* and *Oronsay* 35 fems found with 35 yng in 13 broods and at least 5 breeding fems at Treshnish Is. *Mull*. A post-breeding flock of 537 were at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 19 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 462 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 305 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 224 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Oct,

200 at the Holy Loch on 8 Oct, 100 at Otter Ferry on 14 Sep and 78 at Blairmore Fm, Loch Long on 16 Sep (all *Cowal*) and 69 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 29 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.



SURF SCOTER (with Goosanders & Eiders) *Mid-Argyll* October 2025 *Dan Brown*

SURF SCOTER* *Melanitta perspicillata*

A rare visitor: 27+ records, occasionally involving several birds.

Winter/spring An adult male was off Port Charlotte, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 5 Mar and again on 10 Apr [P. Roberts, R. Beltcher].

Autumn/winter An adult male was at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct [D. Brown].

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 In *Kintyre* 2 were at Rhunahaorine Point *Kintyre* on 17 Apr. On *Mull* 1 was at Loch na Keal on 29 Apr.

Summer On *Islay* the long staying male again at Easter Ellister between 13 May & 15 Jun and perhaps same on Loch Indaal on 21 Jun.

Winter In *Kintyre* 3 were at Rhunahaorine Point, Sound of Gigha on 8 Nov and 2 (fem & 1cy male) there on 15 Dec. On *Mull* 2 were at head of Loch na Keal on 20 & 27 Oct.

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 (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts by region of 189 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 127 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Mar, 12 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 1 at Loch Scridain *Mull* on 18 Jan, and 7 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 9 Apr.

Breeding/summer Two were on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 24 May, the site of successful breeding in 2021, was the only suggestion of breeding. 50 were in the summering group in the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 May, with 25 there on 5 Jun and 72 on 19 Jul. Elsewhere 1-3 were at offshore sites on *Islay* in Jun and 3 at Calgary *Mull* on 11 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts by region, of 5 at Dunoon *Cowal* from 26 Jul - 11 Aug, 80 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Nov, 105 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 23 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 4 >S at Iona on 18 Sep *Mull* and 1 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 17 Sep.

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/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports from (*Islay, Kintyre/Tiree*). Max. counts of 34 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 11 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 27 Feb and 11 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 11 Feb. Elsewhere, singles were at Arinagour on 9 Feb and Feall Bay on 27 Feb (both *Coll*). The last bird was one in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Islay/Mull/Tiree*). First returning birds were 3 at Kintra *Islay* on 1 Oct. Max. counts of 19 at Blackrock, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 25 Nov and 6 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 29 Dec, along with a single at Lagganulva *Mull* on 29 Oct.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

RED LIST RBBP *A common, but declining, 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*). Max. area counts of 62 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 38 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 22 Jan - 1 Mar, 16 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 13 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 12 Jan, 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Feb, 7 at Loch Don *Mull* on 10 Jan, 6 at Loch Turraman *Colonsay* on 26 Jan, 5 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 8 Jan and 4 at Loch a' Chnuic Bhric *Jura* on 9 Apr. The last noted in spring was 1 at Dunollie *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). First of autumn were 2 early 1cy's at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8 Sep. Max. area counts of 59 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec, 30 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 23-30 Dec, 23 at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 20 Nov, 9 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 15 Dec, 9 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 6 Dec, 7 at Aros *Mull* on 30 Sep, but only singles in *Cowal*.

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 (*Jura/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (48) and *Mid-Argyll* (30). Max. counts of 9 at Loch na Cuilce on 10-16 May, 7 at the mouth of the River Ba on 26 May and 6 at Loch Don on 15 Mar (all *Mull*), 7 nr Inverinan, Loch Awe on 13

May and 6 fems. at Loch Arail on 31 Mar (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 5 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 13 Jan. Elsewhere, most counts were of 1-4 birds, inc. notably 3 males on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 17 Apr and a pr at Arinagour *Coll* on 28 Feb.

Summer/breeding Reports of prs from sites in (*Coll/Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). A brood at Dunoon *North Argyll* on 6 Jul was the only one reported. Post breeding flocks of 45 at Hunter’s Quay *Cowal* on 27 Jul and 11 at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-6 birds with max. area counts of 74 at Loch Arail *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 36 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 9 Sep, 17 at West Ardhull *Mull* on 1 Sep, 7 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Oct, 7 on *Coll* on 28 Sep, 6 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 11 Sep, 5 at Knockrome *Jura* on 11 Oct, 4 imms at Loch a’ Phuill on 3 Oct and the same group at Hynish on 5 Oct (both *Tiree*), 3 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 24 Dec and 3 at Coal Ila *Islay* on 14 Oct.

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 72 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 48 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Feb, 45 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 41 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Feb, 36 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Apr and 36 West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 11 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of up to 30, however most groups were fewer than 10.

Breeding Breeding around much of the Argyll coastline and a few pairs inland, with a total of 18 broods found from 139+ pairs at 84 sites (see table). First juv. seen at Loch an t-Sailean *Islay* on 16 Jun and at Barrapol *Tiree* on 24 Jun.

	Sites	Confirmed Pairs	Total Pairs
<i>Coll</i>	4	1	7
<i>Colonsay</i>	3	-	3
<i>Cowal</i>	7	-	11
<i>Islay</i>	7	1	9
<i>Jura</i>	1	1	2
<i>Kintyre</i>	7	2	8
<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	15	5	30
<i>Mull</i>	24	2	39
<i>North Argyll</i>	9	1	22
<i>Tiree</i>	10	5	19
TOTAL	87	18	150

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 162 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Oct, 121 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 89 there on 12 Aug, 65 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep, 59 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Nov, 41 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 19 Nov and 40 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 6 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of up to 40.



RED GROUSE *Mid Argyll* March 2025 *Ann McGregor*

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

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

All year Only 15 reports, from moorland areas in (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*), all of 1-2 birds, with no reports of breeding. *Under reported.*

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* a predated bird was found on Ben Buie on 20 Jan, ‘present’ at Loch Ba head, and 1 was at summit of Ben More on 13 Oct. In *North Argyll* reports of 1 at Coire Buidhe (E) on 9 Jan, ‘present’ on Beinn Odhar on 7 Mar, 2 on Meall nan Tri Tighearnan on 1 Apr, 4 on Stob Dearg (W) on 6 May, 2 on Beinn Fhionnlaidh on 9 May, 2 on Beinn Sgulaird on 10 May, 2 at Lochan Cairn Deirg on 11 May, 4 on Beinn Achaladair on 6 Jun and 2 on Coire Dubh Mor on 6 Jun.



BLACK GROUSE *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 *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 1-2 birds from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (6) and *North Argyll* (1). Max. counts of 7 at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr and 5 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 20 Apr.

Autumn/winter Six reports; in *Mid-Argyll* 11 were at Kilchrenan on 17 Dec, up to 8 (6 mm, 2 ff) around the Moine Mhor in late Nov/Dec and 3 at Garraron on 29 Dec, and in *Kintyre* one was at Clachan on 9 Sep.

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/Tiree*), however generally under reported. Max. counts reported of 300+ at *Claonaig Kintyre* on 29 Oct and 26 at *Airigh Ghlas Islay* on 9 Nov and 1 Dec. BBS: noted on 21.4% of squares (7/33) (*cf.* 22.5% in 2024) with max. BBS counts of 5 at *Dalvore* and 4 at *Rhudle* (both *Mid-Argyll*). Wild broods reported at *Scalasaig* (b/3) *Colonsay* on 10 Jul and at *Airigh Ghlas* (b/2) on 18 Jun, at *Arднаve Loch* and *Traigh Gruinart* (all *Islay*).

QUAIL* *Coturnix coturnix*

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

Spring/summer Single males calling at *Keillbeg*, nr *Danna Mid-Argyll* on 17-18 May, at *Mannal Tiree* on 30 May and at *Loch na Torran*, nr *Ormsary Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun.



RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Mid-Argyll* June 2025 *William Holmes*

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 14 sites in (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Most reports of just 1-4 birds, with 60 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep and 44 at Cattadale *Islay* on 28 Oct, suggesting further releases.

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 and Kintyre on 12 Jun 2024.

Spring/summer The ABC Nightjar project started in 2024 and funded by the ABC and SOC continued in 2025. In *Cowal* 2+ males were heard/sound recorded at three sites 1-10 Jun nr Portavadie and another site nr Innellan on 2 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* one was seen & heard at a site near Kilberry on 9 Jun. On *Mull* a male was sound recorded at a site SW of Lochdon on 12-13 June. No birds were recorded at the *Kintyre* site where a bird was heard in 2024. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

SWIFT *Apus apus*

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

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Following a very early bird at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Apr, first birds noted were 4 on *Mull* on 13 Apr and 6 at Dunchonallaich *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr. Followed by 2 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* and 1 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 29 Apr and most arrivals in early May. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Mull* (13), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (2). Outwith known nesting areas, notable counts of 30 at Calliach on 13 Jul and 14 at Treshnish Is. on 13 Jul (both *Mull*) and 10 at West Coast Salmon *Kintyre* on 19 Jul.

Breeding Provision of nest boxes appears to be assisting this species. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs at the Kilmichael Glassary boxes arrived back on 12 and 20 May and a 'new' pair arrived on 4 Jul. One pair bred and reared 1 yng which fledged on 14 Aug. 15-17 prs reported at Taynuilt. Breeding season counts, in *Mid-Argyll*; 38 at Oban on 21 Jul, 10 at Portsonachan on 12 Jul and 2 at Lochgilphead on 17 May, in *Cowal*, 10 were at Carrick Castle on 15 May, 6 at Sandbank on 23 May, 3 in Dunoon on 28 Jul, 2 at Innellan on 22 May and 2 at Largiemore on 31 May. Elsewhere, 4 were at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 21 Jun and 5 at Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 10 Jun.

Autumn Most birds had departed by mid Aug after which 3 were at the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Aug, 8 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 26 Aug and singles at Bridgend on 2 Sep and at Dunadd on 13 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*). One at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 15 Sep was the last, other than an unidentified Swift *sp.* at Innellan Hill *Cowal* on 16 Sep.

ALPINE SWIFT* *Tachymarptis melba*

A vagrant. Four records, one at Largybaan, Kintyre on 15 Apr 1993, one on the Treshnish Isles, Mull on 11 Jul 1994, one on Iona Mull on 16 Mar 2023 and two in Oban Mid-Argyll on 23 Mar 2023.

Spring One was by the cliff tops at Ceann a' Mhara Tìree on 10 Apr [D. Daunt]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. First record for Tìree.



CUCKOO *Mid-Argyll* June 2025 Victoria Winters

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 at Barravullin *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Apr, at Fasnacloch *North Argyll* on 7 Apr, at Kinnabus *Islay* on 9 Apr, at 5 sites on *Mull* on 10 Apr and at Carnan Mor *Tìree* on 13 Apr, the earliest ever record on *Tìree*. Thereafter, more widespread reports from 16 Apr onwards.

Breeding BBS: noted in 57.6% of squares (19/33) (*cf.* 65% in 2024) with max counts on 5 at Dalvore and 5 at Rhudle (both *Mid-Argyll*). Birds reported from sites in; *Coll* (9), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (18), *Islay* (35), *Jura* (5), *Kintyre* (19), *Mid-Argyll* (63), *Mull* (118), *North Argyll* (27) and *Tìree* (15). Some 'larger sites' had several birds e.g. 7 at Torr Mor *Kintyre* on 12 Jul, also 8 calling males at RSPB Gruinart Reserve, 4 males at RSPB Smaull Reserve and 7 males at RSPB Oa Reserve (all *Islay*) and 20 calling males on *Colonsay* and 2 on *Oronsay Colonsay*.

Autumn Most adults had departed by late Jun. Numbers of reports received by month; Jun (39), Jul (14) and Aug (2). The last birds reported were at Gortian *Colonsay* on 11 Aug and Balephuil *Tìree* on 17 Aug.

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. A recent study noted that those found on some of the islands being genetically nearest 'pure' Rock Dove.

Winter/spring Reports received from all areas. Max. counts of 120 at Sgeir Carnach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, 46 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 22 Feb and 42 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 30 Mar. Elsewhere many counts up to 40 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 21.4% of squares (7/33) (*cf.* 22.5% in 2024), with max. count of 20 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. 9+ prs noted at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts 520 at Cluanach on 28 Nov and 470 at Loch Gruinart on 12 Nov (both *Islay*), 320 at Salum *Tiree* on 15 Aug, with 370 across 3 sites on *Tiree* on 25 Aug, 180 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 6 Nov and 130 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Oct.

FERAL PIGEON

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

Limited information. Higher counts mainly from the larger towns in Argyll with max. counts of 27 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Oct, 20 at Campbeltown Airport *Kintyre* on 29 Jan, 83 in Inveraray on 7 Sep, 58 in Oban on 7 Oct and 25 at Dunstaffnage Bay on 19 Jan (all *Mid-Argyll*) and 20 at Baravullin *North Argyll* on 6 Dec. The max. count of the flock at Islandadd Bridge, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* was 105 on 10 Jan.

STOCK DOVE* *Columba oenas*

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

Winter/spring On *Islay* singles were at Sunderland Farm on 13 Jan and at Loch Gruinart on 6 May. On *Mull* 2 were at Ulva Ferry on 17 Apr. In *Kintyre* 1 was at Glenramskill on 23 Apr. In *North Argyll* 2 were nr Dalrannoch, Loch Creran on 8 May and one at Ardtur on 20 Mar.

Summer On *Islay* 1 was at Cornabus on 19 Jun, then 2 in the Kinnabus area, Oa 27 Jun -1 Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 were at Cuin, Seil on 23 Jul. On *Mull* 1 was at Craignure on 7 Jul.

Autumn/winter No records received.

There were several reports on BTO Birdtrack marked as 'present' which we would need more precise information for before validation.

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. Reasonable nos. wintering with max. counts of 260 at Kellan, Loch na Keil *Mull* on 7 Jan, 100 at Loch Finlaggan on 4 Feb and 86 at Rock Mountain on 5 Feb (both *Islay*) and 31 at Lephinkill *Cowal* on 21 Mar. Notably, 6 were at Gallanach *Coll* on 10 Apr, 19 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and 4 at West Tarbert *Jura* on 15 Jan. Unusually, 1 wintered at Balephuill *Tiree* from 25 Jan – 21 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 42.4% of squares (14/33) (*cf.* 40% in 2024), with max. counts of 6 at Loch Frisa *Mull* and 5 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Limited data received, with the only

confirmed breeding at Killbeg, Glen Forsa *Mull* on the late date of 23 Sep. 11 prs found at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Very few large counts with max. of 92 at Cattadale *Islay* on 28 Oct, 51 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, 45 at Loch na Gad on 14 Nov and 35 at Kennacraig on 14 Nov (both *Kintyre*). Elsewhere, counts of 1-15.



WOOD PIGEON *Mid-Argyll* June 2025 *Caroline Anderson*

TURTLE DOVE* *Streptopelia turtur*

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

Autumn On *Tiree* at least one was at Ruaig on 3 Sep, a 1cy at Balevullin on 8 Sep then at Clachan on 11-13 Sep.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Relatively few counts, with max. of 21 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan, 19 at Bowmore on 3 Feb and 13 at Bruichladdich on 28 Jan (both *Islay*), and 13 at Druimachro, Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Feb. At least 4 remained at Crossapol *Tiree* throughout Jan – Feb and 8 were at Arinagour *Coll* on 28 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (*cf.* 15% in 2024), with max. count of 6 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. Newly fledged juv noted at Ganavan *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Jan. On *Tiree* 4 prs noted nesting at Loch an Eilein, 2+ prs at Crossapol and 2 prs at Ruaig. Reports from all areas in Jun & Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 64 at Kilchatton, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct, 40 at Wester Ellister on 8 Oct and 32 at the Woollen Mill on 14 Aug (both *Islay*) 18 at Lochdon *Mull* on 17 Sep and 15 on *Coll* on 28 Sep.



WATER RAIL *Mid-Argyll* January 2025 *Jim Dickson*

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 (*Coll/Jura*), with 1-2 in most of 22 sites, with max. counts of 7 at Lochan Luing, Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 8 Jan and 3 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 22 Jan.

Summer/breeding Birds heard calling in suitable breeding areas from sites in *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (10). On *Islay* at least 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. Fledged yng seen at the Reef *Tiree* on 9 Jul and Carnain *Islay* on 18 Aug. At least 5 ads. on Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* in late Jun, when 2 chicks found in the village and female accling to chicks at the Boulder Beach. *Under recorded.*

Autumn/winter Reports at 27 sites in all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). All counts of 1-2 birds, including on *Coll*, 1 at Loch Cliad on 23 Sep and 2 at Gallanach on 15 Oct.

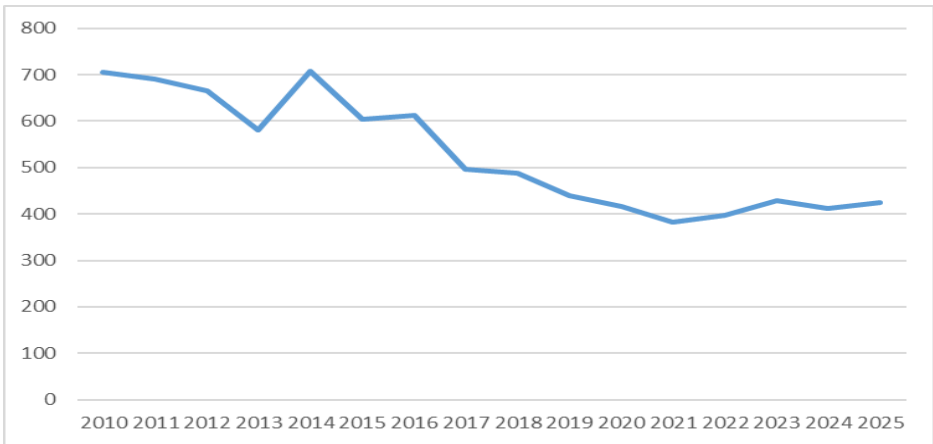
CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

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 Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Apr, Balephuill and Balevullin (both *Tiree*) on 11 Apr, Iona *Mull* on 20 Apr, Conisby *Islay* on 21 Apr and Totronald *Coll* on 1 May. Most arrivals were during early May.

Summer/breeding Calling male counts: *Tiree* (311), *Coll* (51), *Islay* (36), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (8), Iona (13) and Treshnish Is. (1) *Mull*. An Argyll total of 425, a slight increase since 2024 (413), but still well below population 10-15 yrs ago. Juvs. reported at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* and Balephuill *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Juvs. were captured on camera traps at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 5 & 7 Aug and the last noted was one at Breachacha *Coll* on 11 Sep.



Corn Crane - Total number of calling males recorded in Argyll 2010 – 2025 (per RSPB)



MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from 26 sites except (*Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). All reports of 1-2 birds.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll*). On *Islay* 2 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. In *Mid-Argyll* breeding noted Kilchatton, Luing and a juv. was at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 1 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll/Tiree*). Most reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (3), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (2). Max. counts of 8 at Kilchatton, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov, 5 at Port na Luing on 11 Nov and 4 at Ballyhaugh Loch on 13 Oct (both *Coll*). *Generally, under recorded in some mainland regions.*

COOT* *Fulica atra*

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

Winter/spring/summer The wintering 2CY bird at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* remained until 10 Feb. One was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 4 Feb. One was at Kilchatton, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 19 May. On *Mull* reports of 2 at Ulva Ferry on 17 Apr, 1 at Lochdon on 25 May, Fionnphort on 31 May and Aros Castle on 8 Jun.

Summer One was at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter On *Coll* singles at Canal Loch and at Ballyhaugh Loch on 10 Nov & 8 Dec.



LITTLE GREBE *North Argyll* June 2025 *Linda Gibson*

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. Most reports from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max. counts of 43 at Salen Bay *Mull* on 13 Mar, 12 at Loch Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb and 8 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Feb. Many coastal sites held 1-5 birds.

Breeding BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/33) (*cf.* 2.5% in 2024). Limited breeding data, present on many suitable lochs; broods reported at Add Est. and Brochroy (both *Mid-Argyll*) and Ardachy *North Argyll*. 1 pr bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max. counts of 26 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Oct, 14 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 19 Sep, 13 at Loch Craignish on 16 Nov and 12 Loch Shira on 21 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 10 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9.

RED-NECKED GREBE* *Podiceps grisegena*

RED LIST *A scarce winter and passage visitor. Most records are in Sep-Mar. At least 49 records.*

Autumn/winter A non-breeding plum bird was off Blackrock, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Nov [K. & R. Barnes]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

GREAT CRESTED GREBE* *Podiceps cristatus*

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

Winter/spring In *Cowal* 2 were at Gairletter Point, Loch Long on 12 Jan, 1 off Blairmore, Loch Long on 14 Jan and a report of 3 at Glenan, Portavadie, Loch Fyne on 8 Apr. On *Islay* 2 were at Loch an t-Sailein, Ardbeg *Islay* on 15-16 Mar and 1 there on 28 Mar.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 1 was off Bowmore, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 28 Aug. On *Mull* reports of singles at Craignure Bay on 16 Sep and off Kentallen, Sound of Mull on 27 Oct. In *Cowal* a report of 1 at Otter Ferry on 11 Dec.



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 36 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 33 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 6 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Mar, 25 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 14 Mar and 2 at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 8 Feb. A single was at Blairmore Farm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 9 Feb. The last noted in spring were 2 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First arrival was of 1 at Blackrock *Islay* on 22 Aug. Max. counts in each region of 15 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Oct, 27 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct, 6 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Nov, 15 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 27 Dec and a singles at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 28 Aug, Eilean Ornsay *Coll* on 3 - 9 Sep, Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 10 - 13 Oct and Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 4 Dec.



CRANE *Cowal* May 2025 *Stuart Kelly*

CRANE* *Grus grus*

AMBER LIST *A rare visitor: 22 records; some records of up to three together between 1966 2022. Up to nine individuals were recorded in 2012.*

Spring Three records. One, in adult type plumage was at Totronald *Coll* on 26 Apr [M. Mitchell] and was re-found on *Tiree* on 27 Apr near the Ringing Stone, then was at Barrapol and Loch a' Phuill on 28 Apr [J. Bowler]. This, or perhaps a different bird, was found at West Parkfergus, viewed from the Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 2 May [A. McCuaig, J. Dickson]. A different adult type was found in fields near the Holy Loch LNR at Dalinlongart *Cowal* on 14 May and was

last noted there on 21 May [D. Gilmour, N. Hammatt *et al.*]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



CRANE Cowal May 2025 *Alistair McGregor*

STONE-CURLEW* *Burhinus oedicnemus*

RED LIST A vagrant: *Three records. One at Loch Gruinart Flats, Islay on 23-24 May 1997, one at Ross of Mull on 19 Apr 2020 and one at Balinoe, Tiree on 10 May 2022.*

Spring One was seen and photographed in a field from a small road leading from Fionnphort area on the Ross of Mull to Kintra Mull on 30 Apr [M. MacDougal]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC.*

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 352 on *Tiree* WEBS on 7 Mar, 310 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 240 at Loch Gruinart on 11 Apr and 166 at inner Loch Indaal on 12 Jan (both *Islay*), 150 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 17 Apr, 75 at Ardachy *North Argyll* on 5 Feb and 70 at Loch Don *Mull* on 15 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 36.4% of squares (12/33) (*cf.* 30% in 2024), with max. counts of 31 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 26 at Port Mor *Colonsay*. On *Islay* 29 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve, 13 prs at RSPB Smaull Reserve and 8 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. 128 prs in complete count of the Reef *Tiree* where first chicks noted on 21 May. On *Mull* 18+ prs noted on the Treshnish Is. 8 AOS in complete count of Sanda Islands *Kintyre*. Breeding also confirmed at (*Colonsay/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 300 At Otter Ferry on 14 Sep and 275 at the Holy Loch on 9 Nov (both *Cowal*), 265 at Loch Indaal on 24 Aug and 228 at Loch Gruinart on 8 Aug (both *Islay*), 250 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 5 Nov, 253 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep, 210 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 12 Oct, 120 on *Tiree* on 1 Oct, 120 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Sep and 112 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Oct.

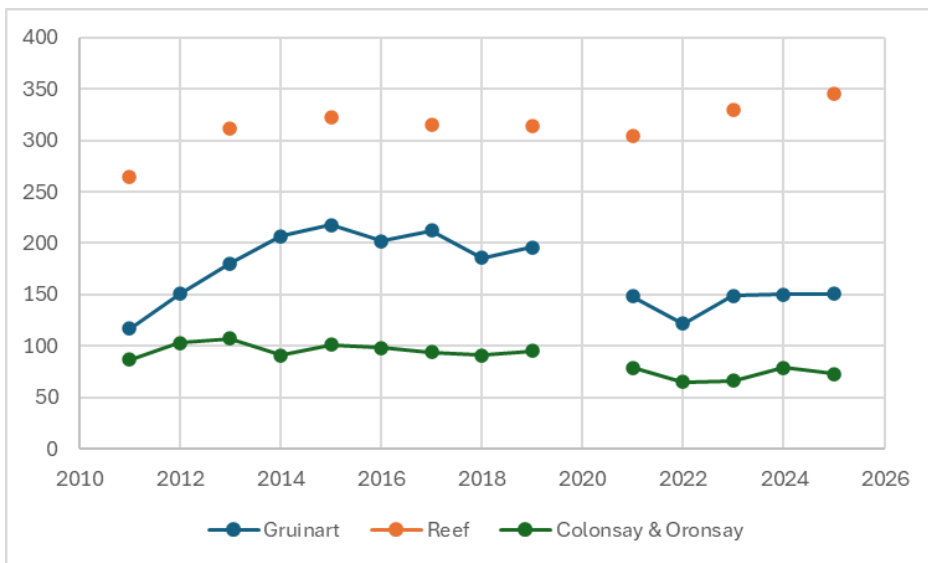
LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Highest nos on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max. counts of 2,395 on *Tiree* all-island count on 30-31 Jan, 800 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb, 150 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 May and 140 at Crossapol *Coll* on 22 Feb. In other areas, max. counts of 85 at Rhunahaorine on 31 Jan and 58 at West Tarbert Bay Gigha on 6 Feb (both *Kintyre*), 50 at Ardanish Bay *Mull* on 19 Feb, 32 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 4 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 18 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (*cf.* 20% in 2024), with max. counts of 28 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 20 at Fidden *Mull*. On *Tiree* 346 prs in complete count of The Reef and first chicks noted at Loch a' Phuill on 25 Apr. On *Colonsay* (exc. Oronsay) 21 prs and 52 prs at RSPB Oronsay (*cf.* 29 & 50 prs in 2024). On *Islay* 150 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve (*cf.* 151 prs in 2024), 26 prs at RSPB Smaull Reserve, 6 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve (*cf.* 3 prs in 2024) and also confirmed breeding at Cornabus and Kilchoman. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 pr at Barnakill and 30 at Barsloisnoch on 11 Mar. On *Mull* prs reported at Normanm's Ruh (5), Loch Spelve (4), Iona (2), Caliach (1), Loch Don (1) and Pennygown (1).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max. counts of 5,630 on *Tiree* all island counts on 15 - 16 Dec, 1,138 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Dec, 200 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 8 Sep, 160 at Garvard *Colonsay* on 11 Sep, 130 at Fidden *Mull* on 12 Sep, 76 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep and 75 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of up to 75 birds.



Lapwing - Breeding population trends (pairs) on *Islay* (Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserve), on *Tiree* (The Reef) and on *Colonsay & Oronsay* 2011 – 2025. The Reef *Tiree* is counted every second year. No counts in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.



GOLDEN PLOVER *Mull* September 2025 *Theo de Clermont*

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*). 2,660 on mid-winter count on *Tiree* on 30-31 Jan, increasing to 4,400 on 31 Mar and peaking at 5,300 on 9 Apr. On *Islay* 1,280 at Loch Gruinart on 12 Jan declining to 300 on 24 Feb. Elsewhere area max. counts: 11 at Bousd Coll on 2 May, 600 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 13 Apr, 60 at Beinn Bhreac *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 130 at Fiddon *Mull* on 7 Apr and 3 on Beinn Fhionnlaidh *North Argyll* on 1 Mar.

Summer/breeding Casual reports, and under recorded, in likely upland breeding areas, with reports from sites in *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (5). Notably 15 were on Beinn a' Chaistail *North Argyll* on 24 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Birds were arriving back during summer e.g. 18 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Jun, 7 at the Reef on 25 Jun, 15 at Sandaig on 5 Jul (both *Tiree*) on 5 Jul and 100 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 17 Jul. Max. counts of 4,750 on *Tiree* all-island count on 24-25 Nov, 2,000 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Nov, 750 at Clochkeil *Kintyre* on 14 Nov, 80 at Port Cul Mhill, Ardtun *Mull* on 16 Oct, 70 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct and 50 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 22 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of 1 - 50 birds, including 2 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 14 Sep and 1 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 29 Sep.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare autumn visitor. 38+ records, all 2001-2024 and mostly from Tiree.

Autumn A 2cy+ was at Balevullin *Tiree* on 12 Sep [K. Gillon, J. Bowler]. *Record was 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 Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*), comprising 4 at Ardnave Loch on 12 Feb, 1 at Gartbreck on 14 Feb and 1 at Loch Gruinart on 4 Mar (all *Islay*), 3 at Traigh nam Barc on 23 Jan and 1 on Oronsay on 16 Apr (both *Colonsay*), and 1 at Traigh Ghrianael *Tiree* on 31 Jan.

Summer Several singles reported: a 2cy at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 5 Jun, at Feall Bay Coll on 12 Jun and at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16-26 Jun.

Autumn/winter First report; 2 at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 5 - 12 Sep. Most reports of 1-2 birds from (*Islay/Tiree*) with 5 at Ardnave Loch on 1 Nov, 4 at Loch Gruinart on 12 Dec (both *Islay*) and 3 at Miodar *Tiree* on 1-8 Oct. Elsewhere, 1 on Oronsay on 22 Sep and 2 at the Strand on 13 Oct (both *Colonsay*), 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Oct, 1 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Nov and 2 at Ardnadrochit, Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Nov, with 1 there on 29 Nov.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER* *Charadrius dubius*

A rare visitor. Six records. On Islay in May 1983, May 2013 and May 2016, at Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre in Jul 2007 and Jul 2009 and on Oronsay, Colonsay in Apr 2017.

Spring One was on the NE shore of Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May [D. Jardine]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*



GREY PLOVER *Tiree* June 2025 *Keith Gillon*

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 250 across 2 sites on *Tiree* on 2 Jan, 52 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 24 Mar, 47 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 8 Jan., 37 at Cnoc an t-Suidhe *Mull* on 31 Mar and 35 at Brunerican Bay *Kintyre* on 14 Feb. Modest spring passage from mid-Apr to late May; on *Islay* max. count of 87 at Loch Gruinart on 23 May and on *Tiree* 410 (across 3 sites) on 27 May. Elsewhere, 130 at Loch Don *Mull* on 29 Apr, 75 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 24 Apr, 69 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May and 55 at Stronvar *Coll* on 13 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (*cf.* 12.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 62 at Crossapol Point *Tiree* and 41 at Fidden *Mull*. Probable breeding found in all areas except (*Coll/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). On *Islay*, 1 pr at RSPB Gruinart Reserve and 7 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree*, 41 prs found in complete count of the Reef. Breeding also confirmed (*Colonsay/Cowal/Mull/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage increased from early Aug. Area max. counts of 530 (across 3 sites) on *Tiree* on 15 Dec, 320 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Aug, 100 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 9 Nov, 100 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Aug, 100 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug, 76 at Fidden *Mull* on 12 Sep, 55 at Killail *Cowal* on 11 Sep, 40 on *Coll* on 21 Sep and 32 at Traigh na Mile *Jura* on 12 Sep.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). No reports in mid-winter, but it is not clear whether singles at Normann's Ruh on 30 Mar and Salen on 1 Apr (both *Mull*) were migrants or wintering birds. Thereafter, singles were at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr, at Traigh Bhi and Ceann a' Mhara (both *Tiree*) on 8 Apr, with 2 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 10 Apr and 2 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 12 Apr, after which reports more widespread. Heaviest passage was in late Apr - early May when notable counts inc. 232 at Ardnave Loch on 1 May and 165 at Kintra on 6 May (both *Islay*), 78 at three sites on *Tiree* on 5 May, 33 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 28 Apr and 32 at Kellan, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Apr. Thereafter, most counts were fewer than 10, with 1-2 birds lingering into early Jul at sites in *Islay/Mull/Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First return passage on 11 Jul when 6 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, then 4 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul. Numbers generally low with 40 > S at Frenchman's Rocks on 9 Aug and 30 at Braibruich on 20 Aug (both *Islay*) and other reports of 1-8 birds on *Islay*. Elsewhere, 5 at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 1 Sep, 4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Aug, 4 >W at Aird *Tiree* on 9 Aug and all other reports of 1-3 birds with 2 late birds at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Oct and 1 at Kinloch *Mull* on 29 Oct. Wintering singles were noted on *Mull* at Scallastle Bay on 29 Nov and Crackaig on 24 Dec.



WHIMBREL *Mid-Argyll* August 2025 - Jim Dickson

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 were mostly lower than 2024; 135 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Apr, 122 at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 30 Jan, 70 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan, 70 at Machir Bay on 2 Feb and 50 at Gartnatra, Loch Indaal on 6 Feb (both *Islay*) and 47 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 8 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-45 birds and most counts of 1-15. Most birds had departed wintering areas by mid-Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30.3% of squares (10/33) (*cf.* 27.5% in 2024), Limited data and under reported from upland areas. On *Islay* 21 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, 4 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 3 prs at RSPB Smaull Reserve, and juv. reported at Leorin on 9 Jul. On *Jura*, 2 agitated birds at Craighouse on 10 Jun, suggesting probable breeding and on *Coll* at least one pair bred successfully. Elsewhere, fledged yng. reported on the Ross of Mull *Mull* on 19 Jun, but no evidence of breeding from *North Argyll* or elsewhere.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage from early Jul e.g. on 5 Jul, 91 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 33 at Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* and 70 at the Holy Loch *Cowal*. Max. counts of 225 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Dec, 200 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 1 Sep, 112 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 90 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 20 Oct, 73 at Bridgend *Islay* on 27 Oct, 72 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Aug, 68 at Machribeg *Kintyre* on 13 Aug and 60 at Loch Don *Mull* on 23 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds but most counts of 1-15.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

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

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre*). Max. counts of 566 at Loch Gruinart on 10 Jan and 350 at Carnain, Loch Indaal on 11 Feb (both *Islay*), 81 at Loch Don *Mull* on 19 Feb, 79 at two sites on *Tiree* on 2 Mar, 29 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 27 Jan and 18 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-12 birds. Spring passage light, with 30 on *Tiree* on 26 May, and up to 80 birds remained during Jun at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, with only singles noted elsewhere on *Mull & Tiree* in Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Returning birds noted from early Jul when 2 in sum. plum. were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Jul where nos. rose to 176 on 11 Jul, and 1 in sum/plum. at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul. Area max. counts of 716 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Oct, 84 juvs at 3 sites on *Tiree* on 3 Oct, 60 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 24 Sep, 52 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 11 Sep, 21 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* from 5 Dec and 11 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-8 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 (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*) during a modest passage. No reports of wintering birds, with first arrival of migrants; 1 at Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Mar, rising to 6 on 31 Mar, then 11 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 6 Apr. Numbers increased on *Tiree* in mid-Apr with a total of 132 on 14 Apr, with fewer towards the end of Apr, before 63 at Ruaig and 10 at Loch a' Phuill on 28 Apr, the last migrants noted. Elsewhere, area max. counts

of 43 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 28 Apr and 20 there on 16 May, 32 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, 24 at Fidden *Mull* on 27 Apr, 6 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Apr and 1 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 20 May. A 2cy bird at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 10 Jun and 2 at Kinloch *Mull* on 12 Jun were the last spring birds noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). First arrivals of returning adults inc., 55 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Jun, 6 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 1 Jul and 11 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul. Returning juvs. noted from 18 Aug with 3 at Gott Bay *Tiree*. Max. counts of 198 on *Tiree* on 1 Sep inc. 165 juvs. and 1 ad at Loch a' Phuill, with 100 juvs. still present there on 9 Sep, 63 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug and 42 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 & 14 Sep. Elsewhere, area max. counts of 8 at Duart Bay on 20 Aug & 21 Oct and 6 >S on Iona on 19 Sep (both *Mull*), 4 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 1 Sep and 16 at the RSPB reserve *Coll* on 4 Sep. During Nov - Dec, all records from *Islay*, except 1 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Nov. Ten were still at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Nov. Thereafter, counts were of 1-4 birds there, except singles at Loch Indaal on 4 Nov and at Cornabus on 23-24 Dec.



TURNSTONES *Kintyre* November 2025 *Caroline Anderson*

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 of 1-30 birds. Most high counts were from *Tiree* and max. count there of 183 (128 at Sandaig and 55 at the Reef). Elsewhere, area max. counts, 57 at Fidden *Mull* on 2 Apr, 48 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 31 at Crois Mhor, Loch

Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 27 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 12 Apr and 24 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Small nos., of summering birds were still present at some sites when returning birds were arriving. The first noted were 30 at Kirn Pier *Cowal* on 26 Jul. Area max. counts of 215 across 3 sites on *Tiree* on 8 Dec, 158 at Kirn Pier *Cowal* on 15 Aug, 124 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, 64 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Oct, 44 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Aug and 41 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 1 Sep.

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 (*Islay/Mid-Argyll*). Most on *Islay* where 109 at inner Loch Indaal on 12 Jan rising to 200 on 14 Feb. Elsewhere, the only report was of 1 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan. A few scattered birds in Apr; on *Tiree* 2 at Gott Bay on 8 Apr and 1 at Balephetrish Bay on 14 Apr, and singles at Pennygown *Mull* on 21 Apr and Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Apr. 32 were reported at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 1 May, with 8 there on 16 May, and 1 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 27 May the last spring bird.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). First returning birds noted in Jul when 45 were at Bridgend, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 21 Jul. Followed by passage from mid-Aug when 2 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Aug, rising to 25 on 22 Aug, 1 at Traigh Ghrianaid *Tiree* on 19 Aug and 2 at Scallastle *Mull* on 22 Aug. Area max. counts of 2 at Arnabost *Coll* on 11 Sep, 5 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Aug, 3 at Killail *Cowal* on 9 Sep, 205 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Sep, 7 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Sep, 9 juvs. at the Add Est, *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, 3 at Loch Don on 23 Aug and 3 at Kinloch on 14 Sep (both *Mull*) and 11 juvs. at Hynish on 6 Sep and 13 at Gott Bay on 5 Sep (both *Tiree*). Birds had generally departed Argyll by late-Oct, with only 25 remaining at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Dec and 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 8-27 Dec.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

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

Spring Few seen on passage. The first on *Islay* was at Loch Gruinart on 6 May, with 4 females and a male there on 9 May, 6 birds present on 10 May, with one noted on 14 May, and other reports from *Tiree* where a male was seen near Heylipol on 2 May, 2 males were at Loch a' Phuill on 20 May and 3 males there on 30 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding activity was noted May - Jun, locations withheld, at least 6 different males and at least 1 female-type (possibly a 2cy male), with any breeding thought to be unsuccessful. No sightings in Jul.

Autumn/winter A good passage reported from (*Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). The first migrants were 10 1cy's at Caoles *Tiree* on 18 Aug, followed by a 1cy at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug. On 21 Aug, singles were noted on Iona *Mull* and at Loch Gruinart *Islay*. On *Tiree* numbers rose, with 19 noted at two sites on 31 Aug, and a total on 34 1cy's, including 18 at Balinoc, on 2 Sep. Numbers there dropped quickly with only 12 reported on 10 Sep, but 20 were found on 15 Sep, following which numbers declined with the last 4 reported on 10 Oct. On *Islay* numbers at Loch Gruinart increased with 5 noted on 24 Aug, increasing to 9 on 26 Aug, with up to 5 noted until 18 Sep, then 1-2, before rising to 7 on 30 Sep, with the last reported 1 reported on 11 Oct. Elsewhere on *Islay*, 2 were at Loch an t-Sailean on 8 Sep. The first on *Coll* was at Stronvar on 5 Sep, increasing to 6 at Port na Luing on 8 Sep, with 4 at Totronald on 11 Sep, when another

single was also at Stronvar. In *Mid-Argyll*, another was at the Add Est. on 23 Aug, with 2 (m + f) there on 26 Aug and one lingering until 30 Aug, followed by another individual on 13 Sep.



CURLEW SANDPIPER *Tiree* September 2025 *Keith Gillon*

CURLEW SANDPIPER* *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Spring/summer On *Tiree* 1 was at Gott Bay on 17 May, 2 ads were at Loch a' Phuill on 20 May and 2 adults were at Balephetrish Bay on 26-27 May.

Autumn A record influx on *Tiree* where 5 1cy's at Clachan 4-5 Sep, 8 1cy's there on 12 Sep, 9 1cy's at Loch a' Phuill on 12-13 Sep, 22 1cy's at Balephetrish Bay on 8 Sep, 33 1cy's at Vaul Bay on 9 Sep – part of a record total of 52 around the island on 9 Sep. Numbers reduced towards end of Sep, but still 12 at Crossapol on 15 Sep, in Oct a max of 4 at Balephetrish Bay on 7-8 Oct with last single there on 13 Oct. On *Islay* 1 was at Carnain on 24 Aug, 4 at Loch Gruinart on 2 Sep, with a peak there of 19 1cy's on 10-11 Sep, then numbers reduced with still 7 at Loch

Gruinart on 20 Sep and last single there on 11 Oct. On *Colonsay* a 1cy was at Traigh nam Barc on 9 Sep, 2 1cy's at Strand on 11 Sep and one at Seal Cott, Oronsay on 26 Sep. On *Mull* 1 was at Uisken on 5 Sep, 2 were on Iona on 13 Sep and singles there on 17 & 25 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* a 1cy was at the Add Est. on 5 Sep.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

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

Winter Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Good numbers wintering on *Tiree* with 300 found on 1 Jan and 295 on 13 Mar, also on *Islay* where 204 at Crois Mhor, Loch Gruinart on 10 Jan. Elsewhere, 38 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Mar and 13 at Arnabost *Coll* on 25 Feb.

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Modest passage on *Tiree* with 333 across 3 sites on 7 Apr max. total and 250 at Traigh Ghrianal on 24 May max. count. Elsewhere, max. counts: 50 at Machrihanish SBO on 26 May and 45 at Bellochantuy Bay on 27 May (both *Kintyre*) and 45 at Ardnavé *Islay* on 5 Apr. Elsewhere 1-15 birds noted. The last birds had moved through *Argyll* by mid-Jun with 22 still on *Tiree* on 12 Jun, and 1-10 birds noted to the month end on (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*) with first returning birds 4 at Traigh Crossapol *Coll* on 15 Jul, 32 at Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 19 Jul and then 169 on *Tiree* (at Gott Bay and Traigh Baigh) on 21 Jul. On *Tiree* counts of 366 on the four main beaches on 25 Aug, 315 there on 6 Oct and 420 (240 at Gott Bay and 180 at Balephetrish Bay) on 29 Dec. The proportion of juvs. peaked at 24.9% on 8 Sep. On *Islay* 232 were at Crois Mhor, Loch Gruinart on 5 Sep and 167 at Eilean Nostaig on 27 Oct. Elsewhere, area max. counts of 86 on Iona *Mull* on 13 Sep, 57 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 31 Jul, 36 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Sep, 28 on *Coll* on 21 Sep and 10 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul.

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 1,172 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb and 60 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 1 Mar, elsewhere, max. 55 at Loch Don *Mull* on 11 Jan. On *Tiree* passage peaked on 25 Apr when 525 were present at Gott Bay and on *Islay* 330 were at Loch Gruinart on 29 Apr. Elsewhere, peak counts of 158 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 May, 60 at Fidden *Mull* on 11 May and 40 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May. All other counts of 1-30 birds. Most had moved through by late May but there were a few late birds, inc. 39 in the Gott Bay area *Tiree* on 10 Jun and 36 at Knockangle Pt *Islay* on 15 Jun.

Breeding On *Tiree* 52 singing males in complete count at the Reef. Singing males noted at 7 other sites in May and very small numbers of fledged juv. at 3 sites in Jul. 2 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*. Two pairs were noted at an inland site in *North Argyll* in May - Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage noted from 17 Jul when 28 were at Arnabost *Coll*, followed by 150 at Bridgend Merse *Islay* on 20 Jul, then increasing when 356 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep, and elsewhere notable counts of 119 at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 8 Sep, 117 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jul and 58 at Rhunahaorine Pt. *Kintyre* on 19 Jul. Later at Loch Gruinart *Islay* 505 were present on 16 Nov and 125 were present across 2 sites on *Tiree* on

15 Dec. Elsewhere, 29 at Ceann Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov and 25 at Loch Don *Mull* on 7 Dec, were the only notable counts.

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/North Argyll*). Area max. counts of 54 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 30 Jan, 19 at Balnahard Bay *Colonsay* on 25 Jan, 18 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 29 Jan, 12 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 2 Jan, and 3 at Ardnave *Islay* on 3-4 Mar. Last report was of 13 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 14 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). First report of returning birds was of one at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 26 Aug, then 1 at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 5 Oct. Reports received from 11 sites in Oct-Dec with max. counts of 53 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Dec and 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Nov. Notably 1 was at Crackaig *Jura* on 26 Nov.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER* *Calidris bairdii*

A vagrant from North America. Thirteen records. Five on Islay (in Jun 1979, Sep 1999, Sep 2005, Sep 2011 and Oct 2019), seven on Tiree (in May/Jun 2007, Sep 2009, Sep 2011, Sep 2013, Sep 2015, Sep 2019 and Sep-Oct 2023) and one at the Add Estuary, Mid-Argyll in Sep 2008.

Autumn A 1cy was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record still under consideration by the BBRC.



LITTLE STINT *Tiree* September 2025 Keith Gillon

LITTLE STINT* *Calidris minuta*

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

Autumn On *Islay* a 1cy at Loch Gruinart on 9-12 Sep, and 4 1cy's were at Loch Indaal (2 at Carnain & 2 nr. Blackrock) on 10 Sep, with last report there of a single on 27 Sep. On *Tiree* single 1cy's at Loch a' Phuill on 24 Aug, Vaul Bay on 8-12 Sep and at Loch a' Phuill 13 Sep. On *Mull* a 1cy was at Fidden on 12 Sep.



WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (centre) *Tiree* October 2025 *Jim Dickson*

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER* *Calidris fuscicollis*

A vagrant. Total of eight birds. Six records of singles; on Islay in Aug 2000 and Oct 2005 and on Tiree in Aug and Sep 2011, Aug 2012 and Aug 2014 and two together on Islay on 12-13 Oct 2019.

Autumn A 1cy was at Vaul Bay *Tiree* on 4 Oct [J. Dickson, S. Gibson *et al.*] then subsequently moved to Balephetrish Bay from 6-15 Oct [J. Bowler, R. Still, J. Dickson *et al.*] and another, greyer 1cy was at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 & 10 Oct [T. de Clermont, D. Jardine]. *Both records were accepted by the SBRC.*

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER* *Tryngites subruficollis*

RBBP *A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor. At least 44 records of up to 58 birds since the first in 1971.*

Autumn One (unaged) was at Clachan Mor *Tiree* on 4 Sep [K. Gillon] and a different 1cy was at Crossapol *Tiree* on 15 Sep [J. Bowler]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Islay* October 2025 *Dan Brown*

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce mainly autumn visitor. At least 76+ records.

Autumn A 1cy was at Balinoe *Tiree* on 1-10 Sep and perhaps the same bird at Loch a' Phuill on 12-13 Sep [J. Bowler, K. Gillon *et al.*]. A 1cy was seen briefly at Ballinaby *Islay* on 1 Oct, then perhaps the same bird nearby in a field at Sanaigmore on 3 & 5 Oct [D. Brown, M. Eden]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A vagrant: Five records; on Islay in June 1986, Apr 2009, May 2013 and Oct-Nov 2021, and on Tiree in Oct 2019. There are also four acceptable records (1891-2009) of unidentified to species (Long or Short-billed).

Spring One was reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve *Islay* on 6-7 May [J. How *et al.*]. *Record is still subject to acceptance by the BBRC.*

2021 A 1cy was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Oct -1 Nov [M. & A. Cockburn, J. How, D. Brown, M. Bell *et al.*]. *Record has now been accepted by the BBRC.*

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

RED LIST *A widespread, but probably under recorded breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland. A small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere. Roding birds are under recorded, and all records are welcome for this species, which is believed to have declined as a breeding species in Argyll, for the National Survey in 2023.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 39 Argyll sites in Jan-Apr with max. counts: 7 at Langamull Woods *Mull* on 7 Jan, 6 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Feb & 1 Mar, and 6 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 8 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 9 sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (1) of birds in May – Jun and of roding at only two. On *Colonsay* during the BTO Woodcock Survey at Colonsay Ho. & woodland area, there were no registrations on 23 Apr and 22 May and 2 of 1 bird on 11 Jun.

Autumn/winter Only two reports Jul – Sep; 2 at Fidden *Mull* on 19 Sep and 1 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 29 Sep. Thereafter, reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal*). First report was of 1 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 19 Oct followed by 1 on *Jura* on 21 Oct. In Nov, only 24 reports from (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) of 1-3 birds, but with ‘lots’ reported at Ardfin Wood *Jura* on 14 Nov and 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Nov. In Dec only 9 reports of 1-2 birds from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll/Tiree*). *Under reported.*

JACK SNIPE* *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Winter/spring Singles unless noted; On *Islay* noted at the Oa in Jan, Feb, Apr, in *Kintyre* at Narachan Hill on 22 Mar, in *Mid-Argyll* on Luing on 7 Jan and Kerrera on 27 Jan, on *Mull* at Glengorm on 12 Jan, 2 at Caliach on 18 Feb and at Ardtun on 20 May, and on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 21 Feb.

Autumn/winter Reports of singles unless noted; on *Islay* at the Oa on 23 Sep, 2 on 17 Nov and 1 on 16 Dec, in *Kintyre* at Lephonstrath on 30 Sep, on *Islay* at Ballivicar, nr Port Ellen on 19 Oct, at Ardbeg on 17 Oct, at Arivoichallun, nr. Leorin on 20 Oct, W Gruinart on 21 Oct, Cornabus, Oa on 22 Nov and S Gruinart on 25 Nov, on *Tiree* an early bird at Balephuill on 12 Sep and at Balinoe on 19 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* one was caught on a camera trap on a beaver dam at Loch Coille Bhar on 3 Nov. *Under-reported; all records welcome.*

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 10 at Loch a’ Chumhainn *Mull* on 18 Feb and 10 at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 8 Apr. Otherwise counts of 1-7 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of BBS squares (5/33) (*cf.* 25% in 2024), with max. count of 8 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. Singing/displaying counts; on *Islay* with 54 at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, 4 at RSPB Smaull Reserve and 7+ at RSPB Oa Reserve. Four on RSPB Oronsay Reserve *Colonsay* and on *Tiree* 135 in complete count at The Reef. A brood was noted on Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 23 May. Few other counts but reported from all areas except (*Cowal*). First chicks noted on *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Good nos on *Tiree* from early Sep with max. count of est. of 450+ on the island on 15 Sep, inc. 190 at Balevullin, with 180 still there on 25 Nov. Other high counts of 49 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Oct, 21 at Lochan a’ Phuill *Mull* on 12 Sep, 15 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 30 Nov and 12 at Chapel of Kilbride, Loch Fyne *Cowal* on 21 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of up to 10 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 11 May and end Jul. 11-12 breeding males present across 6 sites, which reared at least 11 broods at 6 sites.



RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Argyll June 2025 Keith Gillon*

GREY PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

Autumn On *Tiree* a 1cy was at Balephetrish Bay on 9 Sep and 3 >W off Aird on 4 Oct.

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 Singles were found at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Feb, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Mar and Fasnaclloch *North Argyll* on 16 Mar.

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). The first arrivals were all on *Mull*, with singles at Loch Spelve on 1 Apr, at Knock on 3 Apr, at the head of Loch Ba on 3 Apr, at Kilfinichen on 7 Apr, at Scarisdale Pt on 7 Apr and Garmony Pt on 7 Apr. Elsewhere, area first dates were at

Arinagour *Coll* on 12 Apr, Easdale *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 12 Apr and Powder Dam *Cowal* on 17 Apr. Reports became widespread by late Apr. Max. counts of 30 at Salaman Is. on 29 Apr, 14 at Loch na Keal on 9 May (both *Mull*), 13 at Rubh' a' Chladaich on 9 May and 12 at Kinnabus, Oa on 8 May (both *Islay*), and 8 at Victoria Br, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 20 Apr and 7 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33), (cf. 22.5% in 2024), with max. count of 6 at Carraig Fhada *Islay*. Limited data. On *Islay* 24 prs were at RSPB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* 15+ prs in May-Jul with yng noted from 8 Jun, 12 AOTs found on *Colonsay*, and 4 AOTs noted on Treshnish Is. *Mull*. Successful breeding noted in (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Max. counts of 20 at Derryguaig *Mull* on 14 Jun, 12 on return passage at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 19 Jul and 10 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max. counts of 17 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Aug and 9 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Aug. Generally, 1-3 birds at other sites, with 42 reports in Aug and 7 in Sep, with the last, a single, at Aird Fada *Mull* on 16 Oct.



COMMON SANDPIPER *Mid-Argyll* August 2025 Jim Dickson

GREEN SANDPIPER* *Tringa ochropus*

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

Autumn One was at Lephenstrath Farm *Kintyre* on 14 Jul [A. & N. Hand].

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Widespread at coastal sites, usually of 1-20 birds. Max. winter counts of 118 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Jan, 50 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Jan, 22 at Loch Don *Mull* on 15 Mar and 20 at Ardminish Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Feb. Spring passage noted in Apr with 65 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, 31 at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 24 Mar and 28 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr the only notable groups.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. On *Islay* 127 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, 10 prs at RSPB Smaul Reserve and 1 pr at RPSB Oa Reserve. On *Tiree* 61 prs in complete count at the Reef in Jun. On *Colonsay* there were 8 Ters (exc. Oronsay) and 17 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*. There were 3-4 Ters. at Crinan Moss *Mid-Argyll*. The first hatched yng were noted at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 May and fledged yng at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 10 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Autumn passage light with 104 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep the largest flock noted and 20 >S at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 5 Aug. Max. winter counts of 107 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Dec and 94 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 12 Oct. Elsewhere, 80 around *Tiree* on 1 Oct. 53 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Oct, 46 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 44 at the Add Est./Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Nov. 40 Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 20 Nov and 36 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 7 Nov. Widespread counts of up to 25 birds.

WOOD SANDPIPER* *Tringa glareola*

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

Spring Singles at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 May at Fidden *Mull* on 10 May and at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 25 May.

Breeding Breeding activity from a pair at a site in *North Argyll* noted 7 May to 15 Jun.

Autumn On *Tiree* 1 was at An Fhaodhail *Tiree* on 19 Aug, a juv. at Balevullin on 11-12 Sep then 2 juvs. there on 16 Sep.

SPOTTED REDSHANK*

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

Spring A 2cy+ was at the Reef *Tiree* on 22 Apr [J. Bowler].

Autumn/winter A 1cy was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Sep [K. Gillon]. A 1cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Nov and remained into 2026 [D. Jardine, J. Dickson *et al.*]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

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 (*Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (46), *Islay* (11), *Mid-Argyll* (10) and *North Argyll* (7) and generally of 1-3 birds. Max. counts of 11 at Loch

a' Chumhainn on 4 Feb, 11 at Loch Don on 13 Feb (both *Mull*), 5 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Apr, 5 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, 4 at the head of Loch Tarbert *Jura* on 15 Jan and 4 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 15 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeds in small nos. in (*Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Birds noted back in breeding areas and display from late-Apr. Only casual reports of birds received from two sites in *North Argyll* with a total of 3 possible pairs.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) and most reports from sites in; *Mull* (43), *Islay* (27) and *Mid-Argyll* (24). First returning bird noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jul then more widespread from Jul with generally, 1-5 birds at sites and max. counts of 20 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Oct, 21 at Duart Bay on 21 Aug, 20 at Loch a' Chumhainn on 30 Oct and 16 at Loch Don on 8 Nov (all *Mull*). On the mainland, max. counts were 7 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 6 Dec, 6 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 15 Sep, 4 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep.



GREENSHANK *Kintyre* January 2025 *Jim Dickson*

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE* *Glareola nordmanni*

No previous Argyll records. A wader of vast steppes and open grasslands in countries such as Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Autumn A 1cy was seen in flight over fields at Totronald RSPB reserve *Coll* on 11 Aug [M. Finnigan, C. Smyth]. What was presumed to be the same bird, but details scant, was in the same area on 18 Aug (B. Jones pers. comm.) *Record is under consideration by the BBRC.*

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 (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max. counts of 4,000 feeding between *Tiree - Mull* on 9 Feb, with 1,700 there on 25 Feb and many other counts in this area, 400+ at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 25 Jan and 170 storm-bound at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Feb.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). An improved breeding season: on *Colonsay* a complete count of the North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA found 5,792 AONs (NatureScot); at the Dun Tealtaig sample study area there was a 37.5% increase on the 2024 count to 55 AON. At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 119 AONs (*cf.* 136 in 2024) and 58 AON in complete count of Sanda Islands *Kintyre*. On *Mull* 919+ AONs on Lunga, Treshnish Is. (*cf.* 724 in 2024) and at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 784 AONs on 18 Jun (*cf.* 655 in 2024) where 450 large chicks on 8 Jul (mean = 1.17 chicks/nest n = 267).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 2,411 in 3.5 hrs at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 15 Sep, with 651 there on 13 Sep, 1,566 at Cailach Pt *Mull* on 20 Sep, 422 >W at Aird *Tiree* on 4 Oct, 400 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 6 Sep, 189 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 2 Nov and still 100 (98% adults) off Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 3 Dec.

SABINE'S GULL* *Xema sabini*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.

Autumn On *Tiree*, an adult >SW of Hynish on 31 Aug [J. Bowler], a 1cy >NE off Hynish on 17 Sep [J. Bowler] and 3 1cy's >W off Aird on 4 Oct [J. Bowler, T. de Clermont, J. Dickson *et al.*]. On *Coll* a 1cy was seen from the ferry W of the Cairns of Coll on 29 Sep [F. Cavanagh]. On *Islay* 2 adults >SW off Frenchman's Rocks on 4 Aug, another adult on 29 Aug and a 1cy on 13 Sep [C. McKay]. On *Mull* a 1cy >S off Caliach Point *Mull* on 20 Sep [T. de Clermont]. *Records were accepted by the ABRC. (see records awaited etc page 151)*

BONAPARTE'S GULL* *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

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

Winter An adult was at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20-23 Jan [J. Dickson *et al.*].

Autumn/winter An adult was at the Add Estuary & Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 11-15 Aug [J. Dickson *et al.*]. This, or perhaps a new adult, was at the head of Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Dec [J. Dickson]. *Records are under consideration by the BBRC.*

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc., 1,135 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jan, 350 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 24 Feb, 175 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan, 141 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Mar, 140 at Loch Bhasapol and 65 at Gott Bay on 31 Mar (both *Tiree*) and 65 at Machihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 31 Jan.

Summer/breeding On *Colonsay* 28 found at the Strand on 28 Apr was the highest pre-breeding total for a number of years, while on *Islay* 30 AONs note at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. 2 prs with yng. found Eilean Buidhe Mor *Jura* on 11 Jul. On *Tiree*: a total in May of 287 AONs at 8 sites (cf. 307 in 2024) dozens of juvs. fledging at the Reef on 17 Jun. First fledged juvs. noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jun. No other breeding information received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max. counts inc., 302 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Oct, 200 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Sep, 108 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 20 Oct, 84 at Skipness Bay *Kintyre* on 19 Nov, 74 at Gartbreck *Islay* on 12 Aug and 55 at Ardlarach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct. Elsewhere counts of 1-50.



LITTLE GULL (centre) *Mid-Argyll* January 2025 *Jim Dickson*

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/summer On *Islay* a 2cy was at Loch Gruinart on 16 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult at Loch Gilp on 10 Jan, an adult with a metal ring there on 28 Feb, a 2cy there on 7 Apr and two 2cy's there on 22 Apr. A 2cy was at the Add Estuary on 19 Apr. On *Tiree* a 2cy was caught and ringed at Gott Bay on 13 May and a 2cy was at Loch a' Phuill 29 May -24 Jun.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 2 off Frenchman's Rocks on 13 Sep & 3 off there on 15 Sep and 1 off Bruichladdich on 14 Oct. In *Kintyre* 2 were at Machrihanish SBO on 4 Oct. In *Mid-Argyll* an adult

at Loch Crinan on 8 Aug, 2 at Sound of Kerrera on 23 Sep and a 2cy at Loch Gilp on 26 Sep. On *Mull* 1 was at Loch Don on 23 Aug and 4 were off Caliach Point on 31 Aug.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL* *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

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

Winter/spring An adult was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Jan. On *Islay* a 2cy was at Cornabus on 14 Jan, a 2cy was at Bridgend, Hd. of Loch Indaal *Islay* on 18 Feb and perhaps the same there on 24 Mar & an adult at Skerrols *Islay* on 22 Feb. A 2cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Feb. A 2cy was at Machrihanish beach *Kintyre* on 20 Jun.

Autumn/winter A 1cy was at Scarinish *Tiree* on 7 & 11 Sep, this or another 1cy at Vaul & later at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 13 Sep, 1 was off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 13 Sep, 1 was at Glenegeale *Islay* on 25 Sep, a 1cy was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 6 Oct, one at Borichil Mor *Islay* on 16 Oct, 3 adults were at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 24 Oct and single adults were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Oct and 20-22 Dec.

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 1,600 at Eallabus *Islay* on 28 Feb, 955 at five sites on *Tiree* on 7 Mar, 341 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 300 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 4 Feb, 300 at Loch na Keal on 25 Jan, 250 at Lagganulva on 5 Feb and 244 at Loch a' Chumhainn on 15 Jan (all *Mull*), Elsewhere, other counts inc. 205 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 17 Feb, 140 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan and 127 Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 23 Jan, with many counts <100.

Summer/breeding On *Tiree* 458 AONs (cf. 384 in 2024) found at 25 sites, but a better fledging season than 2024 with first fledged birds on 17 Jun. 36 AONs found at 2 sites on Gunna *Coll*. On *Islay* 40 AONs at RSPB Smaull reserve and 3 AONs at RSPB Oa reserve. A pair with yng. were at Rubha nan Crann *Jura* on 11 Jul and 19 AONs in complete count of Sanda Islands *Kintyre*. In *Mid-Argyll* the Egg Shed, Ardrishaig, colony declined to c30 AONs, where nest disturbance was noted (cf. 120 birds in 2024) and 16 nests with yng. at Dunstaffnage Bay on 25 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 560 at Gartmain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Oct and 516 at Kinloch *Mull* on 16 Dec. Elsewhere, high counts inc., 370 at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 15 Sep, 264 at Mid Ardyne *Cowal* on 18 Aug, 243 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Dec, 216 at Loch na Keal on 1 Oct and 200 at Dervaig on 27 Dec (both *Mull*) and 200 at Ardlarach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc., 64 at the Cairns of Coll on 26 Feb and 39 at Breachacha Bay on 28 Feb (both *Coll*), 45 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Feb, 35 at Portnahaven *Islay* on 5 Feb, 35 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Feb, 33 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 1 Mar and 30 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 13 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Confirmed breeding only reported on (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). One AON noted on Gunna *Coll*. On *Islay*, 7 AONs on RSPB Oa Reserve and newly fledged juvs. noted at Loch Gruinart on 29 Jul. Four pairs noted at Eilean Glas

Jura on 9 Apr. In *Kintyre*, 1 AON on Sanda Is. and 16 ind on Glunimore & Sheep Is. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* colony visits; Lunga (5 AOT) and Sgeir an Chaisteil (0 AOT), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (27 & 8 broods of 1-2 chicks), Sgeir an Fheòir (5 AOT, inc. 4 broods) and Fladda (15 ads & 2 broods). In *North Argyll* 5 prs noted on Eilean nan Caorach, Lismore and on *Tiree*, 23 AONs noted across 6 sites and three vacant sites, with first fledglings noted on 27 Jul at Loch a' Phuill.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc., 97 at Loch Gruinart on 10 Oct and 72 on Nave Is. on 27 Oct (both *Islay*), 68 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp on 11 Nov and 55 at Loch Crinan on 23 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*), 46 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 13 Oct and 42 at Lagganulva *Mull* on 2 Sep.

GLAUCOUS GULL* *Larus hyperboreus*

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

Winter/spring On *Colonsay* a 2cy on Oronsay on 9 Mar and in *Kintyre* a 2cy was at Port Corbert, N of Westport on 26 Feb. On *Tiree* a 2cy was at Sorobaidh Bay on 3 Jan with further reports of this or different 2cy's at Loch a' Phuill on 7 Mar, Gott Bay on 6 Apr, Heylipol Dunes on 11 Apr and Loch Bhasapol on 14 Apr.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* a 1cy was at Kinnabus, Oa on 27 Oct. On *Mull* a 1cy was at Loch na Keal on 30 Dec. On *Tiree* A 1cy was at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 11-17 Nov. *Approx. 7 birds over the year, possibly our lowest number in many years, following only 8 in 2024.*



ICELAND GULL *Mid-Argyll* February 2025 *Jim Dickson*

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 On *Islay* one was at Kinnabus, Oa on 4 Feb. In *Kintyre* a 2cy was at Stewarton on 10 Mar and a 2cy was at Carradale Bay on 13 Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* a 2cy was at the Add Estuary on 14 Feb-12 Mar, with presumed the same bird at Loch Gilp on 1 Mar. On *Tiree* a 2cy was at Loch an Eilein on 23 Apr then at Loch Bhasapol on 25 & 28 Apr.

Autumn/winter No reports. *Fewer records than average.*

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 1,030 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 240 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 200 at Kilnaughton Bay *Islay* on 3 Feb, 200 at the Cairns of Coll *Coll* on 26 Feb, 180 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar, 144 at Balure, Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, 136 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 140 at Heylipol Dunes *Tiree* on 14 Apr and 130 at Glengorm *Mull* on 5 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited confirmed breeding reported in all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). None found on Gunna *Coll*. On *Islay* 14 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve. 158 AONs on Sanda Is. and 742 ind on Glunimore & Sheep Is, Sanda *Kintyre*. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* 5 AOTs on Lunga and 5 AOT on Sgeir a' Chaisteil, and 30 prs at Glas Eileanan, Craignure. 350 prs on Eilean nan Caorach, Lismore *North Argyll*. At least 106 AONs on *Tiree* across six sites, although 3 other sites vacant, with first fledglings noted on 8 Jul at Ceann a' Mhara.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 1,510 at Lingerton, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Nov, 1,000 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 14 Sep, 410 Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 26 Dec, 335 at Eilean Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 22 Aug, 310 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Nov and 200 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 8 Dec.

CASPIAN GULL* *Larus cachinnans*

A rare but more recently, increasingly recorded species in Scotland, first record was in 2006 with most reports from the Scottish mainland east coast. Breeds around the Black Sea but has spread into central and western Europe in recent decades. No previous Argyll records.

2016 A recent re-examination of photos taken of a 2cy bird at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jul led to a submission of it to the SBRC [J. Dickson]. *Record under consideration by the SBRC.*

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread breeding species. Generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabirds Count only found 236 pairs in natural sites in Argyll and Bute but did not publish an estimate of the number of urban nesting pairs for Argyll & Bute.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas and from sites by month of; Jan (3), Feb (27) and Mar (63). Generally, a scarce bird in winter. In Jan, 1-2 noted in *Cowal*, and 6 ads were back at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb. Arrivals in several areas from mid-Feb, with first 3 on *Tiree* on 20 Feb however most arrivals in mid Mar. Higher counts noted inc., 56 at Kinnabus *Islay* on 12 May and 55 at Crossapol Pt *Tiree* on 23 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. None found on Gunna *Coll*. 7 AONs on Sanda Is. and 63 ind. on Glunimore & Sheep Is, Sanda *Kintyre*. On *Tiree* 77 AONs across 6 sites in May (44 in 2024) and none at a further 3 sites. First fledged young on *Tiree* noted on 8 Jul. Notable mid-summer sightings include 21 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jun, 16 at Loch a' Chumhain *Mull* on 11 Jun and 15 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 21 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Nos declined from mid-Aug, with passage noted; 74 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Sep and 45 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 18 Aug. Reports from only 8 sites in Nov and 5 in Dec, when 1-2 reported at sites in *Cowal* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1).

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

Winter/spring No winter records. Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). First arrivals; 2 at Kilnaughton Bay on 23 Mar, 2 at Gartnatra on 24 Mar and 3 at Bowmore on 30 Mar (all *Islay*), and elsewhere, 1 at Corran *Kintyre* on 1 Apr and 1 at Quinish *Mull* on 4 Apr after which more numerous. Higher counts mainly from *Kintyre* inc., 18 at Tayinloan on 12 Apr, 13 at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert on 11 Apr, 10 at Davaar Is. on 8 Apr and 10 at Machrihanish SBO on 22 Apr. Notably, singles at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 6 Apr, at Arinagour *Coll* on 12 Apr and 4 at sea between *Tiree* – *Coll* on 31 May.

Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding reports. In summer, 1-3 birds noted from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*), but no juvs. noted until 11 Aug at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll*. Max. counts of 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Counts included: 35 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 9 Sep, 9 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 7 at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 26 Aug, 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 10 Aug and 6 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 1 Sep. Elsewhere, 3 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug, 3 on *Mull* on 14 Aug and 1 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 12 Aug.



LITTLE TERN *Tiree* June 2025 Keith Gillon

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/Kintyre/Tiree*). First reports were of singles at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* and Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, followed by 6 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 7 Apr. First reports elsewhere were 2 at Grishipol *Coll* on 2 May, 2 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 3 May and 4 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 May.

Breeding On *Islay* 0 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, while on *Tiree* a total of 22 yng fledged from a min of 47 nesting prs; limited coverage of Gunna *Coll*, however 1 seen, but no AON on 28 May. Elsewhere on *Coll*, birds did not settle on the RSPB reserve and there were no other records of breeding. On Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay *Colonsay* 5 prs (incl a c/r bird ringed on *Tiree*) reared a min of 2 yng.

Autumn The last noted were 10 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 6 Jul, 1 at Craignure *Mull* on 7 Jul, 4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Jul, 2 at Arnabost *Coll* on 16 Jul, 12 at The Green *Tiree* on 29 Jul, followed by singles at Traigh Corraig and >W at Aird (both *Tiree*) on 9 Aug.



COMMON TERN *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 *John Boyd*

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 (*Colonsay/Jura*). First area reports were of singles at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 17 Apr and Grogport *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, then Calve Is. *Mull* on 30 Apr, and

2 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 1 May, becoming more widespread in the following week. Max. count of 20 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 27 May and 20 at Port Ellen *Islay* on 14 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received for offshore breeding islands. 2 AONs noted on Gunna *Coll* and on *Islay*, probable breeding noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. Around 50 prs nested at Eilean Buidhe Mor *Jura* and in *Mid-Argyll*, 20+ AONs noted at Duncuan Is, Loch Gilp and ca. 20 prs Eilean Fada, Loch Caolisport, on *Mull* a mixed colony (Arctic & Common Terns) of 80 ind. at Sgeire an Eirionnaich, Treshnish Is. Three prs were noted at 2 sites on *Tiree*. Max. counts of 120 at Ardrishaig on 14 Jul and 55 at Loch Crinan on 22 Jul (both *Mid Argyll*) and 20 at Rubha na Cille, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 24 Jul, suggested good breeding season at some sites

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*), with few after mid-Aug. Later max. counts of 35 at Craignure on 8 Aug, 20 at Scallastle Bay on 22 Aug (both *Mull*) and 18 >N at Loch Crinan *Mid Argyll* on 11 Aug. The last bird was one at Lady Rock, Lismore *North Argyll* on 21 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 (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). First reports; 2 at A'Chroic *Coll* on 21 Apr, followed by 2 at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 22 Apr, with 21 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 24 Apr, then 3 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 27 Apr and 3 on Iona *Mull* on 1 May.

Summer/breeding Confirmed breeding noted in (*Colonsay/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). 35 AONs on Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay *Colonsay* which reared a min of 6 yng. On *Islay* probable breeding of 1 pr noted on RSPB Gruinart Reserve and a mixed colony (Arctic & Common Terns) of 80 ind. at Sgeire an Eirionnaich, Treshnish Is. *Mull*. 30 AON noted at Eilean Musdile, Lismore *North Argyll* on 14 Jul. On *Tiree* 155 young fledged from 210 AONs at 21 sites around the island, with fledged young noted from 14 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Most had departed by mid-Aug, with 181 >W at Aird *Tiree* on 9 Aug and 35 at Ruaig Pt. *Tiree* on 11 Aug the last large count. Remaining counts were 1-10 birds, except 11 from *Islay* ferry on 9 Sep, 36 at Loch Gruinart on 11 Sep and 12 at Bruichladdich on 17 Sep (both *Islay*). In Oct, 2 >W at Vaul *Tiree* on 4 Oct and 3 records of singles, and 1 at Killinallan *Islay* on 14 Nov was the last of three singles in Nov.

BLACK TERN* *Chlidonias niger*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant usually in Sep with c.25 records (33 birds) since 1980. Last reports were singles at Loch Gruinart, Islay on 6 Sep 2009, MSBO, Kintyre on 14 Sep, 1 & 6 Oct 2010, 4 at Loch Bhasapol, Tiree 12-13 Sep 2010 and 1 Urvaig, Tiree 20 Aug 2023.

Autumn On *Tiree*, 4 1cy's >S south over Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep [T. O'Connor, E. Forbes] then later that day, 2 1cy's >S nearby at Balephuill, presumably birds from Loch a' Phuill [J. Bowler, K. Gillon], then a 1cy possibly same, lingered off Hynish on 10-12 Sep [J. Bowler, K. Gillon *et al.*]. On *Islay* one (un-aged) was at the mouth of Loch Gruinart on 17 Sep [C. McKay] and a 1cy was at Loch Gorm *Islay* from 23 Sep - 1 Oct [M. Eden, D. Brown *et al.*]. A 1cy was seen from the ferry between S Lismore and the SE entrance to the Sound of Mull *Mull/North Argyll* on 19 Sep [F. Todd]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. A very good run of reports as elsewhere in Britain this autumn.*



BLACK TERN *Tiree* September 2025 Keith Gillon

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

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

Winter/spring No reports in winter. Spring reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). First area reports of singles on *Coll* on 5 Apr, at *Traigh Bhi Tiree* on 6 Apr, at *Iona Mull* on 20 Apr, 2 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 30 Apr and at *Ardnave Islay* on 3 May. Max. counts of 10 off *Hynish Tiree* on 9 Apr and 5 at *Lunga, Treshnish Is. Mull* on 8 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data. At RSPB *Oronsay Colonsay* 3 AOT with 1 yng fledged, and also 2 AOTs on *Colonsay*. On *Treshnish Is Mull*, 3 AOTs on *Lunga*, with one nest found and 1 AON on *Sgeir a' Chaisteil*. One AOT at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree*. No breeding reports from (*Coll/Islay*), but 4 chasing a Raven at *Arinagour Coll* on 23 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Passage birds noted from 1 Sep when 2 at *Frenchman's Rocks Islay*. Birds remained scarce with reports of only 1-4 birds until 4 Oct when 24 >W at *Aird Tiree* in 3 hr seawatch, 5 > S at *Loch Gruinart Islay* and 1 was at *Machrihanish SBO Kintyre*. These were the last reported.

POMARINE SKUA* *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Autumn/winter One seen from the *Kennacraig* to *Islay ferry Mid-Argyll / Islay* on 5 Aug, 2 adults from *Aird Tiree* on 9 Aug, 1 off *Caliach Point Mull* on 20 Sep, 4 >W off *Aird Tiree* on 4 Oct, and 1 >W off *Vaul Tiree* on 4 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 was one at *Sorne Pt. Glengorm Mull* on 16 Apr, then other singles at *Hyne Coll* on 23 Apr and *Iona Mull* on 1 May. Thereafter, 1-4 reported regularly in May from the *Treshnish Is. Mull*, and around *Coll* and *Tiree*. Elsewhere, 2 were noted at *Fuer Lochan*,

Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May and singles at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* and Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 May.

Breeding On *Coll* no breeding census, but a pr noted on 19 May, with 9 birds reported on 30 May and up to 5-6 birds in Jun & Jul. On *Tiree*, the first confirmed breeding a pr reared a single chick to fledging. A pale phase bird was at Feolin Ferry *Jura* on 17 Jun, and 1 dark phase bird flew over *Colonsay* on 16 Jun. 1-2 dark phase birds were around Loch Gruinart *Islay* from 2-22 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports in Aug & Sep from all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre*) with max. counts of 5 at Duart Bay on 8 Aug and 6 at Caliach Pt. on 30 Aug (both *Mull*), 15 at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 18 Sep, with 6 there on 19 Sep and 4 at Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep. Notably, 1 was off Dunoon *Cowal* on 31 Aug. In Oct, 15 >W at Aird *Tiree* on 4 Oct and 3 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on the same day; the last were, 2 >W off Aird *Tiree* on 26 Oct.

LONG-TAILED SKUA* *Stercorarius longicaudus*

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

Autumn An adult was feeding along the strandline at Lochbuie *Mull* on 4 Sep [H. Reid]. A 1cy was seen off the N end of Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep [D. Jardine]. A 1cy >W off Aird *Tiree* on 26 Oct [J. Bowler]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*



LONG-TAILED SKUA *Mull* September 2025 Harvey Reid

LITTLE AUK* *Alle alle*

A scarce and irregular winter visitor. Usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.
Winter/spring Only report was of 2 seen from MV Finlaggan off Texa Islay on 13 Jan.

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 2,000 feeding between *Tiree-Mull* on 9 Feb, 2,000 at the Gulf of Corryvreckan *Jura* on 27 May, 1,000 off Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 2 Apr and 800 off Lunga *Mid-Argyll* on 22 May. Birds appearing back at nesting cliffs from early Apr, with 6,000 reported off Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*), with all colonies reporting an increase in numbers. On *Colonsay* a complete count of the North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA found 26,255 inds. (NatureScot); at the Uragaig sample study area there was a 1.9% increase on the 2024 count. On *Islay* 144 inds. on cliffs at RSPB Oa Reserve in Jun (*cf.* 127 in 2024). Min 3,176 inds. found from complete count on Sanda Islands *Kintyre*. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with a combined total of (tbc) inds. (*cf.* 13,828 in 2024) (TIARG). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* a max. of 4,680 on 18 Jun (*cf.* max. of 3,806 in 2024) (per J. Bowler RSPB).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas; few large counts and max. counts of 900 from the Kennacraig – *Islay* ferry on 14 Oct, 300 At Loch Scridain on 26 Dec and 100 at Loch Buie on 25 Dec (both *Mull*), 200 >W at Vaul *Tiree* on 4 Oct and 83 at St Catherine's, Loch Fyne *Cowal* on 7 Oct, with generally low counts of 1-80 birds elsewhere.

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 except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Generally, counts of 1-12 birds noted. Max. counts away from breeding colonies of 1,000 between *Tiree & Mull* on 9 Feb and 1,000 off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 2 Apr,

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* a complete count of the North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA found 4,232 inds. (NatureScot); at the Uragaig sample study area there was a 15.8% increase on the 2024 count. On *Islay* at RSPB Oa Reserve a count of 70 inds. in Jun. Min 1,165 inds. found from complete count on Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. On *Mull* at Treshnish Is. a total of (tbc) inds. on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil at end of Jun (*cf.* 1,204 in 2024). At Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* max. count of 430 inds. on 18 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Few high counts this year, other than after Storm 'Amy' when 6,909 >W off Aird in 2.75 hrs and 5,000 >W in 2 hrs off Vaul (both *Tiree*) on 4 Oct. Elsewhere, 504 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 29 Sep, 150 >S per hr at Inverneill, Loch Fyne *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Aug and 100 from Kennacraig – *Islay* ferry on 14 Oct.



RAZORBILL & COMMON GUILLEMOT Mull June 2025 Steve Carter

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

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

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max. counts included 64 at Loch Creran on 12 Apr and 36 at Eilean nan Caorach, Lismore on 20 Mar (both *North Argyll*), 21 at Staffa *Mull* on 20 May 17 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Mar, 16 at Sound of Iona on 14 May *Mull* and 15 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Jan.

Summer/breeding Sea counts, ideally in Apr, are a good indication of breeding nos. (see also counts above). 185 at Sanda Is. *Kintyre* on Apr count, 25 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 7 at Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil and 6 at Fladda, Treshnish Is. *Mull* and 21 in dawn count at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 8 Apr. No survey at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*, but 46 at the Sound of *Islay* *Jura* on 30 Jul, 13 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 30 Apr and 10 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 23 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max. counts of 60 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 18 Aug, 53 at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 16 at Loch na Lathaich *Mull* on 16 Oct, 14 N of *Tiree* on 3 Sep and 14 at Tarbert harbour *Kintyre* on 22 Oct.



BLACK GUILLEMOT *Mid-Argyll April 2025 Theo de Clermont*



PUFFIN *Mull June 2025 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 None reported until 800 at Calaich Pt. *Mull* on 2 Apr. Birds noted regularly from 18 Apr off (*Coll/Mull/Tiree*) and larger counts inc., 590 on Staffa *Mull* on 23 Apr and 1,000 Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 30 Apr, rising to 2,500 on 20 May. Small numbers (<10) also reported from (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*).

Summer/breeding Limited data: Min 17 AOBs at Sanda Is. *Kintyre* and 3 at the Gulf of Corryvreckan *Jura* on 19 Jun. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* an est. of 5,606 AOBs, (plus 7 inds. where burrows could not be observed) on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (*cf.* 6,452 in 2024) (TIARG). At Staffa *Mull* 250 inds. noted on 13 Jun. None were seen during surveys at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* but two predated birds found.

Autumn/winter Most reports were of 1-2 birds off (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) however still 12 N of Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 3 Sep. The last report was of 12 >SW at Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep, with one mid-winter record of 1 off Iona *Mull* on 31 Dec.

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 except (*Cowal*). Max. counts of 65 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 17 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 22 Mar, 13 at Loch Tuath on 16 Apr, 12 at Lochbuie on 13 Mar and 12 at Kintra on 9 Mar (all *Mull*). Most reports of 1-2 birds.

Summer/breeding Reports of possible breeding in all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Tiree*) but under recorded as yng. only reported at 2 sites. A pair at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* failed shortly after laying.

	Confirmed Pairs	Total Pairs
Coll	-	1
Islay	2	4
Jura	-	1
Kintyre	-	4
Mid-Argyll	-	4
Mull	1	5
North Argyll	-	1
TOTAL	2	19

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 32 at Loch Indaal on 27 Oct and 25 at Laggan Bay on 13 Oct (both *Islay*), 31 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 13 at Loch Tor *Mull* on 15 Oct and 12 off *Coll* on 22 Sep.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal*). Few large counts with max. of 21 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jan. Records of note elsewhere inc., 7 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 23 Mar, 6 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 30 Apr and 6 at Hynish *Tiree* on 8 Apr.

Breeding Possible breeding reported from sites in (*Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Limited information received. Other reports in summer from (*Islay/Jura/Mull*)

	Confirmed Pairs	Total Pairs
<i>Kintyre</i>	-	1
<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	-	2
<i>North Argyll</i>	-	2
Total	-	5

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Max. counts of 32 at Skipness Bay *Kintyre* on 23 Sep, 18 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov and 7 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, Remaining counts of 1-6 birds, inc. notable counts of 4 at Ardlamont Ho. *Cowal* on 11 Oct and 4 at Lochbuie *Mull* on 26 Dec.



GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Kintyre May 2025 Jo Goudie*

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 except (*Cowal*). Most significant counts from the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre*, the *Mull* sea lochs and the *Tiree* coast. Max. counts on *Mull* with 131 at Loch na Keal on 8 Apr and 117 there on 11 Mar, 75 at Loch Scridain on 9 Mar, and 51 at Loch Buie on 13 Mar. Elsewhere, max. counts of 197 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Jan, 77 off *Mannal Tiree* on 17 May, 65 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 7 Mar, 52 at Loch Indaal on 30 Mar, 40 at Port Ellen on 5 Apr and 20 at Kilnaughton Bay on 24 Mar (all *Islay*), 46 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar and 26 off *Scalasaig Colonsay* on 25 Jan.

Summer Reports in Jun - Aug from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Reports of 1-4 birds from coastal sites, with both 2cy and birds in ad. plumage noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Still 1-2 birds at several sites through Sep. Numbers increased across sites during Oct. Max. counts of 103 at roost on Loch na Keal on 27 Dec, 62 at roost on Loch Scridain on 26 Dec and 24 at Lochbuie roost on 25 Dec (all *Mull*), 74 from Kennacraig - *Islay* ferry on 14 Oct, 45 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 Oct and 17 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Nov.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER x BLACK-THROATED DIVER

Spring This hybrid individual first noted in 2023 at site in *North Argyll* was noted again in spring 2025.

WILSON'S PETREL* *Oceanites oceanicus*

Rare vagrant to the UK & Ireland: Two records; a live bird caught on Jura on 1 Oct 1891 and 1 was photographed at sea c11 miles N of Tiree on 20 Jul 2022. Highly pelagic. Breeds on rocky islands in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seas; in non-breeding season, this species ranges northward over the Atlantic.

Autumn One was seen >SW during a sea-watch from Hynish *Tiree* on 31 Aug [J. Bowler]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC. (see list of records still awaited etc on page 151).*

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 14 Jun and 28 Oct from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). First report was 1 at Treshnish Is *Mull* on 14 Jun. A large passage was noted on 4 Oct when 76 >W in 3 hrs at Aird *Tiree* and 68 > S in 5 hrs at Frenchman's Rocks *Islay*. On 3 Sep, from the Barra ferry, 41 were off *Tiree* and 31 off *Coll*, and 28 were feeding off the S end of the Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 20 Aug. Elsewhere, 15 >SW in 3 hrs off Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep, 10 were east of McArthur's Head *Islay* on 9 Jul, 5 were off *Balnahard Colonsay* on 10 Jul, 3 west of Gigha

Kintyre on 9 Jul and 1 SE of Brosdale Is *Jura* on 9 Jul. Last report was of 1 off *Glengorm Mull* on 28 Oct.

Breeding On *Sanda Is. Kintyre* analysis of recapture of ringed birds provided an estimate of (c.100) breeding birds. No census was conducted on *Treshnish Is. Mull* but birds present, and limited ringing carried out with 245 birds caught inc. 65 retraps (*TIARG*).

LEACH'S PETREL* *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

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

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 7 passed *Frenchman's Rocks* on 13 Sep and 1 at was at outer *Loch Gruinart* on 4 Oct. On *Tiree* 1 >SW off *Hynish* on 7 Sep and 6 >W off *Aird* on 4 Oct. In *Kintyre* 12 passed *Machrihanish SBO* on 4 Oct and 7 off there on 5 Oct. On *Mull* 1 was off *Glengorm* on 28 Oct. *A good run of records after Storm Amy on 4 Oct.*

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

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

Winter First report was of 28 at the *Oa Islay* on 13 Jan with small nos. ashore on warmer days in Feb-Mar on (*Islay/Tiree*) near breeding colonies. A 'blue' form bird was seen from the ferry off *N Coll* on 22 Jan.

Spring/breeding Breeding reports received from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* a complete count of the *North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA* found 242 AOS (*NatureScot*), with 75 AOS found at *Urugaig sample cliff* in Jun (40% down on 2024). On *Islay*, 38 AOS at *RSPB Oa Reserve Islay* in Jun and in *Kintyre* 63 AOS in complete counts of *Sanda Islands* and 6 AOS noted at *Keil Pt.* At *Treshnish Is. Mull* 221 AOS were found at *Lunga* and *Sgeir a' Chaisteil*. Elsewhere, 800 AOS at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 18 Jun (22% up on 2024), **Autumn/winter** Only records were from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max. counts; 155 past *Frenchman's Rocks Islay* on 1 Sep, with 151 there on 29 Sep, 150 back at cliffs at *Ceann a' Mhara Tiree* on 8 Dec and 109 past *Hynish Tiree* on 4 Aug. Other counts regular from (*Islay/Tiree*), but fewer than 5 elsewhere. One off *Dunoon Cowal* on 31 Aug was notable.

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.

Spring One was seen at sea between *Coll* and *Tiree* on 24 May.

Autumn On *Islay* 1 was off *Frenchman's Rocks* on 4 Aug. On *Tiree* 1 was off *Hynish* on 4 Aug, 3 on 27 Aug, singles on 31 Aug and 6 & 7 Sep, 5 on 3 Oct and 10 >W *Aird* on 4 Oct. On *Mull* 12 were nr. *Lady Rock area* on 15 Aug and 1 off *Caliach Point* on 31 Aug.

GREAT SHEARWATER* *Ardenna gravis*

A rare passage migrant: Less than annual, mostly in autumn. A significant influx in 2024 between 30 Aug -12 Nov, peaking at 6,000+ north of Coll on 4 Nov.

Autumn Two were seen at sea from a vessel c25km WSW off *Tiree* on 17 Oct [B. Cox]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

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. First reports were of 1 from the Kennacraig *Kintyre – Islay* ferry on 22 Mar, then 2 off Milton *Tiree* on 28 Mar. 11 passed Frenchman’s Rocks *Islay* on 29 Mar and 160 >S at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 2 Apr. Thereafter many records from (*Coll/Mull/Tiree*), elsewhere, 613 off Frenchman’s Rocks *Islay* on 5 July and 350 past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 23 Jun.

Breeding On Sanda Is. *Kintyre* a min. of 108 AOS located. 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. 15 ads were ringed and 5 retrapped there (TIARG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Higher counts inc.; 5,320 >W in 1 hr off Aird *Tiree* on 9 Aug, 5,000 north of *Tiree* from the Barra ferry on 20 Aug, 4,000 feeding off Heanish *Tiree* on 22 Aug and 2,000 off Loch Eatharna *Coll* on 6 Sep. Elsewhere, ca 1,545 were off Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 31 Aug and at Frenchman’s Rocks *Islay*, 1,200 > S in 3 hrs on 5 Aug, 1,369 on 29 Aug and 1,382 on 1 Sep. In Loch Fyne, 500 > S at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Aug and 350 seen from the Tarbert-Portavadie *Cowal* ferry on 7 Aug. Reports declined in late Sep and 39 >W in 3 hrs at Aird *Tiree* on 4 Oct was last count, except two past Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 7 Nov, with the last report 1 past there on the late date of 7 Dec.

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 >SW off Aird *Tiree* on 4 Aug [J. Bowler], one was with good nos of Manx Shearwaters off Portavadie, Loch Fyne *Cowal* on 7 Aug [J. Dickson]. One was off NW *Mull* on 29 Aug [T. Marshall]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

WHITE STORK* *Ciconia Ciconia*

A vagrant. Three record, singles at Benderloch, North Argyll in Apr 1971, on Islay in Apr/May 1978, and at Campbeltown, Kintyre in May 1978.

Autumn A colour-ringed 1cy bird was found in fields at Kilmoluaig *Tiree* on 16 -19 Sep [J. Martin] then at Hynish on 20 Sep, Middleton on 21 Sep, Hynish and Heylipol on 23 Sep. It was taken into care on 23 Sep in a poorly state and may have also collided with something and unfortunately died overnight [per H. Douglas, J. Bowler]. It had been ringed on 14 Jun 2025 in a barn-roof nest to free-flying parents in central Scania, Sweden [Petter Albinson]. It was likely also the same bird seen roosting on a house at Leverborough, Harris at 8pm on 15 Sep [per. B. Taylor] having left the Norwegian coast between Bergen and Stavanger between 12 noon and 1 pm on 14 Sep [Petter Albinson]. *The record was accepted by the ABRC as a vagrant bird and not an escape from the English reintroduction program as originally suspected.*

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*

AMBER LIST *Most Gannets in Argyll waters probably come from Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, often seen high up sea lochs and some birds travel inland to*

cross between Campbeltown Loch and Machrihanish. They are also reported in small numbers Nov to Mar.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Small nos. of adults noted off *Coll, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, Mull* and *Tiree* in Jan-Feb with a max. of 45 between *Mull* and *Tiree* on 2 Feb. Similar reports in Mar with modest numbers off *Kintyre*; 10 at Dunaverty Bay on 29 Mar. Thereafter numbers remained modest, with max. counts of 200 off the Mull of Kintyre *Kintyre* on 23 May and 60 off West Hynish *Tiree* on 25 May.

Summer Good numbers were seen through Jun & Jul, with similar nos. to 2024 with max. counts of 252 passing Frenchman's Rock *Islay* on 5 Jul and 226 there on 26 Jul. Further north 200 were at the Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 19 Jul and 150 at Bach Is, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul.

Autumn/winter Max. counts of 1,470 >W in 2.75 hrs off Aird *Tiree* on 4 Oct, 472 past Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 4 Aug and 453 there on 15 Sep, 381 >SW in 1 hr off Hynish *Tiree* on 31 Aug, 180 >SW in 3 hrs off Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep and 147 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 22 Sep. Reports decreased after mid-Nov and only five reports in during Dec, from (*Coll/Tiree*) and last 1 was off Torastan *Coll* on 30 Dec.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-5 birds. Max. counts; 40 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Mar, 19 at Grob Bagh, Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Feb and 17 at Frith Sgeirean, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Apr.

Summer/breeding Min. 5 AONs on Sanda Islands *Kintyre* and 3 AONs at 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. 35 at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Aug, 27 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 26 at Loch Don *Mull* on 7 Dec, 21 at Gartbeck, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Aug and 15 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug.

SHAG Mull July 2025 Ann McGregor



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 1,050 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 28 May, 583 >S from roost at Plaide Mhor *Colonsay* on 23 Jan, 152 at Texa *Islay* on 12 May and 100 at Glas Eilean *Jura* on 18 Jan.

Summer/breeding A better breeding season. Breeding counts inc., on *Colonsay* a complete count of the North *Colonsay* & Western Cliffs SPA found 253 AONs (NatureScot) and 53 AONs on *Oronsay Colonsay* in Jun (*cf.* 32 in 2024). On *Islay*, 24 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve. In *Kintyre*, 448 AONs on Sanda Is. and 260 inds. on Glunimore & Sheep Is, Sanda. 99 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 18 Jun, declining to 86 AONs on 8 Jul when mean brood = 2.08 (n=36) and 7+ AONs at Happy Valley *Tiree* (J. Bowler, RSPB). On Treshnish Is. *Mull* numbers increased with 371 AONs found on Lunga & Sgeir a Chaisteil (*cf.* 126 in 2024), with breeding also confirmed on Fladda (no count) and Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts inc. 950 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 3 Sep, 400 Ardalanish Bay on 16 Oct, 300 Loch na Keal on 20 Oct (both *Mull*), 129 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Oct, 100 at Arinagour *Coll* on 12 Sep and 35 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 14 Sep.



GLOSSY IBIS *Islay* October 2025 David Dinsley

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

A vagrant: Sixteen records of up to 24 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, two on Luing then at Ardfern Mid-Argyll in Oct 2023 with one (same?) on Luing on 12 Apr 2024.

Autumn On Islay, two Icy's were at Craigens on 7-10 Sep with only one 11- 12 Sep [B. Taylor, J. Dickson. P. Roberts *et al.*] then presumably the same remaining single over Loch Gruinart on 24 Sep [C. McKay] and in the Craigens/Gruinart area on 3-11 Oct [D. Brown, D. Dinsley *et al.*]. On Tiree, two Icy's were at Loch a' Phuill on 8-19 Sep [E. Forbes, T. O'Connor, K. Gillon, J. Bowler]. *All reports were accepted by the ABRC.*



GREY HERON *Mid-Argyll* October 2025 *John Boyd*

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (109), *Mid-Argyll* (61) and *Islay* (40). Max. counts of 12 at Ardachy *North Argyll* on 5 Feb, 9 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 May, 8 at Gortan, Loch Don *Mull* on 10 Jan and 8 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 14 Jan.

Summer/breeding Data received from sites in; *Colonsay* (4), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *North Argyll* (4). Sites with more than 10 AONs inc. 21 at Ardachy, Loch Etive *North Argyll*, 18 at Ardtur, Appin *North Argyll*. On *Colonsay* a total of 12 AONs at four sites and 14 AONs at RSPB Gruinart Reserve *Islay*. Post breeding counts of 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Jul and 7 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 9 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 26 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 14 at Arinagour *Coll* on 8 Sep and 11 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Oct. Counts of 9-10 birds at sites in *Coll* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (1).

GREAT WHITE EGRET* *Ardea alba*

RBBP **A rare visitor. 19 or 20 records between 1986 and 2023. In 2024, following record numbers in England, a high count of 13 in flight off Ardnave, Argyll on 20 Sep. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.**

Autumn One was nr. Barcaldine, Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 19 & 29 Oct [S. Troughton, K. Mackay]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected records on page 150).

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* (8), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Mull* (6), *North Argyll* (4) and on *Tiree*. Area max. total counts on same day; *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (1). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however perhaps 20-25 birds present. Most sites only recorded 1-2 birds however max. counts of 6 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* between 2 Feb – 30 Mar, with 7 reported on 28 Feb, and 4 at the Add Est. on 22 Feb and 4 at Loch Gilp on 22 Mar (both *Mid-Argyll*). Away from core areas 1 was at sites on *Tiree* between 22 Jan - 21 Feb.

Summer No firm evidence of breeding and sightings reduced during Apr, with only reports of singles at Sandbank *Cowal* on 23 May and at two different sites on *Mull* between 10 – 23 May. In Jun nine reports of singles from sites in *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1) and *Mull* (1). First report of a juv. was 1 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 22 Jul, which is 3+ weeks earlier than 2024.

Autumn/winter Reported from sites in: *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (8), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (5), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (1). Area max. total counts on same day; *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (12), *Kintyre* (7), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (2), *North Argyll* (8) and *Tiree* (1). Total numbers uncertain however at least 30 present and possibly as many as 40-45 birds involved. Area max. counts of 12 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17-22 Oct, 8 at Port Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* on 24 Dec, 7 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 8 Sep & 7 Nov, 7 in West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 14 & 30 Oct and 5 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Oct. Away from core areas 2 were at Loch a' Chumhainn *Mull* on 26 Sep then singles at several sites on *Mull* with perhaps only 2 birds involved to 20 Dec and on *Tiree* one >S at Port Bharrapol on 8 Oct.



OSPREY *Mid-Argyll* April 2025 *John Boyd*

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*). First arrivals similar to 2024, on 24 Mar at Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* and at Strone Pt. and Loch Gilp (both *Mid-Argyll*), becoming more widespread in mainland Argyll from early Apr. Singles reported at Feolin Ferry on 23 Jun and at Loch Tarbert boathouse on 30 Jul (both *Jura*) and at Ben Hynish *Tiree* on 7 May.

Breeding Of the 29 breeding sites checked, nesting attempted at 12 sites and single birds present at 2 other sites. Several nests blown out, or damaged by Storm Eowyn in January. The nesting outcome was unknown at 3 sites, 2 sites failed, and 7 prs were successful with 14 large yng. raised (ARSG). On *Islay* 1-2 birds noted 3 May - 12 Sep; on *Mull* 1-2 birds noted 10 Apr - 31 Jul and one bird summered on *Colonsay* from 15 Jun – 14 Aug, but no evidence of breeding on the islands (ARSG).

Autumn Most birds had departed by late Aug to early Sep, with singles at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 12 Sep, at Corran *Kintyre* on 13 Sep and one at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 22 Sep the last noted.

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 except (*Tiree*). All reports of 1-3 birds, except one report of five birds and three reports of four birds together on *Mull*. One was between Gortan and Breachacha *Coll* on 15 Jan.

Breeding Of the 94 home ranges checked, 83 were occupied by pairs or single birds. A total of 26+ large yng. were found in 70 sites where the outcome of breeding was known to the large yng. stage, 26+ of which fledged (ARSG).

GOSHAWK* *Accipiter gentilis*

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

Winter One, prob a 3cy female, was at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 16 Feb [P. Henery]. Record was accepted by the ABRC. (see list of rejected records on page 150). There were suggestions and

reports of several other reports of this species, for which we would welcome further details to confirm and help understand the status of Goshawk in Argyll.



SPARROWHAWK *Mid-Argyll* September 2025 *John Boyd*

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 12 breeding sites checked, 8 had prs. and egg-laying was confirmed at 6+ sites; at least 10 yng. fledged at 6 sites (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 One was at Risabus, Oa *Islay* on 11 & 15 May, a female/imm. was at the Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 12 May, 1 was at Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 5 Jun and 1 was nr. River Bellart *Mull* on 5 Jun.

Autumn On *Islay* a female was at Loch Gorm on 8 Aug, and an adult female was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 11 Sep. In *Mid-Argyll* a 1cy was at the Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 14-16 Aug.



HEN HARRIER *Mid-Argyll* October 2025 *Steve Carter*

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

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

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer reports during Jul. Most reports from *Islay* then *Mull* and generally of 1-4 birds at sites. Max. counts of 25+ at a roost site *Mull* on 18 Feb and 7 on *Tiree* on 7 Feb.

Breeding Thought to be over 100 prs. During breeding season 52 sites were checked, 35 occupied sites were found, 26 females laid eggs and 49+ large / fledged yng were found (*cf.* 28+ fledged in 2024 and 71+ in 2023) (ARSG).

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

RBBP *A vagrant. Three records, two in 2011 with one on Mull on 20 and 24 Sept and one in Kintyre on 22 Sept, and a juvenile on Islay on 6 Nov 2022 & again 1 Jan 2023.*

Spring A 4cy+ male as reported nr. *Finchairn Mid-Argyll* on 9 May [M. Marchant]. *Record is under consideration by the BBRC.*

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 One was at Invervegain Cowal on 10 Mar, 1 at Seil Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Mar, 1 N of Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Apr, 2 at Calgary *Mull* on 20 Apr, 1 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 3 May and 1 at Bridgend, N of Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May.

Autumn/winter Three were nr. Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Oct, 1 at Glen Strae *North Argyll* on 16 Oct, 1 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Oct. On *Islay* reports of 1-2 birds from four sites during Nov. One was at Auchameanoch Farm, nr Claonaig *Kintyre* from 12 Dec onwards.



WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* *Mid-Argyll* November 2025 Ann McGregor

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 (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max. counts of 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 & 15 Mar and 12 Dec, 8 at Loch Don *Mull* on 16 Feb and 6 at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 4 Aug and the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Sep.

Breeding Almost complete monitoring coverage achieved, with 71 sites checked and only three known home ranges not visited. 64 occupied home ranges found (*cf.* 57 in 2024), where 38 prs known to have laid eggs (15 sites outcome not known). 33 prs fledged a min of 38 yng. Overall breeding performance dropped slightly to 0.79 chicks reared per occupied territory (where outcome known) (*cf.* 0.86 in 2023). There are now established home ranges in every Argyll recording area (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 some larger counts; notably 25 at Kinloch Mull on 8 Aug, 14 around Tiree on 24 Nov and 8 reported from sites on Islay, Jura and 3 sites on Mull.

Breeding BBS: noted in 27.3% of BBS squares (9/33) (*cf.* 22.5% in 2024). Reports from all areas. Of the 70 breeding sites checked, 22 sites were occupied with breeding proven at 16; all 16 sites were successful and fledged a min of 28 yng. and the outcome was unknown at the remaining occupied sites. These totals exclude Tiree where there was no detailed breeding survey, but 15+ pairs were presumed to have bred (ARSG).



BARN OWLS *Kintyre* (Neil Brown – Kintyre Barn Owl Project)

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*). Most reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/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 Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar. Singles were on *Tiree* at Balephuill / Carnan Mor on 6- 9 Apr, and at N Craighouse *Jura* on 1 Jan. Three birds were caught during winter ringing in Jan-Mar N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* and during Sep – Dec, 9 were caught N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* and 3 in *Mid-Argyll* (ARSG).

Breeding Breeding performance improved in 2025 as the vole population recovered. Of the 83 sites checked (*cf.* 91 in 2025) 58% were occupied (*cf.* 44% in 2024) and the mean yng per successful nest improved to 3.07 (*cf.* 2.05 in 2024) (ARSG).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

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

All year Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) of 1-2 birds. Winter ringing caught one bird during Jan-Mar N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* and two there in Sep-Dec (ARSG). One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23-25 Jul.

Summer/breeding Birds were found at six sites. A pair bred successfully on *Coll*. On *Mull* one pair reared 2+ yng and another pair failed. A pair was at one site on *Colonsay* and a single bird at another. A pair were present on *Gigha Kintyre* (ARSG). One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23-25 Jul.

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/Jura/Kintyre/North Argyll/Tiree*). Most reports of 1-2 birds came from sites on *Mull* (15) and max. counts of 5 at Lochan a' Clamhaidh on 6 Apr and 5 at Cruachan Ceann a' Ghairbh on 12 Apr (both *Mull*).

Summer/breeding A 'better' year, with six pairs and two single birds found at nine sites checked: *Mull* and *Colonsay* each had three pairs. One site failed, the outcome was unknown at three sites, and the other two sites were successful, one rearing 3+ yng (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Scarce, with only 5 reports of singles from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). 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/Tiree*). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 4 at Cornabus *Islay* on 13 May and 3 at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 25 Feb, 3 at Kilmartin on 8 Jan, 3 at Gartnagrenoch on 16 May, 3 at Cairnbaan on 14 Oct and 3 at Moine Mhor (N) on 17 Oct (all *Mid-Argyll*).

Breeding While occupancy did not change in response to the rising vole population, there was an increase in productivity. Of the 64 sites checked 21 sites (33%) were occupied by prs (cf. 31% in 2024). The mean yng. per successful nest was 2.00 (cf. 1.67 in 2024) (ARSG).



HOOPOE Mull October 2025 Paul Peters

HOOPOE* *Upupa epops*

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

Spring One frequented the roadside between Gruinart and Ardnave at Creag Mhor *Islay* between 21 Mar - 8 Apr and one was reported at Ardalanish Farm *Mull* on 6 Apr.

Autumn One was along the roadside near Lochdon *Mull* 20-23 Oct. *This bird was seen and enjoyed by many folk. Around 15 previous Mull records.*

2020 An additional record came to light of one filmed in a garden in Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 23 Jun [T. MacPherson].

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

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

Winter/spring Single sightings reported from: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7), and *Mull* (1). Most frequent sightings were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* where 9 reports between 3 Jan – 5 May.

Summer/breeding During Apr, May & Jun single birds were noted in suitable breeding areas around the Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* and Dervaig *Mull*. In *Mid-Argyll*, an adult was seen feeding 3 yng. at Loch Choille-Bhar on 4 Jun and a juv. was with an adult and calling to it at the head of Loch Gilp on 6 Aug.

Autumn/winter Increase in reports of singles from sites in; *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (12) *Mull* (17) and *North Argyll* (1). There were reports of 2 from Barnacarry *Cowal* on 20 Oct, at Bridgend Marse *Islay* on 20 Aug, at Carradale Water on 24 Aug, at Kennacraig on 16 Oct and at West Tarbert on 19 Nov (all *Kintyre*) and at Carsaig Bay on 29 Dec and Balure, Loch Etive on 23 Dec (both *Mid-Argyll*).



KINGFISHER *Mid-Argyll* November 2025 Steve Carter



BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Mull* June 2025 *Jim Dickson*

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER* *Merops persicus*

A rare vagrant: Three previous Scottish records; Shetland in 1997, 2023 & Highland in 2019. The nominate race P. p. persicus breeds in Asia as far west as eastern Turkey & Kazakhstan, wintering in east & southern Africa.

Spring/summer A bird, tentatively identified as a Bee-eater species, probably Blue-cheeked, on Iona *Mull* on 9 Jun [R. Lidstone-Scott]. It was seen the following day and confirmed as a 2cy Blue-cheeked by a small group of birders that had travelled from the mainland of Scotland & England. It was watched a close range down to 10m as it caught bees/insects and was last seen around 11.30 am. [M. Culshaw, J. Dickson, A. Lewis, D. Pointon *et al.*]. *Record is under consideration by the BBRC.*

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

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

Winter/spring Reports from sites in; Cowal (10), Islay (12), Jura (1), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (43), Mull (38) and North Argyll (10). All reports of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla North Argyll on 20 Apr. Drumming heard on 18 Jan at Aros Park Mull, but more generally from late Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 21.2% of squares (7/33) (cf. 20% in 2024), with max. count of 3 at Rhudle Mid-Argyll. First fledged yng. noted at Dunstaffnage Mid-Argyll on 9 May, at Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 3 Jul. Breeding activity also reported at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll. *Breeding under reported.*

Autumn/winter Reports by sites from; Cowal (2), Islay (5), Jura (1), Kintyre (3), Mid-Argyll (16), Mull (12) and North Argyll (6), mainly of 1-2 birds, but 3 at Bridgend on 14 Nov and 3 at Arichonan on 22 Nov (both Mid-Argyll).



GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Mid-Argyll June 2025* Caroline Anderson

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 One was seen in an open area of forest feeding on ants near Deer Park, S Benmore Cowal on 25 May.



KESTREL Cowal December 2025 *Stuart Kelly*

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/Cowal*). All reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (14), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (43), *North Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (4).

Summer/breeding Noted in all recording areas. 20 breeding sites were checked of which 5 were occupied by pairs and 2 by single birds. Eggs were laid at 4 sites, and the outcome was unknown at one. One nest failed and the other three nests fledged at least 10 yng. (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. All reports of 1-2 birds, except 6 reported on *Mull* on 27 Oct, 4 on *Mull* on 14 Aug and 3 at Linndhu House *Mull* on 29 Aug.

ELEONORA'S FALCON* *Falco eleonorae*

Vagrant. No previous Argyll records and only Scottish record in Outer Hebrides in 1985. A summer visitor breeding in colonies usually in the Mediterranean on small offshore islands and coastal cliffs. Winters in Africa.

Autumn A 1cy was seen initially down to 10m then later at longer range for around 5 minutes before it flew off to the east at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Nov [M. Culshaw, W. Miles]. *Record still subject to acceptance by the BBRC.*

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 (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports of wintering individuals Jan to early May. Most reports (sites) were from; *Tiree* (13), *Mull* (12), *Islay* (12) with other sites in *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (2) and *Kintyre* (1). Two were on *Tiree* until 28 Apr, then none until 14 Aug.

Summer/breeding A site occupied in 2024 was not re-occupied; there were no other reports of breeding (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports were of singles. Most reports were from late Sep to early Nov then fewer later in the year. Reports by region (sites); *Islay* (19), *Tiree* (14), *Mull* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (2), *Kintyre* (1) and *Coll* (1).

EURASIAN HOBBY* *Falco subbuteo*

RBBP A rare visitor. Mostly in spring and autumn.

Spring/summer A 2cy+ was at Tobermory *Mull* on 11 May [M. Noarn]. A 2cy+ was seen in flight across West Loch Tarbert nr Kennacraig *Kintyre/Mid-Argyll* on 5 Jul [S. Pope].

Autumn One 2cy+ was at Blackmill Bay, Luig *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Oct [D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

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 except (*Jura*) and in all months. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from *Islay*. Max. count away from nest sites of 3 at Lепенstrath farm *Kintyre* on 25 Sep.

Breeding 28 breeding sites were checked, 13 of which were occupied (two with only single birds noted). Eggs were laid at 10+ of these, which were successful raising 23 yng. (ARSG).



PEREGRINE *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 *Andy Craven*

WOODCHAT SHRIKE* *Lanius senator*

A vagrant. Two records. A juvenile near Port Ellen, Islay on 16 Sep 1996 and a female at Balephuill, Tiree on 19-21 May 2013.

Spring One 2cy+ male was seen briefly and photographed at Upper Cragabus, The Oa Islay on 14 May [D. Dinsley, H. Stanger]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC.*

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

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

Winter/spring Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (7), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (15) and *North Argyll* (3).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 6.1% of squares (2/33) (*cf.* 5% on 2024). All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with generally 1-2 birds at sites, but 13 at Bridgend on 19 Jul, 4 at Loch Caolisport on 29 Jun (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 4 at Tom Odhar, Dunoon *Cowal* on 23 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports of generally 1-3 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (17) and *North Argyll* (3). Max. counts of 6 at Claonag Bay on 2 Nov, 4 at Lephenstrath Bridge on 26 Sep (both *Kintyre*), 4 at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov and 4 on *Mull* on 27 Oct.

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 (*Jura/Tiree*). *Cowal* had most reports (17) sites, then *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Kintyre* (7), *Mull* (6), *Islay* (4), *North Argyll* (2), *Colonsay* (1) and *Coll* (1). Outside *Cowal*, most reports of 1-2 birds but 3 at Ballochroy on 20 Jan and 3 at Port Rìgh on 6 Apr (both *Kintyre*) and in *Mid-Argyll* 3 were at Kilmartin on 30 Mar, near Dalavich on 7-8 Apr and 3 in Oban on 11 May. On *Colonsay* 2 were in Scalasaig throughout the year and on *Mull* 2 were at Ulva Ferry on 17 Apr. The reports of a singles on *Islay* on 14-31 May may refer to a wandering individual. One was reported at Arinagour *Coll* on 24 Apr.

Summer/breeding Not recorded in any BBS squares. There were no reports of breeding outwith *Cowal*, where noted at Innellan and Kilmun. A pair in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Apr were nest-building, but did not nest. A group of 6 at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 13 Jul also suggests breeding.

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (16), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1). Outwith *Cowal* all reports were of singles, except for 2 at Southend *Kintyre* on 9 Aug and 2 in Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 10 Sep and 1 Dec.



MAGPIE *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 Jim Dickson

CHOUGH *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*

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

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max. counts; on *Islay* 38 were at Ardnave on 11 Feb, 13 at Machir Bay on 22 May and 11 at the Oa on 16 May. On *Colonsay* 6 were on Oronsay on 8 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 9.1% of squares (3/33) (*cf.* 12.5% in 2024). On *Islay* 33 pairs made breeding attempts; 28 were successful, the outcome was unknown at one and 4 failed. These 28 pairs fledged 85 yng. (3.0/yng per successful nest, 2.62/yng. per breeding attempt). 7 other non-breeding pairs were prospecting but did not lay eggs. (*Data provided by Eric Bignal*). On *Colonsay* 4 breeding pairs were found, two failed and the other two nests fledged 5 yng. and there were 3 non-breeding birds (*Data provided by David Jardine*).

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). Max. counts received; on *Islay* 48 at Ardnave on 13 Sep, 12 at the Oa on 8 Aug, 10 near Easter Ellister on 1 Nov and 8 at Machir Bay on 8 Aug. On *Colonsay* 8 were at the Golf Course on 22 Sep and 8 on Oronsay on 25 Sep. One found dead at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 10 Sep had been ringed as a chick at Killinallan *Islay* in spring 2025 and was last seen on *Islay* on 6 Sep.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Higher area counts received included; 600 at Loch Aoradh *Islay* on 18 Jan, 220 at Machrihanish Water *Kintyre* on 31 Jan and 45 at Ardmucknish Bay *North Argyll* on 31 Jan. *Under reported*.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.1% of BBS squares (4/33) (*cf.* 5% in 2024), with max. count of 31 at Trench Point, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*. Fledged yng. noted Kilmun *Cowal* on 30 Jun. *Under reported*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Higher area counts included; 180 at Sunderland Farm *Islay* on 1 Nov, 50 Beallach na Ban-tighearna *Jura* on 22 Nov and 44 at Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 7 October. *Under reported*.

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. Very under reported and few high counts received. Max. counts of 300 at High Peninver *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 200 at Bushmill, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb, 80 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan and 51 on Iona *Mull* on 19 May. Outside their normal breeding areas, singles were reported at Craighouse *Jura* on 2 Jan, at Gallanach on 10 Apr and Totronald on 23 Apr (both *Coll*), and on *Tiree* an adult was at Kilmoluag on 31 Jan and a juv. at Loch an Eilein on 16 May, and 1 was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 9 Feb, with 3 there on 6 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.1% of squares (4/33) (*cf.* 5% in 2024) with a max. count of 23 at Trench Point, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*. Activity at nesting sites from late Feb. The only rookery counts were on *Islay*, where 138 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve and in *Mid-Argyll* where 34 AONs at Lochgilhead.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Under-reported, with max. counts of 180 at Loch Gruinart on 17 Sep and 45 Sunderland Farm on 1 Nov (both *Islay*), 66 at West Darlochan *Kintyre* on 4 Nov, 50 at Lochan a' Phuill *Mull* on 12 Sep, 40 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Nov and 29 at Ferlochan *North Argyll* on 6 Dec. On *Coll*, 1+ was at Gallanach on 15 Oct.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

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

Winter/spring Most reports from usual strong-hold area of Cowal (31 sites) with max. counts of 25 at Kilmun on 7-8 Jan and 20 at Arrochar on 1 Feb. Elsewhere, 1-4 reported at sites in *Islay* (11), *Kintyre* (16), *Mid-Argyll* (24), *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (9), with max. counts in of 12 at Grob Bagh, Gigha *Kintyre* on 28 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (*cf.* 7.5% in 2024) with a max. count of 26 at Tom Dubh Cowal. Fledged yng. reported at Kilmun Cowal on 30 Jun. Several birds noted paired with Hooded Crow.

Autumn/winter Most reports from sites in Cowal (29) with max. counts of 27 at Arrochar on 12 Dec and 22 at Kilmun on 1 Sep. Elsewhere, 1-2 reported at sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Islay* (14), *Kintyre* (17), *Mid-Argyll* (29), *Mull* (19), *North Argyll* (7) and *Tiree* (3), with max. counts of 20 at Ferlochan on 3 Aug and 20 at Baravulin on 4 Oct (both *North Argyll*), 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Oct, 6 at Saddell Castle *Kintyre* on 9 Nov and 6 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct. On *Tiree* singles were seen at 4 sites during Aug-Dec and one was on *Coll* on 27 Sep.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone 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 56 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 29 May, 50 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 19 Feb, 40 at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 25 Mar, 33 at the Oa *Islay* on 6 Feb, 30 at Achamore Ho., Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Feb, 30 at Arrochar Cowal on 1 Feb and 30 at North Connel *North Argyll* on 10 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 60.6% of squares (20/33) (*cf.* 52.5% in 2024), with max. count of 25 at Tom Dubh Cowal and 12 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. On *Colonsay* 32+ Ters noted and nests monitoring found 1 failed nest and 9 successful nests produced 24+ yng. On *Islay* 13 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve and 6 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve. Successful breeding also noted in (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*), with first fledged yng. noted at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 15 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, most reports of 1-10 birds. Max. counts included: 45 at Glen More *Mull* on 9 Aug, 34 at the Oa *Islay* on 2 Aug, 31 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Nov and 22 at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct.

HYBRID CROW *Corvus corone corone x Corvus corone cornix*

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

All year Reports of small nos. from (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). BBS: noted in 6.1% of squares (2/33) (*cf.* 2.5% in 2024). Max. counts of 17 at Arrochar Cowal on 12 Dec and 6 at Achadunan *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-2 reported.

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. Further decline in area max. counts received: 38 at Heylipoll *Tiree* on 23 Apr, 35 at Some *Mull* on 19 Mar and 18 at Laggan Bridge *Islay* on 26 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 27.3% of squares (9/33) (*cf.* 35% in 2024). Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. On *Colonsay* 8 Ters; 18 yng from 6 successful nests, 1 failed, 1 Ter. outcome unknown. In *Cowal* of 16 Ters. monitored, 9 were occupied; 5 confirmed breeding prs fledged 18 yng. and in *Kintyre* 8 occupied ters. found, with 5 confirmed breeding fledged 8 yng. On *Tiree* 18 active nests noted. Elsewhere, another 11 Ters reported and at least 5 yng reared from 7 sites monitored (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-2 birds with several counts of up to 20. Max. area counts included; 50 at Lingerton Landfill, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct, 45 at Creag an Uisgean, Oa *Islay* on 14 Oct, 30 at Rairraig *Mull* on 3 Sep, 28 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 1 Aug and 23 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 3 Sep.

WAXWING* *Bombycilla garrulous*

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

Autumn/winter Two were at Lagavulin *Islay* on 25 Oct and two flew north over the machair at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 25 Oct.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

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

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Higher counts of 10 at Craigmores Cottage *Mull* on 2 Feb, 10 at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 24 Apr and 9 at Tobermory *Mull* on 22 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 45.5% of squares (15/33) (*cf.* 45% in 2024), with max. counts of 14 at Kilmichael Forest and 11 at Bellanoch (both *Mid-Argyll*), 9 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 9 at Loch Frisa *Mull*. Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*); first fledged yng. noted at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 May, and fledged yng. noted at Craighouse *Jura* on 26 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites. Max. counts of 26 at Lephinsthath Bridge *Kintyre* on 7 Nov, 25 at Loch Barnluasgan on 10 Oct, 24 at Kames, Loch Melfort on 29 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 13 at Ballygrant *Islay* on 7 Nov. There was an autumn influx to *Tiree* where 9 at Balephuill on 14 Oct (a record count) and to *Coll* where 5 were at Gallanach and 11 at Arinagour on 15 Oct.

CRESTED TIT* *Lophophanes cristatus*

A vagrant: Two records; one near Water of Tulla, North Argyll in November 1991 and one at Tobermory, Mull in Oct to Nov 2002.

Spring One was seen in the woodland by the Forest Lodge, Victoria Bridge nr Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May [D. Jardine] and again in that area on 8 May [A. Robinson]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

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 69 sites. Most reports of 1-6 birds, with 24 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 May and 14 at Normann's Ruh *Mull* on 22 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30.3% of squares (10/33) (*cf.* 30% in 2024), with max. counts of 10 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* and 9 at Tom Dubh, *Cowal*. A better year in *Kintyre* nest box

ringing study with 30 chicks ringed (*cf.* 11 in 2024). Confirmed breeding noted at Finart Bay, Kilmun and Sandbank (where 9 yng fledged from 2 boxes) (all *Cowal*) and Kerrera and Dunollie (both *Mid-Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, fewer reported with most records of 1-3 birds and max. counts of 20 at Loch Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 8 at Craobh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug and 7 at Loch Arish *Islay* on 29 Oct, reflecting the small size of flocks, but 341 different new birds encountered during the year at a ringing site at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll*. An influx of at least 5 birds on *Tiree* in Oct-Nov, with at least 2 staying to the year end at Moss.

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 16 at Craigmore Cottage *Mull* on 2 Feb and 14 at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 12 Feb. Most other counts were 6 or fewer.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 45.5% of BBS squares (15/33) (*cf.* 42.5% in 2024), with max. count of 8 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. Confirmed breeding reported from Kilmun and Sandbank (both *Cowal*) and Dunollie (*Mid-Argyll*). In *Kintyre* nest box ringing study 103 chicks were ringed (*cf.* 97 in 2024). Max. counts were 7 at Tobermory on 18 Jun and 6 at Duart Bay on 15 Jun (both *Mull*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Most reports 1 -5 birds, but 8 at Port na Saile on 17 Sep and 6 at Pennygown on 19 Aug (both *Mull*) and 6 at Dunollie on 21 Sep and 6 at Arduaine Gardens on 30 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 149 different new birds encountered during the year at a ringing site at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll*. There was an influx of up to 4 birds on *Tiree* in Oct-Nov, with 1 or 2 remaining to the year end at Moss.

SKYLARK *Mid-Argyll* March 2025 *Ann McGregor*



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* (97), *Islay* (52), *Tiree* (32), *Mid-Argyll* (19), and *Kintyre* (17). In Jan only reports of 1-6 from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*), except flocks of 115 at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 22 Jan and 35 at Laggan *Kintyre* on 31 Jan. More birds returned across Argyll during Feb, when noted from 32 sites. Higher area counts inc. 118 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Feb, 100 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 17 Mar, 68 at Ruanich, Iona *Mull* on 27 Feb and 45 at Ardfin *Jura* on 20 Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 51.5% of squares (17/33) (*cf.* 67.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 26 at Airigh Mhic-'ille Mhoire, 18 at Beinn a' Chaolais (both *Jura*), 16 at Fidden *Mull* and 16 at Killinallan Pt *Islay*. Breeding season reports received from all areas. Little specific breeding data other than 164 Ters. found on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and a pr. with 2 juvs. at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*), but relatively few. Max. counts received: 140 at Gartmain on 3 Nov, 105 at Skerrols on 30 Oct, 85 at Mullindry on 4 Nov (all *Islay*), 60 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 25 Sep and 30 at Caliach *Mull* on 20 Sep. Most other reports were fewer than 10 birds and only 7 reports in Nov and 1 report in Dec, when 6 were at Airigh Ghlas *Islay* on 26 Dec.

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 early, with a single at Cornabus *Islay* on 19 Mar, 5 at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 21 Mar, 1 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 21 Mar and 10 at Mishnish Lochs *Mull* on 22 Mar. Elsewhere, first dates were at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Mar, at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 31 Mar, at Kilmun *Cowal* on 1 Apr and at Inveroran, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 2 Apr. Counts of generally fewer than 10 birds, with larger counts of 170 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 Apr, 60 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 18 May, 53 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Apr and 50+ at Killiechranan *Mull* on 15 Apr.

Summer/breeding Noted in 57.6% of BBS squares (19/33) (*cf.* 30% in 2024). 2 AONs were found on Gunna *Coll*. On *Colonsay*, the highest ever total of AONs reported, with 22 on Oronsay, 2 at Traigh nam Barc, 5 at Kiloran Bay and 4 at Balnahard. 14 prs noted on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* (*cf.* 8 prs in 2024) and elsewhere on *Islay*, 15 AON at Killinallan, 5 at Avenvogie Pltn. and 120 AONs at Cnoc Iolairean. 32 AON noted at Lochan Ceann a' Choin *Mid-Argyll*. On *Tiree*, 190 AONs found at Loch a' Phuill. 210 were feeding at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max. counts; 120 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Aug, 55 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 15 Aug and 40 at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, with other counts 1-20. Thereafter, fewer seen after mid Sep, when 1 on Iona *Mull* on 25 Sep and 1 at Barrapol *Tiree* on 26 Sep, then only one report in Oct, of 2 at Ballivicar *Islay* on 5 Oct.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was an early single at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar, then singles at Claddach *Islay* on 30 Mar, at Tobermory *Mull* on 1 Apr, Port Righ *Kintyre* on 1 Apr and Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Apr. Elsewhere, area first arrivals; 1 at Balevullin *Tiree* on 6 Apr, at Torraston *Coll* on 6 Apr, at Achnacreebeg *North Argyll* on 9 Apr, Invereyne Farm *Cowal*

on 9 Apr and the Golf Course *Colonsay* on 15 Apr. Counts of generally fewer than 10 birds and a max. noted of 35 at Kilchurn Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 17 May.

Summer/breeding Noted in 57.6% of BBS squares (19/33) (*cf.* 30% in 2024). Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). 14 prs noted on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* (*cf.* 8 prs in 2024). On *Tiree* the first fledged juvs. were noted on 30 Jun and the last on 4 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts; 250 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, 60 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 22 Aug, 55 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 15 Sep and 50 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Sep. Thereafter, fewer seen in Oct with 15 at Kintra *Islay* on 1 Oct the highest count. Only one report in Nov, of 1 at Tayinloan – Gigha Ferry *Kintyre* on 15 Nov.



HOUSE MARTINS *Mid-Argyll* August 2025 Dani Elle Frea Ney

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

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

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). First early reports were of singles at Machriemore, Southend *Kintyre* on 4 Apr and Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr, then 3 at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* and 1 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 7 Apr. On 8 Apr, 2 were at Hynish *Tiree* and 1 at Loch Arish *Islay*. Thereafter, small numbers were seen before many arrived in mid Apr. Highest count received were of 50 at Salen on 26 Apr and 30 at Aros Castle on 18 Apr (both *Mull*), 24 at Inveraray Castle *Mid-Argyll* on 16 May and 20 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 10 May.

Summer/breeding Noted in 6.1% of the BBS squares (2/33) (*cf.* 7.5% in 2024). Limited breeding data received. AONs were reported at Clachaig (where 3 broods reared) and Finart Bay (both *Cowal*), at Bruichladdich and Creag Mhor (both *Islay*), at Machrihanish *Kintyre*, at Auchreoch, Cologin and Inveraray (all *Mid-Argyll*) and at Ardachy and Bridge of Orchy (both *North Argyll*).

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Max. counts of 250 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 26 Aug, 60 at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug and 40 were at Loch Gruinart *Islay*

on 26 Aug & 1 Sep. Most birds had departed by early Sep, but late birds were seen in *North Argyll*, with 6 at Bridge of Orchy on 21 Sep and 4 at Loch Tulla on 29 Sep and the last report was of 1 at Craig Lodge, Dalmally *North Argyll* on 23 Oct.



LONG-TAILED TIT *Kintyre* November 2025 Neil Brown

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/Colonsay/Kintyre/Tiree*). Most counts of 1-2 birds and max. counts of 32 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan, 13 at Dun Urganul *Mull* on 22 Feb, 11 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 27 May and 10 at Craighouse *Jura* on 15 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.1% of squares (4/33) (*cf.* 5% in 2024), with max. count of 8 at Dun Bhlaran *Mid-Argyll*. Family parties reported from 15 May at Tom Dubh *Cowal*, at Inverliever Lodge on 16 May and Cairnbaan on 17 May (both *Mid-Argyll*), at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 27 May, at Laggan Bridge *Islay* on 17 Jun and 3 families on *Colonsay*, including the first (f/9) at the Hotel on 10 Jun.

Autumn/winter Increased sightings from autumn influx with reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-10 from sites in *Mull* (28), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Islay* (18), *Cowal* (15), *North Argyll* (10), *Colonsay* (7) *Tiree* (4), *Kintyre* (2), *Jura* (1) and *Coll* (1). Max. counts of 30 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 29 Oct, 25 at Abyssinia *Cowal* on 9 Oct, 15 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 20 Sep, 12 at Garvard *Colonsay* on 10 Oct, 12 at Strathcoil on 13 Oct and 12 at Linndhu Ho. on 28 Oct & 4 Nov (both *Mull*), and 12 at Kinloch *North Argyll* on 6 Nov.

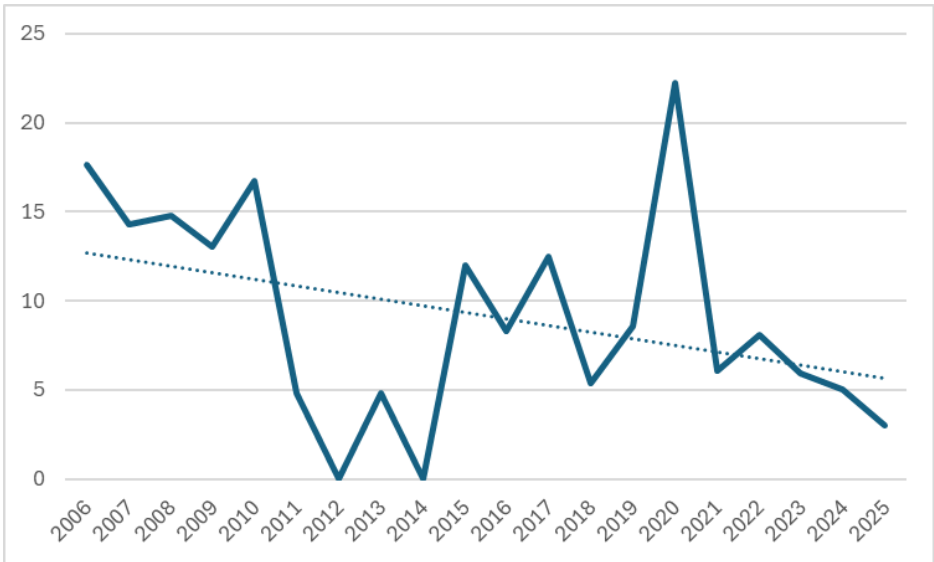
WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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 at Coire na Gabhar *Mull* on 18 Apr, followed by birds at Craighoyle Farm *Cowal* on 23 Apr and at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Apr, with a more widespread arrival from 30 Apr. All reports of 1-2 birds except 3 at Uambh Mhic Eoin Raibhaich *Cowal* on 15 May, 3 at Strathcoil *Mull* on 20 May and 3 at Doire Darrach *North Argyll* on 11 Jun.

Breeding BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/33) (*cf.* 5% in 2024). Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* BBS transect gave 4 (7 in 2024). Singing males reported from reduced number of sites in; *Kintyre* (1) *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (4) and *North Argyll* (2).

Autumn None were reported in Jul or Aug.



Wood Warbler: Percentage of BBS sites in Argyll at which Wood Warblers noted, 2006-2025 (n.b. the number of BBS squares surveyed has increased over time and percentage is to some extent influenced by which individual squares are covered. Sample size small in 2020 due to Covid restrictions).

HUME'S WARBLER* *Phylloscopus humei*

A rare late autumn visitor to the Britain from breeding grounds of inner Asian mountain forests and winters in parts of Arabia to India. One previous Argyll record, at Balephuill, Tiree on 31 Oct-3 Nov 2020.

Autumn One was at Balephuill Tiree on 21 Oct [J. Bowler]. *Record is under consideration by the BBRC.*



YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Islay* October 2025 *Theo de Clermont*

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

RBBP A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals. At least 154 birds between 1954 and 2024, the majority on Tiree. A record 37 birds occurred in 2020.

Autumn On Tiree 2 were at Balephuill on 14 Oct with 1 remaining until 17 Oct [J. Bowler]. On *Islay* 1 was at Bruichladdich on 15 Oct [J. Morris] and another was at Kilchoman on 16-17 Oct [T. de Clermont]. In *Kintyre* 1 was trapped and ringed nr Gobagrennan, N of Campbeltown on 17 Oct [N. Brown]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

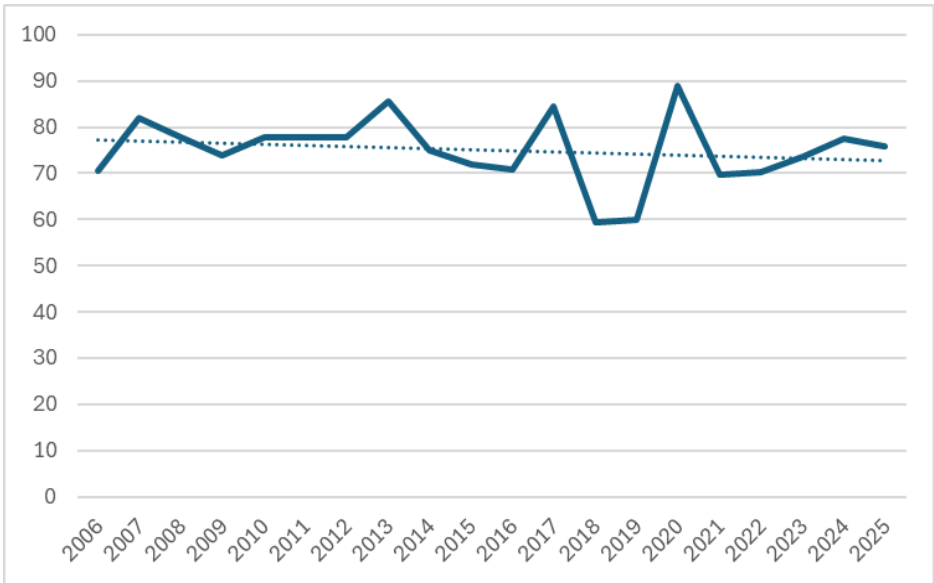
AMBER LIST *A widespread and abundant summer visitor.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was 1 at Tobermory *Mull* on 19 Mar, followed by singles at Normann's Ruh *Mull* on 28 Mar, and on 1 Apr at Balephuill *Tiree*, at Corran *Kintyre* and at Pennygown *Mull*. The first on *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll* were on 2 Apr, and in *Cowal* on 5 Apr, with more widespread arrivals from 6 Apr. Higher counts inc. 38 at Ardminish, Gigha *Kintyre* on

3 May, 29 at Ballimore, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr and 28 at Dubh Choire, Scallastle *Mull* on 10 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 75.8% of squares (25/33) (*cf.* 77.5% in 2024), with higher counts of 33 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*, 27 at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll*, 25 at Tom Dubh *Cowal*, 25 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* and 21 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. 83 prs noted in transects at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. On *Tiree* at last 12 prs across 7 sites, at least 6 of which fledged yng. First fledged yng. on *Tiree* from 5 Jun. Confirmed breeding reported from (*Cowal/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*)

Autumn/winter Number of reports decreased, and birds departed, by late Aug and in Sep reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) with 5 at Carradale on 5 Sep the max. count. Late birds were at The Oa *Islay* on 14 Oct, at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Oct and the last at Craig Lodge, Strath Orchy *North Argyll* on 23 Oct.



Willow Warbler: Percentage of BBS sites in Argyll at which Willow Warblers noted, 2006-2025 (n.b. the number of BBS squares surveyed has increased over time and percentage is to some extent influenced by which individual squares are covered. Sample size small in 2020 due to Covid restrictions).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

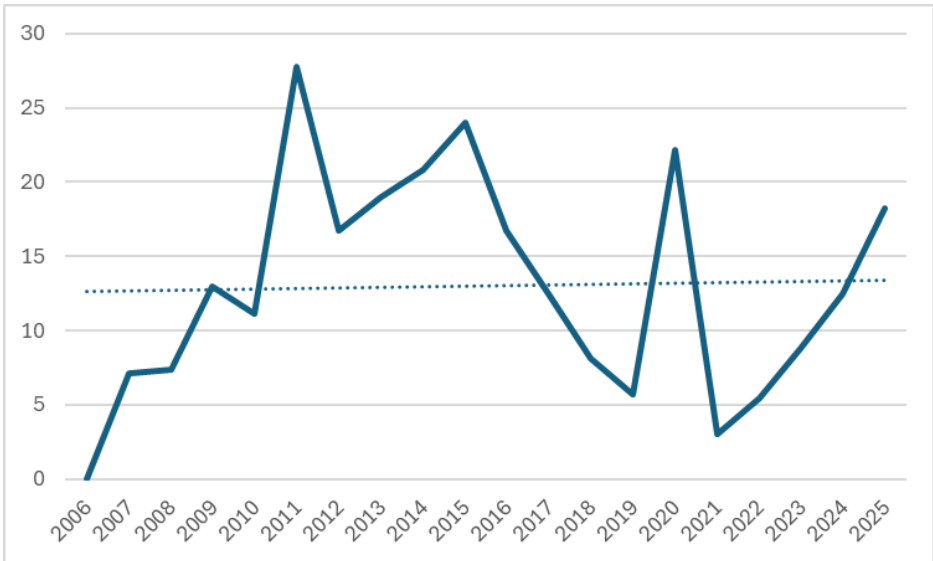
A summer visitor and local breeding species, occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Winter/spring One at Arinagour *Coll* on 26-28 Feb was the only wintering bird noted. Reports from all areas in spring. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (42), *Mull* (29) and *Cowal* (24). First spring arrivals of singles at Inveroran *North Argyll* on 9 Mar, then at Kilmun *Cowal* on 11 Mar, at Balephuill *Tiree* and at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar, at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 19

Mar, and at the Add Est. *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar. More widespread arrivals thereafter. All reports of 1-4 birds, except 8 at the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 15 May and 6 on *Mull* on 18 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 18.2% of squares (6/33) (cf. 12.5% in 2024), with max. count of 2 at Bellanoch, 2 at Kilmichael Forest (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 2 at Killiechroan *Mull*. Other than singing males, limited breeding data. On *Colonsay* 3 AOTs noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) and most birds had departed by mid-Oct. A late single was at Ballygrant Woods *Islay* on 25 Oct. In Nov 1 at Tayinlaon *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, on *Tiree* up to 2 at Balephuill on 1- 18 Nov and 1 at the Glebe on 17 Nov, 1 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Nov, with the last 2 reported at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 26 Dec.



Chiffchaff: Percentage of BBS sites in Argyll at which Chiffchaffs noted, 2006-2025 (n.b. the number of BBS squares surveyed has increased over time and percentage is to some extent influenced by which individual squares are covered. Sample size small in 2020 due to Covid restrictions).

‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF* *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

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

Autumn One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16-19 Oct and another there on 11 Nov. One was photographed at Aros Bay *Mull* on 20 Nov.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals of singles at Lochan na Guailne Duibhe *Mull* on the early date of 15 Apr, then on 21 Apr at Balephuill *Tiree*, at Balvicar Lagoons and also at Loch

Caithlim, both Seil *Mid-Argyll* and on 22 Apr, at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* and East Loch Fada *Colonsay*. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (23) and *Mid-Argyll* (19) and *Islay* (19).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 24.2% of squares (8/33) (*cf.* 20% in 2024), with highest count of 12 on Oronsay *Colonsay*. On *Islay*, 37 prs found at RSPB Oa Reserve. Numerous Ters. across *Tiree* from 11 May. Few counts or breeding data received from elsewhere. First fledglings on *Tiree* noted from 26 Jun, with the first on *Cowal* at Kilmun on 30 Jun.

Autumn Records diminished by mid-Aug, with only a few from *Tiree*, inc. at least 5 at Balephuill on 29 Aug. Two at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1-5 Sep was the only report in Sep.

COMMON REED WARBLER* *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A rare visitor in spring and summer: Eighteen records; 16 from the islands (of which 11 from Tiree) and two from Aros Moss, Kintyre.

Autumn A male in song, was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 17 May [J. Bowler]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

MARSH WARBLER* *Acrocephalus palustris*

RED LIST RBBP *A rare passage migrant. Seven records, all on Tiree, with one at Balephuill on 8-10 Jun 2007, one at Carnan Mor on 28 May 2012, one at Mannal on 28 May 2014, one at The Glebe, Scarinish on 4 Jun 2016, one at Balephuill on 3 Jun 2018, one at Balephuill on 19 Sep 2020 and one at Balephuill on 16-20 Jun 2023.*

Spring A male was in song at Mannal *Tiree* on 22 May [N. Wall]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

MELODIOUS WARBLER* *Hippolais polyglotta*

A vagrant. Two previous records with one at Totronald, Coll on 8 Jun 2012 and one at The Glebe, Tiree on 18 Sep - 4 Oct 2024.

Autumn A very showy Icy remained in an area of *Rosa rugosa* at the Balephuill turn-off to Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* from 27 Aug - 4 Sep [J. Bowler, K. Gillon *et al.*]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC.*

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/Jura*). First arrivals by region of 'reeling' birds at Lепенstrath Bridge and Dalmore, Southend (both *Kintyre*) on 9 Apr, at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr, at Gleann na Beinne Fada *Mull* on 19 Apr, at Kilmun *Cowal* on 20 Apr, at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Apr, at Upper Kilchattan *Colonsay* on 22 Apr and Loch Arish *Islay* on 23 Apr, thereafter widespread. Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*) with most sites in; *Mull* (17), *Mid-Argyll* (16) and *Islay* (15).

Breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (*cf.* 20% in 2024), with max. count of 4 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Six AOTs on *Colonsay*. On *Islay*, 15 AOTs at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve, 14 AOTs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 13 AOTs at RSPB Smaull reserve. 3+ AOTs in forest restock at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn Reports decreased during Jul with reports of singles from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) thereafter, singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Aug (adult), 2 Sep (juv.) and 13 Sep.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A common summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn. An increasing number winter in Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). During Jan singles at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 1 & 8 Jan and Tom Odhar *Cowal* on 26 Jan, with another at Strathcoil *Mull* on 6 Feb. First arrivals of a singles at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar, then none until 31 Mar when one at Scarisdale *Mull*, followed by singles on 2 Apr at Craignure *Mull*, at Balephuill *Tiree* and at Eallabus *Islay*, then more widespread after 3 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30.3% of squares (10/33) (*cf.* 27.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 8 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* and 6 at Loch Frisa *Mull*. Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. On *Colonsay* 10 AOTs noted and 7 AOTs at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve *Islay*. Fledged juv. noted at Kilmun *Cowal* on 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*); reports by month; Sep (8), Oct (30), Nov (14) and Dec (0). Max. counts of 25 birds at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Oct and 9 there on 16 Oct. In Nov, 4 were on *Tiree* on 1 Nov, 4 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 3 Nov, with 3 still there on 10 Nov. Elsewhere, 2 were at Arduaine Garden on 8 Nov, 1 at Barsloisnoch on 8 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*), singles at Kilnaughton Wood *Islay* on 9 Nov, at Glenlussa Lodge on 9 Nov, at Port Righ on 18 Nov and Carradale on 18 Nov (all *Kintyre*), at Dalmally *North Argyll* on 24 Sep and the last at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Nov.



GARDEN WARBLER *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 John Boyd

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

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

Spring/summer Arrivals earlier than 2024 with the first on 22 Apr at Achadunan *Mid-Argyll*, followed by birds at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 24 Apr and Castle Sween *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Apr. Reports from fewer (-25% on 2024) sites in; *Cowal* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Mull* (4), *North Argyll* (11) and *Tiree* (1). A migrant was on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 17-18 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 9.1% of squares (3/33) (*cf.* 10% in 2024), with 4 noted at Tom Dubh *Cowal*. No confirmed breeding records.

Autumn One at Scallastle *Mull* on 19 Aug the only record in Aug. On *Tiree* 1 was at Balephuill on 3 Sep and one was seen around the Oa *Islay* on 25 & 29 Oct.

BARRED WARBLER* *Curruca nisoria*

A rare passage migrant. 23 previous records. All have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.

Autumn A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 18 Sep [J. Bowler], a 1cy was at Creag Mhor, W Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Sep [C. McKay] and a 1cy was nr Airleod *Coll* on 22 Sep [M. Warren]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. First record for Islay.*

LESSER WHITETHROAT* *Curruca curruca*

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

Spring On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 18 and 23-24 May [J. Bowler].

Autumn One was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Sep [J. Bowler]. On *Mull* one was seen at the Rookery woodland area Baile Mor, Iona on 18 Sep [D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

WHITETHROAT *Mid-Argyll* May 2025 Jim Dickson



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 Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 7 Apr, at Achadunan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Apr, Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Apr, Cnoc an t'Suidhe *Mull* on 23 Apr, and Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 26 Apr, with more widespread arrivals from early May. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (5), *Islay* (18), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (13), *Mid-Argyll* (34), *Mull* (70), *North Argyll* (8) and *Tiree* (4).

Breeding BBS: noted in 39.4% of squares (13/33) (cf. 32.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 14 at Carraig Fhada *Islay*, 9 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* and 6 at Lochan Sholum *Islay*. On *Colonsay* 38 AOTs recorded, with 1+ AOT on Oronsay. On *Islay*, 21 AOTs at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve, 40 AOTs at RSPB Smaull Reserve and 19 AOTs at RSPB Oa reserve. Confirmed breeding reported at 3 sites on *Mull*.

Autumn Reports decreased during Aug, with notable records of 5 at Mull of Kintyre lighthouse *Kintyre* on 16 Aug and 3 at Craighouse *Jura* on 20 Aug, most birds had departed by early Sep, with late singles at Arinagour *Coll* on 5 Sep, Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 6 Sep, Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep, with the last at Loch Arish *Islay* on 15 Sep.

FIRECREST* *Regulus ignicapilla*

A rare visitor with only 11 previous Argyll records. The last records were on Tiree in Nov 2020, Oct 2022 and Oct 2023.

Spring A male was in song was at the Holy Loch LNR *Cowal* on 14 May [N. Hammatt, S. Kelly *et al.*]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A common resident breeding species. Augmented by passage migrants.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds from sites. Max. counts of 5 at Craigmores Cottage *Mull* on 2 Feb, 4 at Ardgartan on 15 May and 4 at Beinn Arthur on 16 May (both *Cowal*). Modest spring passage on *Tiree* from 13 Mar – 5 May with all reports 1-2 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 36.4% of squares (12/33) (cf. 25% in 2024), and max. counts of 8 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal*, 7 at Kilmichael Forest and 7 at Bellanoch (both *Mid-Argyll*). 8 prs noted at RSPB Loch Gruinart reserve *Islay*. First fledged juv. noted at Caol Ila *Islay* on 8 Jun, with other fledged broods noted at Kiloran Fm. *Colonsay*, Laphroaig *Islay* and Craighouse *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas with counts of generally 1-3 birds. Max. counts of 21 on *Coll* on 15 Oct, 10 at Salen on 25 Aug and 10 at Fishnish on 25 Sep (both *Mull*). Migration on *Tiree* from 3 Sep – 5 Nov, except an early bird at Balephuill on 19-24 Aug and max. count of 6 at Balephuill on 14 Oct.

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. Counts of >5 at sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (3) and *North Argyll* (2), with max of 44 at Ardminish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 May. Birds noted singing from mid-Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 78.8% of squares (26/33) (cf. 72.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 26 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal*, 23 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*, 21 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* and 17 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*. On *Tiree* 41 AOTs found at 18 sites and first fledged

b/4+ on 22 Jun. 89 AOTs at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Confirmed breeding reports from sites in *Islay* (1) and *Mull* (6), and probable breeding on *Gunna Coll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted at most sites, with max. counts of 13 at *Bellanoch Mid-Argyll* on 23 Sep, 12 at *Mid Loch Fada Colonsay* on 27 Oct and 10+ at *Gallanach Coll* on 15 Oct.



WRENS *Kintyre* July 2025 *Alasdair Paterson*

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* (12), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (37), *Mull* (4) and *North Argyll* (7), an 8% increase in sites from 2024. All reports of 1-2, except 4 mm at *Inveraray Castle Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr. Notably, 1 was at *Glenakill, Tarbert Kintyre* on 1 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 6.1% of squares (2/33) (*cf.* 5% in 2024), inc. 3 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. Breeding noted at Torosay Woods, the first confirmed breeding record for *Mull*. All reports of 1-2 birds, except 3 at Finart Bay *Cowal* on 1 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from (sites) in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (7). All sightings of 1-2 birds. 1 at Scalasaig on 1 Dec was the first record for *Colonsay*.

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



TREECREEPER *Mid-Argyll* February 2025 *Jim Dickson*

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris britannica*

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

Winter/spring Reports from sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (23), *Mull* (24) and *North Argyll* (7). All reports of 1-2 birds except 4 at Port Chill Bhraoinain *Mull* on 12 Jan, 4 at East Lodge, Poltalloch *Mid-Argyll* on 10 May and 3 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* on 30 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 24.2% of squares (8/33) (*cf.* 10% in 2024), with max. count of 3 at Kilbridmore Burn *Cowal*. Pairs reported at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*, Colonsay Ho. *Colonsay* and Jura Forest *Jura* otherwise, no breeding data received.

Autumn/winter Reports at sites in *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (12), *Islay* (9), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (23), *North Argyll* (7) and *Tiree* (1). Most reports of 1-2 birds, but 8 at Port na Saile on 17 Sep and 5 at Linndhu Ho. on 4 Nov (both *Mull*). There was a small influx to *Coll* where 2 at Loch Cliad on 23-28 Sep, 3 at Gallanach on 15 & 17 Oct and 1 at Arinagour on 15 Oct and on *Tiree* where 1 was at Balephuill on 14 - 15 Oct.



STARLING *Mid-Argyll* August 2025 *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 (*Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*). 1,700 were noted across *Tiree* on 30 Jan with 1,200 a Heylipol on 30 Jan and 1,000 at Balephetrish Bay on 13 Mar, and in *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 800 were at West Machrihanish, 500 at Strath Farm, The Laggan

and 400 at Glen Barr. On *Islay* 550 were at Loch Gruinart on 7 Feb, 400 at Machir Bay on 2 Feb, and 250 at Bruichladdich on 11 Feb. 200 were noted on *Coll* on 30 May, but elsewhere, counts were of 100 birds or less.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30.3% of squares (10/33) (*cf.* 25% in 2024), with max. counts of 119 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree*, 30 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 15 at Fidden *Mull*. Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Jura*). At least 17 prs reported at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Breeding was early with first fledged juvs. noted in *Mid-Argyll* at Bridgend on 30 Apr and at Loch na Cille on 18 May, in *Cowal* at Tom Dubh on 15 May and at Sandbank on 20 May, on *Mull* at Iona on 20 May, on *Tiree* on 21 May, where a full ten days earlier than usual, and on *Colonsay* at Kiloran Meadow on 22 May. Flocks with juvs. built up numbers from mid-Jun, with 400 at Salum on 24 Jul and 400 at Cornaigmore on 31 Jul (both *Tiree*), 250 at Craigens, Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Jun, 150 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 24 Jun and 150 on Iona *Mull* on 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Many flocks on *Tiree* of 400-900, with max. counts of 1,500 at Loch a' Phuill on 31 Aug and 1,300 at two sites on 12 Sep. Elsewhere, 1,800 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Nov and 1,100 there on 27 Oct, 350 at Machrihanish SBO on 25 Aug, 220 at Tayinloan on 8 Nov and 200 at Kilkivan Quarry on 4 Nov (all *Kintyre*), 220 at Fidden on 12 Sep and 160 on Iona on 16 & 19 Sep (both *Mull*), 160 at Ormsary on 31 Dec and 155 at Add Est. on 7 Nov (both *Mid-Argyll*) and 150 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 8 Sep and many counts up to 120.

VEERY* *Catharus fuscescens*

No previous records of this North American Catharus thrush.

Autumn A 1cy was found in a damp area of scrub woodland at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 13-14 Oct giving only brief views around midday and again the next morning and evening [J. Morris]. *Record under consideration by the BBRC. If accepted, becomes a new species for Argyll and only the 13th British record.*

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 20 at Ballvicar on 10 Feb and 17 at Kilnaughton Bay on 5 Feb (both *Islay*), 10 on Easdale Is. *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and 10 on *Coll* on 30 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 66.7% of squares (22/33) (*cf.* 62.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 23 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 7 at Trench Point, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*. 9 prs found on transects on the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 30+ Ters. on *Tiree* in May. Confirmed breeding noted in (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) with first yng. fledged noted at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 May and Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, just 1-2 birds noted at sites. Higher counts inc. 17 on *Coll* on 23 Sep, 14 on Iona *Mull* on 19 Sep, 12 at Bridgend *Islay* on 6 Oct, 12 at Pennygown *Mull* on 18 Oct, 10 at Loch Tulla North *Argyll* on 29 Sep and 10 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 25 Nov, inc. some brighter continental birds.

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*). Generally, sightings of 1-4 birds, however 12 at Gearach *Islay* on 5 Feb, 6 at Cnoc Dronnach *Islay* on 6 Feb, and 6 at West Arduh on 14 Feb, 6 at Glengorm Castle on 19 Feb and 6 at Killichronan on 29 May (all *Mull*). Most reports from sites in *Mull* (62), *Islay* (29) and *Mid-Argyll* (17). Singles were on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 20-21 Feb and Vaul on 21 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in only 3% of squares (1/33) (*cf* 17.5% in 2024), with max. of 3 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise, limited data submitted. Fledged broods noted at Barmolloch *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May, at Lub Fhinn, Kinloch on 4 May and Lochbuie Ho. on 9 Aug (both *Mull*). A post-breeding flock of 18 was noted at Loch an Torr *Mull* on 24 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, sightings of 1-6 birds. Most reports from sites in *Islay* (22), *Mid-Argyll* (11) and *Mull* (14). A few large flocks with max. counts of 50 at Kildalton *Islay* on 29 Aug, 31 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 30 at the Oa *Islay* on 24 Oct and 25 at Duart Castle *Mull* on 18 Aug. Notably 2 were at Gallanach *Coll* on 17 Oct, singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Sep and 16 Oct and 20 at Feolin Ferry *Jura* on 22 Nov.

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. Generally widespread in low numbers of 1-40 birds. Most common around *Tiree* where 300 in small flocks in Jan-Feb. Elsewhere, 142 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Jan, 105 at Killiechroan *Mull* on 12-13 Feb, 100 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and 100 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 25 Mar. The last spring records were of singles on *Tiree* at Meningie on 25 May and a bird singing at Balephuill on 10-11 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrivals; 4 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 29 Sep, followed by an arrival in early Oct, when 223 were on *Tiree* on 5 Oct, with c60 there on 6 Oct and 91 on 7 Oct. Larger numbers were not noted until later when 140 at Gallanach *Coll* on 17 Oct, 200 at Kinnabus *Islay* on 20 Oct, 100 at Duart Bay *Mull* on 21-22 Oct, 500 at the Oa *Islay* on 24 Oct and 400 *coburnii* at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 Oct, 205 at Ardnave *Islay* on 27 Oct, 450 near Coullabus *Islay* on 1 Nov, 420 at Rowanfield *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov and 120 at Loch Don *Mull* on 8 Nov, after which passage declined. Around 500 still remained on *Tiree* on 25 Nov, declining to 300 in groups of up to 60 on 15-16 Dec. Elsewhere in Dec, 75 were at Torloisk Ho. *Mull* on 1 Dec and 46 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Dec, but elsewhere only 1-6 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 36 at Bushmill, Loch Gruinart on 2 Feb and 34 at Rockmountain on 5 Feb (both *Islay*), 25 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 19 Feb and 20 on Iona *Mull* on 19 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 69.7% of squares (23/33) (*cf* 67.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 11 at Trench Point, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre*, 8 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* and 8 at Ardtun *Mull*. Three pairs on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Successful breeding noted in all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). The first fledged birds were noted at Meningie *Tiree* on 25 Apr and at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. No noticeable influx with max. counts of 20 on Iona *Mull* on 19 Sep, 15 on *Coll* on 22 Sep, 14 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Dec and only a few other counts of >10 birds.



FIELDFARE *Mid-Argyll* October 2025 Steve Carter

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. Generally, reports in low numbers of 1-60 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., 290 at Backs Water *Kintyre* on 2 Jan, 270 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Jan, 250 at Kilchoman on 2 Feb and 120 at the Woollen Mill on 15 Feb (both *Islay*), 85 at Rhunahaorine and 80 at Glenlussa Lodge on 31 Jan (both *Kintyre*) and 68 at Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 23 Jan. Last noted were singles at Ormsaig *Mull* on 21 Apr and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals were 60 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 135 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 13 Oct, followed by 43 at Balephuill *Tiree*, 130 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* and 110 at two sites on *Islay* on 14 Oct. These were the start of a modest movement with 320 at Stroneskar on 16 Oct, 60 at the Moine Mhor on 18 Oct (both *Mid-Argyll*), 300 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 18 Oct and 400 at the Oa *Islay* on 24 Oct the largest groups noted. Thereafter numbers diminished with 50 at Bunnahabhain *Islay* on 14 Nov the max. count in Nov, and only 8 reports of 1-7 birds in Dec.

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 One was at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 15 Mar. On *Tiree* a male was at Balephuill on 6 Apr and m + f at Ceann a' Mhara on 10 Apr. On *Jura* a male at Jura Cottage on 9 Apr. On *Mull* 2 at Calgary on 24 Apr, 1 at Gribun on 24 Apr, 1 at Loch na Keal on 24 Apr, 1 at Loch Ba head on 27 Apr, 1 at Dhiseig on 6 May and 2 at Carsaig House on 12 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 at Tom a' Bhuachaille, Glen Fyne on 11 May and 1 at Inveraray Castle on 6 June.

Autumn No reports.



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *North Argyll* May 2025 *Linda Gibson*

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 at Slockavullin on 19 Apr and Dalvore on 27 Apr (both *Mid-Argyll*), then Loch Ba on 2 May and Calgary on 3 May (both *Mull*). More widespread reports from 7 May. Reports came from sites in *Coll* (2), *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (15), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (28), *North Argyll* (12) and *Tiree* (4). Five were at Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 10 Jun and at the Woollen Mill *Islay* on 24 Jun.

Breeding BBS: noted in 12.1% of squares (4/33) (*cf.* 7.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 2 at Rhudle and Dalvore (both *Mid-Argyll*). 2 AOTs at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*. Confirmed breeding only noted at Jura Forest *Jura*, Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* and Craignure *Mull*.

Autumn Most local breeding birds had departed by late-Aug, with late birds reported at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Aug, Lagg *Jura* on 20 Aug, Springbank, Bridgend *Islay* on 22 Aug, Salen *Mull* on 24 Aug, Ballochroy *Kintyre* on 28 Aug and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep.

'MEDITERRANEAN' FLYCATCHER* *Muscicapa striata / tyrrhenian balearica*

No previous records of this sub-species (Spotted Flycatcher complex on latest Avilist) previously a full species (as considered by the IOC). Breeds on the Balearic Islands, Corsica, and Sardinia.

Autumn A 1cy frequented a fence line and was photographed and studied well at Carnan Mor and Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Sep - 4 Oct. It showed the characteristics of this sub-species / type, although likely DNA evidence required to prove origin. [J. Bowler, R. Still, T. de Clermont, J. Dickson, D. Jardine *et al.*]. *Record has been submitted to the BBRC.*

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 14 at Bushmill, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Feb, 14 at Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 27 Apr and 12 at Ardminish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 May. Last wintering bird on *Tiree* seen on 21 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 63.6% of squares (21/33) (*cf.* 60% in 2024), with max. counts of 18 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*, 18 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 13 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*. 7 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay*. Confirmed breeding reported at sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (4) and *North Argyll* (2). First fledged yng. noted at Dalmally *Mid-Argyll* on 14 May, at Sandbank *Cowal* on 20 May and Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-4 birds, but 49 different birds ringed at Balure *Mid-Argyll* during year. Max. counts of 50 around *Tiree* in mid-Oct, 40 on Iona *Mull* on 18 Sep, 34 on *Coll* on 22 Sep, 18 at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct and 15 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 23 Sep. The first returning bird was on *Tiree* on 14 Aug.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula parva*

A rare passage migrant: Seventeen 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 & May 2024.

Autumn A 1cy was at Portnahaven *Islay* on 12 Nov [M. Culshaw, W. Miles]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*



All photos by Will Miles

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Islay* November 2025 *Will Miles* (selection of photos submitted to 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 An early report of 1 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 24 Apr, 1 at Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 1-5 May (earliest for *Tiree*) and 1 at Pennygown *Mull* on 21 May.

Summer No reports of breeding. One was at Achamhinish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 9 Jul and 1 at Tobermory *Mull* on 20 Jul.

Autumn One was at Calgary *Mull* on 24 Aug, on *Tiree* single 1cy's at Vaul on 8 Sep, Carnan Mor on 8-9 Sep and The Glebe on 11-15 Sep, and 1 at Arinagour *Coll* on 23-28 Sep.

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 Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 3 Apr, at Lakefield Fm. *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Apr, at the Kilmun *Cowal* on 18 Apr and at Salen *Mull* on 20 Apr. Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (9) and *North Argyll* (9). All reports of 1-3 birds except 6 at the head of Linne Mhuirich *Mid-Argyll* on 8 May and 4 mm at Victoria Bridge *North Argyll* on 18 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/33) (cf. 5% in 2024), with 2 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll*. Tainish NNR *Mid-Argyll* BBS transect gave 14 (also 14 in 2024). There were no reports of confirmed breeding.

Autumn One at Calgary *Mull* on 21 Aug was the only report.



BLACK REDSTART *Mid-Argyll* March 2025 *Jim Dickson*

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 An adult male frequented a house/garden nr Inverliever Lodge *Mid-Argyll* on 28-30 Mar and was occasionally in song. A female-type was seen along the road towards Ardnave *Islay* on 6 Apr. A female-type was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13-14 Apr. One was at Glen Bellart *Mull* on 24 May.

Autumn A female/1cy was at Carnain *Islay* on 8-9 Nov.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Spring/summer Reports from all areas. Arrival was early with singles at Upper Achnacroish, Craignure *Mull* on 7 Apr, then at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, 2 at Beinn Fhada *Mull* on 18 Apr, 2 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 20 Apr and at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr. Reports from sites in; *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (14), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (9), *Mull* (30), *North Argyll* (8) and *Tiree* (1).

Breeding BBS: noted in 9.1% of squares (3/33) (*cf.* 17.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 2 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* and at Lochan Sholum *Islay*. On *Islay*, 13 AOTs on RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve, 9 AOTs on RSPB Smuall Reserve and 16 AOTs at RSPB Oa reserve (*cf.* 19 in 2024) and successful breeding reported at Laggan Br. A juv was photographed in a camera trap at RSPB

Totronald Reserve *Coll* on 20 Jul. 1 AOT found on *Colonsay* and poor year on Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* where only 3 prs.

Autumn Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) but decreased through Aug. Last reports were of 3 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 16 Sep and singles at Homeston *Kintyre* on 20 Sep and Loch Don *Mull* on 26 Sep.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites and max. counts of 15 at Ardminish, Gigha, *Kintyre* on 2 May, 7 at the Oa *Islay* on 16 May and 7 at Appin *North Argyll* on 29 May. Prs returned to many areas during Feb-Mar.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 39.4% of squares (13/33) (cf. 37.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 9 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 4 at Killiechronan *Mull*. On *Colonsay* 30 AOTs, and 3+ AOTs on Oronsay. On *Islay*, 16 AOTs at RSPB Gruinart Reserve, 29 AOTs at RSPB Smaull reserve and 31 AOTs at RSPB Oa reserve. On *Tiree* 17+ AOTs at 14 sites in Apr. Additional fledged broods notes at sites in *Cowal* (2), *Islay* (1), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (4) and *Mull* (5). First fledged yng. noted on 2 May on Oronsay *Colonsay* and on *Tiree* on 9 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-8 birds from numerous widespread sites and max. counts of 20 at the Mull of *Kintyre* lighthouse *Kintyre* on 16 Aug, 10 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Sep and 10 at Tormisdale *Islay* on 18 Aug.

WHEATEAR *Kintyre* September 2025 Jo Goudie



WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

AMBER LIST *A common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First reports earlier than 2024, with 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* and 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 10 Mar, followed by singles at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Mar at Barnabuck, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Mar and Craighouse *Jura* on 20 Mar. There was an obvious arrival on 23-26 Mar, followed by widespread and increased nos. Max. counts noted: 21 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Apr, 20 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 12 Apr and 20 at Ardminish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 27.3% of squares (9/33) (*cf.* 32.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 6 on Oronsay *Colonsay* and 5 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*. On *Islay*, 22 prs at RSPB Oa reserve and 10 prs at RSPB Smuall reserve. First fledglings noted at Langamull *Mull* on 11 Jun, Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 16 Jun and on *Tiree* from 18 Jun. Fledged yng. reported from sites in *Islay* (3), *Mull* (9) and *Tiree* (3).

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Only small nos noted with max. counts of 14 on *Coll* on 25 Sep, with 10 there on 27 Sep and 10 at Calgary Bay *Mull* on 24 Aug. Passage birds noted widely in late Sep and reports of 1-3 from 8 sites across (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Tiree*) in Oct, with notably one at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Oct and the last report of 1 at the Oa *Islay* on 15 Oct.

'GREENLAND' WHEATEAR *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant. Probably under-recorded.

Spring A modest passage noted with the first bird a male at Loch Caithlim, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Apr, followed by 5 around W *Tiree* on 22 Apr, 6 at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Apr and 10 in that area on 27 Apr. Thereafter, 1-3 reported at sites on *Islay* with the last, 1 at Craigens, Gruinart *Islay* on 12 May.

Autumn An early arrival with the first birds noted on *Tiree* on 28 Jul when 20 around the island, then small nos. there through Aug, with a max of 11 on 25 Sep and one at Sorobaidh Bay on 13 Oct the last there. On *Islay*, one was at Cornabus Oa *Islay* on 1 Sep, with 3 there on 3 Sep, and 2 at Traigh Nostaig, Ardnave on 28 Sep. One was on Iona *Mull* on 19 Sep.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (7), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (17) and *North Argyll* (2). *Under reported from most areas.*

Breeding BBS: noted in 3% of squares (1/3) (*cf.* 2.5% in 2024). Limited data. In *Kintyre*, ringing studies around the Campbeltown area found 4 nests, but all were abandoned before laying. Fledged yng. reported at Benmore Gdns *Cowal* and Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (18) 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 Singles were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 & 19 May and at Black Crofts *North Argyll* on 1 Jun.

Autumn/winter One was reported at Furnace *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Dec.

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 60 at Iona *Mull* on 27 Feb, 55 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 28 Jan, 51 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 5 Jan, 50 at Carrick Castle *Cowal* on 15 May, 45 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 23 Feb, and 32 at Arinagour *Coll* on 28 Feb. Remaining counts 1-30, and birds usually recorded as 'present'.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 24.2% of squares (8/33) (*cf.* 17.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 18 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* and 14 at Ardtun *Mull*. 9 prs noted at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay*. Breeding confirmed in all areas. First fledged birds noted on 24 Apr at Bridgend and on 28 Apr at Cairnbaan (both *Mid-Argyll*), on 23 May at Kilmun *Cowal* and 8 Jun at Balephuill *Tiree*. Late brood noted at Finart Bay *Cowal* on 3 Aug and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Aug. Summer counts of 50 at Iona *Mull* on 20 Jun and 45 at Gartnatra *Islay* on 11 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts on *Tiree* of 220 on arable stubbles at Salum on 25 Aug, 40 at Vaul and 30 at Milton on 11 Aug. On *Islay*, 70 at Bruichladdich on 3 Dec. Elsewhere, 40 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 40 on Iona *Mull* on 19 Sep and 33 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 22 Sep. 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, 1-5 birds noted, but 19 Ardmish, Gigha Kintyre on 3 May and 9 singing males at Arinagour Coll on 28 Feb. Most reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 48.5% of squares (16/33) (cf. 37.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 6 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* and 4 at Port Mor *Colonsay*, Carraig Fhada *Islay* and Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll*. 10 prs noted at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay*. Successful breeding reported from Craighouse *Jura*, Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll*, Duart, Iona and Tobermory (all *Mull*). None reported from *Tiree* between 30 May and 29 Sep, but singing noted at 2 sites in Apr.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas, with most reports from (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*), generally of 1-4 birds, but 6 at Colonsay Ho. *Colonsay* on 23 Sep, 6 at the Oa *Islay* on 16 Oct and 5 at Duart Castle *Mull* on 18 Aug.

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 An adult female ‘Grey-headed’ *thunbergi* was at Loch a’ Phuill *Tiree* on 20 May [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/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (40), *Mid-Argyll* (20) and *Islay* (15). Few reports in Jan (16) and Feb (18), then more widespread in Mar (26), Apr (38) and May (48). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds, however 4 were on Iona *Mull* on 23 May and 3 at Achadunan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb, at Garmony Point on 17 Mar and at Pennygown on 21 May (both *Mull*), at Ballygrant on 14 May and at the Woollen Mill on 21 May (both *Islay*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 12.1% of squares (4/33) (cf. 10% in 2024) with max. count of 3 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Four pairs on Crinan Canal between Cairnbaan and the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*. In *Kintyre* study area 5 broods found, which contained 24 yng. Fledged juvs noted at Loch Tarsan *Cowal*, at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre*, and at Crannich and at Pennygown (both *Mull*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (20), *Mid-Argyll* (43) and *Mull* (64). Most reports were in; Aug (38), Sep (35) and Oct (30) with fewer in Nov (14) – Dec (5) as birds migrate to their wintering grounds. All counts were of 1-3, except 9 seen on Iona on 1 Sep, 6 at Duart Castle on 19 Aug and 5 at Loch Spelve on 14 Sep (all *Mull*). Singles were on *Coll* at Arinagour on 15 Oct and Gallanach on 17 Oct and on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 12 Sep and at Hynish on 3 Oct.



PIED WAGTAILS *Mid-Argyll* September 2025 *John Boyd*

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 (32), Feb (40), Mar (83), Apr (225) and May (319). Max. counts of 40 on seaweed at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 31 Jan, 25 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 21 Apr and 19 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Apr.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 39.4% of squares (13/33) (*cf.* 37.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 12 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* and 6 at Oronsay *Colonsay*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. On *Islay*, 4 prs noted on transects at RSPB Oa reserve and 7 prs at RSPB Smaull reserve, also 2+ prs noted on *Gunna Coll.* Successful breeding noted in all areas except (*Coll/Jura /Kintyre*). First fledged yng. noted at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 18 May, at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 May and at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 25 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 58 on Iona *Mull* on 13 Sep, 49 at Machribeg *Kintyre* on 13 Aug, 35 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 17 Aug and 30 at Knockan *Mull* on 12 Sep. Elsewhere, many counts of 1-25 birds.

'WHITE' WAGTAIL *Motacilla 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/Cowal/Jura*). First arrivals of 3 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, singles at Machir Bay on 28 Mar and Kilchoman on 28 Mar and 2 at Loch na Diol on 30 Mar and 2 at Ardilistry Bay on 30 Mar (all *Islay*), then 1 at Sraid Ruaidh *Tiree* on 5 Apr. Few seen on passage with max. counts of 14 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Apr, with 9 there on 20 Apr, 7 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Apr and 6 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 16 Apr, with remaining counts of 1-4 birds. A single at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May was the last noted.

Autumn Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First reports were of 2 at Killinallan *Islay* on 17 Aug, and singles on 18 Aug at Lower Killeyan, Kinnabus and Carnain (all *Islay*), with small numbers on *Islay* before the first on *Tiree* at Gott Bay on 22 Aug. Numbers reported were low with max. counts of 30 at Carnain. Loch Indaal *Islay* on 10 Sep and c25 at Bellochantuy *Kintyre* on 25 Aug. Very few after mid-Sep with singles at Kinnabus *Islay* on 16 Sep, and at Baugh on 19 Sep, Vault on 22 Sep and Middleton on 28 Sep (all *Tiree*), with 1 at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Sep 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; 100 at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 12 Apr, 50 at Largiebaan *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, 40 at Beinn Hough *Tiree* on 8 Apr, 40 at Port an t- Salainn *Mull* on 4 May, 31 at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 8 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1- 30 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 84.8% of squares (28/33) (cf. 85% in 2024), with max. counts of 55 at Dun Bhlaran *Mid-Argyll*, 38 Glenmuckrach *North Argyll* and 38 on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Good numbers and widespread. On *Islay*, 179 prs on RSPB Oa reserve and 102 prs on RSPB Smaull reserve. Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Increase in numbers noted from early Aug with flocks of 20-50 birds, with max. counts of 180 at Barrapol on 25 Sep, 130 at Loch a' Phuill on 22 Sep and 90 at Balephuill on 24 Aug (all *Tiree*) and 110 at Garra Eallabus, Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Sep. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 13 during in Nov- Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

RED LIST *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland, also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Tiree*). First reports of singles at Invereyne Farm *Cowal* on 6 Apr, at Tormore, Glen More *Mull* on 8 Apr, and 2 at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr, with a more general arrival from 15 Apr. Most reports from (sites) in *Cowal* (8), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (19), *Mull* (35) and *North Argyll* (5). Max. site counts of 6 at Ardmore Bay *Mull* on 3 May and 6 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 18 May.

Breeding BBS: noted in 15.2% of squares (5/33) (cf. 25% in 2024), with max. counts of 9 at Rhudle *Mid-Argyll* and 6 at Tom Dubh *Cowal*. Few breeding records, but was confirmed at Bridge of Orchy *North Argyll* on 6 Jun.

Autumn One was at Garmony Point *Mull* on 3 Aug, followed by two at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Aug, with one at Loch an Eilean Beg *Kintyre* on 26 Aug 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 31 at River Corran mouth *Jura* on 15 Jan, 25 at Normann's Ruh, Treshnish Is *Mull* on 22 Feb, 20 at Ardminish, Gigha on 2 May and 16 at Rhunahaorine Pt on 8 Jan (both *Kintyre*), and 14 Oronsay *Colonsay* on 15 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-13 birds, however most reports of 1-2.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 9.1% of squares (3/33) (*cf.* 7.5% in 2024), with max. count of 6 at Port Mor *Colonsay*. On *Islay*, 36 prs at RSPB Oa reserve. Otherwise, limited breeding data; successful breeding reported at Lunga, Treshnish Is. and Iona (both *Mull*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max. counts of 31 at the Bay-at-the-back-of-the-ocean Iona *Mull* on 17 Sep, 18 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 2 Sep, 17 at Port Uisken on 12 Oct and 16 at Loch na Keal on 20 Oct (both *Mull*) and 15 at Brunerican Bay *Kintyre* on 28 Sep. Elsewhere, counts of fewer than 15 birds.

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT* *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Spring One showing the characteristics of '*littoralis*' subspecies was seen at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 31 Mar.

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; *Islay* (49), *Mid-Argyll* (105), *Mull* (125) and *North Argyll* (47). Max. counts of 250 at Normann's Ruh on 22 Feb, 150 at Craigmor Cottage on 2 Feb and 120 at Corrynachenchy on 6 Mar (all *Mull*), 120 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 10 & 16 Jan and 60 at the Kilchiaran *Islay* on 23 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of up to 50 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 63.6% of squares (21/33) (*cf.* 65% in 2024), with max. counts of 27 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal*, 20 at Loch Frisa *Mull*, 20 at Bellanoch and 18 at Rhudle (both *Mid-Argyll*). Limited breeding data received, but successful breeding noted at Kilmun *Cowal*, Craighouse *Jura* and Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll*, where first fledged yng. noted on 17 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (71), *Mid-Argyll* (56), *Islay* (37) and *Cowal* (35). Max. counts; 200 at Craigmhor on 29-30 Nov and 170 at Loch Skerrols on 29 Oct (both *Islay*), 160 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Dec, 140 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 17 Sep & 6 Dec and 115 at Octovullin *Islay* on 3 Nov. Elsewhere, several counts of 50-100 birds and many of 1-50 birds, but notably 30+ were on *Coll* on 15 Oct.

BRAMBLING *Islay* October 2025 David Dinsley



BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

Winter/spring Only 4 winter reports: in Jan, singles were at Black Crofts *North Argyll* on 2 Jan, Inverliever on 20 Jan and Lochgilthead on 22 Jan (both *Mid-Argyll*) and Fasnacloich *North Argyll* on 16 Mar. One at Bowmore *Islay* on 2 May was the only passage bird noted.

Autumn/winter A slightly better autumn with records from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/North Argyll*). A female-type at Balephuill *Tiree* on 8 Oct was the first noted, followed by 2 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 13 Oct. During the remainder of Oct & Nov there were reports of 1-2 birds at sites in *Islay* (12), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (4) and *Tiree* (1), with 3 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 15 Nov the largest group noted. 1 at Salen *Mull* on 7 Dec was the last reported.

HAWFINCH* *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RED LIST RBBP *A scarce visitor, mainly spring and late autumn. 56 records between 1953 and 2024.*

Spring A female was at a bird table in Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar [Lynsey Gibson] and a female was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 May [J. Bowler]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*

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/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Cowal* (15), *Mid-Argyll* (25) and *Mull* (26). Max. counts of 10 at Daill Loch on 6 Feb, 7 at Bardrishaig, Luing on 6 Feb, 6 at Artilligan Cott. on 8 Feb (all *Mid-Argyll*), 6 at Stiallag Bheag, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 21 Jan and 6 on *Mull* on 11 Mar. Counts elsewhere of 1-4 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: singles or pairs noted in 21.2% of squares (7/33) (*cf.* 15% in 2024). 2 prs on RSPB Gruinart reserve *Islay*. Otherwise, limited data received; pairs reported in (*Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). Juvs. At the A&B Hosp, Lochgilthead *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May were only ones reported.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (17) and *Mull* (16). Max. counts of 9 at Loch Ardmish, Gigha *Kintyre* on 8 Dec, 8 at Cluanach *Islay* on 6 Dec and 8 at Inverinan Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-7 birds. Notably 3 were at Milbuie *Colonsay* on 29 Dec.

COMMON ROSEFINCH* *Carpodacus erythrina*

RBBP *A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred. 41 records between 1989 and 2024, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.*

Spring A brightly coloured adult male, in brief song, was on *Tiree* at Mannal and again later at Hynish on 21 May [N. Wall, J. Bowler]. A 2cy male, in female-type plumage, was at feeders and in song at Druimsornaig, nr. Duart Castle *Mull* on 13 Jun [A. Bayly].

Autumn/winter A 1cy was photographed at bird feeders in Calgary *Mull* on 23 Nov [T. Knight]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

RED LIST *A locally common resident and partial migrant, decreasing nationally due to bird-feeder diseases, with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Remains a scarce bird with counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; *Coll* (4), *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (12), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (29), *Mull* (42), *North Argyll* (12) and *Tiree* (8). Max. counts of 12 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 23 Mar and 8 at Tayinloan pier *Kintyre* on 17 Feb.

Summer/breeding BBS: singles or pairs noted in 18.2% of squares (6/33) (*cf.* 10% in 2024). Limited data received. Fledged yng. noted in *Mid-Argyll* at Dalmally, Crinan Ferry and Bridgend, at Aros Cott, Iona and Tobermory (all *Mull*), at Port Ramsay, Lismore *North Argyll* and at Milton and Balephuill (both *Tiree*). 11 were noted on Iona *Mull* on 17 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Counts of 1-10 birds at sites in; *Coll* (2), *Cowal* (10), *Islay* (11), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (14), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (8). Max. counts of 27 at the Oa *Islay* on 13 Oct, 17 at Balemartine *Tiree* on 10 Oct and 15 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 5 Dec.



TWITE *Mid-Argyll* September 2025 John Boyd

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

RED LIST *A local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Few reports away from *Islay* and *Tiree* during Jan-Mar, but some reports from sites on *Coll* (2) and *Kintyre* (1), but birds generally returning elsewhere in Apr-May. Counts continue to decline with max. noted: 123 at Coullabus Pltn. on 24 Feb and 50 at Kinnabus, Oa on 11 Feb (both *Islay*) and 30 at Meningie *Tiree* on 31 Mar. Noted at sites on *Mull* (15) with max. counts of 20 at Lower Ardtun on 20 Apr and 15 on Lunga, Treshnish Is. on 30 Apr. Noted at sites on *Coll* (3) with max. count of 20 at Ballard on 27 Feb, in *Kintyre* (3) with max. count of 12 at Tarbert, Gigha on 6 Feb and 1-4 at sites on *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (1) and *Mid-Argyll* (3).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 9.1% of squares (3/33) (*cf.* 7.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 6 at Crossapol Pt. *Tiree* and 4 at Oronsay *Colonsay*. Prs noted from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*) from Apr with most reports from island areas. 4+ prs recorded RSPB Oa reserve *Islay*, otherwise limited breeding data. Parties up to 14 (inc. juvs.) noted on Lunga Treshnish Is. *Mull* in late Jun. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 18 Jun. A colour-ringed individual noted on *Tiree* in Jan had wintered in *Lancashire*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Most reports from *Islay* and *Mull* and several from *Colonsay* and *Tiree*. Reports by month; Aug (31), Sep (39), Oct (29), Nov (16) and Dec (6). Max. counts inc.; 120 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 23 Sep, 100 at Caoles on 3 Oct, 83 at Crossapol Pt. and 45 at the Reef on 14 Oct (all *Tiree*), 46 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 3 Nov and 40 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 30 Sep. Elsewhere, in (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*) counts of 1-25.



LINNET Kintyre July 2025 Jo Goudie

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*). Few records during Jan, only from 3 sites, with max of 105 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Jan. In Feb, only reports from 3 sites in *Islay*, with more birds returning during Mar and more widespread through Apr. Other than 75 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Mar, no large counts with max. counts of 18 at Glengorm Castle *Mull* on 29 Apr and 14 at Ardminish Gigha *Kintyre* on 3 May.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 30.3% of BBS squares (10/33) (*cf.* 22.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 17 at Crossapol Point *Tiree*, 14 at Fidden *Mull*, 12 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* and 9 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. 17 prs found at RSPB Oa reserve *Islay*. Noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged birds noted on 9 Jun and latest on 17 Aug. Fledged yng. / confirmed breeding also noted at Kilchoman and Loch nan Cadhan (both *Islay*) and on Iona *Mull*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. Post-breeding flocks; 102 at Creag Mhor on 24 Jul and 65 at the Oa on 30 Jul (both *Islay*) and 60 at Loch Breac *Colonsay* on 30 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Islay* (24), *Mull* (18) and *Kintyre* (16). Reports by month; Aug (44), Sep (46), Oct (21), Nov (4) and Dec (2). Max. counts; 460 on *Tiree* (at 3 sites) on 24 Sep, 240 at Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Oct, 200 at Inver Cott. *Jura* on 11 Aug, 120 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Sep, 120 at Kinnabus, Oa *Islay* on 13 Aug, 100 at Lephinstrath Bridge and 96 at Druinyeonbeg, Gigha on 24 Aug (both *Kintyre*). Elsewhere counts of 1-60 birds.

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

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 (2), Feb (4) and Mar (18). Numbers remained low through spring with max. counts; 23 at Daill *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Feb, 14 at Ardmore Bay on 3 May and 12 at Loch an Torr on 2 Apr (both *Mull*) and 12 at Clachan, Lismore *North Argyll* on 26 Apr. Other counts of 1-10 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS; noted in 33.3% of squares (11/33) (*cf.* 25% in 2024), with max. counts of 7 at Kilbridmore Burn *Cowal*, and 6 at Kilmichael Forest and Dalvore (both *Mid-Argyll*). Otherwise, limited breeding data. On *Islay*, 14 prs in transects at the RSPB Oa reserve and fledged juv. noted at Creag Mhor on 5 Aug. Elsewhere, pairs reported at Inver *Jura* on 9 Apr and Grass Point *Mull* on 5 May. Reports in summer from all areas except (*Tiree*). Max. counts of 20 at Largiebaan *Kintyre* on 8 Jun, 18 at Muileann Eiteag Bagh, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Jun and 15 at Stronafian, Loch Striven *Cowal* on 1 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. No large flocks reported in autumn, perhaps reflecting a poor forest seed crop with max. counts; 43 at the Oa *Islay* on 19 Sep, 33 on *Coll* on 22 Sep, 19 at Duart Castle *Mull* on 19 Aug, 13 at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 22 Sep, 10 at Garmony Pt. *Mull* on 23 Sep and 10 at Craighouse *Jura* on 20 Aug, with the remaining records fewer than 10 birds, with a *A.f.cabaret* noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 31 Aug. There were no reports in Nov or Dec.

Summarising Redpoll records has become more difficult in 2025 as many records have been submitted without confirmation of the subspecies involved or handled differently on the various recording platforms. The account below is based on where firm identification has been provided, with the remaining records included in the Redpoll account above, the vast majority of which will be of Lesser Redpoll A. f. cabaret.

COMMON REDPOLL* *Acanthis flammea 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 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Apr. Reports from five other *Tiree* sites during Apr-Jun.

Summer/breeding All reports from *Tiree*. Up to 12 prs across 6 sites in May, 9 nesting prs across 6 sites in Jun and 5 prs with fledged yng at Carnan Mor/Balephuill. Fledged birds noted from 21 Jun - 5 Jul at Balephuill.

Autumn/winter 24 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor *Tiree* on 24 Aug, with 20 there on 1-9 Sep & 20-24 Sep, 12 on 25 Sep and then 3 on 1-4 Oct and a single from 15-23 Oct. Elsewhere on *Tiree*, 15 juvs. at top of Ben Hynish *Tiree* on 12 Aug, 4 at Balemartine on 7 Oct, 4 at Mannal on 10 Oct and 1-2 seen at The Glebe on 25 Aug-1 Sep & 1 Oct and at Crossapol on 7 Oct.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

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

All year The good numbers in late 2024, because of a bumper cone crop in the Sitka spruce forests, continued into 2025 but sightings dropped away in early summer as consequence few new cones developing. Reports by month; Jan (14), Feb (23), Mar (23), Apr (24), May (31), Jun (10), Jul (3), Aug (4), Sep (2), Oct (4), Nov (4) and Dec (1). Reports by region (sites); *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (8), *Islay* (11), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (22), *Mull* (30), *North Argyll* (10) and *Tiree* (3). Max. counts of 20 at Salen *Mull* on 22 May, 19 at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 7 May, 15 at West Ardu on 14 Feb and 12 at Knock on 11 Feb (both *Mull*) and 12 at Gallanach *Coll* on 17 Oct.

Breeding BBS: noted in 21.2% of squares (7/33) (*cf.* 10% in 2024), with max. counts of 8 at Kilbridemore Burn *Cowal* and 6 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*. Juvs. reported at Glen Aray *Mid-Argyll*, Tioran and Salen (both *Mull*) and Ardachy and Victoria Br., Loch Tulla (both *North Argyll*) and evidence of breeding reported at several sites, including in (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre*).

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. Some flocks noted with 50 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 17 Jan, 50 at Loch Finlaggan on 13 Feb, 40 at Easter Ellister on 5 Feb, 40 at Bruichladdich on 28 Mar and 40 at Kinnabus, Oa on 26 Feb (all *Islay*). Most reports came from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*), with most counts of 1-20.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 42.4% of squares (14/33) (*cf.* 35% in 2024), with max. counts of 9 at Trench Point, Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* and 8 at Tom Dubh *Cowal*. Breeding confirmed in all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Islay*). Three prs found on RSPB Oa reserve *Islay* and at least 4 prs nested on *Tiree*. First fledged juvs. noted at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 25 May, at Uragaig *Colonsay* on 26 May, at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 27 May, but not until 18 Jun at Balephuill *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites on (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max. counts of 200 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 5 Sep, 80 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 25 Aug, 80 at Kilmun on 15 Oct and 73 at Finart Bay on 3 Aug (both *Cowal*), 50 at Cornabus *Islay* on 3 Sep, 50 at Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Sep and 37 on Iona *Mull* on 1 Sep. Counts of up to 30 elsewhere. Numbers declined in Nov & Dec when only reports of 1-6 birds.

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* (82), *Mid-Argyll* (45), *North Argyll* (21), *Islay* (18) and *Cowal* (17). Good numbers through the winter: 50 at Craigmor Cott *Mull* on 2 Feb, 50 at Port Rìgh on 20 Jan and 38 at Lephenstrath Bridge on 4 Mar (both *Kintyre*), 27 at Loch Assapol *Mull* on 2 May and 25 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Feb. Elsewhere, most counts of 1-15, with 1 at Mid Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 23 Apr, and 2 at Hynish on 19 May and 2 at Balephuill on 22 May (both *Tiree*).

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 45.5% of squares (15/33) (*cf.* 52.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 20 at Glen Aros chapel *Mull*, 15 at Tom Dubh and 12 at Kilbridemore Burn (both *Cowal*) and 11 at Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll*. Otherwise, limited breeding data. First fledged juvs. noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr and post-breeding flock of 45 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 8 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Fewer in the autumn as a consequence of spruce cone crop failure, with reports in Aug (38), Sep (37), Oct (23), Nov (1) and Dec (2) with few large counts; 200 at Kilmun *Cowal* on 13 Oct, 70 on *Islay* on 10 Oct and 50 at Craighouse *Jura* on 20 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of only 1-15 birds.

LAPLAND BUNTING* *Calcarius lapponicus*

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

Winter/spring On *Tiree* one flew from Traigh Bhi towards Carnan Mor on 8 Apr and one flew over Crossapol Pt. on 23 Apr.

Autumn/winter On *Tiree* singles were at Sandaig on 28 Sep and nr. Heylipol Church on 8 Nov.

SNOW BUNTING *Mid-Argyll* November 2025 *Ann McGregor*



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 Two were on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan, 2 at Tioran *Mull* on 9 Jan, 1 at Dunstaffnage *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb, 1 at Balinoe *Tiree* on 1 Mar, 1 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 5 Mar, 1 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Mar and 1 at North Ledaig *North Argyll* on 29 Mar.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 1-4 birds across four sites from (Gruinart, Oa, Ardnave & Blackrock) between 28 Oct-12 Nov. On *Tiree* 5 over Traigh Bhi on 16 Nov. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 on Kerrera on 20 Nov & 4 Dec.

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* (3), *Jura* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (32), *North Argyll* (3). Max. counts of 12 at Kildalton *Islay* on 13 Feb, 8 at Normann's Ruh *Mull* on 12 Apr and 5 at Loch nan Diol *Islay* on 13 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds.

Summer/breeding BBS: not noted in any squares (0/33) (*cf.* 0% in 2024). Breeding reports limited: singing males reported at 4 sites on *Mull* and on Scarba *Mid-Argyll*, and pairs reported at Lower Ardtun and Normann's Ruh (both *Mull*) and at Inver Cottage *Jura*.

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in: *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (5) and *North Argyll* (1). Max. counts of 8 at Keills *Islay* on 29 Oct and 6 at Bowmore *Islay* on 1 & 3 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of 1-4 birds, inc. 1 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 8 Sep.

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 19 at Loch Gearach on 5 Feb, 18 at Airigh Ghlas on 31 Jan (both *Islay*), 9 at Danna na Cloche *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jan and 9 at Port Sgibinis *Colonsay* on 25 Jan.

Summer/breeding BBS: noted in 21.2% of squares (7/33) (*cf.* 22.5% in 2024), with max. counts of 4 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* and 4 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll*. Evidence of breeding reported from all areas except (*Jura/Kintyre*). On *Islay*, 38 prs at RSPB Oa reserve, 62+ prs at RSPB Gruinart reserve and 11 prs at RSPB Smaull reserve. 29 AOTs found on *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* ca 15 scattered prs noted across the island, with fledged juvs. from 28 Jun. First fledged juvs. report *Cowal* on 23 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas, and generally widespread in small groups of 1-6 birds at sites. Max. counts of 29 at Octovullin on 30 Oct, 25 at Airigh Ghlas on 30 Nov, 20 at Bushmill on 23 Oct (all *Islay*), 11 at Loch Cliad *Coll* on 27 Sep and 10 at Kenovay *Tiree* on 7 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.*

Four were at Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jun. *Under reported.*

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.



WHITE-HEADED WHISTLING DUCK *Kintyre* January 2025 *Ann Hand*

WHITE-HEADED WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata*

Category E. *A tree duck species native to Tropical America and sub-Saharan Africa. No Previous Argyll records.*

One, ringed and of unknown origin, at a small pool near Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 18 Jan and for a few days [A. & N. Hand].



NORTH AMERICAN WOOD DUCK *Tiree* May 2025 *John Bowler*

NORTH AMERICAN WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Category E. *Occasional escapes from captivity in Britain and has also bred in the wild. One previous Argyll record of a female present in Largie Burn, Dunoon Cowal from Oct 2000 to May 2001.*

An adult male, un-ringed and of unknown origin, was on a pool in the early afternoon of 9 May in west *Tiree* and seen again, in eclipse plumage at the same site on 24 Jul [J. Bowler]. *Record has been submitted to the BBRC however records of this species are being held on file pending any future reviews.*

PIED CROW *Corvus albus*

Category E. *An African crow species with an increasing number of occurrences in Europe and Britain in recent years which may point towards some being of wild rather than captive origin, however at least some are known to be ship assisted. Not as yet accepted by the BOU onto the British Cat A list.*

One of unknown origin, was found at Portnahaven *Islay* on 27 Mar, and also frequented Port Wemyss until 7 Apr [M. Redman, P. Roberts, G. Want *et al.*]. *Record has been submitted to the BBRC however records of this species are being held on file pending any future reviews.*



PIED CROW *Islay* March 2025 *Andrew Whitehouse*

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 36

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Lesser Scaup	<i>Islay</i>	20-23/10/24	BBRC
‘Todd’s’ Canada Goose	<i>Islay</i>	15/2/23	BBRC
Goshawk	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	07/07/25	ABRC
Great White Egret	<i>Kintyre</i>	25/11/25	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 2025 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
White-billed Diver	Ferry, Craignure	<i>Mull</i>	11/5/2025
Sabine’s Gull (2)	Sanaigmore	<i>Islay</i>	4/10/2025
Wilson’s Petrel	From ferry	<i>Coll</i>	02/09/2025
Cory’s Shearwater	At sea	<i>Off NW Islay</i>	4/09/2024
Black-necked Grebe	Loch na Keal	<i>Mull</i>	18/11/2025
Great Grey Shrike	Calgary Bay	<i>Mull</i>	27/05/2025

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.



Islay geese – Nature Scotland / Ewan Miles

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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

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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 Bhasapoll 8.Sorobaidh Bay 9.Traigh Bhagh/The Reef

COLONSAY 10.Colonsay House Woodlands 11.Loch Fada (East, Middle & West)
12.Oronsay 13.The Strand & Garvard

COWAL 14.Benmore Gardens 15.Holy Loch & Dunoon coast 16.Loch Eck &
Glenbranter Forest 17.Loch Long, Strone Point to Ardentinny 18.Otter Ferry & Loch Fyne
19.Tighnabraich, 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

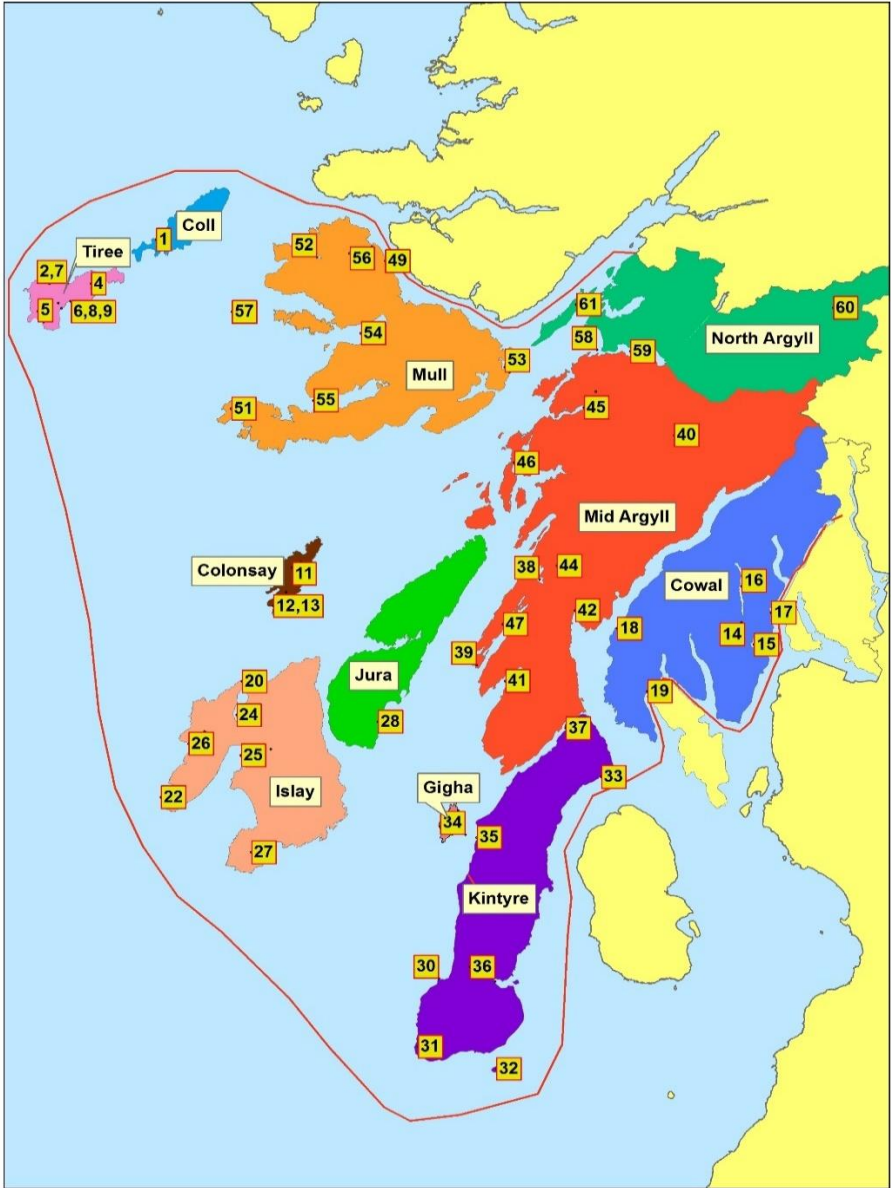
JURA 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

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