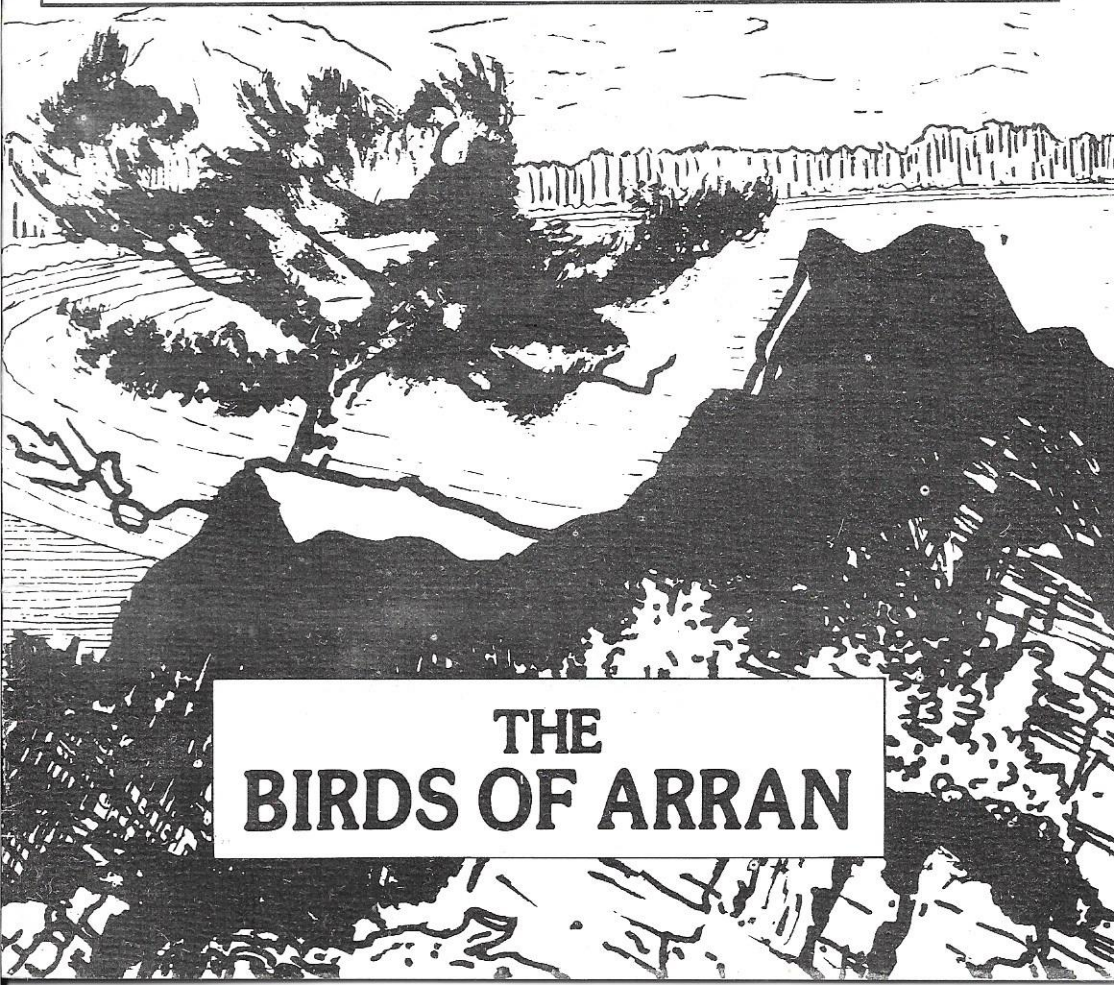


ANNUAL BIRD REPORT 1983/CHECK LIST



**THE
BIRDS OF ARRAN**

INTRODUCTION

1983 is the fourth year of the Arran Bird Report which again includes a summary of the year and an updated checklist.

Thanks are due to the many contributors who are acknowledged below. Special thanks to those who sent long written or typed notes, and to S. Sangster for typing. All records for 1984 should be sent to Margaret H. Dunn, Tigh an Droma, Kings Cross, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RG. Tel. Whiting Bay 323.

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ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS

♂ : male
♀ : female
imm.: immature
max : maximum count
arr : arrival
N : north (direction of flight)
S : south (direction of flight)
inc : including
Jan etc : all months abbreviated
pr : pair

Initials of observer concerned are generally limited to rarities and less common species.

The Isle of Arran Natural History Society thanks you for your kind support, and should also like to recommend to you its delightful annual magazine THE ARRAN NATURALIST No.8, currently available throughout the island. Back copies may be obtained from A. Sillars, Lamlash.

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SUMMARY OF YEAR

January began quietly with 8 Goldeneye at Merkland on 6th and a solitary Purple Sandpiper at Kildonan on 9th. A pair of Ptarmigan on Mulloch Buidhe merged with the winter scene on 12th. The first Gannet appeared on 16th while Dippers were at their previous nest site in Glen Cloy. During the month most of the birds of prey were seen including Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Sparrowhawk, Short-eared and Barn Owl.

February Snow, sleet and high wind probably accelerated the death of a starving Sparrowhawk on 1st but 2 Goldcrests were singing by 8th. A Merlin hunted in High Glen Cloy and possibly the same one was seen in Strathwhillan on 16th. 6 Shelducks were on territories at Merkland on 10th while 12 Song Thrush, 13 Blackbird and 2 Mistle Thrush fed in a sheltered field in Sannox. 14 Yellowhammers brightened up a winter's day at Clauchog Farm, Kilmory on 13th and 6 Crossbills were in High Glen Cloy on 14th. Divers showed up with a Black-throated at Brown Head on 13th and a Great Northern on 19th at Machrie.

March opened with Dippers nest building on 1st and an early Whimbrel on passage at Sannox on 2nd. 11 Red-breasted Mergansers were displaying at Lamash on 3rd. A female Blackcap was still at a garden feeder in Brodick until 18th. Peregrines were noisy and active and Buzzards soaring and mating at Machrie on 20th. The first Wheatear arrived in Glen Rosa on 29th and some excitement ensued on 31st when among a flock of 100 Meadow Pipits, 5 Long-legged ones were spotted at Glenree, Ross. Could they be Richard's?

April Cold north winds held up migration with the first Chiffchaff not heard until the 6th. By this time flocks of Meadow Pipits were all over the island and the possible Richard's Pipits were seen again in Glen Cloy, plus some Tree Pipits. A Cuckoo was seen in Glen Rosa on 9th but not heard until 24th. Migration was well underway by 14th–18th with the arrival of Redstart, Swallow, Common Sandpiper and Willow Warbler. 4 Little Gulls caused a stir at Machrie, 2 Whimbrel and 2 White Wagtails were at Cletheadh and 200 Grey Geese was an impressive sight as they headed north for Iceland or Greenland. 7 Siskins in Rubha Salach wood saw the beginning of the Siskin explosion when almost everyone had them at nuts in their gardens and even one pair nested in the roof of a house. Some more passage occurred on 23rd and 24th with 2 Sandwich Terns at Kildonan and 12 White Wagtails at Machrie. The first Whinchat was in song on 24th and House Martins at Lamash and Brodick on 25th. At the same time as migrants were arriving such as the welcome Corncrake on 26th, a departing flock of 20 Fieldfares was forced down in thick mist on Mulloch Buidhe on 27th. 5 Snow Buntings lingered on the summit of Caisteal Abhail on 28th while a Ring Ouzel was heard on A Chir on 29th. There was a fairly big movement of Divers all round the island which overlapped into May..

May On the 1st of what was to be a lively month Siskins and Redpolls were alternately giving song display flights from the same pine tree in Lamash while 8 Sand Martins were hawking flies with Swallows at Machrie pond. 2 Wood Warbler were singing at Brodick on 4th and a Grasshopper Warbler was reeling at Kingscross. 4 Sedge Warblers were singing at Kildonan and Ravens had fledged young. Also at Kildonan the first Nightjar was heard on 12th and at Brodick on 25th. Spotted Flycatchers were not seen until 12th in Glen Cloy and the rare Pied Flycatcher in Whiting Bay, Kingscross and Brodick on 15th and 16th. A late Turnstone was at Catacol on 15th and yet another Whimbrel at Merkland Point on 18th. A single Greylag Goose lagged behind at Machrie from 15th–19th. A Jay was a surprise on 16th at Monamore picnic site and 2 single Tufted Ducks were unexpected at Machrie and Largybeg Point on 20th. A Garden Warbler, much rarer here than the Blackcap, was seen at Corrie on 19th. Uncommon Gulls became more common with an adult Iceland Gull on 19th and a second summer Glaucous Gull on 21st, both at Brodick. There also a pair of Kingfishers was a brilliant sight and a striking pair of Crossbills was in Lamash forestry. The first albino of the year was sighted at Lochranza — a leucistic Song Thrush/Blackbird which died on 3 Aug. Also at Lochranza 4 Golden Eagles soaring together was impressive, and a pair were feeding one young by 27th. By 27th–29th three species of Diver were in Machrie Bay, 1 Red-throated, 1 Great Northern and 2 Black-throated. 24 Arctic Terns were at Machrie while a pair of Short-eared Owls on Machrie Moor demonstrated wing clapping. 2 Pairs Redshank were claiming territory, the first young Shelducks appeared and 2 rather scarce Merlin were sighted. Perhaps the strangest sight of the year was an exotic bird, black with red throat, dull cream underparts, size of a Jackdaw, on a washing line in Brodick on 22nd. Did anyone lose a caged bird?

June A shy Shrike was at Machrie on 4th which annually shows itself in Greater or Lesser degrees to visitors but disappears when residents go to look. A male Blackcap was singing at Kingscross on 6th and a female seen and heard in reply. A very scarce pair of Twites was at Loch Garbad on 7th. Another Kingfisher flashed by Slidderlywater on 10th. 6 Nightjars was a fair number churring at Brodick on 18th. 12 Swifts were feeding over East Bannan on 21st, the biggest number this year. On 27th the first young Eiders appeared at Holy Isle, Golden Plover had young on the West Hills and the usual June Goosander was at Brodick. The spectacular sight of 2,000 Gannets diving close in at Whiting Bay after a shoal of sand eels was the most ever seen.

July produced 24 Long-tailed Tits in Whiting Bay on 2nd, another Jay on 3rd, in Corrie, 6 Common Terns fishing at Pirnmill and 16 Red-throated Divers in Kilbrannan. 4 Kestrel fledglings were calling at Machrie on 4th and a family of 6 Ravens were above the String. On the crossing to Ailsa Craig on 5th, 28 Storm Petrels and 25 Manx Shearwaters skimmed and dipped in and out of the waves, while 80 Manx Shearwaters in Kilbrannan on 28th was the most seen. A Grasshopper Warbler was between Corrie and Sannox on 8th and more than a thousand mixed Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were after stranded sand eels at Whiting Bay. Again a Tufted Duck turned up this time on 12th at Loch Nuis. A "First" for Arran was a rare Hawfinch seen alive with Chaffinches on 28th but later found dead.

August Early Autumn migration produced another Record with 2 Red-necked Phalaropes in Brodick Bay on 7th. A returning Whimbrel called in at Machrie on 8th; 3 Turnstone at Whiting Bay on 15th and 2 Sandwich Terns at Clachlands on 16th. Juveniles were much in evidence on 27th and 28th when young Red-throated Divers were calling off Machrie and three juvenile Shelducks were still at Kilpatrick. A late Corncrake was calling at Blackwaterfoot on 30th and a Sparrowhawk was pursued along the Heights by a tiny Meadow Pipit on 31st.

September Barn Owls were more in evidence at Lamlash, Corrie, Pirnmill and Brodick. Storm conditions prevailed on 3rd when 2 Great Skuas forced a Gannet to disgorge its catch while an Arctic Skua attempted similar piratical deeds. An escaped Chilean Flamingo was a surprise at Merkland on 8th. 7 Common Scoter were at Blackwaterfoot on 3rd and a Greenshank stopped to refuel. Another wader, a single Bar-tailed Godwit was at Torrylin Beach on 11th. Another Glaucous Gull appeared, this time at Machrie on 13th. On 16th an immature Peregrine unsuccessfully pursued a Redshank at Pirnmill and the second albino of the year was a Gannet picked up on the Lamlash road obviously unwell. A third albino was another leucistic Song Thrush/Blackbird last seen on 21st. A flock of 20 Twite and 3 Knots turned up at Blackwaterfoot on 18th. 2 Early Redwings had arrived at Dougrie by 23rd and the first Geese of the autumn were 37 Greylags at Kildonan on 24th. Also on that date 100 Redpolls were feeding in birches and alders at Kingscross. The last 6 Sandwich Terns with another Greenshank remained at Clachlands on 26th and the last Willow Warbler on 27th.

October While hundreds of Redwings and Fieldfares were arriving, a tardy pair of Ring Ouzels were still in Glen Diobhan on 11th and the last Wheatear in Whiting Bay. A Common Scoter appeared in Brodick Bay on 12th and 5 Ptarmigan were the most seen on Ben Nuis on 15th. More Merlins manifested themselves towards the end of October with one at Glen Rosa on 20th and another at Torbeg on 23rd. 2 Red-necked Phalaropes were again in Brodick Bay on 22nd and 2 Red-legged Partridges were unusual at Dippen from 24-27th. Once again Tufted Duck cropped up with 2 at Loch Cnocan loch on 24th and 10 Snow Buntings were on Staccadh Ridge. Small parties of up to 6 Swallows and House Martins lingered until the end of October with the last 3 House Martins in Brodick on 27th.

November A pair of Little Grebes was at Rosa mouth from 1st to 15th. The last 2 Swallows stayed in Lamlash until 2nd while hundreds of Greylags were arriving. 2 Grey Partridge were unexpected on Brodick Golf Course on 9th. 6 Red-necked Grebes in Lamlash Bay on 16th was a large number for this species, only 2 of which remained until 23rd.

December An early Shelduck was back at Catacol on 1st and 2 Black Guillemots were in Brodick Bay on 5th. 70 religious Rooks were near Kilmory Church on 4th while 20 Rooks roosted at Brodick on 8th. Numbers of wintering duck had built up. The year ended quietly with 2 pairs of Stonechats wintering on the Corrie shore.

ARRAN BIRD REPORT

M. H. Dunn

RED-THROATED DIVER: 11 prs. Many sightings and good numbers suggests successful breeding. Max. Party of 9 and 6, including young, Machrie 28 Aug.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER: Again none bred. Many prs and singles mainly May and Sep.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER: Many prs and singles most months mainly West side except 2 Cock of Arran 17 Apr; single Lamlash 18 Nov.

LITTLE GREBE: Usual wintering single Lochranza and pr Kingscross to Lamlash. Singles Kingcross Point 8 Aug. and Brodick 28 Oct; 2 Brodick 1st-15th Nov.

RED-NECKED GREBE: 6 Kerr's Port Lamlash, close inshore 16-18 Nov is large number for this species; only 2 left 20-23 Nov (M.H.D).

FULMAR: Territories seem to be expanding although no young Machrie and Catacol 31 Jul; 1 still present Dunfion 11 Sep; 5 young Corrie cravie 7 June; several non breeders Holy Isle and Pladda; 20 →S in half an hour Drumadoon 18 Sep.

MANX SHEARWATER: Small numbers Brodick/Ardrossan crossing and Kilbrannan Jul-Sep; Max counts: 30 Arran/Ailsa Craig 5 Jul; 80 Kilbrannan 28 Jul.

STORM PETREL: 2 Ardrossan/Brodick 18 June; 6 on 5 Jul; many off N Arran Sep; Max: 28 Arran/Ailsa Craig 5 Jul.

GANNET: First of year 1→S Whiting Bay 16 Jan; more than usual Jan-Oct with 2000 Whiting Bay 27 June; 100 on 2nd Jul. Albino Lamlash 12 Sep; 80→S half hour Drumadoon 18 Sep; 50 Kildonan 18 Sep.

CORMORANT: Present in small numbers throughout year. No proved breeding. 2 Corrie cravie 3 and 29 May; 2 Corrie 28 May; Max 7 Machrie 28 Aug.

SHAG: Good numbers winter; 15 prs nested Holy Isle; Max counts: 60 Blackwaterfoot and 34 Brown Head 20 Nov.

HERON: Many juveniles Lamlash and Brodick; unusual late nesting into Sep Lamlash possibly due to weather conditions. Normally single brooded, these may have been replacement clutches.

CHILEAN FLAMINGO: Merkland 8 Sep (D.W).

MUTE SWAN: Lochranza pr as usual did not breed, moved to other parts island autumn; a separate pr at Rosa mouth on 30 May wintered Brodick. 5 Rosa mouth Brodick 4 Dec.

WHOOPEE SWAN: 2 Corrie sheltering from SW gale 16 Jan; 25 Whiting Bay also sheltering 24 Mar; small numbers Lamlash, Brodick, Balnacoolie Oct-Nov.

GREYLAG GOOSE: 240 Sliderry 13 Feb; 5 Clauchlands 3 Mar; 109 Shiskine 20 Mar; 25→N Kingscross 5 Apr; 3 Cleiteadh 18 Apr; single Machrie 15-19 May. First Autumn 37→S Kildonan 24 Sep; 60→N Kilbrannan 24 Sep; 200 Shiskine 15 Nov; 130 Blackwater-valley 20 Nov building to 400 by Dec.

SHELDUCK: Single Clauchlands 1st Jan arrived 6 Dec 1982; single Catacol arrived 1st Dec 1982; 10 Merkland/Carlo 29 Feb; 16 Machrie 19 Apr; 4 prs Bennan 8 May; 12 Corrie cravie/Sliderry 23 May. Breeding: 11 prs with 69 young; approx 30 reared. 3 Juveniles Kilpatrick 21 Aug; adults gone.

WIGEON: Max counts; 21 Kildonan 9 Jan; 39 Lamlash 16 Jan; smaller numbers elsewhere. First autumn single Machrie 13 Sep; 15 Cleiteadh 4 Dec.

TEAL: Breeding: ♀ 2 young, Glen Iorsa lochans 12 Jul; possibly bred Machrie. Max counts: 25 Machrie 19 Feb; 30 Cleiteadh 13 Feb.

MALLARD: Poor season, only 26 young seen; probably due to mink and other predators. Max counts: 30 Merkland 19 Jan; 31 Kilpatrick 13 Feb; 71 Machrie 28 Aug; 32 Clauchlands 26 Sep.

TUFTED DUCK: Singles Machrie 19 May; Largybeg 20 May; Loch Nuis 12 Jul; 2 Loch Cnocan Loch 24 Oct.

EIDER: 38 prs, 113 young, reared approx 36 young. Max counts: 49 Kilpatrick 13 Feb; 15 Lamlash 14 Mar; 25 Whiting Bay 19 Mar; 46 ♂♂ Machrie 27 May; 30 in moult Machrie 7 Jul and 13 Sep.

COMMON SCOTER: 7 Blackwaterfoot 3 Sep; single Brodick 12 Oct.

GOLDENEYE: 8 Merkland/Carlo 2nd Jan; 7 Lamdash 19 Jan; 4 Lochranza 30 Jan; 3 Cleiteadh 13 Feb; Max 20 Machrie/Imachar 19 Feb; single Merkland 15 Apr; return 6 Whiting Bay 30 Oct; 5 Lamdash 18 Nov; 7 Merkland 5 Dec.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Only 4 prs bred with 25 young. Many prs and non breeding groups. Max counts: 50 Machrie 28 May; 30 Sep; 59 Dougrie 23 June; 44 Pirnmill 1st Jul; 50 Cordon Lamdash 22 Sep; 24 Whiting Bay 26 Sep; 40 Brodick 22 Nov.

GOOSANDER: Single Brodick 27 June.

HEN HARRIER: 2 Nests found but must have been more. Not so many territorial sightings. More seen autumn/winter Machrie, Ross, String, Dougrie, Brodick, Clauchlands Hills, Kingscross.

SPARROWHAWK: Many seen. Appears to be increasing. 13 prs.

BUZZARD: Very common. 20 prs with territories.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Pr A reared 1 young; pr B laid egg but deserted due to burning. Many sightings. Max: 4 North Arran 22 May.

KESTREL: Numbers down to 9 prs but possibly some overlooked. 3 Fledged young Lochranza 18 Jul; 4 fledged young Machrie 4 and 11 Jul.

MERLIN: 3 Territories. Scarce.

PEREGRINE: Poor year. Only 3 nests successful, as last year.

RED GROUSE: Scattered prs spread thinly throughout island. Max counts: 5 Auchareoch; 5 near Urie loch; 9 above Lochranza.

PTARMIGAN: Holds steady at 3 or 4 prs; 5 Ben Nuis 15 Oct; singles and prs often seen Goatfell to Cioch nah Oigh and ~~Wet~~ Hills.

BLACK GROUSE: None seen. ~~West~~

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE: 4 Introduced Dippen Sep (B.Sh); 2 only 24-27 ct not seen subsequently. (V.H.)

GREY PARTRIDGE: 2 Brodick golf course 9 Nov, released Dougrie, killed by dogs.

PHEASANT: Fairly common May, June, Jul; nest and eggs destroyed by late burning Kingscross 20 Apr; Scarce winter.

CORNCRAKE: 3 or 4 Calling. 1 Largybeg 26 Apr to end May, hayfield not cut until late Jul; success not known; 1 N. Kiscadale Whiting Bay, June; 1 Blackwaterfoot 30 Aug; 1 poss Machrie 28 May.

MOORHEN: Pr nested Bennecarrigan pond; 1 Machrie pond 17 May. Probably more have escaped unnoticed.

OYSTERCATCHER: Many nests, eggs and young. Good success. Max counts: 119 Machrie 19 Feb; 100+ Machrie 24 Apr.

RINGED PLOVER: Good numbers nests and young. Max counts: 74 Whiting Bay 26 Sep; 43 Clauchlands 31 Aug; 33 Machrie 28 Aug; 41 Catacol 30 Sep.

GOLDEN PLOVER: 14 Prs on territory, some with young.

LAPWING: No change. 14+ Prs with nests. 22 Dougrie 25 Sep.

KNOT: 3 Winter plumage adults Drumadood Bay 18 Sep (D.McE).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: Single Kildonan 9 Jan is only sighting.

DUNLIN: Small numbers 2-5 Machrie in summer plumage May and June; adult with 2 young N Arran 14 Jul; many singles Jul-Sep. Max: 7 Brodick 27 Jul. Winter: 4 Cleiteadh 13 Feb.

SNIPE: Several drumming in marsh and moorland. Found at coast autumn and winter.

WOODCOCK: Many prs roding mainly Mar-June. Winter. Single top Brodick/Lamdash hill 17 Nov; 2 Clauchlands 7 Dec.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: 1 Torrylinwaterfoot 11 Sep (G & C.A./M.H.D.).

WHIMBREL: Early one Sannox 2 Mar; 1 Dougrie 24 Apr; 2 Cleiteadh 18 Apr; 1 Merkland 18 May; 1 Machrie 8 Aug.

CURLEW: 12+ Prs breeding in upland habitat. Max counts: 100 Cleiteadh 13 Feb; 126 Machrie 19 Feb; 120 Shiskine 20 Sep; 140 Machrie 25 Sep; 100 Corrieceavie 3 Jul.

REDSHANK: 2 Prs in breeding territory, courtship display, anxiety calls, Corrieceavie 25 and 29 May, 8 Jun, 3 Jul; 1 Machriewaterfoot 20 May poss breeding Machrie moor. Very few summer; small numbers winter; 13 Lamdash 14 Mar.

GREENSHANK: Singles Lamdash 10 Sep-3 Oct (A.M./M.H.D./M.S), Blackwaterfoot 3 Sep (C.A./G.A.).

COMMON SANDPIPER: Arrival: pr Carlo, 1 Rubha Salach 16 Apr; 39+ prs; sample 6 territories Merkland to Carlo 9 June; pr Dougrie 3 young 4 June. Last 1 Lochranza 24 Aug.

TURNSTONE: Summer, 1 Catacol 15 May; Autumn 3 Whiting Bay 15 Aug; 25 Catacol 30 Aug; 12 Blackwaterfoot 11 Sep; 20 Whiting Bay 24 Sep. Winter/Spring; 13 Whiting Bay and 17 Lamblash 13 Feb; 31 Lamblash 4 Mar; 30 Pirmill 20 Apr; 30 Machrie 8 Oct.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: FIRST ARRAN RECORD. 2 Brodick Bay seen at 15ft from small boat 7 Aug (John and Joan Basford); 2 Phalaropes, possibly same pr, surface feeding Wineport Brodick 21 Oct (J.B) 28 Oct in winter plumage, (M.H.D.)

ARCTIC SKUA: Single following boat Brodick/Ardrossan 14 May (A.W). Single Brodick/Ardrossan 3 Sep (M.H.D.).

GREAT SKUA: 2 Attacking Gannet Brodick/Ardrossan crossing 3 Sep; 2 off N Arran Gourock/Brodick crossing 18 Sep (M.H.D); singles →N Drumadoon 29 Apr (I.H); Ardrossan/Brodick 10 Sep (A.M); 17 Sep (D.McE).

LITTLE GULL: 4 Machrie 17 Apr (J.R).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: 38 Whitefarland 22 May possibly breeding; 3 prs, nests Sliderry 25 May. Max counts: 60 Blackwaterfoot 2 Jan; 41 Lamblash 2 Feb; 37 Machrie/Imachar 19 Feb.

COMMON GULL: 40+ Nests Sliderry 25 May; nests Holy Isle and Laggan/Fallen Rocks; 24 with 4 young Kerr's Port 23 Jul probably those from Holy Isle. Max counts: 300 Blackwaterfoot 13 Feb; 200 Clauchlands 3 Mar; 300 Brodick 25 Nov; 370 Lamblash 31 Aug; 200 Blackwaterfoot; 250 Drumadoon 20 Nov. Very common winter.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Arrival 1 Lamblash 13 Feb. Usual large colonies. Many with young Lamblash 16 Aug; 500+ Whiting Bay 8 Jul; steady decrease Sep; last 2 Lochranza 7 Oct.

HERRING GULL: Most common Gull. Large breeding colonies. Max counts: 560 Dougrie 19 Feb; 350 Machrie 20 Mar; 500+ Whiting Bay 8 Jul; 300 Lamblash 31 Aug; 500 Lochranza 17 Sep; 400 Blackwaterfoot 20 Nov; 200 Brodick 25 Nov; 300-400 Whiting Bay 19 Nov, 3 Dec; 200 Cleiteadh 4 Dec.

ICELAND GULL: Adult Brodick 19 May (J.D et al).

GLAUCOUS GULL: 2nd Summer Brodick 21 May (R.S, G & A.S). Imm Machrie 13 Sep (A.M et al).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Usual small colonies and prs round shores beside breeding ducks. Several imm Machrie, Brodick, Whiting Bay, Lamblash; Max counts: 19 Brodick 19 Jan; 10 Lochranza 30 Jan; 16 Brodick 5 Dec.

KITTIWAKE: Autumn arrival from breeding grounds to moult; first 2 Whiting Bay 26 Jul; numbers starting to build with 20 Machrie 21 Aug; 100 Whiting Bay 20 Aug; Max 1000-2000 between Catacol/Lochranza 30 Sep; 700 Whiting Bay 1st-29th Oct.

SANDWICH TERN: Spring passage. First 2 Kildonan 23 Apr; 1 →N Machrie 24 Apr; 2 Brodick 6 May; 1 Whiting Bay 8 May; 2 Dougrie 20 May; 2 Kilbrannan 16 May; Autumn: 2 Clauchlands 16 Aug building to 17 on 31 Aug; parties 2-7 other parts Aug. Sep; last 6 Clauchlands 26 Sep.

COMMON TERN: Arrival. Pr Dougrie 16 May, nest 4 Jul; 4 Machrie/Dougrie 31 Jul; 4 prs Machrie/Catacol with 3 nests May-Jul; 10 Pirmill/Catacol 28 June-4 Jul; Passage: 2 Whiting Bay 8 Aug; last 4 "Comic" →S Kilpatrick 21 Aug.

ARCTIC TERN: Arrival. 3 Machrie 16 May; 24 Machrie 29 May yet only 3 nests; 2 prs, nests Sliderry 25 May, only 1 remaining nest 3 Jul. Success rate minimal.

GUILLEMOT: Many sightings in small numbers round island. Max counts: 10 Kilbrannan 28 Aug; 5 Ardrossan/Brodick 17 Sep; 5 Kingscross Pt 30 Oct (1 Bridled).

RAZORBILL: Single Ardrossan/Brodick 17 Sep.

BLACK GUILLEMOT: Mainly singles and prs throughout year. 5-6 Breeding sites; pr reared 2 young Machrie/Drumadoon. Only 1 Pladda 8 Aug suggests heavy predation.

PUFFIN: 2 Dead 12 Apr; Single Ardrossan/Brodick 4 Jul; 2 on 5 Jul.

ROCK DOVE: 10 Machrie 4 Jul; 1 King's Cave 15 May; 5 Lochranza 24 Sep; 15 Kilpatrick Sep-Oct.

STOCK DOVE: 2 With Ferals, Glen Cloy 29 Nov.

WOOD PIGEON: Many prs in suitable habitat. Max counts: 209 Glen Cloy 16 Feb; 80 Kingscross 21 Feb;

COLLARED DOVE: Sightings all villages and some farms. Max counts: 16 Clauchlands farm 5 June; 12 Brodick 7 Sep; 12 Clauchlands 8 Sep.

FERAL PIGEON: Same numbers bred Lamlash, 50–70. 84 Brodick Country Park 11 Feb; 48 Glen Cloy 16 Feb.

CUCKOO: Arrival Glen Rosa, seen Apr 9; fully grown juv fed by Meadow Pipits Tormore 15 May; adults arrival must have been approx 3–10 Apr; 20+ prs.

BARN OWL: Mostly seen autumn/winter. 7–8 Territories.

TAWNY OWL: Hooting Feb, Sep Lamlash and Brodick. Heard 3 territories.

SHORT-EARED OWL: 1 Corriecravie 24 May; pr Machrie moor 29 May; 1 on 6 June; 1 Imachar 8 June; 2 on 18 June; 1 Boguillie 4 Jul; pr Ross summit 16 Aug; Possible 5 territories.

NIGHTJAR: Arr 25 May Brodick; 8 prs churring Brodick and Kildonan.

SWIFT: Singles Kildonan →W 17 May; Dippen 5 June; Kingscross 5 June and 8 Jul with 2 on 30 Jul; Lamlash 6 Jul; 4 Thunderguy 5 Jul; Max: 12 East Bannan 21 June.

KINGFISHER: Pr Brodick May; single Sliderrywater 10 June.

SKYLARK: 10 Singing Machrie 18 Apr; also singing Kingscross; Kilmory/Shannochie; Boguillie; Machrie Moor; Ross and many parts on high ground. Max 30 Cleiteadh 16 Sep.

SAND MARTIN: Arr 12 Dougrie 21 Apr; 12 holes Dougrie colony June; 8 Machrie pond 1st May; new colony, 12 holes attempted Blackwaterfoot 21 June unsuccessful.

SWALLOW: Arr Whiting Bay 16 Apr. Mainly singles and prs trickling in during April; 12 Machrie pond 1st May; scarce until 19 May when more seen near farms. Numbers slightly down some parts eg. Corriecravie. Max: 100 mixed House Martins Shiskine 2 June. Small parties still here Oct; 25 Dippen Head (mixed H.M) 5 Oct; 6 Lamlash (pr and 4 juvs) 31 Oct; last 2 Lamlash 2 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN: Arr 24 Apr Brodick; more plentiful by 19 May; 5 nests Lagg Hotel 23 May; 100 mixed Swallows Shiskine 2 June; 2 late nests with young Kildonan 11 Sep; 20 mixed Swallows Brodick 20 Sep dwindling to 6 on 6 Oct; last 2 Lamlash 21 Oct, 3 Brodick 27 Oct.

TREE PIPIT: Arr Glen Cloy 6 Apr; 13 singing ♂♂.

MEADOW PIPIT: 100 Glenree 31 Mar and probably same flock Glenree 6 Apr both containing c 5 possible Richard's Pipits seen independently (Ch. Lulham, J. Rhead).

ROCK PIPIT: Many prs with young, round coast; many families Corriecravie 3 Jul.

GREY WAGTAIL: 20+ Prs reared approx 1 young per pr.

PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL: M.a. yarrelli nested many parts, eg. Brodick School and Museum. Max 40 Brodick 18 Sep; 20 Monamore 7 Jul; 16 Blackwaterfoot 13 Feb; 10 Machrie 28 Aug. M.a. alba passage 2 Cleiteadh 18 Apr; 2 Machrie 18 Apr, 12 on 24 Apr; 6 Kildonan 23 Apr; 1 Brodick 4 May.

DIPPER: 7 Prs, but only 2 juvs seen.

WREN: Very common. Sample pr 4 young Pirnmill, pr 4 young Brodick. Found at considerable height singing summit Saddle Glen Rosa.

DUNNOCK: Common. Singing Brodick, Kingscross, Lamlash 31 Mar.

ROBIN: Common and widespread. Sample, young being fed Lagg 7 June.

REDSTART: Arr Rubha Salach 14 Apr heard several times thereafter; ♂ Brodick Country Park 19 Apr; 1 Corriecravie 17 May; 2 juv Càtaol 2 Aug; ♂, 2 ♀ Glen Cloy 6 Jul.

WHINCHAT: Arr String 24 Apr; numbers increased to former 35+ prs. Samples 6 prs between N Newton and heather line S side all in range 250'–500' May; 4 territories Ross; 5 prs bred N Glen Sannox. Last 2 Cleiteadh 16 Sep; 1 Bannan 3 Oct.

STONECHAT: Increase 40 prs at least — many off the beaten track. On territories most year mid Feb–mid Nov, end Nov–mid Feb winters on coast.

WHEATEAR: Arr Glen Rosa 29 Mar. Increase to 50+ prs. Many families reared from the highest Bens over 2,000 ft to the lowest beaches at sea level. Last Whiting Bay 11 Oct.

RING OUZEL: Arr A Chir 29 Apr; 5 territories; Max 4 Coirein Lochain 24 Jul; 3 late sightings, last pr Glen Diomhan 11 Oct.

BLACKBIRD: Common and widespread. Many nests and young. More than usual "piebalds".

FIELDFARE: Few Spring. 20 Brought down by mist Goatfell 26 Apr; most Oct–Dec. 200 Glen Cloy 25 Dec.

SONG THRUSH: Scarce winter. Max 12 Sannox 10 Feb. Common spring/summer. 2 leucistic Lochranza, first one Narachan 21 May, then seen frequently. Found dead 4 Aug, unfortunately disposed of preventing identification as to Thrush/Blackbird; a second albino, after that date seen being fed by S Thrush, last seen 27 Sep.

REDWING: Early return 2 Dougrie 23 Sep; 10 Kingscross 1st Oct; peaked Lochranza late Oct feeding on hawthorn; hundreds Nov Kingscross, Boguille, Glenree; 30 Clauchlands 7 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH: 16+ Prs. Juv Douglas Hotel Brodick 11 May; pr with young Machrie Wood 6 June; pr, young Glenartney Brodick 4 June; pr 1 young Brodick Country Park 14 June; juv G Chalmadale 7 Jul; family Dougrie wood 12 Jul; Max 29 Corrie 17 Sep; 11 Brodick golf course 29 June; 14 Lochranza 28 Oct.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER: Arr 4 May Kingscross; 1 singing lower slopes Goatfell 18 June; 1 Corrie/Sannox 8 Jul.

SEDGE WARBLER: 4 Singing Kildonan/Bennan 8 May; 2 Kingscross 11 May; 3 Torbeg/Machrie with 1 juv 21 Aug; 1 Lochranza 23 May; 1 Corriecravie shore 24 May; 3 Clauchlands, 1 Largybeg, 1 Corrygills. Probably more Blackwater valley. 16+.

WHITETHROAT: Arr 29 Apr Kingscross. 32 Prs is normal. Sample pr 2 young Kingscross 27-30 June.

GARDEN WARBLER: Much less common than Blackcap. 6 Heard. Last 1 ringed Oct Sannox.

BLACKCAP: Arr Monamore 12 May; increase 20+ prs. Many new localities; Max 7-8 singing Brodick Country Park area 18 June, also family seen. Late ones Q Kildonan 11 Sep; Brodick 18 Sep; 11 ringed Sannox during Oct. Winter Q Glen Cloy garden 13 Feb-18 Mar.

WOOD WARBLER: 11 singing 4 May-18 June is high number.

CHIFFCHAFF: Arr 3 Apr Lochranza. Max 12 singing Brodick/Merkland 18 June; late ones Brodick 13-19 Sep; last Whiting Bay 2 Oct (calling).

WILLOW WARBLER: Arr Kingscross 18 Apr. Widespread. Last Lamlash 27 Sep.

GOLDCREST: Singing in forestry and wooded areas. None appear to winter in forestry. 3 Prs Brodick Country Park with 10+ in flock 18 Sep.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER: Arr 12 May Glen Cloy. 30+ Prs with nests and young; 10+ Brodick 18 June; last Lochranza 25 Sep.

PIED FLYCATCHER: Arr Whiting Bay 15 May (M Duncan), Kingscross 16 May (A Dunn), poss same individual on passage; 1 Brodick 15 May. 2 Singing ♂ ♂ but no further sightings.

LONG-TAILED TIT: Many family flocks include pair feeding young Rubha Salach wood 19 May; 10 Lochranza 30 May; probably 4 prs Lochranza, 12 Largybeg 29 May; 11 Pirnmill 28 June; 24 Whiting Bay 2 Jul; 11 Kingscross 10 Nov; 13 N.G. Sannox 27 Nov; 8 Glen Loig 13 Sep; 6 Port Leek 27 Sep.

COAL TIT: Common and widespread. Sample 5 prs and young Brodick Country Park/Merkland 29 June. Max 25 in flock Brodick Country Park 18 Sep.

BLUE TIT: Common and widespread. Sample 2 broods nest stone wall bridge Glen Cloy; nest crevice wooden window frame Brodick 23 May.

GREAT TIT: Common and widespread.

TREE CREEPER: 16+ Prs. No change.

JAY: 1 Monamore 16 May (G.S), 1 Corrie 7 Jul (D.H).

JACKDAW: Flocks 100-500 winter. Max 1000 Blackwater valley and Kilpatrick Dec-Mar. Nested mainly in cliff colonies.

ROOK: 70 Kilmory 4 Dec and 19 Brodick 8-20 Dec probably wintered.

CARRION/HOODED CROW: More "Hoodies" than "Carriions". Many Hybrids.

RAVEN: Usual good numbers. 17 Prs with nests and young.

STARLING: Many bred. 100 Juvs Lochranza 1st June; 200 Kilpatrick 6 June; 50 Dougrie 5 Jul; 90 wintered Kingscross, 70 Shiskine.

HOUSE SPARROW: Small numbers in villages. Max 20 Lamlash 26 Aug; 70 feeding on spilt grain Clauchlands 31 Aug.

CHAFFINCH: Common and widespread. 10 Prs Brodick Country Park. Flocks of 100 Monamore 14 Mar; Cleiteadh 17 Apr; Glenree 20 Nov.

GREENFINCH: 19+ Prs. No change.

GOLDFINCH: 9+ Prs. Several with young. Max 22 Kingscross 31 Aug.

SISKIN: Many prs and families. Increase probably due to afforestation. Max 40 Lochranza 16 Sep. Many groups Sep.

LINNET: 12+ Prs.

TWITE: Scarce. Pr Loch Garbad 7 June Max 6 Cleiteadh 16 Sep; 20 Blackwaterfoot 18 Sep.

REDPOLL: 11+ Prs. Max 100 Kingscross 24 Sep.

CROSSBILL: 6 High Glen Cloy 14 Feb (J.R); pr Lamlash forestry 21 May (A.M); 2 Q Knockankelly forestry 9 Aug (A Davidson); single forestry Brodick/Lamlash (G.S).

BULLFINCH: 13 Prs with probably more in forestry. Some counts: ♂ feeding young Monamore 17 May; 3 Altachorvie wood 30 May; 3 Kingscross 30 June; 5 Lagg 29 May; 4 Brodick 24 May; 6 Lochranza 17 Sep; Max 10 Corrie golf course 18 Sep.

HAWFINCH: FIRST ARRAN RECORD (IC, SC, JR, IH, AM, MHD) ♂ Catacol 28 Jul, found dead next day.

SNOW BUNTING: 3 ♂ 2 ♀ Q summit Caisteal Abhail 28 Apr (TC); 8–10 Staccadh ridge 24 Oct (GS).

YELLOWHAMMER: Not common. 10 Singing in breeding territory; Max 14 Cleiteadh 13 Feb.

REED BUNTING: 14+ Prs. 6 Prs String and Machrie/Torbeg; 3 prs at least N Arran; pr Clauchlands; pr Corriecraive; ♂ Loch Iorsa; pr with 3 juvs Machrie 28 Aug; 2 prs Ross.

CHECK-LIST 1984 — MARGARET H. DUNN

Arranged in various order of classification

STATUS SYMBOLS

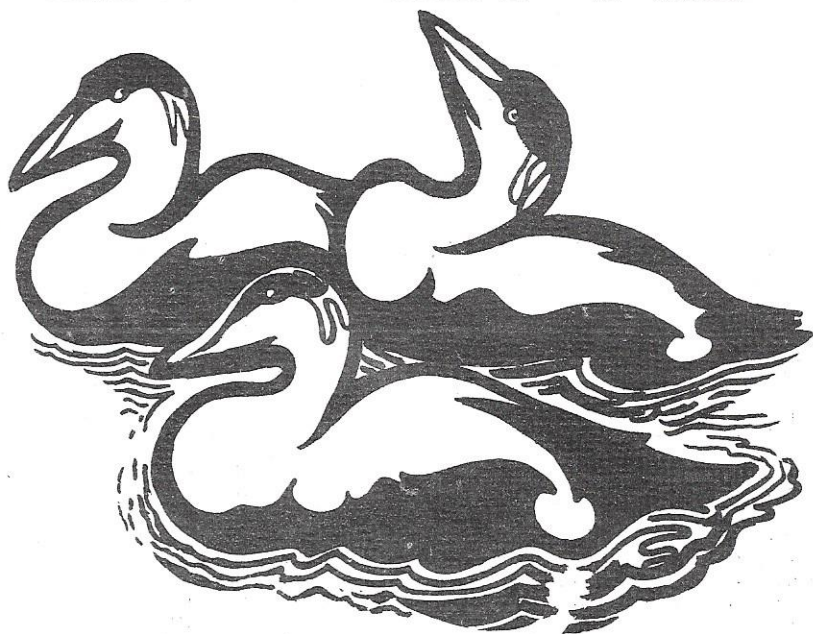
R — Resident (Breeds); R* — Resident (No recent breeding records);
 R** — Resident (No breeding records); S — Summer visitor (Breeds);
 S* — Summer visitor (No recent breeding records); S** — Summer visitor (No breeding records);
 W — Winter visitor; P — Passage migrant; C — Common; U — Uncommon;
 B* — Formerly bred (No recent breeding records); L — Local; O — Occasional;
 V — Vagrant; I — Introduced

Red-throated Diver (Updated) . . . RC
 Black-throated Diver . . . R*/PC
 Great Northern Diver . . . S*/WU/PC
 Little Grebe . . . R*U
 Great Crested Grebe . . . WO
 Red-necked Grebe . . . V
 Slavonian Grebe . . . V
 Black-necked Grebe . . . V
 Fulmar . . . SC/WU
 Sooty Shearwater . . . V
 Manx Shearwater . . . SU/PC
 Storm Petrel . . . PC
 Leach's Petrel . . . V
 Gannet . . . S*/C/WU
 Cormorant . . . RC
 Shag . . . RC
 Bittern . . . V
 Grey Heron . . . RC
 Spoonbill . . . V
 Chilean Flamingo . . . V
 Mute Swan . . . R*C
 Whooper Swan . . . WU/PC
 Pink-footed Goose . . . WO
 White-fronted Goose . . . WU/PC
 Greylag Goose . . . WC/PC
 Canada Goose . . . R*/PO
 Barnacle Goose . . . WO
 Brent Goose . . . V
 Shelduck . . . RC
 Wigeon . . . S* O/WC
 Teal . . . SU/WC
 Mallard . . . RC
 Pintail . . . PO
 Shoveler . . . B*
 Pochard . . . WO
 Tufted Duck . . . WO/PO
 Scaup . . . WO
 Eider . . . RC
 King Eider . . . S*U
 Long-tailed Duck . . . WO
 Scoter . . . SO/WO
 Velvet Scoter . . . WO

Goldeneye . . . WC
 Smew . . . WO
 Red-breasted Merganser . . . RC
 Goosander . . . S*/PO
 Red Kite . . . B*
 White-tailed Eagle . . . B*
 Hen Harrier . . . RC
 Goshawk . . . S**/PO
 Sparrowhawk . . . RC
 Buzzard . . . RC
 Rough-legged Buzzard . . . V
 Golden Eagle . . . RC
 Osprey . . . B*/PO
 Hobby . . . V
 Kestrel . . . RC
 Red-footed Falcon . . . V
 Merlin . . . RU
 Peregrine . . . RC
 Red Grouse . . . RC
 Ptarmigan . . . RU
 Black Grouse . . . RU
 Capercaillie . . . B*
 Red-legged Partridge . . . I
 Grey Partridge . . . R*U
 Quail . . . B*/V
 Pheasant . . . RC
 Lady Amherst's Pheasant . . . V
 Water Rail . . . RU
 Spotted Crake . . . V
 Corncrake . . . S*U
 Moorhen . . . RU
 Coot . . . WO
 Oystercatcher . . . RC
 Ringed Plover . . . RC
 Dotterel . . . V
 Golden Plover . . . SU/WC
 Grey Plover . . . PU
 Lapwing . . . RC
 Knot . . . PU
 Sanderling . . . PU
 Curlew Sandpiper . . . V
 Purple Sandpiper . . . WU

Little Stint.....	V	Pied Wagtail.....	RC
Dunlin.....	SL/WU/PU	Waxwing.....	WO
Jack Snipe.....	WO	Dipper.....	RC
Snipe.....	RC	Wren.....	RC
Woodcock.....	RC	Duncock.....	RC
Black-tailed Godwit.....	V	Robin.....	RC
Bar-tailed Godwit.....	WO/PU	Black Redstart.....	WO/PO
Whimbrel.....	PU	Redstart.....	SU
Curlew.....	RC	Whinchat.....	SC
Spotted Redshank.....	PO	Stonechat.....	SC/WU
Redshank.....	RC	Wheatear.....	SC/PC
Greenshank.....	WU/PU	Ring Ouzel.....	SU
Green Sandpiper.....	V	Blackbird.....	RC
Common Sandpiper.....	SC	Fieldfare.....	WC/PC
Turnstone.....	S**U/WC/PC	Song Thrush.....	RC
Grey Phalarope.....	V	Redwing.....	WC/PC
Red-necked Phalarope.....	V	Mistle Thrush.....	RC
Pomarine Skua.....	V	Grasshopper Warbler.....	SL
Arctic Skua.....	S**U/PC	Sedge Warbler.....	SC
Great Skua.....	S**U/PU	Lesser Whitethroat.....	V
Little Gull.....	PO	Whitethroat.....	SC
Sabine's Gull.....	V	Garden Warbler.....	SL
Black-headed Gull.....	RC	Blackcap.....	SC/WU
Common Gull.....	RC	Wood Warbler.....	SL
Lesser Black-backed Gull.....	SC/WU	Chiffchaff.....	SC/PC
Herring Gull.....	RC	Willow Warbler.....	SC/PC
Glaucous Gull.....	O	Goldcrest.....	RC
Iceland Gull.....	O	Spotted Flycatcher.....	SC
Great Black-backed Gull.....	RC	Pied Flycatcher.....	S**U
Kittiwake.....	B*SU/WC/PC	Long-tailed Tit.....	RC
Ivory Gull.....	V	Willow Tit.....	O
Sandwich Tern.....	S**U/PC	Coal Tit.....	RC
Roseate Tern.....	B*O	Blue Tit.....	RC
Common Tern.....	SL/PC	Great Tit.....	RC
Arctic Tern.....	SL/PC	Treecreeper.....	RC
Little Tern.....	V	Golden Oriole.....	V
Guillemot.....	R**C	Red-backed Shrike.....	V
Razorbill.....	R**C	Great Grey Shrike.....	V
Black Guillemot.....	RC	Jay.....	B*/PO
Little Auk.....	V	Magpie.....	B*/PO
Puffin.....	PU	Chough.....	B*
Pallas's Sandgrouse.....	V	Jackdaw.....	RC
Rock Dove.....	RC	Rook.....	B*/WU
Stock Dove.....	RU	Carriion Crow.....	RC
Woodpigeon.....	RC	Hooded Crow.....	RC
Collared Dove.....	RC	Raven.....	RC
Turtle Dove.....	V	Starling.....	RC
Cuckoo.....	SC	House Sparrow.....	RC
Barn Owl.....	RC	Tree Sparrow.....	B*
Tawny Owl.....	RC	Chaffinch.....	RC
Long-eared Owl.....	RU	Brambling.....	WU
Shirt-eared Owl.....	RC	Greenfinch.....	RC
Nightjar.....	SC	Goldfinch.....	RC
Swift.....	S*U/PC	Siskin.....	RC
Kingfisher.....	R*U	Linnet.....	RC
Hoopoe.....	V	Twite.....	R*/PU
Great Spotted Woodpecker.....	R*O	Redpoll.....	SL/WU/PU
Skylark.....	RC	Crossbill.....	RU
Sand Martin.....	SL	Bullfinch.....	RC
Swallow.....	SC	Hawfinch.....	V
House Martin.....	SC	Snow Bunting.....	WU
Tree Pipit.....	SC	Yellowhammer.....	RL
Meadow Pipit.....	RC	Reed Bunting.....	RC
Rock Pipit.....	RC	Corn Bunting.....	B*
Yellow Wagtail.....	B*	Red-headed Bunting	
Grey Wagtail.....	RC	(probably escaped).....	PO
White Wagtail.....	B*/PC		

EIDERS



**and other Arran
birds in porcelain
by Alasdair Dunn**

STUDIO 4
LAMLASH