

The Arran Naturalist

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what's happened?

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to wildlife spotting

bird checklist

reports

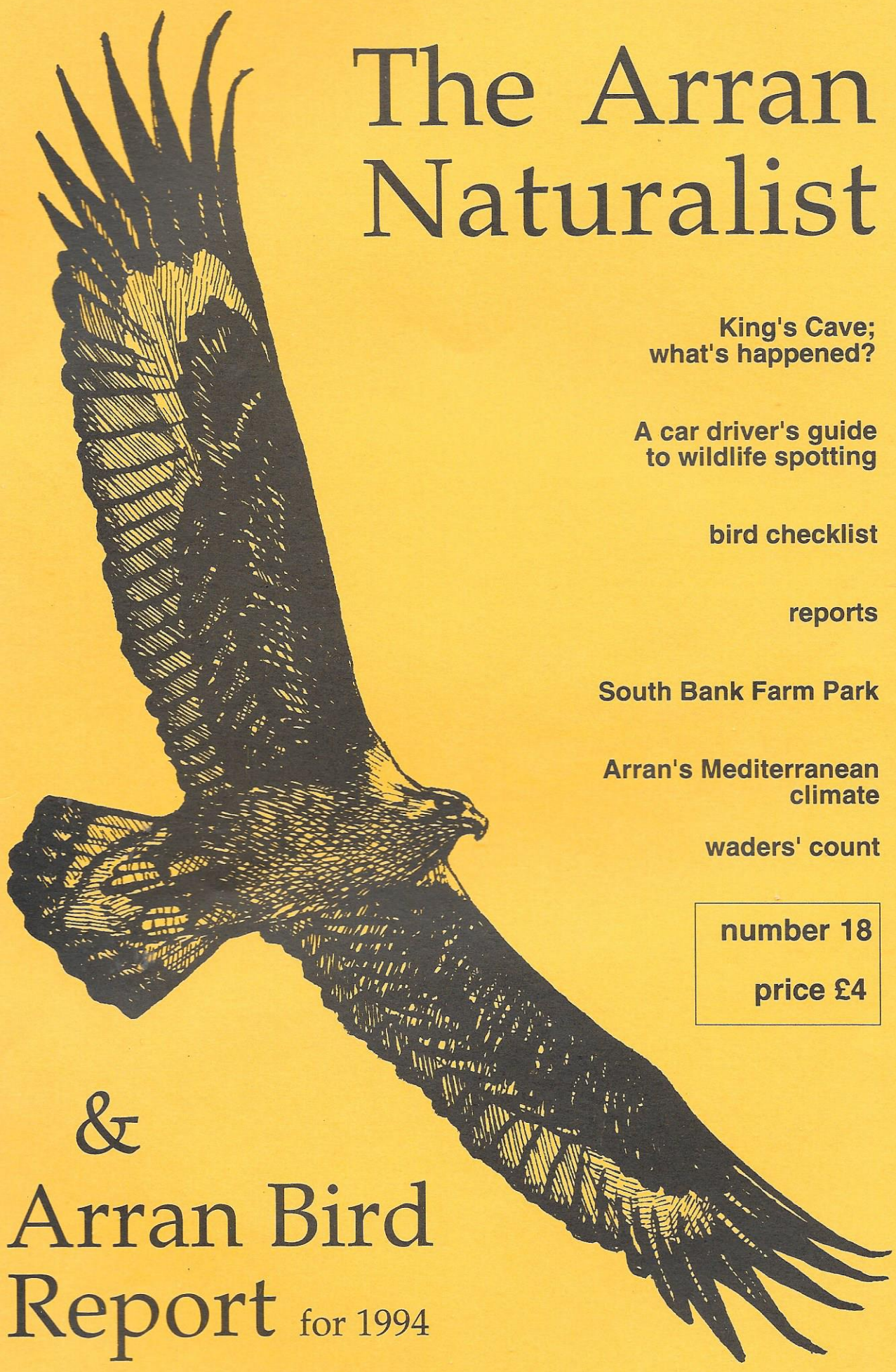
South Bank Farm Park

Arran's Mediterranean
climate

waders' count

number 18

price £4



&
Arran Bird
Report for 1994



ARRAN BIRD REPORT 1994

Edited and Compiled
by
Audrey Walters
for
Isle of Arran
Natural History Society
1995

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INTRODUCTION

This is my second year of producing the Bird Report, so at least I feel a little bit more confident about the task. I also now have a car which has meant that I have been able to travel further afield to check out areas for myself, even if I didn't manage to locate any rare birds. In fact there were very few rarities reported this year. One family reported seeing two Marsh Harriers flying down the west coast in August, but after consultation with several people familiar with these harriers, I have regretfully had to discount the sighting. The usual singles of rarer species for Arran turned up - Slavonian Grebe, White-fronted Goose, Brent Goose, Pintail, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Smew, Ptarmigan, Water Rail, Grey Plover, Spotted Redshank, Sabine Gull, Iceland Gull, Puffin, Black Redstart and Ring Ouzel. Other species which have been recorded in recent years were absent - Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Goshawk, Osprey, Corncrake, Jack Snipe, Waxwing, Redstart and Brambling. Of these, the Osprey was the most surprising as there were three sightings last year and there was every expectation that at least one would turn up this year.

Some bird populations have reached very low levels, alarmingly so in the case of Ptarmigan and Nightjar. Only one of each species was recorded. In the case of the Ptarmigan, populations fluctuate naturally over a number of years, but the Nightjars have steadily declined despite efforts made by the staff of the National Trust for Scotland and Forest Enterprise to create suitable habitat for them. An ongoing scheme to create new paths and lochans by Forest Enterprise is now paying off, and the King's Cave walk in particular has become so popular with bird watchers that it is difficult to find parking space during the summer months. The rangers have also put up more Barn Owl nesting boxes, contributing to the success of this species on Arran.

Finally, very many thanks to everyone who contributed to the report, especially those who sent in information about our commoner birds which tend to be overlooked. One observer gave me breeding information about Dunnocks for instance, as well as noting a male House Sparrow dangling a female sparrow by her wing tip over the guttering of a house in Corrie! If you send in notes, please try to give some indication of numbers - the expressions "a few", "lots", or "hundreds" are too vague. I do appreciate the difficulties of counting a large flock of birds, but in such a case 100+ or 200-300 would help. Again I would urge visitors to be aware of the status of certain species on the Arran Checklist. The classic example is the Magpie which although so common on the mainland is hardly ever seen here, to many visitor's astonishment! Beware too of hybrid ducks and geese. Many people here keep domestic ducks and geese which occasionally interbreed with their wild counterparts, producing a host of very oddly marked wildfowl which you will not find in your bird book!

Please send information for the 1995 Bird Report to: Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaeglish, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LE (tel. (01770) 600 406)

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser Black-backed Gull 16 Jan	Whinchat 28 Apr
Willow Warbler 20 Mar	Grasshopper Warbler 30 Apr
Chiffchaff 20 Mar	Wood Warbler 1 May
Wheatear 28 Mar	Whitethroat 3 May
Swallow 29 Mar	Manx Shearwater 3 May
House Martin 1 Apr	Sedge Warbler 8 May
Sand Martin 12 Apr	Common Tern 12 May
Common Sandpiper 15 Apr	Tree Pipit 23 May
Cuckoo 22 Apr	Nightjar 23 May
Sandwich Tern 23 Apr	Garden Warbler 24 May
White Wagtail 24 Apr	Swift 24 Jun
Arctic Tern 25 Apr	

(NB Whimbrel and Blackcap recorded in winter)



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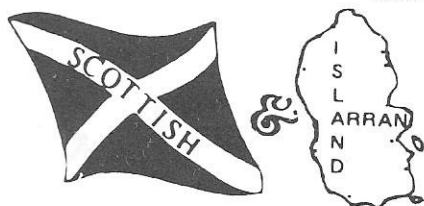
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CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

JANUARY - MARCH

A cold and very wet start to the year, with only two completely dry days in **JANUARY**. The Fieldfares and Redwings present from last year continued to feed in fields and hedgerows, and a mixed flock of 57 were recorded near Kilmory on the 1st. A flock of 10 Redwings was in Glen Cloy on the 2nd, and on the same date a Great Northern Diver was seen off Catacol. More pairs of Shelduck joined those already here and took up their usual territories at Kildonan and Carlo. A Red-throated Diver was at Lamlash on the 7th. On the 15th a male Merlin perched in a tree at Kilmory for almost an hour, the first of several sightings in that area. A pair of Mute Swans paid a visit to Lamlash on the 21st, accompanied by three hybrid geese, while another pair with three fully grown cygnets visited on the 29th.

Easterly and south easterly winds blew strongly for most of **FEBRUARY** with snowfalls on the 25th and 26th. A single Goldfinch in a garden at Margnaheglis was a pleasant surprise on the 1st, with a second one at Clauchlands on the 13th. A large group of Grey Herons, eight in all, flew west over Brodict Bay on the 3rd. The first returning Gannets were seen off King's Cave on the 12th, while on the same date there was a Black-throated Diver and a Great Northern Diver off Dougare. Three pairs of Fulmars were back on their ledges at Drumadoon Point on the 20th. Unusually, a male twite was feeding at Kerr's Port on the 24th, its pink rump clearly visible.

Precipitation of rain, sleet, snow and hail made **MARCH** the wettest for 10 years. A single Little Grebe was at Lochranza on the 6th, while up to six continued to overwinter at Cordon. A Greenshank on passage was noted at Whiting Bay on the 13th, and a Great Skua at Sannox picnic site on the 17th. The first Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers arrived on the 20th at Whiting Bay and Dippen respectively. A Tree Sparrow turned up at Pirmill on the 24th, the first record for this area. The next migrants to arrive were two pairs of Wheatears at Dougare and Pirmill on the 28th, an early Swallow at Glen Cloy on the 29th, and two House Martins over Brodict Golf Course on the 30th, following days of very strong SW winds.

APRIL - JUNE

The first fortnight of **APRIL** continued cold and wet, but was followed by a week of glorious spring sunshine, with the final week colder but still dry. This was the best month for Great Northern Divers, seven sightings in all round the coast in the first fortnight. Four White-fronted Geese and a Barnacle Goose were seen with Greylags at Shiskine on the 6th. Best sighting of the month was a first winter Iceland Gull seen on the 9th at Brodict, the first report since 1984. 11 Golden Plover were at Machrie and a late Purple Sandpiper at Drumadoon Point on the 10th. A rare male Scaup was at Kildonan on the 11th, and on the following day more spring migrants started to arrive, with a Sand Martin at Brodict, Common Sandpiper at Corriegills Point on the 15th, Cuckoo at Lochranza on the 22nd, Spotted Flycatcher at Butt on the 23rd, White Wagtail at Kildonan on the 24th and Sandwich Tern and Arctic Tern at Blackwaterfoot on the 25th. A Grey Plover on passage was at Machrie on the 27th, the only record of the year. Last of the April migrants to arrive was a Grasshopper Warbler at Porta Leacach on the 30th. A Ptarmigan was on the summit of Goatfell on the 30th, the only record of the year.

A very dry and sunny **MAY**, although the cool easterly breezes prevailing during the second half of the month kept temperatures down. The final batch of summer migrants duly arrived, with Wood Warbler at Lagg on the 1st, Manx Shearwater at Machrie on the 3rd, Common Whitethroat at Strabane also on the 3rd and Sedge Warbler at Porta Leacach

on the 6th. Arriving later were Tree Pipit at Brown Head and Nightjar at Merkland Wood on the 23rd and a Garden Warbler at Margnaheglish on the 24th. Final migrants for the month were a pair of Ring Ouzels at Coire Daingean on the 30th.

Other noteworthy sightings included a scarce Tawny Owl perched on Brodick Castle flagpole on the 8th, five Redpolls on Machrie Moor on the 10th, a pair of Hen Harriers delighting more than one observer with their sky dancing at Knowe Farm on the 21-22nd, and a Woodcock sitting in the middle of the String road on the 29th, apparently in no hurry to move out of the way of a car! Good news too of the Mute Swans present all year at the Fish Farm when they were discovered to be nesting for the first time, but although the pen incubated no young were seen. By the end of the month the southern pair of Golden Eagles had a fully fledged youngster, but the northern pair again failed to breed.

Chilly for JUNE as they say, with only a few really warm days and a lot of cool wet ones. A quiet month as most birds got on with the task of feeding their insatiable youngsters. Barn Owls continued to do well here, helped by the provision of nest boxes put up by the National Trust for Scotland and Forest Enterprise rangers. The young were all ringed, but there was a low survival rate. A pair of Crossbills with four young were seen in Lagg Wood on the 6th. A pair of Sand Martins bred at Auchencar, but had better success at Whitefarland where at least two nest holes were occupied by the 12th. The only Goosander of the year was off Sannox on the 19th, and a maximum of six Swifts were noted at Porta Leacach on the 24th.

JULY - SEPTEMBER

JULY made up for a poor June with little rainfall and plenty of sunshine. Important news came from Dougarric where Arctic Terns had returned to their former breeding site, and a pair were seen feeding their fully fledged chick on the 13th. There was no news though of the colony on Pladda. Having lost all their young for the past two years, the Shelducks at Clauchlands failed to breed for the first time in ten years and were gone by the end of July. The usual scarce waders turned up, with three Knot at Drumadoon Point on the 26th and a Bar-tailed Godwit at Whitefarland on the 27th. After a successful breeding season, an adult Red-throated Diver was seen feeding sand eels to a youngster off the Craw on the 29th.

Despite nine days rain, good weather prevailed for most of **AUGUST**. Skuas are often seen on ferry crossings at this time of the year, and two Arctic Skuas were noted, one on the 2nd and a pale phase (possible Pomarine) on the 12th. A rare Puffin was recorded, again on a ferry crossing on the 9th. Two Greenshanks turned up, one between Slidderlywaterfoot and the Cleat on the 11th, and one at Largiemore on the 19th. A juvenile Cuckoo was being fed by Meadow Pipits on the Ross road on the 12th. Machrie Pond proved its worth as one of the best birdwatching areas on Arran with a rare Pintail on the 14th, and an equally rare Moorhen sneaking into the overhanging undergrowth on the 24th. Nine Golden Plovers and six juvenile Dunlins were at Slidderly on the 23rd, while on the same day a large group of 13 Sandwich Terns including immatures was at Whiting Bay. Last sighting of the month was a single Swift at Machrie on the 31st.

SEPTEMBER was the start of a prolonged spell of fine autumn weather. One of our rarest waders, a Spotted Redshank turned up at the south end of Whiting Bay on the 7th, while four Bullfinches were seen at Whitefarland. More waders on passage appeared, with an adult Knot in winter plumage at Whiting Bay on the 10th, a juvenile at Drumadoon Point on the 11th, and another adult at Cordon on the 14th. A Bar-tailed Godwit seen at Drumadoon Point on the 10th stayed for over a week. Returning winter wildfowl arrived earlier than usual with 25 Teal on the Corriecravie shore on the 9th, three Wigeon at the Cleat on the 11th, and the first groups of Greylag Geese over Dippen Head on the 15th. Also on the 15th, a large group of c60 Linnets mixed

with c30 Siskins made a colourful sight as they fed on thistleheads at the Cleat. The 24th was a good day for rarities, with a Slavonian Grebe in winter plumage at Blackwaterfoot and a female Tufted Duck at Port-na-Lochan. A day later, a single Brent Goose was seen at Whiting Bay.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

The good weather continued into **OCTOBER**, but the second fortnight was much colder and wetter. 85 Pied Wagtails gathered to feed on shore at Kildonan on the 7th, while the last Wheatear of the year was noted at Blackwaterfoot on the 9th. 2 female Smews off Drumadoon Point was the highlight of the year, being the first sighting for more than 12 years. A huge landfall of Fieldfares and Redwings reached its peak between the 14th and 20th, one flock alone being estimated at more than 2000 and covering several large fields at Kildonan. Many were seen later heading out towards Ayrshire. The first returning Goldeneye was back at Machriewaterfoot on the 23rd, while three uncommon Common Scoters were seen off Kildonan on the 25th. Whooper Swans too were on the move with two between Brodick and Corrie, five flying north over Shiskine on the 26th, and four overflying Clauchlands on the 29th. The one surprise of the month was the non appearance of any Ospreys, given that three were recorded last year.

The mildest **NOVEMBER** for 300 years, taking the overall pattern for the British Isles and although warblers and other summer migrants had gone, there were still plenty of Swallows and House Martins around. The only warbler to stay on is the Blackcap, and a pair were seen in a Kildonan garden, attracted by late plums and honeysuckle berries. Also present till the end of the year was a pair of Moorhens which came regularly to feed in a Brodick garden which backs on to the Cloy burn. Another curiosity was a Song Thrush in full song in Whiting Bay which continued to sing till the end of the year. Other noteworthy sightings were a Kingfisher at Sandbraes burn on the 1st, an astonishing 21 Golden Plovers on late passage resting on the summit of Bheinn Bharrain on the 5th, a party of 13 Long-tailed Tits at Margnaheglish on the 17th, and six Twite at Blackwaterfoot on the 28th.

The mild weather continued into **DECEMBER** with only a few days of severe winter weather in the latter half of the month. This led to the extraordinarily late departure of Swallows and House Martins - the last House Martin was seen at Brodick on the 3rd, and the last Swallow at Lamlash on the 5th, the latest dates ever recorded! Normally a quiet month, there were a few surprises. A large group of Black-throated Divers, 18 in all, were off Drumadoon Point on the 4th, while on the same date three Great Northern Divers were at Blackwaterfoot. A second group of Common Scoters, 12 this time including females and juveniles, was seen at Largiemore on the 4-5th. A scarce Water Rail was spotted at Lagg on the 12th. A male Black Redstart appeared in the same garden at Blackwaterfoot on the 12th where a female was seen last year. Finally a rare Sabine Gull was noticed in a group of gulls at Brodick on the 31st, a noteworthy sighting to bring 1994 to a close.

ABBREVIATIONS

sp/spp - species	N,S,E,W, - direction of flight
no/nos - number(s)	Jan etc - all months abbreviated
m - male	inc - including
f - female	pr - pair
yng - young	yr - year
juv - juvenile	hr - hour
imm - immature	nr - near
max - maximum	fm - farm
terr - territory	BCP - Brodick Country Park

Initials of observer(s) are generally limited to species with 2 or fewer records during the year.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver

Breeding: prs present at 6 lochans, eggs laid at 4. Well grown yng at 2 sites, 3 chicks successfully reared.

Singles and prs seen at Lamblash, Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot, Drumadoon, Imachar, Whitefarland, Pirmill, Catacol, and Fallen Rocks all yr round, with the majority of sightings at Machrie and Dougarie. Max 6 juvs off Kings Cave on 8 Jul.

Black-throated Diver

Singles and prs seen at the same locations as above all yr with the exception of Jan and Oct, with a max 18 off Drumadoon on 4 Dec.

Great Northern Diver

Again, singles and prs seen at the same locations as above every month except Jan and Oct, with a max 3 Blackwaterfoot 10 Apr and 4 Dec, and 3 Machrie 26 May.

Little Grebe

c5 overwintered at Cordon and 1 at Lochranza as usual till Mar. 1 returned to Lochranza 30 Sep, a second was seen on 20 Oct. 3 returned to Cordon 17 Oct. More unusual was 1 Porta Leacach 12 Oct.

Slavonian Grebe

Single in winter plumage Kilpatrick and later Blackwaterfoot 24 Sep (JC).

Fulmar

Breeding: of a total of 12 occupied nest sites, 4 yng were noted at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 28 Jul (1 dead on nest 2 Aug), 1 yng at Torrylinn and 2 Drumadoon 12 Aug. No yng seen at Dippen.

Max 30 prs Drumadoon 19 Apr. 1 found dead at Drumadoon on 25 Dec 1994 had been ringed on Arran.

Manx Shearwater

First 1 Machrie 3 May; most sightings were from ferry crossings with max 200+ Brodick/Ardrossan 4 Jun. Last 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 25 Sep.

Gannet

First 1 King's Cave 12 Feb; max 100+ Slidderywaterfoot 1 May; juv found with broken femur on Cordon shore in Oct failed to survive. Last 5 Machrie 9 Oct.

Cormorant

Present all yr round the coast, with max 14 Clauchlands Pt 7 Nov.

Shag

Breeding: bred Holy Isle, but success unknown

1 dead on shore Sandbraes 25 Apr; max 32 Clauchlands Pt 7 Nov.

Grey Heron

Breeding: nest at King's Cross 23 May; nest with 2 yng Lagg 17 Jul; also nested White House grounds and Merkland but success unknown.

Max 8 flying W over Brodick Bay 3 Feb; 1 flying Dougarie/Carradale 12 Jun; singles reported from Glenshurraig, Corrie, Whitefarland, Cosyden, Carlo, Whiting Bay, Sannox, Cleat, Machrie and Lochranza.

Mute Swan

Breeding; pr nested between Kings Cross and Cordon, but although the pen incubated, no yng were seen.

Increase in sightings with a pr with 3 imms present Lamblash Jan-May, 3 Brodick, 3 Lamblash and 5 Whiting Bay 15 May, 1 Carlo 13 Jul, 3 Brodick 6 Sep, 3 Lochranza Sep-Oct, 5 Sannox 12 Oct, 3 Pirmill 26 Oct and a max 7 Whiting Bay 30 Oct.

Whooper Swan

Increase in sightings with 2 Brodick/Corrie 26 Oct, 5 flying N Shiskine 26 Oct, 4 overflying Clauchlands 29 Oct, 3 Mossend 17 Nov, 5 flying E from Kildonan 27 Nov and 2 Sliddery 27 Dec. Max 17 overflying BCP early Nov. Pr with 1 juv Clauchlands and an imm Kerr's Port 26-27 Dec was unusual.

White-fronted Goose

4 with greylags Shiskine 6 Apr, including 1 ringed and neck-banded (TM).

Greylag Goose

Usual flock overwintered in the Shiskine valley, rising to c300 6 Apr; 90 Shiskine 15 Apr included 1 with yellow dyed tail and leg ring. 3 groups of 60+, 3 and 20 flying N from Dippen Head 15 Sep; returning 22 Shiskine 12 Oct, rising to 230 Kilmory 27 Dec. Single Clauchlands Pt 20 Jan and 10 Clauchlands 2 Dec was unusual.

Barnacle Goose

1 with greylags Shiskine 6 Apr (TM); 1 adult + 1 juv Cordon 19 Aug (MMcG)

Brent Goose

1 Whiting Bay 25 Sep (JC)

Shelduck

Breeding: pr with yng King's Cave 28 May; pr with 5 yng Slidderywaterfoot 4 Jun; pr with 8 yng Carlo and pr with 4 yng Whitefarland 12 Jun; pr with 15 juvs Merkland Pt 11 Jul; failed to breed at Clauchlands for first time in 10 yrs.

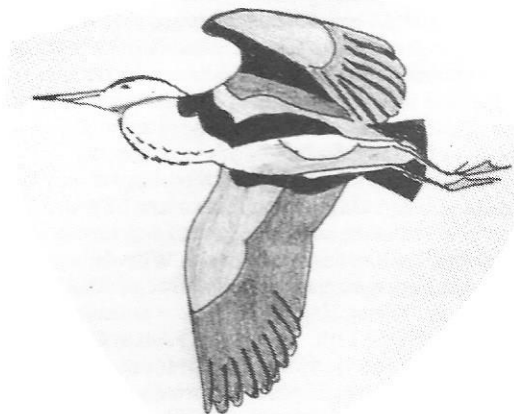
Prs recorded at Kildonan, Clauchlands, King's Cave, Blackwaterfoot, Machriewaterfoot, Brodick, Whitefarland, Cleat, Catacol, Kilpatrick, Largiemore, Pirmill, Imachar and Whiting Bay. Last 1 Imachar 19 Sep; 1 late (or early) Clauchlands 20-23 Oct; return 1 Clauchlands 3 Dec.

Wigeon

Recorded during winter months at Clauchlands, Blackwaterfoot, Cordon, Machrie, Kildonan, Sliddery and Cleat. From a peak of 145 at Machrie in 1988, nos have fallen to max 58 on 24 Nov. Similarly at Clauchlands where there were 55 in 1988 to max 38 on 13 Feb. Return 3 Cleat 11 Sep (early).

Teal

No breeding records. Reported during winter months from Blackwaterfoot, Porta Leacach and Machriewaterfoot, with max 29 Machrie 13 Oct. 3 summer records with 2 Cleat 23 Jul, 1 Imachar and 1 Machrie 9 Aug. Single Cordon 1 Dec and Clauchlands (probably same bird) is first record for this area since 1981.



Mallard

Breeding: female + 3 yng Cloy burn 20 May; c5 yng Lochan Ime May; female + 2 yng Machrie Pond 12 Jun; female + 11 yng Clauchlands 13 Jun; 11 inc yng Corrie and 9 inc yng Catacol 10 Jul; adult with 5 yng Dougurie 13 Jul; 7 inc female with 3 yng Brodick 9 Aug.

Common round the coast with max c280 King's Cave 16 Jan. Single female Loch Nuis 12 Oct was the only inland record.

Pintail

1 Machrie Pond 14 Aug (CT) is 4th record since 1984.

Tufted Duck

1 female Port-na-Lochan 24-26 Sep (JC)

Scaup

1 male Kildonan 11 Apr (JM)

Eider

Breeding: pr + 6 yng King's Cross 24 May; 2 females + 4 yng Clauchlands 30 May; 3 females + 7 yng Clauchlands 6 Jun; female + 3 yng Porta Leacach 2 Jul (earlier brood predated by Great Black-backed Gulls); 4 females with 4 well grown yng, 1 female with 3 newly hatched yng Cordon 4 Jul.

Common round the coast all yr, with autumn flocks building to max c400 Pirmill 24-28 Oct.

Common Scoter

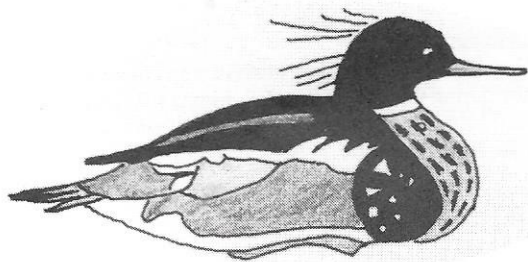
3 off Kildonan 25 Oct; 12 inc females and juvs Largiemore 4-5 Dec.

Goldeneye

Common round coast during winter months with max 5 males 7 females Imachar 14 Feb; last 1 imm Kerr's Port 21 Apr; return 1 female Machriewaterfoot 23 Oct.

Smew

2 females Drumadoon Pt 15 Oct (JD) is first record for more than 13 yrs.



Red-breasted Merganser

Breeding: pr + 6 yng Whiting Bay 23 Jun; female + 7 newly hatched yng Cordon 1 Jul; female + 3 yng Machrie 14 Jul; female + 8 yng Brodick 26 Jul; female + 7 juvs Largiemore 8 Aug.

Common round coast with max 58 Pirmill 27 Jul.

Goosander

1 male Sannox 19 Jun; male Merkland Pt 4 Jul (possibly same bird).

Hen Harrier

Bred successfully in more than one location. Singles seen at Blackwaterfoot, Glen Rosa, Machrie Moor, BCP, Slidery, Dippen, Kilpatrick, Ross and String roads, Lochranza, Glen Iorsa, Clauchan Glen, Torbeg and Boguille; pr sky dancing nr Knowe Fm 21 May.

Sparrowhawk

Bred, but success unknown. Singles reported from Torbeg, Clauchlands, Bailemargaidh, Cordon, BCP, Whitefarland, Shiskine, Lochranza, Ross road, King's Cross, Largiemore, Kildonan, Corriecravie, Brodick, Whiting Bay and Pirmill. Female caught and ringed Slidery 21 Aug.

Buzzard

Bred Ross road but success unknown. Singles reported from Lakin Fm, Clauchlands, Torr Righ, King's Cross, Glen Shurraig, String road, Glen Iorsa, Machrie Moor, Kilmory, W Bennan, Sannox, BCP, Thunderguy, Machriewaterfoot, Cleat, Lagg, Dougurie, Laggan and Benlister. Max 5 Glenree Fm 14 Aug and 5 High Corrie 14 Oct.

Golden Eagle

Breeding: northern pr failed to breed, southern pr fledged 1 yng.

1 adult 2 imms W of Beinn Nuis summit (adult displaying to 4th unidentified bird) 13 Apr. 1 Kilpatrick 28 Aug was unusual.

Kestrel

Breeding: pr bred at Dougurie, but success unknown.

Singles seen at Lakin Fm, Machrie, Glen Chalmadale, Shiskine, Ross and String roads, Glen Rosa, Clauchlands, Laggan, Machrie Fm, Boguille, Cock of Arran, Kilpatrick, Torr Beag, Whiting Bay, Cleat, Imachar and King's Cross, with max 4 Ross road 11 Sep.

Merlin

Increased sightings, with singles reported from Kilmory, Corriecravie, Boguille, Machriewaterfoot and Kildonan, and a pr displaying Glen Catacol 15 Jul.

Peregrine

Bred successfully at more than one location. Singles reported at Merkland Wood, Dunfion, Ard nan Ron, Fallen Rocks, King's Cave, String road, Bailemargaidh, Corriecravie, BCP, North Glen Sannox, Lochranza and Whiting Bay. Prs seen at Glenshant and Brown Head, with max 3 Glen Catacol 29 Jul. Female found coated with fulmar oil in October was successfully treated and released.

Red Grouse

Few records received which probably do not reflect the true status of the population.

Ptarmigan

Poor yr, with 1 Goatfell summit 30 Apr (RP) the only record.

Red-legged Partridge (Chukar)

Many released birds, with max 21 Auchencar 6 Nov.

Pheasant

Breeding: nest with 11 eggs Lamlash Golf Course 22 May. Again, many released birds with max 3 males 33 females Machrie 10 Mar.

Water Rail

1 Kilmory 12 Dec (DMacQ) was only record.

Moorhen

Increased sightings with 1 Machrie Pond 24 Aug and again 10 Sep; juv found dead on farm road at W Bennan 23 Oct; pr came to feed regularly in a Brodick garden backing onto the Cloy burn Oct-Dec.

Oystercatcher

Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Kilpatrick 1 May; 6 prs nested Machrie/Dougurie, 1 nest with 3 eggs; 3 prs nested Cleat 24 May; nest with 2 eggs Kerr's Port 25 May; nest with 4 eggs Kilpatrick and nest with 2 eggs Imachar 28 May; adult + 2

yng Blackwaterfoot 31 May; 1 yng in nest Imachar, 1 well grown yng Dougarie 4 Jun; nest with 2 eggs Machrie Golf Course 7 Jun; 3 well grown yng Machrie, nest with 3 eggs Slidderlywaterfoot, and 2 well grown yng Dougarie 18 Jun; adult incubating eggs Kildonan, pr + 2 yng King's Cave 11 Jul.

Very common round the coast, with max c132 Machriewaterfoot 1 Apr.

Ringed Plover

Breeding: min 1 pr nested Cleat 24 May; nest with 3 eggs Clauchlands 25; 3 yng subsequently seen with parent birds 7 Jun; 1 yng Slidderlywaterfoot 18 Jun; 2 yng Brodick 26 Jul; 57 inc many juvs Blackwaterfoot 13 Aug; pr + 1 juv Whitefarland 29 Aug;

Common round the coast with max c100 Blackwaterfoot 20 Oct.

Golden Plover

No breeding records, but a good yr with 11 Machrie 10 Apr, 2 Machrie 27 Apr; 2 prs Ard Bheinn Jul; 1 Torr Righ 17 Aug; 9 Slidderly 23 Aug; 4 Machrie 5 Sep; 16 Machriewaterfoot 26 Sep; 2 Machriewaterfoot 30 Sep; max 21 on late passage Beinn Bharrair summit 5 Nov.

Grey Plover

1 Machrie 27 Apr (AJ) was only record.

Lapwing

Breeding: pr + 1 yng Drumhinier 27 May; probably bred Kilbride Hill.

All sightings came from the S/SW coast between E Bennan and Machrie with the exception of 10 Glen Rosa 12 Jul and c100 overflying Brodick 16 Nov.

Knot

3 in summer plumage Drumadoon Pt 26 Jul; juv Drumadoon Pt 11 Sep; 1 in winter plumage Whiting Bay 10 Sep; 1 Cordon 14 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper

Still low nos, all sightings from the same location; 1 Drumadoon Pt 10 Apr; 3 Drumadoon Pt 9 Oct; 1 Drumadoon Pt 11 Nov.

Dunlin

Small nos reported from between Torrylinnwaterfoot and Machrie with max 29 Drumadoon Pt 26 Jul.

Snipe

No breeding records. Poor yr, with singles only reported from BCP, Slidderly and Blackwaterfoot (cf 30 at Clauchlands in 1988).

Woodcock

No breeding records. 1 dead on road nr Glaister 20 Feb; 1 Monamore Forestry 25 Feb; roding Glen Cloy, Lagg, King's Cross and Merkland Wood Apr/Jun; 1 sitting in the middle of String road 29 May!; max 6 flushed King's Cross 20 Aug;

Bar-tailed Godwit

1 Whitefarland 27 Jul; 1 Drumadoon Pt 10-18 Sep; 1 Blackwaterfoot 11 Sep (probably same bird).

Whimbrel

1 first reported in 1990 overwintered again at Whitefarland, last seen 20 Mar; singles reported from Blackwaterfoot 23 Apr, Machrie 27 Apr, Cleat 14 May and 4 Jun, Kilpatrick 22 Jul and Pirmill 16 Sep; 1 back at Whitefarland 21 Oct.

Curlew

Breeding: territories held at Machrie Moor, High Balnacoolie and Dougarie; 1 yng Machrie Moor 16 Jul; 34 inc yng Kilpatrick 22 Jul.

Common in coastal areas with max c70 Cordon 25 Aug and 70 Machrie 11 Nov.

Spotted Redshank

1 Whiting Bay 7 Sep (K H-S)

Redshank

No breeding records. Common round coast, but absent during May. Max 32 Whiting Bay 11 Sep.

Greenshank

1 Whiting Bay 13 Mar; 1 Slidderlywaterfoot/Cleat 11 Aug; 1 Largiemore 19 Aug; 1 Slidderly shore 20 Aug.

Common Sandpiper

Breeding: nest Kerr's Port 25 May; nest with 4 eggs successfully hatched Lamlash 29 May; pr + 1 yng Clauchlands 13 Jun; yng Fallen Rocks 18 Jul.

Arrival Corriegills Pt 15 Apr; prs reported from King's Cross, Porta Leacach, Slidderlywaterfoot, Brodick, Corrie, Sannox picnic site; 2 prs Iorsa mouth and Largiemore-Largiebeg. Max 4 Whiting Bay 12 Jun and Corrie 13 Jul. Last 1 Cordon 9 Sep.

Turnstone

Usually seen with ringed plovers, and common round the coast during the winter months. Max 33 Blackwaterfoot 9 Oct. More summer sightings than usual with 4 Drumadoon Pt 26 Jul, 4 Machrie 3 Aug, 8 Whiting Bay 11 Aug, 3 Blackwaterfoot 21 Aug, 24 Whiting Bay 28 Aug, and 4 Slidderly shore 31 Aug.

Arctic Skua

1 Brodick/Ardrossan 2 Aug; 1 pale phase (possible Pomarine) Ardrossan/Brodick 12 Aug.

Great Skua

1 Sannox picnic site 17 Mar; 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 2 Jul; 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 1 Oct.

Sabine Gull

1 Brodick 31 Dec (JR), second record since 1982.

Black-headed Gull

Highest nos recorded in Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay, with max 46 Brodick 11 Sep. Only singles in May and Jun. 7 Lamlash 14 Mar inc 2 with bright pink underparts.

Common Gull

Breeding: c30 prs nested Dougarie 23 Apr; nest with 4 eggs Kilpatrick 28 May, yng at both sites 19 Jun; 5 yng capable of flight and 3 very small yng Dougarie 20 Jul; very big colony on Holy Isle but nos unrecorded. Max 700+ Catacol 7 Nov was the only record from the W coast.

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Lesser Black-backed Gull

Breeding: large colony Beinn Choarach, also bred Holy Isle, but no figures available.

First 1 back King's Cave 16 Jan; 200 Machrie 12 Mar; max 287 Cordon 22 Jul; last 1 Machrie 6 Nov.

Herring Gull

Breeding: colony of c200 mixed with Great Black-backed and Common Gulls Beinn Choarach 20 Jun; also nested Holy Isle, but no figures available; 6 imms being fed by parents Cordon 15 Jul.

Very common all yr, with max 359 Lamlash 11 Sep.

Iceland Gull

1 first winter Brodick 9-12 Apr (MT), last recorded 1984

Great Black-backed Gull

Breeding: colony of c200 mixed with Herring Gulls Beinn Choarach 20 Jun; also bred Holy Isle but no figures available. Common all yr with max c50 Brodick 27 Aug.

Kittiwake

Most reports came from the E coast and ferry crossings Feb-Oct; 4 imms Sannox picnic site 12 Apr; 3 adults 4 imms same location 12 May. Singles reported at Merkland Pt and Machrie May-Jun, with max 80+ Brodick 27 Aug. 5 Catacol 28 May and 3 Pirmill 16 Sep were the only W coast sightings.

Sandwich Tern

Arr 2 Blackwaterfoot 23 Apr, thereafter reported from Brodick, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, Porta Leacach, Machrie, Lagg, Whiting Bay and Kildonan. Only 2 reports of autumn passage birds: 1 Kerr's Port and 1 adult + 1 juv Clauchlands 11 Sep; last sighting 1 adult + 1 juv Brodick 11 Sep.

Common Tern

Increased sightings with arr 4 Machrie 12 May; 3 resting on shore Machriewaterfoot 28 May; 2 Tormore 12 Jun; 1 Machrie Bay 6 Jul. "Comics" recorded at Brodick 13 May, Largiemore in Jun and 8-10 Kildonan 22 Jul.

Arctic Tern

Breeding: 2 prs nested Dougare, 1 chick fully fledged 13 Jul, gone by 21 Jul. This is the first successful breeding for this location since 1985. No reports from Pladda.

A better yr with arr 3 Blackwaterfoot 25 Apr; 5 Machrie/Dougare 20 May; 1 Pladda 29 May; 2 Kildonan 6 Jun; last 6 Kildonan 4 Aug.

Guillemot

Most reports came from ferry crossings with 40-50 Brodick/Ardrossan 28 Oct; oiled bird found Cordon 14 Jan; smaller nos seen off Corrie, Dougare, Pladda, King's Cave, Thunderguy and Lochranza, with max c50 Whitefarland 12 Jun.

Razorbill

Less common than guillemot, with 8 Kilbrannan Sound 18 May, 1 Whiting Bay 23 May, 2 Whitefarland 12 Jun, 2 Brodick/Ardrossan 14 Aug and 2 Whiting Bay 19 Aug.

Black Guillemot

Breeding: nested King's Cave, yng heard 25 May; nest with 1 yng Kilpatrick 19 Jun. Singles and prs seen round coast all yr, with max 16 King's Cave 25 Apr.

Puffin

1 Ardrossan/Brodick 9 Aug (JC) was the only sighting.

Rock Dove

7 Cleiteadh Bhuidhe 23 Apr; other reports discounted as feral pigeons are known to be in these areas.

Wood Pigeon

Common on farmland, with max c100 Clauchlands 31 Aug.

Collared Dove

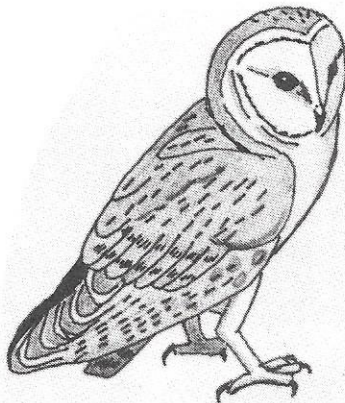
Breeding: pr nested Lamlash, success unknown.

Prs and singles around the villages, with max 3 Kilpatrick 25 Oct.

Cuckoo

Breeding: juv being fed by a meadow pipit Ross road 12 Aug.

Arr Lochranza 22 Apr; thereafter reported at Glen Shurraig, BCP, North Sannox Fm Park, Glen Catacol, Glen Easan Biorach, Glen Chalmadale, Machrie Moor, Rubha Salach, Imachar, Bailemargaidh and King's Cross.



Barn Owl

Breeding: 2 prs BCP with 2 yng each; 4 yng Machrie; 2 fledged yng at nest hole Dougare 13 Jul; 3 yng Claonid; 1 yng Monamore Forestry. All yng were ringed except the Dougare brood, but there was a low survival rate.

Singles recorded at Glaister, Ballymichael, Clachaig, Cnoc na Dail, and Porta Leacach.

Tawny Owl

1 calling White House grounds 17 Feb (released bird); 1 sitting on Brodick Castle flagpole 8 May; 1 calling Bailemargaidh 23 Jul; 1 Lochranza 25 Aug.

Short-eared Owl

Breeding: 1 delivering food to nest Machrie Moor 25 May. Other records include 1 Glen Iorsa 30 May, 1 Ross road summit 12 Jul, 1 Pirmill 15 Jul, and 1 Sliderry 23 Aug. No winter records.

Nightjar

Arr Merkland Wood 23 May, but only 1 present still calling and displaying 5 Jul. No other records received.

Swift

A better yr. Arr 6 Porta Leacach 24 Jun; 4 Porta Leacach 7 Jul; 3 Shiskine 2-16 Jul; 3 Bailemargaidh 24 Jul; 6 Brodick 4 Aug; 1 Lamlash 29 Aug; last 1 Machrie 31 Aug.

Kingfisher

2 Rosa burn all yr; 1 Sandbraes burn 1 Nov is unusual.

Skylark

Singles reported from Kilmory, Auchencar, BCP, Machrie Moor, Sail Chalmadale, Kerr's Port, S Feorline and Blackwaterfoot Mar-Oct. No large flocks, with max 6 Bailemargaidh 20 Oct.

Sand Martin

Breeding: min 2 nest holes occupied Whitefarland 12 Jun; pr + 1 juv Whitefarland 29 Aug; also bred at Auchencar. Arr 1 Brodick 12 Apr; pr at Auchencar 22 May; 1 Torrylinn 12 Aug; last 4 Whitefarland 7 Sep.

Swallow

Breeding: pr nested Lamlash and successfully reared yng; 2 adults + 1 juv Narrachan 3-5 Jul; c25 Clauchlands with min 10 juvs 15 Jul; 2 nests Dougarie boathouse 9 Aug; 6 juvs being fed by parents Cosyden 30 Aug.

Arr 1 Glen Cloy 29 Mar, thereafter at Lamlash, Kilmory, Blackwaterfoot, Porta Leacach and Clauchlands. Widespread by May, with max c30 Auchencairn 1 Sep; last 1 Lamlash 5 Dec, the latest ever recorded.

House Martin

Breeding: few records, with 1 nest Greannan Hotel (where 4 last yr); 15 adults with min 7 juvs Clauchlands 15 Jul.

Arr 2 Brodick 1 Apr; 2-3 Porta Leacach 27 Apr; thereafter at Lagg, Lamlash, Machrie Fm, Whiting Bay and Corrie; small nos but widespread by Jun with max c100 Clauchlands 20 Aug; last 1 Brodick 3 Dec, latest ever recorded (cf Swallow above).

Tree Pipit

A better yr. Arr 1 Brown Head 23 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 25 May; 1 Corrie 27 May; 1 Clauchlands 29 May; 1 Catacol 12 Jun; last 1 S Feorline 23 Jul.

Meadow Pipit

No breeding records. Common and widespread with 100+ Lochranza Apr.

Rock Pipit

Breeding: nest Dougarie 26 May, success unknown. Common and widespread round the coast.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding: 9 inc yng Sliderrywaterfoot 11 Aug; pr + 1 juv Lochan Ime 1 Sep.

Prs and singles reported from Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Bailemargaidh, Kildonan, Cleat, Lagg, N Sannox, Boguille, Whitefarland, Clauchlands, Catacol, Glenashdale, Whiting Bay, Corrie and Brodick all yr round, with max 3 Ross road 7 Jul.

Pied Wagtail

Breeding: nest Blackwaterfoot 20 Jun; nest with 4 eggs Lamlash Golf Course (success unknown); yng Lochranza 28 Jul; juv feeding on a sheep's back Laggan 10 Aug.

Common and widespread, with max 85 Kildonan 7 Oct.

White Wagtail

Spring passage: 1 Kildonan 24 Apr; 6 Blackwaterfoot 25 Apr; 1 Machrie 3 May; 2 Porta Leacach 8 May. Autumn passage: 2 Blackwaterfoot 13 Aug.

Dipper

No breeding records. Prs and singles recorded at Blackwaterfoot, Glenashdale, Machrie Water, Bailemargaidh, Glen Iorsa, Glean Easan Biorach, BCP, Cock of Arran, Lochranza, Sandbraes and Cordon; unusually 1 attacked by a sparrowhawk at Cordon burn in Oct.

Wren

Breeding: nest re-occupied but was later abandoned Margnahegligh 25 Apr; 3 nests close together White House grounds 19 May, 1 with 5 eggs successfully hatched, another empty nest later found with 4 fledged yng. Also bred Porta Leacach; pr with yng Lochranza 29 Jul.

Common and widespread all yr, with max 6 Glen Iorsa 30 May.

Dunnock

Breeding: nest with 4 eggs, 3 successfully hatched Lamlash 30 Apr.

Common and widespread with max 5 Clauchlands 27 Oct.

Robin

Breeding: adult gathering nest material 25 Apr, nest with 5 yng Margnahegligh 8 May, yng gone by 22 May; nest with yng Lamlash 10 May, later predated; nest with 5 eggs Lamlash Golf Course 12 Jun, also later predated; pr feeding yng and separate imm King's Cross 7 Jul; 1 yng Bailemargaidh 16 Jul; 4 + imms Lochranza 1 Aug; 1 yng Kilpatrick 14 Aug; also bred at Porta Leacach.

Very common and widespread all yr.

Black Redstart

1 male Blackwaterfoot 12 Dec (JD). This is the 2nd yr running for this sp in the same location.

Whinchat

Breeding: yng Glen Rosa 28 Jun; pr with 1 yng Auchencar 24 Jul.

Arr 1 male Corriecravie 28 Apr; reported from Porta Leacach, Kildonan, Machrie Moor, Glen Sannox, Boguille and Ross road May-Aug. Last 1 Cosyden 30 Aug.

Stonechat

Breeding: male + 1 yng Holy Isle 27 Jul; pr with 2 yng Kilpatrick 14 Aug.

Common and widespread all yr. Prs and singles noted at Drumadoon Pt, Cleat, King's Cave, Machrie Moor, Corriegills Pt, Kilpatrick, Glen Chalmadale, Glen Iorsa, Sliderry, String and Ross roads, Boguille, Corriecravie, Whitefarland, Kilmory, Fallen Rocks, Cleat, Clauchlands, Auchenhew and Glen Rosa, with max 6 Brown Head 13 Jul.

Wheatear

Breeding: adult with 1 juv Glen Rosa 10 Jun; 1 juv Clauchlands 25 Jun; pr with 3 juvs Glen Scorrodale 13 Jul; 12 inc yng Sliderrywaterfoot/Cleat and 8 inc juvs Blackwaterfoot 11 Aug; pr with 1 juv Kerr's Port 16 Aug; pr with 3 juvs Cleat 15 Sep.

Arr prs Dougarie and Pirnmill 28 Mar; widespread by May with last 1 Blackwaterfoot 9 Oct.

Ring Ouzel

Male Coire Daingean 15 May, and pr same location 30 May (DS and JB) was only record.

Blackbird

Breeding: nested Auchencairn, Lochranza, Porta Leacach, 2 successful nests Lamlash; pr + 3 juvs King's Cross Jul, imms Lochranza 2 Aug.

Common and widespread, with max 15 Glen Shurraig 28 May.

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Fieldfare

Recorded at Kilmory, Kerr's Port, Machrie Moor, Blackwaterfoot, Balnacool and Margnaheglish Jan-Apr, with max 1000 mixed with redwings Blackwaterfoot 13 Oct, with a massive landfall 15-18 Oct of 80/100 Correin Lochan, 200+ mixed redwings Balmichael, c1000 mixed redwings Largiemoor, c50 mixed redwings Boguille and max c2000 mixed redwings in a ratio of 5:1 Kildonan (possibly 10,000 or more!); many moved on in the next few days, and by the end of the yr nos were down to a normal level eg. 12 Imachar 30 Dec.

Song Thrush

Breeding: pr feeding yng King's Cross 14/20 May; 2 nests in White House grounds and 2 Lamlash successful, 1 nest with 4 eggs Lamlash Golf Course 24 Jun; pr with 2 juvs King's Cross 6-10 Jul; yng Cordon 9 Jul.

Common and widespread with max 8 Porta Leacach May (plenty of snails in the garden!) Male in full song Whiting Bay Nov-Dec is unusual.

Redwing

Recorded at Kilmory, Glen Cloy, Blackwaterfoot and Dougarie Jan-Apr. Return 75 Blackwaterfoot, mixed field-fares 13 Oct. Massive landfall 15-18 Oct (cf Fieldfare above)

Mistle Thrush

Breeding: pr feeding 1 juv Dougarie 20 May; pr carrying food Cleat 24 May; adult + 3 yng BCP 30 May.

Singles reported from Lochranza, Narrachan, Pirnmill, Glen Shurraig, Blackwaterfoot, Lamlash, Bailemargaidh and Kilpatrick, with max 6 Dougarie 30 May, Ross road 14 Aug and N Sannox 7 Oct.

Grasshopper Warbler

A better yr, with arr 1 Porta Leacach 30 Apr; 1 Margnaheglish 8 May; 1 King's Cross 14 May; 1 Goatfell path 26 May; 1 Machrie Moor 29 May; 1 Clauchlands May/June, pr heard and seen during Jul; 1 Lamlash 6 Jun; last 1 Lamlash 31 Jul.

Sedge Warbler

Breeding: pr Clauchlands 28 May, carrying food 6 Jun. Arr 2 Porta Leacach 6 May; singles reported at Dougarie, Wineport, Kildonan, Carlo, Sliderywaterfoot/Cleat, Corrie and Machrie May-June, with max 3 Blackwaterfoot 31 May; last 1 Corriecravie 21 Jul.

Whitethroat

Breeding: adult carrying food Clauchlands 15 Jun. Arr 1 Strabane 3 May; singles reported at Margnaheglish, Machrie Fm, Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan, Dougarie, King's Cross, King's Cave, Sliderywaterfoot and Balmichael, with max 3 Roddin 20 Jul; last 2 Clauchlands 31 Aug.

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Garden Warbler

Arr 1 Margnaheglish 24 May; male Lamlash 11 Jul

Blackcap

No breeding records. Seen at bird tables during winter months. 1 Corrie 7 May; male Cladach 16 May; 1 King's Cross 18 May; 1 Glen Shurraig 1 Jun; male Margnaheglish 15 Jun and 5 Sep; 2 Porta Leacach 15-16 Nov, attracted by late plums and honeysuckle berries.

Wood Warbler

Arr 1 Lagg 1 May; 3 Merkland Wood 2 May; 1 Monamore 4 May; 1 Sannox picnic site 9 May; max 4 holding territory Sannox picnic site/Fallen Rocks 7 Jun; last 2 Glen Rosa 12 Jul.

Chiffchaff

Arr 1 Whiting Bay 20 Mar; 2 BCP 10 Apr; singles reported at White House grounds, Torr Righ, Whiting Bay, Altachorvie Wood and Bailemargaidh Apr/May; last 1 singing Whitefarland 7 Sep.

Willow Warbler

Breeding: adult carrying food Merkland Wood 14 Jun; nest with 5 yng Lamlash 15 Jun; 2 prs with yng King's Cross 6-10 Jul, 4 still present 2 Sep; yng Bailemargaidh 18 Jul.

Arr 1 Dippen 20 Mar; thereafter reported from Torryllyn, Torr Righ, Kilmory, Kildonan, Lamlash, Lochranza, Catacol, Machrie Moor Forestry, King's Cross, Clauchlands, Dougarie, Glen Shurraig and Cordon Apr-Jul. Common and widespread with max 9 Glen Iorsa 30 May. Last 2 with 2 juvs Whiting Bay 9 Sep.

Goldcrest

Breeding: female + 4-5 yng BCP 27 Jul. No spring records. Singles and prs at Lochan Ime, Kildonan, Fallen Rocks, BCP, Glenashdale, Sannox picnic site, Clauchan Glen, Porta Leacach and Benlister; 1 dead (window strike) King's Cross 1 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher

Breeding: feeding yng Merkland 14 Jun; yng S Feorline 23 Jul; 4 inc imms Narrachan 28 Jul; 2 adults + 1 juv Lochranza 22 Aug; 1 adult + 1 juv King's Cross 10 Aug.

Arr 1 Butt 23 Apr; singles and prs reported from Machrie Fm, BCP, Brodict, Ross road, Lamlash, Bailemargaidh, Clauchlands, Shiskine, Fallen Rocks and Whiting Bay Apr-Sep, with max 4 Glenkiln Fm 12 Jul and 4 Lamlash 22 Jul. Last 1 Sannox picnic site 12 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit

Breeding: family of 6 King's Cross 22 Aug.

Small flocks of up to 13 reported all yr from Clauchlands, Lamlash Golf Course, Bailemargaidh, Lochan Ime, Monamore Forestry, High Corrie, Whitefarland, Margnaheglish, Kilpatrick and Benlister, with max c30 Porta Leacach Sep-Dec.

Coal Tit

Breeding: adult carrying food to calling yng Strabane 7 Jun.

Common and widespread all yr. Reported from Dunfion Forestry, Clauchlands, Lochranza/Narrachan, Altachorvie Wood, Corriegills, Glen Shurraig, Imachar, BCP, King's Cross, and Clauchan Glen, with max 9-10 in mixed flock of tits Merkland Wood 28 Oct.

Blue Tit

Breeding: bred in 5 nest boxes Lamlash; nest with yng White House grounds 11 Jun; double-brooded nest box Lochan Ime, also bred Porta Leacach.

Common and widespread, with max 12 Blackwaterfoot 24 Nov.

Great Tit

Breeding: pr collecting nesting material Margnaeglish 28 Apr; nest with yng White House grounds 11 Jun; also bred Porta Leacach.

Less common than Coal Tit and Blue Tit; prs recorded at Corriegills, King's Cross, Corrie, Strabane and Lochan Ime, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 24 Nov.

Treecreeper

No breeding records. Singles reported from Glen Cloy, Altachorvie, Corrie, Fallen Rocks, Merkland Wood, BCP, Strabane, Shiskine and Lamlash. 2 singing Pirmill 12 Jun was unusual.

Jackdaw

Common around the villages and coastal cliffs with max 100+ Blackwaterfoot 20 Nov.

Rook

Recorded only at Shiskine, Blackwaterfoot and Bailemargaidh during winter months, with max 52 Shiskine 24 Mar.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Common and widespread, particularly on farmland.

Raven

Breeding: nested in at least 2 sites, but success unknown; pr + 2 yng Brown Head 28 May.

Up to 5 recorded at Lakin Fm. String road, Imachar, Bailemargaidh, Machrie, summit of Beinn Nuis/Tarsuinn, Corriegills, Kildonan/Bennan Head, Kilpatrick, Whiting Bay, Auchencar and Scrivan, with max 6 Clauchlands Pt 25 Jun.

Starling

Breeding: pr carrying food Cleat 1 Jun.

Common and widespread, but smaller flocks than last yr, with max c100 Clauchlands 10 Jun; c50 Blackwaterfoot 11 Dec inc 1 in breeding plumage.

House Sparrow

Common round the villages, but none at Fairhaven where they bred last yr for the first time. Still no reports from Lochranza.

Tree Sparrow

1 Pirmill 24 Mar (PE) was first record for this area.

Chaffinch

Breeding: 4 yng Lochan Ime 7 Jun; pr with 2 juvs King's Cross 6-10 Jul; pr with 4 imms Lochranza 29 Jul.

Common and widespread, but smaller flocks than last yr with max c30 Torbeg 6 Nov.

Greenfinch

Breeding: pr + 5 yng Kilmory 12 Jul; 2 yng Lamlash 31 Jul; pr with 5 juvs Clauchlands 10 Aug.

Singles and prs recorded at Margnaeglish, BCP, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, Shiskine, Torr Righ, Cordon, Cosyden and Sannox picnic site, with max 12 Bailemargaidh 2 May.

Goldfinch

Breeding: nest Clauchlands 25 Jun, min 4 yng reared successfully.

Recorded every month except Mar and Dec. Prs and singles at Margnaeglish, Lamlash, King's Cross, N Sannox Fm Park, Bailemargaidh, Kildonan, BCP, Shiskine, Thunderguy, Dougarie, Achavoulin, Dippen, Whiting Bay, Cleat, Balmichael, Pirmill and Blackwaterfoot, with max 15 Lagg 28 Sep.

Siskin

Breeding: female feeding juvs S Kiskadale/Whiting Bay 21 May; adult + 4 juvs Blackwaterfoot 31 May; nest with yng White House grounds 12 Jun.

Common at bird tables during winter months. Up to 10 recorded all yr at Lamlash, Balmichael, Merkland Wood, King's Cross, The Heights, Corrie, Bailemargaidh, Shiskine, N Corriegills, Roddin, Sannox picnic site and Pirmill, with max c30 mixed linnets Cleat 15 Sep; dead male found at Cordon 27 Apr was ringed at Sevenoaks, Kent in Mar 93.

Linnet

No breeding records. Absent Jan-Mar and Dec. Up to 16 seen at Clauchlands, Blackwaterfoot, Torr Righ, Kerr's Port and Kildonan, 40+ seen at Kerr's Port and Cleat during Aug, with max c60 Cleat 15 Sep. c30 Cosyden 13 Oct inc many imms.

Twite

Only 3 records with 1 male Kerr's Port 24 Feb, 2 Cosyden 30 Aug and max 6 Blackwaterfoot 28 Nov.

Redpoll

No winter records. Up to 5 reported from Machrie Moor, Blackwaterfoot, Pirmill, Torr Righ, Machrie, the Roddin, Kilmory, Sannox picnic site and Whitefarland Apr-Sep, with max 6 Bailemargaidh 30 Apr.

Crossbill

Breeding: pr + 4 yng Lagg Wood 6 Jun. 6-7 Brodick 2 Jun; max 11 Lagg Wood 29 Jun. 2 Shiskine in Jul.

Bullfinch

Breeding: male + 2 yng Bailemargaidh 27 Jul; also bred at Porta Leacach.

Recorded Mar-Oct, with up to 3 at Kilmory, Margnaeglish, Machrie Fm, BCP, Kildonan, Shiskine, King's Cave, the Roddin, Auchencar and Fallen Rocks. Max 4 Whitefarland 7 Sep (unusual).

Yellowhammer

Poor yr with only 2 records; 1 Whiting Bay 23 Feb; 7 Blackwaterfoot Fm 19 Apr.

Reed Bunting

Still low nos, with up to 3 at Lakin Fm, Cleat, the Roddin and N Glen Sannox; max 4 Machrie Pond 23 Apr.

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Arran Checklist

Revised by T. ap Rheinallt, 1993

Explanation of symbols used in the checklist

1. Categories A - D (first column)

A - Species which have been recorded in an apparently wild state in Arran at least once since 1955.

B - Species which have been recorded in the past, but with no records more recent than those reviewed by Gibson (1956).

C - Species which, although originally introduced to Arran by man, have now established a regular feral breeding stock.

D - Species which would otherwise appear in Category A or C except that there is reasonable doubt (a) that they have occurred in a wild state in Arran, or (b) that the Arran population would be self-sustaining, without further introductions by man.

2. Abundance and seasonal status (second column)

These categories have been worked out largely using information covering the last 10 years (1983 - 1992). This was necessary in order to have a run of data of reasonable length, but in some cases subjective judgement has been exercised when categorising species whose apparent increase in abundance over the decade is probably a result of increased observer effort.

Patterns of seasonal occurrence of the species on the checklist are indicated by the following letters, which may be in bold upper case, italics, or lower case:

R - Breeding or probably breeding resident.

S - Breeding or probably breeding summer visitor or partial migrant.

N - Non breeding summer visitor.

W - Winter visitor.

P - Passage migrant.

The different typefaces represent different categories of abundance, as follows:

- bold upper case (eg **S**) - common species with at least 5 records annually (in the case of **N, W, P**) or thought to have at least 5 breeding pairs on the island (**R, S**).

- Italics (eg *S*) - Uncommon species, with on average fewer than 5 records annually (*N, W, P*) or fewer than 5 breeding pairs (*R, S*), but of more or less annual occurrences, ie recorded in at least 8 out of the last 10 years.

- Lower case (eg *s*) - Occasional species, occurring (or recorded as possibly breeding) in fewer than 8 out of 10 years but with more than 2 records in total over the same period. This category does not apply to the more sedentary residents (eg Black Grouse, Long-eared Owl), which are assumed to be present even when not actually recorded in a given year.

For rarer species whose occurrences cannot be said to show any seasonal pattern, the following symbols have been used.:

o - Occasional species as defined above.

v - Vagrants, with only 1 or 2 records over the last 10 years.

v* - Vagrants in Category A for which there are no records later than 1982.

Notes:

(1) The status of species in Category B has not been further elaborated in terms of seasonal occurrence or of abundance.
(2) Species whose breeding status has declined markedly over the past decade are shown as **S>S**, **S>s**, or **S>s**, the last two of these three sets of symbols being used when the species apparently no longer breeds (but may perhaps do so again in the future).

(3) Species shown in **S**, **N** or **W** are also likely to be present during the relevant migration periods. Thus a species shown as **W** may - at the limit - only be absent mid-June to mid-July (eg some waders) while one shown as **S** may only be absent mid-Nov to mid-Feb (eg Lesser Black-backed Gull).

(4) Species are only shown as **P** (or *P*) when their category of abundance during migration is higher than their category of abundance in both summer and winter.

(5) In the case of occasional passage emigrants (*p*), there may exist one or two records for summer or winter as well.

Notes

Great Crested Grebe: 1987 record not considered fully substantiated.

Fulmar: More or less absent Oct.

Manx shearwater: nested Pladda 1981.

Gannet: More or less absent Nov-Dec.

Cormorant: Last breeding record 1982.

Mute Swan: Unsuccessful breeding attempts Lochranza to 1985.

Shelduck: More or less absent Sep - Nov.

Teal: Few summer records over the last 11 years, but may nest more or less annually in out-of-the-way locations.

Goosander: Several records over past 3 years indicate that it may be increasing in abundance.

Merlin: Because of doubt over the authenticity of some records, this species cannot be claimed as a regular breeder, even though individuals are frequently reported from suitable habitat during summer.

Red-legged Partridge: Some breeding records but uncertain whether a self-sufficient feral population exists. Often released (some past releases no doubt hybrids with Chukar) and commonly seen all year round.

Grey Partridge: Originally introduced and bred widely in the past. Recently released birds may explain most (if not all) of the records since 1983, and this species may no longer even merit inclusion in Category D.

Black Grouse: Only 2 records in the last 8 years; apparently no releases. On the verge of extinction?

Water Rail: Last breeding record 1979.

Corncrake: Probably now extinct as a breeder.

Redshank: formerly a regular breeder but no records since 1989. Now largely absent end May - early July.

Black-headed Gull: Formerly a regular breeder but no records since 1988. Now scarce end May - early July.

Great Black-backed Gull: Although few possible breeding records have been submitted over the last 11 years, it is likely that several pairs of this species occur every year in large gull colonies.

Common Tern: Formerly a regular breeder, but no definite records since 1989.

Arctic Tern: Although no records received for 1992, Pladda colony assumed still to number 5+ pairs. Breeding success very low in recent years.

Rock Dove: Both Feral Pigeons and cliff-nesting wild type Rock Doves are common on the island.

Tawny owls: Some of birds present are releases.

Short-eared Owl: Apparently virtually absent some winters.

Nightjar: Has declined greatly as a breeding species over the last 11 years.

Sand Martin: Has declined greatly as a breeding species over the last 11 years.

Lesser Whitethroat: May have bred (see article in 1991 Arran Bird Report).

Tree Sparrow: recorded most winter months but no June, July records. Cannot be assumed to breed.

Redpoll: May be regular winter but very few records available.

874, 841, 880 - which is the odd one out and why?

CHECK LIST

1	Red-throated Diver	A	R	87	Dunlin	A	sPW	175	Lesser Whitethroat	A	p
2	Black-throated Diver	A	NW	88	Ruff	A	v	176	Whitethroat	A	S
3	Great Northern Diver	A	NW	89	Jack Snipe	A	w	177	Garden Warbler	A	S
4	Little Grebe	A	W	90	Snipe	A	R	178	Blackcap	A	SW
5	Great Crested Grebe	A	*v	91	Long-billed Dowitcher	A	v	179	Wood Warbler	A	S
6	Red-necked Grebe	A	w	92	Woodcock	A	R	180	Chiffchaff	A	Sw
7	Slavonian Grebe	A	w	93	Black-tailed Godwit	A	p	181	Willow Warbler	A	S
8	Black-necked Grebe	A	p	94	Bar-tailed Godwit	A	Pw	182	Goldcrest	A	R
9	Fulmar	A	R	95	Whimbrel	A	Pw	183	Spotted Flycatcher	A	S
10	Sooty Shearwater	A	p	96	Curlew	A	R	184	Pied Flycatcher	A	p
11	Manx Shearwater	A	Nw	97	Spotted Redshank	A	v	185	Long-tailed Tit	A	R
12	Mediterranean Shearwater	A	v	98	Redshank	A	S>sW	186	Willow Tit	A	v
13	Storm Petrel	A	N	99	Greenshank	A	W	187	Coal Tit	A	R
14	Leach's Petrel	A	p	100	Green Sandpiper	A	v	188	Blue Tit	A	R
15	Gannet	A	NW	101	Common Sandpiper	A	S	189	Great Tit	A	R
16	Cormorant	A	NW	102	Turnstone	A	nW	190	Treecreeper	A	R
17	Shag	A	R	103	Grey Phalarope	A	B	191	Golden Oriole	A	v*
18	Bittern	A	B	104	Red-necked Phalarope	A	v	192	Red-backed Shrike	A	v
19	Grey Heron	A	R	105	Pomarine Skua	A	v	193	Great Grey Shrike	A	v
20	Spoonbill	A	v*	106	Arctic Skua	A	nP	194	Jay	A	o
21	Mute Swan	A	NW	107	Great Skua	A	nP	195	Magpie	A	o
22	Bewick's Swan	A	v	108	Mediterranean Gull	A	v	196	Chough	A	B
23	Whooper Swan	A	W	109	Little Gull	A	w	197	Jackdaw	A	R
24	Pink-footed Goose	A	p	110	Sabine's Gull	A	v	198	Rook	A	nW
25	White-fronted Goose	A	w	111	Black-headed Gull	A	S>sW	199	Carrion Crow	A	R
26	Grey Lag Goose	A	W	112	Common Gull	A	R	200	Raven	A	R
27	Canada Goose	A	v	113	Lesser Black-backed Gull	A	Sw	201	Starling	A	R
28	Barnacle Goose	A	v	114	Herring Gull	A	R	202	House Sparrow	A	R
29	Brent Goose	A	w	115	Iceland Gull	A	v	203	Tree Sparrow	A	w
30	Shelduck	A	R	116	Glaucous Gull	A	p	204	Chaffinch	A	R
31	Wigeon	A	W	117	Great Black-backed Gull	A	R	205	Brambling	A	w
32	Teal	A	SW	118	Kittiwake	A	NW	206	Greenfinch	A	R
33	Mallard	A	p	119	Ivory Gull	A	B	207	Goldfinch	A	SW
34	Pintail	A	p	120	Sandwich Tern	A	NP	208	Siskin	A	R
35	Shoveler	A	v	121	Roseate Tern	A	v	209	Linnet	A	SW
36	Pochard	A	v	122	Common Tern	A	S>sP	210	Twite	A	SW
37	Tufted Duck	A	o	123	Arctic Tern	A	S	211	Redpoll	A	Sw
38	Scaup	A	o	124	Little Tern	A	p	212	Crossbill	A	R
39	Eider	A	R	125	Black Tern	A	v	213	Bullfinch	A	R
40	King Eider	A	v*	126	Guillemot	A	NW	214	Hawfinch	A	v
41	Long-tailed Duck	A	p	127	Razorbill	A	NW	215	Snow Bunting	A	W
42	Common Scoter	A	p	128	Black Guillemot	A	R	216	Yellowhammer	A	R
43	Velvet Scoter	A	V	129	Little Auk	A	w	217	Reed Bunting	A	R
44	Goldeneye	A	W	130	Puffin	A	N	218	Corn Bunting	A	v
45	Smew	A	v*	131	Pallas's Sandgrouse	A	B	219	Red-headed Bunting	D	v*
46	Red-breasted Merganser	A	R	132	Rock Dove	A	R				
47	Goosander	A	o	133	Stock Dove	A	O				
48	Red Kite	A	B	134	Woodpigeon	A	R				
49	White-tailed Eagle	A	v	135	Collared Dove	A	R				
50	Marsh Harrier	A	v	136	Turtle Dove	A	v				
51	Hen Harrier	A	R	137	Cuckoo	A	S				
52	Goshawk	A	v	138	Barn Owl	A	R				
53	Sparrowhawk	A	R	139	Tawny Owl	A	R				
54	Buzzard	A	R	140	Long-eared Owl	A	R				
55	Rough-legged Buzzard	A	v*	141	Short-eared Owl	A	SW				
56	Golden Eagle	A	R	142	Nightjar	A	S>S				
57	Osprey	A	v	143	Swift	A	N				
58	Hobby	A	B	144	Kingfisher	A	NW				
59	Kestrel	A	R	145	Hoopoe	A	v				
60	Merlin	A	sw	146	Great Spotted Woodpecker	A	v				
61	Peregrine	A	R	147	Skylark	A	R				
62	Red Grouse	A	R	148	Sand Martin	A	S>S				
63	Ptarmigan	A	R	149	Swallow	A	S				
64	Black Grouse	A	R?	150	House Martin	A	S				
65	Capercaillie	A	B	151	Tree Pipit	A	S				
66	Red-legged Partridge	D	R	152	Meadow Pipit	A	R				
67	Grey Partridge	D	?	153	Rock Pipit	A	R				
68	Quail	A	v	154	Yellow Wagtail	A	v				
69	Pheasant	C	R	155	Grey Wagtail	A	R				
70	Water Rail	A	w	156	Pied Wagtail	A	R				
71	Spotted Crane	A	B	156a	White Wagtail	A	P				
72	Corncrake	A	s	157	Waxwing	A	w				
73	Moorhen	A	sw	158	Dipper	A	R				
74	Coot	A	w	159	Wren	A	R				
75	Crane	A	v	160	Duncock	A	R				
76	Oystercatcher	A	R	161	Robin	A	R				
77	Ringed Plover	A	R	162	Black Redstart	A	w				
78	Dotterel	A	v	163	Restart	A	S				
79	Golden Plover	A	Sw	164	Whinchat	A	S				
80	Grey Plover	A	w	165	Stonechat	A	R				
81	Lapwing	A	R	166	Wheatear	A	S				
82	Knot	A	Pw	167	Ring Ouzel	A	S				
83	Sanderling	A	P	168	Blackbird	A	R				
84	Curlew Sandpiper	A	v	169	Fieldfare	A	W				
85	Purple Sandpiper	A	W	170	Song Thrush	A	R				
86	Little Stint	A	v	171	Redwing	A	W				
				172	Mistle Thrush	A	R				
				173	Grasshopper Warbler	A	S				
				174	Sedge Warbler	A	S				