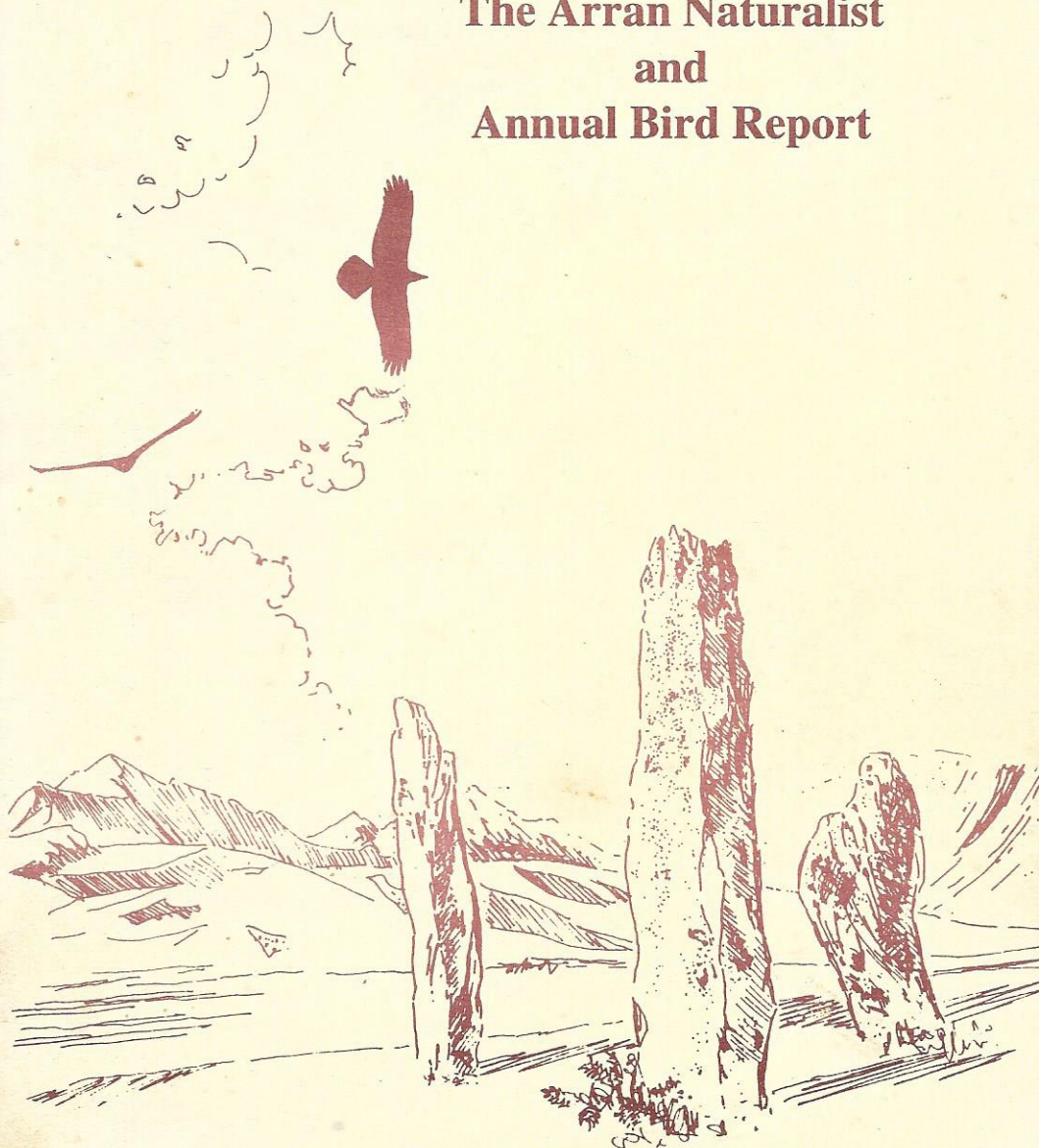
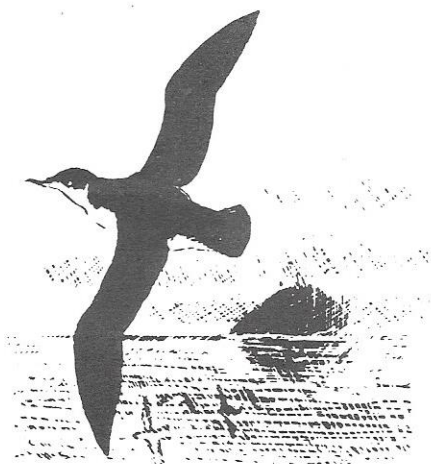


The Arran Naturalist and Annual Bird Report



**The Arran Naturalist Volume 19, and Annual Bird Report for 1995
Produced by the Isle of Arran Natural History Society, 1996**



ARRAN BIRD REPORT 1995

Edited and Compiled
by Audrey Walters
for

Isle of Arran Natural History Society
1996

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

E.Alderson; M.Anderson; Dr T. ap Rheinallt; M.Bailey; D.Balmforth; G.Bannatyne; J.Barker; C.J.Barnard; D.Beckett; C.Berry; Dr J.Cassels; J.Cassels; A.Church; J.Clark; T.Cook; J.Cowan; P.Darnbrough; J.Delaney; D & B. Dixon; E.Drummond; A.Duncan; M.Dunn; M.H.Dunn; P.Emslie; M.Giles; J.Glen; Col.J.Gratton; D. & S.Hamilton; G.Hamilton; H.Hamilton; A.Hogg; H.Hood; V.Hough; Iutz family; G.Jones; J.Kinloch; M.Kirkland; S.Lambie; M.Logan; R.Logan; B. & C.McFadyen; A.K.McNeil; D.Macquean; T.Malin; N.Marshall; D.Martin; R. & B.Mearns; E.Mobbs; J.Murray; D. & M.Oakes; J.Perkins; M.Potter; P. & A.Radcliffe; J.Rhead; M.Ritchie; M.Rivington; N.Robertson; T. Ross-Bain; J.Rushton; F.Scott; I.Scott; G.Small; A.Smith; T.Smith; C. & A.Southgate; J.Stedman; I.Struthers; J.Sutherland; F.Tait; D.Tapson; A. & R.Thompson; A.Thomson; P.Tupman; C.Turbett; M.Tweeddale; H. & R.Walker; V.Walker; A.Walters.



Water Rail

INTRODUCTION

A good year, all in all, helped by mild spring weather, a very warm dry summer and again a mild autumn. Although it was cold by the beginning of December, the first snow fell just before Christmas, and by the end of the year bitter east winds had us in the grip of almost Siberian conditions.

There were quite a few surprises this year. For instance, three species of grebe, Red-necked, Black-necked and Slavonian, all of which have been recorded in recent years failed to show. On the other the hand, the rarest (for Arran that is), the Great Crested Grebe, turned up at Machrie in July and this is the first definite record since 1987. A pair of Mute Swans nested near the Fish Farm at Kings Cross and produced 7 cygnets, the first Arran bred cygnets since the last war. Previous attempts to nest, particularly at Lochranza had always met with failure. Tufted Duck, formerly rare on Arran, are on the increase, and a pair at Port na Lochan have taken up residence while singles have been recorded in other locations. There has also been an increase in Osprey sightings as forecast, although there were no records in 1994. On the down side though some species have continued to decline in numbers, in particular Merlin (only two records) and Ringed Plover, the maximum recorded this year being c60 at Whiting Bay (cf 120 in 1991). There were no records of Crossbills, a species which normally fluctuates in numbers, but more worrying was the absence of Purple Sandpipers for the first time in over ten years. Breeding Barn Owls too fared badly, and although the nest boxes provided by Forest Enterprise were used, success rate was very low.

We had more than our share of rarities though - Hoopoe and Little Stint which have been recorded previously, but we also had two extremely rare birds - a Ross's Gull which is rare in Europe, never mind Scotland, and even more surprising a Yellow-browed Warbler, a rare vagrant from Siberia which turned up in the garden of local bird expert John Rhead!

As regards the check list, it was decided to revert to the simpler status classification originally compiled by Margaret Dunn, with a few minor alterations. This list was extensively revised by Tristan ap Rheinallt in 1992, and anyone requiring a more detailed analysis of the status of Arran birds is requested to refer to the Bird Reports for 1992-94.

Once again very many thanks to all residents and visitors who wrote to me or phoned with information. It is thanks to you that a wide ranging picture of birdlife on Arran can be put together in this report. A special thanks to John Rhead for advice and help in compiling the report. I repeat last year's request to try to give an indication of numbers - "lots" or "a few" are too vague, although counting a large flock of birds in flight can be difficult as I know. Again I would ask informants to be aware of the status of certain birds on Arran. Some species that are very common on the mainland are rare here, the Magpie being one example. Hybrid ducks and geese here which have interbred with domestic ducks and geese can cause identification problems. The best known examples are the three geese which usually accompany a pair of Mute Swans between Brodick and Whiting Bay. These are in fact hybrid feral geese and are therefore not included in the Report. Likewise the "white-front" at Clauchlands which is also a hybrid feral goose.

Please send information for 1996 to:

*Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaheglis Rd, Lamrash, Isle of Arran KA27 8LE
Tel (01770) 600 406, no later than January 1997.*

ABBREVIATIONS

sp/spp - species	imm - immature	N,S,E,W - direction of flight etc
no/nos - number(s)	max - maximum	Jan etc - all months abbreviated
m - male	cf - compare	inc - including
f - female	Pt - point	pr/prs - pair(s)
ying - young	Fm - Farm	BCP - Brodick Country Park
juv - juvenile	nr - near	

Observer names limited to species with single sightings.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser Black-backed Gull 18 Feb	Tree Pipit 28 Apr
Wheatear 26 Mar	Whinchat 30 Apr
Chiffchaff 2 Apr	Wood Warbler 6 May
House Martin 5 Apr	Whitethroat 6 May
Sandwich Tern 7 Apr	Sedge Warbler 7 May
Swallow 9 Apr	Arctic Tern 8 May
Willow Warbler 11 Apr	Grasshopper Warbler 13 May
Garden Warbler 12 Apr	Common Tern 26 May
Sand Martin 14 Apr	Nightjar 28 May
Common Sandpiper 17 Apr	Manx Shearwater 23 Jun
White Wagtail 17 Apr	Swift 26 Jul
Cuckoo 21 Apr	(NB Whimbrel and Blackcap recorded in winter)

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

JANUARY - MARCH

Strong NE winds kept temperatures low during **JANUARY** but although snow continued to lie on the highest hills, any that fell on the lower slopes melted quickly, causing some flooding on coastal fields.

Harsh conditions caused many garden birds to forage on the shore, and they in turn attracted raptors in search of easy prey. A female Sparrowhawk at Claulchlands on the 12th and a male Hen Harrier in the same location on the 28th afforded good close up views, while another female Sparrowhawk at Machriewaterfoot was seen flying off clutching a meadow pipit on the 26th. Other hunters were not so lucky and a dead Barn Owl found at the edge of Dunfion Forestry on the 27th had succumbed to hypothermia.

Little Grebes continued to overwinter at their traditional sites of Kings Cross and Lochranza, while a scarce male Tufted Duck was seen at Merkland Point on the 15th. Two species of rarer geese turned up, 6 White-fronts and a Barnacle at Bennecarri-gan on the 18th. The first Gannet of the year was recorded at Machrie on the 22nd. A Grey Heron at Loch Garbadh on the 25th was unusual, as too was a Coot at Machrie pond on the 29th, last recorded in January 1991.

Very wet conditions during **FEBRUARY** were made even more miserable by strong easterly winds blowing for most of the month. This was reflected by the low number of sightings. A male Common Scoter was at Cladach briefly on the 12th. Divers were noted at Blackwaterfoot, with 3 Red-throated on the 18th and 3 Black-throated on the 23rd. 50 Teal appeared to be sheltering on Machrie pond on the 19th. Best sighting of the month came from Lamlash where a female Brambling was seen feeding with a flock of about 30 chaffinches on the 20th. Two days later they were joined by a pair of Bramblings and 3 Yellowhammers, and by the end of the month there were 4 males and a female. A wintering female Blackcap at a bird table in Lamlash drew attention to herself by her aggressive behaviour towards the other birds.

MARCH was supposedly one of the sunniest this century but there was little evidence of that here. The weather generally was pretty dismal with rain, sleet, flurries of snow and high winds. 21 Golden Plover were huddled at the water's edge at Dougarié on the 3rd, while flocks of Eiders continued to build up round the island with 220 in Lamlash Bay on the 12th. 2 Jack Snipe were seen at Torbeg on the 15th and a pair of Goosanders appeared at Machriewaterfoot on the 17th. The immature Whooper Swan overwintering at the Fish Farm was being given a hard time by the resident mute swans, and was constantly chased by them whenever it approached. A pair of Wheatears were the first summer migrants to appear as always, this year at Claulchlands on the 26th. A rare Magpie turned up at Kildonan on the 30th, but only one thank goodness!

APRIL - JUNE

After the miserable weather in March, conditions improved gradually in **APRIL** and by Easter we were enjoying really warm weather. Summer migrants continued to arrive with 2 Chiffchaffs at Porta Leacach on the 2nd, a House Martin at Lamlash on the 5th, a Sandwich Tern at Blackwaterfoot on the 7th, a Swallow at Lamlash on the 9th, 2 Willow Warblers at Kildonan on the 11th, a Garden Warbler at Porta Leacach on the 12th, 2 Sand Martins at Kildonan on the 14th, a Redstart at Kilmory

on the 15th, 2 Common Sandpipers at Merkland Point on the 18th, a White Wagtail at Machrie, Tree Pipit at Brodick Country Park and a Whinchat at Machrie Moor on the 28th, and a late Cuckoo at Glen Sherrairg on the 30th.

Divers were again in evidence with all 3 species seen at Blackwaterfoot on more than one occasion during the month. 49 Golden Plovers were grouped at Machriewaterfoot on the 16th, the largest group recorded since 1981. A rare Tree Sparrow was spotted in a flock of house sparrows at Corriecravie on the 18th, while a Moorhen was seen sneaking round the back of the chemist's shop in Lamlash on the 20th, a most unusual location. A ringed female Brambling was still present at Lamlash on the 30th, the latest ever recorded.

MAY started off well with a week of dry sunny weather, but thereafter it became duller and temperatures were kept low by persistent cold winds.

A further batch of summer migrants arrived, with 2 Wood Warblers at Brodick Country Park and a Whitethroat at Blackwaterfoot on the 6th, and a Sedge Warbler at Sliderywaterfoot a day later. Arctic Terns returned to Dougarie on the 8th, and it was hoped that they would breed again there, but they were not seen after the 25th. A Grasshopper Warbler was reeling at the Heights on the 13th, with another at Machrie Farm on the 20th, the only 2 records this year. A Common Tern was at Dougarie on the 26th, and a solitary Nightjar arrived back at its traditional site on the 28th.

Two of our rarer raptors made a brief appearance on the same day - an Osprey seen on the 12th near Arran Estates Office being mobbed by crows and gulls, last seen heading up Glen Sherrairg, and a Goshawk in dispute with a raven near Monamore Forestry.

Best news of the month was of the successful breeding of a pair of Mute Swans near the Fish Farm. The nest was vandalised last year, but this year 7 cygnets were seen with their parents for the first time on the 23rd, the first cygnets to have been born and bred on Arran since the last war.

Several aerial spats were witnessed, a female peregrine being harassed by 2 males at Holy Isle on the 12th, and an Oystercatcher defending its nest on the shore at Catacol in furious combat with a Black Guillemot which was overflying the nest on its way to its own nest in the rocks on the other side of the road on the 13th.

JUNE saw the start of a perfect summer, and apart from some badly needed rain during the second week, the weather became progressively warmer and drier until the end of the month.

The weather obviously suited the House martins and Swallows and there were more reports of successful breeding than previous years, some nests even being triple brooded. A Long-tailed Duck first seen on the 17th May at Blackwaterfoot and again on the 12th June was unusual both for the time of year and the length of stay. A possible Pied Flycatcher was seen briefly at the back of the Douglas Centre in Brodick on the 15th, but the bird only perched briefly on a tree before flying off, and the only view was from directly underneath with no binoculars. A nesting Ringed Plover at Kerrs Port on the 16th was seen with 3 newly hatched young, despite the fact that cows foraging on the shore and a digger collecting gravel had both come within inches of the nest. Another family was seen crossing the road near Lamlash Golf Course - a Woodcock with 5 young, looking slightly ridiculous with their long beaks and large feet. Thank you to all the drivers who stopped to let the family cross safely! Another unusual sight was a half grown Oystercatcher swimming off Kerrs Port on the hottest day of the month, still with very fluffy plumage and its tail sticking up like a bottle brush.

JULY - SEPTEMBER

The very warm weather continued into **JULY** with the only break coming in the third week when there were several overcast and rainy days. An astonished observer reported 2 Black Swans at Sannox on the 5th, almost certainly the same ones reported in the Ayrshire Bird Report last year. Meanwhile, our own Mute Swan family had been reduced to 5, one cygnet having been taken early on by a gull, and a second was found dead from natural causes on the Lamlash shore. A Buzzard's nest with 3 newly fledged young was noted at Torrylinn on the 7th, while on the same day a rare Little Tern on passage was at Whiting Bay.

The only Knot of the year turned up at Blackwaterfoot on the 16th, and 2 Great Crested Grebes were seen at Machrie on the 18th, the first definite sighting since 1987. A scarce Greenshank was at Whiting Bay on the 19th, again the only sighting of the year. The Dougarie Barn Owls were at the entrance to their nest hole with 2 young on the 25th, but breeding success at other locations was very low. 3 Swifts, rare on Arran, were at Machrie Moor on the 26th.

The glorious weather continued throughout **AUGUST**, making it one of the warmest and driest summers for many years. A Little Auk in Lamlash Bay on the 12th was seen at close quarters from a sailing dinghy. A Redstart was at Laggan on the 21st and a Bullfinch at South Bank Farm on the 22nd, both new locations. 2 Great Skuas were seen off Holy Isle on the 22nd.

On the 23rd a local birder set off round the island with 2 friends, hoping to show them the Golden Eagles. By the end of the day, they had recorded 2 Golden Eagles, 4 Peregrines, 1 Sparrowhawk, 11 Kestrels, 20 Buzzards and 3 Hen Harriers, an excellent example of the wealth of raptors on Arran. Between Imachar and Whitefarland they had watched the unusual spectacle of a Peregrine, 2 Ringtails, 2 Kestrels and 2 Buzzards involved in mock combat with each other, while later on, on the Boguille, they watched a Golden Eagle attack and kill a young Buzzard which had been sitting in the eagle's favourite tree.

A Sanderling on passage was at Blackwaterfoot on the 26th, with another, possibly the same bird at Machrie on the 27th. Final sighting of the month was of 5 Ptarmigan on the shoulder of Goatfell on the 30th, good news after an apparent slump in population last year.

The weather remained sunny and relatively dry for the first three weeks of **SEPTEMBER**, but by the end of the month temperatures had plummeted and heavy rain predominated. September is a good month to look for rare birds on passage, and this year was no exception. A Little Stint was observed at Whiting Bay from the 4th - 6th, allowing time for correct identification (not an easy matter), while a Hoopoe at Corriegills Farm on the 16th proved much easier.

Another scarce wader on passage, this time a Bar-tailed Godwit, was at Whiting Bay on the 4th, while 2 Ring Ouzels were seen on Cioch na h Oighe on the 9th. About 150 Manx Shearwaters were careering over the sea off Holy Isle on the 10th. The 13th proved a lucky day for seeing Sandwich Terns, with an adult and a juvenile at Whiting Bay, two at Blackwaterfoot and a single at Brodick. On the 14th there was the unusual sight of a Dipper at the mouth of the Sannox burn being forced to submerge by a pair of Pied Wagtails. 2 Whimbrels were seen, one at Cordon on the 19th and one at Whitefarland on the 21st. Last sighting of note was of 3 Reed Buntings at Machrie pond.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

It may have been officially the warmest **OCTOBER** in the British Isles since records began, but although it was mild here it was also very wet with quite a few spells of continuous rain and high winds.

Port na Lochan continued to attract Tufted Duck, a species formerly rare on Arran, with 2 pairs being seen on the 7th. A Kingfisher on the Cloy burn on the 8th was welcome news, as there were very few reports this year, all of which came from the Cloy/Rosa burns and probably referred to the same bird. By the middle of the month the Redwings and Fieldfares had returned, but in small numbers compared to the thousands last year. A solitary Brent Goose was at Whiting Bay on the 17th while more wildfowl on passage included 2 male Scaup at Machriewaterfoot on the 22nd and 11 Whooper Swans at Brodick on the 23rd. Best news came from the west side where an Osprey stayed to do some fishing for a more than a week before continuing its journey south. An astonishing 12 Ring Ouzels were feeding on sorbus berries in Glen Diomhan at the end of the month, the largest group recorded for more than 10 years.

The mild weather continued well into **NOVEMBER** until cold east winds during the final week brought the first hint of winter. Despite the mild conditions, the Swallows and House Martins left early this year, the latest date being the 5th October, whereas they remained until early December last year. Why they did so remains a puzzle. More Ptarmigan were seen, with 2 on the Castles on the 1st and 1 on the summit of Beinn Bhreac on the 2nd as well as c20 Golden Plovers on late passage. The plovers were seen again on the summit of Beinn Bharrain on the 5th, exactly the same date and place as last year. A very late Swift appeared at Coillemore on the 5th, adding to the unusual pattern of migrating hirundines.

Then came the first big surprise of the year - a Ross's Gull, seen first at Whiting Bay on the 18th, and again at Kildonan on the 21st. Previously recorded in Ayrshire, this was an important first record for Arran, and one of the rarest birds ever to be recorded here. Other sightings included a scarce Water Rail at Dunan, Corriegills on the 19th, while a visit to Kilpatrick plantation during the last week of November produced a Long-eared Owl, a Quail (possibly feral), a wisp of c30 Snipe including Jack Snipe, and a flight of Teal crash diving into a flooded marsh to escape the attentions of a pursuing Peregrine.

The prevailing easterly winds of November continued for almost the whole of **DECEMBER**, making it one of the driest and coldest Decembers experienced for many years. The first snow fell on the 19th, and by the end of the month the whole island was white and all the lochans hard frozen.

Sightings were mainly of water birds. A pair of Red-throated Divers and a Great Northern Diver were close inshore at Kings Cave on the 6th. A Little Grebe was diving energetically at the Rosa burn mouth on the 8th, while a pair of Goosanders were seen on Loch Iorsa on the 10th. Breeding success for the Eagles was evident when an adult was seen making a food pass to an immature bird on the 24th. Hard frost brought a lot of Snipe down to the coast, and 10 were flushed from a ditch between Sliderry and Corriecravie on the 28th.

The second big surprise of the year came on the 7th when John Rhead reported a Yellow-browed Warbler in his garden. Recorded in both the Ayrshire and Clyde Bird Reports in recent years, this tiny bird could well have gone unnoticed, but it was seen at close quarters on several occasions during its 4 day stay. This is another important first record for Arran.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver: No breeding reports this year, although an adult was seen carrying food at Glenloig on 9 Sep. Singles and prs seen all yr at Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Loch na Laig, Thunderguy, Dougarie, Imachar, Pirmill and King's Cave, with max 5 King's Cave 19 Sep.

Black-throated Diver: less common than Red-throated; up to 3 seen at Blackwaterfoot, Kilpatrick, Machrie, Dougarie, Thunderguy and Tormore all yr, with max 5 Lamlash 18 Nov.

Great Northern Diver: seen at same locations as above all yr with max 5 Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct.

Little Grebe: up to 3 overwintered as usual at the Fish Fm, King's Cross/Cordon, also 2 prs Lochranza and a single Rosa burn mouth; other sightings inc 1 Claulands 10 Sep (unusual).

Great Crested Grebe: 2 Machrie 18 Jul (Dr.J.Cassels) is first definite sighting since 1987.

Red-necked/Black-necked/Slavonian Grebes: failed to show.

Fulmar: Breeding - 40 prs Kildonan/Bennan Head, 17 prs Cleiteadh Buidhe, 14 prs Porta Leacach/Dippen, 50+ prs Pirmill: small colonies at Largybeg Pt, N Corriecravie and Imachar: only 1 juv seen at Cleiteadh Buidhe, but there may have been more at other sites.

Common during summer months, last 1 Drumadoon Pt 19 Sep.

Manx Shearwater: most sightings from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry, with c100 31 Aug; other sightings inc 150 Holy Isle 10 Sep and 100 Kildonan 20 Sep: last 1 Imachar 27 Oct.

Gannet: First 1 Machrie 22 Jan; nos seem fewer, with up to 11 at Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot, Kilbrannan Sound, Whiting Bay, Brodick and Pladda Jan-Jun; Nos higher Jul-Sep with max 50+ Laggan, Dougarie and Brodick/Ardrossan (cf. 100+ Sliderrywaterfoot 1 May 1994); last 3 Kilbrannan Sound 7 Oct.

Cormorant: Breeding - 3 prs Pladda 14 Jun (success unknown). Common round the coast all yr with max 31 Hamilton Rock 9 Oct.

Shag: Breeding - c50 prs Pladda 14 Jun (success unknown); also bred Holy Isle. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 170 Pladda 9 Sep.

Grey Heron: Breeding - nest with 2 yng Fish Fm 1 Jun; also nested Benlister and Kildonan (success unknown); no reports from White House, Lamlash, or Merkland Wood.

Common round the coast all yr with max 9 Fish Fm 22 Aug; also recorded inland at Loch Garbadh 25 Jan; imm drowned at Fish Fm 24 Apr, further 2 drowned 29 Apr.

Mute Swan: Breeding - nest with 8 eggs (1 addled) Kings Cross/Cordon 3 Apr. 7 cygnets first seen 23 May, 4 of which survived, first breeding success since the last war.

Increase in nos with prs seen at Whiting Bay, Brodick, Corrie, Sannox, Machriewa-

terfoot, Thunderguy, Catacol, Dougarie with max 9 Whiting Bay 10 Sep. Difficult to establish how many prs because of constant movement round the coast!

Whooper Swan: only 1 spring passage Lamlash 14 Mar; more on autumn passage with 8 Lochranza 10 Oct, 7 Kildonan 20 Oct, 11 Brodick 23 Oct, 5 Port-na-Lochan Nov, 5 Shiskine 10 Nov, 5 Kilmory 15 Nov and 1 Bencarrigan 16 Nov; last 1 Sliderry 28 Dec. Imm overwintered Cordon/Kings Cross, last seen 17 May.

Black Swan: 2 Sannox 5 Jul (J.Perkins per J Hawkins), probably the same ones recorded in the Ayrshire Bird Report for 1994.

White-fronted Goose: 6 with greylags Bennecarrigan 18 Jan; 4 with greylags Sliderry 20 Feb; 1 Kings Cross 27-31 Mar (suspect feral).

Greylag Goose: usual flock overwintered in the Shiskine Valley, with max 350 Bennecarrigan 18 Jan, reduced to 196 Blackwaterfoot 6 Apr; return 16 Porta Leacach 28 Sep, rising to 263 Rodden 27 Dec.

Barnacle Goose: 1 Bennecarrigan 18-19 Jan; 1 with greylags Shiskine 9 Mar.

Brent Goose: 1 Whiting Bay 17 Oct (B.Wilson)

Shelduck: Breeding - pr + 8 yng Clauchlands, 6 adults + 13 yng Blackwaterfoot 15 May; all Clauchlands yng predated yet again by 29 May; pr + 10 yng Merkland Pt 18 May; pr + 2 yng King's Cave 10 Jun; pr + 6 juvs Carlo 15 Jul.

Common round the coast, absent late Jul-Nov. First 1 returned Clauchlands 17 Nov.

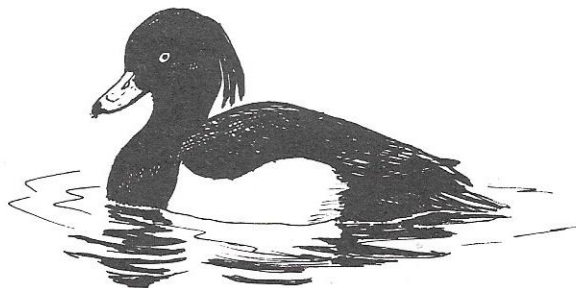
Wigeon: Common round the coast during winter months. Nos at Clauchlands show further reduction with max 28 20 Jan (cf 38 in 1994); max c100 mixed with teal Machriewaterfoot 13 Nov; first 1 back Clauchlands 9 Oct.

Teal: No breeding records. Common round the SW coast during winter months with max 70 Machrie 25 Jan; inland records inc c60 Kilpatrick plantation late Nov.

Mallard: Breeding - f + 4 yng nr Ashlar Fm, Machrie 28 Apr; f + 5 yng Cordon 2 May; f + 3 yng BCP 12 Jun; f + 4-5 yng Lamlash Golf Course 25 Jun; f + 6 yng Machrie Pond 6 Jul; f + 2 yng Corriecravie Pond (new location) 17 Jul;

Very common all yr both round the coast and on inland lochans, with max 60 Tormore 14 Sep.

Tufted Duck: Increase with 1 m Merkland Pt 15 Jan; f Corriecravie Pond 22-25 Sep; pr Port na Lochan 3-5 Oct, 2 prs 7 Oct; 1 Machrie Pond 29 Oct.



Tufted Duck

Scaup: 2 m Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct (T. ap Rheinallt)

Eider: Breeding: f + 2 yng Kildonan 23 May; 8 f + 10 yng Largybeg 30 May; 5 f + 6 yng Lamlash 13 yng; f + 2 yng Cleat 21 Jun; f + 9 yng Pirmill 2 Jul; 2 f + 3 well grown yng Cordon 10 Jul; 8 f + 4 yng Whitefarland 14 Jul; f + 4 yng and 4 f + 4 yng Whiting Bay 18 Jul.

Very common round the coast all yr with max 250 Whiting Bay 7 Feb.

Long Tailed Duck: Sightings of a m Blackwaterfoot 17 May, Tormore 22 May and again at Blackwaterfoot 12 Jun probably relate to same bird.

Common Scoter: m Cladach 12 Feb (D.Stevenson)

Goldeneye: Common round the coast during winter months with max 16 Machrie/ Pirmill 3 Feb; last f Machriewaterfoot 28 Apr; return 7 Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: Breeding - pr + 1 yng Pirmill 22 May; f + 4 yng Cordon 1 Jul; f + 7 yng Fish Fm 5 Jul; f + 12 newly hatched yng Cordon 7 Jul; f + 7 yng Machriewaterfoot 8 Jul; f + 6 newly hatched yng and f + 8 yng Carlo 14 Jul; f + 7 juvs Brodick 29 Aug.

Very common all yr round the coast with max 63 Machriewaterfoot 8 Jul; 48 "redheads" Whitefarland 14 Jul.

Goosander: Increase in sightings with pr Machriewaterfoot 17 Mar; pr Fish Fm 4 Jan and 20/30 Mar; 2 prs Fish Fm 31 Oct; pr Loch Iorsa 10 Dec.

Hen Harrier: Bred successfully in more than one location. Seen most often on Machrie Moor, String and Ross roads, and Boguille all yr round; f Urie Loch 12 Oct was unusual.

Goshawk: 1 disputing territory with a raven Monamore Forestry 16 May (I.Struthers);

Sparrowhawk: Common all yr round the coast. Inland records inc m Bailemargaidh 19 Feb and 18 Mar, f same location 14 Apr; 1 Corriecravie 1 May and 28 Aug; 1 String 27 May; f King's Cross 31 Aug; 1 Shannochie 14 Oct.

Buzzard: Breeding - pr fledged 1 yng Corriecravie; pr fledged 2 yng Glen Cloy; nest with almost fledged yng Torrylinnwaterfoot 6 Jul.

Common all yr round with max 7 Cleat 20 Sep; 2 involved in mock dispute with 1 peregrine and 2 kestrels Imachar/Whitefarland 23 Aug; juv killed by golden eagle Boguille 23 Aug.

Sea Eagle: unconfirmed report of 1 Kildonan early Aug.

Golden Eagle: Breeding - S pr fledged 2 yng, N pr fledged 1 yng.

Seen regularly all yr, with most sightings from String rd and the Boguille.

Osprey: Now occurring almost annually on passage, starting in 1992 (none last yr); 1 junction of String/Brodick road last seen heading up Glen Sherrraig 12 May; 1 stayed to fish for more than a week in late Oct/Nov.

Kestrel: Breeding - 1 at nest hole Dougarie 25 Mar, success unknown.

Common and widespread: 1 mobbing a golden eagle String summit 2 Feb; 2 involved in mock dispute with a peregrine, 2 buzzards and 2 hen harriers Imachar/

Whitefarland 23 Aug; decomposed imm found White House woods, Lamlash in Oct.

Merlin: only 2 records - m Glen Sannox 20 Sep; 1 Drumla Fm, Kildonan 3 Oct.

Peregrine: Breeding - only 1 unsuccessful record.

Singles reported regularly all yr, mainly in coastal areas: f being harassed by 2 m Holy Isle 12 Apr; 1 stooping on a f hen harrier Ross rd 27 May; 1 chasing flight of teal Kilpatrick plantation late Nov.

Red Grouse: Breeding - 3 yng Glen Easan Biorach 1 Jul.

Large coveys seen in many locations against the national trend.

Ptarmigan: Increase in sightings this yr (only 1 in 1994); 1 Goatfell 6 Apr; pr Beinn Bharrain 5 May; 5 shoulder of Goatfell 30 Aug; 2 Beinn Bhreac 17 Oct; 2 Castles 1 Nov; 1 in winter plumage Beinn Bhreac 2 Nov.

Red-legged Partridge: Common all yr with most reports from Machrie Fm and Dougarie areas where formerly released.

Quail: 1 (possibly feral) Kilpatrick plantation late May (R.Logan)

Pheasant: Common and widespread, with most reports coming from same areas as red-legged partridges. m seen almost daily on the Lamlash/Brodick verge for most of the yr finally run over.

Water Rail: 1 Dunan, Corriegills 19 Nov (H.Hamilton) is only record, although others may have remained hidden in suitable habitat.

Corncrake: Last recorded 1993, now thought to be extinct.

Moorhen: Uncommon all yr. Same pr as last yr present Cloy burn, not seen after Apr but returned 20 Oct to feed in a garden backing onto the burn; 2 imms Machrie pond Sep/Oct, 1 only 7 Nov and 12 Dec; 1 middle of Lamlash 20 Apr was unusual.

Coot: 1 Machrie pond 29 Jan (J.Delaney), last recorded 1991 also in Jan.

Oystercatcher: Breeding - 10 prs nested Machrie/Dougarie 6 May; pr + 3 yng Dougarie 26 May; 2 nests Kerrs Port, 1 yng fledged; min 10 prs nested Pladda, 2 nests with 2 eggs each 14 Jun; 3 nests with 3, 2 and 3 eggs respectively Imachar 29 May. Very common round the coast all yr with max 130 Machrie 16 Apr.

Ringed Plover: Breeding - nested Lagg 5 May and Imachar 13 May; nest with 4 eggs Clauchlands 28 May, 3 newly hatched yng 16 Jun; 2 nested Cleat 21 Jun; pr + 2 yng Machriewaterfoot 8 Jul.

Common round the coast all yr. BTO estuary counts show a slight decline in nos with max c60 Whiting Bay 19 Feb.

Golden Plover: No breeding records. Slight increase in nos with 21 Dougarie 3 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 19 Mar; pr Boguille 27 Apr; 1 Blackwaterfoot 22 Sep; 5 juvs Machriewaterfoot, 1 Tormore 20 Oct; 4 Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct; c20 summit Beinn Bhreac 2 Nov, 21 summit Beinn Bharain 5 Nov; max 49 Machriewaterfoot 16 Apr.

Grey Plover: No records, last recorded 1994.

Lapwing: Breeding - 4 displaying Shannochie 15 Apr, but fields ploughed 27 May; possibly nested Machrie Moor.

As last year, most sightings came from S/SW coast between E Bennan and Dougachie with the exception of pr Clauchlands 28 Jan; 1 Drumahinier 11 Jun; 6 Bencarrigan 4 Nov and 4 Clauchlands 27 Dec.

Knot: poor yr, with 1 Blackwaterfoot 16 Jul (T.Malin) only record.

Sanderling: 2 records - 1 Blackwaterfoot 26 Aug and juv Machrie 27 Aug, possibly same bird.

Purple Sandpiper: Having steadily declined in nos over the past 5 yrs, none this yr. This species like the corncrake may yet become extinct on Arran.

Little Stint: 1 Whiting Bay 4-6 Sep (M.Giles) is first record since 1987.

Dunlin: singles and prs Jan/Sep at Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan, Cleat, Whiting Bay, Machriewaterfoot and Brodick, with max 6 Blackwaterfoot 5 Sep.

Jack Snipe: 2 Torbeg 15 Mar; wisp of 20-30 mixed common snipe Kilpatrick plantation late Nov.

Snipe: Common round the coast during winter months. No records May/Aug; singles and prs at Glen Rosa, Penrioch, Clauchlands, Machriewaterfoot, Kildonan, Glenree with max 20-30 mixed with jack snipe Kilpatrick Plantation late Nov; 10 flushed from roadside ditch Sliderry/Corriecravie 28 Dec.

Woodcock: Breeding - f + 5 yng crossing Lamblash/Brodick rd nr golf course 22 Jun (probably 2nd brood); adult carrying a chick Penrioch 7 Jul.

Common all yr; roding at Lochan Ime 20 Jan, BCP 21 Mar, Fish Fm 7 May; pr middle of the rd Cnocan Dail 13 May; 1 the Heights (Lamblash/Whiting Bay) 15 May; String rd 20 Jun; 1 Sliderry 28 Dec; max 7 singles Machrie Moor 2 Jun.

Bar-tailed Godwit: poor yr with only 1 record - 1 Whiting Bay 4 Sep (M.Giles).

Whimbrel: scarce on passage, with singles at Sliderrywaterfoot 7 May and 16 Aug; pr Machriewaterfoot 21 May; 1 Cordon 19 Sep; 1 Whitefarland 21 Sep.

Curlew: Breeding - nested High Bálnacoole, Machrie Moor and probably Drumahinier (success unknown).

Very common and widespread all yr with max 115 Machrie 3 Feb.

Redshank: common and widespread round the coast all yr but absent May/Jun; max 36 Whiting Bay 13 Aug.

Greenshank: poor yr, with only 1 record - 1 Whiting Bay 19 Jun (Dr.J.Cassels).

Common Sandpiper: Breeding: adult with min 1 yng Fallen Rocks 6 Jun; 2 prs nesting Clauchlands 8 Jun and Kildonan 9 Jun; adult + 1 yng Glen Catacol 2 Jul.

Arr pr Wineport 17 Apr. Common and widespread Apr/Aug with max 3 prs Whitefarland 14 Jul.

Turnstone: common and widespread round the coast during winter months, absent May/Jun. Fewer summer records than 1994 with 2 Whiting Bay and 2 Drumadoon Pt 29 Aug. Max 25 Whiting Bay 19 Feb.

Arctic Skua: 1 juv Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct (T. ap Rheinalt) is the only record.

Great Skua: No spring records. 2 S end Holy Isle 24 Aug; 1 Brodick 13 Sep; 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 15 Sep (possibly same bird).

Black-headed Gull: Common and widespread round the coast during winter months, scarce May/Jun, with max 19 Lamlash 11 Sep.

Common Gull: Breeding: c20 nests Machrie/Dougarie 13 May; also bred Holy Isle (no figures available).

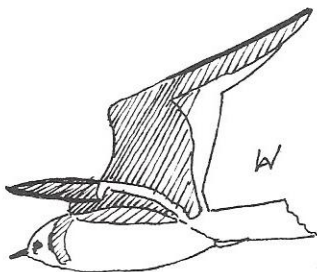
Common and widespread all yr round the coast, with max 220 Blackwaterfoot 4 Jan.

Herring Gull: Breeding: c100 prs nesting Pladda inc yng 14 Jun; also bred Holy Isle but no figures available.

Very common and widespread round the coast all yr with max 510 Whiting Bay 10 Sep.

Great Black-backed Gull: Breeding: c12 prs nesting Pladda inc yng 14 Jun; also bred Holy Isle but no figures available.

Common and widespread round the coast all yr with max 27 Whiting Bay 13 Aug.



Ross's Gull

Ross's Gull: 1 Whiting Bay 18 Nov (N. Robertson), and subsequently Kildonan 21 Nov (J. Rhead) is first record for Arran.

Kittiwake: Common on autumn passage; 1 dead Glen Rosa 31 Jan; 50+ Pirmill 29 May; 5 Drumadoon Pt, 4 flying S Brodick 29 Aug; 5 Machriewaterfoot 4 Sep; 60+ Whiting Bay 9 Sep; c350 Brodick 7-14 Sep; 200+ Whiting Bay 22 Sep, rising to max 420 8 Oct; last 4 Ardrossan/Brodick 23 Dec.

Sandwich Tern: Small nos on spring and autumn passage. Arr 1 Blackwaterfoot 7 Apr; singles and prs at Whiting Bay, Machrie and Dougarie Apr/Jun; adult with 1 juv Whiting Bay 26 Aug; singles at Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Machrie and Whiting Bay Sep-Oct; 3 Clauchlands 11 Sep; adult + 1 juv Whiting Bay, 2 Blackwaterfoot and 1 Brodick 13 Sep; max 5 Whiting Bay 7 May.

Common Tern: poor yr with only 1 definite sighting - 1 Dougarie 26 May (Dr. J. Cassels); 6 "comics" Fish Fm 22 Aug.

Arctic Tern: Breeding: min 4 prs nesting Pladda 14 Jun; 2 prs returned to Dougarie 16 May where formerly bred but failed and were last seen 25 May.

1 Whiting Bay 22 Jul was only other record.

Little Tern: 1 Whiting Bay 4-6 Jul (D.Baillie per M.H.Dunn) is first record since 1990.

Guillemot: Small nos seen round the coast and on ferry crossings all yr. 1 dead Kildonan 9 Mar; groups of adults and yng totalling 38 Ardrossan/Brodick 24 Jul; last 5 Brodick/Ardrossan 26 Dec.

Razorbill: Scarce during autumn/winter. 2 Kilbrannan Sound 7 Oct; 1 Fish Fm 1 Nov; 1 dead (oiled) Fish Fm 2 Nov; 3 Ardrossan/Brodick 23 Dec.

Black Guillemot: Breeding pr nested Brodick Pier (probably failed); nest in rocks nr Pirmill 13 May.

Common all yr round the coast, with max 20 Pladda 14 Jun.

Little Auk: 1 Lamlash Bay 12 Aug (P.Tupman), last recorded 1992.

Puffin: Occasional round the coast, but no records this year.

Rock Dove: small nos at traditional sites; 2 Cleiteadh Buidhe 26 Jan; 3 Torr nan Uain 5 May; 1 Kilpatrick 22 Jul.

Woodpigeon: common on farmland all yr with max c50 Glen Rosa 23 Feb.

Collared Dove: No breeding records. Singles and prs round the villages all yr with max 4 Shiskine 4 Jun.

Cuckoo: No breeding records. Arr 1 Shiskine 21 Apr; widespread by May, but no record of departure.

Barn Owl: Breeding: 1 pr bred 3 yng, other pr failed BCP; pr + 2 yng Dougarie 20 Jun. Several nest boxes put up by Forest Enterprise were occupied but breeding success was virtually nil. Common in suitable habitat. 1 dead at edge of Dunfion Forestry 27 Jan; 1 Imachar Pt 29 Aug is new location. 1 juv found dead on shore at Uig, Isle of Skye 12 Apr had been ringed on Arran 12 Jul 1994, a remarkable distance for a juv barn owl to travel.

Tawny Owl: less common than the barn owl, some sightings may be of released birds. Present all yr with singles at Lamlash, BCP, Bailemargaidh and Glenloig.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Kilpatrick plantation late Nov (R.Logan) is a new location and the only record. Formerly recorded at Dunfion Forestry and Merkland Wood, but no records since 1991.

Short-eared Owl: probably bred, but no records. 1 Boguille 13 Apr, also 24 Aug and 21 Sep; 2 Ross rd 10 May; pr hunting Machrie Moor 20 Jun; 1 Maol Donn 18 Oct; last 1 Urie Loch 29 Oct.

Nightjar: Arr 1 at traditional site 28 May; possibly present in other locations.

Swift: rare on Arran. 3 Machrie Moor 26 Jul; 1 Coillemore Lochranza first week Nov (A.Church) was latest ever recorded.

Kingfisher: poor yr. 1 Rosa burn 8 Oct, 1 Cloy burn 15 Oct and 1 same location 8 Dec probably refer to same bird.

Hoopoe: 1 Corriegills Fm 16 Sep (M.Ritchie), last recorded 1987

Skylark: common, but no large flocks; heard at Machrie, Kilpatrick, Whitefarland and Blackwaterfoot during Apr. Further reports of up to 4 from Machrie Forestry gate, Corriecravie, Sail Chalmadale, Allt Golach, Shannochie and Clauchlands in May; last 3 Sliderry shore 28 Dec.

Sand Martin: Breeding - no reports from Whitefarland. 6 prs bred successfully Auchencar.

Arr 2 Kildonan 14 Apr; 3 Iorsa 25 Jun, 4 1 Jul and 1 25 Jul; last 1 Blackwaterfoot 11 Sep.

Swallow: Breeding - 3 prs nested successfully at Corriecravie, also nested Sliderry; nest Lochranza 30 Jun; 2 yng N Sannox Fm Pk 10 Jul; 1 nest Kilmory PO 17 Jul; 3-4 nests Glenree Fm 1 Aug; failed to breed at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash for the first time in living memory; 4 nests King's Cross possibly triple brooded Aug 28.

Arr 2 Lamlash 9 Apr; 6-10 Kildonan 14 Apr, widespread by May with max 55 Whiting Bay Aug, against the national trend. Last 2 Dougairie 21 Oct, despite similar weather conditions (cf last 1 Lamlash 5 Dec 1994)

House Martin: Breeding - 2 nests, 1 with 2 yng Lamlash Hospital Jun; also nested Fairhaven; 2 nests Brodick, 1 with yng 9 Jul; attempted to nest Kilmory but failed; 2 nests Kildonan PO 17 Jul; 4 nests Balmichael, success unknown; 6 nests + 9 yng Sliderry; 7 nests on 1 house Corriecravie, 4 yng per nest fledged and min 2 nests double-brooded; also double-brooded Whiting Bay; 5 nests Arranton successful; 1 nest Torrylinn fell killing 3 yng.

Arr pr Lamlash 5 Apr; widespread by May with max c52 on power lines Corriecravie; main party left 5 Sep, last 4 28 Sep, again early like the swallows.

Meadow Pipit: Breeding; only 1 record of nest with 2 eggs Machrie Golf Course 4 May.

Common and widespread all yr with max 75 Tor Righ 1 Jun.

Rock Pipit: No breeding records. Common and widespread all yr round the coast, with max 20 Blackwaterfoot 30 May.

Grey Wagtail: Breeding: adult + 1 yng Blackwaterfoot 10 Jun; pr feeding 1 yng Lamlash 10 Jul; pr with 1 yng Sliderrywaterfoot 27 Jul; pr with 1 yng Glenscorrodale 1 Aug.

Common and widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 5 Kerrs Port 28 Sep.

Pied Wagtail: Breeding - nest nr Greannan Hotel, Blackwaterfoot 8 Apr; nest with 3 eggs Benlister 18 Apr; also nested successfully middle of Lamlash.

Common and widespread all yr with max 11 Blackwaterfoot 5 Feb; pr forced a dipper to submerge at mouth of Sannox burn 14 Sep;

White Wagtail: Scarce on spring passage, with 2 Blackwaterfoot 17 Apr; 4 Kilpatrick 18 Apr and 1 Machrie 28 Apr; no autumn passage records.

Dipper: No breeding records. Common and widespread all yr in suitable habitat with max 3 Glenashdale 29 Aug. 1 on rocks below Brodick front 23 Oct was unusual.

Wren: Breeding - adult + 3 yng Margnaeglish 16 Jun; also nested successfully middle of Lamlash.

Very common and widespread all yr with max 10 Glen Sherrraig 29 May.

Dunnock: Breeding - nest with 4 eggs Lamlash Apr, abandoned after hedge was cut; also nested successfully middle of Lamlash.

Common and widespread all yr with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 23 Dec.

Robin: Breeding - 1 juv Margnaeglish 9 Jun; also nested successfully middle of Lamlash; adult chasing a juv (probably its own) King's Cross 4 Aug.

Very common and widespread all yr with max 10 Glenashdale 28 May.

Black Redstart: Failed to show at Blackwaterfoot after being recorded there in 1993 and 94.

Redstart: Better yr after none 1994 and 1 1993; arr f Kilmory 15 Apr; m BCP 22 Apr; m Brodick 14 May; 1 Laggan 21 Aug.

Stonechat: Breeding - adult carrying food Corriecravie 1 Aug; juvs Glenscorrodale 23 Aug; 2 yng Drumadoon Fm 26 Aug; juv Lenamhor 29 Aug.

Common and widespread all yr, with max 12 (singles and prs) Glen Catacol/Lochranza 24 Dec.

Wheatear: Breeding - pr feeding yng Cleat 21 Jun is only record, but many more prs must have bred successfully.

Common and widespread during summer months. Arr pr Clauchlands 26 Mar, widespread by Apr; max 3 prs Cleat 9 Apr and Ross rd 21 Jun.

Ring Ouzel: Breeding - nest with 4 yng Coire Daingean May; possibly bred in other locations.

Autumn records inc 2 Cioch na h Oighe 9 Sep, with max 12 feeding on sorbus berries Glen Diomhan late Oct, the largest group recorded in recent yrs.

Blackbird: Breeding sample - nests at Cordon and Lamlash Bowling Green with 4 eggs each.

Very common and widespread all yr, with max 12 Glenashdale 28 May; leucistic bird with white head and tail Gortonallister during latter half of the yr.

Fieldfare: Normal nos this yr after the very large landfall in Oct last yr. Only 2 records Jan/Mar; return 3 Pirmill 21 Oct, rising to max c500-1000 mixed redwings Sliderry 28 Dec.

Song Thrush: Breeding - 2 nests Whitehouse woods successful, also nested middle of Lamlash.

* Common and widespread against the national trend, with max 6 Glenashdale 28 May and Glen Sherrraig 29 May; 1 in full song at Whiting Bay 26 Feb was unusual.

Redwing: only 1 record Jan/Mar; return c20 Brodick, 75 Pirmill 21 Oct; max c500-1000 mixed fieldfares 28 Dec.

Mistle Thrush: Breeding - 1 carrying food Lochranza 19 Jul.

Common and widespread all yr with max 23 Bailemargaidh 26 Aug.

Grasshopper Warbler: poor yr, with 1 The Heights 13 May and 1 Machrie Fm 20 May.

Sedge Warbler: Breeding - 1 carrying food to nest Clauchlands 22 Jun.

Seemed scarcer this yr. Arr 1 Sliderrywater 7 May, with max 3 Clauchlands 17 Jun; last 1 Blackwaterfoot 20 Jul.

Whitethroat: Breeding - 1 carrying food Largybeg 30 May; pr with 2 yng N Sannox Fm Pk 10 Jul.

Common and widespread during summer months. Arr m Blackwaterfoot 6 May with max 3 Kildonan 30 May and Drumadoon Fm 6 Aug; last 1 Sannox 26 Aug.

Garden Warbler: scarce, much as last yr. Arr 1 Porta Leacach 12 Apr; 1 Margnaeglish 2 May was only other record.

Blackcap: No breeding records. Common during summer months, but also over-winters. Only singles recorded this yr at Lamblash, King's Cross, Altachorvie Wood (Lamblash), Merkland Wood, BCP, Lagg, Glenashdale, Lochranza and Porta Leacach.

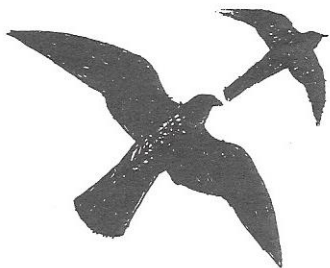
Wood Warbler: Fewer records than last yr. Arr 2 BCP 6 May; 2 Merkland Wood 10 May; max 6 Glenashdale 28 May was last sighting.

Chiffchaff: Breeding - nested Whiting Bay (success unknown).

Small nos during summer months. Arr 2 Kildonan 11 Apr; singles reported at Lamblash, Brodick, BCP, Glenashdale, Torr Righ, Merkland Wood, Dougarie and Lagg; last 1 Brodick 11 Sep.

Willow Warbler: Breeding - 1 carrying food Clauchlands 14 Jun; adult feeding 2 yng Lamblash 18 Jun; 1 juv Balmichael 20 Aug.

Common and widespread during summer months. Arr 2 Kildonan 11 Apr, with max 9 Glenashdale 28 May; last 1 String 15 Sep.



Merlin and quarry

Yellow-browed Warbler: 1 Kilmory 7-11 Dec (J.Rhead) is first record for Arran.

Goldcrest: No breeding records. Common and widespread all yr, with max 10 Fallen Rocks 29 Sep.

Spotted Flycatcher: Breeding - nest with 2 eggs Bailemargaidh 11 Jun; pr + 1 yng N Sannox Fm Pk 10 Jul; adult + 2 yng King's Cross 24 Jul;

Common and widespread during summer months. Arr 1 N Sannox Fm Pk 21 May, with max 6 King's Cross 31 Jul; last 1 Clauchlands 10 Sep.

Pied Flycatcher: possible m Douglas Centre, Brodick 15 Jun (A.Walters).

Long-tailed Tit: Breeding: 7 inc yng Margnaeglish 18 Jun and Strabane 25 Jul; probably bred King's Cross.

Common and widespread all yr in suitable habitat, with max 19 Glenashdale 9 Oct.

Coal Tit: Breeding - nested successfully at 2 sites in Lamlash.

Common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables, with max 6 N Sannox 29 Sep.

Blue Tit: Breeding - nested successfully Margnaheglish and middle of Lamlash. 2 nests Mount Pleasant, Lamlash with 7 eggs each both abandoned; 1 nest box with 6 eggs Lamlash Bowling Green, pr + 3 yng Strabane 25 Jul.

Very common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables, with max 10 BCP 27 May.

Great Tit: Breeding - pr re-occupied nest at Whitehouse woods.

Common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables, with max 6 Glenashdale 28 May.

Treecreeper: Breeding - adult + 1 juv Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 3 Jun.

Common all yr, with singles reported from Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Glen Rosa, Kings Cross, and Bailemargaigh; max 3 BCP 27 May.

Jackdaw: Breeding - nested successfully Lamlash, many other sites unrecorded.

Very common and widespread all yr, with max 110 Blackwaterfoot 18 Feb.

Magpie: 1 Kildonan 30 Mar (T.Ross-Bain) was only record.

Rook: No breeding records. Gradually expanding territory, with 1 Kildonan 31 Oct. Only 1 summer record with 13 Bailemargaigh 15 Jul; max 150 Shiskine 23 Nov.

Carrión/Hooded Crow: Bred successfully in many locations. Very common and widespread. Max 40+ Kings Cross 18 Apr, but larger flocks may have gone unrecorded. 1 with "magpie" markings Lamlash Hospital 18 Jun.

Raven: Bred successfully in many locations. Common and widespread all yr especially inland, with max 20 Tor nan Uain late Aug; 3-4 mobbing a golden eagle Lochranza 25 May.

Starling: very common and widespread all yr, with max 150+ Blackwaterfoot 25 Jul.

House Sparrow: Survey count 6-14 Mar recorded 8-10 Lamlash, a lot (?) Whiting Bay, 6 Ballymichael and 8 Kildonan. At long last confirmation of a pr Lochranza Nov-Dec. Very common round the villages all yr.

Tree Sparrow: 1 in flock of house sparrows Corriegills 14 Apr was only record.

Chaffinch: Breeding - bred successfully in many locations.

Very common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables during winter months. Max 30-40 feeding at a bird table in Lamlash daily Feb/Mar.

Brambling: Good yr (none 1994); f with chaffinches Lamlash 20 Feb, pr 22 Feb, max 4 m 1 f 4 Mar; 1 m 11 Apr; ringed f still present 30 Apr (latest ever recorded); 1 Pirmill 21 Oct; 1 Lochranza 23 Dec.

Greenfinch: Breeding - nest with yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; adult + 1 yng Clauchlands 21 May; 2 yng Clauchlands 2 Jul.

Common and widespread all yr with max 37 Clauchlands 11 Sep.

Goldfinch: Breeding - adult feeding 3 yng Lamlash late Sep.

Common and widespread during summer months, scarce in winter; max 40 Cleat 21 Sep.

Siskin: Breeding - m + 2 newly fledged yng Sandbraes 20 May; yng Bailemargaidh 17 Jul.

Common and widespread all yr especially at nuts during winter months, with max 60+ Corriegills 23 Oct.

Linnet: Breeding - 2 yng Drumadoon Fm 20 Jul; adult + 1 juv Glenscorrodale 1 Aug. Common and widespread in summer, scarce in winter. Max 80+ Machriewaterfoot 30 Aug.

Twite: No breeding records.

Better yr with 2 Port na Lochan 14 Apr; 1 Kilpatrick 6 May; 4 String and 3 Blackwaterfoot 11 Sep; 2 feeding on shore Lochranza 26 Dec.

Redpoll: Breeding - up to 6 prs bred at Derneneach.

Scarce in suitable habitat. 2 Bailemargaidh 26 Aug and 22 Oct was only other record.

Crossbill: After successful breeding last yr, population appears to have crashed. No reports this yr, not even from Kilmory where formerly regular.

Bullfinch: Breeding - pr + 1 yng Iorsa 9 Sep.

Small nos present all yr in suitable habitat, with max 3 Merkland Wood 13 Sep, 3 Pirmill 21 Oct, and 2 m 1 f Glen Cloy 24 Nov.

Snow Bunting: no reports this yr, last reported 1992.

Reed Bunting: no breeding records. Still low nos (cf 11 territories in 1991), with 1 Blackwaterfoot 2 Apr and 6 May; 1 Machrie Golf Course 13 May; 1 Clauchlands 24 May; pr Drumadoon Fm 10 Aug; max 3 Machrie pond 21 Sep.

Key to Check List

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

I = Introduced

C = Common

U = Uncommon

B* = Formerly bred

O = Occasional

X = Pre-1956 records

V = Vagrant

E = Escaped

CHECK LIST

✓ 1. Red Throated Diver	RC	57. Rough legged Buzzard	V
✓ 2. Black-throated Diver	R*/PC	✓ 58. Golden Eagle	RC
✓ 3. Great Northern Diver	S**U/WU/PC	59. Osprey	B*/PO
✓ 4. Little Grebe	WU	60. Hobby	X
5. Great Crested Grebe	V	✓ 61. Kestrel	RC
6. Red-necked Grebe	WO	62. Merlin	R*U
7. Slavonian Grebe	WO	✓ 63. Peregrine	RC
8. Black-necked Grebe	WO	✓ 64. Red Grouse	RC
✓ 9. Fulmar	SC/WU	65. Ptarmigan	RU
10. Cory's Shearwater	V	66. Black Grouse	B*
11. Sooty Shearwater	V	67. Capercaillie	B*X
✓ 12. Manx Shearwater	SC/PC	✓ 68. Red-legged Partridge	I
13. Mediterranean Shearwater	V	69. Grey Partridge	B*
14. Storm Petrel	PU	70. Quail	B*/V
15. Leach's Petrel	V	✓ 71. Pheasant	RC
✓ 16. Gannet	S**/C/WU	72. Water Rail	RU
✓ 17. Cormorant	RC	73. Spotted Crake	VX
✓ 18. Shag	RC	74. Corncrake	B*
✓ 19. Bittern	X	✓ 75. Moorhen	RU
✓ 20. Grey Heron	RC	76. Coot	WO
21. Spoonbill	V	77. Crane	V
22. Chilean Flamingo	VE	✓ 78. Oystercatcher	RC
✓ 23. Mute Swan	RC	✓ 79. Ringer Plover	RC
24. Bewick's Swan	V	80. Dotterel	PO
✓ 25. Whooper Swan	WU/PC	81. Golden Plover	SU/WU/PU
✓ 26. Pink footed Goose	WO	82. Grey Plover	PU
27. White-fronted Goose	WU/PU	✓ 83. Lapwing	RC
✓ 28. Greylag Goose	WC/PC	84. Knot	PC
29. Canada Goose	PO	85. Sanderling	PU
✓ 30. Barnacle Goose	WO	86. Curlew Sandpiper	V
✓ 31. Brent Goose	WO	87. Purple Sandpiper	WU
✓ 32. Shelduck	RC	88. Little Stint	V
✓ 33. Wigeon	WC	✓ 89. Dunlin	SU/WC/PC
✓ 34. Teal	SU/WC	90. Ruff	V
✓ 35. Mallard	RC	91. Jack Snipe	WO
36. Pintail	PO	✓ 92. Snipe	RC
37. Shoveler	B*/WO	93. Long-billed Dowitcher	V
38. Pochard	WO	✓ 94. Woodcock	RC
✓ 39. Tufted Duck	WU	95. Black-tailed Godwit	PO
40. Scaup	WO	✓ 96. Bar-tailed Godwit	PU
✓ 41. Eider	RC	✓ 97. Whimbrel	PC
42. King Eider	V	✓ 98. Curlew	RC
43. Long Tailed Duck	SO/WO	99. Spotted Redshank	PO
✓ 44. Common Scoter	SO/WO	✓ 100. Redshank	RC
45. Velvet Scoter	WO	✓ 101. Greenshank	WU/PU
✓ 46. Goldeneye	WC	102. Green Sandpiper	V
47. Smew	WO	✓ 103. Common Sandpiper	SC
✓ 48. Red-breasted Merganser	RC	✓ 104. Turnstone	S**U/WC
✓ 49. Goosander	S*/WO	105. Grey Phalarope	VX
50. Red Kite	X	106. Red-necked Phalarope	V
51. White-tailed Eagle	B*V	107. Pomarine Skua	V
52. Marsh Harrier	V	108. Arctic Skua	S**U/PC
✓ 53. Hen Harrier	RC	109. Great Skua	S**U/PC
54. Goshawk	S**/PO	110. Little Gull	PO
✓ 55. Sparrowhawk	RC	111. Sabine's Gull	V
✓ 56. Buzzard	RC	✓ 112. Black-headed Gull	RC
		✓ 113. Common Gull	RC
		✓ 114. Lesser black-backed Gull	SC/WU

✓ 115. Herring Gull	RC
116. Glaucous Gull	SU/PU
117. Iceland Gull	O
✓ 118. Great black-backed Gull	RC
119. Ross's Gull	V
✓ 120. Kittiwake	B*/SU/WC/PC
121. Ivory Gull	VX
✓ 122. Sandwich Tern	S**C/PC
123. Roseate Tern	B*O
124. Common Tern	SC/PC
✓ 125. Arctic Tern	SC/PC
126. Little Tern	PO
127. Black Tern	V
✓ 128. Guillemot	R**C
129. Razorbill	R**U
✓ 130. Black Guillemot	RC
131. Little Auk	PO
132. Puffin	PU
133. Pallas's Sandgrouse	VX
✓ 134. Rock Dove	RC
135. Stock Dove	O
✓ 136. Woodpigeon	RC
✓ 137. Collared Dove	RC
138. Turtle Dove	V
✓ 139. Cuckoo	SC
✓ 140. Barn Owl	RC
✓ 141. Tawny Owl	RU
142. Long-eared Owl	RU
✓ 143. Short-eared Owl	RC
144. Nightjar	SU
145. Swift	S*U/PU
146. Kingfisher	R*U
147. Hoopoe	V
148. Great Spotted Woodpecker	R*O
✓ 149. Skylark	RC
✓ 150. Sand Martin	SC
✓ 151. Swallow	SC
✓ 152. House Martin	SC
✓ 153. Tree Pipit	SC
✓ 154. Meadow Pipit	RC
✓ 155. Rock Pipit	RC
156. Yellow Wagtail	S*O
✓ 157. Grey Wagtail	RC
✓ 158. Pied Wagtail	RC
✓ 159. White Wagtail	B*/PC
✓ 160. Waxwing	WO
✓ 161. Dipper	RC
✓ 162. Wren	RC
✓ 163. Dunnock	RC
✓ 164. Robin	RC
✓ 165. Black Redstart	WU/PU
166. Redstart	SU
✓ 167. Whinchat	SC
✓ 168. Stonechat	RC
✓ 169. Wheatear	SC/PC
170. Ring Ouzel	SU
✓ 171. Blackbird	RC
✓ 172. Fieldfare	WC/PC
✓ 173. Song Thrush	RC
✓ 174. Redwing	WC/PC

✓ 175. Mistle Thrush	RC
176. Grasshopper Warbler	SU
✓ 177. Sedge Warbler	SC
178. Lesser Whitethroat	S**U
✓ 179. Whitethroat	SC
180. Garden Warbler	SU
✓ 181. Blackcap	SC/WU
✓ 182. Wood Warbler	SC
✓ 183. Chiffchaff	SC
✓ 184. Willow Warbler	SC
185. Yellow-browed Warbler	V
✓ 186. Goldcrest	RC
✓ 187. Spotted Flycatcher	SC
✓ 188. Pied Flycatcher	S**U
✓ 189. Long-tailed Tit	RC
190. Willow Tit	O
✓ 191. Coal Tit	RC
✓ 192. Blue Tit	RC
✓ 193. Great Tit	RC
✓ 194. Treecreeper	RC
195. Golden Oriole	V
196. Red-backed Shrike	V
197. Great Grey Shrike	V
198. Jay	B*
199. Magpie	B*O
200. Chough	B*X
✓ 201. Jackdaw	RC
✓ 202. Rook	B*/WC
✓ 203. Carrion/Hooded Crow	RC
✓ 204. Raven	RC
✓ 205. Starling	RC
✓ 206. House Sparrow	RC
207. Tree Sparrow	B*O
✓ 208. Chaffinch	RC
209. Brambling	WU
✓ 210. Greenfinch	RC
✓ 211. Goldfinch	RC
✓ 212. Siskin	RC
✓ 213. Linnet	RC
✓ 214. Twite	RU
✓ 215. Redpoll	SC/PU
216. Crossbill	RU
✓ 217. Bullfinch	RC
218. Hawfinch	V
219. Snow Bunting	WO
✓ 220. Yellowhammer	RC
✓ 221. Reed Bunting	RC
222. Corn Bunting	B*
223. Red-headed Bunting	VE

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

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. Now thought to be extinct.

Black Grouse: Only 2 records in the last 8 years: apparently no releases, on the verge or perhaps already extinct.

Water Rail: last breeding record 1979.

Corncrake: Probably now extinct.

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

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

Rock Dove: both feral pigeons and cliff-nesting wild type Rock Doves are common on the island

Tawny Owl: some 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.

Dunvegan House

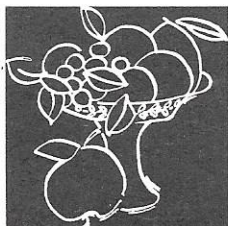
David & Naomi Spencer

Proprietors

Shore Road, Brodick

Isle of Arran. KA27 8AJ

Telephone: 01770 302811



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