

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT



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The Isle of Arran Natural History Society 1997

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FOR THE ISLE OF ARRAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1997

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INTRODUCTION

Because of the ever increasing cost of printing, this year sees the first "desk-top" production of the Bird Report and the Arran Naturalist. These two publications were amalgamated in 1994 and 1995, but happily we are now able to produce them as separate reports again.

Referring to last year's report, I must apologise for jumping the gun as far as two rarities are concerned. I added the Ross's gull and the yellow-browed warbler to the Check List before they had been accepted by the Rarities Committee. The Ross's gull record was not accepted, but although I still have not heard about the yellow-browed warbler, there seems to be every hope that it will stand. I have therefore deleted the Ross's gull from the checklist and added an asterisk to the yellow-browed warbler entry indicating that the record is awaiting ratification.

The most important factor in 1996 was the weather. A prolonged severe winter followed by a cold and very wet spring had an adverse effect on many of our smaller birds, and by the end of the year it was obvious that many had failed to survive. Goldcrests and tits in particular were very scarce, and even the meadow pipit population seemed to have suffered. The delay in the availability of insect food for many species meant that many early broods must have perished.

There were two welcome returns after an absence of a few years - pied flycatchers in May and a lesser whitethroat in June. Much more extraordinary though was the discovery of a dead bittern at Shiskine in March, the first record since 1835! It is difficult to believe that one hasn't been here in the intervening years, but given its ability to hide in dense vegetation, it could well have gone unrecorded. Two species on the brink of extinction here were noted. A corncrake was heard in the Shiskine Valley, last recorded in 1993, and although the nightjar failed to return to its traditional site at Merkland Wood, one was heard briefly at Glen Cloy late in July.

A detailed survey undertaken in Merkland Wood by Kate Sampson of the Ranger Service at Brodick Country Park for 6 consecutive weeks during April and May provided the first accurate figures of woodland birds in this area. The Ranger Service also monitors the progress of nesting barn owls in the Park, and of the 2 pairs nesting, one successfully raised 2 young. Forest Enterprise are also involved in the provision of nesting boxes for barn owls, but as last year, although the owls used the boxes, only one pair were successful.

As regards the Check List, the original status classification introduced by former bird recorder Margaret Dunn has been updated. Anyone requiring a more detailed analysis is requested to refer to Tristan ap Rheinallt's classification in the Bird Reports of 1992-94. Sincere thanks to all of you who wrote to me or phoned in with information, and special thanks to John Rhead for help in preparing this report. As regards information, all I need to know is how many, where, and the date. The number can be important, especially where a rarer species is concerned, and the date is equally important as it can sometimes be used to cross-reference a sighting on the same day from another correspondent. Please check the status of the species concerned - golden eagles are common here, magpies are not! Again, beware of hybrid ducks and geese.

There are now hybrid mallard for instance of many different hues, and the three geese which accompany the mute swans are also hybrids.

Please send information for 1997 to: Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaheglish Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LE (Tel. (01770) 600 406, no later than January 1998.

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

A miserable start to the year, the duller and coldest **JANUARY** in recent years. Strong easterly winds blew for most of the month. It was the best month ever for waxwings however, adding a spot of colour to a grim landscape with a single at Murray Estate, Lamlash on the 3rd, 2 Lochranza on the 23rd, 2 Whiting Bay on the 26th, 1 Blackwaterfoot on the 28th, 1 at Pirnmill on the 29th and a further 4 at Whiting Bay on the 31st. Other commoner birds sought shelter here, and incomers probably accounted for most of a flock of 42 blackbirds feeding at Lamlash on the 3rd. An early gannet was seen off Kildonan on the 4th, while a rare winter knot was at Brodick on the 8th. A maximum of 20 widgeon were noted at Clachlands on the 10th, a further decrease in the numbers overwintering at this location. On the same day 2 female tufted duck were at Port na Lochan, and one was also seen at Loch lorsa on the 12th in the company of a male and 2 female goosanders. Fieldfares, redwings and starlings made up a flock of about 1000 birds at Bennecarrigan on the 14th. Last sighting of note for the month was of a female snow bunting on Beinn a Chliabhain on the 25th.

FEBRUARY began with a scarce merlin seen at Kildonan Farm on the 2nd, then came further reports of waxwings with 2 at Strathwhillan and 5 at Arranton on the 11th, and a single at Catacol Farm on the 14th. A kestrel ringed at Tarlogie near Tain in Grampian Region on 18th June 1994 was found dead at Glenkiln Farm, Lamlash on the 11th. Also seen the same day were 2 pairs of dippers on the Benlister burn. An uncommon common scoter was roosting on rocks at Kildonan on the 13th, almost a year to the day that one was seen at Cladach. An overwintering blackcap was noted in a Brodick garden on the 15th; while 3 Great Northern divers were cruising offshore at Dougarie on the 20th. Visitors were entranced to see 5 golden eagles soaring over Glen Chalmadale on the 21st, and by the 23rd, 12 nesting sites at Cleiteadh Buidhe had been re-occupied by fulmars.

5 goldfinches at Kerr's Port on the 2nd with a further 12 on the 5th made a colourful start to **MARCH**. A single ptarmigan on Beinn Bharrain on the 8th was good news, but then came the astonishing news of a dead bittern at Shiskine on the 10th. This species was last recorded here over a century ago, in 1835 to be exact. There was no doubt about that one because it was shot near the White House, Lamlash. It could well be that one has been here in the intervening years, but simply went undetected owing to its ability to remain hidden in dense marshy vegetation. The 10th also saw the first of returning lesser black-backed gulls with 16 at Whiting Bay and yet more reports of waxwings with 1 at Arranton, and a further 6 at Whiting Bay, last seen on the 30th. Like the blackbirds in January, most of a flock of more than 40 song thrushes feeding at the back of Arran High School on the 13th would have been incomers. 6 lapwings at Arranton on the 13th and 6 at Newton on the 16th were amongst the highest numbers recorded, a sad reflection on the national decline of this species, formerly so common on Arran. The month ended on a happier note though with the arrival of the first pair of wheatears at Clauchlands Point and a chiffchaff at Porta Leacach on the 30th.

A very cold and wet **APRIL**, but summer migrants continued to arrive only a few days on either side of last year's dates, with a swallow at Whiting Bay on the 1st, white wagtail at Blackwaterfoot on the 7th, common sandpiper at the Cleat on the 10th, willow warbler at Lochranza on the 11th, house martin at Lamlash on the 13th and a sand martin at Porta Leacach on the 16th. A pair of Sandwich terns arrived at Cordon on the 17th and the first cuckoo of spring was heard and seen at Glen Sherrraig on the 19th. More warblers followed, with a whitethroat at Machrie and a wood warbler at Merkland Wood on the 26th, then a pair of arctic terns at Kildonan on the 28th, and finally a grasshopper warbler at Torrylinnwaterfoot on the 30th - the only record for this species.

A rare spotted redshank turned up between Sliderrywaterfoot and the Cleat on the 6th. A scarce female reed bunting was seen at Machrie pond on the 7th, while a male was at Brown Head the following day. This is yet another species which has declined in numbers in recent years. A moorhen last seen at Machrie pond on the 8th was found dead on the adjacent golf course on the 25th, sad news because unlike the mainland they are uncommon here. There was an interesting incident at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash on the 18th when a local observer watched a female sparrowhawk being mobbed in quick succession by a carrion crow, then 6 starlings, and finally a pair of pied

wagtails. She left in a hurry to look for quieter hunting grounds. A female black redstart was a surprise at Drumadoon Point on the 29th, while 7 whimbrels on passage at Clauchlands Farm on the 30th was the largest group seen on Arran ever as far as can be established.

Often the driest and sunniest month on Arran, the weather in **MAY** proved disappointing as northerly winds and rain continued to keep temperatures lower than average. The next batch of summer migrants arrived with a pair of garden warblers at Merkland Wood on the 3rd, a tree pipit at Brodick Country Park on the 6th (the first of only 2 records), a whinchat in Glen Rosa on the 10th and a sedge warbler at Kildonan Farm on the 13th. A male pied flycatcher at Porta Leacach on the 16th was the first definite sighting since 1992. A singing male (possibly the same bird) was at Merkland Wood 2 days later, while a female was seen at Lamash on the 27th. Finally, there was a common tern at Machrie on the 17th, and a swift at the foot of Glenashdale on the 22nd.

Over the last 5 years we have come to expect an osprey in transit, and this year was no exception when one was seen at High Kildonan on the 2nd. A sparrowhawk was again in the news at Whiting Bay on the 3rd when it pounced on a collared dove. A cat then joined the fray, but both birds escaped unharmed! A male crossbill was seen at the edge of forestry below the Urie Loch on the 4th, and a female dotterel on passage on Beinn Nuis/Beinn Tarsuinn ridge on the 6th. Sharp eyes spotted a puffin from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry on the 11th, while a pair of golden plovers were displaying at Beinn Bhreac on the 13th. A pair of ravens with 6 young were seen at Kilpatrick where they have nested continuously since 1937! The shelducks at Clauchlands however were less fortunate with their family when they led their young to the sea for the first time on the 17th. All 4 young were taken by crows before they even reached the water. The pair of mute swans at the Fish Farm nested successfully for the second year running, and 7 cygnets were seen for the first time on the 26th. 5 survived, and were seen almost daily with their parents at Whiting Bay until the end of the year. The 30th was a good day for black-throated divers, with 4 on the Kilbrannan Sound and 6 at Kings Cave.

After an unusually cold and wet spring, the sun shone brightly for most of **JUNE** with only a few showers at the beginning of the month.

3 cuckoos at Lochranza were observed feeding on their speciality, large hairy caterpillars. The spotted flycatchers at Bailemargaidh made good use of an open-fronted nestbox, and there were 5 eggs on the 8th, 4 of which hatched successfully. They double brooded, with a further 3 chicks being successfully raised later on in the month. The nightjar failed to return to its traditional site at Merkland Wood for the first time, nor were there any reports of redstarts. 12 redpolls at the King's Cave car park on the 17th was the highest number recorded for the year. A visit to Pladda on the 19th found almost every square yard of suitable terrain occupied by colonies of nesting gulls, but for the first time ever there were no nesting arctic terns. After an absence of two years, a single corncrake was heard calling at Shiskine in mid June. Welcome news to of 9 crossbills at Kilmory on the 26th - there were no reports in that area last year. By the end of the month it was evident that both the barn owls at Dougarie and the golden eagles had successfully raised their young. On a lighter note, after a pair of starlings had successfully nested for the 23rd year in succession at Arranton, the nest was dismantled, and the materials filled a large bin bag!

A rather dull start to **JULY** with overcast and showery weather, but by the start of the second fortnight the weather had improved with several days of bright sunshine. A lone grey partridge was seen at Tormore on the 4th, possibly the only survivor from birds introduced a few years ago in a vain attempt to re-establish them here, while on the same day an elusive water rail was in a Whiting Bay garden. The second puffin of the year was spotted from a yacht halfway between Troon and Holy Isle on the 10th. A red-throated diver was feeding 2 young on a hill lochan on the 11th, the only breeding report of the year for this species.

On the 14th, 32 rooks at Glenree was an unusual sight. Although they are common here in winter, they don't breed, and summer sightings are rare. A whooper swan was first seen with a pair of mute swans at Catacol on the 17th, and it continued to keep company with them for the rest of the year. More sightings from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry, with a storm petrel on the 16th and an estimated 650 Manx Shearwaters plus a great skua on the 19th. Best news though was of a nightjar churring at Glen Cloy on the 27th, as it failed to return to its traditional site at Merkland Wood for the first time.

AUGUST started with a mixture of sunshine and showers, but the weather improved during the second half of the month. On the 1st, observers watched a short-eared owl near the summit of the Boguille make a kill before resuming its quartering of the hillside. A scarce common tern was at Blackwaterfoot, while 2 large breeding flocks of red-breasted mergansers, 40 and 43 respectively were at Machrie on the 9th. 2 shovelers in eclipse at Machrie on the 19th was an unusual sighting as they are rare here. 4 wigeon also in eclipse were at the Cleat on the 21st, a very early return group. Starting with a sanderling and a juvenile knot at Machriewaterfoot on the 19th, there was a succession of waders in transit, with 2 adult knots at Machriewaterfoot on the 20th, 3 juvenile sanderlings at Sliderry on the 21st, a bar-tailed godwit at Whiting Bay on the 23rd and a greenshank at Machrie on the 24th, still there on the 31st. The second ptarmigan of the year was on Beinn a Chliabhain on the 21st, and a rare sooty shearwater flew past Largymore on the 24th. That same week, observers enjoyed watching a golden eagle practising its hunting skills by tearing up a clod of earth and then rising to a height before dropping it and retrieving it again. Final sighting of the month was of a single ring ouzel on the Cir Mhor/Castles ridge on the 30th.

By the middle of **SEPTEMBER**, there was an autumnal chill to the air and cold easterly winds returned. 60 ringed plovers at Whiting Bay was the highest number recorded at this location for the year, confirming suspicions last year that numbers are steadily declining. More than 100 were recorded regularly in recent years. More passage waders were noted on the 3rd with a sanderling at Torrylinn and 2 greenshanks at Machrie, with singles at Lamlash on the 5th and Blackwaterfoot on the 8th. Hill walkers on Cir Mhor on the 6th had the good luck to see first a peregrine mobbing an immature golden eagle, then a female ptarmigan. 2 bar-tailed godwits at the Cleat on the 12th were the last of the passage waders for 1996. A pair of swallows were still feeding young in the nest at Kildonan on the same day, and there were still young house martins in 5 nests at Sliderry at the end of the month. 5 collared doves in a Lamlash garden on the 15th were involved in vicious battle, not the sort of behaviour you expect from his species! More raptor news with a pair of hen harriers with a juvenile near the summit of Tighvein on the 23rd, and a returning osprey, possibly the same bird seen in May at Kildonan on the 30th. Goldfinches seemed to be plentiful this year, and a flock of more than 30 was seen at the Cleat on the 29th

It was the wettest **OCTOBER** in the UK since 1947, according to a BBC weather report. At long last came the news of a kingfisher on the Rosa burn on the 1st, the only sighting of the year despite many attempts to locate it. Of the summer migrants only the swallows remained, with the last wheatear at Machrie on the 8th and 3 housemartins at Brodick Golf Course on the 15th. A third great skua was seen from the ferry on the 3rd, while wintering wildfowl began to arrive with 13 teal at Machrie on the 5th and 13 barnacle geese on passage at Claulands Farm on the 6th, the largest flock in recent years. A returning skein of 14 greylags overflowed the String summit on the 8th and the first 2 female widgeon were back at Claulands on the 12th. A party of birders led by Angus Maciver were astonished to find a red-tailed hawk at Dunfion on the 13th. This one doesn't count for our check list though as it could only have been an escaped falconer's bird. A swift at Strabane on the 14th was a late date, but not as late as last year when one was seen in November. The first big mixed flocks of redwings and fieldfares began to appear with 500-600 at West Bennan on the 16th and about 500 at Whiting Bay on the 25. A brent goose turned up at Whiting Bay on the 17th, the same day and place as last year. The month ended with a fall of black redstarts, 2 pairs at Kilmory on the 29th, and a female at Lamlash on the 31st.

The prolonged wet weather during October continued into the first week of **NOVEMBER**. By the end of the month however, temperatures had dropped sharply and a prolonged hard winter began in earnest. The last 2 swallows fled on the 1st. The first 3 returning goldeneye arrived at Blackwaterfoot on the 5th, almost a fortnight later than last year, but they remained scarce at Lamlash and Brodick till the end of the year. More groups of whooper swans in transit were seen, with 7 at Shiskine on the 6th, 6 at Whiting Bay on the 19th and 8 at Kildonan on the 28th. A tufted duck at the gravel pit Strabane was a surprise on the 10th. Two family parties of long-tailed tits, about 15 at the Fallen Rocks, and about 30 at Dhunan were seen on the 15th. A maximum of 300 kittiwakes were at Whiting Bay also on the 15th. A curious note came from an observer who was watching a pair of dippers at the foot of Glenashdale on the 17th when one of them flew about 200 feet out to sea and landed briefly on the water before returning to land. The final 2 waxwings of the year were at Catacol on the 19th and a day later a group of 8 or more snow

buntings were seen on An Tunna. The month ended on a sad note when a water rail at Corriecravie on the 30th was accidentally run over, ironically by the same postman who had reported one at Kilmory in 1994.

DECEMBER continued as November had ended. with bitter east winds continuing to sweep the country. There wasn't as much snow here as last year, but a penetrating frost froze the ground solid as well as inland lochans and pools, causing feeding problems for many birds. Despite the Arctic conditions there were no reports of any snowy owls, ivory gulls or snow geese!

By the end of the year it was obvious that the long hard winter and cold wet spring had had a devastating effect on many breeding species. This was particularly noticeable at bird tables during the winter, with very few blue, coal and great tits coming for food. Goldcrests too were very scarce, and even meadow pipits, normally one of our commonest birds, seemed to have declined in numbers. Sightings for December were few and far between, hardly surprising given the weather; a woodcock sitting on the Ross road in the dark on the 1st, 11 redpolls in Lagg Wood on the 17th, a rare winter sighting, a pair of returning shelduck at Clauchlands on Christmas Eve, and 2 ptarmigan, probably enjoying the arctic conditions on the Stacach ridge on the 28th.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser Black-backed gull 10 Mar	Grasshopper Warbler 30 Apr
Wheatear 27 Mar	Garden Warbler 3 May
Chiffchaff 30 Mar	Tree Pipit 6 May
Swallow 1 Apr	Whinchat 10 May
White Wagtail 7 Apr	Sedge Warbler 13 May
Common Sandpiper 10 Apr	Spotted Flycatcher 15 May
Willow Warbler 11 Apr	Pied Flycatcher 16 May
House Martin 13 Apr	Common Tern 17 May
Sand Martin 16 Apr	Swift 25 May
Sandwich Tern 17 Apr	Lesser Whitethroat 14 Jun
Cuckoo 19 Apr	Manx Shearwater 17 Jun
Whitethroat 26 Apr	Nightjar 27 Jul
Wood Warbler 26 Apr	(NB Blackcap and Whimbrel
Arctic Tern 28 Apr	sometimes overwinter)

ABBREVIATIONS

sp = species	Pt = Point
no/nos = number(s)	Fm = farm
m = male	nr = near
f = female	N,S,E,W = direction of flight etc.
yng = young	Jan, etc. = all months abbreviated
juv = juvenile	inc = including
imm = immature	pr(s) = pair(s)
max = maximum	arr = arrival
cf = compare	BCP = Brodick Country Park

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver

Breeding: bred successfully at 1 location, but no other confirmed reports. Singles and prs seen at Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Machrie, Pirnmill and Lochranza all yr round, with max 6 Pirnmill 29 Aug.

Black-throated Diver

Fewer sightings than red-throated, with singles and prs at Blackwaterfoot, Kilbrannan Sound and N Sannox; max 6 Kings Cave 30 Apr; 1 + juv Whiting Bay 24 Aug; 3 King's Cave 26 Nov was only winter sighting.

Great Northern Diver

Singles and prs seen at same locations as above, with max 3 Dougarie 20 Feb and Imachar 5 Apr;

Little Grebe

Overwintered at Fish Fm, Rosa burn and Lochranza, with max 3 Lochranza 18 Feb.

Fulmar

Breeding: 2 yng at Cleiteadh Buidhe and 7 yng at Drumadoon, but no reports from other colonies at Dunfion, Imachar, N Corriecravie, Largybeg, Kings Cave and Catacol/Thunderguy. Max 30 prs Cleiteadh Buidhe. Common in summer with last 1 Cleiteadh Buidhe 7 Sep.

Sooty Shearwater

1 flying S Largymore 24 Aug (M.Giles).

Manx Shearwater

Most sightings from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry, with max c 650 19 Jul. Also seen off Whiting Bay, Machrie, Drumadoon and N Sannox. Last sighting c100 Brodick 22 Sep.

Storm Petrel

2 Ardrossan/Brodick 16 Jul (J.Cassels).

Gannet

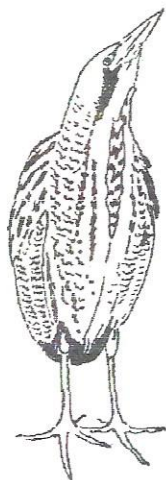
First 1 Kildonan 4 Jan; common during summer months, with max 74 resting on the sea Merkland Pt 20 Aug.

Cormorant

Breeding: bred successfully on Pladda, but no reports from Holy Isle. Further reduction in nos with max 13 Blackwaterfoot 21 Jan.

Shag

Breeding: colony of 64 prs with yng Pladda 19 Jun, but no reports from Holy Isle. Reduction in nos elsewhere with max 40 Largymore 29 Apr.



Bittern

1 found dead Shiskine 10 Mar, first record since 1835!
(H.Hamilton & A.McMillan)

Grey Heron

Breeding: 1 yng White House 18 Jul; Also nested at Whiting Bay, Lagg, Kildonan and Fish Fm, but success unknown. No report from Merkland Wood. Common round the coast all yr, with max 6 Sannox/Brodick 6 Jul.

Mute Swan

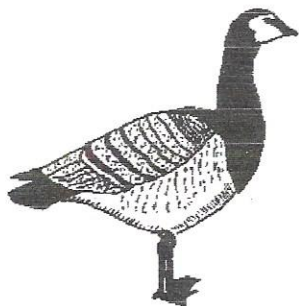
Breeding: bred successfully for the 2nd yr at Fish Fm, 5 of 7 yng survived. Further increase in nos with max 12 Whiting Bay 10 Mar.

Whooper Swan

2 Machriewaterfoot 16 Jan; 2 Whitefarland/Pirnmill 13 Apr; more on autumn passage, with 7 Shiskine Valley 6 Nov, 6 Whiting Bay 19 Nov and 8 Kildonan 28 Nov. Juv reported last yr is now resident, and was first seen with a pr of mute swans at Catacol 16 Jul.

Greylag Goose

Flock overwintered as usual in the Shiskine Valley, with max 320 27 Jan; return 14 overflying the String summit 8 Oct, rising to 200+ Bennecarrigan 26 Nov.



Barnacle Goose

13 Clauchlands Fm 6 Oct (A.Walters) was the only record, and the largest no. recorded for more than 15 yrs.

Brent Goose

1 Whiting Bay 17 Oct (J.Cassels).

Shelduck

Breeding: fewer records than usual; 4 yng predated by crows Clauchlands 17 May; pr + 8 yng Corrie 23 May; pr + 1 yng Largybeg 1 Jun. Common round the coast Jan-Jul, return pr Clauchlands 24 Dec.

Wigeon

Common during the winter months at Kildonan, Machrie and the Cleat, with max 85 Machrie 21 Jan; nos at Clauchlands show a further reduction with max 20 10 Jan; male at Clauchlands 4 May is very late; return 4 in eclipse the Cleat 21 Aug.

Teal

No breeding records. Common round the coast during winter months at Machriewaterfoot, Cleat and Tormore, with max 80 Machriewaterfoot 21 Jan. Also seen inland with 3 Kilpatrick plantation 29 Feb and a pr Corrie cravie ponds 17 Mar.

Mallard

Breeding: f + 11 yng Benlister 28 Apr; pr + 8 yng Machrie pond 3 May; f + 12 yng Lamlash Golf Course 13 May (only 1 survived); f + 8 yng Clauchlands 18 May; f + 10 yng Cordon 5 Jul. Very common round the coast all yr with max 32 in eclipse Clauchlands 16 Aug.

Shoveler

2 m in eclipse Machrie 18 Aug (A. McNeil) is first record since 1991.

Tufted Duck

Uncommon on Arran. 2 f Port na Lochan 10 Jan; f Loch Iorsa 12 Jan; pr Port na Lochan, single Corrie cravie ponds 29 Jan; f Strabane gravel pit 10 Nov is a new location.

Eider: Breeding:

115 yng representing about 18 broods noted. Also nested Pladda, but success unknown. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 118 Whiting Bay 21 Apr.

Common Scoter

m Kildonan 13 Feb (A. Walters).

Goldeneye

Small groups of up to 10 round the coast during the winter months, with max 12 Lamlash 18 Feb, Blackwaterfoot 18 Nov and Dougachie/Imachar 12 Dec. Last 1 Cordon 9 Jun (late); return 3 Blackwaterfoot 5 Nov (late).

Red-breasted Merganser

Breeding: 38 yng representing 5 broods noted; nest at Glen Rosa was unusual. Very common all yr round the coast, with max 80 in a breeding flock Whitefarland 17 Jul.

Goosander

1 m 2 f Loch Iorsa 12 Jan; m Blackwaterfoot 18 Apr.

Hen Harrier

Breeding: bred successfully in more than 1 location. Singles seen most often in the Machrie Moor, Ross road, String road and Boguille areas all yr.

Goshawk

Possible Murray Estate, Lamlash 10 Apr, same area as definite sighting last year.

Sparrowhawk

No confirmed breeding records. Common and widespread.

Buzzard

Breeding: pr still feeding yng in nest King's Cross 31 Oct. Common and widespread all yr, with max 7 Windmill ridge 11 Sep.

Golden Eagle

Breeding: Both N and S prs bred successfully. Seen all yr mainly in the String road and Boguille areas.

Osprey

1 on passage I High Kildonan (T & P. Smith); 1 Kildonan 30 Sep possibly same bird on return passage.

Kestrel

Breeding: pr + 3 fledged yng Dougarie 17 Jul. Common and widespread all yr. 1 found dead at Glenkiln Fm, Lamlash 11 Feb had been ringed as a nestling at Tarlogie nr Tain, Grampian Region.

Merlin

No recent breeding records. 1 Kildonan Fm 2 Feb; m Kilmory 2 Jul; 1 Meall Breac/Goatfell 6 Oct; 1 Largybeg 21 Dec.

Peregrine

Probably bred successfully, but no confirmed records. Singles and prs in coastal locations all yr. 1 mobbing imm golden eagle Cir Mhor 6 Sep.

Red Grouse

Breeding: adult + 8 yng Sail Chalmadale 11 Jul; breeding birds were badly affected by the long cold and wet spring, and coveys were smaller than last yr, particularly in the N end of the island.

Ptarmigan

1 Beinn Bharrain 8 Mar; 1 Beinn a' Chliabhain 21 Aug; f Cir Mhor 6 Sep; 1 Castles ridge 1 Dec; 2 Stacach ridge 28 Dec.

Red-legged Partridge x Chukar

Common all yr, especially in the Machrie area where formerly released. Max 25 Machriewaterfoot 10 Feb.

Grey Partridge

1 Tormore 4 Jul (S. & E.Lonsdale), probably a release, last recorded 1992.

Pheasant

Common and widespread in suitable habitat. Seen regularly on the Brodick/Lamlash road, and many coming regularly to feed in gardens.

Water Rail

1 Whiting Bay 4 Jul; 1 accidentally run over by post van Corriecravie 30 Nov.

Corncrake

1 calling for 2 days Shiskine Valley in Jun (per J.Rhead)

Moorhen

Pr present all yr Cloy burn; 1 Machrie pond 5-8 Apr; 1 dead (probably same 1) Machrie Golf Course 25 Apr; 1 Machrie pond 25 Aug.

Oystercatcher

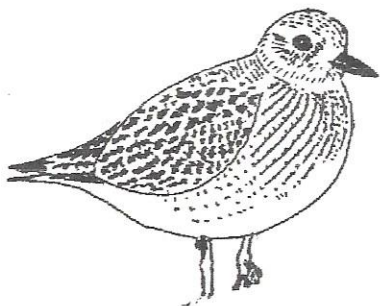
Breeding: successfully nested at Machrie, Dougarie, Clauchlands, Corrie, Tormore, Machrie Golf Course, Sannox and Pladda, but this is only a fraction of the breeding population. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 135 Lamlash 18 Feb.

Ringed Plover

Breeding: fewer reports than usual, with nests at Sannox, Whiting Bay and Machrie, but success unknown. Common round the coast all yr with max 75 Machriewaterfoot 21 Aug.

Dotterel

f Beinn Nuis/Beinn Tarsuinn 6 May (per D.Stevenson).



juvenile

Golden Plover

No breeding reports. Smaller nos than last yr (cf 49 Machriewaterfoot 16 Apr 1995) with pr displaying Beinn Bhreac 13 May; 6 Cleat 7 Sep; 1 Drumadoon Pt 8 Sep; pr Beinn Bharrair 13 Sep; 2 Machriewaterfoot 29 Dec. Max 7 Beinn Bhreac 18 Jul.

Grey Plover

Non reported

Lapwing

No breeding reports. Up to 2 seen at Thunderguy, Machriewaterfoot, Blackwaterfoot, Dougarie, the Cleat, Arranton, Newton, Bailemargaidh, Whiting Bay, Auchencar and Torrylinnwaterfoot throughout the yr, with max 20+ Slidriewaterfoot 30 Nov, an improvement on last yr.

Knot

A better yr, with first winter record of 1 Brodick 8 Jan; juv Machriewaterfoot 19 Aug, and 2 adults in the same location 20 Aug.

Sanderling

Also a better yr with 4 records as against 2 last yr: 1 Machriewaterfoot and again Dougarie 19 Aug; 3 juvs Slidery 21 Aug; 2 Blackwaterfoot 25 Aug; 1 Torrylinn 3 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper

None for the 2nd yr running.

Little Stint

Possible 2 Torrylinn shore 29 Aug.

Dunlin

Small nos seen regularly during the winter months round the coast, with most records from the Blackwaterfoot area. Summer records inc 1 Drumadoon Pt 26 Jul; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 10 Aug; 1 Whiting Bay 23 Aug; 4 juvs Slidery 24 Aug. Max 6 Whitefarland 25 Aug.

Jack Snipe

1 found dead Lochranza 3 Jan.

Snipe

No breeding records. Scarce, with singles and prs recorded round the coast during the winter months. Only 1 inland record of 1 Kilpatrick plantation 7 Nov (cf 20-30 same location last yr).

Woodcock

No breeding records. Only singles seen roding at BCP, Sannox, Monamore Forestry, Dougarie, Tormore, Lochranza and Glaister Mar-Jun, but none where usual at King's Cross and Auchencairn.

Bar-tailed Godwit

1 Whiting Bay 23 Aug; 1 Torrylinn 29 Aug; 2 Cleat 12 Sep.

Whimbrel

More records than usual, with 1 Shiskine Golf Course 19 Apr; 1 Slidderwaterfoot/Cleat 20 Apr; 1 Whiting Bay 29 Apr; 3 Blackwaterfoot 4 May; 1 Lagg/Torrylinn 8 May; 1 Dougarie 17 May. Only 1 autumn record of 1 Slidderwaterfoot/Cleat 7 Sep. Max 7 Clauchlands 30 Apr, the largest group for more than 15 yrs.

Curlew

Breeding: 1 at traditional nesting site King's Cross 30 Apr; adult + 1 yng Machrie Moor 22 Jun. Decrease in nos, with max 80+ Port na Feannaiche 10 Aug.

Spotted Redshank

1 Slidderwaterfoot/Cleat 6 Apr (J.Cassels)

Redshank

Common and widespread round the coast all yr, but absent during May. Slight reduction in nos with max 23 Whitefarland 29 Sep.

Greenshank

A good yr, with 1 Machriewaterfoot 24Aug - 2 Sep; 2 in same location 3 Sep; 1 Lamlash 5 Sep; 1 Blackwaterfoot 8 Sep.

Common Sandpiper

Breeding: pr nesting Glen Rosa 13 May; 2 prs nested Machrie and Clauchlands 25 May, success unknown; pr + 3 yng Carlo 12 Jun; adult + 1 yng Corrie 16 Jun; pr + 1 yng Iorsa 7 Jul; pr + 1 juv Tormore 12 Jul. Arr 1 Cleat 10 Apr with max 3 prs Clauchlands 4 May. Common and widespread during the summer months. Last 1 Imachar 4 Sep.

Turnstone

Common round the coast during the winter months. Highest nos at Machriewaterfoot, Blackwaterfoot, Clauchlands and Whiting Bay, with max 20 Whiting Bay 17 Nov. Summer records inc 12 Machriewaterfoot and 6 Whiting Bay 24 Aug.

Great Skua

1 Ardrossan/Brodick 19 Jul and 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 28 Jul may refer to the same bird; 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 3 Oct.

Black-headed Gull

Common and widespread during the winter, but no records Apr/Jun; 10 inc yng Blackwaterfoot 9 Aug; max 12 Lamlash 15 Sep.

Common Gull

Breeding: c15 prs nesting Dougarie 25 May; 3 nests with eggs Pirnmill; 10+ adults + yng Kings Cave 3 Jul; also bred Holy Isle but no figures available. Common and widespread all yr, with max 223 Lamlash 18 Feb.

Lesser black-backed Gull

Breeding: c150 prs + yng Pladda 19 Jun; also bred Holy Isle but no figures available. Common and widespread Mar/Sep, with max 106 Sannox 20 Aug.

Herring Gull

Breeding: c150 prs + yng Pladda 19 Jun. No figures available for Holy Isle or inland sites. Common and widespread with max 320 Whiting Bay 10 Mar;

Great black-backed Gull

Breeding: 42 prs + yng Pladda 19 Jun. No figures from any other sites. Common and widespread all yr with max 25 Lamlash 17 Nov.

Kittiwake

No records Jan-May. Small nos Jun-Sep, building to a peak in Nov with 300+ Whiting Bay 15 Nov.

Sandwich Tern

Increase in sightings. Arr pr Cordon 17 Apr. All sightings came from between Brodick/Blackwaterfoot with the exception of 2 sightings at Catacol. Adults with up to 2 juvs seen at Machriewaterfoot, Brodick, and Whiting Bay, with max 11 Blackwaterfoot 21 Apr. Last 2 Whiting Bay 15 Sep.

Common Tern

Arr 1 Machrie 17 May. Only 2 other sightings of 1 "comic" Drumadoon 3 Jul and 1 Blackwaterfoot 9 Aug.

Arctic Tern

Failed to breed on Pladda for the first time in more than 15 yrs, probably ousted by the ever increasing nos of nesting gulls. Arr 2 Kildonan 28 Apr. Still scarce, with up to 2 at Pirnmill, Machrie and Blackwaterfoot May/Aug.

Guillemot

Most sightings came from ferry crossings, with max c30 Lochranza/Claonaig 23 Apr. Other sightings include 1 Brodick 13 Jan; 3 Cleat 10 Apr; 1 Largybeg 1 Jun; 1 badly oiled bird Machrie 24 Sep.

Razorbill

Only 2 sightings of 1 Lamlash 16 Feb and 1 found dead Machriewaterfoot 28 Apr.

Black Guillemot

Breeding: 2 nests Brodick Pier 5 May; nested in a cave at Kilpatrick shore and at the Fish Fm (success unknown); 10 prs + yng Pladda 19 Jun; pr nesting Imachar 2 Jul; nest with 2 eggs Kings Cave 18 Jul. Common and widespread round the coast, but seemed scarce or even absent from Lamlash Bay Nov/Dec where normally seen frequently.

Puffin

2 records unusually, 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 11 May and 1 seen from a yacht Troon/Holy Isle 10 Jul.

Rock Dove

Recorded at only 2 sites, with 7 Torr nan Uain 19 Feb and 5 Cleiteadh Buidhe 15 Jun where present all yr.

Woodpigeon

No breeding records. Common around farmland with max c60 Altachorvie Wood, Lamlash 2 Jan.

Collared Dove

No breeding records. Singles and prs at Whiting Bay, Clachaig Fm, Shiskine, Kings Cross and Lamlash, present all yr, with max 5 Lamlash 15 Sep.

Cuckoo

No breeding records. Arr 1 Glen Sherrraig 19 Apr, widespread by May. Last 2 Torbeg 30 Jun.

Barn Owl

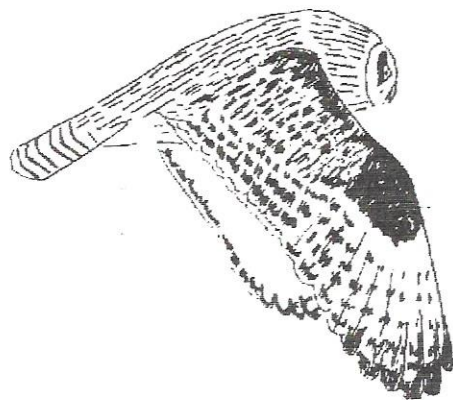
Breeding: pr + 1 yng Glen Rosa, pr + 2 downy yng Dougarie 22 Jun; 2 yng reared successfully at both BCP and Tormore. Boxes put up by Forest Enterprise had limited success, with min 2 yng reared. Singles seen at Catacol, Corrie, Glenree, Cnoc na Dail and Ross road summit all yr.

Tawny Owl

Scarce, with only 2 records of 1 Lamlash 19 Feb and again 4 Jul, and 1 Sandbraes 28 Mar.

Long-eared Owl

Possible Merkland Wood 26 Apr and 1 High Glenashdale were the only records. Small area of forestry on Machrie Moor where they formerly nested was felled.



Short-eared Owl

Breeding: nested Machrie Moor, but success unknown. Seen all yr at Glenloig, Machrie Moor and Boguille areas. Other sightings include 1 Blackwaterfoot 27 Feb and 1 Iorsa 11 Jul.

Nightjar

Failed to return to traditional site at Merkland Wood for first time in over 15 yrs; 1 churring at Glen Cloy 27 Jul (M.Maule); 1 other definite sighting S Arran (J.Rhead).

Swift

Increase in sightings with arr 1 foot of Glenashdale 22 May; 2 Cleat 25 May; 1 The Heights 1 Jun; 1 Kilmory 20 Jun; 1 Corriecravie, 3 Blackwaterfoot and 3 Kildonan 18 Jul; 1 Brodick 26 Jul. Last 1 Strabane 14 Oct.

Kingfisher

Poor yr, with only a single sighting of 1 Rosa burn 1 Oct (H.Hamilton).

Skylark

No breeding records. Nos remain low with up to 3 present Feb/Jul at Cleat, Machrie, Cnoc Leacainn Dubhe, Clauchlands, Dougarie and Ross road, with max 6 Drumadoon 5 Apr.

Sand Martin

Breeding: 2 prs + 1 yng each Whitefarland 17 Jul; also bred at Auchencar, but success unknown. Arr 1 Porta Leacach 16 Apr, thereafter singles recorded at Corriecravie, Clauchlands, and Blackwaterfoot, with max c8 Auchencar 7 May. Last 1 with swallows and house martins Port na Lochan 8 Sep.

Swallow

Breeding: 9 nests, some occupied Strathwhillan 7 Jun; c60 including juvs in mixed flock with house martins Kildonan Fm 3 Sep; pr still feeding yng in nest Kildonan 12 Sep. Arr 1 Whiting Bay 1 Apr, widespread by May with max 200+ Sliddery 21 Aug. Last 2 Lamlash 1 Nov.

House Martin

Breeding: 2 nests Lagg 5 Jun; 6 nests on 1 house Corriecravie, most double brooded producing c30 yng; nest at Largymore 14 Jun, deserted by 28 Jun; 5 nests + yng at both Arranton and Sliddery end of Sep. Arr 1 Lamlash 13 Apr, widespread by end of Apr. Max c100 Corriecravie mid-Apr. Last 3 Brodick Golf Course 15 Oct.

Tree Pipit

Only 2 records of 1 BCP 6 May and 1 N Glen Sannox 15 May. According to a newspaper report, there was a nationwide slump in population, partly due to maturing forestry and fluctuations in insect supply.

Meadow Pipit

Breeding: pr carrying food to nest Glen Rosa 13 Jun; pr feeding yng Clauchlands 25 Jun; 1 live yng, 1 dead outside nest Glen Catacol 12 Jul; adult + 3 yng Kerrs Port 18 Jul. Nos down probably due to severe winter conditions and delayed supply of insect food, Max 160 Machrie Moor 21 Aug with c25 Clauchlands 12 Apr the only other flock reported.

Rock Pipit

Breeding: pr nesting Kildonan 27 Apr; pr nesting Pladda 19 Jun. Common round the coast all yr, with max 8 Drumadoon 19 Aug.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding: pr feeding 1 yng Clauchlands 1 Jun; also bred at Benlister burn and under the Cloy burn bridge Brodick. Common and widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 6 Blackwaterfoot 6 Sep.

Pied Wagtail

Breeding: pr nesting on cliffs above Largybeg 27 Apr; nest + 5 yng Auchencairn 15 Jun; f feeding 2 yng Lagg 21 Jun; adult feeding 1 yng Strathwhillan 5 Jul; pr + 2 juvs Machrie 12 Jul; nest + yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 15 Jul; f feeding 2 yng Largymore 30 Jul. Very common and widespread all yr with max 23 Machrie Golf Course 5 Oct. Male with green and white leg bands at Kerrs Port 18 Jul was ringed in Dumfriesshire.

White Wagtail

Arr 1 Blackwaterfoot 7 Apr; pr Whitefarland 23 Apr; 3 Kildonan, 1 Cleat 27 Apr; 2 Drumadoon 4 May; 1 Torrylinn 11 May; last 1 Blackwaterfoot 2 Sep.

Waxwing

Best yr ever, with 1 Lamlash 3 Jan; 2 Lochranza 23 Jan; 2 Whitefarland 26 Jan; 1 Blackwaterfoot 28 Jan; 1 Pirnmill 29 Jan; 4 Whiting Bay 31 Jan; 2 Strathwhillan, 5 Arranton 11 Feb; 1 Catacol Fm 14 Feb; max 6 Whiting Bay last 2 weeks in Mar; 2 Catacol 19 Nov.

Dipper

No breeding records. Common all yr in suitable habitat, with max 2 prs Benlister burn 11 Feb. Glenree 21 Dec was first record for this area..

Dunnock

Breeding: 3 + 2 juvs Merkland Wood 23 May. Normally very common all yr, but very few reports. Population probably affect by winter conditions and very late spring.

Robin

Breeding: double brooded Kings Cross; nested Margnaheglish, but success unknown; nest with 5 eggs hatched successfully, also 4 yng in nest box Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 10 Jun. Very common and widespread all yr.

Black Redstart

Good yr with f Drumadoon Pt 29 Apr; 2 f Kilmory 28 Oct, 2 prs the following day; f Lamlash 31 Oct, seen a week later at Arranton.

Redstart

Failed to show

Whinchat

Breeding: pr + 1 yng Machrie 6 Jul; juv Clauchlands 7 Jul; pr feeding 2 juvs Tormore 12 Jul; pr + 2 yng Glen Catacol, pr + 2 yng Machrie Moor road 23 Jul; f + 2 yng Drumadoon Fm 27 Jul; pr + 1 juv Glen Iorsa 7 Sep. Arr 1 Glen Rosa 10 May with max 4 Machrie Moor 2 Jun. Last 1 Machrie Moor 10 Sep.

Stonechat

Breeding: juv High Corrie 16 Jun; juv Clauchlands Pt 30 Jun; pr + 3 yng Glen Catacol 12 Jul; pr + 2 yng Glen Easan Biorach 23 Jul; 2 yng Drumadoon 26 Jul; 2 yng Glen Rosa 27 Jul; pr + 3 juvs Glen Iorsa 7 Sep. Common and widespread all yr with max 3 prs Glen Catacol 12 Jul.

Wheatear

Breeding: f + yng Lochranza 2 Jul; pr + juv Port na Feannaiche 10 Aug; pr + juv Cleat 21 Aug; juv Porta Leacach 3 Sep. Arr pr Clauchlands Pt 27 Mar, widespread by Apr. Common Apr/Oct with max 12 Glenscorrodale 24 Aug.

Ring Ouzel

Pr returned to breeding grounds central Arran early Apr; 1 Cir Mhor/Castles ridge 30 Aug.

Blackbird

Breeding: 2 successful nests Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; nest with 4 eggs Benlister; 7 nests White House, 1 nest and yng destroyed by cat; 2 yng Kings Cross 4 Jun; m feeding yng Cordon 10 Jul. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 42 Lamlash 3 Jan.

Fieldfare

Flocks of up to 200 noted at Margenaish Fm, Kildonan, Lamlash, Tormore, Bailemargaidh, Drumadoon, Glenloig and BCP during Feb/Apr, with max c1000 mixed with redwings and starlings Bennecarrigan 14 Jan; smaller flocks Oct/Dec, with max c500 mixed with redwings Whiting Bay 28 Oct.

Song Thrush

Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Benlister 9 May; adult + 3 yng Lamlash 19 Jul. Common and widespread all yr with max 40+ Lamlash 13 Mar.

Redwing

Flocks of up to 50 Jan/Apr usually mixed with fieldfares at Margenaish Fm, Machrie Moor, Tormore, Cleat and Auchencar Fm with max 70 Gate Cottage 26 Jan; larger flocks Oct/Dec with max 500-600 mixed with fieldfares W Bennan 16 Oct.

Mistle Thrush

No breeding records. Up to 6 recorded throughout the yr at Strabane, Clauchlands, BCP, Ross road, Merkland Wood, Glen Rosa, Glen Sannox, Glenloig, Glenree, Brown Head and Auchencar, with max 8 High Kilmory 29 Aug.

Grasshopper Warbler

Poor yr, with only 1 record of 1 Torrylinnwaterfoot 30 Apr.

Sedge Warbler

Breeding: adult feeding yng in nest Clauchlands 7 Jul; pr + min 3 yng Kilmory 18 Jul; pr + 1 juv Port na Feannaiche 10 Aug. Arr 1 Kildonan Fm, 1 Porta Leacach 13 May, widespread by Jun. Max 7 singing males Porta Leacach 13 May.

Whitethroat

Breeding: male carrying food Clauchlands 30 Jun. Arr 1 Machrie 26 Apr, widespread by May with max 3 Clauchlands 7 Jul. All reports came from the S half of the island.

Lesser Whitethroat

1 Glenashdale 14 Jun (M.H.Dunn), last reported 1991.

Garden Warbler

Scarce with arr 2 Merkland Wood 3 May; 1 Porta Leacach 3 Jun; 1 BCP 16 Jun.

Blackcap

No breeding records. Up to 2 recorded during Apr/Jul at BCP, Brodick, Sannox Golf Course, Glenashdale, Merkland Wood, Corriecravie, Margnaheglish, Kings Cross and Corriecravie. Overwintering birds inc f at Strathwillan 15 Feb; m Whiting Bay 26 Mar; m Brodick 24 Dec.

Wood Warbler

No breeding records. Arr 1 Merkland Wood 26 Apr; singles Apr/Jul at Altachorvie Wood, Fallen Rocks, Glenashdale and Glen Rosa, with max 10 singles Merkland Wood 11 May.

Chiffchaff

No breeding records. Arr Porta Leacach 30 Mar; singles reported from Lagg, White House, Largymore, Sandbraes, Fallen Rocks, Whiting Bay and Lamlash Apr/Jul, with max 4 singles Merkland Wood 26 Apr; last 1 Lamlash 7 Sep.

Willow Warbler

Breeding: nested successfully Lamlash Golf Course; 1 carrying food Kings Cross 8 Jun; 1 carrying food Sannox 14 Jun; adult feeding 5 yng Merkland Pt 7 Jul; 8 inc yng Bailemargaidh 9 Aug. Arr 1 Lochranza 11 Apr, with max 23 singles Merkland Wood 23 May. 1 ringed at Sliderry 4 Sep 95 was recovered at the Calf of Man 12 May 96.

Goldcrest

No breeding records. Population badly hit by severe winter conditions, and only 3 singles seen Jan/May. Thereafter small groups of up to 3 seen at Brodick, Corriegills, Clachan Glen, Glenashdale, Glen Sannox, Kings Cross, Whiting Bay, Largymore, Fallen Rocks and Kilmory Jun/Dec, with max 6 BCP 19 Sep.

Spotted Flycatcher

Breeding: double brooded Bailemargaidh, with 4 yng in nestbox 22 Jun, and 3 yng 24 Jul; pr + 1 juv Clachlands 2 Aug. Arr 1 Brodick 15 May, widespread by Jun, with max 4 Merkland Wood 18 Jun.

Pied Flycatcher

Arr m Porta Leacach 16 May; singing m Merkland Wood 18 May (possibly same bird), still present 30 May; f Lamlash 27 May.

Long-tailed Tit

No breeding records. Population badly affected by severe winter and scarce Jan/Jul, with small groups of up to 8 Altachorvie Wood and Bailemargaidh. Increase in records Aug/Dec with c20 Dhunan 17 Aug, Brodick 4 Sep and Benlister 16 Sep. Max c30 Dhunan 12 Nov.

Coal Tit

Breeding: pr carrying food at nest Glen Rosa 13 Jun; pr + 1 yng Glenashdale 17 Jun. Another species badly affected by severe winter conditions and scarce Jan/May, with only 2 records of 3 Lochranza 22 Feb and pr Kings Cross 4 May. Max 22 singles and prs inc 3 juvs Merkland Wood 18 Jun, but no records Oct/Dec.

Blue Tit

Breeding: nested Kings Cross (success unknown); 3 nest boxes at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash occupied, 1 successful, other 2 abandoned; all yng in nest at Arranton died after f choked to death entangled in animal hair lining the nest; 2nd brood Kings Cross 4 Jun; 5 fully fledged yng found dead in nestbox Murray Estate, Lamlash 8 Jun; pr + 4 yng Whitehouse Wood 18 Jun. Again, poulation badly affected by severe winter conditions. Max 58 singles and prs Merkland Wood 30 May, but scarce during the winter months, especially at bird tables.

Great Tit

Breeding: nestbox with yng Cnoc na Dail Forestry; adult + 1 juv Clauchlands 30 Jun. Max 25 singles and prs Merkland Wood 26 Apr, but again scarce during the winter months at bird tables.

Treecreeper

Breeding: 2 juvs Merkland Wood 18 Jun. Singles all yr reported at Kilmory, BCP, Bailemargaidh, Clauchlands, Brodick, Glen Rosa, Whiting Bay and Glenree, with max 6 singles and 2 juvs Merkland Wood 18 Jun.

Jackdaw

Breeding: nested successfully at Brodick and Lamlash, but many other sites unrecorded. Common and widespread all yr with max 120 Roddin 16 Jan.

Rook

No breeding reports. Smaller nos than usual with max 34 Roddin 21 Jan. Also reported from Shedog, Blackwaterfoot and Bailemargaidh Jan/Mar. 1 summer record of 32 Glenree 14 Jul.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Breeding: pr + 4 juvs Kings Cross 24 Apr; nest with yng Lamlash Golf Course 13 May; pr + 2 juvs Corrie 12 Jun. Very common and widespread all yr, but no large flocks reported.

Raven

Breeding: bred successfully at many locations, but nest with yng at Imachar reported to have been illegally destroyed again. Common and widespread all yr with max 5 Corriecravie 26 Jul.

Starling

Breeding: nested successfully at many locations. Nested successfully at Arranton for 22nd successive yr, nest later removed and materials filled a large bin bag! Very common and widespread all yr with max 200+ Cleat 20 Jul.

House Sparrow

Breeding: 3 prs nesting Margnaheglis 11 Apr; 2 nests with yng Arranton 9 Jul. Common round the villages all yr, with max 20 Clauchlands 12 Sep. Leucistic bird, white except for dark head and edges to wings seen at Ashlar Fm, Machrie 19 Oct.

Tree Sparrow

No records, but population has slumped nationwide.

Chaffinch

Breeding: pr + 3 yng Margnaheglis; also bred Kings Cross; nest + 4 yng Cordon 9 Jul. Very common and widespread all yr with max 60 Merkland Wood 11 May.

Brambling

Surprisingly no records.

Greenfinch

Breeding: pr + 2 juvs Kerr's Port 7 Jul; 4 juvs Machrie pond 17 Jul. Common and widespread all yr, with max 20+ Bailemargaidh 19 Apr.

Goldfinch

Breeding: adult feeding yng Corriecravie; pr + 4 yng Kerr's Port 14 Jul; juvs Drumadoon Fm 8 Aug; 1 juv Porta Leacach 3 Sep. Common and widespread Mar/Nov, with max 30+ Whitefarland 29 Sep.

Siskin

Breeding: pr + 3 yng Kings Cross 8 Jun; pr + 2 yng Glen Rosa 4 Jul. Common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables in winter. Max c50 Murray Estate, Lamlash 14 Dec.

Linnet

Breeding: adults feeding 4-5 yng Cleat 22 Jun; pr + 2 juvs Porta na Feannaiche 10 Aug. Common and widespread Apr/Oct, with max 200+ Cleat 21 Aug.

Twite

No breeding records. Scarce, with 1 with goldfinches Kerr's Port 12 Apr; 1 Dougario 20 Jul; 1 Arranton 30 Oct; max 3 Blackwaterfoot 8 Jul.

Redpoll

No breeding records. Scarce Apr/Jul, with 2 Bailemargaidh 21 Apr; 1 Cnoc na Dail Forestry 10 Jun; 1 High Corrie 16 Jun; 1 Whitefarland 17 Jul; max 12 Torr Righ Beag 17 Jun. Unusual winter record of 11 Lagg Wood 17 Dec.

Crossbill

Improvement after no reports last yr. m forestry below Urie Loch 4 May; 6 Kilmory 25 Jun; 2-3 overflying Merkland Wood 2 Jul; 3 Sandbraes 8 Jul; 4 Auchencairn 15 Sep. Max 9 Kilmory 26 Jun.

Bullfinch

Breeding: pr feeding 1 juv Bailemargaidh 11 Aug; pr feeding 1 juv Torbeg 3 Aug. Singles and prs all yr in suitable habitat with max 4 m 3 f Bailemargaidh 21 Apr.

Snow Bunting

2 records of f Beinn a Chliabhain 25 Jan and 8+ An Tunna 20 Nov.

Yellowhammer

No breeding records. Nos remain low with 1 at bird table Lamlash 13 Feb; 1 Torrylinn 20 Apr; 2 Shiskine Golf Course 27 May; 1 S Feorline 18 Jul; 1 Drumadoon Fm 26 Jul. Max 6 Shiskine 6 Jan, and 6 in mixed flock of chaffinches and skylarks Cleat 19 Feb.

Reed Bunting

Breeding: pr + 1 juv Port na Feannaiche 10 Aug. Low nos with f Machrie pond 7 Apr; m Brown Head 8 Apr; max 3 m 1 f Drumadoon 26 Jul.

KEY TO CHECK LIST

R = resident (breeds)	W = winter visitor
R* = resident (no recent breeding records)	P = passage migrant
R** = resident (no breeding records)	I = introduced
S = summer visitor (breeds)	C = common
S* = summer visitor (no recent breeding records)	U = uncommon
S** = summer visitor (no breeding records)	B* = formerly bred
	O = occasional
	V = vagrant
	X = pre 1956 records

CHECK LIST

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Red-throated Diver RC | 23. Mute Swan RC |
| 2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC | 24. Bewick's Swan V |
| 3. Great Northern Diver S**/WU/PC | 25. Whooper Swan WU/PC |
| 4. Little Grebe WU | 26. Pink-footed Goose WO |
| 5. Great Crested Grebe V | 27. White-fronted Goose WU |
| 6. Red-necked Grebe WO | 28. Greylag Goose WC/PC |
| 7. Slavonian Grebe WO | 29. Canada Goose PO |
| 8. Black-necked Grebe WO | 30. Barnacle Goose WO |
| 9. Fulmar SC/WU | 31. Brent Goose WO |
| 10. Cory's Shearwater V | 32. Shelduck RC |
| 11. Sooty Shearwater V | 33. Wigeon WC |
| 12. Manx Shearwater SC/PC | 34. Teal SU/WC |
| 13. Mediterranean Shearwater V | 35. Mallard RC |
| 14. Storm Petrel PU | 36. Pintail PO |
| 15. Leach's Petrel V | 37. Shoveler B*/O |
| 16. Gannet S**/WU | 38. Pochard WO |
| 17. Cormorant RC | 39. Tufted Duck WU |
| 18. Shag RC | 40. Scaup WO |
| 19. Bittern V | 41. Eider RC |
| 20. Grey Heron RC | 42. King Eider V |
| 21. Spoonbill V | 43. Long-tailed Duck SO/WO |
| 22. Chilean Flamingo VE | 44. Common Scoter SO/WO |
| | 45. Velvet Scoter WO |

46. Goldeneye WC
47. Smew WO
48. Red-breasted Merganser RC
49. Goosander WO
50. Red Kite X
51. White-tailed Eagle B*/V
52. Marsh Harrier V
53. Hen Harrier RC
54. Goshawk O
55. Sparrowhawk RC
56. Buzzard RC
57. Rough-legged Buzzard V
58. Gold Eagle RC
59. Osprey B*/PO
60. Hobby X
61. Kestrel RC
62. Merlin R*/U
63. Peregrine RC
64. Red Grouse RC
65. Ptarmigan RU
66. Black Grouse B*
67. Capercaillie B*/X
68. Red-legged Partridge I
68. Grey Partridge B*/O
70. Quail B*/O
71. Pheasant RC
72. Water Rail RU
73. Spotted Crake X
75. Moorhen RU
76. Coot WO
77. Crane V
78. Oystercatcher RC
79. Ringed Plover RC
80. Dotterel PO
81. Golden Plover SU/WU
82. Grey Plover WO
83. Lapwing RC
84. Knot PO
85. Sanderling PO
86. Curlew Sandpiper V
87. Purple Sandpiper WU
88. Little Stint V
89. Dunlin SU/WC
90. Ruff V
91. Jack Snipe WO
92. Snipe RC
93. Long-billed Dowitcher V
94. Woodcock RC
95. Black-tailed Godwit PO
96. Bar-tailed Godwit PU
97. Whimbrel PC
98. Curlew RC
99. Spotted Redshank PO
100. Redshank RC
101. Greenshank PO
102. Green Sandpiper V
103. Common Sandpiper SC
104. Turnstone S**U/WC
105. Grey Phalarope VX
106. Red-necked Phalarope V
107. Pomarine Skua V
108. Arctic Skua SU
109. Great Skua SU
110. Little Gull PO
111. Sabine's Gull V
112. Black-headed Gull R*/C
113. Common Gull RC
114. Lesser black-backed Gull SC/
WU
115. Herring Gull RC
116. Glaucous Gull V
117. Iceland Gull PO
118. Great black-backed Gull RC
119. Kittiwake B*/PC
120. Ivory Gull VX
121. Sandwich Tern S**C/PC

122. Roseate Tern B*
123. Common Tern SU
124. Arctic Tern SU
125. Little Tern PO
126. Black Tern V
127. Guillemot R**/C
128. Razorbill R**/C
129. Black Guillemot RC
130. Little Auk PO
131. Puffin PO
132. Pallas's Sandgrouse VX
133. Rock Dove RC
134. Stock Dove O
135. Woodpigeon RC
136. Collared Dove RC
137. Turtle Dove V
138. Cuckoo SC
139. Barn Owl RC
140. Tawny Owl RU
141. Long-eared Owl RU
142. Short-eared Owl RC
143. Nightjar SU
144. Swift S*U/PU
145. Kingfisher R*U
146. Hoopoe V
147. Great Spotted Woodpecker O
148. Skylark RC
149. Sand Martin SC
150. Swallow WC
151. House Martin SC
152. Tree Pipit SU
153. Meadow Pipit RC
154. Rock Pipit RC
155. Yellow Wagtail B*
156. Grey Wagtail RC
157. Pied Wagtail RC
158. White Wagtail B*/PC
159. Waxwing WO
160. Dipper RC
161. Wren RC
162. Dunnock RC
163. Robin RC
164. Black Redstart PU
165. Redstart SU
166. Whinchat SC
167. Stonechat RC
168. Wheatear SC
169. Ring Ousel SU
170. Blackbird RC
171. Fieldfare WC
172. Song Thrush RC
173. Redwing WC
174. Mistle Thrush RC
175. Grasshopper Warbler SU
176. Sedge Warbler SC
177. Lesser Whitethroat S**/U
178. Whitethroat SC
179. Garden Warbler SU
180. Blackcap SC/WU
181. Wood Warbler SC
182. Chiffchaff SC
183. Willow Warbler SC
184. *Yellow-browed Warbler V
185. Goldcrest RC
186. Spotted Flycatcher SC
187. Pied Flycatcher S**/U
188. Long-tailed Tit RC
189. Willow Tit O
190. Coal Tit RC
191. Blue Tit RC
192. Great Tit RC
193. Treecreeper RC
194. Golden Oriole VX
195. Red-backed Shrike V
196. Great Grey Shrike V
197. Jay B*/X

198. Magpie B*/O
199. Chough B*/X
200. Jackdaw RC
201. Rook B*/WC/SU
202. Carrion/Hooded Crow RC
203. Raven RC
204. Starling RC
205. House Sparrow RC
206. Tree Sparrow B*U
207. Chaffinch RC
208. Brambling WU
209. Greenfinch RC
210. Goldfinch SC/WU
211. Siskin RC

214. Linnet SC/WU

213. Twite RU

214. Redpoll RU

215. Crossbill RU

216. Bullfinch RC

217. Hawfinch V

218. Snow Bunting WO

219. Yellowhammer RU

220. Reed Bunting RU

221. Corn Bunting B*

222. Red-headed Bunting VE

* awaiting ratification from the
Rarities Committee

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