



The Arran Bird Report

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT

1997

THE ISLE OF ARRAN
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1998

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INTRODUCTION

First compiled by Maggie Dunn in 1978 as part of the Arran Naturalist, the Bird Report is now into its 20th year of publication. It became a separate report in 1981, but rising printing costs forced us to amalgamate it with the Arran Naturalist again in 1994/95. Last year however, we turned to desk-top publishing, and hopefully the report will remain a separate publication in future years.

By the end of 1997, it became apparent that the small bird population had made a good recovery, and goldcrests and tits which had been so scarce at the beginning of the year after two consecutive hard winters were almost back to their normal numbers. The most important sighting of the year was of a wryneck observed for over an hour in a garden at Sannox on the 25th September, a first record for Arran. Also important were two red-backed shrikes, one at Auchencairn on the 19th May and one at Kildonan on the 27th September, possibly the same bird on return migration. Species seen last year which failed to show included brent goose, water rail, long-eared owl, black redstart, lesser whitethroat and pied flycatcher. The birds of prey did well, and both pairs of golden eagles raised young. Contrary to national trends, the barn owls raised a record number of young, helped by a peak vole year and the provision of nest boxes put up by both Forest Enterprise and the Brodick Country Park Ranger Service. Forest Enterprise continue to create new wildlife areas by flooding marshes and making new ponds and paths in the forestry. As clear felling continues, large open areas are appearing, especially in the Monamore Forestry, and it will be interesting to see what wildlife moves in. The work of clearing the rhododendrons from Merkland Wood is also continuing, and should help to create a better habitat for birds.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who phoned me or wrote giving information. A special thanks too to John Rhead who assisted with the preparation of this report. The network is spread far and wide now, and the more information I receive, the more accurate I can make the Bird Report. All I need to know is how many, where, and the date. I sometimes get reports which omit how many or the date, and it is important, especially where rarer species are concerned. The date can be used to cross reference sightings, and can be vital in some cases. The first sighting of the red-backed shrike for instance was a model of how it should be done. The observers were very experienced birders, but they

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watched the bird for some time, made a rough sketch and labelled all the significant details, and wrote down a detailed description. They knew what it was, but recognised that the record could be disallowed unless there was written evidence. I repeat, please check the status of the species concerned given in the check list at the back of the report. Golden eagles are listed as resident, common, whereas magpies were shot out at the beginning of this century and have never returned to breed. One magpie here is big news! Beware too of hybrid mallard of every hue, and the three geese which accompany the mute swans - they are also hybrids. Please send information for 1998 to: Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaeglish Rd, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8LE (Tel (01770) 600 406) no later than January 1999.

KEY TO CHECK LIST

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

CHECK LIST

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- ✓1. Red-throated Diver RC ✓
- ✓2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC
- ✓3. Great Northern Diver WU/PU ✓
- ✓4. Little Grebe WU ✓
5. Great Crested Grebe V
6. Red-necked Grebe WO
7. Slavonian Grebe WO
8. Black-necked Grebe WO
- ✓9. Fulmar SC/WU ✓
10. Cory's Shearwater V
11. Sooty Shearwater V
- ✓12. Manx Shearwater SC/PC
13. Mediterranean Shearwater V
14. Storm Petrel PU
15. Leach's Petrel V
- ✓16. Gannet S**/WU ✓
- ✓17. Cormorant RC ✓
- ✓18. Shag RC ✓
19. Bittern V
- ✓20. Grey Heron RC ✓
21. Spoonbill V
22. Chilean Flamingo VE
- ✓23. Mute Swan RC ✓
24. Bewick's Swan V
- ✓25. Whooper Swan WU/PC
26. Pink-footed Goose WO
27. White-fronted Goose WO
- ✓28. Greylag Goose WC/PC ✓
29. Canada Goose PO
30. Barnacle Goose WO
31. Brent Goose WO
- ✓32. Shelduck RC ✓
- ✓33. Wigeon WC ✓
- ✓34. Teal SU/WC ✓
- ✓35. Mallard RC ✓
36. Pintail PO
37. Shoveler B*/O
38. Pochard WO
39. Tufted Duck WU
40. Scaup WO
- ✓41. Eider RC ✓
42. King Eider V
43. Long-tailed Duck SO/WO
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. Golden Eagle RC ✓
59. Osprey B*/PO
60. Hobby V
- ✓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 ✓
69. Grey Partridge B*/O
70. Quail B*/O
- ✓71. Pheasant RC ✓
72. Water Rail RU
73. Spotted Crake X
74. Moorhen RU ✓
75. Coot WO
76. Crane V
- ✓77. Oystercatcher RC ✓
- ✓78. Ringed Plover RC ✓
79. Dotterel PO
- ✓80. Golden Plover SU/WU
81. Grey Plover WO
- ✓82. Lapwing RU ✓

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- ✓ 83. Knot PO
- 84. Sanderling PO
- 85. Curlew Sandpiper V
- ✓ 86. Purple Sandpiper WU✓
- 87. Little Stint PO
- ✓ 88. Dunlin SU/WC✓
- 89. Ruff V
- 90. Jack Snipe WO
- ✓ 91. Snipe RC ✓
- 92. Long-billed Dowitcher V
- ✓ 93. Woodcock RC
- 94. Black-tailed Godwit PO
- ✓ 95. Bar-tailed Godwit PU
- ✓ 96. Whimbrel PC
- ✓ 97. Curlew RC ✓
- 98. Spotted Redshank PO
- ✓ 99. Redshank RC✓
- 100. Greenshank PO
- 101. Green Sandpiper V
- ✓ 102. Common Sandpiper SC
- 103. Turnstone S**U/WC ✓
- 104. Grey Phalarope VX
- 105. Red-necked Phalarope V
- 106. Pomarine Skua V
- 107. Arctic Skua SU
- 108. Great Skua SU
- 109. Little Gull PO
- 110. Sabine's Gull V
- ✓ 111. Black-headed Gull R*/C✓
- ✓ 112. Common Gull RC ✓
- ✓ 113. Lesser Black-backed Gull SC/WU✓
- ✓ 114. Herring Gull RC ✓
- 115. Glaucous Gull V
- 116. Iceland Gull PO
- ✓ 117. Great Black-backed Gull RC ✓
- ✓ 118. Kittiwake B*/PC
- 119. Ivory Gull VX
- ✓ 120. Sandwich Tern S**C/PC
- 121. Roseate Tern B*
- 122. Common Tern SU
- ✓ 123. Arctic Tern SU
- 124. Little Tern PO
- 125. Black Tern V
- ✓ 126. Guillemot R**/C
- ✓ 127. Razorbill R**/C
- ✓ 128. Black Guillemot RC✓
- 129. Little Auk PO
- 130. Puffin PO
- 131. Pallas's Sandgrouse VX
- ✓ 132. Rock Dove RC ✓
- 133. Stock Dove O
- ✓ 134. Woodpigeon RC ✓
- ✓ 135. Collared Dove RC✓
- 136. Turtle Dove V
- 137. Cuckoo SC
- ✓ 138. Barn Owl RC✓
- 139. Tawny Owl RU
- 140. Long-eared Owl RU
- 141. Short-eared Owl RC
- 142. Nightjar SU
- 143. Swift S*U/PU
- ✓ 144. Kingfisher R*U
- 145. Hoopoe V
- 146. Great Spotted Woodpecker O
- 147. Wryneck V
- ✓ 148. Skylark RC
- ✓ 149. Sand Martin SC
- ✓ 150. Swallow SC
- ✓ 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

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- 169. Ring Ouzel 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 SU
 - ✓ 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 V
 - 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 WO
 - ✓ 209. Greenfinch RC ✓
 - ✓ 210. Goldfinch RCWU ✓
 - ✓ 211. Siskin RC ✓
 - ✓ 212. 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 Scottish
Rarities Committee

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

- Lesser Black-backed Gull 28 Feb
 - Chiffchaff 19 Mar
 - Wheatear 23 Mar
 - Swallow 8 Apr
 - Willow Warbler 8 Apr
 - White Wagtail 10 Apr
 - House Martin 11 Apr
 - Cuckoo 12 Apr
 - Common Sandpiper 13 Apr
 - Sand Martin 14 Apr
 - Tree Pipit 22 Apr
 - Sandwich Tern 29 Apr
 - Whitethroat 1 May
 - Wood Warbler 1 May
 - Spotted Flycatcher 2 May
 - Sedge Warbler 4 May
 - Swift 5 May
 - Grasshopper Warbler 9 May
 - Manx Shearwater 10 May
 - Arctic Tern 13 May
 - Whinchat 15 May
 - Garden Warbler 18 May
 - Common Tern 29 May
 - Nightjar early Jun
 - Redstart 25 Jun
- (NB Blackcap and Whimbrel sometimes overwinter)

ABBREVIATIONS

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver

Breeding: prs bred successfully at 3 inland locations. Singles and prs seen at Clauchlands, Craw, Blackwaterfoot, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Imachar, Dougarie, N Sannox, Machrie and Thunderguy all yr, with max 8 inc 3 yng Machrie/Dougarie 11 Aug.

Black-throated Diver

Prs and singles seen at Lamdash, Blackwaterfoot, Pirmill, Machrie, Imachar and Catacol Feb/Oct, with max 11 Kings Cave 18 Sep.

Great Northern Diver

Singles and prs seen at Dougarie, Machrie, Blackwaterfoot, N Sannox picnic site, Sliderywaterfoot, Catacol, Whiting Bay, Pirmill and Imachar Feb/Oct, with max 3 Machrie 2 Aug.

Little Grebe

Overwintered at Rosa burn mouth, Fish Fm and Port na Lochan, with max 5 Lochranza 30 Jan. 1 Port na Lochan 13 Oct.

Slavonian Grebe

1 Dougarie 10 Sep; 1 Imachar Pt 27 Dec. Last recorded 1994.

Fulmar

Breeding: Nested at Drumadoon, Catacol, Imachar, Cleitadh Buidhe and Holy Isle, but no yng seen. Max 53 prs Holy Isle 5 Jun. 1 ringed Drumadoon 12 May 1988 found dead at Humberside 10 Jan 1997.

Cory's Shearwater

Possible single Porta Leacach 18 Jan (P.Tupman).

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Manx Shearwater

Return single Ardrossan/Brodick 10 May; most sightings from Ardrossan/Brodick ferry, also seen off Blackwaterfoot, Kings Cave, Machrie and Pirmill with max c1,600/1hr Largymore 27 Aug. Last 5 Dougarie 11 Sep.

Gannet

Return single Lamlash, 17 Porta Leacach 25 Jan; common round the coast during summer months, with max c100 off Largymore 17 Aug. Last 2 off Lagg 22 Oct.

Cormorant

Breeding: 4 adults 4 juvs Holy Isle 5 Jun, but they may not have bred there. No report from Pladda. Nos still low, with max 17 Blackwaterfoot 20 Sep.

Shag

Breeding: 10 adults 7 yng Holy Isle 5 Jun, but no report from Pladda. Common round the coast all yr, with max 59 Lamlash 19 Oct.

Grey Heron

Breeding: nested at White House woods, Fish Fm, Whiting Bay and Machrie, but success unknown. No report from Merkland Wood; 4 juvs Cordon 29 Jun; adult with juv Whiting Bay 11 Aug. 3 inland records: 2 with greylags Shiskine 29 Mar; 1 Glenscorrodale Fm all yr; 1 Corrie cravie, date unknown. Common round the coast all yr, with max 5 Strabane gravel pit 4 Feb and White House Wood 24 Mar.

Mute Swan

Breeding: pr bred successfully at Fish Fm for 3rd yr running, but all 7 cygnets predated by early Jun, possibly by seals. Further increase with max 14 Whiting Bay 31 Jan. Prs also seen at Blackwaterfoot and Machrie.

Whooper Swan

Single accompanied Mute Swans Lamlash/Whiting Bay all yr. 1 on spring passage Lamlash Bay 27 Mar; 16 on autumn passage Kildonan 3 Oct; 9 overflying Lamlash 19 Oct; 4 overflying Machrie 2 Nov; 2 Machrie pond 9 Dec.

White-fronted Goose

2 with greylags Shiskine 29 Mar (Dr.J.Cassels).

Greylag Goose

Overwintered in Shiskine Valley as usual, with max c500 27 Jan; final departing skein of c70 overflying Brodick 15 Apr; pr Kildonan 19 May, male thought to have a damaged wing; skein (unidentified) overflying BCP 6 Jun at 2015; 1 Machrie 28 Jul and 21 Aug, possible the one of pr seen earlier at Kildonan in May; return skein of 12 Machrie 9 Oct, building to 200 Roddin 26 Nov.

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Barnacle Goose

21 Kildonan Fm 30 Sep (P.Tupman).

Shelduck

Breeding: 4 yng, 2 by lunchtime Clauchlands 9 May, last survivor gone by 15 May; pr with 3 yng Kings Cave 16 May; pr with yng Glen Rosa 20 May; pr with 7 yng Merkland Pt 21 May; pr with 11 yng Kildonan 25 May, reduced to 1 by 8 Jun; pr with 9 yng Auchencar, 6 adults with 20 yng Bennan 26 May; pr with 7 yng crossing the road nr Corriecravie ponds 2 Jun; adult with 5 yng Machrie 19 Jun. Common round the coast Jan/Jul; return pr Kildonan 14 Dec.

Wigeon

Common during winter months at Machriewaterfoot/Tormore, with max 50 Machriewaterfoot 14 Jan. Continued reduction at Clauchlands, with max 11 27 Jan. Increase in summer sightings, with 3m Auchencar 28 Jun, 7 W coast 6 Jul and 8 Clauchlands 15 Aug; 3 Machriewaterfoot 29 Sep; 3 Cleat 12 Oct; 3 m in eclipse Clauchlands, 10 Blackwaterfoot 18 Oct.

Teal

Increase in sightings with c50 Tormore 4 Jan; c20 Cleat 10 Jan; c30 Machrie pond 28 Feb; 36 Port na Fennaiche 8 Mar; 1 Cleat 15 Aug; c25 Kilpatrick plantation marsh 28 Oct; max 102 Torr High plantation marsh 30 Nov. 1 found shot at Kilmory 3 Jan ringed in N Ireland 24 Dec 1996.

Mallard

Breeding: f with 2 yng Lamlash Golf Course pond 16 Apr; f with 7-8 yng Port nam Balach 11 May; f with 3 yng Corriecravie ponds 7 Jun; f with 4 yng Machrie pond 16 Jun; f with 4 yng Lochranza 25 Jul; inland records inc m Loch an lme 19 May; 3m Loch Thomson 1 Jun; 20 Glenkiln Fm pond, Lamlash 21 Sep; 2 prs Loch na Leirg 26 Oct; 3 Kilpatrick plantation marsh 28 Oct. Very common round the coast all yr with max 52 Tormore 2 Oct.

Tufted Duck

Continued presence at Port-na-Lochan, with 2 3 Jan, f 19 Jan, m 13 Jun and 3 16 Oct. Only other sighting was of a m Arranton 30 Jun.

Scaup

2 f, 2 juvs Cordon 13 Sep (A.Walters).

Eider

Breeding: slight reduction in nos, with c82 yng (cf 115 1996). Very common round the coast all yr, with max 495 Pirrmill/Thunderguy 15 Nov.

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Long-tailed Duck

1 Whiting Bay 14 Sep (J. & M. Edwards)

Common Scoter

2 Blackwaterfoot 19 Oct (T. Malin).

Velvet Scoter

7 Pirmill 20 May (J. Rhead)

Goldeneye

Small groups of up to 8 seen round the coast Jan/Apr, with max 10 Lamlash 14 Feb; return 4 Catacol 9 Sep, 10 Sliderrywaterfoot/Cleat 28 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser

Breeding: f with 5 yng Machriewaterfoot 28 Jun; f with 7 yng Monamore burn 2 Jul; f with 8 yng Rosa burn 8 Jul; f with 5 yng Lochranza 20 Jul. Very common all yr, with max 90 Machriewaterfoot 13 Aug.

Goosander

m Merkland Pt 14 May; f Sliderrywaterfoot 5 Oct.

Hen Harrier

Breeding: bred successfully in several locations. Prs and singles seen all yr, most often in the Machrie Moor and Boguille areas. Singles also seen at Drumahinier, Meall Donn, A' Chruach, Coire Chattan, Sheeans, Levenorrach, Cleat, Shannochie and Kildonan.

Sparrowhawk

Bred, but success unknown. Common and widespread. More unusual records inc a f attacking and missing a mallard at Loch Thomson 3 Apr and a m bathing at Lochan Ime 20 Oct.

Buzzard

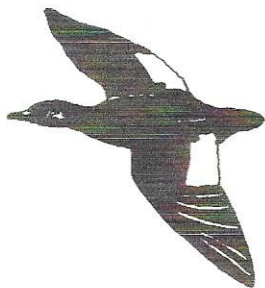
Breeding: 3 juvs Lamlash and 2 juvs Kings Cross in Oct. Common and widespread, with max 5 String road 27 Jul.

Golden Eagle

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

Osprey

1 Drumadoon 20 Sep (per R. Logan)



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Kestrel

Breeding: 3 yng Cleiteadh Buidhe; 4 fledged yng The Doon 22 Jun. Common and widespread all yr with max 4 Glen Chalmadale 25 Jul.

Merlin

1 Shannochie 10 Jan; m Lochranza/Catacol 18 Apr; f trying to flush warblers from edge of forestry Benlister Glen 18 Jul; f Lagg Wood 7 Sep; pr of imms Glen Catacol 2nd wk Oct.

Peregrine

Breeding: known to have bred successfully in min 3 locations. Singles seen mainly round the coast all yr.

Red Grouse

Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Meall Mor/Beinn Bhiorach 28 May; c20 above Clachan Glen 10 Jul; large coveys seen in many other locations.

Ptarmigan

Breeding: photo of nest with 4 eggs on same ridge as above proved inconclusive owing to similarity to grouse eggs, but according to the observer, the bird seen leaving the nest "had a lot of white on it". Other sightings inc 1 Mullach Buidhe 21 Jan; 1 Goatfell summit 29 Mar; 1 Beinn Bhreac 1 Apr; 1 Meall Biorach 23 Sep; 2 Castles 1 Nov.

Grey Partridge

A further batch was released at the Knowe Fm, but only 1 was subsequently seen. It looks as if any attempts to re-introduce this species are doomed to failure.

Red-legged Partridge x Chukar

Common all yr, particularly in the Machrie/Dougarie area where formerly released. Max 12 Roddin 21 Sep.

Pheasant

Common and widespread, especially in areas of release. Max 14 Dougarie 14 May. Many coming to feed in village gardens.

Corncrake

1 heard and seen Doon Fm 22 Jul; 1 heard nr Moss Fm, Machrie Moor 23 Jul, probably same bird; 1 heard High Kildonan 13 Sep.

Moorhen

1 pr only at Cloy burn for most of the yr.

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Oystercatcher

Breeding: min 4 prs nesting Machriewaterfoot, min 10 prs nesting Machrie/Dougarie 15 May; 1 nest Fallen Rocks, 18 prs nesting Laggan/Sannox; nest with 2 eggs Brodick Golf Course; nest with 4 eggs Auchenhew 26 May. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 125 Machrie 28 Feb.

Ringed Plover

Breeding: min 4 prs nested Machriewaterfoot, min 6 prs Machrie/Dougarie 15 May; 40+ inc yng Machrie 29 Jul. Common round the coast all yr, with max 90+ inc yng Blackwaterfoot 15 Aug.

Golden Plover

Breeding: pr at nest Creag na-h-Iolair 27 May. Seen most frequently at Machriewaterfoot with max 19 19 Apr. Other sightings inc 1 Loch Dubh 29 Mar; 15 Lenamor 26 Apr; 1 Leac a Ghille 30 Apr; 8 Beinn Tarsuinn 22 May; 2 Kilmory 7 Sep; 2 Blackwaterfoot 11 Oct.

Grey Plover

1 Clauchlands 12 Jan (A. Walters).

Lapwing

Breeding: pr nested Knowe Fm late Apr; adult with 2 yng South Bank Fm 13 Jun. Seen all yr at Machrie, Clauchlands, Blackwaterfoot, Shiskine Valley, Whiting Bay and Sliderrywaterfoot, but nos remain low with max 10 Cleat 19 Oct.

Knot

1 Machriewaterfoot 8 & 9 Mar; 4 Drumadoon Pt 13 Aug.

Sanderling

3 Blackwaterfoot 15 May; 1 Drumadoon Pt 24 Jul; 1 Blackwaterfoot 15 Aug; 1 Dougarie 12 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper

2 Drumadoon Pt 13 Jan and 9 Mar (T. Malin)

Dunlin

Most records from Blackwaterfoot area throughout the yr. Other records inc 4 Cleat 10 Jan; 4 Kilmory 7 May; 1 Machriewaterfoot, 1 Sannox 15 May; 1 Beinn Tarsuinn 22 May; max 18 Whiting Bay 28 Nov.

Jack Snipe

1 Port-na-Lochan 6 Oct; 1 Balnacooile 15 Nov.

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Snipe

No breeding records. Nos remain low. 1 Clauchlands 12 Jan; 6 Port na Fennaiche 24 Jan; 1 Sannox 9 Feb; 2 Machrie pond 15 Mar; 5 White House woods Lamlash 24 Mar; 1 Boguille 14 May; 1 Kilpatrick 31 Jul; 1 Tormore 15 Dec; max 9 overflying Torr Righ 21 Oct.

Woodcock

Breeding: f with 4+ yng Glen Chalmadale 8 Jun. Fewer sightings than normal with singles at Sannox, BCP, Glaister, Glen Loig, Machrie Fm and Kings Cross throughout the yr. Max c30 flushed by beaters Glenree Fm 20 Dec.

Bar-tailed Godwit

1 Blackwaterfoot 1 Jan; 1 Dougarie 20 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 10-12 Sep.

Whimbrel

1 Sliderrywaterfoot 29 Mar and 20 Apr; 1 Whitefarland 14 Apr; 1 Blackwaterfoot 16 May; 2 Kilmory 19 May; 1 Kildonan 14 Sep. Max 11 Kildonan 4 May, largest no recorded here as far as is known.

Curlew

Breeding: thought to have bred at traditional site at Kings Cross, but not proven. Common round the coast all yr with max c100 Port na Fennaiche 8 Mar.

Redshank

Common round the coast all yr with max c27 Whiting Bay 31 Mar; 2 Port-na-Lochan 1 May is unusual.

Greenshank

1 Brodick 13 May; 1 Drumadoon Pt 21 Jul.

Common Sandpiper

Breeding: Fewer records than normal. Adult with 2 yng Lamlash 4 Jun; adult with 1 yng Kerrs Port 5 Jul. Arr pr Porta Leacach 13 Apr, widespread round the coast by May; last 1 Kings Cross Pt 23 Aug.

Turnstone

Common round the coast in winter but absent May/Jun. Highest nos at Lamlash, Machriewaterfoot and Whiting Bay, with max 23 Machrie 11 Sep.

Great Skua

1 spooking gulls Blackwaterfoot 27 Sep (Dr.J.Cassels).

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Black-headed Gull

Common round the coast all yr, but absent May/Jun, with max 25 Blackwaterfoot 5 Jan.

Common Gull

Breeding: 14 prs nesting Machrie/Dougarie 17 May; 4 prs nesting Thunderguy 18 May; 15 prs nesting Fallen Rocks 26 May; 158 prs nesting Holy Isle shore 5 Jun (only a fraction of the total on Holy Isle). Common round the coast all yr, with max 157 Blackwaterfoot 12 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Breeding: bred Pladda and Holy Isle, but no figures available. Arr 10 Machrie 28 Feb, with max 49 Whiting Bay 24 Aug.

Herring Gull

Breeding: 45 prs nesting Holy Isle shore 5 Jun, again only a fraction of the total there. No figures available from other sites. Very common all yr with max 310 Whiting Bay 24 Aug. 1 found dead Sliderry 19 Aug ringed as a nestling Ailsa Craig 30 Jun 1985.

Great Black-backed Gull

Bred Holy Isle, but no figures available. Common round the coast all yr with max 64 Brodick 25 Feb. 1 found dead at Sliderry on 1 Jul had been ringed there 25 Aug 1984.

Kittiwake

Juv Brodick/Ardrossan 2 Mar; c100 on autumn passage Whiting Bay 7 Sep, rising to c600 10 Oct; c400 Lochranza 7 Oct; 200+ Catacol 13 Oct.

Sandwich Tern

Arr 2 Lamlash 29 Apr. All sightings came from Lamlash/Blackwaterfoot, with max 20 passing Largymore 7 Sep. Adults with juvs seen at Clauchlands 5 Aug and Whiting Bay 29 Aug. Last 2 Whiting Bay 12 Oct.

Common Tern

Arr 1 Dougarie 29 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 13 Aug.

Arctic Tern

Breeding: pr nesting Dougarie 6 Jun, gone the following day and nest thought to have been washed away by high seas; c6 prs nested Pladda but success unknown. Still scarce, with arr 2 Machrie 13 May, ~~2 Machrie 13 May~~, 1 Drumadoon Pt 13 May and 1 same location 13 Aug.

Guillemot

Most sightings came from Ardrossan/Brodick crossings and the Kilbrannan Sound, with max 115 Catacol 21 Oct. Other sightings inc 2 Whiting Bay 30 Mar, 3 Kings Cave 22 Jul and 26/1hr Largymore 17 Aug.

Razorbill

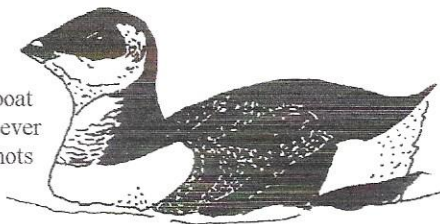
Increase in sightings with 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 4 Mar; 1 Whiting Bay 30 Mar; 1 Holy Isle 5 Jun; 3 Kilbrannan Sound 17 Oct; c20 with guillemots Whitefarland Pt 27 Dec.

Black Guillemot

Breeding: c6 prs nesting Kings Cave 20 May; pr nesting Brodick Pier 21 May; nest with 2 eggs on a Fish Fm raft 15 Jun. Common and widespread round the coast, but no records Nov/Dec. Max c30 Lochranza 24 Aug.

Little Auk

c72 Kilbrannan Sound 3 Oct, seen from a boat about 2 miles off shore, largest group ever recorded here; 5 with razorbills and guillemots Whitefarland Pt 27 Dec.



Puffin

1 Holy Isle 2 Jul; 1 found on Machrie Golf Course after gales 2 Oct, exhausted but unhurt. It was taken to BCP Ranger Centre and transferred from there to a rehabilitation centre at Beith and later released successfully.

Rock Dove

Recorded at only 2 sites, with 2 Torr Nan Uain 7 May and 10 Cleiteadh Buidhe 15 Jul. Accurate estimate of population difficult to establish because of confusion with feral pigeons.

Wood Pigeon

No breeding records. Common on farmland with max c140 Clauchlands Fm 13 Sep.

Collared Dove

No breeding records. Common round villages with max 19 Whiting Bay 10 Dec.

Cuckoo

Breeding: 2 juvs Machrie Moor 29 May. Arr 1 Brodick 12 Apr; widespread by May with last 1 Glen Chalmadale 22 Jun.

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Barn Owl

Breeding: Good yr with pr with 3 yng BCP mid May; pr with 2 yng Dougrie 16 Jun; pr with 2 yng Auchencarn; 5 prs raised 10 yng in nest boxes put up by Forest Enterprise; 1 fledged yng Glen Kiln Fm. Singles seen at Carlo, Catacol, N Glen Sannox, Lamlash, Pirmill, Kings Cross and Machrie Moor all yr. 1 found dead Drumadoon cliff 19 Jan; 1 found dead Glen Chalmadale 19 May.

Tawny Owl

1 Merkland Wood 2nd wk Apr; 1 Corrie 18 May; 1 BCP 23 May; 1 possible Torbeg/Machrie 14 Aug may have been a long-eared.

Short-eared Owl

Breeding: Bred Machrie Moor and Boguille, success unknown. Other sightings inc 1 Blackwaterfoot 7 May; 1 Ross road 17 May; 1 Glen Loig 26 May; 1 S Garbh Allt (new location) 3 Jun; 1 found injured Machrie Moor road was found to have a compound fracture of the wing, and failed to survive.

Nightjar

Only 1 heard Lochranza early summer (T.Church). Failed to show at Merkland Wood.

Swift

Arr 1 Drumadoon 5 May; 1 Kings Cross 17 May; 1 flying N Whiting Bay (2 Lamlash 18 May; 1 Lamlash Hospital 28 Jun; 1 Ross road 18 Sep.

Kingfisher

Poor yr, with 1 Cloy burn 25 Feb (A.Walters).

Wryneck

1 Sannox 25 Sep (Dr.J.Gillies), first record for Arran.

Skylark

Bred, but no figures available. Nos remain low Mar/Sep with up to 4 at Drumahinier, Machrie Fm, Kilpatrick, Lagg, Lenamor, Leac a Ghille and Drumadoon Fm. Max 6 Machrie Golf Course 15 Mar.

Sand Martin

Breeding: Bred at Auchencar and Whitefarland, but success unknown. Arr 2 Auchencar 14 Apr; 1 nr Shiskine Golf Course 11 May; 10+ Machrie/Auchencar 13 & 14 May; 4 Blackwaterfoot 23 May; 2 Machrie pond 16 Jun; 3 Iorsa 18 Jul; last 6 Dougrie 27 Jul.



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Swallow

Breeding: 2 nests BCP 30 May; pr double brooded Auchencairn, 5 yng followed by 4 yng reduced to 3 by sparrowhawk; 2 successful nests Mount Pleasant, Lamlash after 2 yrs absence; adult with yng Kilmory 5 Jul; late nest The Knowe, 1 still present 7 Oct. Arr 1 Porta Leacach, 1 Arranton 8 Apr; widespread by May, with max 50+ Sannox 24 Aug. Last 4 Whiting Bay 31 Oct.

House Martin

Breeding: 6 nests McKelvie road, Lamlash; 1 nest Clauchlands; nest Whiting Bay rebuilt, but taken over by house sparrows 3 Jun; 5 nests on 1 house Blackwaterfoot, some with yng 6 Aug; 14 nests on 1 house Corriecravie, many double brooded; also double brooded Whiting Bay. Arr 1 Catacol 11 Apr, widespread round the villages by May with max 14 Lamlash 19 May. Last 3 Lagg 23 Oct.

Tree Pipit

Slight improvement (cf 2 records '96). Arr 1 BCP 22 Apr; 1 Clauchland Hills 15 May; 1 Corrie 24 May; 1 Cnoc na Dail 22 Jun.

Meadow Pipit

Breeding: pr carrying food Glen Rosa 13 Jun; pr feeding yng Clauchlands 25 Jun; 1 live yng, 1 dead outside nest Glen Catacol 12 Jul; adult with 3 yng Kerrs Port 18 Jul. Nos still seem low, with max 15 Kerrs Port 14 Feb, but possibly under recorded.

Rock Pipit

Breeding: 1 carrying food Kings Cross 17 May. Common and widespread round the coast all yr, with max 20 Kildonan 31 Jan.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding: 1 carrying food Glenashdale 19 May. Prs and singles common and widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 3 Glenashdale Falls 19 May.

Pied Wagtail

Breeding: 5 yng successfully fledged Lamlash 29 Apr; pr with yng Kilmory 5 Jul. Very common all yr, with max 36 Whiting Bay 1 Oct.

White Wagtail

Arr 2 Blackwaterfoot 10 Apr; 1 Cleat 16 Apr; 1 Clauchlands 28 Apr; 1 Kilmory 7 May. 2 on autumn passage Shiskine Golf Course 27 Sep; 1 Lagg 23 Oct; max 3 Sliderrywaterfoot 20 Apr and 3 Dougarie 3 May.

Waxwing

8 Brodick 1 Jan (N.Davidson) was only sighting (cf 26 in '96).

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Dipper

Breeding: pr feeding 2 yng Lochranza 8 Jun. Common all yr in suitable habitat, with max 5 Glenashdale 30 Aug.

Wren

Breeding: nest with 7 eggs successfully hatched Benlister 18 Jul, probably double brooded; nest with eggs Whitehouse Woods 8 May; 5 juvs roosting in a previously empty nursery nest Whitehouse Woods 1 Jun; nest with 4 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 4 Jun. Nos seem to have recovered after two successive hard winters, with max 8 Blackwaterfoot 3 Dec.

Dunnock

Breeding: pr feeding yng Sandbraes 17 May; nest with 5 eggs Whitehouse Woods successfully hatched 28 May. Normally common, but nos still seem low, with max 6 Blackwaterfoot 2 Nov.

Robin

Breeding: nest with 5 eggs Margnaheglis, predated 9 Apr; pr feeding yng Auchencairn 19 May; nest with yng Whitehouse Woods 28 May; yng Bailemargaidh 8 Jun. Very common all yr, with max 6 Blackwaterfoot 23 Jan.

Redstart

Arr m Glen Cloy 23 Jun; 3 same garden 1 Jul; 1st winter m High Kildonan 3 Nov, predated following day.

Whinchat

Breeding: adult feeding yng Glen Sannox 27 May; 2 adults + 3 yng Machrie Moor 28 Jun; pr with 4 yng N Sannox Fm 6 Jul; pr with 2 juvs Machrie, pr with 2 juvs Shiskine Golf Course 6 Aug. Arr 2 prs + single Machrie Moor road 15 May. Singles recorded at Ross road, Corrie, Boguille and Blackwaterfoot, with max 7m 5f Boguille/Glen Chalmadale late May. Last 1 Blackwaterfoot 9 Sep.

Stonechat

Breeding: fewer records than '97, with 2 yng Kilpatrick 21 Jul, 2 yng Machrie 1 Aug, pr with 2 yng, pr with 1 yng Kings Cave 24 Jul. Common all yr, with max 6 holding territory Glen Sannox late May.

Wheatear

Breeding: nest with 3 eggs Lochranza 4 May; yng at Blackwaterfoot 21 Jun; 2 yng Sliderrywaterfoot 21 Jul. Arr m Machriewaterfoot 23 May. Common and widespread by Apr, with max 6m 2f Kerrs Port 1 May. Last 1 Blackwaterfoot 25 Oct.

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Ring Ouzel

Only 1 record; 1 Beinn Tarsuinn 22 May (P.Longbottom).

Blackbird

Breeding: 1 brood Whiting Bay 23 May; nest with 4 yng Glen Rosa 25 May. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 13 BCP 23 Nov.

Fieldfare

Fewer than '96 with up to 30 recorded at Glenree, Clauchlands, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie and Bailemargaidh Jan/Apr. Return 4-6 Lochranza 18 Sep, with up to 25 recorded at Laggan, Machrie Fm, Corriegills, Machrie, Whiting Bay, Kilpatrick Fm, Clauchlands and Blackwaterfoot Sep/Dec; c50 BCP 21 Oct, with max c600 Blackwaterfoot/Machrie 20 Oct.

Song Thrush

Breeding: 3 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 8 May; nest with 4 eggs White House woods 21 May; 2 nests with 2 eggs each abandoned Kings Cross Aug. Contrary to national trends, common and widespread, with max 10+ holding territory Kings Cross 17 May.

Redwing

Fewer than '96, with up to 25 recorded at Glenree, Clauchlands and Blackwaterfoot Jan/Feb, and max c200 mixed with fieldfares and starlings Shiskine 14 Jan; return c300 mixed with fieldfares Machrie 18 Oct, thereafter up to 60 at S Feorline, Margnaeglish, Largybeg, Kilpatrick Fm, Kildonan Fm, BCP, Blackwaterfoot and Machrie Oct/Dec.

Mistle Thrush

No breeding records. Up to 12 recorded at Dougarie, Whitefarland, BCP, Bailemargaidh, String road, Whitefarland, Glen Iorsa, Glen Rosa, Lochranza, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Corrie and Lamlash, with max 20 Machrie 18 Oct.

Grasshopper Warbler

Arr 1 Kilmory 9 May; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 11 May; 1 Largybeg 18 May

Sedge Warbler

Breeding: adult carrying food Clauchlands mid Jun; arr 1 Porta Leacach 4 May; all records came from Lamlash/Blackwaterfoot, with the exception of 1 Shiskine late May; max c6 Doon/Kings Cave 16 May. Last 2 Torbeg 24 Jul.

Whitethroat

Breeding: pr building nest Kings Cross 17 May; f at empty nest Clauchlands 12, but verges were cut by 15 Jun and nest gone; pr with 2 juvs Clauchlands 11 Jul; pr feeding 2 yng Roddin 24 Jul. Arr m Clauchlands 1 May, widespread by Jun, with max 4 holding territory Kings Cross 17 May. Last m Kerrs Port 18 Aug.

Garden Warbler

Arr 2 Corrie/Sannox 18 May; 1 White House woods 13 Jun; 1 Largymeanoch 7 Jul.

Blackcap

No breeding records. Singles seen at Merkland Wood, White House woods, Cladach, Kings Cross, Strathwhillan, Lagg Wood and BCP Apr/Jun. Singles at bird tables in High Kildonan, Pirnmill and Brodick during winter months.

Wood Warbler

No breeding reports. Low nos with arr 1 BCP 1 May; 1 Lagg Wood 9 May; max 3 Glen Rosa 28 May.

Chiffchaff

No breeding records. Arr 1 BCP 19 Mar. Singles seen at Lamlash, Kildonan, Whiting Bay, Lagg Wood, Cladach, Pirnmill, Largymore, Corrie and Shiskine, prs at BCP and White House woods Mar/Jun. 1 ringed bird Dereneneach 16 Jun. Last 1 BCP 1 Aug.

Willow Warbler

Breeding: 1 carrying food Glaister 15 May; pr feeding yng Glenashdale 19 May; pr with 5 yng Lamlash 12 Jun; adult with 3 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 23 Jun. Arr 1 Porta Leacach, 1 Machrie Fm 8 Apr, widespread by May, with max 45+ holding territory Kings Cross 17 May. Last 1 Bailemargaidh 31 Aug.

Goldcrest

Breeding: pr feeding 2 yng White House Woods 23 May; pr with 2 juvs Torbeg 12 Aug; pr with 4 juvs White House woods 21 Aug. Good recovery after two hard winters. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 4 Torr Righ Forestry 30 Nov.

Spotted Flycatcher

Breeding: nest Sannox 25 Jun; adult feeding yng Glen Sannox and White House woods 27 Jun; pr with 1 juv Clauchlands 17 Jul; pr feeding yng BCP 28 Jul. Arr pr N Sannox Fm Park 2 May. Widespread by Jun, with max 9 inc juvs Kings Cross 3 Aug. Last 1 Thunderguy 14 Aug.

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Long-tailed Tit

No breeding records. Good recovery after two successive hard winters. Up to 10 seen at many locations, up to 20 at Cordon, Roddin, Cnoc na Dail, Merkland Wood, Pirmill, Balmichael, Lamlash and Glen Cloy Forestry all yr. Max 20 Dereneach 16 Jun.

Coal Tit

Breeding: juvs Machrie Moor road 27 May; pr with juvs Kings Cross 3 Aug. Good recovery as above, with up to 4 at Glen Cloy, Dunfion Forestry, BCP, Merkland Wood, Balnacoole, Blackwaterfoot, Fallen Rocks, Pirmill, Torr Righ Forestry and Douglas Centre, Brodick all yr. Max 7 Glenashdale Falls 17 Apr.

Willow Tit

1 Corrie/Sannox 15 May (P.Longbottom), last recorded in 1992.

Blue Tit

Breeding: bred successfully at Murray Estate, Lamlash, but must have been successful at many other locations. Again, good recovery, and widespread by the end of the yr with up to 5 at Blackwaterfoot, Merkland Wood, Balnacoole, Fallen Rocks, Machrie and Pirmill, with max 5 Port na Gallin 23 Oct.

Great Tit

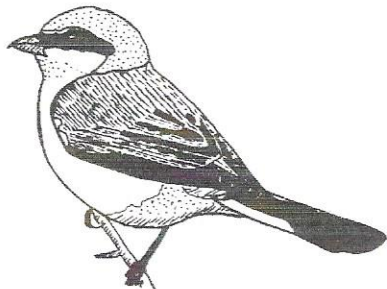
Breeding: pr feeding yng Kings Cross 17 May; pr feeding yng in nest box Glenashdale 19 May; 3 juvs Margnaheglis 22 Jun. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot and Machrie 29 Apr, and Torr Righ Forestry 30 Nov.

Treecreeper

Breeding: adult with 3 yng Glenashdale 19 May; 3 yng BCP 30 May. Singles seen at Pirmill, White House woods, Bailemargaidh, Fallen Rocks, Kings Cross, Strabane, Altachorvie Wood, Shiskine and Whiting Bay all yr.

Red-backed Shrike

m being mobbed by warblers Auchencaim 19 May (S.Hamilton et al); m Kildonan 27 Sep (M.Dunn, possibly same bird on return migration) Last recorded 1988.



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Jackdaw

Breeding: pr nested Sandbraes 20 May, but must have nested in many other locations. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 80+ Blackwaterfoot 2 Aug.

Rook

Still no breeding records. Increase in nos recorded at Roddin, Bailemargaidh, Shiskine and S Feorline Jan/May and Sep/Dec, with max 106 Roddin 25 Oct. Summer records inc 1 E Bennan 21 Jul, also recorded at Corrie cravie for the first time.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Breeding: pr at nest Kerrs Port 20 Apr. Very common and widespread all yr with max 50 Clauchlands Fm 10 Mar.

Raven

Breeding: nest Corrie cravie cliffs 20 Apr; pr with 1 juv Glenshant 27 May. Common and widespread all yr, with max 10 Torr Nead 21 Sep.

Starling

Breeding: nested at Largymore, Lamlash and Lagg. Very common and widespread with max 200+ Blackwaterfoot 29 Sep.

House Sparrow

Breeding: min 4 nests Hospital road, Lamlash; nest Largymore 23 May; 24 inc yng Arranton 30 Jun. Common round the villages all yr, with max 50+ Kilpatrick 21 Jul, but no reports from Lochranza!

Tree Sparrow

3 reports (cf none in '96). m Whiting Bay 26 Apr; 1 nr Catacol Hotel 22 May; 2 Brodick 17 Jun.

Chaffinch

Breeding: f feeding yng White House woods 16 Jun, but must have bred successfully in many other locations. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 400+ Dereneneach 29 Sep.

Brambling

20+ with chaffinches Glaister 17 Feb is largest group ever recorded here. 1 with chaffinches Glenashdale 18 Mar; m Brodick 8 Nov; m Kings Cross 10 Nov, possibly same bird.

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Greenfinch

Breeding: pr with 5 yng Arranton late May; pr with 3 yng Whiting Bay 18 May; 20 inc yng Bailemargaith 7 Jun; pr with 2 juvs Kings Cross 13 Aug. Common and widespread Jan/Oct, with max 30 Port na Lochan 20 Oct.

Goldfinch

Breeding: adult feeding 1 yng Lamlash 12 May; 3 adults with 2 juvs Lamlash 2 Sep. Common and widespread all yr, but few winter records. Max 15 Drumadoon 21 Sep.

Siskin

Breeding: adult feeding 2 yng Arranton 28 Apr; f with 3 juvs Corrie/Sannox 18 May; adult feeding yng Machrie Moor road 27 May; pr with 4 yng Blackwaterfoot 12 Jun; adult with juv Benlister 18 Jul. Common and widespread Jan/Sep, but no records Oct/Dec. Max 30 Imachar 30 Aug, c30 Clauchlands 13 Sep and c30 Rubha Salach 14 Sep.

Linnet

Breeding m feeding 1 yng Clauchlands 19 Jun. Common and widespread Mar/Oct, with most records coming from the Clauchlands, Machrie and Blackwaterfoot areas. Max c100 Cleat 8 Sep.

Twite

No breeding records. Scarce with 3 Cordon 11 Jan, 5 Clauchlands 25 Jan; 1 lower slopes of Goatfell 10 Sep.

Redpoll

No breeding records. Up to 4 at Glenashdale, Corrie, Kings Cross, Machrie Moor, Bailemargaith and Kilmory Apr/Nov, with max 20+ Lagg Wood 7 Sep.

Crossbill

Breeding: m with 1 yng Lagg Wood 29 May. All records came from Lagg/Kilmory area Jan/May, except for pr White House woods 10 Apr. Max 15+ Lagg Wood 27 May.

Bullfinch

Breeding: pr with 1 yng Bailemargaith 14 Aug; pr with juv Kildonan 27 Sep. Increase in sightings, with singles and prs at Cordon, Lamlash, Kilmory, Kings Cross, Kildonan, Machrie, Lagg, Glenashdale, Corrie, Whiting Bay, Ross road, Fallen Rocks, Blackwaterfoot, Glen Rosa all yr. Max 8 Kings Cave 21 Oct.

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Snow Bunting

f or imm Machrie 14 Dec (C.Turbett) is only record

Yellowhammer

Breeding: pr carrying food Shiskine Golf Course 15 May. Up to 3 seen at Strathwhillan, Shiskine, Porta Leacach, Blackwaterfoot, Corrie, Dippen, S Feorline and Lenamhor Mar/Oct, with max 5 Cleat 16 Apr.

Reed Bunting

Breeding: f with 1 imm Machrie pond 2 Oct. Slight increase, with 2 m String road 2 Apr, m Corriecravie ponds 20 Apr, m N Sannox Fm Park 2 May, m High Corrie 24 May; f Lakin 24 Jul; f S Feorline 12 Aug; 2 Blackwaterfoot 8 Sep.

Additions to previous reports

Slavonian Grebe: 1 Lamlash 6 Apr 1995

Merlin: f Lagg 6 Apr 1995; m Machrie 9 Apr 1995

Hawfinch: possible m Whiting Bay Aug 1992, last recorded 1983.

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

An unusual start to the year, with a juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit at Machriewaterfoot on the 1st **JANUARY**, more often seen on spring or autumn passage. Also on the 1st were 8 Waxwings at Brodick, the only sighting of the year. A Herring Gull attacked a pair of Redshank at Cordon on the 2nd, forcing one of them onto the sea. They had no peace the following day either, when a peregrine had two goes at them, missing on both occasions. Two Tufted Ducks were at Port-na-Lochan on the 3rd, while a Teal found shot at Kilmory on the same day was found to have been ringed in Northern Ireland in December 1996. Nine Golden Plovers were at Machriewaterfoot on the 4th and two Lapwings on the 7th. Three scarce Twite were feeding on the shore at Cordon on the 11th, with a further five at Clauchlands on the 25th. A Grey Plover was seen feeding with Oystercatchers at Clauchlands on the 12th. Two Purple Sandpipers were at Drumadoon Point on the 13th, perfectly camouflaged against the rocks. A pair of Moorhens on the Cloy burn on the 14th are thought to be the only ones on the island now. Overwintering Little Grebes were noted at the Rosa burn mouth on the 16th and Port-na-Lochan on the 19th to the 22nd, with five at Lochranza and three at the Fish Farm on the 30th. A possible Cory's Shearwater flew past Kildonan on the 18th. A Barn Owl was found dead on the rocks below the Drumadoon cliffs on the 19th, while the following day there were three Crossbills displaying at Kilmory. The first gannets were back at Kildonan on the 25th, and by the 27th the number of greylags in the Shiskine Valley had risen to 500. The Mute Swans usually accompanied by the three feral geese and a single Whooper Swan continued to come to Whiting Bay every day where hotel owners fed them, and on the 31st there were 14, the largest group ever seen here.

FEBRUARY was very cold, wet and windy, with strong SW gales and sleet, especially during the latter half of the month. The gravel pit at Strabane continued to attract Herons and five were seen there on the 4th. 10 Goldeneye were in Lamlash Bay on the 14th, but numbers round the coast seem lower than in recent years. 50-60 overwintering Rooks were feeding on the Roddin on the 15th. A surprise on the 17th when more than 20 bramblings were seen in a flock of chaffinches at Glaister, the largest group ever recorded here as far as is known. A party of 12 Long-tailed Tits was seen at Cordon on the 23rd, but other members of the tit family seemed to be scarcer than usual at bird tables. A Kingfisher was glimpsed at the Cloy burn on the 25th, sadly the only sighting of the year. A visit to Machrie on the 28th produced about 125 Oystercatchers at the water's edge and about 30 Teal on the pond.

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At long last after a long, hard winter, the weather turned milder even if it remained overcast for most of **MARCH**. An injured Short-eared Owl found on the Machrie Moor road on the 1st was taken into care but failed to survive. A juvenile Kittiwake was seen from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry on the 2nd. During the first week of the month, there was the extraordinary sight of a Wren flying from the boat house at Lamlash to the very top of a 40 foot mast of a yacht on shore, where it disappeared through a hole, presumably to roost! By the 4th, the northern pair of Golden Eagles were seen reinforcing their nest, while a single Kriol was seen at Machriewaterfoot on the 8th and 9th. Two Bullfinches were at Lamlash on the 14th, with a further two pairs at Brodick Country Park and five at Kings Cross on the 31st. It was also a good month for scarce Yellowhammers, with two in a garden at Strathwhillan during the first two weeks, a single at Drumadoon on the 23rd, and three at Shiskine on the 30th. The first summer migrants arrived, with a Chiffchaff at Brodick Country Park on the 19th, and a Wheatear at Machriewaterfoot on the 23rd. 10 Whooper Swans rested briefly on Lamlash Bay on the 27th, and on the same day a Peregrine was surprised at its kill, a woodpigeon, in Altachorvie Wood. Two White-fronted Geese were seen in a flock of Greylags at Shiskine on the 29th, while on the same day there was a single Ptarmigan on the summit of Goatfell, a Golden Plover at Loch Dubh showing signs of territorial activity, and a Whimbrel at Sliderrywaterfoot, seen again on 20th April. The month ended with eight Mistle Thrushes at Bailemargaidh and four Linnets at Drumahinier on the 30th.

Two male Reed Buntings on the String road on the 2nd **APRIL** was an unusual start to the month. A walk in the Monamore Forestry on the 3rd produced four Buzzards circling over Lagaville, and a female Sparrowhawk failing to catch a mallard at Loch Thomson. A second Ptarmigan was seen on North Goatfell on the 8th, a beautiful sunny day which may have encouraged the arrival of two more summer visitors, Swallows at Porta Leacach and Arranton, and Willow Warblers at Porta Leacach and Machrie Farm. Migration continued with White Wagtails at Blackwaterfoot on the 10th, House Martins at Catacol on the 11th, the first Cuckoo of spring at Brodick on the 12th, Common Sandpipers at Porta Leacach on the 13th, and Sand Martins at Auchencar on the 14th. Meanwhile a Tawny Owl was keeping the residents of Bush Cottage in Merkland Wood awake at night! As the summer migrants arrived, the winter ones were on their way north again, with about 70 Greylag Geese overflying Brodick on the 15th. A male Merlin was seen close to the road between Lochranza and Catacol on the 18th. A group of Golden Plovers were at Machriewaterfoot on the 19th, and a further 15 at Lenamor on the 26th. A welcome Tree Pipit arrived at Brodick Country Park on the 22nd. A rare Tree Sparrow turned up at Whiting Bay on the 26th, and the last of the migrants for the month were two Sandwich Terns at Lamlash on the 29th.

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MAY started off well with brilliant sunshine, but there was a shock in store when the wind veered to the north on the 5th, and there was a short spell of bitterly cold weather. The month was packed with interest as usual. More migrants arrived with a Whitethroat at Clauchlands and a Wood Warbler at Brodick Country Park on the 1st, and a Spotted Flycatcher at North Sannox Farm Park on the 2nd. 11 Whimbrel at Kildonan on the 4th was an unusually large number for Arran, and a Swift at Drumadoon on the 5th an unusually early date. A scarce Grasshopper Warbler arrived at Kilmory on the 9th, and an equally scarce Greenshank turned up at Brodick on the 13th, as well as two Arctic Terns at Machrie. A solitary male Goosander was at Merkland Point on the 14th. The 15th was a good day with three Sanderlings at Blackwaterfoot, five Whinchats on the Machrie Moor road and an important Willow Tit seen between Corrie and Sannox, last recorded in 1992. Also seen between Corrie and Sannox were two Garden Warblers on the 18th. The second important sighting of the month came on the 19th, when two very experienced birders found a Red-backed Shrike at Auchencairn. More lucky sightings on the 20th, with two Bar-tailed Godwits at Dougárie, and seven Velvet Scoters flying close inshore at Pirmill. A Ring Ouzel on Beinn Tarsuinn on the 22nd was the only sighting of the year. The Mute Swans at the Fish Farm bred successfully for the third year running, and were seen with seven cygnets on the 23rd. Sadly however, their success was short-lived, as one by one the cygnets disappeared, and they were all gone by the start of June. Nobody saw what happened, and no trace of them was ever found, but it is just possible that they were taken by seals. The northern pair of Golden Eagles were luckier though, and were seen with young at their nest in late May.

The first sighting of note for **JUNE** was of a Short-eared Owl chasing a Hooded Crow for about half a mile on the south side of the Garbh Allt on the 3rd, the first record for this area. A trip round Holy Isle on the 5th to survey breeding Cormorants failed to establish if they had nested there, but there were 158 pairs of nesting Common Gulls, 45 pairs of Herring Gulls, 10 Shags with young at the waters edge, and a colony of about 53 pairs of Fulmars on the far side of the island. No young Fulmars were seen at this or any other sites around Arran. On the same day, there was a bit of a stir at the North End, when a family and their dog was seen climbing a ridge with a pair of Peregrines screaming round their heads! An RSPB man on holiday here alerted the police, as maps of Dumfries and Galloway could be seen in their car, and he knew there had been reports of egg thieves in that area. Thankfully, it turned out to be a false alarm, but better safe than sorry! A pair of Arctic Terns were seen at their nest on the Dougárie beach on the 6th where they had nested unsuccessfully two years ago, but they had no better luck this year and the nest was swept away the following day by high seas. There was the welcome news of an adult Lapwing with two young at South Bank Farm on the 13th. A pair of Black Guillemots chose to build their nest on one of the Fish Farm rafts, and there were two eggs on the 15th. By mid June, it became

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apparent that the Barn Owls were having a very successful year, with a total of 17 young successfully fledged, probably helped by the fact that it was a peak vole year here. Two Tree Sparrows were at Brodick on the 17th, a second Tree Pipit at Cnoc na Dail on the 22nd, and a male Redstart in a Glen Cloy garden on the 25th. The month ended with the unusual sight of three male Wigeon in eclipse at Auchencar on the 28th, a very early arrival date, and a male Tufted Duck at Arranton on the 30th, again more usual in the winter months.

After a male Redstart being seen in Glen Cloy in late June, three were seen in the same garden on the 1st **JULY**. A Puffin was found on the 2nd fairway of Machrie Golf Course on the 2nd, blown inland by high winds. It seemed exhausted but uninjured, and was taken to the Ranger Centre at Brodick Country Park, then transferred to a rehabilitation centre at Beith. It was released from there later, none the worse for its experience. A second Garden Warbler was seen at Largymeanoch on the 5th, and on the 6th more summer Wigeon appeared on the west coast. Red-throated Divers were seen with two young on an inland lochan on the 12th. On the 18th, a female Merlin was seen trying to flush out warblers from the edge of the forestry at Benlister Glen. A single summer Rook was at East Bennan on the 21st, while Drumadoon Point again proved to be a magnet for passage waders, with a Greenshank on the same day, and a Sanderling in transitional plumage on the 24th. A Corncrake was heard and seen below Doon Farm on the 22nd, and another heard near Moss Farm on the 23rd, probably the same bird. Two families of Whinchats were at Kings Cave on the 24th, and another family party at Machrie Moor on the 25th. A Pair of Bullfinches and a female Reed Bunting were seen at the Lakin on the 24th. A pair of Black-throated Divers in winter plumage was at Machriewaterfoot on the 27th, and a pair of Spotted Flycatchers were feeding young at Brodick Country Park on the 28th.

A group of Red-throated Divers between Machrie and Dougarie on the 11th **AUGUST** included three young, one of which was being fed by an adult. The 13th was lucky for some, with 90 Red-breasted Mergansers at Machriewaterfoot, a Common Tern at Blackwaterfoot, and an Arctic Tern and four Knots in transitional plumage at Drumadoon Point. Yet more summer Wigeon were at Clauchlands on the 15th. A group of 25 Redshanks were at Whiting Bay while about 100 Gannets were diving off Largymore on the 17th. A pair of Goldcrests with four juveniles were seen in the White House woods on the 21st, good news as they were very scarce at the beginning of the year. The last Common Sandpiper of the year was at Kings Cross Point on the 23rd. 30 Black Guillemots were at Lochranza on the 24th, and 12 Ravens were seen over Beinn Bharrain on the same day. About 1,600 Manx Shearwaters passed Largymore on the 27th, and also in transit were 10 Sandwich Terns including juveniles at Whiting Bay on the 29th. Finally, a flock of 30 Siskins was feeding at Imachar on the 30th.

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SEPTEMBER is one of the best months for unusual birds, and this year was no exception. Finches began to gather into flocks, with more than 20 redpolls at Lagg Wood on the 7th and over 100 Linnets at the Cleat on the 8th. On the 9th, a pair of Red-throated Divers with two juveniles were seen at Largymore, and four Goldeneye returned to Catacol. A Slavonian Grebe turned up at Dougario on the 10th, and a Twite was seen on the lower slopes of Goatfell on the same day. More birds on passage followed, with a Sanderling at Dougario on the 12th, a second Corncrake at High Kildonan and four Scaup at Cordon on the 13th, a Long-tailed Duck at Whiting Bay, and a Whimbrel at Kildonan on the 14th. Volunteers took part in a national survey of Eiders on the 14th and 15th, and a total of 88 was recorded right round the island. On the 18th a group of 11 Black-throated Divers was at Kings Cave, a single Swift was seen on the Ross road, and the first six Fieldfares returned to Lochranza. On the 25th came the biggest surprise of the year - a Wryneck in a garden at Samnox which was closely observed for over an hour, a first record for Arran. Another surprise followed, when a second Red-backed Shrike turned up at Kildonan on the 27th, possibly the same bird of return migration, and a Great Skua was seen spooking gulls at Blackwaterfoot. More finches on the 29th, with more than 400 chaffinches at Dereneneach, but more importantly an Osprey at Drumadoon, not seen in the spring although it could well have slipped past. The month ended with 21 Barnacle Geese at Kildonan Farm on the 30th.

The news for **OCTOBER** was mainly of coastal birds and raptors, starting with 16 Whooper Swans at Kildonan on the 3rd, and an astonishing 72 Little Auks seen on the same day from a boat about two miles off the coast at Blackwaterfoot. A female Goosander turned up at Sliderywaterfoot on the 5th, and a Jack Snipe at Port-na-Lochan on the 6th. An interesting story came from Catacol Glen during the first week of October. A group of people were amazed when a Meadow Pipit landed between the feet of one member of the party. The reason became clear when the pipit flew off again only to be pounced on by an immature Merlin. Immediately a second immature Merlin joined the first, and the two fought energetically over the prey! By the 10th, the number of Kittiwakes at Whiting Bay had risen to more than 600, and the last two Sandwich Terns were also at Whiting Bay on the 12th. Port-na-Lochan again proved its worth with three Tufted Ducks on the 16th. On the 19th there were two Great Northern Divers in breeding plumage between Machrie and Pirnill, and an uncommon Common Scoter at Blackwaterfoot. A male Sparrowhawk was having a wash and brush up at Lochan Ime on the 20th, and there was a mixed bag on the 21st, with 8 Bullfinches at Kings Cave, 8 Snipe overflying Torr Righ, and 115 Guillemots at Catacol. The last summer migrants left, three House Martins and a White Wagtail at Lagg on the 23rd, and a Wheatear at Blackwaterfoot on the 25th. The last day of the month saw 33 Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot, and the last four Swallows at Blackwaterfoot. October also proved to be the best month for Long-tailed Tits, with a total of 125 seen at various locations, a good recovery from last year.

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News began to thin out as usual in **NOVEMBER**, but there was at least one surprise. Two ptarmigan were on the Castles on the 1st, then came the surprising news of what was at first thought to be a female Black Redstart at High Kildonan on the 3rd. It was found dead the following day, probably killed by a cat, and turned out to be a first winter male Redstart, very late on migration. A male Brambling was seen in a Brodick garden on the 8th, and probably the same bird in a garden at Kings Cross two days later. Winter records of Goldfinches are unusual, but there were eight at Blackwaterfoot on the 13th. A maximum of 495 Eiders were seen between Pirmill and Thunderguy on the 15th, and a second Jack Snipe was flushed at Balnacool on the same day. A circular walk in the Torr Rìgh forestry on the 30th produced four Goldcrests, a group of four Great Tits and the unexpected sight of 102 Teal on the flooded marsh in the middle of the forestry, when for once their true colours could be seen in the bright sunlight. There were also 38 Wigeon at Tormore, but the number of Wigeon in general has continued to fall to roughly half that of 1996.

By the end of **DECEMBER** it became obvious that the smallest birds such as Tits, Goldcrests and Wrens which had been so scarce at the beginning of year had made a good recovery. Sightings of other species were few and far between, starting with two Whooper Swans on Machrie pond on the 9th. The only Snow Bunting of the year was seen at Machrie on the 14th. 30 Woodcock were flushed by beaters at Glenree Farm on the 20th, and as in 1996, there seemed to far fewer than normal, possibly also affected by two consecutive hard winters. A family in Lamlash had a visitor on Christmas Eve, only it didn't come down the chimney! As high winds and torrential rain battered their kitchen door, a bird could be seen fluttering behind the glazed panel. When the door was opened, a female Chaffinch flew in straight to the top of the Christmas tree where she roosted until let out the following morning! Last sightings for the year were a second Slavonian Grebe seen at Imachar Point on the 27th, while further along at Whitefarland there were five Little Auks in a mixed group of Razorbills and Guillemots.

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