

# THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT

FOR 1999



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# THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT FOR 1999

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AUDREY WALTERS

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## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

E.Alderson; R.Bailey; L.Barrow; R.Betley; D.Bickett; A.Brooks; A.Brown; C.Burns; R.Burns; L.Campbell; Dr.J. & A.Cassels; D.Christie; A.Clark; S.Clifton; A.Crawford; N.& H.Davidson; J.Delaney; I.Devlin; B. & D.Dixon; A.Donald; L.Drummond; A.Duncan; M.H.Dunn; A.Elphinstone; P.Emslie; J.Fitzpatrick; M.Flynn; M.Fowler; R.Gibson; M.Giles; D.Goldbrough; I.Goodall; T.Grimshaw; D. & S.Hamilton; H.Hamilton; A.Handley; A.Hollick; R.Hooper; S.Huyton; P.Ingham; B. & E.Kinnaird; F.Laing; R.Logan; M.Lyth; A.MacAlister; B. & C.McFadyen; T.McKie; A.McLaughlan; T.McNeish; B.Murray; D. & M.Oakes; R.Phillips; M.Potter; J.Rhead; T.Riddle; J.Robertson; C.Rogers; I.Scott; T.Scott; B.Shand; M.Shaw; P.Smith; T.Smith; T.Southall; H. & J.Spicer; J.Steel; I.Struthers; J.Sutherland; J.Sutton; F.Tait; J.Taylor; R. & A.Thompson; P.Tupman; K.Turnell; A.Walker; E. & D.Walker; H.Walker; A.Walters; M.Welch; T.Welch; H.White; M.White; L.Whybrow;

## INTRODUCTION

Our final report for the 20th century, and it turned out to be a very interesting year. The list of no-shows was fairly long - red-necked and Slavonian grebes, brent geese, scaup, common scoter, water rail, corncrake, nightjar, grey plover, little stint, black-tailed godwit, arctic skua, waxwing, black redstart and tree sparrow, all of which have been recorded in recent years. However, 1999 saw the return of great crested and red-necked grebes, goshawk and Iceland gull. There was also the continued presence of the great spotted woodpecker and black grouse recorded last year. Added to this we have at least one new addition to our checklist - a scarlet rosefinch. Two other rare species were recorded - a possible greenish warbler and a great shearwater. However, the greenish warbler record was discounted owing to insufficient evidence, while the great shearwater record is still under consideration. On a more mundane note, we have acquired a resident magpie which arrived in November and is still present at the time of writing., the only one ever to stay more than a few days. This is one species we do not wish to see established!

The Arran landscape continues to change as clear felling by Forest Enterprise opens up new areas. Some of the forestry walks which were closed owing to storm damage last year have been re-opened, but sections of the Monamore Forestry will be closed to the public for some time to come owing to timber extraction. Two paths have been re-instated - the Fairy Glen walk, starting at the edge of the forestry below Cnoc na Dail and emerging at the back of Brodick, and the path up

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to Loch Garbad. Work is in progress on the improvement of both upland and lowland paths under the auspices of Scottish Natural Heritage, Arran Access and European Objective One. Port-na-lochan has been improved with a planting of small trees and shrubs close to the pond which should encourage more birdlife into the area.

In April, 15 volunteers again carried out an eider census as part of an ongoing Clyde Estuary/Argyll project organised by Bob Furness and Chris Waltho. The total for Arran was 1161, but a follow-up census in September gave a much lower total of 278. In May Terry Southall visited Pladda, and apart from his ringing work there, made a survey of the breeding birds.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who phoned or wrote to me with information. A special thanks too to John Rhead who has once again helped to prepare this report, and to the other experienced birders who helped with identification problems and other matters.

Again, all I need to know is how many, where and the date. I appreciate that counting birds can be difficult, especially redwings and fieldfares for instance which are restless and liable to take flight at the least disturbance, but even a rough estimate is better than "lots of"! The date too is important, as it can be used to cross-reference sightings. Please check the status of species given at the back of this report. You will then understand that we have a very different situation compared to the mainland, and why a magpie is listed as occasional, while golden eagles are resident and common! Beware too of the hybrid mallard which you won't find in your bird book, and the hybrid geese which are often seen in the company of the mute swans. They are not genuine wild birds and therefore are not in the Report.



## CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

Very wet and windy but relatively mild weather prevailed for most of **JANUARY**. The first pair of Clachlands shelducks arrived on the 1st. Three purple sandpipers were back at their usual site at Drumadoon Point on the 2nd, while a red-throated diver turned up at Clachlands on the 3rd. A further two were at Blackwaterfoot on the 6th, while seven pairs of fulmars were back at Drumadoon cliffs. Also on the 6th were ten bullfinches in the Dunfion Forestry, an unusually high number. Three golden eagles were soaring over the Narrachan on the 7th. A scarce tawny owl was at Brodick Country Park on the 9th. Nothing special until the 22nd, when about 30 goldfinches were at the Cleat, an unusual January sighting. Two groups of long-tailed tits were seen, 12 at Porta Leacach on the 21st and 12 at Arranton on the 24th. More finches were foraging on the Cordon shore on the 23rd, and with them about 50 siskins. Two goldfinches came to a bird table in Brodick on the 29th, and first record of them doing so. Last sighting of note for the month was of a great spotted woodpecker in Merkland Wood on the 31st, still present from last year.

**FEBRUARY** began with some bright sunshine, but from then on the weather reverted to prevailing north westerly winds, bringing rain, sleet and hail showers. By the 2nd, four goldfinches were coming to the same Brodick bird table. The number of mute swans coming to their feeding station in Whiting Bay had risen to 26 on the 3rd. More news of divers, with a dead black-throated washed up on Lamash shore on the 4th, and three great northern at Dougarie on the 10th. The first merlin of the year was seen at Levenorrach on the 13th, while two scarce yellowhammers were at High Kildonan. On the 15th, two pairs of crossbills were picking at grit on a Kilmory road. A long-tailed duck turned up at Blackwaterfoot on the 23rd, the same location as last year, while a short-eared owl was in Glen Rosa. A large flock of about 300 chaffinches had gathered at Benlister on the 27th, and a dead buzzard was found at Glenkiln Farm, probably a victim of the severe weather.

A chilly start to **MARCH** but there was also plenty of sunshine. Plenty of interest too, starting with four short-eared owls on Kilbride Hill, two pairs of dippers at North Sannox, and about 20 passage skylarks at Kilmory on the 4th. The 6th was a busy day, with three little grebes at Lochranza, two pink-footed and a single white-fronted goose with about 400 greylags in the Shiskine Valley, 10 golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot, and 10 razorbills off Largiemore.

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A kestrel had four fledged young at Benlister on the 5th, later reduced to one, probably due to nesting carrion crows a short distance away. A great crested grebe was a surprise at Machrie on the 12th, seen by a group of experienced birders (including me!), and a scarce snipe was drumming at the Boguille summit on the same day. A golden eagle being mobbed by a pair of peregrines at Glen Craigag was a spectacular sight on the 13th and an adult puffin was seen from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry on the 12th and 13th, the only record of the year. A ptarmigan with three young was seen on Beinn Bharrain on the 21st, but there was also the exciting news of two red kites mobbing a buzzard between Thunderguy and Pirmill. However, the description didn't quite fit, and after much consultation with raptor experts and the realisation that although the observers had seen red kites in Wales, they might not be familiar with other raptor juveniles such as young eagles, it was decided to discount the record.

A visit to Pladda on the 25th by our resident ringer Terry Southall established that there were c200 pairs of herring gulls, c30 pairs of common gulls, c20 pairs of lesser black-backed gulls, more than 20 pairs of black guillemots and most importantly 15 pairs of arctic terns nesting (some of them ringed). Final note for the month was of a moorhen with three young at Corriecravie pond on the 26th, the first breeding record since 1988.

After one of the wettest JULYs on record last year, we had a really warm month with temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees at the weekend starting on the 9th and again at the end of the month.

Two woodcock were sitting in the middle of the String road on the 3rd, not the first time this has been reported. A red grouse with two young was seen at Lochan a Mhill on the 10th, the only breeding record this year, while a golden plover was calling near Coirein Lochan, indicating possible breeding. A young cuckoo was being fed by its foster parents at Glen Iorsa on the 11th. A grasshopper warbler was at Blackwaterfoot on the 13th, and a second one was reeling at the Lakin Farm on the 25th. A juvenile heron with a broken wing at Lagg was taken into care on the 20th, but died later the same day. Also on the 20th a juvenile crossbill came to a bird table at Pirmill, the first one to do so. A passage of 70+ willow warblers in five hours took place between Kildonan and Bennan Head on the 25th. A pair of peregrines at Glen Sannox were being mobbed by kestrels on the 28th. By the end of July, the Clachlands shelducks had left, taking their nine surviving juveniles with them.

The good weather continued into **AUGUST** with several really warm dry spells, but by the end of the month there was a distinct autumn nip in the air and the rain returned.

Small groups of guillemots totalling 80 were seen from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry on the 3rd. An agile sparrowhawk took a house martin at Lagg on the 4th. Eight tree pipits flying east in four hours were recorded at Porta Leacach on the 11th. The 11th was also a good day for waders at Kildonan, with five dunlin, 28 ringed-plovers, 17 turnstones, and best of all two adult and three juvenile knots, the adults still in their beautiful summer plumage with rusty red breasts. The first fulmar young were seen, with 1 at Cleiteadh Buidhe on the 12, two at Drumadoon on the 20th and a single at Imachar on the 22nd. At Porta Leacach, 840 Manx shearwaters were seen in one hour flying south on the 15th. A leucistic blackbird turned up at Blackwaterfoot on the 19th, and like the previous one at Lamlash this one was also pure white. More news on the 24th when one of the parents of the young barn owls found drowned in a disused water tank in Lamlash last year was found fluttering helplessly on the ground. In this case it was found to be severely undernourished and later died after being taken into care.

Excitement on the 28th when a great shearwater was seen from the Lochranza/Claonaig ferry. The record is at present under review by the Scottish Rarities Committee, and if accepted will be a first for Arran. The month ended with an unusually high number of 250 pied wagtails at a roost in Kildonan on the 31st, and a migrant osprey overflying the Boguille summit, the only record of the year.

A mixed bag of weather for **SEPTEMBER**, but there were some bright sunny days, particularly the 9th/10th and 25th/26th. More golden plovers were seen, with two at Machrie on the 2nd and a larger flock of 18 in farm fields at West Bannan on the 18th. A second barn owl in trouble was found near the Fallen Rocks on the 12th, where it was seen flapping helplessly before falling into the sea. It was rescued and taken into care, but sadly it too failed to survive. Five goosanders were at Whiting Bay on the 15th, an unusually high number. A late sand martin overflowed Brodick Country Park on the 17th. 153 rooks gathered at Drumadoon on the 20th, a new location for them. The third pair of breeding mute swans was seen with a juvenile at Machriewaterfoot on the 21st. The last Sandwich terns were at Clachlands on the 23rd, while a massive build up of kittiwakes began with about 1500 at Catacol.



The 23rd was also a good day for finches and their associates, with two greenfinches, 10 goldfinches, about 40 linnets, a pair of stonechats and surprisingly a late whinchat. More waders, with a sanderling and a whimbrel at Blackwaterfoot on the 24th, and more than 100 ringed plovers and two knots at the same location two days later. A skein of 40 to 50 returning greylags overflowed the Roddin on the 25th. The last wheatear was seen at Blackwaterfoot on the 28th.

**OCTOBER** may have been one of the warmest ever recorded down south, but here although it started off sunny and mild, the wind veered to the east on the 18th and we had a week of very cold and windy weather.

As usual October was full of interest, and quite a few surprises, starting with a red-necked grebe seen at Kildonan during the first week, last recorded in 1993, while young swallows were still being fed at their nest in Shedock. A late common sandpiper was at Porta Leacach on the 3rd. On the 4th two whooper swans tried to join the mute swans at their feeding station in Whiting Bay, but were chased away. Twelve pairs of wigeon returned to Kildonan on the 6th. Four divers far out to sea off Kings Cave on the 8th were identified by their distinctive calls as great northern. The first returning goldeneye appeared at Whiting Bay on the 10th. Thirteen golden plovers demonstrated their marvellous camouflage at Machriewaterfoot on the 15th. The strong north-easterly winds brought winter visitors from Scandinavia, with a single brambling at Lochranza and about 500 fieldfares and redwings overflying Dippen on the 16th. A second leucistic blackbird was seen at Glenashdale on the 21st, but this one only had a pied head. Very early returning shelduck were seen, a pair at the Cleat on the 24th, and a single at Kildonan the following day, only recorded once before in October since records began.

More exciting news on the 24th, when a juvenile scarlet rosefinch was mist netted, ringed and photographed at High Kildonan, a first record for Arran. A small insignificant greyish brown bird, had it turned up anywhere else on the island, it would probably have been overlooked. By the end of October, Tony Smith who had been doing regular counts of kittiwakes round the island reckoned that there were 5440 or more, the greatest number ever recorded here.



**NOVEMBER** is usually a very wet month on Arran, but the mild October conditions continued into the beginning of November. The wind then veered to the north, bringing bitterly cold but dry and sunny conditions for almost a fortnight before turning back to overcast rainy weather.

A group of 39 redshanks was at Whiting Bay on the 3rd, the largest number ever recorded there. The late departure of some summer migrants continued, with the last swallow at Shedock on the 3rd. On the 5th John Rhead struck lucky with a possible greenish warbler in his garden at Kilmory. Like the yellow-browed warbler he recorded in 1995, this one also comes from north eastern Europe. Sadly, the record was disallowed owing to insufficient evidence. Sandbraes was in the news on the 9th, with two willow warblers, the latest departure ever recorded, and the unwelcome arrival of two magpies. Later on, a single was reported at Kings Cross on the 14th, and it is still here at the time of writing, the only one to stay more than a few days since records began. On the 12th an immature little gull turned up at Blackwaterfoot. On the 14th a dead kestrel found at the foot of cliffs near the Fallen Rocks was found to have been ringed as a nestling on the 5th June on the west coast of Sweden. A scarce tufted duck was seen at Port-na-lochan on the 18th, but there was a bigger surprise there on the 21st when a kingfisher flew in to take up residence. Another surprise on the 21st with a 1st winter Iceland gull at Kildonan, last recorded in 1994. A flock of 20 greenfinches with 30 goldfinches made a colourful sight at the Cleat on the 23rd.

Overcast weather predominated in **DECEMBER** as expected, but there was another bitterly cold spell during the third week when the wind veered north again. Although there were high winds, at least we were spared the devastation of the gale on Boxing Day last year.

Not much to report, with three single barn owls at Machrie Moor, Machrie Farm and Auchencar on the 13th, a little grebe at Strabane gravel pit on the 19th, a single *returning gannet in Lamlash Bay on the 22nd*, and about 100 wigeon off Levenorrach on the 29th. Best news came last, with a flock of 21 barnacle geese with the greylags in the Shiskine Valley on the 29th. With them was a single very striking goose, with a snow white head, black chin extending in a sloping line down the neck, slate grey vermiculated back, and orange-pink bill and feet. This was later identified as an emperor goose probably the same one mentioned in the Ayrshire Bird Report 1997

## SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser Black-backed Gull 14 Mar  
Wheatear 16 Mar  
Chiffchaff 26 Mar  
Willow Warbler 27 Mar  
Swallow 2 Apr  
Sandwich Tern 4 Apr  
White Wagtail 9 Apr  
House Martin 13 Apr  
Arctic Tern 18 Apr  
Common Sandpiper 20 Apr  
Garden Warbler 22 Apr  
Cuckoo 23 Apr  
Sand Martin 25 Apr  
Tree Pipit 25 Apr  
Sedge Warbler 27 Apr  
Common Tern 28 Apr  
Whinchat 29 Apr  
Wood Warbler 30 Apr  
Whitethroat 1 May  
Lesser Whitethroat 1 May  
Swift 10 May  
Spotted Flycatcher 11 May  
Redstart 13 May  
Manx Shearwater 5 Jun  
Grasshopper Warbler 13 Jul  
(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  
min = minimum  
cf = compare  
Pt = Point  
Fm = farm  
nr = near  
N.S.E.W. = direction of flight  
Jan, etc. = all months abbreviated  
incl = including  
inc = increase  
pr(s) = pair(s)  
arr = arrival  
BCP = Brodick Country Park

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST**

### **Red-throated Diver**

Breeding: bred at min 2 inland lochans. Singles and prs seen all yr round the coast, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 26 Sep.

### **Black-throated Diver**

1 dead Lamlash beach 4 Feb; singles and prs seen all yr round the coast with max 9 Kings Cave 27 Apr; more summer sightings than usual with pr N Sannox picnic site 14 Jun, 1 adult 2 juvs same location 17/18 Jun and 1 Machrie 28 Aug.

### **Great Northern Diver**

Singles and prs seen round the coast Feb/May and Sep/Nov, with max 4 Kings Cave 8 Oct, again Dougarie 8 Nov and Drumadoon Pt 12 Nov.

### **Little Grebe**

Up to 3 overwintered at Lochranza, but only 1 seen at the Fish Fm. New locations include 1 Glenashdalewaterfoot 10 Mar, 1 Dougarie 27 Sep and 1 Strabane gravel pit 19 Dec.

### **Great Crested Grebe**

1 Machrie 12 Jun (Dr.J.Cassels et al), last recorded 1995.

### **Red-necked Grebe**

1 Kildonan 1st wk Oct (J.Rhead et al), last recorded 1993.

### **Slavonian Grebe**

No records.

### **Black-necked Grebe**

No records.

### **Fulmar**

Breeding: nested successfully at Drumadoon (2 yng fledged), Cleitadh Buidhe (1 yng fledged) and Imachar (1 yng). No news from other colonies at Dippen, Dunfion or Holy Isle. Max 61 Drumadoon Pt 6 May.



### **Great Shearwater**

Probable Kilbrannan Sound 28 Aug (C.Rogers). Record awaiting ratification from Scottish Rarities Committee.

### **Manx Shearwater**

Most sightings were from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry, with first 2 5 Jun and max 200+ 24 Sep; seawatches produced 100/1hr Largiemore 26 Jun and 840/1hr Porta Leacach 15 Aug. Last sighting 2 Largiemore 26 Nov.

### **Gannet**

Lower nos than usual, with 1 Porta Leacach 21 Jan; 2 Pirnmill 29 Jan; 1 early return Lamlash 22 Dec; max 30 Largiemore 26 Jun (cf 100+ 1998).



### **Cormorant**

No breeding records. Pladda was checked out as a follow up of the 1998 breeding cormorant survey, but there was no evidence of breeding. Groups of up to 6 seen round the coast all yr, with max 9 Hamilton Rock 29 Nov.

### **Shag**

Breeding: 70 prs breeding on Pladda 25 Jun. No report from Holy Isle.

Very common round the coast all yr.

### **Grey Heron**

Breeding: 1 carrying nesting material White House Woods 8 Mar, 3 nests later, result not known; injured juv Lagg 20 Jul taken into care but died later; 3 prs nested Lagg, 5 yng fledged Mainly singles round the coast all yr, larger groups incl 9 Strabane gravel pit 6 Oct, 9 Lochranza 4 Nov and 11 overflying Arranton 30 Nov.

### **Mute Swan**

Breeding: Fish Fm pr laid 3 eggs below high tide line, washed away by 17 May; second attempt successful with 5 yng, reduced to 4 by 20 Jun; Clauchlands pr successful with 5 yng, reduced to 4 by 23 Aug; 3rd pr at Machriewaterfoot seen with 1 juv 21 Sep; possible 4th pr at N Sannox picnic site with 3 yng 26 Sep; further inc in nos with prs also seen at Pirnmill, Lochranza and Kildonan, with max 28 Whiting Bay 20 Nov.

### **Whooper Swan**

2 Whiting Bay 4 Oct; c15 Kilmory 19 Oct; 9 overflying Brodick Bay 27 Oct; 2 Shiskine Valley and 2 imms Port na Lochan mid-Dec.

### **Pink-footed Goose**

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

### **White-fronted Goose**

1 with greylags Shiskine Valley 6 Mar (Dr.J.Cassels).

### **Greylag Goose**

Usual flock overwintered Shiskine Valley, with c400 Shiskine 6 Mar; c30 overflying Auchencairn 1 May; return 40-50 overflying The Roddin 25 Sep, rising to 211 Shiskine 29/30 Dec.

### **Barnacle Goose**

21 with greylags Shiskine Valley 29 Dec (B.Kinnaird).

### **Shelduck**

Breeding: 3 prs bred at Clauchlands, of 13 yng, 9 survived; pr + 3 yng Torrylinnwaterfoot 12 May; pr + 2 yng Cleat 29 May; pr + 10 yng Blackwaterfoot 2nd wk Jun; pr + 4 yng, pr + 2 yng Whiting Bay 10 Jun; pr + 2 yng Kildonan 26 Jun; early return pr Cleat 24 Oct; 1 Merkland Pt 1 Nov; 1 Clauchlands, 1 Cleat 23 Nov; 4 Levenorrach 26 Dec; 3 Clauchlands 31 Dec;

### **Wigeon**

25 Machriewaterfoot 26 Jan; 72 Kildonan 31 Jan; return 12 prs Kildonan 6 Oct; 6 Clauchlands 20 Nov; 20 Cleat 23 Nov; 2m 1f Clauchlands 25 Nov, only 1m by end of yr; max c100 Levenorrach 26 Dec, an inc on 1998 nos.

### **Teal**

No breeding records. Inc in nos with 30 Cleat 22 Jan; 9 Port na Feannaiche 30 Jan; 2 groups of 4 and 10 Cleat 26 Mar; 2 Cleat 22 Aug (unusual); c60 Torr Righ flooded marsh 26 Oct; 40 Kings Cave 9 Nov.

### **Mallard**

Breeding: nest with 7 eggs nr Torrylinn Cairn 24 Apr; f+7 yng Glenashdalewaterfoot 1 May; f+2 yng Machrie Pond 10 May; f+10 yng of varying ages Corriecravie Pond 15 May; 3f2m + 31 yng of varying ages Torrylinnwaterfoot 18 May; f+8 yng Clauchlands 20 May f+4 yng Millhill burn 5 Jul; f+5 yng Arranton 3 Aug. Very common all yr, with max 32 Rosa burn 25 Nov.

**Tufted Duck**

1 Port-na-lochan 18 Nov (G.Bannatyne).

**Scaup**

No records.

**Eider**

Breeding: f + 9 yng Largiemore 11 Jun; 2f + 4 yng, 4f + 6 yng Clauchlands 13 Jun; 2 adults + 9 juvs Thunderguy 16 Jun. Common round the coast all yr, with max 200 Kings Cave 9 Nov. Census done in Apr gave a total for Arran of 1161, follow-up census in Sep gave a lower result with 278.

**Long-tailed Duck**

1 Blackwaterfoot 23 Feb (T.Malin).

**Common Scoter**

No records.

**Goldeneye**

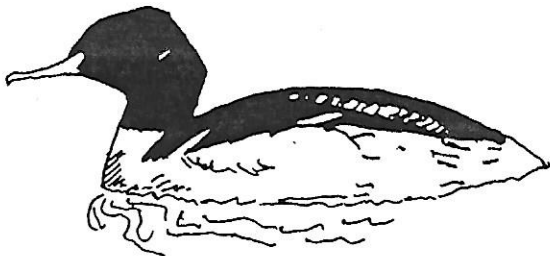
Fewer nos than last yr, with groups of up to 5 seen round the coast Jan/Apr, with max 5 Strabane gravel pit 29 Jan; return 1 Whiting Bay 10 Oct with max 8 Clauchlands 16 Nov.

**Red-breasted Merganser**

Breeding: f + 6 yng, f + 8 yng Lochranza 26 Jun; pr + 6 yng Cordon 8 Jul; f + 5 yng Lamlash 18 Jul; f + 6 newly hatched yng Cordon 21 Aug. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 63 Kings Cave 25 Aug.

## Goosander

Inc in sightings, with m Sliderywaterfoot 17 Apr; pr Machriewaterfoot, m with displaying mergansers Blackwaterfoot, single with mergansers Pirmill 18 Apr; m Kilmorywater 10 May; pr Largiemore 2 Jun and Whiting Bay 9 Jun; 3 Drumadoon 25 Aug; 6 Lamlash 4 Sep; 5 Whiting Bay 15 Sep; f Machrie 24 Sep.



## Hen Harrier

Breeding: bred successfully at several locations. Prs and singles seen all yr mainly in the Machrie Moor, Torr Righ and Boguille areas, also seen at BCP, String road, Ross road, Sannox, Glen Rosa, Lenamhor, Laggan, Glen Catacol and Loch Nuis.



Goshawk f E coast 7 April  
(A.Walker)



### **Sparrowhawk**

Breeding: no records, but must have bred successfully at many locations. Common and widespread all yr.

### **Buzzard**

Breeding: nest with 2 yng Benlister 7 Jun, must also have bred at many other locations. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Ross road 13 May. Single pale phase seen Glenkiln Fm/Cnoc na Dail on several occasions during Mar.

### **Golden Eagle**

Breeding: both N and S prs bred successfully. Seen all yr mainly in the String road and Boguille areas, singles also seen at Glen Rosa and Ross road.

### **Osprey**

1 Boguille 31 Aug.

### **Kestrel**

Breeding: nest with 4 yng High Benlister 5 Jun, later predated possibly by carrion crows nesting 20 yds away. No report from other sites at Auchencar, Cleitadh Buidhe or Imachar. Common and widespread all yr, but only prs and singles seen. One found dead at foot of cliff nr Fallen Rocks on 14 Nov was ringed as a nestling on 5 Jun on the west coast of Sweden.

### **Merlin**

No breeding records. Inc in sightings, with 1 Glen Cloy 26 Jan; 1 Levencorrach 13 Feb; f Machrie Moor road 30 Mar; f summit of Lochranza/Laggan path 28 Apr; m Ross road 20 May; 1 Glen Catacol 10 Jul; m Kildonan 26 Aug; f Auchencar 11 Sep; f Dougarie 24 Nov.

### **Peregrine**

Breeding: bred successfully at more than one location. Most records were of singles at the N end, but also seen at Dippen Head, Kildonan, Ross road, Blackwaterfoot, Brown Head and Kilpatrick.

### **Red Grouse**

Breeding: adult + 2 yng Loch a Mhill 10 Jul. Small nos only, with 4 Sheeans 27 Feb; 1 Coire Fhionn lochan 28 Apr; 2 Bennan 10 Sep; max 6 Thunderguy 29 Sep.

### **Ptarmigan**

Breeding: adult + 3 yng N Beinn Bharrair 21 Jun; 1 Goatfell 25 Mar was only other record.

### **Black Grouse**

Heard lekking in the same area as last yr 10 May (J.Rhead)

### **Red-legged Partridge x Chukar**

Still very low nos, with max c8 Glen Iorsa 10 Feb; 2 Glen Cloy 10 Mar; m calling Dougarie/Auchencar 19 May. New introductions of pure bred red-legged at several locations.

### **Pheasant**

No breeding records. Common and widespread, especially in areas of release. Max c100 Dougarie 8 Nov, with many birds coming to gardens to feed during the winter.

### **Water Rail**

No records.

### **Corncrake**

No records.

### **Moorhen**

Breeding: adult + 3 yng Corriecravie pond 26 Jun, first breeding records since 1988. 1 Machrie pond all yr is only other record.

### **Oystercatcher**

Breeding: nest with 2 eggs Mt Pleasant, Lamlash, later smashed probably by cattle; nest with 2 eggs Glenkiln Fm 1 Jun; pr + 2 yng Catacol 18 Jun; pr + 2 yng Torrlinn 27 Jun; pr + 2 yng Clauchlands 4 Jul. Very common all yr round the coast, with max 220 Machrie 23 Feb.

### **Ringed Plover**

Breeding: 3 sitting on nests Eilean Mairi 4 Apr; nest with 4 eggs Machrie 15 May; nest with 4 eggs Arranton 27 Jun. Common round the coast all yr with max 100+ Blackwaterfoot 26 Sep.

### **Golden Plover**

Breeding: No records, but may have bred in the Western Hills. 10 Machriewaterfoot 6 May; 3 with lapwings Machrie 29 May; 1 calling Coirein Lochan 10 Jul; 18 W Bennan 18 Sep; 13 Machriewaterfoot 15 Oct; c20 nr Burican Hill 21 Nov; max c50-60 Port na Feannaiche 17 Apr.

### **Grey Plover**

No records.

### **Lapwing**

Breeding: pr + yng Machrie Fm 17 May; 2 prs each with 2 yng Machrie 29 May. inc in nos with 5 Dougarie 14 Jan; c20 Cleat 14 Jan; 3 Clauchlands Fm 9 Feb; 4 Machrie Moor 28 Mar; 3 E Bennan 18 May; 12 Blackwaterfoot 27 Oct; max 50 Shiskine Valley 24 Feb.

### **Knot**

1 Blackwaterfoot 7 Mar; 2m 3juvs Kildonan 11 Aug; 3 Drumadoon 22 Aug; 2 Blackwaterfoot 26 Sep.

**Sanderling**

5 Cleat 20 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 24 Sep.

**Purple Sandpiper**

3 Drumadoon Pt 2 Jan; 1 Blackwaterfoot 24 Oct.

**Little Stint**

No records.

**Dunlin**

Up to 6 Feb/May and Aug/Nov at Blackwaterfoot, Kilmory, Cleat, Kildonan and Machrie, with max 23 Kildonan 23 May.

**Snipe**

No breeding records. Singles at String road 1 May, Kilmory 13 May, Machrie Moor road 17 May, Boguille summit 12/14 Jun, Machrie Golf Course 24 Aug and Corrie 14 Sep. Prs at Blackwaterfoot 9 Mar and Whiting Bay 16 Oct. Max 3 Port na Feannaiche 30 Jan.

**Woodcock**

No breeding records. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with singles and prs roding at Glenkiln Forest, Benlister, String road, Glen Rosa, Torbeg, BCP, Monamore Forestry, Glenrickard Forestry, Catacol, Machrie Moor Feb/Jun; 2 sitting on the road at the String/Machrie Moor road junction 3 Jul.

**Black-tailed Godwit**

No records.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

1 Machrie 23 May (Dr.J.Cassels) was only record.



**Whimbrel**

Slight inc with 1 Largiemore 17 Mar; 2 Kilpatrick 25 Apr; 1 Machriewaterfoot 15 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 29 May; autumn sightings incl 1 Pirnmill 10 Sep; 1 Clauchlands 14 Sep; 1 Machriewaterfoot 24 Sep. Max 4 Cleat 16 May.

**Curlew**

No breeding records. Common round the coast all yr with max c110 Port na Feannaiche 30 Jan.

**Redshank**

Common round the coast all yr except May/Jun. Highest nos at Whiting Bay with max 39 3 Nov.

**Greenshank**

2 Blackwaterfoot 29 Apr (A.Brooks).

**Common Sandpiper**

Breeding: adult + 1 juv Kerrs Port 16 Jul; 3 adults + 1 juv Whiting Bay 14 Aug. Common round the coast Apr/Oct with arr 1 Kings Cave 20 Apr and max 4 Kildonan 29 Jun.

**Turnstone**

Common between Lamlash/Machrie all yr except Jun. Only 1 record from N End of 12 Catacol 28 Oct. Max 24 Cleat 20 May.

**Arctic Skua**

No records.

**Great Skua**

1 Ardrossan/Brodick 21 Aug; 1 Kilbrannan Sound 28 Aug; 1 Kildonan 29 Aug; 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 25 Sep.

### **Little Gull**

1 imm Blackwaterfoot 12 Nov (M.Flynn).

### **Black-headed Gull**

Common round the coast all yr except May/Jun. Sample 12 Whiting Bay 16 Nov rising to 25 23 Nov.

### **Common Gull**

Breeding: 17 prs nesting Auchencar/Dougarie 5 Jun; 30 prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun; bred successfully at many other sites. Very common round the coast all yr, with max c500 Whiting Bay 23 Nov.

### **Lesser black-backed Gull**

Breeding: 20 prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun; no reports from Holy Isle or other sites. Arr 133 Dougarie 14 Mar, last 100 Whiting Bay 23 Nov.

### **Herring Gull**

Breeding: 200 prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun, no reports from Holy Isle or other sites. Very common all yr with max 240 Whiting Bay 21 Mar.

### **Iceland Gull**

Single 1st winter Kildonan 21 Nov (T.Southall), last recorded 1994.

### **Great black-backed Gull**

Breeding: 6 prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun, no reports from Holy Isle or other sites. Common all yr with max 16 Whiting Bay 21 Feb.

### **Kittiwake**

Significant inc in nos. Spring sightings incl 2 Ardrossan/Brodick 24 May and 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 29 May. Massive build up started 1st wk in Sep with c500/600 Whiting Bay. According to Tony Smith who made counts on two consecutive days later in September, there were an estimated 3000 at Whiting Bay, 50 at Clachlands, 300 at the Rosa burn, 100 Merkland/Carlo, 50 at Sannox, 50 at N Sannox picnic site, 50 at Lochranza,

1000 at Catacol, 500 at Whitefarland and 300 at Torrylinnwaterfoot, making a total of 5400, the greatest number ever recorded.

### **Sandwich Tern**

Common round the coast Apr/Sep, with arr 1 Lamash Bay 4 Apr; adults with juvs seen at Whiting Bay and Clauchlands Aug/Sep; max 8 Dougarie 26 Apr.

### **Common Tern**

Arr 2 Kings Cave 28 Apr; 2 Dougarie 10 May; 1 Machrie 16 May; 2 Kildonan 26 Jun.

### **Arctic Tern**

Breeding: 15 prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun, no reports from Dougarie. Arr 2 Kildonan 18 Apr; 3 Brodick 23 Apr; 1 Largiemore 11 Aug; max 40 adults (some ringed) Pladda 25 Jun.

### **Guillemot**

Inc in sightings, mostly from Brodick/Ardrossan ferry all yr, with groups totalling 80 3 Aug. Max c500 Whiting Bay 16 Mar.

### **Razorbill**

Prs and singles seen from Brodick/Ardrossan ferry Apr/Jun, with max 10 Largiemore 6 Mar.

### **Black Guillemot**

Breeding: 20+ prs nesting Pladda 25 Jun; pr + 4 yng Kings Cave; 2 prs nesting at Machrie 4 Jul; 6 adults + 4 imms Largiemore 11 Aug. Small nos round the coast all yr, with max 9 Kings Cave 2 May.

### **Puffin**

Single adult Brodick/Ardrossan ferry 12/13 Jun.

**Rock Dove**

Very local all yr, with 11 Cleiteadh Buidhe 2 Jan and max 15 Kilpatrick 28 Sep.

**Wood Pigeon**

No breeding records. Common on farmland all yr with max 40 Home Fm, Brodick 11 Mar.

**Collared Dove**

Breeding: nest at Mt Pleasant, Lamash 31 May, success unknown. Small nos round the villages all yr with max c20 Whiting Bay 15 May.

**Cuckoo**

Breeding: fledgling being fed by foster parents Glen Iorsa 11 Jul. Arr 1 Glen Chalmadale 23 Apr, widespread by May. Max 4 on telegraph wires Machrie Moor 17 May.

**Barn Owl**

Breeding: poor yr owing to shortage of voles, with only 1 yng from 14 Forest Enterprise sites. BCP fared better with 3 fledged yng (all ringed); Dougare pr thought to have deserted their nest hole and were last seen 1 Sep. Common and widespread all yr. 2 died after have been found injured and taken into care.

**Tawny Owl**

As last yr, only 2 records: 1 BCP 9 Jan; 1 calling Machrie 11 Jun.

**Short-eared Owl**

Breeding: No records, probably because of vole shortage. Fewer records than usual, with singles at Glen Rosa 23 Feb, Machrie Moor 28 Apr, An Tunna (String road) 11 Jun, and Ross road 21 Nov. Max 4 Boguille Summit 4 Mar.



### **Long-eared Owl**

Possible Imachar 21/22 Aug.

### **Nightjar**

No records.

### **Swift**

Arr 1 Whiting Bay 10 May; 2 Kilpatrick 30 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 3 Jul; 1 Porta Leacach 4 Aug; max 9 Kilpatrick 4 Jul.

### **Kingfisher**

1 Rosa/Cloy burn all yr; 1 Port-na-lochan 21 Nov till end of yr.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

1 still present from last yr Merkland Wood 31 Jan, again same location 15 Apr, last heard drumming 19 Apr (D.Stevenson).

### **Skylark**

No breeding records. Singing at Kildonan, Machrie Golf Course, Shiskine Golf Course, Kilpatrick, Corriecravie, Ross road and Narrachan Mar/Sep. Spring passage of c20 Kilmory 4 Mar.

### **Sand Martin**

Breeding: bred at Auchencar, success unknown; none at Whitefarland 10 May where formerly bred. Arr 12+ Auchencar 25 Apr; 1 Ross road 30 Apr; 4 Sannox 1/2 May; 3 feeding over shore Whiting Bay 14 May; 3 Machrie pond 15 May; last 1 BCP 17 Sep. Max c20 Sannox 13 Jun.

### **Swallow**

Breeding: 5 yng fledged Mt Pleasant, Lamlash, a further 2 nests double brooded, but 2nd brood lost when building was demolished; pr nesting Moss Fm 5 Jun; nested Glenscorrodale Fm and Lochranza, success unknown; also nested at BCP and Whiting Bay, 5 yng at latter site but only 1 survived; 5 juvs Auchencar 14 Aug; 3 yng being fed Corrie 20 Sep, also

Corriegills 27 Sep; yng still in nest Shedock early Oct, the latest ever recorded. Arr 5 Sandbraes 2 Apr, widespread by May, last 1 Shedock 3 Nov.

### **House Martin**

Breeding: nested Arranton, Blackwaterfoot, Pirnmill and Whiting Bay (success unknown); 20 occupied nests Lamlash Hospital 5 Jul. Arr 1 Lochranza 13 Apr, widespread by May. Max 50+ Blackwaterfoot 28 May, last 15 Port-na-lochan 5 Nov.

### **Tree Pipit**

Arr 1 Goatfell path 25 Apr; singles at Ross road, Merkland Wood, Torr Righ, Machrie Moor and Cnoc na Dail Apr/Jun. Max 8 in 4 hrs flying E, Porta Leacach 11 Aug.

### **Meadow Pipit**

Breeding: 1 carrying nesting material Clauchlands 24 Apr; nest with 2 eggs 15 May, carrying food Coire Fhionn lochan 16 Jun; nest with 4 eggs Glen Sannox 15 May. Common and widespread all yr, with max 30-40 Whitefarland 24 Nov.

### **Rock Pipit**

Breeding: adult feeding 1 fledging Clauchlands 10 Jun. Very common on shoreland all yr, with max 8 Blackwaterfoot 12 Nov.

### **Grey Wagtail**

Breeding: nest with 5 eggs Arranton 14 May; adult with fledging Benlister Falls 5 Jun; adult carrying food N Glen Sannox 17 Jun; 2 yng Sliddywaterfoot 27 Jun; pr + 2 yng Achavoulin burn 5 Jul; adult + 2 juvs Clauchlands 18 Jul. Singles and prs common on shoreland and burns all yr. Max 3 BCP 17 Jun and Sandbraes 4 Oct.

### **Pied Wagtail**

Breeding: nest with 4 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 3 Jun; nest with 4 yng Lamlash Golf Course 12 Jun; 2nd nest + 4 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 21 Jun; adult + 3 juvs Clauchlands 10 Jul. Very common and widespread with max 250 at roost Kildonan 31 Aug.

### **White Wagtail**

Arr 1 Blackwaterfoot 1 Machrie 9 Apr; 1 Whitefarland 19 Apr; 3 Kilmory 2 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 20 Aug; max 5 Cleat 18 Apr and Torrylinnwaterfoot 20 May. Last 1 Rinn a'Chrubain 22 Aug.

### **Waxwing**

No records.

### **Dipper**

Breeding: nest with 4 eggs successfully hatched Benlister 24 Mar; also nested at Loch Garbad burn, Arranton and Glenashdale Falls; pr carrying food Lochranza Golf Course last wk in Apr. Common all yr in suitable habitat, with max 4 Cnoc na Croise 5 Jun.

### **Wren**

Breeding: 2 prs nested successfully Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 31 Mar; nest with 4 eggs Benlister 20 May; adult with yng Thunderguy 16 Jun; adult with yng Gleann Diomhan 17 Jun; adult with 4 yng Arranton 3 Aug. Very common all yr in wide ranging habitat.

### **Dunnoek**

No breeding records, but must have bred in many locations. Common and widespread all yr, with max 5 Shiskine 15 Nov.

### **Robin**

Breeding: sample 1 feeding 4 fledgings Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 28 May. Very common and widespread all yr in varying habitat, with max 4 adults + 5 juvs Torbeg 16 Aug.

### **Black Redstart**

No records.

### **Redstart**

Arr 1m Kilmory 13 May; 1 juv Kilpatrick 24 Jul; 1 juv Porta Leacach 25 Jul and 1 Aug.

### **Whinchat**

Breeding: pr + 1 juv Catacol 18 Jun; juv Ross road 17 Jul. Arr 1 Glen Rosa 29 Apr, widespread by May. Singles and prs at Ross road, Catacol, Glen Rosa, Machrie Moor, N Sannox, Boguille, Catacol and Blackwaterfoot. Max 2 prs Glen Iorsa 17 May, last 1 Kerrs Port 23 Sep.

### **Stonechat**

Breeding: family Machrie Standing Stones 14 Jun; pr + 3 juvs Catacol 17 Jun; family Kings Cave car park 18 Jun; juvs also seen at Corriecravie, Machrie Golf Course, Fallen Rocks and Drumadoon late Aug. Inc in sightings, common all yr, with max 4 Glen Iorsa 8 Nov.

### **Wheatear**

Breeding: pr feeding 3 juvs Clauchlands 16 Jun; pr + 3 juvs Catacol 18 Jun; yng Bailemargaidh 22 Aug. Arr 1 Drumadoon 16 Mar, widespread by Apr, with max 10 Machrie Moor 17 May. Last 1 Blackwaterfoot 28 Sep.

### **Ring Ouzel**

1 heard Glen Sannox 19 May (K.Sampson).



### **Blackbird**

Breeding: pr nesting Clauchlands 3 Apr; nest with 4 dead yng Whitehouse Woods 18 Apr; nest with 4 eggs successfully hatched Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 28 Apr; 4 yng Bailemargaidh 26 Jun; pr with 2 yng Lochranza 1 Jul; 2f 1m + 5 juvs Torbeg 16 Aug. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 14 Sandbraes 7 Dec. 2 leucistic adults, 1 pure white Blackwaterfoot 19 Aug and 1 with pied head Glenashdale 21 Oct.

### **Fieldfare**

Nos remain low Jan/Mar, with c 200 mixed with redwings Balmichael 2 Jan; c100 Glenree 21 Jan; 9 High Feorline 6 Feb; 50+ Machrie 7 Mar. Return max c250 mixed with redwings overflying Dippen 16 Oct; c50 Bennecarrigan 18 Oct; c120 mixed with redwings South Bank Fm 24 Oct; c70 with redwings Machrie Fm 26 Oct; 10 Lochranza 11 Nov; c 13 Clauchlands 15 Nov.

### **Song Thrush**

Breeding: adult + 2 yng Glenashdale 30 Apr; adult carrying food Largiemore 5 May; 2 fledglings Benlister 20 May; also bred successfully at Corrie. Common and widespread all yr, with max 6 BCP 9 Apr.

### **Redwing**

Nos remain low. Jan/Mar sightings incl c50 with fieldfares Balmichael 2 Jan; 4 High Feorline 6 Feb; 9 with fieldfares Glenkiln Fm 17 Mar; 5 High Kildonan 20 Mar. Return c250 overflying Dippen 16 Oct; c40 Strabane 17 Oct; c40 Lochranza 19 Oct; c20 N Newton 20 Oct; c50 with fieldfares South Bank Fm, c25 Bennecarrigan 24 Oct; c70 with fieldfares Machrie Fm 26 Oct; 30+ Shiskine 30 Oct; c7 Clauchlands 15 Nov.

### **Mistle Thrush**

Breeding: pr carrying food Lamlash 5 May. Prs and singles seen at Sandbraes, Lagg, BCP, Cleat and Dougarie Feb/Nov. Larger nos incl 4 Glen Rosa 15 May; 4 Merkland Wood 15 Jun; 4 Machrie Moor road 3 Sep; 3 Corrie 20 Sep; 4 Sandbraes 9 Nov. Max 30+ Bailemargaidh 16 Oct.

**Grasshopper Warbler**

Only 2 records, with arr 1 Blackwaterfoot 13 Jul and 1 reeling Lakin Fm during May and again 30 Jul.

**Sedge Warbler**

No breeding records. Arr 1 Shiskine Golf Course 27 Apr. All records came from between Lamlash/Dougarie, with max 3m Corrie cravie pond 27 Jun, and last 1 Port-na-lochan 5 Jul.

**Lesser Whitethroat**

Arr 1 Torrylinn 1 May; 1 Kildonan 2 May; 1 singing Kilmory 16 May; 1 heard Glen Cloy mid May.

**Whitethroat**

No breeding records, but probably bred at several locations. All records came from between Sannox/Dougarie with arr 1 Kilmory 1 May. Max 3 holding territory Clauchlands 11 May, and last 1 Corrie cravie pond 3 Jul.

**Garden Warbler**

Arr 1 Lagg 22 Apr; 1 Bailemargaidh 29 May; 1 Porta Leacach 1/11 Aug.

**Blackcap**

Breeding: no records, but probably bred at several locations. Singles and prs at bird tables during winter months. Widespread all yr in suitable habitat, with max 4-5 singing BCP and Merkland Wood 16 May.

**Wood Warbler**

No breeding records. Arr 1 Monamore 30 Apr, singles and prs at Merkland Wood, Glenashdale Falls, BCP and Kings Cross during May.

### **Chiffchaff**

No breeding records. Arr 1 Kildonan 26 Mar; singles and prs Brodick/Kildonan (more restricted than usual) with max 3 Kildonan 29 Mar and last 1 singing High Kildonan 28 Aug.

### **Willow Warbler**

Breeding: pr mating Dougarie 5 May; pr feeding 3 juvs Clauchlands 16 Jun; pr + 3 juvs Catacol 18 Jun; yng at Bailemargaidh 22 Aug. Arr 1 Kildonan, 1 Brodick Golf Course 27 Mar, widespread by Apr; max 70+/5 hrs Kildonan/Bennan Head 25 Jul; last 2 Sandbraes 9 Nov, latest ever record.

### **Greenish Warbler**

Possible 1 Kilmory 5 Nov (J.Rhead), but insufficient evidence for a record.

### **Goldcrest**

Breeding: adult feeding 2 yng Torbeg 15 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 6 BCP 15 Sep and 31 Dec.

### **Spotted Flycatcher**

Breeding: nest Mount Pleasant Lamlash 2 Jun; pr feeding yng Pirnmill 15 Jun; 2nd nest Mount Pleasant 21 Jun; nest White House Woods end Jun; pr with yng Glen Cloy 1 Jul; adult with 2 yng Bailemargaidh 3 Jul; pr using nesting box Sannox 15 Jul. Arr 1 Merkland Wood 11 May; common and widespread in suitable habitat by late May. Max 12 prs and singles Merkland Wood 15 May, and last 1 Auchencar 12 Aug.

### **Long-tailed Tit**

Breeding: pr feeding yng at nest Fairy Glen 16 May; pr feeding 5 fledgings Arranton 18 May. Singles and prs widespread in suitable habitat all yr; larger groups Sep/Dec with max 15 BCP 21 Oct and Sandbraes 21 Nov.

### **Coal Tit**

No breeding records, but must have bred at many locations. Common and widespread and for the first time outnumbering blue tits at bird tables; max 8 Glenashdale 21 Oct.

### **Blue Tit**

Breeding: pr feeding yng Sannox 17 May; successful nest boxes at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash, Arranton and Whitehouse Woods; pr feeding yng in nest Glenree Fm 15 Jun. Common and widespread all yr with max 5 Shiskine 25 Sep.

### **Great Tit**

Breeding: also bred successfully in nest boxes at Mount Pleasant and Whitehouse Woods; pr with 5 fledgings Benlister 18 Jun; adult with 2 juvs Margnaeglish 9 Jul. Common and widespread, especially at bird tables in winter, with max 6 Glenashdale 21 Oct.

### **Treecreeper**

Breeding: nesting Dunan 24 Apr; pr with yng BCP 31 May. Singles and prs seen in suitable habitat all yr.

### **Great Grey Shrike**

1 Sheeans 7 Mar (A.Duncan), last seen 1989.

### **Magpie**

2 Whiting Bay 9 Nov; 1 Kings Cross 14 Nov, still present Sandbraes area end of yr, the longest one has stayed since records began.

### **Jackdaw**

Breeding: colony nested Drumadoon, no reports from other locations. Widespread and very common all yr, with max 110 Blackwaterfoot 8 Aug.



**Rook**

No breeding records. All records from Blackwaterfoot/Shiskine area during Feb and Sep/Nov, with max 153 Drumadoon 20 Sep; 15 Corriecravie 14 Nov was only other record.

**Carrion/Hooded Crow**

Breeding sample: nested successfully High Benlister 5 Jun. Very common and widespread all yr, with max c40 Cleat 23 Nov.

**Raven**

Breeding: 2 nests Imachar, success unknown; nest with 2 fledgings String road 11 May; also bred successfully at Bennan, Eilean Mairi and Kilpatrick. Common and widespread all yr with max 18 Cleat 17 Apr.

**Starling**

Breeding: bred successfully in and around the villages. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 150+ Blackwaterfoot 28 Sep.

**House Sparrow**

Breeding: bred successfully in villages, incl Lochranza. Common and widespread all yr, with max 30+ Whiting Bay 16 May.

**Tree Sparrow**

No records.

**Chaffinch**

Breeding sample: 2 successful nests Mount Pleasant, Lamlash. Very common and widespread, especially at bird tables during winter. Max c300 Benlister 27 Feb.

**Brambling**

Only 1 record of 1 Lochranza 16 Oct (A.Handley).

### **Greenfinch**

Breeding: adult carrying nesting material Mount Pleasant 31 Mar; pr with 2 juvs Catacol, adult with 4 fledglings Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 17 Jun; yng at Bailemargaith 27 Jun. Common and widespread all yr, with max 20 with goldfinches Cleat 23 Nov.

### **Goldfinch**

Breeding: pr feeding 4 fledglings Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 3 Jun. Further inc in sightings especially during winter months. Common and widespread all yr except Dec, with max c60 Cleat 24 Oct.

### **Siskin**

Breeding: adult feeding fledgling Arranton 20 May; pr with 2 yng High Kildonan 23 May. Common and widespread all yr in suitable habitat, but fewer than usual at bird tables during winter months. Max c50 Cordon shore 23 Jan.

### **Linnet**

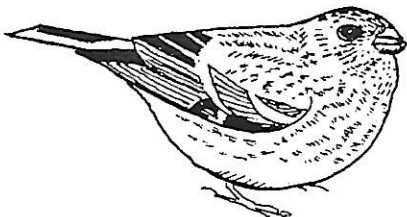
No breeding records. Common and widespread Apr/Nov, with up to 8 on the E coast and South End; larger flocks incl 18 Cleat 4 Apr; 27 Shiskine Golf Course 21 Aug and max c40 Kerrs Port 23 Sep and Blackwaterfoot 28 Sep.

### **Twite**

Inc in sightings with 4 (1 singing) Kilpatrick 25 Apr; 3 Rinn a'Chrubain 22 Aug; 4 Blackwaterfoot 23 Aug; 3 Shiskine Golf Course 12 Sep. Max 12 Blackwaterfoot 23 Aug.

### **Redpoll**

No breeding records. Scarce, with all records Apr/Jun; m at bird table Whiting Bay 20 Apr; pr Ross road 30 Apr; 5 Kings Cave 2 May; 2 Whiting Bay Golf Course 13 May; 1 Kings Cross 16 May; max 10 overflying Kings Cave car park 18 Jun.



### **Scarlet Rosefinch**

Juv mist netted, ringed and photographed High Kildonan 24 Oct (T.Southall), first record for Arran.

### **Juvenile Scarlet Rosefinch**

### **Crossbill**

Breeding: juv at bird table Pirnmill 20 Jul. Pr Ross road summit 9 Jan; 2 prs Kilmory 15 Feb; 1 heard Kings Cave car park 16 Jun. BCP had 3 records, with max 12+ 15 May, c5 31 May and 8 22 Jun.

### **Bullfinch**

Breeding: pr + juv Fallen Rocks 23 Sep. Common in suitable habitat Jan/Oct. Mainly prs and singles, but higher nos incl 5 BCP 22 Feb and 4 Torr Righ Forestry 16 Jun, with max 10 Dunfion Forestry 6 Jan.

### **Snow Bunting**

m Goatfell 25 Mar; 1 Coirein Lochan path 29 Oct; 1 Glen Rosa 25 Nov.

### **Yellowhammer**

Breeding: adult carrying food Shiskine Golf Course mid-May. Scarce, with 2 High Kildonan 13 Feb; 1 Lagg 31 Mar; pr feeding at bird table Brodick 3 Apr; 1 Torrylinnwaterfoot 4 Apr; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 27 Apr; 1 S Feorline 26 Jun; 1 Port-na-lochan 5 Jul; 1 Cleat 22 Aug; 2 Clauchlands 15 Dec; 1 Lamlash 25 Dec.

**Reed Bunting**

No breeding records. Slight inc in sightings with 1m Ross road summit 17 Mar; m Cleat, pr Machrie pond 26 Mar; 2m 1f Pirmill 6 Apr; 1 Blackwaterfoot 9 Apr; pr Clauchlands 24 Apr; f Corriecravie 23 Aug; f S Feorline 26 Sep; max 4f Glen Iorsa 8 Nov.

**Additions to previous reports:**

**Sanderling:** 1 Dougarie 11 May 1998

**Grasshopper Warbler:** 1 heard and seen Kildonan 10 May 1998

## KEY TO CHECK LIST

R = resident (breeds)

R\* = resident (no recent breeding records)

R\*\* = resident (no breeding records)

S = summer visitor (breeds)

S\* = summer visitor (no recent breeding records)

S\*\* = summer visitor (no breeding records)

W = winter visitor

P = passage migrant

I = introduced

C = common

U = uncommon

B\* = formerly bred

O = occasional

V = vagrant

X = pre 1956 records

## CHECK LIST

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Red-throated Diver RC       | 17. Cormorant RC           |
| 2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC  | 18. Shag RC                |
| 3. Great Northern Diver U/PU   | 19. Bittern V              |
| 4. Little Grebe WU             | 20. Grey Heron RC          |
| 5. Great Crested Grebe V       | 21. Spoonbill V            |
| 6. Red-necked Grebe WO         | 22. Chilean Flamingo VE    |
| 7. Slavonian Grebe WO          | 23. Mute Swan RC           |
| 8. Black-necked Grebe WO       | 24. Bewick's Swan V        |
| 9. Fulmar SC/WU                | 25. Whooper Swan WU/PC     |
| 10. Cory's Shearwater V        | 26. Pink-footed Goose WO   |
| 11. Sooty Shearwater V         | 27. White-fronted Goose WO |
| 12. Manx Shearwater SC/PC      | 28. Greylag Goose WC/PC    |
| 13. Mediterranean Shearwater V | 29. Canada Goose PO        |
| 14. Storm Petrel PU            | 30. Barnacle Goose WO      |
| 15. Leach's Petrel V           | 31. Brent Goose WO         |
| 16. Gannet S**/WU              | 32. Shelduck RC            |
|                                | 33. Wigeon WC              |



- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 34. Teal SU/WC                | 68. Red-legged Partridge I  |
| 35. Mallard RC                | 69. Grey Partridge B*/O     |
| 36. Pintail PO                | 70. Quail B*/O              |
| 37. Shoveler B*/O             | 71. Pheasant RC             |
| 38. Pochard WO                | 72. Water Rail RU           |
| 39. Tufted Duck WU            | 73. Spotted Crake X         |
| 40. Scaup WO                  | 74. Moorhen RU              |
| 41. Eider RC                  | 75. Coot WO                 |
| 42. King Eider V              | 76. Crane V                 |
| 43. Long-tailed Duck SO/WO    | 77. Oystercatcher RC        |
| 44. Common Scoter SO/WO       | 78. Ringed Plover RC        |
| 45. Velvet Scoter WO          | 79. Dotterel PO             |
| 46. Goldeneye WC              | 80. Golden Plover SU/WU     |
| 47. Smew WO                   | 81. Grey Plover WO          |
| 48. Red-breasted Merganser RC | 82. Lapwing RU              |
| 49. Goosander WO              | 83. Knot PO                 |
| 50. Red Kite X                | 84. Sanderling PO           |
| 51. White-tailed Eagle B*/V   | 85. Curlew Sandpiper V      |
| 52. Marsh Harrier V           | 86. Purple Sandpiper WU     |
| 53. Hen Harrier RC            | 87. Little Stint PO         |
| 54. Goshawk O                 | 88. Dunlin SU/WC            |
| 55. Sparrowhawk RC            | 89. Ruff V                  |
| 56. Buzzard RC                | 90. Jack Snipe WO           |
| 57. Rough-legged Buzzard V    | 91. Snipe RC                |
| 58. Golden Eagle RC           | 92. Long-billed Dowitcher V |
| 59. Osprey B*/PO              | 93. Woodcock RC             |
| 60. Hobby V                   | 94. Black-tailed Godwit PO  |
| 61. Kestrel RC                | 95. Bar-tailed Godwit PU    |
| 62. Merlin R*/U               | 96. Whimbrel PC             |
| 63. Peregrine RC              | 97. Curlew RC               |
| 64. Red Grouse RC             | 98. Spotted Redshank PO     |
| 65. Ptarmigan RU              | 99. Redshank RC             |
| 66. Black Grouse B*           | 100. Greenshank PO          |
| 67. Capercaillie B*/X         | 101. Green Sandpiper V      |

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 102. Common Sandpiper SC               | 135. Collared Dove RC           |
| 103. Turnstone S**U/WC                 | 136. Turtle Dove V              |
| 104. Grey Phalarope VX                 | 137. Cuckoo SC                  |
| 105. Red-necked Phalarope V            | 138. Barn Owl RC                |
| 106. Pomarine Skua V                   | 139. Tawny Owl RU               |
| 107. Arctic Skua SU                    | 140. Long-eared Owl RU          |
| 108. Great Skua SU                     | 141. Short-eared Owl RC         |
| 109. Little Gull PO                    | 142. Nightjar SU                |
| 110. Sabine's Gull V                   | 143. Swift S*U/PU               |
| 111. Black-headed Gull R*/C            | 144. Kingfisher R*U             |
| 112. Common Gull RC                    | 145. Hoopoe V                   |
| 113. Lesser Black-backed Gull<br>SC/WU | 146. Great Spotted Woodpecker O |
| 114. Herring Gull RC                   | 147. Wryneck V                  |
| 115. Glaucous Gull V                   | 148. Skylark RC                 |
| 116. Iceland Gull PO                   | 149. Sand Martin SC             |
| 117. Great Black-backed Gull RC        | 150. Swallow SC                 |
| 118. Kittiwake B*/PC                   | 151. House Martin SC            |
| 119. Ivory Gull VX                     | 152. Tree Pipit SU              |
| 120. Sandwich Tern S**C/PC             | 153. Meadow Pipit RC            |
| 121. Roseate Tern B*                   | 154. Rock Pipit RC              |
| 122. Common Tern SU                    | 155. Yellow Wagtail B*          |
| 123. Arctic Tern SU                    | 156. Grey Wagtail RC            |
| 124. Little Tern PO                    | 157. Pied Wagtail RC            |
| 125. Black Tern V                      | 158. White Wagtail B*/PC        |
| 126. Guillemot R**/C                   | 159. Waxwing WO                 |
| 127. Razorbill R**/C                   | 160. Dipper RC                  |
| 128. Black Guillemot RC                | 161. Wren RC                    |
| 129. Little Auk PO                     | 162. Dunnock RC                 |
| 130. Puffin PO                         | 163. Robin RC                   |
| 131. Pallas's Sandgrouse VX            | 164. Black Redstart PU          |
| 132. Rock Dove RC                      | 165. Redstart SU                |
| 133. Stock Dove O                      | 166. Whinchat SC                |
| 134. Woodpigeon RC                     | 167. Stonechat RC               |
|  | 168. Wheatear SC                |

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 169. Ring Ouzel SU           | 197. Jay B*/X               |
| 170. Blackbird RC            | 198. Magpie B*/O            |
| 171. Fieldfare WC            | 199. Chough B*/X            |
| 172. Song Thrush RC          | 200. Jackdaw RC             |
| 173. Redwing WC              | 201. Rook B*/WC/SU          |
| 174. Mistle Thrush RC        | 202. Carrion/Hooded Crow RC |
| 175. Grasshopper Warbler SU  | 203. Raven RC               |
| 176: Sedge Warbler SC        | 204. Starling RC            |
| 177. Lesser Whitethroat SU   | 205. House Sparrow RC       |
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| 179. Garden Warbler SU       | 207. Chaffinch RC           |
| 180. Blackcap SC/WU          | 208. Brambling WO           |
| 181. Wood Warbler SC         | 209. Greenfinch RC          |
| 182. Chiffchaff SC           | 210. Goldfinch RCWU         |
| 183. Willow Warbler SC       | 211. Siskin RC              |
| 184. Yellow-browed Warbler V | 212. Linnet SC/WU           |
| 185. Goldcrest RC            | 213. Twite RU               |
| 186. Spotted Flycatcher SC   | 214. Redpoll RU             |
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| 188. Long-tailed Tit RC      | 216. Crossbill RU           |
| 189. Willow Tit O            | 217. Bullfinch RC           |
| 190. Coal Tit RC             | 218. Hawfinch V             |
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| 193. Treecreeper RC          | 221. Reed Bunting RU        |
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Please send any records of sightings to:  
Audrey Walters, Sula, Margnaheglish Road,  
Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LL  
(01770) 600406 by 30th January 2001  
email [audrey@alales.netscapeonline.co.uk](mailto:audrey@alales.netscapeonline.co.uk)

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