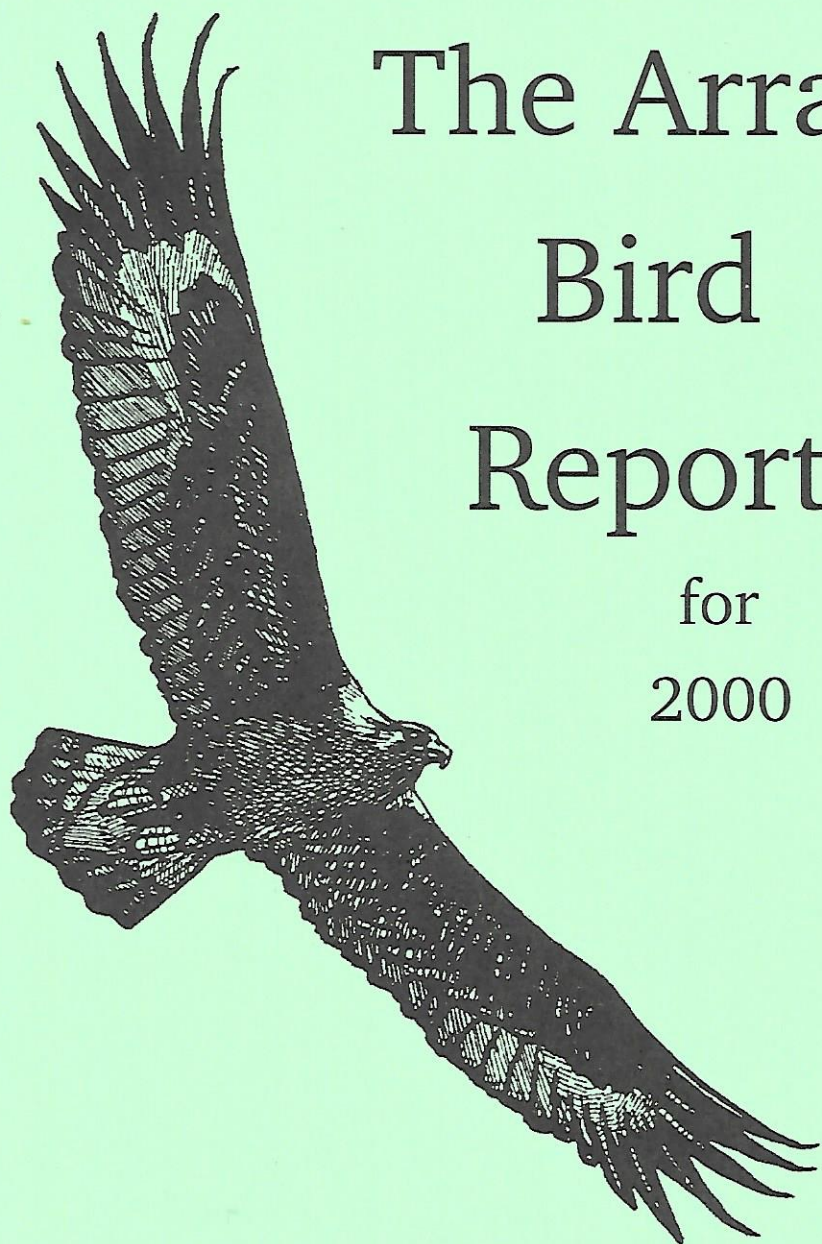


The Arran Bird Report

for
2000



The Isle of Arran
Natural History Society
2001

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT 2000

published by

**The Isle of Arran Natural History Society
2001**

Compiled and illustrated by Audrey Walters

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Bird Report 2000

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INTRODUCTION

Our first report of the 21st Century, and like 1999, a very interesting one. The list of no-shows included barnacle goose, long-tailed duck, osprey, grey plover, black-tailed and bar-tailed godwits, great skua, common tern, redstart, ring ouzel and lesser whitethroat, all of which have been recorded in recent years. However, this was counterbalanced by the return of black-necked grebe, brent goose, scaup, common scoter, water rail, little stint, arctic skua, little tern, turtle dove, waxwing, black redstart, and best of all, hawfinch. Two of these, hawfinch and turtle dove have not been recorded for many years, 1983 for the former, and 1988 for the latter. Another record, that of two choughs overflying the Boguille in February is under consideration. If allowed, this would be the first record for over 100 years, 1863 to be exact! Corncrakes and nightjars have been absent for some years now, but there is still a chance that they may return. There were no new additions to the Check List, as the Great Shearwater record in August in 1999 was finally disallowed by the Rarities Committee. The magpie (our one and only) which arrived in November 1999, finally disappeared in April, presumably to find a mate. I'm just relieved it didn't find one here!

Further improvements continue to be made to upland and lowland paths by Scottish Natural Heritage, Arran Access and Europe Objective One. If you walk in the forestry areas, be prepared to find some paths closed off due to timber extraction. A new path has been created by Albert Holmes at Auchenhew Glen, leading up to the waterfall at the head of the glen. With spectacular views, it is almost complete and the final stretch should be ready for Easter.

Volunteers once again took part in an eider survey, as part of the ongoing Clyde Estuary/Argyll project. Terry Southall, our resident ringer, returned to Pladda in June, and as well as his ringing work, provided a survey of breeding birds. Peter Tupman who organised the

WeBS counts, and Duncan Stevenson, Head Ranger at Brodick Country Park, have left the island. Both were valuable contributors to the Bird Report, and will be greatly missed. Sincere thanks to all those who wrote to me or phoned with information. Thanks too to John Rhead who helped with the preparation of this report, and other experienced birders who helped with identification and other matters. All I need to know is how many, where, and the date. Please check the status of species given in the Check List at the back of this report. Visitors may be surprised to learn that some species which may well be common in their area are scarce or even rare here. Moorhens are a good example - at the last count we had two! Please don't ignore the little brown birds, or LBJs as they are known. Pipits, wrens and dunnocks are under reported every year! Beware too of hybrid mallards which won't be in your bird book, and likewise the three geese with the mute swans. They are also hybrids and are not genuine wild birds.

Finally, please send your information to: Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaeglish Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LE, or phone (01770) 600 406, to reach me no later than January 31st 2002.

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

January

The first record for the year came from Margnaheglish with a pair of bullfinches, the first of five records for the month, an unusually high number for the time of year. A pair of black-throated divers was at Sannox on the 3rd. A party of ten long-tailed tits made an attractive sight at Lamlash on the 9th. The kingfisher still present at Port-na-lochan from last year was seen on the 14th, but was gone by the end of February. On the 15th, c20 guillemots, three razorbills and a single red-throated diver was seen off Largiemore, with further singles at Fallen Rocks on the 18th and Sandbraes on the 23rd. On the 16th there were 34 ravens and five reed buntings at the Cleat, while 186 greylag geese were counted at Shiskine. The maximum number of eiders recorded for the year, c750 in all, were seen off Brown Head on the 19th. Winter blackcaps appeared at bird tables, a female at Cordon and a male at Dippen on the 24th. 14 pairs of fulmars were back at their ledges at Catacol on the 26th, and two merlins were seen from the library van parked at Shiskine on the 28th! The month ended with a pair of goosanders at Machriewaterfoot on the 31st.

February

Good news to start the month, with a flock of 24 lapwings at Shiskine and a further 12 at Sliderrywaterfoot on the 6th. Two crow-type birds with red beaks and feet overflying the Boguille on the 7th were surely choughs. The record is under consideration, and if it is allowed would be the first record for over a hundred years - 1863 to be exact! Six white-fronted geese were feeding in a field at the Knowe Farm on the 9th. An astonishing 21 grey herons were grouped on what used to be the front lawn in the White House grounds on the 11th, while the first hen harrier of the year, a male, was seen at Shiskine on the same day. A further 18 white-fronted geese were at the Torr Righ flooded marsh on the 17th. A mixed flock of 40 fieldfares and six redwings was noted at High Kildonan on the 18th, and more importantly, a female black

grouse (or greyhen) at High Glen Cloy on the same day. A visit to Port na Feannaiche on the 19th produced 11 teal and c230 curlew. A scarce red-necked grebe turned up at Pirnmill on the 22nd. A flurry of excitement on the 24th when a goshawk overflowed Brodick Golf Course, seen by a visiting RSPB group. A winter flock of 32 skylarks was at Machrie, and a single purple sandpiper at Drumadoon Point on the 25th. The first four returning gannets were seen off Torrylinnwaterfoot on the 27th. By the 28th the greylag numbers at Shiskine had built up to 450, while there was a single goosander on the Kilmorywater.

March

The first group of six migrating whooper swans overflowed Kilmory on the 1st. A single returning lesser black-backed gull was seen at The Heights on the 7th, rather later than usual. Also seen during the first week were 15 rooks at Corriecravie, but surprisingly there were none at Shiskine or Blackwaterfoot. A pied wagtail was at its nest at Kilmory on the 17th and subsequently hatched three young. Six pinkfooted geese and a single white-fronted were seen with the greylags at Shiskine on the 18th, while the first wheatear arrived at Kilbride Hill. The first seven linnets of the year were at the Cleat, and a large flock of 37 rockdoves at Torrylinnwaterfoot on the 19th. The next two summer migrants to arrive were two chiffchaffs at Porta Leacach on the 21st, then three swallows at Machriewaterfoot on the 26th. A flock of about 15 snow buntings was also seen on the 26th on Goatfell. A male brambling, the only one of the year, turned up again at a bird table in Murray Estate, Lamlash on the 28th where it stayed for three days. Final note for the month came from a garden at North Newton where a pair of treecreepers were seen trying to squeeze into a tit nest box on the 30th.

April

A very busy month with many arrivals and departures. A kestrel was in the news on the 1st when it flew into the side of a telephone kiosk in Glen Cloy while chasing a chaffinch. Both birds were temporarily stunned, but the chaffinch shook itself and flew off, while the kestrel

was taken into care and later released apparently unharmed. The next summer migrants to arrive were five sand martins at Auchencar on the 6th, followed by four sandwich terns at Machriewaterfoot and two at Blackwaterfoot on the 8th, then a willow warbler at Dippen on the 10th. On the 11th there were 14 golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot and four house martins arrived at Kildonan. During a second week, a dead female merlin was found on the balcony of a house in Brodick, no doubt victim of a window strike. A female woodcock with two young was seen on Holy Isle, and a single twite and the first common sandpiper of the year at Kilpatrick on the 18th. The last of the fieldfares and redwings, 120 and 6 respectively, were noted at High Kildonan, also on the 18th. The first six white wagtails were seen at the Cleat on the 20th. The last winter goldeneye was seen at Clachlands on the 21st, while a cuckoo arrived at Lochranza on the same day. A peregrine with a plucked mallard was at Glenree on the 22nd. On the 23rd, the last of the greylags, a skein of about 100 overflow Kings Cross, while an arriving whinchat at Pirnmill had the misfortune to be eaten by a cat. The most important news of the year also came on the 23rd, when a male hawfinch in full breeding plumage came to a bird table at Murray Estate, Lamlash. The last one in July 1983 was found dead, but this one was very much alive and several people got the chance to admire it. More arrivals, with a garden warbler in the White House grounds and four whimbrels on passage on the 24th, then a grasshopper warbler reeling at Machrie Moor and a wood warbler at High Kildonan on the 28th. a sedge warbler at Lagg on the 29th, and a whitethroat at Kildonan on the 30th. Meanwhile, after almost daily phone calls reporting its progress between North Sannox and Sandbraes, our one and only magpie was last seen on the 29th.

May

A good start, with a male black redstart seen at Kilmory on the 1st. By the 5th the Clachlands shelduck had nine young, five of which survived to leave with their parents in late July, while a song thrush had four fledged young at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash. Despite their steep decline on the mainland, song thrushes continue to do well here. More

whimbrels on the 6th, this time a group of seven and a single at Blackwaterfoot. On the same date a short-eared owl was seen chasing a pair of hoodies on Machrie Moor, and the first arctic tern was at Blackwaterfoot. A spotted flycatcher arrived at Brodick Country Park on the 9th and a sanderling on passage was at the Cleat on the 10th. A gap in arriving migrants until the 20th when a tree pipit arrived at Brodick Country Park. Some action at the Benlister burn on the 20th, when a heron was watched as it saw off a buzzard, and a family of grey wagtails with four young had a narrow escape when attacked by a sparrowhawk. More arrivals on the 22nd, with up to three swifts at Corriecravie, while the house martins were busy gathering mud in the North Sannox quarry on the 26th. The northern pair of eagles were feeding one young by the 28th, and final sighting for the month was of a sub-adult Iceland gull at Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 29th which was still present at the beginning of June.

June

The first sighting of the month was the welcome return of the turtle dove, last recorded in 1988. This one was at Braehead Farm, Sliderry, on the 1st, and was seen there again on the 10th and 11th. The Clachlands pair of mute swans had six cygnets by the 6th, two of which survived, while only 1 cygnet at the Fish Fm survived. The Fish Farm pen was sitting on her third nest by the 18th. The two families frequently met in the middle of Lamlash Bay, and there were spectacular disputes over territory. By the 7th a ringed plover had successfully hatched three young after nesting in the pebbled driveway of a house at Arranton, thanks to the owner taking great care when parking the car! On the same day a male crossbill was seen on the Dunan shore picking over the seaweed, a most unusual place to see one. A pair of oystercatchers with one young was seen attacking a pheasant which had strayed into their territory at Glen Rosa on the 14th. The first ten Manx shearwaters were seen off Largiemore on the 15th, and the only puffin of the year the following day. Two ptarmigan were noted on the 17th, a male on Meall Donn, and a female on Mullach

Buidhe. The sand martins had a better breeding season, with six nests at Kilpatrick on the 24th, one of which had five well grown young, while there were about 20 nest holes at the North Sannox quarry with a minimum three young on the 30th. Terry Southall, our resident bird ringer visited Pladda on the 29th, and as well as his ringing work, provided a breeding survey of the island. In addition to the large numbers of nesting gulls and shags, there were four pairs of nesting arctic terns. Two pairs also nested at Dougarie, and although eggs were seen, it is not known if they hatched. A ringed gannet found dead at Sliderry on the 30th proved to have been ringed on Ailsa Craig in June 1985.

July

Manx shearwater numbers were building up, with a maximum of about 200 off Pirnmill on the 8th. Also on the 8th, a single red grouse was seen at Cnoc na Croise, a species that remained scarce after a poor breeding season. On the 9th, there was the unusual sight of a curlew perched in a large bush in a garden at Blackwaterfoot, until it was realised that there was a chick on the ground underneath it! Good news came on the 10th, with two pairs of long-eared owls feeding young in the Kilmory plantation, while family parties of redpolls were in the same area on the 15th. Seven swifts were at Dippen on the 20th, an unusually high number for Arran, while on the same day a pair of black guillemots were at their nest underneath Brodick Pier, seemingly oblivious to the activity overhead. On the 22nd, 12 golden plovers overflew Coirein Lochan, a little grebe was at Corriecravie pond (a very unusual summer sighting), and a further two ptarmigan were on the summit of Goatfell. A scarce knot in summer plumage was at Blackwaterfoot on the 26th, and a pair of red-throated divers with one young were seen at Machrie. Finally, more waders, with 12 dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on the 27th, only one of which was still in summer plumage.

August

Few sightings at the beginning of the month, but a pair of black-throated divers was seen on Loch Tanna on the 5th and a tree pipit at High Kildonan on the 12th, the only other sighting of the year. During the second week, one of the mute swans at Whiting Bay was seen swimming round in circles. Brian Wilson of the Royal Hotel decided to investigate, and it was found to have entangled one foot in a lobster pot. It was freed and swam off, apparently unharmed by the incident. A gathering of 50+ ravens was at Dunfion on the 15th. A large flock of 250 goldfinches was feeding at the Cleat on the 19th, and there were also five white wagtails there. On the same day, a short-eared owl was seen at the Urie Loch, and two scarce sanderlings at Machrie. A pair of moorhens was seen at Machrie pond on the 21st, the only pair on the island as far as is known. An immature knot turned up at Whiting Bay on the 22nd, and two adults at the Cleat on the 31st. Kittiwakes began to arrive at Whiting Bay with about 40 on the 22nd, rising to over 200 by the end of the month. A tawny owl was heard at Bailemargaidh on the 24th. Unlike the barn owl, this species has never been common on Arran, and the only other record was of one at Brodick Country Park in April. Two scarce species followed, with a single arctic skua seen on the Ardrossan/Brodick crossing on the 25th, and a little tern at Brodick on the 27th. Last notes for the month were of a female hen harrier chasing a peregrine near the summit of the Laggan path on the 29th, and a little stint at the Cleat on the 31st.

September

A month mainly of departures and arrivals, starting with the last fulmar at Blackwaterfoot and two early returning wigeon at Kildonan on the 2nd. A maximum 27 redshanks were at Whiting Bay on the 3rd, and a large flock of 60 greenfinches at South Kiscadale on the 5th. By the 8th, the number of kittiwakes at Whiting Bay had risen to 240. Observers watched a peregrine take an oystercatcher on Blackwaterfoot beach on the 11th, and are now the proud possessors of a painting by bird artist Philip Snow illustrating the scene! Although many summer

migrants had already left, swallows were still feeding young at Kilmory on the 15th. More raptor news, with four kestrels interacting with two ravens on Creag Mhor on the 16th. The WeBS count at Machrie on the 17th produced good results, with a moulting flock of 78 red-breasted mergansers, a female goosander, 45 turnstones, 120 ringed plovers, and two of our rarer waders, a greenshank and a little stint. 13 knots at Drumadoon Point on the same day was an extra bonus, as well as up to 10 rooks seen at Shiskine. Unusually the rooks were not seen again at that location. More songbird flocks were building up with about 200 siskins at Whitefarland on the 22nd, and up to 100 goldfinches at Catacol on the 24th. Last note for the month was of a sparrowhawk being mobbed by meadow pipits at Corriecravie shore on the 29th.

October

The month started with a juvenile gannet found injured on Holy Isle on the 1st. A scarce female tufted duck turned up at Port-na-lochan on the 2nd, and was joined by what was thought at first to be a second one on the 11th. After consultation, it was decided that the second duck was in fact a female scaup. Two hen harrier juveniles were chased being mobbed by a pair of hoodies on Kilbride Hill on the 12th. A good view of a female merlin from a bus at the summit of the Boguille on the 14th as she flew alongside for a short time, while on the same day another tufted duck was seen at Clachan. More winter visitors arrived, with eight greylags returning to Shiskine, and 24 fieldfares at Kings Cross and 120 with six redwings at High Kildonan on the 18th. On the 21st, a black-necked grebe was seen Pirnmill, and by the 22nd a little grebe had returned to the Rosa burn area. The 22nd was also the day the Clachlands cygnets were seen on the wing with their parents for the first time. Two rarer species of geese on Arran joined the mute swans on the 24th at their feeding station in Whiting Bay - three brents and a single pinkfoot. The second black redstart of the year, a female this time, turned up at Shiskine on the 29th. Final note for October was of a possible great grey shrike at Sannox on the 30th, but the sighting was too limited to be certain.

November

Welcome visitors from the north when a pair of whooper swans returned to join the mute swans at Whiting Bay on the 1st, but more importantly, they brought their three fully grown cygnets with them, the first seen on Arran. The last swallow was seen in Whiting Bay on the 2nd. A group of up to 30 waxwings arrived at Glen Cloy on the 6th after an absence of two years. By the 11th, the number of wigeon at Kildonan had risen to 48. Another female black redstart was perched on a roof at Kilmory on the 15th. On the 16th, a big flock of 580 common gulls had gathered at Blackwaterfoot. The goldeneye were late coming in, possibly because of the mild weather conditions, and the first four were seen at Lamblash on the 19th, by which date the number of greylags at Shiskine had risen to more than 200. The 20th was a good day for rarer species, with a snow bunting on the summit of Goatfell, and a ptarmigan just below. Another rare species, the elusive water rail, was spotted creeping along a ditch at Clauchlands on the 23rd. The month ended on a sad note, when a dead golden eagle was found. It had been ringed in Sutherland which represents a considerable movement for this species.

December

A big flock of about 50 collared doves were gathered in Whiting Bay on the 1st. Two not so common common scoters were seen from the Brodick/Ardrossan ferry on the 2nd. On the 5th, another whooper swan join the mutes at Whiting Bay, while the first returning pair of shelducks arrived at Clauchlands on the 7th. Yet another female black redstart appeared in the timber yard at Brodick Pier on the 8th. Nine rooks came to feed at Corriecravie on the 11th, but there were still none at Shiskine or Blackwaterfoot where they have overwintered in recent years. The last house martin was seen in Whiting Bay on the 12th, the latest ever recorded here. It was still very mild on the 15th, and a song thrush was in full song in a Whiting Bay garden. Three pairs of bullfinches were at the Letter, Lamblash on the same day. It was predicted last year that the number of mute swans at their feeding

station in Whiting Bay would increase, and so it proved with 47 on the 17th. On the same day, 52 golden plovers were on the shore at Machriewaterfoot. Another tufted duck appeared on the 24th, this time at the Urie Loch. A snipe startled a householder in Kilmory on the 27th, when it almost hit her in the face as she opened the front door. More snipe, a wisp of six was seen at Slidderly on the 29th. The year ended with a single waxwing at High Kildonan on the 30th, and a skein of 39 greylags wheeling over the farm fields at Clauchlands, their loud cries echoing over Lamlash Bay.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser black-backed gull 7 Mar

Wheatear 18 Mar

Chiffchaff 21 Mar

Swallow 26 Mar

Sand Martin 6 Apr

Sandwich Tern 8 Apr

Willow Warbler 10 Apr

House Martin 11 Apr

Common Sandpiper 16 Apr

White Wagtail 20 Apr

Cuckoo 21 Apr

Whinchat 23 Apr

Garden Warbler 24 Apr

Wood Warbler 28 Apr

Grasshopper Warbler 28 Apr

Sedge Warbler 29 Apr

Whitethroat 30 Apr

Arctic Tern 6 May

Spotted Flycatcher 9 May

Tree Pipit 20 May

Swift 22 May

Manx Shearwater 15 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

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: no records, but probably bred on inland lochans. Singles and prs seen all yr round the coast, with max 4 Largiemore 24 Apr and 4 Machrie 5 Sep.

Black-throated Diver

Prs and singles seen round the coast all yr except Jun/Jul, with max 4 Machrie 24 Apr. Pr seen at Loch Tanna 5 Aug was the only inland record.

Great Northern Diver

Prs and singles seen between Lamlash/Imachar Mar/Aug, with max 3 Blackwaterfoot 23 Apr.

Little Grebe

Singles overwintered at Lochranza, Rosa burn and Fish Fm. Single at Corriecravie ponds 25 Jul was unusual.

Great Crested Grebe

No records

Red-necked Grebe

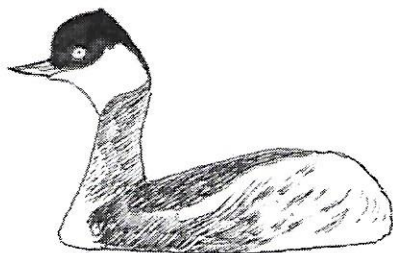
1 Pirmill 22 Feb (M.Paterson)

Slavonian Grebe

No records

Black-necked Grebe

1 Pirmill 21 Oct (M.Paterson)



Black-necked Grebe (winter)

Fulmar

Breeding: nesting colonies at Drumadoon, Catacol and Cleiteadh Buidhe, but success unknown. Seen all round the coast Jan/Sep, with max 48 Drumadoon 25 Feb.

Manx Shearwater

Most sightings from ferry crossings Jun/Sep; 8/10 Balearic race Ardrossan/Brodick 30 Jun, with max c600 Largiemore 28 Aug; last 6 Ardrossan/Brodick 11 Sep.

Gannet

Seen round the coast Feb/Oct; nos remain low, with return 4 Torrylinnwaterfoot 27 Feb, and max 15/20 Whiting Bay 2 Apr; injured juv found on Holy Isle 1 Oct; 1 found dead Slidery 30 Jun was ringed on Ailsa Craig 28 Jun 1985.

Cormorant

Groups of up to 7 seen round the coast all yr. Max 13 Cleat 31 Aug.

Shag

Breeding: 70 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun; also bred on Holy Isle. Seen all yr round the coast, much commoner than cormorants. Max c100 Largiemore 20 Apr.

Grey Heron

Breeding: 1 carrying nesting material White House Woods 10 Feb; 3 prs nested Lagg Wood, 1 pr with min 2 yng 21 Apr. Common round the coast all yr, with max 21 White House Woods 11 Feb.

Mute Swan

Breeding: Pr + 3 yng Fish Fm 9 May, reduced to 1 by 24 Jul; pr + 5 yng Machriewaterfoot 27 May, reduced to 4 by 11 Jun; pr + 6 yng Clauchlands 6 Jun, reduced to 2 by 21 Jun. Further inc with max 47 Whiting Bay 17 Dec.

Whooper Swan

6 overflying Kilmory 1 Mar; 1 Clauchlands May/Sep; pr returned to overwinter at Whiting Bay 1 Nov with 3 imm, the first recorded on Arran.

Pink-footed Goose

6 with greylags Shiskine 18 Mar; 1 Whiting Bay 24 Oct.

White-fronted Goose (Greenland race)

6 Knowe Fm 9 Feb; 1 with greylags Shiskine 18 Mar; 3 Rodden 21 Mar.

Greylag Goose

Overwintered, with 186 Shiskine 16 Jan, building to 450 28 Feb; 3 overflying Lamlash 9 Apr, c100 overflying Kings Cross 23 Apr, and last 1 Shiskine 30 Apr; 4 Holy Isle 30 May unusual; return 8 Shiskine 18 Oct; 108 Slidderly 14 Nov; 200+ Shiskine 19 Nov; 39 overflying Clauchlands 30 Dec.

Barnacle Goose

No records

Brent Goose

3 Whiting Bay 24 Oct (B.Wilson)

Shelduck

Breeding: pr + 9 yng Clauchlands 5 May, reduced to 7 by 25 May; 2 other prs nested in same area, but no yng survived. Surprisingly, no reports from other locations. Common round the coast Jan/Jul, with max 12 Clauchlands 9 Apr, and 12 Cleat 20 Apr.

Wigeon

Recorded at only 3 locations. Single m Clauchlands 13 Jan, last seen 18 Feb; 20 Kildonan 15 Jan; early return 2 Kildonan 2 Sep; 25 Machrie 22 Oct; max 48 Kildonan 11 Nov.

Teal

No breeding records. 6 Cleat 15 Jan, rising to 17 by 19 Mar; pr Corriecravie pond 8 Apr; pr Torr Righ flooded marsh, m with damaged wing 10 Jun; 2 Machriewaterfoot 18 Sep. Max c35 Port na Feannaiche 19 Oct.

Mallard

Breeding: f with 1 yng Port-na-lochan 18 Apr; pr + 8 yng Machrie pond 24 Apr; 2 yng Corriecravie pond 4 May; f + 4 yng Lochan Ime 19 May; c10 yng Torr Righ flooded marsh 10 Jun; f + 5 yng Lochranza 19 Jun. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 60 Machriewaterfoot 15 Sep.

Tufted Duck

Scarce on Arran. 1f Port-na-lochan 11 Oct; 1 Clachan 14 Oct; 1 Urie loch 24 Dec.

Scaup

f Port-na-lochan 2 Oct (G.Bannatyne).

Eider

Breeding: Family groups with up to 7 yng seen at Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza May/Jul. Common all yr round the coast. Larger groups incl 100+ Machriewaterfoot 27 Apr; 150+ The Craw 5 Oct; c100 Largiemore 19 Oct, and 108 Lamlash Bay 19 Nov, with max c750 Brown Head 19 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck

No records

Common Scoter

2 Ardrossan/Brodick 2 Dec (Dr.J.Cassels)

Goldeneye

Prs and singles overwintered round the coast Jan/Apr, with last m Clauchlands 21 Apr. Late return 1m 4f Lamlash 19 Nov. Max 7 Clauchlands/Lamlash 9 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser

Breeding: family groups of up to 10 yng seen at Lochranza and Cordon. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 78 Machrie 17 Sep.

Goosander

Continued presence of pr at Machriewaterfoot Jan/Oct. Other sightings incl m Kilmorywater Feb/Apr and 1 imm Brodick 21 Sep.

Hen Harrier

Breeding: bred successfully in several locations. Singles and prs seen all yr at Shiskine, Machrie, Glen Rosa, Kildonan, Boguille, Kilbride Hill, Blackwaterfoot, Torbeg, Clauchlands, String road, Craig Ghlas, Sliderry and Sheeans.

Goshawk

1 overflying Brodick Golf Course 24 Feb (C.Rollie et al).

Sparrowhawk

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

Buzzard

Breeding: nest with 2 yng Lamlash 14 Jun. Common and widespread all yr, with max 7 Ross road 30 Aug.

Golden Eagle

Breeding: prs in the N and S bred successfully, 1 pr failed. Seen all yr mainly in the Lochranza/Catacol areas, also at Glen Rosa, Laggantaine, Imachar, String road and Benlister. Adult found dead 27 Nov had been ringed in Sutherland.

Osprey

No records

Kestrel

Breeding: pr mating Imachar 27 Apr; nest with 4 yng High Benlister 2 May; also nested at Clauchlands, success unknown. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 singles Ross road 4 Sep, and 4 Creag Mhor 16 Sep.

Merlin

2 Shiskine 28 Jan; f found dead on a balcony in Brodick mid-Apr; 1 Imachar 29 May; possible 1 Carlo 4 Aug; 1 Boguille summit 14 Oct.

Peregrine

Breeding: min 3 prs fledged yng. Most sightings were of singles at the North end, but also recorded at Dunfion, Corriecravie, Glenree, Glenloig, Glenashdale, Kilmory, Blackwaterfoot and Shiskine all yr.

Red Grouse

Breeding: better success than last year. Singles and prs seen at Urie Loch, Cnoc na Croise, Machrie Moor and Thunderguy, with max 7-8.

Ptarmigan

No breeding records. Singles Meall Donn and Mullach Buidhe 17 June and Goatfell 20 November & 13 December; pair Goatfell 25 July.

Black Grouse

f High Glen Cloy 18 Feb (R.Logan).

Red-legged Partridge

No breeding records. Fewer introductions, and only 2 sightings, 1 Corriegills 29 Mar, and pr Glen Cloy all yr.

Pheasant

Breeding: nest with 14 eggs, 8 yng seen subsequently Kilbride Hill 19 May; f with 8 yng Lamash 2 Jun. Common and widespread in suitable habitat, with many coming to gardens to feed.

Water Rail

1 Clauchlands 23 Nov (K.Harvey), last recorded 1996.

Corncrake

No records, last recorded 1997.

Moorhen

Breeding: no records. Single Machrie pond 25 Feb and 4 Mar; pr same location 21 Aug. No records from Corriecravie pond where a pr bred last yr.

Oystercatcher

Breeding: nests with 3 eggs, 1 egg and f sitting Torrylinnwaterfoot 7 May; 4 prs nesting Dougarie 27 May; 1 nest with newly hatched yng and 1 egg chipping Pirmill 29 May; pr with 1 yng Glen Rosa 14 Jun; pr guarding nest with 1 egg Lochranza, egg gone following day. Very common round the coast all yr, with max about 110 Whiting Bay 22 Aug.

Ringed Plover

Breeding: pr at nest with 4 eggs Corrie 28 May; pr with 4 yng Kilmory 30 May; pr with yng Kildonan 3 Jun; nest with 3 eggs Arranton 7 Jun successfully hatched; pr with 3 yng Sandbraes 27 Jul. Common round the coast all yr, with max 120 Machrie 17 Sep.

Golden Plover

No breeding records. 14 Machriewaterfoot 11 Apr; c20 Loch Dhu 14 Apr; pr E of Kilmory 29 Apr; pr W Bennan 1 May; 12 overflying Coirein lochan 22 Jul; 13 Machriewaterfoot 23 Sep, building to max 52 17 Dec.

Grey Plover

No records, last recorded 1998.

Lapwing

No breeding records. Inc in records, with groups up to 16 Jan/May and Oct/Dec at Cleat, Slidderwaterfoot, Kilmory, Machrie, Bennan, Blackwaterfoot and Clauchlands, and max 24 Shiskine 1 Feb

Knot

1 in summer plumage Blackwaterfoot 26 Jul; 1 imm Whiting Bay 22 Aug; 2 Cleat 31 Aug; 2 Machrie, and max 13 Drumadoon Pt 17 Sep.

Sanderling

1 Cleat 10 May; 2 Machrie 19 Aug.

Purple Sandpiper

Only 1 record, with 1 Drumadoon Pt 25 Feb and 10 Apr (T.Malin)

Little Stint

1 Cleat 31 Aug; 1 Machrie 17 Sep.

Dunlin

Up to 7 at Cleat, Machriewaterfoot and Drumadoon Pt Jan/Sep, with max 13 Blackwaterfoot 26 Jul. 1 Clauchlands 20 Sep was unusual.

Snipe

No breeding records. Singles at Boguille 2 Jun, String road 23 Jul, Port-na-lochan 19 Oct and Kilmory 27 Dec. Max 6 Slidery 29 Dec.

Woodcock

Breeding: adult with 2 yng Holy Isle 16 Apr. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with singles and prs at Benlister, Corrie, BCP, Lochan a m'hill, Clauchan Forestry, Sannox, Glenkiln, Glen Rosa, Blackwaterfoot, Slidery, String road and Cleat.

Black-tailed Godwit

No records.

Bar-tailed Godwit

No records.

Whimbrel

4 Auchenhew 24 Apr; 4 Cleat, and 7 Torrylinnwaterfoot 7 May; 1 Clauchlands 23 Jul. Max 8 Cleat 30 Apr and 8 Blackwaterfoot 6 May. No autumn sightings.

Curlew

Breeding: min 2 prs nesting Machrie Moor 31 May; pr with yng nr Machrie Fm 2 Jun; adult with 1 yng Blackwaterfoot 9 Jul. Common round the coast all yr with max about 230 Port na Feannaiche 19 Feb.

Redshank

Very common round the coast all yr except May/Jul, with max 27 Whiting Bay 3 Sep.

Greenshank

1 Machriewaterfoot 17 Sep (F Laing).

Common Sandpiper

Breeding: pr with 3 yng Clauchlands Pt 25 Jun; possibly bred at Coirein Lochan. Common round the coast Apr/Sep. Arr 1 Kilpatrick 16 Apr, with max 5 Lochranza 18 Jun.

Turnstone

Common Lamblash/Dougarie May/Jun and Aug/Dec Summer sightings incl 1 Dougarie 30 Jun. Max 45 Machrie 17 Sep.

Arctic Skua

1 Brodick/Ardrossan 25 Aug (R.Popplewell).

Great Skua

No records

Little Gull

No records

Black-headed Gull

Common round the coast except Jun/Jul. Max 39 Brodick 18 Sep.

Ring-billed Gull

A possible Whiting Bay early May, but insufficient evidence for a record.

Common Gull

Breeding: min 5 prs nesting Holy Isle 7 May (gross underestimate); min 3 nests with eggs Pirnmill 29 May; 70 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 580 Blackwaterfoot 16 Nov.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull

Breeding: 120 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun; huge colony Holy Isle, but no figures available. Common round the coast Mar/Oct, with arr 1 The Heights 7 Mar, last 1 Cordon 22 Oct, and max 74 Dougarie 17 Mar.

Herring Gull

Breeding: 250 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun; again huge colony Holy Isle, but nos not known. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 215 Whiting Bay 20 Aug. 1 with orange leg ring Glenashdalewaterfoot 2 Jun.

Iceland Gull

1 sub adult Glenashdalewaterfoot 29 May, last seen 5 Jun (M.H.Dunn).

Great Black-Backed Gull

Breeding: 11 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun; also bred Holy Isle, but no figures available. Common round the coast all yr, with max 7 Lamlash 20 Aug.

Kittiwake

1 imm Largiemore 15 Jan; 1 sub adult N Sannox 29 Apr; Build up in Whiting Bay started with c40 22 Aug, rising to 225 by 17 Sep; c100 Catacol 13 Sep; 1 Lamlash 27 Dec. Reduction in nos from last yr when a total of 5400 was reached.

Sandwich Tern

Common round the coast Apr/Sep, with arr 4 Machriewaterfoot, 2 Blackwaterfoot 8 Apr. Max 6 incl juvs Blackwaterfoot 2 Sep.

Common Tern

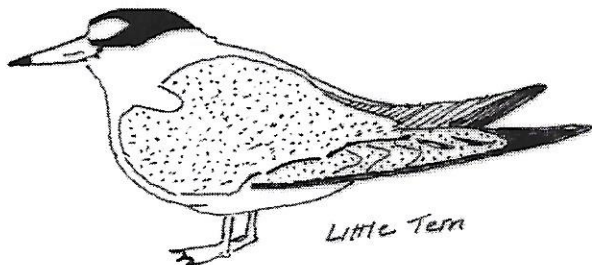
No records.

Arctic Tern

Breeding: pr on nest at Dougarie 26 May, gone by 3 Jun; 1 tideline nest Dougarie 11 Jun; 2 prs nesting, 1 nest with 2 eggs, 1 with 1 egg Dougarie 1 Jul, but success unknown. 4 prs nesting Pladda 29 Jun, success unknown. Arr 1 Blackwaterfoot 6 May, last 2 Dougarie 8 Jul.

Little Tern

1 Brodick 27 Aug (R.Popplewell).



Guillemot

1 Sandbraes, 3 Kings Cross t 23 Jan; pr Lamlash 7 May; 3 Whitefarland 28 May; 9 Brodick/Ardrossan 31 Aug. Max c20 Largiemore 15 Jan.

Razorbill

3 Largiemore 15 Jan; 2 Fairy Dell 15 May; 2 Clauchlands 1 May; 1 Kings Cross Pt 29 May.

Black Guillemot

Breeding: 2 prs nesting Imachar 29 May; 12 incl yng Kings Cave 1 Jul; pr nesting Brodick Pier 20 Jul; adult with 1 juv Cordon 27 Jul. Up to 5 round the coast all yr, with max 20 Kilbrannan Sound 18 Jul.

Puffin

1 Largiemore 16 Jun (M.Giles)

Rock Dove

9 Cleiteadh Buidhe 25 Feb; 7 Torr Rìgh Mòr 1 Jul; 8 Kilpatrick 29 Sep; 18 Pirmill 2 Nov; max 37 Torrylinnwaterfoot 19 Mar.

Wood Pigeon

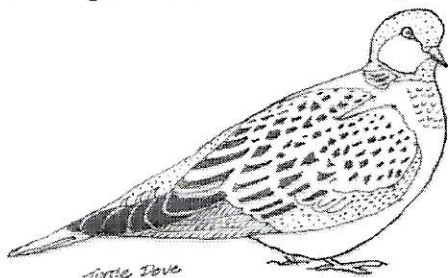
No breeding records; Common on farmland all yr, with max 76 Clauchlands Fm 20 Aug.

Collared Dove

Breeding: pr bred Lamlash, success unknown. Up to 10 around the villages all yr, with max c50 Whiting Bay 1 Dec.

Turtle Dove

1 Sliderry 1 Jun, seen again 10th and 11th Jun (C.McAllister), last recorded 1988.



Cuckoo

Breeding: 1 yng being fed by meadow pipits Kilmory 1 Jul. Arr 1 Lochranza 21 Apr, widespread by May, only singles recorded. Very dark phase bird seen at Whitefarland 2 Jun.

Barn Owl

Breeding: Much better yr, with 14 yng fledged and ringed from 14 Forest Enterprise boxes. No yng from 3 BCP boxes, and female found dead in one of them; pr back at nest hole at Dougarie 24 Apr, but no record of any yng; 3 yng ringed from nest in a disused barn on the Ross road. Singles and prs seen all yr at Clauchlands, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Torbeg, Brodick and Kilmory.

Tawny Owl

Still very scarce. 1 heard BC 29 Apr 1 Bailemargaidh 24 Aug.

Long-eared Owl

Breeding: 2 prs successfully fledged yng at Kilmory plantation 10 Jul.
No other records.

Short-eared Owl

Breeding: No records, but almost certainly bred. No sign of the Boguille pr which bred regularly in recent yrs. Singles seen at Kilbride Hill, Coirein Lochan, Clauchan Glen Plantation, Kildonan and Urie Loch all yr; pr Machrie Moor 6 May.

Nightjar

No records, but may still be present in remote areas.

Swift

Arr 2-3 Corriecravie 22 May. Up to 3 seen at Lamlash, Kilmory and Sannox May/Sep, with max 7 Dippen 20 Jul.

Kingfisher

1 overwintered at Port-na-lochan, last seen end of Feb; 1 Rosa burn during Mar.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

No records.

Skylark

No breeding records. Slight inc in nos Jan/May, with 14 High Kildonan 23 Jan; 3 Machrie 24 Mar; 4-5 Kilbride Hill Mar/May; 5-6 holding territory Glenree 27 Apr; 8 holding territory Machrie Moor 31 May; 12 Sliddery 29 Dec. Max 32 Machrie 25 Feb.

Sand Martin

Breeding: 6 nest holes, 1 with 5 yng Kilpatrick 24 Jun; c20 nest holes with min 3 yng N Sannox quarry 30 Jun; no report from Auchencar or Whitefarland. Arr 5 Auchencar 6 Apr; 1 seen with house martins Clauchlands 26 Apr; c5 Dougarie 8 Jul.

Swallow

Breeding: Pr nesting BC 25 Apr: pr double brooded, 3 yng in 1st brood, 4 in 2nd Auchencairn; 4 yng being fed Kilmory 11 Jun, also double brooded with 3 yng in 2nd brood; 2 successful nest Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; yng still being fed Kilmory 15 Sep. Arr 3 Machriewaterfoot 26 Mar, widespread by Apr. Max 50 mixed with house martins S Kiscadale 4 Sep. Last 1 Whiting Bay 2 Nov.

House Martin

Breeding: Many double broods, eg. 17 nests, some still occupied Kildonan 6 Sep. Arr 4 Kildonan 11 Apr, widespread by May. Max c50 mixed with swallows S Kiscadale 4 Sep. Last 1 Whiting Bay 12 Dec, latest ever recorded.

Tree Pipit

Arr 1 BCP 2 May. 1 Machrie Moor, 1 Monyquil 19 May; 1 High Kildonan 12 Aug.

Meadow Pipit

No breeding records. Common and widespread all yr, with max c30 Clauchlands 12 Mar.

Rock Pipit

Breeding: pr carrying food Kilmory 30 May. Common round the coast all yr, with max 15+ Blackwaterfoot 17 Sep.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding pr with 4 yng Benlister burn 2 May; pr feeding 1 yng Kilmory 1 Jul; pr carrying food Ross road 6 Jul; pr with 2 juvs Port na Feannaiche 26 Aug. Common round the coast and burns all yr, with max 4 Sliderywaterfoot 1 Jun.

Pied Wagtail

Breeding: nesting Kilmory 17 Mar, 3 yng fledged; Adult carrying food Kilmory 30 May; adult with 4 yng Kilmory 10 Jun. Very common and widespread, with max 20+ Blackwaterfoot 17 Sep.

White Wagtail

Arr 6 Cleat 20 Apr. All records came from Blackwaterfoot, Cleat and Kildonan, with max 12 Cleat 7 Sep.

Waxwing

20-30 Glen Cloy 6 Nov; 8 same location 7 Nov; 1 High Kildonan 30 Dec.

Dipper

Breeding: pr nesting mid Glen Cloy 29 Mar; nest with 4 eggs Arranton; nest with 5 eggs Benlister, successfully hatched; nested nr Iron Bridge, Ross road; 2 nests Glenashdale, adult feeding juv 24 May. Singles and prs in suitable habitat all yr.

Wren

Breeding: nested in combine harvester at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash for 3rd yr running; used nest box at Arranton; adult with 4 yng Kilmory 10 Jun; adult with 4 yng Lochan Ime 14 Jun. Very common and widespread in very varied habitat all yr, with max 6 singles Thunderguy 26 Oct.

Dunnock

No breeding records, but must have bred in many locations. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 30 Jan.

Robin

Breeding: 2 broods of 3 yng Kilmory in May; nested Lamlash, min 2 yng seen; adult feeding yng Largiemore 5 Jun. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 12 Sep.

Black Redstart

Better yr, with m Kilmory 1 May; f Shiskine 29 Oct; f Kilmory 15 Nov; f Brodick 8 Dec.

Redstart

No records

Whinchat

Breeding: pr with 3 yng Cleat 11 Aug. Arr 1 Pirnmill 23 Apr; widespread by May, with singles and prs at Machrie Moor, N Sannox Fm Park, Ross road, Boguille and Balmichael. Last 2 Torrylinnwaterfoot 7 Sep.

Stonechat

Breeding: f nest building Torrylinnwaterfoot 19 Mar; adult with 1 yng Machrie Moor 1 May; pr with 3 juvs Machrie 2 Sep. Common and widespread all yr, with max 6 singles Thunderguy 2 Jun.

Wheatear

Breeding: juv Clauchlands 11 Jul. Arr 1 Kilbride Hill 18 Mar, widespread by Apr, with max 6+ Machriewaterfoot 15 Sep. Last 3 Blackwaterfoot 23 Sep.

Ring Ouzel

No records.

Blackbird

Breeding: f sitting on 2 eggs Garden Centre, BCP, but nest failed; 2 successful nests White House woods, also successful at Gorton Jockey, Lamlash. after narrowly missing the Council hedgecutters! Adult with 2 yng Blackwaterfoot; adult feeding 2 yng Kilmory 15 Jul. Very common all yr, with max 4 Lochranza 18 Jun, and 4 Blackwaterfoot 10 Nov.

Fieldfare

Jan/Apr nos much as last yr, with flocks of up to 50 at Shiskine, Corriegills, Blackwaterfoot and Machrie, with max 120 High Kildonan 18 Apr. Return c24 Kings Cross 18 Oct; flocks of up to 100 at Sliddery, N Sannox, Glen Chalmadale, Kilmory, Corrie and Whiting Bay, with max c150 Glen Cloy 7 Nov.

Song Thrush

Breeding: 2 broods of 3 yng Kilmory in Apr; nest with 4 eggs White House Woods 25 Apr; nest with 4 yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 5 May. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 7 Jul. m in full song Whiting Bay 15 Dec was unusual.

Redwing

Low nos Jan/Apr, with max 12 Machrie 9 Jan; return 1 Bailemargaidh 19 Oct, with max c25 at Dippen 22 Oct, Sliddery beg Nov and Glen Cloy 7 Nov.

Mistle Thrush

No breeding records. Singles seen at Sandbraes, N Sannox picnic site, Lagg, Fallen Rocks, BCP and Machrie. Larger nos incl 3 Glenkiln Forestry 25 Mar; and 6 Dougarie 6 Dec, with max 7 Machrie Golf Course 30 Jun.

Grasshopper Warbler

Arr 1 reeling Machrie Moor 28 Apr; 1 Whiting Bay 29 Apr; 1 High Corrie 16 May.

Sedge Warbler

No breeding records. Arr 1 Lagg 29 Apr; all records came from Lamlash/Machrie, with max 4 Porta Leacach 14 Sep. Last 2 Kilmory shore 14 Sep.

Lesser Whitethroat

No records.

Whitethroat

Breeding: nesting Kings Cross 29 May. Arr 1 Kildonan 30 Apr; singles only at Blackwaterfoot, Balmichael, Kildonan, Glenashdale, Kilmory and Clauchlands Apr/Aug. Last 1 Cleat 11 Aug.

Garden Warbler

Arr 1 White House Woods (A.Walters) was only record.

Blackcap

Breeding: no records. Singles Jan/May and Sep/Dec at Cordon, Dippen, Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick and Sandbraes, with many coming to bird tables during the winter months.

Wood Warbler

Breeding: bred High Kildonan May; Arr 1 High Kildonan 28 Apr; 1 Merkland Wood 30 Apr, and max 3 holding territory Glenashdale 7 May.

Chiffchaff

No breeding records. Arr 2 Porta Leacach 21 Mar. Singles at Lamlash, BCP, Glenashdale and Corrie during Apr, with max 3 Kilmory 27 Jul.

Willow Warbler

Breeding: adult with 2 juvs Lamlash 16 Aug. Arr 1 Dippen 10 Apr, widespread by May. Max 5 holding territory Rinn a'Chrubain 16 Apr, and last 1 Balmichael 11 Sep.

Goldcrest

Breeding: adult feeding yng Monamore Forestry 25 Jun; adult with 2 juvs Lamlash 16 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr. Larger nos incl c5 N Sannox picnic site 27 May; 4 Lagg 28 Aug; 4 Clauchlands 4 Sep; 4 Lamlash Golf Course 8 Oct, with max 6 Lochan Ime 19 May, Glenashdale 19 Aug and Pirnmill 6 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher

Breeding: 5 yng fledged from nest box at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; pr feeding yng at nest Glenkiln Forestry 27 Jun. Arr 1 BCP 9 May, common and widespread in suitable habitat by end of May. Max 5 Auchencairn 3 Sep, last 1 Sannox 4 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit

Breeding: Pr + 4 yng Lamlash 23 Sep. Common in suitable habitat all yr. Inc in nos, with groups of up to 10 at Lamlash, Benlister, High Corrie, Whiting Bay, Lamlash and Lochranza. Larger groups incl c20 Dippen 7 Dec 15/20 Merkland Pt 9 Dec and 13 Lamlash Golf Course 28 Dec.

Coal Tit

No breeding records. Common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables Oct/Dec. Max 6 Lamlash 2 Dec.

Blue Tit

Breeding: 4 juvs Lamlash Jun; also nested successfully in White House Woods. Very common and widespread all yr, especially at bird tables during winter months. Max 3 Blackwaterfoot 10 Nov.

Great Tit

Breeding: 3 juvs Lamlash 3 Jun; 2 nest boxes in White House Woods, and 2 at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash successful. Singles and prs widespread all yr, especially at bird tables.

Treecreeper

Breeding: pr trying to nest in a tit box N Newton 30 Mar; pr with 5 yng Glenkiln Forestry 27 Jun. Singles and prs seen in suitable habitat all yr, with max 5 singles Auchenhew Glen late Sep.

Great Grey Shrike

Possible 1 Sannox 30 Oct (M.Knox), but insufficient evidence for a record.

Magpie

Single still present from last yr seen almost daily between Whiting Bay and Sannox (incl Holy Isle) Jan/Apr. Last sighting 29 Apr.

Chough

Possible pr overflying the Boguille 7 Feb (M.Strang & J.Kinloch). Record under consideration. Last record was 1863!

Jackdaw

Breeding: colony at Drumadoon, but no reports from other locations. Very common round the coast and villages all yr, with max 190 Shiskine 25 Mar.

Rook

Normally overwinters in only 3 locations; 15 Corriecravie 1st wk Mar; 8/10 Shiskine 17 Sep; no further records from Shiskine and none from Blackwaterfoot; return 9 Corriecravie 11 Dec.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Breeding: successful nest Arranton 3 Apr; also nested successfully at High Benlister; 2 yng Margnaheglish early May. Very common and widespread all yr, but no large flocks reported, with max 6 Machrie Moor 5 Feb.

Raven

Breeding: pr nesting Lagg Wood 21 Apr. Common and widespread all yr, with max 50+ Dunfion 15 Aug.

Starling

Breeding: adult feeding 2 juvs Kilmory 17 Jul. Common and widespread all yr, with max 370 Blackwaterfoot 22 Feb.

House Sparrow

Breeding: 3 yng being fed Kilmory 17 Jul. Common round the villages all yr, with max 49 Whiting Bay 15 Nov.

Chaffinch

Breeding: min 2 broods Kilmory May-Jun; also nested successfully at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 50 High Kildonan 19 Feb.

Brambling

m Murray Estate, Lamlash 28-31 Mar (A. & R.Thompson).

Greenfinch

Breeding: nest with 6 eggs Cordon 9 May; 2 broods being fed Kilmory 8 Jun. Common and widespread all yr, with singles and prs feeding at bird tables during the winter months. Max 60 S Kiscadale 5 Sep.

Goldfinch

Breeding: adult feeding yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 17 May. Common and widespread all yr, with singles feeding at bird tables during winter months. Larger nos incl 36+ Pirmill 4 Oct and max c80-100 Catacol 24 Sep.

Siskin

Breeding: pr feeding 3 yng White House Woods 22 May; adult with 4 yng Kilmory 1 Jun. Common and widespread all yr in suitable habitat, with small nos coming to bird tables Jan/Mar. Max c200 Whitefarland 22 Sep.

Linnet

Breeding: nest with 5 eggs Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 17 May. Common at the S end Mar/Sep, with family groups of c20 Clauchlands 10 Aug, 20-25 Kildonan 21 Aug 120-150 Blackwaterfoot 9 Sep. Max 25 Cleat 19 Aug.

Twite

Decrease in sightings with 1 Kilpatrick 16 Apr; 1 Goatfell path 29 Apr; 1 Blackwaterfoot 13 Sep.

Redpoll

No breeding records. Still scarce with pr Kilmory 30 Jun; 1 Blackwaterfoot 4 Jul; family parties Kilmory plantation 15 Jul and max 10-12 Bailemargaidh 24 Jul.

Crossbill

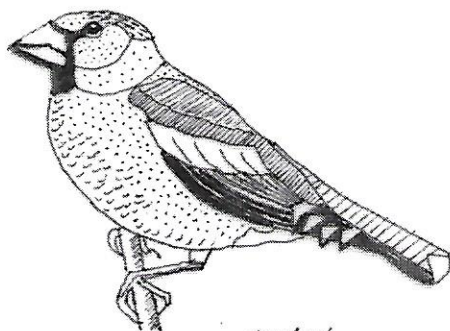
Breeding: pr with 2 yng Kilmory plantation in Jun. 1 BCP in May; m Dunan shore 7 Jun (unusual); 5 Kilmory 27 Jun; m holding territory Kilbride Hill 29 Jun. Max 6 nr Loch Thomson, Monamore Forestry 18 Jun.

Bullfinch

Breeding: pr feeding 1 yng Torbeg 10 Aug. Common in suitable habitat all yr, with prs and singles at Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Dunan, Machrie Moor road, Bailemargaidh, Sannox picnic site, Corrie, BCP and Shiskine, with max 3 prs The Letter 15 Dec.

Hawfinch

m Murray Estate, Lamlash 23 Apr (R. & A.Thompson), subsequently seen Margnaheglish 26 Apr. Last recorded 1983.



Hawfinch

Snow Bunting

1 Kerrs Port 5 Apr; pr Goatfell 8 Apr; 1 Goatfell summit 20 Nov. Max 15 Goatfell 26 Mar.

Yellowhammer

No breeding records. Still scarce, with f Pirnmill 8/10 Feb; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 19 Mar; f S Feorline 8 Apr; pr Drumadoon Fm 23 Apr; 1 Kings Cross Pt 29 May; 1 Bennecarrigan 11 Aug.

Reed Bunting

No breeding records. Slight inc, with more winter sightings than usual. 2 Kings Cross 27 Jan; 2 singles Clauchlands Fm 16 Feb; m Kerrs Port 9 Apr; 1 Arranton 10 Apr; 1 Imachar 11 Apr; m Drumadoon Fm 23 Apr; m Kildonan 1 Jun; m Shiskine 21 Jun. Max 4m 1f Cleat 16 Jan.

ADDITIONS TO 1999 BIRD REPORT

juv knot Torrylinnwaterfoot 3 Sep
2 sanderling Torrylinnwaterfoot 19 Sep
3 wheatear (Greenland race) Kilmory 3 Oct
1 long-eared owl Machrie Moor road 28 Dec.

KEY TO CHECKLIST

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
2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC
3. Great Northern Diver U/PC
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 R*C
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 WU
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*/O
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. Corncrake B*/O
75. Moorhen RU
76. Coot WO
77. Crane V
78. Oystercatcher RC
79. Ringed Plover RC
80. Dotterel PO
81. Golden Plover SU/WU
82. Grey Plover PO
83. Lapwing RU
84. Knot PO
85. Sanderling PO

86. Curlew Sandpiper V
87. Purple Sandpiper WU
88. Little Stint PO
89. Dunlin S*/WC
90. Ruff V
91. Jack Snipe WO
92. Snipe RC
93. Long-billed Dowitcher V
94. Woodcock RC
95. Black-tailed Godwit PO
96. Bar-tailed Godwit PU
97. Whimbrel PC
98. Curlew RC
99. Spotted Redshank PO
100. Redshank R*C
101. Greenshank PO
102. Green Sandpiper V
103. Common Sandpiper SC
104. Turnstone S**U/WC
105. Grey Phalarope VC
106. Red-necked Phalarope V
107. Pomarine Skua V
108. Arctic Skua SU
109. Great Skua SU
110. Little Gull PO
111. Sabine's Gull V
112. Black-headed Gull R*/C
113. Common Gull RC
114. Lesser black-backed Gull SC/WU
115. Herring Gull RC
116. Glaucous Gull V
117. Iceland Gull PO
118. Great black-backed Gull RC
119. Kittiwake B*/PC
120. Ivory Gull VX
121. Sandwich Tern S**C/PC
122. Roseate Tern B*
123. Common Tern SU
124. Arctic Tern SU
125. Little Tern PO
126. Black Tern V
127. Guillemot R**/C
128. Razorbill R**/U
129. Black Guillemot RC
130. Little Auk PO
131. Puffin PO
132. Pallas's Sandgrouse VX
133. Rock Dove RC
134. Stock Dove O
135. Wood Pigeon RC
136. Collared Dove RC
137. Turtle Dove V
138. Cuckoo SC
139. Barn Owl RC
140. Tawny Owl RU
141. Long-eared Owl RU
142. Short-eared Owl RC
143. Nightjar B*/O
144. Swift S*U/PU
145. Kingfisher R*/U
146. Hoopoe V
147. Great Spotted Woodpecker O
148. Wryneck V
149. Skylark RC
150. Sand Martin SC
151. Swallow SC
152. House Martin SC
153. Tree Pipit SU
154. Meadow Pipit RC
155. Rock Pipit RC
156. Yellow Wagtail B*
157. Grey Wagtail RC
158. Pied Wagtail RC
159. White Wagtail B*/PC
160. Waxwing WO
161. Dipper RC
162. Wren RC
163. Dunnock RC
164. Robin RC
165. Black Redstart PU
166. Redstart SU
167. Whinchat SC
168. Stonechat RC
169. Wheatear SC
170. Ring Ouzel SU
171. Blackbird RC

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

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