



*The Arran
Bird
Report*

*for
2001*

*The Isle of Arran
Natural History Society
2002*

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT 2001

published by

**The Isle of Arran Natural History Society
2002**

Compiled and illustrated by Audrey Walters

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Bird Report 2001

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INTRODUCTION

"Owls are plentiful. Flights of grey gregarious gagging grisogorous geese adorn the silver shining surface of the softly sounding sea" (Edward Lear), an apt quote for Arran!

First of all, we welcomed back Maggie Dunn, founder of the Arran Bird Report, and bird recorder for many years. Maggie returned to live on Arran in March, and we wish her many more happy years of birding here.

It has been a difficult year, and because walking was banned on virtually the whole island except for the villages from March to June, there were far fewer records than usual, especially of breeding birds. Many visitors stayed away, and this too affected the number of records. Summer migrant arrival dates are also provisional. A mute swan census planned for May had to be cancelled because of the restrictions. Then on the 10th May, disaster struck when the biggest fire ever on Arran was started by careless campers at the head of Glen Rosa. It rapidly spread through the centre of Arran, creating a wasteland stretching almost down to the coast. It took the firefighters about three days to bring the fire under control, and many ground nesting birds were badly affected.

The second leg of the Cnoc na Dail footpath was completed, and it is now possible to walk from Lamlash to Brodick off road. If you walk in forestry areas, be prepared to find some paths closed off because of timber extraction.

During January and February, a team of helpers under the supervision of Terry Southall constructed about twenty bird boxes. These were put up in the Merkland Wood area, with the intention of encouraging pied flycatchers to return to where they bred in the 1980s.

Despite the difficulties, it proved to be one of the best ever years for rarities. Both red kite and choughs returned to Arran after an absence of about 150 years! Given the re-introduction of red kites in Dumfries and Galloway, it was only a matter of time before we got a vagrant. Choughs had been sighted in recent years, but this time the record was accepted. Two new species were added, nuthatch and snowy egret! Again, nuthatches had been reported before, but this record was accepted. The snowy egret was the real jewel in the crown, and we had the pleasure of seeing the only one of this species ever to come to Britain. First recorded on Seil Island near Oban in November, it arrived here on the 3rd December, and is still here at the time of writing. A fifth rarity, a rose-coloured starling seen in a flock of starlings at Kildonan on the 10th September, proved more difficult, and a decision by the Scottish Rarities Committee is still awaited. The list of no-shows included red-necked, black-necked and Slavonian grebe, storm petrel, white-fronted goose, tufted duck, long-tailed duck, black grouse, water rail, great skua, little gull, little tern and tawny owl, all of which had been recorded in recent years. The latter is particularly significant, as this is the first time since records began that no tawny owl records have been received.

Many thanks to all those who sent me records, or phoned with information. Thanks are also due to John Rhead who helped prepare this report, and to other birding experts who helped with identification and other matters. As I repeat every year, all I need to know is how many, where, and the date. The latter can be vital for cross-referencing. Lists in Voucher order, i.e. the same order as the checklist at the back of this report, are a great help, tick lists are of no use! Please be aware of the status of Arran birds. I have indicated this for each species in the systematic list, and also in the checklist. Visitors may be surprised to learn that golden eagles are classed as common, and magpies as rare! Breeding records even of garden birds are welcome. Although dunnocks are common, very few people bother to report them. Beware of hybrid mallard which you won't find in your bird book, and

the three geese usually seen with the mute swans - they are also hybrids.

Finally please send your information to: Mrs. Audrey Walters, "Sula", Margnaheglish Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LE, or phone (01770) 600 406 before the end of January 2003.

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

JANUARY started off well, with two male and six female goldeneye at Kings Cross Point, a flock of 12 waxwings at Arranton, and the unusual sight of about 60 lapwings at Clauchlands. Three red-throated divers were seen off the Cock of Arran on the 2nd, while a dead shag on shore proved to have been ringed as a nestling on Sanda Island on the 27th June 2000. A goshawk was seen at the edge of the Monamore Forestry during the first week, and a female merlin turned up at Slidderly on the 3rd. A flock of 16 waxwings feasting on cotoneaster berries in a garden at Ardlui on the 4th made a beautiful sight, and there were a further three at Machrie. There was the unusual sight of a grey wagtail eating cocopops in Whiting Bay on the 5th! A single moorhen was seen at Port na Lochan on the 7th, and a single purple sandpiper on more than one occasion at Kildonan during the first three weeks. More lapwings, this time about 25 at Shiskine on the 11th. A buzzard was watched as it seized a rabbit on Machrie Moor, and there were three pairs of bullfinches at Margnaeglish on the 12th. Plenty of records on the 14th, with the first returning gannet, 45 mute swans with a pair of whooper swans and their fully grown cygnets, and 42 kittiwakes at Whiting Bay, 68 eiders and two pairs of wigeon at Clauchlands, and a further 29 wigeon at Machrie, while a pair of golden eagles with an immature were displaying at the summit of the Laggan path. A flock of about 30 fieldfares was at Cnoc na Dail and an extraordinary 40 coal tits feeding on fallen cones on the forestry path on the 15th, while there were 64 mallard massed at the mouth of the Rosa burn, and 10 long-tailed tits at Corrie. By the 24th, there were six pairs of shelduck between Kildonan and Auchenhew, a further two pairs at Clauchlands, and 350 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley. Also on the 24th, 20 wrens were seen packing into an old house martins nest at Lagg to roost, until it broke with the strain! 25 teal were close inshore at Port na Feannaiche on the 27th. A visit to Lagg reservoir on the 28th produced 72 wigeon and two whooper swans, while there were a further 64 wigeon at Auchenhew, and three male goosanders at Slidderlywaterfoot.

First records for **FEBRUARY** came on the 3rd, with three red grouse at Thunderguy, 16 skylarks at Kildonan, and unusually early, a chaffinch in full song at High Kildonan. A pair of great crested grebes turned up at Clauchlands on the 6th. The first returning lesser black-backed gull was seen in Brodick on the 8th, while there were about 25 teal at the Cleat, 75+ lapwings at High Clachaig, and a single fieldfare with 18 redwings at Clachaig Farm on the same day. The 11th was also a busy day, with five pairs of shelduck at Kildonan, a sparrowhawk taking a collared dove in Lamlash, 86 ringed plovers at Clauchlands, 36 turnstones at Kildonan, and 12 black-headed gulls at Whiting Bay (the highest count for the year). Three overwintering little grebes were seen at Lochranza on the 13th, and three crossbills at High Kildonan on the same day. On the 14th, there was a pair of black-throated divers at Kings Cave and 38 pairs of fulmars were back on their nesting ledges at Drumadoon. On the 17th, there was a group of 14 goldeneye at Torrylinnwaterfoot, and two scarce yellowhammers at High Kildonan. A single ptarmigan was on Am Binnein on the 18th, the only record of the year. Two elusive moorhens were on Machrie pond on the 19th, and last sighting of note for the month was of four golden plovers at Pirnmill on the 28th.

MARCH began with an early passage bar-tailed godwit at Kildonan on the 10th. On the 13th, an unusual arctic skua was seen chasing a kittiwake at Largiemore. The first three goldfinches of the year were at Blackwaterfoot, and a flock of six siskins were at Auchencairn on the 17th. One of a pair of mute swans was found dead under power lines near Port na Lochan on the 18th. On the 19th, a single short-eared owl was seen on the Boguille, and a single rook at Shiskine. Flocks of rooks used to overwinter at Shiskine, but they seem to have deserted the area now. By the 22nd, the whooper swans were trumpeting so loudly at Whiting Bay that people were complaining about the noise! A single yellowhammer was seen at Lagg on the 27th. A straggling line of 106 eiders crossed Lamlash Bay on the 28th, while a pair of goosanders was noted at Torrylinnwaterfoot on the same day. On the 29th, a single barn owl was at the Dougarie nest hole where they bred successfully for

many years, but they appear to have deserted this site now. By the 29th, the first summer migrants had returned, with eight wheatears at Machrie, and they were followed by a chiffchaff in the Whitehouse Woods and a swallow at Arranton on the 31st.

The next summer migrants arrived, with six house martins at Pirnmill on the 2nd **APRIL** and a willow warbler at Dippen on the 5th. Four red-throated divers with an immature, resplendent in their summer plumage, were off Pirnmill on the 6th. The first two Sandwich terns arrived at Blackwaterfoot on the 7th, and the number of purple sandpipers at Kildonan had risen to four by the 8th. Between 18 and 20 common scoters were seen from the Ardrrossan/Brodick ferry, while a very late waxwing was at Arranton on the 9th, and presumably the same bird again in the Whitehouse Woods on the 10th. A rather bewildered red-legged partridge was lurking behind a shop at Lamlash Pier on the 12th, the only sighting of the year despite the number of releases. The last of the goldeneyes, a male and two females were seen at Pirnmill on the 13th. A fall of white wagtails, two at Dippen and three at Kildonan on the 15th was followed by about 14 sand martins at Sannox quarry on the 16th. Across the road on the same day there was the unusual sight of a blackbird, a song thrush, a redwing and a mistle thrush in the same field - only a fieldfare was missing! Also on the 16th the first four linnets of the year and a flock of 12 twite were recorded at Blackwaterfoot. The month ended with another batch of summer migrants, a common sandpiper at Pirnmill on the 23rd, a sedge warbler at Kildonan on the 28th, and a whimbrel at Largiemore on the 29th, with two more at Kildonan on the 30th.

First of the **MAY** migrants to arrive was a whinchat at Glen Rosa on the 2nd, followed by a tree pipit, also in Glen Rosa, and a whitethroat at Sandbraes on the 4th. On the 5th, a nuthatch came to a bird feeder at Auchencairn, and this time the record was accepted, a new addition to the Arran checklist. A grasshopper warbler was reeling at Machrie Moor on the 6th, while five whimbrels on passage at Kildonan and eight redpolls were at High Kildonan on the 7th. The first arctic tern

was seen at Machriewaterfoot on the 8th, and the Clauchlands shelducks appeared with their 10 young, nine of which survived. Two other pairs in the same area had lost all their young by the end of the month. 12 golden plovers were at Pirnmill on the 9th. The first passage swift overflowed Dippen on the 10th, and a garden warbler arrived at Pirnmill on the same day. On the 11th, the firefighters struggling to contain the fire which was still sweeping over central Arran reported seeing a short-eared owl flying from its nest which had one dead young and four eggs. A scarce common tern was reported at Machriewaterfoot, while there were 10 red-throated divers in the same area on the 12th. Also on the 12th there was a battle royal at Clauchlands when two female mallards with nine young each crossed paths, the ducklings milling around in panic while the females fought. The 13th saw the arrival of four wood warblers at Glenashdale, and the first group of more than 100 Manx shearwaters was seen from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry. A pair of great northern divers were in courtship display at Pirnmill on the 14th. About 12 passage sanderlings turned up at Blackwaterfoot on the 18th, and a spotted flycatcher arrived at Pirnmill on the 21st. Three groups of up to five puffins were seen from the ferry on the 26th, and by the 28th, the northern pair of golden eagles were seen feeding their young.

Plenty of families around in **JUNE**, and a female eider with 10 young at Largiemore on the 3rd was just one example. A common sandpiper was sitting on three eggs on the Glen Rosa path on the 6th, slipping quietly to the side as a group of walkers passed by. By the end of the first week, a pair of sparrowhawks in the Machrie Forestry had two young, and a pair of scarce redstarts were feeding their young near Sannox cemetery. Nine young cygnets were seen with their parents at Auchencar on the 10th, and five at Clauchlands on the 14th. Five young barn owls successfully fledged at the Ross road on the 16th, and at least two more at other sites. Also on the 16th there were a minimum 19 young sand martins in their nest holes at Sannox quarry. The last summer migrant to arrive was a rare lesser whitethroat at Auchenhew on the 17th. A visit to Pladda on the 22nd found the island almost

covered with nesting gulls, with 30 pairs of common gulls, 200 pairs of herring gulls, 10 pairs of great black-backed, and 50 pairs of lesser black-backed. More importantly, there were also 14 pairs of nesting arctic terns. Lastly, a kestrel which had infringed a peregrine's airspace at Dunfion on the 23rd was rapidly shown the error of its ways!

An important record on the 5th **JULY**, with 4 to 5 choughs overflying Lochranza Bay. Previous records were discounted, but this one was accepted, the first for about 150 years! On the 7th, a group of 23 swifts was seen at High Kildonan, one of the largest groups ever recorded here. A kestrel at Cleiteadh Buidhe on the 9th was with three youngsters practising their take-offs and landings on the cliff face, while a pair of reed buntings turned up at Corriecravie pond. The 14th was a busy day, with about 30 ravens over the Windmill ridge, two juvenile whinchats at Machrie Farm, a pair of arctic terns feeding a chick at Dougarie, and a short-eared owl attacking a juvenile kestrel which was crouched on a fence post on the Machrie Moor road. Two pairs of long-eared owls with young were both heard and seen in the Machrie Moor area, while a grasshopper warbler was reeling at dusk near the Lakin Farm on the 16th. On the 19th, a returning Sandwich tern with a juvenile was at Whiting Bay, while there were seven redpolls at Largiemeanoch. The only kingfisher of the year flashed past a fisherman on the Slidderwater on the 22nd. The first three red-breasted mergansers were recorded at Whiting Bay on the 23rd. A young cuckoo was being fed by a hapless meadow pipit on the Machrie Moor road on the 26th, while nine red-throated divers including two juveniles were seen on the Kilbrannan Sound.

A welcome breeding record of a pair of goldcrests feeding four young at Glencloy on the 4th **AUGUST**, and a juvenile redstart was seen at Drumadoon. Three peregrines were wheeling over Glenshant on the 5th, while there was a flock of 20 mistle thrushes at Machrie. Three dark form buzzards were seen at Kilpatrick Farm, and three adult and five juvenile grey wagtails were at Clauchlands on the 8th. The numbers of Manx shearwaters increased, with about 80 in the

Kilbrannan Sound, about 30 at Drumadoon, and about 600 along with 600 kittiwakes at Largiebeg. Six Sandwich terns returned to Clauchlands on the 12th. Flocks of swallows and house martins were beginning to gather, with about 100 of the former on telegraph wires at Pirmill on the 14th, and about 100 of the latter at Kildonan on the 17th. There was a big group of 51 mergansers as well as 95 curlews at Kilpatrick on the 20th. 20 wheatears were counted between Kilmory and the Cleat on the 26th. A visit to Port na Feannaiche on the 27th produced 10 stonechats including juveniles, a pair of reed buntings, and a single teal with 62 mallards. Last record of the month was of a passage greenshank at Machrie on the 31st.

Winter arrivals and summer departures were the main theme for **SEPTEMBER**. Two more bar-tailed godwits on passage were recorded at Torrylinnwaterfoot on the 3rd. Kilmory shore proved to be one of the best sites for passage birds, with a sanderling on the 6th, and five knots and a pure white wagtail with a darker back - leucistic pied or white - on the 11th. Four returning wigeon arrived at Sliderrywaterfoot on the 7th. A female merlin was glimpsed on the Machrie Moor road on the 9th. Another rarity was reported at Kildonan on the 10th - a rose-coloured starlings in a flock of starlings. The news didn't reach me till two days later, and although two experienced birders were despatched to the area, they failed to find any unusual starlings. The record is currently being considered by the Scottish Rarities Committee. Flocks of finches were building up, with approximately 50 goldfinches with 50 linnets at the Cleat on the 11th, while the last whitethroat was at Shiskine Golf Course, and the last common sandpiper at Lamlash. A single great crested grebe turned up at Sandbraes on the 21st and remained in the Whiting Bay area until the end of the year. Other records for the 21st included a golden eagle being mobbed by three hooded crows at Lochranza, a group of 30 sanderlings and 25 turnstones at Machrie, and two greenshanks and a flock of 25 long-tailed tits at Sandbraes. The 23rd was a good day at the Cleat, with a first year male black redstart, a passage Greenland race wheatear, and a flock of 50 linnets. News came of a possible

passage osprey at Lamlash Golf Course on the 24th. A flock of about 50 siskins was recorded at Dougarie on the 25th.

A good start to **OCTOBER**, with eight brent geese and two female common scoters at Whiting Bay on the 1st. Unusually, between 4 to 5 puffins were seen again from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry on the 3rd. Another good day at the Cleat on the 4th, with two groups totalling 13 barnacle geese, a flock of 20 skylarks flying east, four Greenland race wheatears and about 250 linnets and a single twite. A single whimbrel turned up at Auchenhew on the 5th, as well as two white wagtails. On the 7th, 17 whooper swans were feeding in the Shiskine Valley, while on the 9th, a pair of snipe at Port na Feannaiche rose from almost under my feet and zig-zagged away at high speed! Two returning redwings arrived on the 8th at High Kildonan, with about 10 fieldfares at Corrie a day later. 30 golden plovers were grouped at Machriewaterfoot on the 13th, and a further incoming two groups totalling 95 redwings arrived at High Kildonan on the 14th. The 21st was a good day for raptors at North Newton, with pairs of kestrels, peregrines and buzzards, while a flock of 21 crossbills was seen at High Kildonan. A single snow bunting was recorded at Imachar on the 24th. The first returning nine greylag geese arrived back at Kilmory on the 28th, a bit later than usual, while two merlins, one of which took a meadow pipit, were also seen at Kilmory on the same day.

Machrie pond was a busy place on the 3rd **NOVEMBER**, with a pair of mute swans with their fully grown five cygnets, a moorhen, and more unusually a little grebe. 7 whooper swans returned to join the mutes at Whiting Bay. The last swallow was seen at Lamlash on the 9th, and the last house martin, also in Lamlash a day later. The 10th was also a red letter day, when a wing-tagged red kite was seen at the Roddin after an absence of about 150 years. This one was most probably one of the releases from Dumfries and Galloway. A female merlin turned up at Bennecarrigan on the 11th. A male goosander was seen at Arranton on the 15th, and nine wigeon were back at Kildonan on the 16th. The first returning male and two female goldeneyes were

at Imachar on the 18th, while there were still 20 golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot, and up to 200 kittiwakes at Pirmill. A single shelduck was back at Carlo on the 19th. Eight twite were noted at Pirmill on the 20th, and last sighting of note for the month was of a single snow bunting on the Ross road on the 28th.

On the 3rd **DECEMBER**, news came in of the fifth rarity this year, perhaps the most extraordinary ever for Arran! On a very windy pouring wet day, John Rhead got a phonecall to say that a small white heron with yellowish legs had flown over Market road at Brodick Pier. Later it was reported standing outside the Co-op! It was of course the famous snowy egret, an American species and the only one ever recorded in Britain, which had been on Seil Island near Oban during November. It disappeared over the Christmas period, and we know now that it was in the Ardrossan area. However, it returned here in mid January, and it is still here at the time of writing.

By the 4th, the number of purple sandpipers at Kildonan had increased to 13, the largest number ever recorded on Arran. A single goldfinch was at Pirmill on the 8th, an unusual winter record. A pair of red grouse was noted on the lower slopes of Goatfell on the 15th. Four linnets at Clauchlands on the 16th was also an unusual winter record. A bar-tailed godwit first recorded at Blackwaterfoot on the 12th September was still there on the 17th December. A Christmas Day walk in Benlister produced 12 long-tailed tits and a single treecreeper. On Boxing Day there were about 20 rooks at Corriecravie, where they are now overwintering regularly. 12 red-throated divers were seen off Pirmill on the 29th, and by the 31st there were 39 mute swans and 3 whoopers at their feeding station in Whiting Bay.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES (provisional)

Lesser black-backed gull 8 Feb
Wheatear 29 Mar
Chiffchaff 31 Mar
Swallow 31 Mar
House Martin 2 Apr
Willow Warbler 5 Apr
Sandwich Tern 7 Apr
Cuckoo 10 Apr
White Wagtail 15 Apr
Sand Martin 16 Apr
Common Sandpiper 23 Apr
Sedge Warbler 28 Apr
Whinchat 2 May
Tree Pipit 4 May
Grasshopper Warbler 6 May
Arctic Tern 8 May
Swift 10 May
Garden Warbler 10 May
Whitethroat 11 May
Common Tern 12 May
Manx Shearwater 13 May
Wood Warbler 13 May
Spotted Flycatcher 21 May
Lesser Whitethroat 17 Jun
(NB Blackcap and Whimbrel sometimes overwinter)

ABBREVIATIONS

sp = species

no/nos = number/numbers

m = male

f = female

yng = young

juv = juvenile

imm = immature

max = maximum

min = minimum

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

rd = road

BCP = Brodick Country Park

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated diver

Common resident breeder. Breeding: no records, but probably bred on inland lochans. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 12 Whiting Bay 29 Dec.

Black-throated diver

Fairly common passage visitor. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 5 Imachar/Dougarie 11 Apr and 5 Whiting Bay 20 Nov.

Great Northern Diver

Fairly common passage visitor, with majority of sightings in May. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 5 Pirnmill 23 Apr. Pr courting Pirnmill 14 May.

Little Grebe

Uncommon winter visitor. 1 Rosa burn 9 Jan; 3 Lochranza 13 Feb; 1 Machrie pond 3 Nov and 2 Dec.

Great Crested Grebe

Rare winter visitor. 2 Clauchlands 6 Feb; 1 Sandbraes 21 Sep, still present Whiting Bay area end of Dec.

Fulmar

Common round the coast Feb/Aug. Breeding: nesting colonies at Drumadoon, King's Cave, Cleiteadh Buidhe, Dippen, Catacol and Holy Isle; pr with 1 yng Drumadoon 28 Jul; adult with 1 yng Kilmory 11 Aug; 2 nests with 1 yng each Cleiteadh Buidhe 16 Aug. Max 38 prs Drumadoon 14 Feb.

Manx Shearwater

Abundant passage visitor summer/autumn. Highest nos May/Sep, starting with 100+ Ardrossan/Brodick 13 May, with max 1000+ Whiting Bay 26 Aug. Last sighting 5 singles and group of 40+ Brodick/Ardrossan 15 Sep.

Gannet

Common round the coast Jan/Oct. Return 1 Kildonan 14 Jan, with max 60+ Machrie/Dougarie 26 May. 1 found dead Cleiteadh Buidhe 14 Jul. Last 1 Pirnmill 20 Oct.

Cormorant

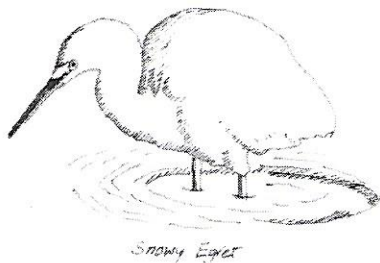
Fairly common non-breeding resident. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 29 Hamilton Rock 8 Oct.

Shag

Common resident breeder. Breeding: sites unable to be checked because of foot and mouth restrictions. Seen round the coast all yr, with max c100 Largiemore 14 Apr. 1 found dead Cock of Arran 2 Jan was ringed as a nestling on Sanda Island 27 Jun 2000.

Snowy Egret

First seen Brodick 3 Dec, subsequently confirmed as same bird present at Seil Island nr Oban during Nov. Last seen at Clauchlands 18 Dec. First (and possibly only ever) record for Arran.



Grey Heron

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Lagg Wood 28 Mar; no reports from other heronries. Present all yr round the coast (no inland records) with max 7 White House Woods 10 Apr. 1 found dead Millhill bridge, Lamlash 12 Jan.

Mute Swan

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs nested Clauchlands, 1 pr Fish Fm, and 1 pr Machriewaterfoot. Clauchlands pr with 5 cygnets 14 Jun, other pr failed; Fish Fm pr with 6 cygnets 20 Jul; Machriewaterfoot pr with 10 cygnets 13 Aug. Max 39 incl incomers Whiting Bay feeding station 31 Dec. 1 of pr at Port na Lochan found dead under power lines 18 Mar.

Whooper Swan

Fairly common passage and winter visitor. Pr with 3 juvs with mute swans Whiting Bay 14 Jan; 2 Lagg reservoir 28 Jan; 3 overflying Kilmory with 3 barnacle geese 11 Oct; 7 Whiting Bay 3 Nov. Max 17 Shiskine Valley 7 Oct.

Greylag Goose

Common winter visitor. 7 Clauchlands 9 Jan; skein of 50 Blackwaterfoot, 12 Machriewaterfoot 18 Jan; 350 Shiskine Valley 24 Jan, reduced to 150 16 Apr. Return 9 Kilmory 28 Oct; 10 Shiskine Valley 30 Oct, inc to 300 9 Dec.

Barnacle Goose

Scarce winter visitor. 2 groups of 6 and 7 Cleat 4 Oct; 3 overflying Kilmory with 3 whooper swans 11 Oct; 3 Kildonan 14 Oct.

Brent Goose

Rare winter visitor. 8 Whiting Bay 1 Oct (B.Brock) was only record.

Shelduck

Common resident breeder, but absent Aug/Nov. Breeding: pr with 10 yng Clauchlands 8 May, 9 survived; 2nd pr with c10 yng Clauchlands 19 May, all predated by end May; 3rd pr with 2 yng Clauchlands again all predated by end May; pr with 6 yng Fish Fm 20 May. Max 6 prs Kildonan/Auchenhew 21 Jan. Return 1 Carlo 19 Nov.

Wigeon

Common winter visitor. 2 prs Clauchlands 14 Jan, reduced to 2m 2 Feb; 64 Auchenhew 28 Jan; return 4 Slidderlywaterfoot 7 Sep; 2 groups of 7 and 3 Cleat 6 Oct; 8 Machriewaterfoot 13 Oct; 3 Clauchlands 4 Nov; 9 Kildonan 16 Nov; 1m Clauchlands 10 Dec (not seen again). Max 72 Lagg reservoir 28 Jan.

Teal

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder. 4 Machriewaterfoot 28 Feb; single f with 62 mallard Port na Feannaiche 27 Aug was unusual. Max c25 Port na Feannaiche 27 Jan and 25 Cleat 8 Feb.

Mallard

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 2 yng Machrie pond 26 Apr; f with 4 yng Whiting Bay 30 Apr; f with 6 yng Brodick 8 May; 2f, each with 9 yng Clauchlands 12 May; f with 6 yng Lochranza 25 May. Inland records incl m Loch Thomson 29 Apr and m Loch na Leirg 5 May. Max 62 Port na Feannaiche 27 Apr.

Eider

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f sitting on 3 eggs Catacol 9 May; family groups at Largiemore, Clauchlands, Pirnmill, Whiting Bay and Cleat during May/Jun incl a total of 32 yng. Max 106 Lamlash Bay 28 Mar.

Common Scoter

Scarce winter visitor. 15-20 Brodick/Ardrossan 9 Apr; 2f Whiting Bay 1 Oct; 2 Cleat 6 Oct.

Goldeneye

Common winter visitor. Up to 3 round the coast Jan/Apr. Return m + 2f Imachar 18 Nov (late). Max 14 Torrylinnwaterfoot 17 Feb and 14 Brodick Bay 12 Mar. Inland records incl 1f Urie Loch 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser

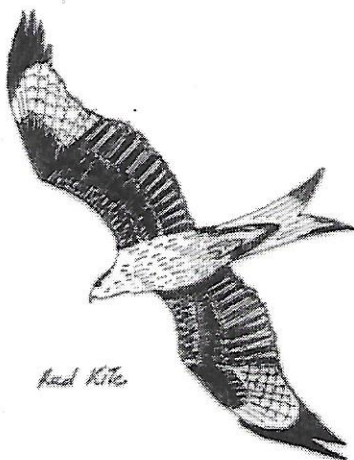
Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Glen Rosa 12 May; f with 3 yng Machrie 23 Jun; f with 3 yng Whiting Bay 23 Jul; f with 4 juvs Pirmill 26 Jul; f with 2 yng Machriewaterfoot 4 Aug. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 56 Machriewaterfoot 14 Jul.

Goosander

Scarce resident. No breeding records. 3m Sliderywaterfoot 28 Jan; pr Torrylinnwaterfoot 28 Mar; m Blackwaterfoot 22 Apr; m Machrie 19 May; f Torrylinnwater end Jul; m Arranton 15 Nov.

Red Kite

Very rare vagrant. 1 Roddin 10 Nov, wing-tagged, first record for Arran since the mid 1800s.



Hen Harrier

Common resident breeder. Bred successfully in several locations. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly in the Boguille and Machrie Moor areas.

Goshawk

Rare resident. No breeding records. 1 nr edge of Monamore Forestry 1st wk Jan; f Kildonan 31 Mar.

Sparrowhawk

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 2 yng Machrie Moor Forestry 1st wk Jun. Singles seen all yr at Brodick, Lamblash, Whiting Bay, Pirnmill, Bailiemargaidh and Glenloig.

Buzzard

Common resident breeder. No breeding records, but must have bred successfully at several locations. Singles and prs all yr, mainly on the String rd, Boguille, and Ross rd. Max 9 singles and prs Ross rd 29 Aug.

Golden Eagle

Common resident breeder. Breeding: N and S prs bred successfully. Seen all yr mainly in Boguille, Lochranza, Catacol and Glen Rosa areas.

Osprey

1 possible Lamblash Golf Course 24 Sep (per T. Butcher).

Kestrel

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nested Clauchlands, success unknown; adult with 3 juvs Cleiteadh Buidhe 9 Jul; Adult with 2 juvs Machrie Moor rd 9 Jul. Widespread all yr, with max 5 Auchencar 14 Aug.

Merlin

Scarce resident. No recent breeding records. f Slidderly 3 Jan; f Machrie Moor rd 9 Sep; f Catacol 29 Sep; f Cleat 4 Oct; 2 Kilmory 28 Oct; f Bennecarrigan 11 Nov.

Peregrine

Common resident breeder. Breeding: min 3 prs bred. Seen all yr mainly at the N end, also at Blackwaterfoot, Cleat, Machrie and Lagg.

Red Grouse

Common resident breeder. Breeding nos were low, and no large coveys seen. 1 Urie Loch 27 May; 1 Machrie Moor 13 Jun; pr Beinn Tarsuinn 8 Sep; 1 Coire Chatan 8 Sep; pr lower Goatfell 15 Dec. Max 3 Thunderguy 3 Feb.

Ptarmigan

Scarce resident breeder. Poor yr, with only 1 record of 1 Am Beinnen 18 Feb (K.Sampson).

Red-legged Partridge

Introduced resident breeder. No breeding records and fewer released. 1 record only of 1 behind a shop at Lamlash pier 12 Apr!

Pheasant

Introduced resident breeder. Breeding: f with 2 yng junction of Brodick/String rd 30 May. Many coming to gardens to feed, with max 5 singles King's Cross 4 Jan.

Moorhen

Scarce resident breeder. Singles seen at Port na Lochan, Machrie pond and 1 possible Corriecravie pond all yr.

Oystercatcher

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 3 eggs and yng of varying sizes Machrie/Dougarie 27 May; adult with 2 yng, nest with 3 eggs and nesting pr Clauchlands 4 Jun. By far our commonest wader, with max 280 Machriewaterfoot 26 Feb.

Ringed Plover

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Pirnmill 14 May; pr with 1 yng Machriewaterfoot 17 Jun; pr nesting Pladda 22 Jun; 20 incl juvs Machriewaterfoot 4 Aug; pr with 3 yng Machrie 1st wk Aug. Common round the coast all yr, with max 150+ Machrie 21 Sep.

Golden Plover

Uncommon resident breeder, fairly common passage winter visitor. No breeding records. 4 Pirnmill 28 Feb; 2 Lenimore 23 Mar, rising to 12 9 May; 3 Kilmory shore 6 Sep. Max 30 Machriewaterfoot 13 Oct.

Lapwing

Uncommon resident breeder, common winter visitor. No breeding records. Winter flocks incl c60 Clauchlands 1 Jan; c50 Roddin 4 Jan; 9 Tormore 12 Jan; 40 Sliderry 16 Jan; 68 Sliderrywaterfoot 20 Jan; 6+ Corriegills 26 Feb. Max 75+ High Clachaig 8 Feb. Spring sightings incl 1 Kildonan 5 May; 3 nr Kilmory 10 May; 3 Kilpatrick Fm 26 May. 3 Clauchlands 8 Oct was only autumn record.

Knot

Scarce passage visitor, mainly Aug/Sep. 1 Kildonan 8 Sep, inc to 3 19 Sep. Max 5 Kilmory shore 11 Sep.

Sanderling

Scarce passage visitor in spring and autumn. c12 Blackwaterfoot 18 May; 1 Kilmory shore 6-9 Sep; 1 Blackwaterfoot 12 Sep. Max 30 Machrie 21 Sep, largest no ever recorded.

Purple Sandpiper

Scarce winter visitor. 1 Kildonan Jan/Feb; 1 Drumadoon Pt 12 Feb; 2 Kildonan 13 Mar, inc to 4 8 Apr. Max 13 Kildonan 4 Dec, largest ever no recorded.

Little Stint

1 Machrie mid-Aug (J.Rhead) was only record.

Dunlin

Fairly common resident. No breeding records. Singles and prs Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan, Kilmory, Whiting Bay and Clauchlands all yr, with max 12 Machrie 12 and 28 May. 2 Clauchlands 8 Oct was unusual.

Snipe

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 Blackwaterfoot 10 Jan; 1 Port na Feannaiche 27 Jan; 2 Machrie 11 Apr; 1 Glen Sannox 28 May; 1 String summit 30 May; 2 Port na Feannaiche 9 Oct; 1 Clauchlands 16 Dec.

Woodcock

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Singles and prs at Slidderwaterfoot, Corrie, N Sannox, Boguille, Merkland Wood, King's Cross, Glenloig, Cnoc na Dail, Whitefarland, Blackwaterfoot, Benlister and Lamlash Golf Course all yr. Max 4 Machrie 9 Aug.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Kildonan 10 Mar; 2 Torrylinnwaterfoot 3 Sep; 2 Kilmory shore 6 Sep; 1 Cleat 11 Sep; 1 Blackwaterfoot mid Sep and again 17 Dec.

Whimbrel

Fairly common passage visitor, has been known to overwinter. 1 Largiemore 29 Apr; 2 Kildonan 30 Apr; 5 Kildonan 7 May; 1 Machrie 8 Aug; 1 Kildonan 8/9 Sep; 2 Whiting Bay 11 Sep; 1 Auchencar 22 Sep; 1 Auchenhew 5 Oct. Max 7 overflying Drumadoon 1 May.

Curlew

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 1-2 prs nesting Pirmill Apr. Groups of up to 85 seen round the coast all yr, with max 95 Port na Feannaiche 27 Jan, and c95 Kilpatrick 20 Aug. Inland records incl 2 Bennecarrigan 11 May and 22 Shiskine Valley 13 Nov.

Redshank

Common resident, formerly bred. Seen round the coast Jan/Apr and Aug/Dec, with max 30 Whiting Bay 22 Sep.

Greenshank

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Machrie 31 Aug; 2 Sandbraes 21 Sep.

Common Sandpiper

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: pr with 2 yng Kerr's Port 4 Jun; f sitting on 3 eggs Glen Rosa path 6 Jun; f sitting on 4 eggs Auchenhew 17 Jun; pr with 3 juvs Cleat 23 Jul. Arr 1 Pirmill 23 Apr, widespread round the coast by May. Max 8 Fallen Rocks path 5 May. Last 1 Lamblash 11 Sep.

Turnstone

Common resident. No breeding records. Groups of up to 20 seen round the coast Jan/Apr and Aug/Dec, with max 37 Whiting Bay 31 Dec.

Arctic Skua

Scarce passage visitor. 2 Largiemore 13 Mar (M.Giles) was only record.

Black-headed Gull

Fairly common resident, formerly bred. Groups of up to 11 seen round the coast Feb/May and Aug/Nov, with max 12 Whiting Bay 11 Feb.

Common Gull

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 on nests Drumadoon 10 May; c10 prs nesting Auchencar/Dougarie 10 Jun; 30 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun; 10 prs nesting King's Cave 23 Jun. Most nests failed due to adverse weather conditions. Groups of up to 70+ round the coast all yr, with max 200+ Pirnmill 30 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 50 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun. Return 1 Brodick 8 Feb. Groups of up to 15 seen round the coast Feb/Sep, with max 40 Machrie 29 Mar. Inland records incl c15 nr Balmichael 10 May. Last 1 Whiting Bay 9 Sep.

Herring Gull

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: 200 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun. Groups of up to 250 round the coast all yr, with max c300 Kildonan 8 Sep.

Great Black-backed Gull

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 10 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun. Groups of up to 20 round the coast all yr. Max 28 Cordon 1 Jan, Machriewaterfoot 18 Jan and Kildonan 8 Sep.

Kittiwake

Common passage migrant. 42 Whiting Bay 14 Jan; 1 Ardrossan/Brodick 7 May; 2 Pirnmill 6 May; 1 Glenashdalewaterfoot 1 Aug, inc to max 2000 flying S Whiting Bay 11 Oct. Autumn records incl 54 Dougarie 20 Sep; 3 adults with 1 juv Pirnmill 3 Oct; c40 Machriewaterfoot 13 Oct.

Sandwich Tern

Uncommon passage visitor. Arr pr Blackwaterfoot 7 Apr. Up to 4 seen at Kildonan, Machrie, Drumadoon Pt, Pirnmill and Largiemore Apr/Jun. Adult with 1 juv Whiting Bay 19 Jul; pr with 1 juv Clauchlands 26 Jul; adult with juv Machrie 9 Aug. Max 6 Clauchlands 12 Aug, last 2 Whiting Bay 2 Sep.

Common Tern

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Machriewaterfoot 12 May (Dr.J. & A.Cassels); 1 "comic" flying S Pirnmill 19 May.

Arctic Tern

Uncommon migrant breeder. Breeding: pr at nest with 2 eggs Auchencar/Dougarie 26 May, nest gone by 28 May; f on new nest same location 10 Jun; pr with nest with 2 eggs Dougarie 16 Jun, still sitting 30 Jun; 14 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun; adult feeding 1 yng Dougarie 4 Jul. Arr 1 Kildonan 8 May, last sighting pr and adult feeding 1 yng Dougarie 14 Jul.

Guillemot

Common passage visitor. Seen mainly in the Kilbrannan Sound and from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry Apr/Dec, with max small groups totalling 35 Ardrossan/Brodick 4 May. Other sightings incl 3 Pirnmill 26 Apr; 2 Fallen Rocks 5 May; 2 Holy Isle 18 May; 10+ Pirnmill 18 Oct; 9 Lamlash 4 Nov.

Razorbill

Uncommon passage visitor, again seen mainly in the Kilbrannan Sound and from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry Apr/Jun, with max 3 groups of 4-5 Ardrossan/Brodick 26 May.

Black Guillemot

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting under Brodick pier 15 May; pr nesting nr Pirnmill 18 May; up to 6 prs nesting King's Cave 14 Jun. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 39 King's Cave 23 Jul.

Puffin

Rare passage visitor. 3 groups of up to 5 Ardrossan/Brodick 26 May; 4/5 Ardrossan/Brodick 3 Oct.

Rock Dove

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. 3 King's Cave 14 Feb; c20 Cleiteadh Buidhe 8 Mar; 6 Kilpatrick 20 Aug; 21 Torr nan Uain 5 Oct; 6 Pirnmill 9 Dec. Max c30 Torr nan Uain 17 Jan.

Wood Pigeon

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Seen all yr, mainly on farmland, with 2 King's Cross 29 Apr; 6 Glen Sannox 4 May; 2 Fallen Rocks 5 May; 3 Glen Eason Biorach 8 May; c20 flying E Pirnmill 14 Nov. Max 53 Clauchlands Fm 17 Aug.

Collared Dove

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Corrie 31 May. Up to 3 at Clauchlands, Sannox, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie and Torbeg Apr/Sep, with max 20 Whiting Bay 21 Sep.

Cuckoo

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: juv being fed by meadow pipit Machrie Moor rd 26 Jul. Arr 1 Shiskine 10 Apr, widespread by May. Pr displaying Machrie 6 May. Max 4 calling Glen Sannox 28 May.

Barn Owl

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 4 yng successfully fledged Ross rd 16 Jun; min 3 yng fledged at other locations; pr at Dougarie appear to have abandoned nest hole after having bred there since records began. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly at King's Cave Car Park, String summit, Pirnmill, Machrie, Torbeg, Boguille and Lamlash.

Tawny Owl

Rare resident. No breeding records. No records for the first time since records began.

Long-eared Owl

Uncommon resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs bred in the Machrie Moor area, 1 pr successfully fledged 2 yng. No other records.

Short-eared Owl

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult flying from nest with 4 eggs and 1 dead yng after fire in central Arran 11 May; pr with 3 yng Machrie Moor mid May. Seen mainly in the Machrie Moor and Boguille areas Mar/Sep. Other sightings incl 1 Monamore Glen 11 May and 1 Auchencar 14 Aug.

Swift

Fairly common passage migrant. Arr 1 Dippen 10 May; 4 Dippen 15 Jun; 2 Bailiemargaidh 23 Jun; 2 Blackwaterfoot 26 Jun; 6 Dippen 4 Jul; 6 The Heights 27 Jul. Max 32 High Kildonan 7 Jul, highest number ever recorded.

Kingfisher

Rare winter visitor, formerly bred. 1 Sliderrywater 22 Jul (K.Hesp) was only record. No reports from Rosa burn where usual.

Skylark

Common resident breeder and winter visitor. No breeding records. 16 High Kildonan 3 Feb; singles holding territory at Corriecravie, Pirmill, Machrie Fm, Machrie Golf Course, Bailemargaidh, Kilmory, Shiskine Golf Course, Largiebeg and Bennecarrigan Mar/Sep. Max 20 flying E Cleat 4 Oct.

Sand Martin

Fairly common migrant breeder. Breeding: c5 at river bank nest holes Glen Scorrodale/Glenree 26 May; min 19 yng in nest holes Sannox quarry 16 Jun; nesting colonies also at Auchencar and Strabane gravel pit, success not known. Arr c14 Sannox quarry 16 Apr. Other records incl 4 Machrie pond 12 May; 1 Kilpatrick 16 Jun; 1 Sliderrywaterfoot 23 Jul. Max 20+ Sannox quarry 8 May.

Swallow

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 broods totalling 15 yng Largiebeg; 2 broods totalling 8 yng Auchencairn; 4 nests National Trust Centre 8 May; 3 nests Rangers Centre, BCP 3 Jun; 3 nests, 1 with 3 yng in shelter hut, Shiskine Golf Course 11 Sep. Arr 1 Arranton 31 Mar, widespread by Apr. Last 1 Lamlash 9 Nov. Max c100 on telegraph wires Pirnmill 14 Aug and c100 Torrylinn 21 Sep.

House Martin

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 20 nests Lagg; 6 nests Whiting Bay; 2 nests Kiscadale; 13 nests Corriecravie; pr with 2 yng Pirnmill 31 Jul; 3 nests Lamlash, each with 2 yng 2 Aug; nest Corrie 5 Aug. Arr 6 Port na Lochan 2 Apr, and max c100 Kildonan 17 Aug. Last 1 Lamlash 10 Nov.

Tree Pipit

Uncommon migrant breeder. Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Glen Sannox 13 May; nest with 4 eggs lower Castles ridge 26 May; adult carrying food to nest Merkland Wood 17 Jun; 3 juvs BCP 18 Aug. Arr 1 Glen Rosa 4 May. Other sightings incl 1 Goatfell path 5 May and 1 Lochranza 21 May.

Meadow Pipit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding juv Clauchlands Pt 17 Aug. Up to 20 seen Mar/Nov at Machrie Golf Course, Boguille, Glen Sannox, Glen Rosa, Gleann Easan Biorach, Kildonan and Blackwaterfoot. Higher nos incl c40 Clauchlands 22 Apr, with max 40/50 Whitefarland 4 Sep.

Rock Pipit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Kildonan 28 Apr; adult feeding 1 juv Clauchlands Pt 15 Jul; adult carrying food Pirnmill 16 Jul. Common round the coast Feb/Oct, with max 50 Kildonan 24 Sep.

Grey Wagtail

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: adult carrying food Machrie bridge 15 May; pr with 3 yng Glenashdale 1 Jun; 3 adults 5 juvs Clauchlands 8 Aug; pr with 2 yng Whiting Bay 9 Aug. Singles and prs seen at Blackwaterfoot, Pirnmill, Corrie, Lagg, Lochranza, Achavoulin burn, Bailiemargaidh, Glenscorrodale and Kildonan all yr. Max 6 Sliderywaterfoot 14 Sep.

Pied Wagtail

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 3 yng BCP bus shelter 3 Jun; pr with 3 yng Lamlash 13 Jun; pr nesting Kildonan/Dippen 18 Jun; adult with 2 yng Pirnmill 1 Jul; pr with 1 yng Whiting Bay. Widespread all yr, with max 50+ Kilmory shore 10 Sep. Leucistic bird, all white with darker back (or leucistic white wagtail?) Kilmory shore 11 Sep.

White Wagtail

Fairly common passage visitor. Arr 2 Dippen, 3 Kildonan 15 Apr. Seen mainly at Kildonan and Blackwaterfoot Apr/Oct, with max 18 Kildonan 29 Apr. Other sightings incl 1 Machrie 20 Sep and 2 Auchenhew 5 Oct.

Waxwing

Uncommon winter visitor. Good yr, with c12 Arranton 1 Jan; 3 Machrie 4 Jan; 1 Blackwaterfoot 6/8 Jan; 4 Pirnmill 9 Jan; 3 Whiting Bay 10 Jan; c6 Brodick 12 Jan; 1 Arranton 9 Apr, presumably same bird White House Woods 10 Apr was unusual. Max 16 King's Cross 4 Jan.

Dipper

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nested Arranton and Benlister Falls, success unknown; pr feeding yng Glen Cloy 5 May; adult carrying food N Sannox bridge 6 May; adult with juv upper N Glen Sannox 28 Jul. Singles and prs seen all yr at Rosa burn, Slidderwaterfoot, Lochranza, Whiting Bay, Machriewater and Corrie. Ringed bird Glenashdalewaterfoot 8 Apr.

Wren

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult carrying nesting material Margnaheglis 6 Mar; nest with yng lower slopes of Suidhe Fheargus 26 May; adult feeding 4 yng Whitehouse Woods 19 Jun. Common all yr from the seashore to the mountains, with max 3 Merkland Wood 3 May.

Dunnock

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Pirmill Apr; adult carrying food Whiting Bay 9 Aug. Few records, but widespread all yr, with max 4 Blackwaterfoot 4 Jan.

Robin

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: adult carrying food Auchencar 11 May; pr with 1 yng Pirmill 20 Jun; 2 families with 2 yng each Pirmill 28 Jun; adult with juv King's Cave 10 Aug. Very common all yr, with max 5 Sandbraes 21 Sep.

Black Redstart

Scarce passage visitor. 1st yr m Cleat 23 Sep (T.Southall) was only record.

Redstart

Scarce migrant breeder. Breeding: pr feeding yng Sannox 1st wk Jun. 1 juv Drumadoon 4 Aug; f Pirmill 13 Aug.

Whinchat

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: juv Corriecravie pond 9 Jul; 2 juvs Machrie Fm 14 Jul. Arr 1 Glen Rosa 2 May. Most records were from Glen Rosa and Machrie Moor area May/Aug. Other records incl 1 High Corrie 7 May; m Boguille 27 May. Max 3 holding territory Glen Sannox 28 May.

Stonechat

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 adults with 2 juvs Kilpatrick 20 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 10 incl juvs Port na Feannaiche 27 Aug.

Wheatear

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 1 juv Kilmory 1 Jul; juv Clauchlands Pt 15 Jul. Arr 8 Machrie 29 Mar. Seen mainly round the coast Mar/Oct, with max 20 Kilmory/Cleat 26 Aug. Greenland race records incl 4 Cleat 4 Oct; 4 Torrylinnwaterfoot 5 Oct. Last 1 Kildonan 21 Oct.

Blackbird

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 3 fledged yng Brodick 6 May; adult carrying food Auchencar 7 May; adult feeding yng Pirmill 8 May; 3 almost fledged yng Kilpatrick 12 May; 2nd nest with 4 eggs Kilpatrick 27 May. Widespread all yr, with max 6-8 feeding on apples Pirmill during Oct.

Fieldfare

Common winter visitor. c30 Cnoc na Dail 15 Jan; c.25 :Lamlash 16 Jan; 15 S Bank Fm 27 Jan; 4 Machriewaterfoot 26 Feb. Return 10 Corrie 9 Oct; c50 flying S Pirmill, 50 Glencloy 22 Oct; 9 Glenloig, 19 Machrie, 3 Ashlar Fm, 40 Shiskine Valley 3 Nov. Max 500+ Kilmory 23 Oct.

Song Thrush

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding yng Kildonan 28 Apr; pr feeding yng King's Cross 29 Apr; adult carrying food Auchencar 7 May; pr feeding yng Lochranza 8 May. Widespread all yr, with max 6 BCP 1 May.

Redwing

Common winter visitor. c25 with fieldfares Lamlash 16 Jan; 18 with a single fieldfare Clachaig Fm 8 Feb. Return 2 High Kildonan 4 Oct; 40 Sliddery 10 Oct; 3 Clauchlands 18 Oct; c18 Machrie, 13 Ashlar Fm, 39 Shiskine Valley 3 Nov. Max 2 groups totalling 95 High Kildonan 14 Oct.

Mistle Thrush

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding 2 yng Auchencar 7 May; pr nesting Machrie Forestry 9 May; pr feeding 2 yng Machrie Golf Course 27 May. Widespread all yr. Larger nos incl 20 Machrie 5 Aug; 36 Ross rd 27 Aug; 20 Lochranza 9 Sep. Max 2 groups totalling 61 Machrie Moor 9 Sep.

Grasshopper Warbler

Scarce migrant. No breeding records. Arr 1 Machrie Moor 6 May; 1 reeling nr Lakin Fm 16 Jul.

Sedge Warbler

Common migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Kildonan 28 Apr; 1 Dougarie 6 May; 1 Torbeg 10 May; min 2 Kildonan 13 May; 1 Corrie 27 May; 1 Pirnmill 11 Jun; 1 nr King's Cave car park 14 Jun; 1 Sandbraes 25 Jun. Last 2 Clauchlands 12 Aug.

Whitethroat

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: f carrying food Kerr's Port 4 Jun. Arr 1 Sandbraes 11 May. Singles May/Aug seen at Clauchlands, Lamblash, Pirnmill, Cordon, Corriecravie, Auchencar, King's Cross, Machrie; pr Port na Feannaiche 27 Aug. Last 1 Shiskine Golf Course 11 Sep.

Lesser Whitethroat

Rare migrant. No breeding records. Singing m Auchenhew 17 Jun (T.Southall) was only record.

Garden Warbler

Scarce migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Pirnmill 10 May; 1 Lamblash 27 May; 1 heard Glen Rosa 28 May; 12 heard Largiemore 18 Jun.

Blackcap

Common migrant breeder and winter visitor. No breeding records. Singles and prs seen in suitable habitat all yr, with many coming to bird tables during winter. Most records came from the Brodick, Whiting Bay, Lagg and Corrie areas.

Wood Warbler

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 4 holding territory lower Glenashdale 13 May; 3 holding territory Merkland Wood 19 May, with max 7 singing Glenashdale 20 May.

Chiffchaff

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Whitehouse Wood 31 Mar. Singles at Dippen, Kildonan, BCP, Largiemore, Kilmory, Pirnmill, Brodick, Balmichael and Lochranza Apr/Oct, with last 1 Glenashdale 5 Oct.

Willow Warbler

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Pirmill mid May. Arr 1 Dippen 5 Apr. Singles and prs widespread in suitable habitat Apr/Sep, with max 6 Fallen Rocks path 5 May. Last 1 Sandbraes 21 Sep.

Goldcrest

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr feeding 4 yng Glen Cloy 4 Aug; pr feeding yng King's Cave car park 10 Aug. Singles and prs seen all yr at Monamore Forestry, Brodick, Merkland Wood, Machrie, Dunan and Glenashdale. 1 found dead Glenashdale 3 Jan.

Spotted Flycatcher

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 prs occupying nest boxes Merkland Wood 17 Jun; adult with 1 juv Pirmill 26 Jul; adult feeding yng BCP 9 Aug; adult with 2 yng, m with 3 imms Whiting Bay 11 Aug; adult with 1 juv Auchencairn 31 Aug. Arr pr Pirmill 21 May, with max c5 Glenashdale 17 Aug. Last 2 Clauchlands 6 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: pr feeding 3 yng N Sannox picnic site 29 May; pr with 6 yng Largiebeg 10 Jun; pr with 4 yng Whitehouse Woods 19 Jun. Up to 12 seen all yr at Corrie, Clauchlands, Lamlash, Merkland Wood, Glenashdale, Machrie, BCP, Whiting Bay, Dunan and Benlister. Larger groups incl 20 incl juvs Auchenhew 17 Aug and max 25 Sandbraes 21 Sep.

Coal Tit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: min 3 yng Dippen 15 Jun; adult with 1 juv King's Cave car Park 10 Aug. Widespread all yr, with many at bird tables during winter months. Larger groups incl 6 Margnaeglish 18 Jan; c10 Glenashdale 17 Aug; 12 Eas Mor 21 Sep. Max c40 Cnoc na Dail Forestry 15 Jan.

Blue Tit

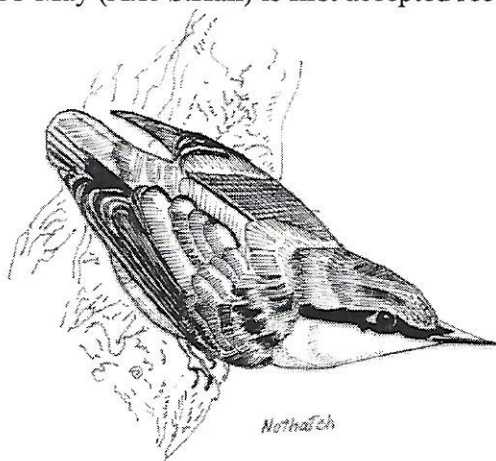
Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: Successful nest boxes at King's Cross, Arranton and Benlister; adult with yng Pirmill 9 Jul. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 11 Corrie 21 Sep.

Great Tit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: successful nest box Whitehouse Woods, 4 juvs Margnaheglish mid Jul; 2 juvs Pirmill 26 Jul; adult with yng Torbeg 16 Aug. Widespread all yr, again with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 20 Corrie 21 Sep.

Nuthatch

1 Auchencairn 5 May (A.& S.Hall) is first accepted record for Arran.

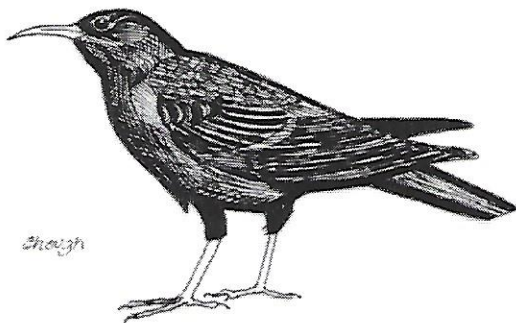


Treecreeper

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Singles and prs all yr at Clauchlands, Bailiemargaidh, Brodick, Lamlash, Pirmill and Benlister. Max 3 singles Merkland Wood 22 Jun.

Chough

Rare visitor. 4-5 Lochranza 5 Jul (M.Potts) is first record to be accepted since the mid 1800's.



Jackdaw

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Drumadoon 1 May; c20 incl juvs Pirmill 25 Jun. Widespread all yr. Large groups incl c80 Roddin 29 Mar and 100 at roost High Kildonan 28 Oct. Max 120 Blackwaterfoot 11 Sep.

Rook

Scarce winter visitor. 1 Shiskine Valley 19 Mar; 2 Dougarie 18 Nov. Max 20+ Corriecravie 26/28 Dec.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: pr carrying nesting material Margnaheglis 7 Mar. Widespread all yr. Large groups incl c45 at roost Cnoc na Dail forestry 16 May, 30 Kildonan 18 Oct and 27 feeding on shore Pirmill 23 Oct. Max 65 King's Cross 19 Sep.

Raven

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Widespread both on coast and hills all yr, with max c30 Windmill ridge 14 Jul.

Rose-coloured Starling

Rare migrant visitor. 1 possible seen with starlings Kildonan 10 Sep (P.& R.Davies). Record awaiting ratification by Scottish Rarities Committee.

Starling

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs nesting Kildonan 10 May; pr nested Largiemore 17 Jul. Widespread all yr. Large groups incl c100 roosting in one tree Machrie 10 Aug, 40/50 Lamblash 24 Aug, and 30 Whiting Bay 7 Oct. Max c200 Kildonan 8 Sep.

House Sparrow

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Corrie 1 May; prs ousted house martins from nests in Whiting Bay and Kildonan mid Jun. Common round the villages all yr, with max 60/70 King's Cross 15 Aug.

Chaffinch

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: f at nest in Lagg 10 May; adult carrying nesting material N Newton 11 May. Widespread all yr, and many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 12 Blackwaterfoot 16 Jan.

Brambling

Rare winter visitor. 1 with chaffinches High Kildonan 28 Oct (T.Southall) was only record.

Greenfinch

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 4 yng Dippen 10 Jun; f with 3 yng Pirnmill 28 Jun; pr with 4 juvs Kilmory 1 Jul; pr with 2 juvs Clauchlands 15 Jul; pr with 1 juv BCP 7 Aug. Widespread all yr, and many coming to bird tables in winter. Max c20 Whiting By 8 Aug.

Goldfinch

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding yng Pirnmill 18 May; pr with 1 yng Machrie 5 Aug; adult feeding yng Levencorrach 17 Aug. Up to 6 at Blackwaterfoot, Margnaeglish, King's Cross, Dippen, Brodick, Lagg, Whiting Bay, and Kildonan Mar/Aug. Larger nos Sep/Dec incl c20 Shiskine Golf Course, and c20 Pirnmill 28 Sep. Max 50+ Cleat 8 Sep and 50 Kilmory shore 11 Sep.

Siskin

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Widespread Feb/Sep, and many coming to bird tables in winter. Largest nos in autumn, with c40 Torrylinn 21 Sep and max 50+ Dougarie 25 Sep.

Linnet

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Up to 25 at Blackwaterfoot, Clauchlands, High Kildonan, Lagg, Bennecarrigan, Ross rd, Corriecravie and Cleat Apr/Jul. Largest nos Aug/Oct incl 2 groups totalling 96 Cleat 20 Aug and c100 Clauchlands 6 Sep. Max 250 Cleat 4 Oct.

Twite

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. 4 Blackwaterfoot 12 May; 2 Machrie 4 Aug; 1 Cleat 4 Oct; 8 Pirnmill 20 Nov; 1 Kildonan 4 Dec. Max 5m 7f Blackwaterfoot 16 Apr.

Redpoll

Uncommon resident breeder. Bred Kilmory Plantation, success unknown. 1m Dippen 11 May; 1 Whiting Bay 20 May; 2 Torr Righ Forestry 14 Jun; 7 Largymeanoch 19 Jul. Max 8 High Kildonan 7 May.

Crossbill

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: bred Kilmory Plantation, success unknown. 2 Gortonallister 4 Jan; 1 Kilbride Hill 11 Jan; 3 High Kildonan 13 Apr; c20 N Sannox picnic site 8 Jun; 6 High Kildonan 14 Oct, inc to 21 on 21 Oct.

Bullfinch

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr feeding yng Kildonan 17 Aug. Singles and prs seen all yr in suitable habitat. High nos incl 3m 1f Lamlash Golf course 11 Feb; 2m 1f Glenashdale 28 Mar; 3m 2f Margnaheglish 25 Apr; 3m 2f Sandbraes 31 Dec. Max 3 prs Margnaheglish 12 Jan.

Snow Bunting

Scarce autumn/winter visitor. 1 Imachar 24 Oct; 1 Ross rd 28 Nov.

Yellowhammer

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. 2 High Kildonan 17 Feb; 1 Lagg 27 Mar; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 20 May and 4 Aug.

Reed Bunting

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 juvs Shiskine 7 Aug. Seen Apr/Aug, with m Kings Cross 21 Apr; m holding territory Machrie Pond 6 May; 1 nr Brodick Golf Course 8 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 15 May; pr Kildonan 18 Jun; m Kilmory 1 July; pr Corriecravie Pond 9 July; m Kilpatrick 20 Aug; 2 Port na Fennaiche 27 Aug. No winter records.

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
2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC
3. Great Northern Diver R**/PC
4. Little Grebe WU
5. Great Crested Grebe O
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 SPC
13. Mediterranean Shearwater V
14. Storm Petrel PU
15. Leach's Petrel V
16. Gannet S**C/WU
17. Cormorant R**C
18. Shag RC
19. Bittern V
20. Snowy Egret V
21. Grey Heron RC
22. Spoonbill V
23. Chilean Flamingo VE
24. Mute Swan RC
25. Bewick's Swan V
26. Whooper Swan WU/PC
27. Pink-footed Goose WO
28. White-fronted Goose WO
29. Greylag Goose WC/PC
30. Canada Goose PO
31. Barnacle Goose WO
32. Brent Goose WO
33. Shelduck RC
34. Wigeon WC
35. Teal S*U/WC
36. Mallard RC
37. Pintail PO
38. Shoveler B*/O
39. Pochard WO
40. Tufted Duck WO
41. Scaup WO
42. Eider RC
43. King Eider V
44. Long-tailed Duck S**O/WO
45. Common Scoter S**O/WO
46. Velvet Scoter WO
47. Goldeneye WC
48. Smew WO
49. Red-breasted Merganser RC
50. Goosander R**/U
51. Red Kite V
52. White-tailed Eagle B*/V
53. Marsh Harrier V
54. Hen Harrier RC
55. Goshawk R**/U
56. Sparrowhawk RC
57. Buzzard RC
58. Rough-legged Buzzard V
59. Golden Eagle RC
60. Osprey PO
61. Hobby V
62. Kestrel RC
63. Merlin R*/U
64. Peregrine RC
65. Red Grouse RC
66. Ptarmigan RU
67. Black Grouse B*/O
68. Capercaillie B*/X
69. Red-legged Partridge I
70. Grey Partridge B*
71. Quail B*/O
72. Pheasant RC
73. Water Rail R*/U
74. Spotted Crane X
75. Corncrake B*/O
76. Moorhen RU
77. Coot WO
78. Crane V
79. Oystercatcher RC
80. Ringed Plover RC
81. Dotterel PO
82. Golden Plover SU/WC
83. Grey Plover PO
84. Lapwing RU/WC

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 171. Ring Ouzel SU | 199. Great Grey Shrike V |
| 172. Blackbird RC | 200. Jay B*/X |
| 173. Fieldfare WC | 201. Magpie B*/O |
| 174. Song Thrush RC | 202. Chough B*/V |
| 175. Redwing WC | 203. Jackdaw RC |
| 176. Mistle Thrush RU | 204. Rook B*/WC/SU |
| 177. Grasshopper Warbler SU | 205. Carrion/Hooded Crow RC |
| 178. Sedge Warbler SC | 206. Raven RC |
| 179. Lesser Whitethroat SO | 207. Starling RC |
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| 181. Garden Warbler SU | 209. Tree Sparrow B*/U |
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| 186. Yellow-browed Warbler V | 214. Siskin RC |
| 187. Goldcrest RC | 215. Linnet SC/WU |
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| 189. Pied Flycatcher S*/U | 217. Redpoll SC/WU |
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| 191. Willow Tit O | 219. Crossbill RU |
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| 193. Blue Tit RC | 221. Hawfinch V |
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| 195. Nuthatch V | 223. Yellowhammer RU |
| 196. Treecreeper RC | 224. Reed Bunting RU |
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