



*The Arran  
Bird  
Report  
for  
2002*

*The Isle of Arran  
Natural History Society  
2003*

# **THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT 2002**

*published by*

**The Isle of Arran Natural History Society  
2003**

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## INTRODUCTION

With the end of the foot and mouth restrictions, at long last we were free to roam at will, and this meant of course an increase in bird records, especially breeding records. The mute swan census which had to be cancelled last year was completed in May, as was the eider census done in September. The most important event however was the ratification in March of the SSSI areas in order to protect hen harriers. Hopefully this will secure the future of these much-persecuted raptors for generations to come. They also became the first Arran birds to be on camera, and visitors and locals alike were able to watch a pair feeding their three chicks on video at the Arran Porcelain building in Kilmory. Sadly the chicks failed to survive, but it is hoped to repeat the experiment this year. Plans are also afoot to put a pair of breeding barn owls on camera at Brodick Country Park, and eventually you will be able to watch them at the Ranger Centre. Feasability studies are also in progress at the time of writing for the re-introduction of black grouse to the island.

More footpaths have been created, and there is now one starting at Eas Mor and continuing up to Loch Garbad, with a picnic table at the lochside for your enjoyment. Meanwhile the Arran Coastal Path continues to be improved, and it is now possible to walk right round the coast except for some sections where you have to turn inland. Some stretches can only be walked at low tide, so check your tide table before you set off. The landscape continues to change as timber extraction takes place, so be prepared to find some paths closed off in the forestry areas.

There is one new addition to the Arran checklist. The record of a rose-coloured starling seen on the 10th September '01 at Kildonan was accepted. A yellow-legged gull seen at Lochranza on the 5th July '02 however proved much more difficult, and the record was finally rejected because of insufficient evidence. The list of no-shows



included barnacle and brent goose, ptarmigan. arctic skua, common tern, waxwing, black redstart, grasshopper warbler and snow bunting. Some of these may have been present, ptarmigan and grasshopper warbler in particular, but no records were received. Records also included the earliest records ever of house martin (30th March) and sedge warbler (19th April), and the latest ever records of common sandpiper (5th December) and chiffchaff (1st week December). Apologies for the incorrect tawny owl record in last year's Report. I said there were no records for the first time, but one was present at Brodick Country Park all year - my mistake for not checking with the Rangers Service!

Many thanks to everyone who wrote to me or phoned in with information. Thanks too to John Rhead who helped with the preparation of this Report, and to Bernie Zonfrillo for help with identification matters. All sightings are important, whether it is golden eagle or humble house sparrow. Some of our common garden birds are in decline on the mainland - song thrushes, for example - so it is important to have records to check how they are faring here. List in Vous order (the same as the checklist at the back of this Report) are a great help. All I need to know is how many, where, and the date. Tick lists may be of interest, but are of no practical use to me! It is important to check the status of Arran birds, and this is indicated in both the systematic list and the checklist. Unlike the mainland, golden eagles are common here, and magpies are almost unknown! Beware of hybrid mallard and the three geese usually seen with the mute swans which are feral.

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

## **CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**JANUARY** started with flocks of incoming lapwings on the 3rd, with 18 at King's Cross, c50 at Shiskine and 10 at Corriecravie. Blackwaterfoot produced single black-throated and great northern divers and a group of nine common scoters on the 5th. 50 wigeon and c50/60 teal were at the Cleat on the 6th. A little auk was found dead on shore at Sandbraes on the 7th, then more winter visitors appeared, bramblings at Pirnmill on the 8th, and a pair at Brodick on the 21st, and about seven at Kilmory on the 14th. A pair of goosanders was on Loch Iorsa on the 9th. To our great delight, the snowy egret which had been absent over the Christmas period returned to Clauchlands Point on the 12th. It seemed quite at home in the Rosa burn area later in January. 200 fieldfares were feeding at Balnacoolle on the 12th, the largest flock recorded for the year. A rare jack snipe was seen briefly at Auchareoch on the 14th, while 12 purple sandpipers were foraging on the beach at Kildonan on the 15th. Three little grebes overwintering at Lochranza were seen on the 20th, while the first gannet of the year appeared off Brown Head on the 22nd. One of the Clauchlands cygnets was found injured at the roadside on the 24th, and was sent to the wildlife rescue centre at Beith where it eventually recovered. A second Clauchlands cygnet and one from Brodick were taken into care here, and were found to be grossly underweight and later died. The great crested grebe which had been present in the Whiting Bay area at the end of 2001 was seen for the last time at Largiemore on the 29th. By the 30th, seven pairs of fulmars had returned to their nesting colony at Cleateadh Buidhe

## **FEBRUARY**

A bright start to the month, with eight yellowhammers foraging in a garden at Strathwhillan on the 1st. The mummified body of a barn owl was found in Drumadoon farmhouse on the 6th. It was thought to have fallen down a chimney. The 10th was a good day for seaside birds, with a breeding flock of 72 eiders, 90 oystercatchers and 47 kittiwakes

at Whiting Bay, and 28 turnstones at Machrie. By the 12th, there were three pairs of shelducks between Carlo and Merkland Point, and wintering blackcaps were seen at Brodick and Lamlash. On the 23rd, a merlin was observed perched on a fence at the Rosa burn, sizing up the snowy egret! Flocks of 28 skylarks and 11 redwings were at High Kildonan on the 24th, while a female hen harrier was quartering the Knowe Farm fields at The Heights. By the 27th, the numbers of greylags at Shiskine had risen to 400.

## MARCH

The number of hen harrier sightings increased, with singles at the String road on the 1st, Machrie Moor on the 8th, Laggan summit and the Boguille on the 12th and King's Cave path on the 20th. The five whooper swans overwintering at Whiting Bay were briefly joined by 19 more on the 3rd. The first returning lesser black-backed gull appeared at High Kildonan on the 3rd, along with a rare 2nd winter Iceland gull. Eight white-fronted geese joined the greylags in the Shiskine Valley on the 9th. Unusually, a single rook turned up at Dippen on the 15th. The first summer migrants, wheatears as usual, arrived on the 17th, but at an unusual location - Corriecravie Moor, instead of the shoreline. The first three siskins of the year were seen at Glenashdale on the 18th. Next migrant to arrive, true to form, was a chiffchaff at Whiting Bay on the 25th. A pair of peregrines was seen at Dunfion on the 27th, while on the 28th the famous snowy egret was seen between Carlo and Corrie for the last time. Who knows if we will ever see it again! Surprisingly, all three hirundines arrived within a day of one another - about 7 sand martins at Sannox quarry and a swallow at Dippen on the 29th, and seven house martins at Shiskine on the 30th, the earliest ever date for the latter. Also on the 30th was an unusually large flock of 110 linnets at Sliddery. Last but not least was a kingfisher, seen briefly at Port-na-lochan during the last week of the month.



## APRIL

The beginning of a series of reed bunting sightings began with single males at Gleann Easbuig on the 2nd and Machriewaterfoot on the 4th, two at Clauchlands on the 6th and a single at the Cleat on the 15th. The 4th was a very good day for divers, with 15 red-throated at Kilpatrick and a single at Machriewaterfoot, two pairs of black-throated at Clauchlands and a single at Sannox, and four great northern at Dougarie and four at Largiemore. We don't often get so many records of divers on the same day! More news on the 4th with the arrival of a common sandpiper at Wine Port while five golden plovers were on Beinn Bhreac, two of them calling. Next summer migrant to arrive was a willow warbler at Pirnmill on the 5th, and by the 6th there were two nests with young herons in the White House Woods. Another migrant, a Sandwich tern arrived at Kilmory on the 7th, while a pair of black guillemots was nesting under Brodick Pier. A single whimbrel was seen at Auchenhew on the 8th. A visit to Machrie on the 13th produced two pairs of mallard with eight and nine ducklings respectively on Machrie Pond, and two pairs of kestrels at Cleateadh Buidhe and Dougarie, each with one young. No sign however of the long established pair of barn owl at the latter site. Two more migrants on the 19th, with cuckoos at Cloined and Glen Cloy, and a sedge warbler at Kilmory. A rare coot was seen on Machrie Pond on the 21st. On the 23rd, I had three male and two female bullfinches in my garden at Margnaheglis, busy stripping the buds from my crab apple trees, while a tree pipit arrived at the Ross road. Last two migrants to arrive were 13 white wagtails at Kildonan on the 25th, and a lesser whitethroat, also at Kildonan on the 30th.

## MAY

Traditionally the best month of the year, but not this time. The weather stayed cold and wet for most of the month, and this severely affected breeding birds, especially ground nesters. Of our seven pairs of breeding mute swans, for instance, all nests including one at Slidderwaterfoot with seven eggs were abandoned. This is usually the

best time to see great northern divers, and so it proved, with singles at King's Cave, Blackwaterfoot, Thunderguy and Drumadoon Point, while there were pairs at the Cleat, Pirnmill, Imachar and Whiting Bay during the first fortnight. A male goosander turned up at Blackwaterfoot on the 2nd, while a merlin was hunting the Pirnmill shoreline on the same day. A male redpoll was seen in display flight at High Kildonan on the 3rd, and a scarce redstart near Corrie. On the 4th there were eight whimbrels at Kildonan, a rare nuthatch was heard in Glenashdale, and two more migrants arrived - a wood warbler at Glenashdale and a pair of arctic terns at Kildonan. On the 5th the first whinchat to arrive was seen on the Ross road, and a pair of short-eared owls in courtship display at the Urie Loch. Ten dunlin were at Kildonan on the 6th, a good number for Arran. A great spotted woodpecker was heard drumming at Cladach on the 8th, while the Clachlands shelducks paraded their newly hatched 11 ducklings. A female sparrowhawk joined the people having lunch at the Lagg Tea Room on the 10th, but she brought her own - a collared dove. Two single long-eared owls were seen, one near the edge of the Torr Righ Forestry, and one near the forestry gate on the Machrie Moor road on the 11th. Next migrant to arrive was a garden warbler at King's Cross on the 14th, while there were two sanderlings on passage at Brodick. The last two migrants for May were a swift at Lagg on the 23rd, and a spotted flycatcher at Merkland Wood on the 25th.

## **JUNE**

An exciting display of flying at the Fallen Rocks on the 3rd, as a peregrine mobbed a buzzard. More sinister events at Arranton on the same day, when a great black-backed gull killed a lesser black-backed. This activity continued until the 13th, with a further two lesser black backed gulls being killed, and a 4th being taken later on the 16th July. On the 10th, our local ringer and his brother who is also a ringer made a brief visit to Pladda. Although there were plenty of nesting gulls, they noted that the chick survival was very low, nor were there any nesting arctic terns. By the 10th a pair of hen harriers on camera at



Kilmory for the first time had three young, but sadly they failed to survive. Other nesting pairs of harriers also failed, and the number of fledged young was slightly less than half that of last year. A pair of golden plovers was holding territory at Correin Lochain on the 13th. The first nine Manx shearwaters were noted on the 14th, almost a month later than last year. Also on the 14th, a pair of goldcrests with young were seen near Loch Thomson in the Monamore Forestry, and a rare turtle dove turned up at a farmyard at Thunderguy. A nuthatch (possibly the same one heard at Glenashdale in May) was seen in a Corrie garden on the 25th. On the 27th a rose-coloured starling appeared at a bird table in Brodick, and this time there was a photo as proof! A pair of puffins was seen from the Ardrossan/Brodick ferry on the 28th. Now that puffins have re-established breeding on Ailsa Craig, perhaps there will be an increase in sightings in future years. Last note for the month was of a great skua seen from the ferry on the 30th.

## JULY

A visitor spotted a yellow-legged gull with herring gulls at Lochranza on the 5th, and later wrote to me wondering why it wasn't on our checklist. I hadn't been aware how difficult it is to make a positive identification, but I am now! The rarities form was duly filled in and forwarded to Bernie Zonfrillo, but the record was rejected because of insufficient evidence. By the 9th, the juvenile shelducks at Clauchlands were on the wing. A pair of common sandpipers with three young were at Corriecravie on the 16th. On the 17th, a passage greenshank turned up at the Cleat, followed by four knots in summer plumage at Machriewaterfoot on the 19th. On the 21st, a walk to Loch Cnoc an Loch produced eight pairs of skylarks between Glenree and the lochan, and a pair of lapwings with a juvenile, the only breeding record of the year. A peregrine was seen on its kill, a hooded crow, at Machrie on the 22nd. A melanistic female pheasant, dark chocolate brown rather

than black, was seen near Machrie Farm with her five chicks on the 23rd, and five Sandwich terns were at Machrie on the 24th. A flock of 23 mistle thrushes was seen in the same area on the 26th. A pair of barn owls was seen with two young at a ruined church at Lamlash on the 27th, good news because in 1998 the family was almost wiped out when two juveniles were found drowned in a disused water tank outside the church, then an adult was found later flapping helplessly on the ground. It was taken into care but died soon afterwards. Last note was of the golden eagles with a juvenile soaring over Glen Chalmadale. The juvenile's broad white tail band was very visible, and this sometimes gives rise to mistaken reports of sea eagles.

## AUGUST

Machrie Pond provided plenty of interest on the 2nd, with the elusive moorhen for once out in the middle of the pond, a pair of whinchats feeding four young, and a pair of reed buntings. A pair of long-tailed tits with six young were in a garden at Brodick on the 3rd. Flocks of hirundines were building up, with c200 house martins at Kildonan on the 5th, c200 swallows at Pirnmill on the 9th, and c50 swifts at Lamlash on the 10th. More waders on the 11th, with 13 dunlin at Kildonan, then a little stint with a juvenile at Machriewaterfoot on the 12th. Two ringtail hen harriers were seen, one on the Ross road on the 12th, and one at Lochranza on the 13th. Eas Mor, always a good place for woodland birds, had up to four goldcrests on the 14th. Two arctic terns with three juveniles were at Kildonan on the 18th, and three common scoters the following day. A pair of snipe was flushed on Tighvein on the 20th. Another passage wader, a bar-tailed godwit appeared at Torrylinn shore on the 21st. Surprising news came from Sannox on the 23rd, when 10 to 11 returning fieldfares were seen with mistle thrushes. Doubts were cast about this sighting until previous records revealed that the earliest ever recorded date was the 20th August 1982! Finally, a seawatch at Largiemore on the 24th recorded c500 Manx shearwaters flying south in one hour.

## SEPTEMBER

Summer migrants departing, and winter migrants arriving was the theme for the month. A pair of short-eared owls was seen on the Boguille on the 1st, only the second sighting of the year in that area. The last tree pipit was noted at Sliderry on the 4th, as well as c20 coal tits at Pirnmill, and a pair of buzzards at Corrie Golf Course being mobbed by a flock of small birds. By the 6th, the number of kittiwakes at Whiting Bay had increased to 150, but the total for the year was lower than usual. Nine returning wigeon were at Machrie on the 8th, together with a single twite. On the 9th, a second twite was recorded at Whitefarland, and a flock of 53 red-breasted mergansers. Three bar-tailed godwits were seen at Torrylinnwaterfoot, and a single snipe at Pirnmill on the 10th, while a kestrel was receiving the unwelcome attentions of a mixed flock of swallows and house martins at Largiemore. A great skua, the only one of the year, turned up Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 14th, and on the same day a dead water rail was found between Carlo and Corrie, thought to have been a road victim. A pair of house martins was still feeding their young at a nest in Lamlash on the 16th, and they finally left on the 29th. A kingfisher was glimpsed at the Rosa burn on the 22nd, good news because it was absent last year. A busy day at the Cleat on the 27th, with three whimbrels, 100+ skylarks, four white wagtails, 200+ linnets, 100+ goldfinches, two twite and seven redpolls! There were also c150 siskins at Whitefarland on the same day. By the 29th, there were 28 wigeon at the Cleat, and by the 30th, the number of golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot had increased to 61.

## OCTOBER

Migration continued with the last wheatear at Clauchlands on the 1st, and the last two juvenile Sandwich terns at Clauchlands on the 6th. The 6th also saw the main body of fieldfares starting to come in, with 20 at North Kiscadale and the first 12+ redwings at Spion Kop, and a returning goldeneye at Merkland Point. A flock of 15 pied wagtails were feeding at the Lamlash High School playing fields on the 9th. A



dead short-eared owl was found at the roadside in Shiskine on the 11th, and there was the unusual sight of a male house sparrow carrying nesting material at Pirnmill on the same day. Four adult red-throated divers and two juveniles, and the last house martins of the year were at Largiemore on the 12th, while just along the road at Glenashdalewaterfoot a Slavonian grebe turned up. A party of 20 crossbills was seen in the Cnoc na Dail Forestry on the 13th, while there were 14 black-throated divers at Kilpatrick, plus a further 10 which were too far out for a positive identification. On the 14th there were 12 overwintering rooks at South Feorline, but none on the Roddin which used to be their winter headquarters. A male blackcap was feasting on windfall apples in a Pirnmill garden on the 17th. The first groups of returning greylags came in on the 19th, with two groups of 50+ and 17 at the Cleat, and another nine at Largiemore. The Shiskine greylags were joined by two notable visitors on the 20th, two snow geese! However, there was no way of establishing whether they were feral or truly wild geese. There was a large movement of c100-200 kittiwakes on the Kilbrannan Sound on the 26th, and a mixed group of c100-200 razorbills and guillemots. Seven whooper swans were seen at Sliddery on the 27th.

## **NOVEMBER**

A dull month, you might think, but there are always some surprises! The whooper swans and four immatures overwintering at Whiting Bay were seen at other locations - Loch Garbad on the 2nd, and the Urie Loch on the 19th. By the 3rd, the three overwintering little grebes were back at Lochranza. Two yellowhammers were seen at Shiskine Golf Course, the only area on the island where they are consistently seen. Eider flocks were building up, with c30 at Lamdash and 50 at Whiting Bay by the 5th. A larger group of 30 redwings was at Balmichael on the 7th, and a moorhen at Port-na-Lochan on the same day. There was the unusual sight of a pair of dippers in courtship display at Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 9th. By the 16th, the number of golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot had risen to more than 120, and a

single rook turned up on the seafront at Whiting Bay. A covey of 10 red-legged partridges was seen at Strabane on the 17th. The introduction of hybrid chuckar x red-legged partridges was phased out some years ago, and the pure bred red-legged partridges survival rate continues to be low. Then came two surprises! A common sandpiper was seen at Carlo on the 23rd. Luckily the observer had a video camera, and the results were closely examined in case the sandpiper was something more exotic, but that was ruled out. The sandpiper was last seen on the 5th December, the latest date ever likely to be recorded! Then on the 25th, a local man was looking over the bridge near Corrie Golf Course when he realised there was a guillemot swimming in the river below. This is the first record of one coming up river, as far as I know.

## **DECEMBER**

On the 1st, there were 40 ringed plovers at Whiting Bay. Not so significant, you might think, but it is half the number that used to be there, according to former Bird Recorder Maggie Dunn. More significant was a chiffchaff seen at Kildonan during the first week of December, the latest ever recorded. The first pair of returning shelducks was back at Clauchlands on the 11th, and they were joined by three more pairs and a single two days later. Three whooper swans flew in to Shiskine on the 17th, and a single goldfinch was at a bird table in Corrie, continuing the recent trend. Two male and a female wigeon were noted at Lochranza on the 28th, the first record for this area as far as is known. The year ended with an escape story, a blackbird flying full tilt at a diamond-meshed fence at Lamblash Tennis Courts on the 29th, hotly pursued by a sparrowhawk. At the very last moment the blackbird appeared to close its wings and shot through, while the sparrowhawk applying full reverse thrust flattened itself on the fence. Fortunately neither bird was injured!



## SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Lesser Black-backed Gull 3 Mar  
Wheatear 17 Mar  
Chiffchaff 25 Mar  
Sand Martin 29 Mar  
House Martin 30 Mar  
Swallow 30 Mar  
Common Sandpiper 4 Apr  
Willow Warbler 5 Apr  
Sandwich Tern 7 Apr  
Cuckoo 19 Apr  
Sedge Warbler 19 Apr  
Tree Pipit 23 Apr  
White Wagtail 25 Apr  
Lesser Whitethroat 30 Apr  
Redstart 3 May  
Arctic Tern 4 May  
Whitethroat 4 May  
Wood Warbler 4 May  
Whinchat 5 May  
Garden Warbler 14 May  
Swift 23 May  
Spotted Flycatcher 25 May  
Manx Shearwater 14 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

pt = point

fm = farm

nr = near

N,S,E,W = direction of flight

Jan etc. = all months abbreviated

incl = including

inc = increase

dec = decrease

pr(s) = pair/s

arr = arrival

rd = road

BCP = Brodick Country Park

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST**

### **Red-throated Diver**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 3 adults with 1 juv Whiting Bay 2 Jul. Probably bred on inland lochans, but no reports. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 15 Kilpatrick 4 Apr.

### **Black-throated Diver**

Fairly common passage visitor. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 14 Kilpatrick 13 Oct.

### **Great Northern Diver**

Fairly common passage visitor, with majority of sightings during May. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 4 Dougarie and Largiemore 4 Apr and Kings Cave 4 Nov.

### **Little Grebe**

Uncommon winter visitor. 3 Lochranza, 1 Port-na-lochan and min 1 Fish Fm overwintered.

### **Great Crested Grebe**

Rare winter visitor. 1 seen at Sandbraes on 21 Sep '01 remained in the Whiting Bay area until 29 Jan.

### **Slavonian Grebe**

Uncommon winter visitor, last recorded 1998. 1 Whiting Bay 12 Oct (M.H.Dunn), last seen 30 Oct.

### **Fulmar**

Common round the coast Jan/Aug. Breeding: nesting colonies at Cleateadh Buidhe, Imachar, Dunfion, Catacol, King's Cave, Corriecravie, Kildonan and Drumadoon; no reports from Holy Isle; 4 yng Cleateadh Buidhe 21 Jul and 4 yng Drumadoon 12 Aug. 2 adults found dead Fallen Rocks 30 May. Max 10 prs Cleateadh Buidhe 3 Jun.

### **Manx Shearwater**

Abundant on passage summer/Autumn. Return 9 Ardrossan/Brodick 14 Jun (late). Max 500/1hr flying S Largiemore 24 Aug. Fewer than in recent yrs, cf 1000+ Whiting Bay 26 Aug '01.

### **Gannet**

Common round the coast Jan/Oct. Return 1 Brown Head 22 Jan. Fewer than in recent yrs, with max 26 Kilbrannan Sound 5 Aug. Last 8 Whiting Bay 26 Oct.

### **Cormorant**

Fairly common non-breeding resident. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 60 Pladda 20 Aug.

### **Shag**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 70 prs nesting Pladda 10 Jun; no reports from Holy Isle. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 45 Whiting Bay 1 Oct 5.

### **Snowy Egret**

Last seen Clauchlands 18 Dec '01, returned there 12 Jan, and thereafter seen at Cloy/Rosa burn, Dunan, Cladach and Merkland Pt Feb/Mar. Last seen Carlo/Corrie 28 Mar.

### **Grey Heron**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 nests with yng White House Woods 6 Apr. Common round the coast all yr, with max 8 Brodick 14 Jan.

### **Mute Swan**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: Several prs nested, but all failed eg nest with 7 eggs Slidderlywaterfoot abandoned by 21 Jun. 1 imm found injured at Clauchlands 24 Jan sent to wildlife rescue centre at Beith where it recovered. 2nd Clauchlands imm and 1 imm from

Brodict taken into care, but both died. Max 48 incl incomers Whiting Bay 13 Jan.

### **Whooper Swan**

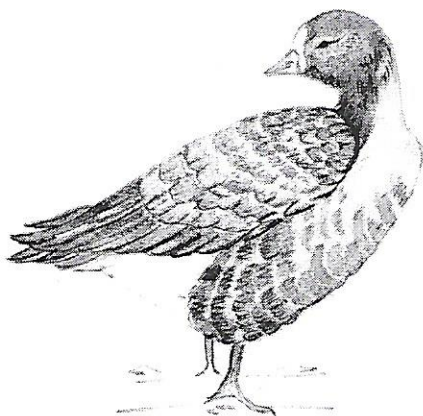
Fairly common passage and winter visitor. 5 with mute swans Whiting Bay Jan/Mar. pr flying N Clauchlands 7 Apr; 7 Sliderry 26 Oct; 2 adults + 4 imms Loch Garbad 2 Nov and again Urie Loch 19 Nov; 3 Shiskine Valley 17 Dec.

### **Snow Goose**

2 Shiskine Valley 20 Oct, but no way of deciding whether they were feral or genuine wild geese.

### **White-fronted Goose**

8 with greylags Shiskine Valley 9 Mar, rising to 9 by 2 Apr.



### **Greylag Goose**

Common winter visitor. c200 Shiskine Valley 20 Jan, inc to c450 2 Apr. Return 2 groups of 50+ and 17 flying E Cleat and c90 overflying Largiemore 19 Oct; c150 Shiskine Valley by end Oct. Unusual summer record of 8 flying E Kilmory 9 Jun.



### **Shelduck**

Common resident breeder, but absent Aug/Nov. Breeding: pr with 11 yng Clauchlands 8 May, reduced to 6 by 27 May; pr with 8 yng Imachar 24 May; pr with 6 yng Ballikine/Imachar 27 May; pr with 1 yng Merkland 15 Jun, gone by 22 Jun. Return pr Clauchlands 11 Dec. Max 21 Machrie 14 Apr.

### **Wigeon**

Common winter visitor. Recorded at Kildonan, Machrie and Cleat Jan/Mar. Return 9 Machrie 8 Sep, with 28 Cleat 29 Sep; 20 Torrylinnwaterfoot 30 Sep; 16 Machriewaterfoot 12 Oct; 1 Merkland Pt 16 Oct (unusual); c12 Kilpatrick Pt 29 Nov; 2m 1f Lochranza 28 Dec was first record for this area, so far as is known. No records at Clauchlands for the first time in over 20 yrs.

### **Teal**

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder. 50/60 Cleat 6 Jan; 11 Machriewaterfoot 24 Jan; 9 Lagg reservoir 17 Apr; 1 Kilpatrick 29 Sep.

### **Mallard**

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs with 8 and 9 yng each Machrie pond 13 Apr; f with 6 yng Whiting Bay 29 Apr; f with 5 yng Blackwaterfoot 18 May; pr with 6 yng Brodick 29 May; 2f with 6 yng Lochranza 23 Jun. Inland records incl pr Loch Thomson 20 Mar and 2m 3f An Tunna 2 Apr. Max c50 Shiskine Valley end Oct.

### **Eider**

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: f with 4 yng Kildonan 26 May; 2f with 5 yng Thunderguy, pr with 3 yng The Craw, 2f with 9 yng Pirnmill 11 Jun; 6f with 9 yng Corrie 26 Jun; 2f with 8 yng Blackwaterfoot 28 Jun. Common round the coast all yr, with max 80 Largiemore 7 Apr.

### **Common Scoter**

Scarce winter visitor. 9 Blackwaterfoot 5 Jan. 2 unusual summer records of single f Glenashdalewaterfoot 9 Jun and 3 Kildonan 19/20 Aug.

### **Goldeneye**

Common winter visitor. Up to 6 round the coast Jan/Apr. Return 1 Merkland Pt 6 Oct. Max 6 Corrie/Merkland Pt 18 Mar, and 6 Brodick 17 Nov. Inland records incl 1f Urie Loch 2 Jan.

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: f + 5 yng Lochranza 23 Jun; f with 6 juvs Pirnmill 18 Jul; f with 3 juvs Brodick 9 Aug. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 121 Machrie 14 Jul.

### **Goosander**

Scarce resident. Pr Loch Iorsa 9 Jan; m Lamlash 14 Apr; pr Cleat 15 Apr; m Blackwaterfoot 2 May; 2 Rosa burn 13 May.

### **Hen Harrier**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: Bred in several locations, but fewer yng survived than last yr. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly in the Machrie Moor and Boguille areas.

### **Goshawk**

Rare resident breeder. Breeding: Bred successfully in central Arran for the first time. 1 juv m Torrylinnwaterfoot 30 Sep.

### **Sparrowhawk**

Common resident breeder. No breeding records received, but must have bred successfully at several locations. Singles seen all yr at Sandbraes, Pirnmill, Cleat, Ross Rd, Lamlash, Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot.

### **Buzzard**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with yng Lamlash 2 Jun; nest at Benlister failed; pr with 2 juvs Kilpatrick Dun 27 Jun. Widespread, singles and prs seen all yr mainly on the Ross Rd, String Rd and Boguille.

### **Golden Eagle**

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

### **Hobby**

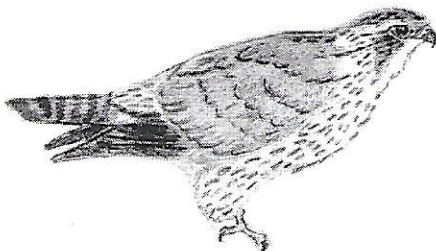
1 possible Largiemore 24 May (A.Hollick), but sighting too brief for a positive identification.

### **Kestrel**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr at nest site Glen Catacol 4 Apr; pr with 1 juv Dougarie 13 Apr; nest with 2 eggs Allt Goblach 4 May; pr with 2 juvs Cleateadh Buidhe 20 Jun. Widespread all yr.

### **Merlin**

Scarce resident, no recent breeding records. 1 Brodick Golf Course 23 Feb; 1 Pirnmill 2 May; 1 King's Cave 7 Aug; f Auchleffan 17 Sep; 1 Cleat 27 Sep.



### **Peregrine**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: min 3 prs bred, but success unknown. Seen all yr mainly at the N end. but also at Clauchlands, King's Cave, Bennan Head, Drumadoon, Glen Rosa, Auchenhew and Corriecravie areas.

### **Red Grouse**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 7 yng Glen Cloy Jun; yng survival rate generally low. Other records incl 1 Urie Loch 5 May and 18 Sep; 2 N Glen Sannox 7 May.

### **Red-legged Partridge**

Introduced resident breeder. Breeding: juv Kildonan 4 Jul. Singles and prs at Dougarie Feb/May. Max c10 Strabane 17 May, but still very few releases surviving.

### **Pheasant**

Introduced resident breeder. Breeding: melanistic f with 5 yng nr Machrie Fm 23 Jul; c50 juvs same area 3 and 13 Aug. Many coming to gardens to feed. Max 40 Dougarie 7 May.

### **Water Rail**

Rare resident, no breeding records. 1 found dead Carlo/Corrie 14 Sep (per M.Boal).

### **Coot**

Rare vagrant. 1 Machrie Pond 21 Apr (A.Fyffe).

### **Moorhen**

Scarce resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 Machrie Pond 2 Aug; 1 on pond behind Bogarie Fm, Ross Rd, 1 on pond Machrie Moor mid Sep; 1 Port-na-Lochan 7 Nov.

### **Oystercatcher**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 2 eggs Cleateadh Buidhe shore 5 May; nest with 2 eggs Thunderguy 10 May; adult with 2 yng Machrie 18 May; nest with 3 eggs Corriegills Pt 20 May. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 157 Machrie 3 Mar.

### **Ringed Plover**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f at nest Lamdash 1 May; 2 nests Kildonan 24 May; pr with 1 yng Pladda 10 Jun; nest with 2 eggs Arranton 25 Jun, inadvertently destroyed by a passing walker; pr with 2 juvs, adult with 1 juv Cleat 22 Aug. Common round the coast all yr, with max 132 Machriewaterfoot 9 Sep.

### **Golden Plover**

Uncommon resident breeder. Fairly common passage/winter visitor. Breeding: pr holding territory Corein Lochain 13 Jun. 5 Beinn Bhreac 4 Apr; 9 Machriewaterfoot 20 Jul; 1 Torrylinn shore 10 Aug, inc to 61 by 30 Sep; 11 Cleat 29 Sep; 66 Machriewaterfoot inc to max 120+ 16 Nov.

### **Lapwing**

Uncommon resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor. Breeding: pr with 1 juv Drumaghinier 21 Jul. Seen mainly in the Shiskine Valley during Jan and Oct/Dec. 18 King's Cross and 10 Corriecravie 3 Jan; 2 Cleat 6 Jan; 3 Clachlands 7 Jan and 3 Whiting Bay 17 Dec. Max c150 Shiskine Valley 9 Jan.

### **Knot**

Scarce passage visitor, mainly Aug/Sep. 4 in summer plumage Machriewaterfoot 19 Jul, dec to 1 1 Aug; 1 Torrylinn shore 10 Aug; 3 Machriewaterfoot 15 Aug;



### **Sanderling**

Scarce passage visitor in spring/autumn. 2 Brodick 14 May; juv Machriewaterfoot 20 Aug.

### **Purple Sandpiper**

Scarce winter visitor. 5 Kildonan, 1 Drumadoon Pt 13 Jan. All other records were from Kildonan, with max 12 15 Jan.

### **Little Stint**

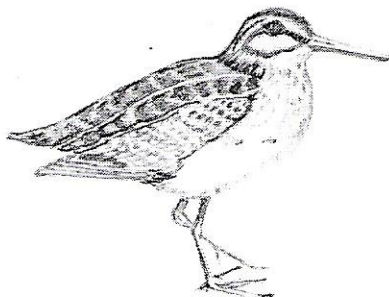
Rare passage visitor. 1 adult, 1 juv Machriewaterfoot 12 Aug; 3 same place 8 Sep.

### **Dunlin**

Fairly common non-breeding resident. Seen at Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, Torrylinnwaterfoot, Machrie, Brodick, Whiting Bay and Cleat May/Aug; 1 Clauchlands Pt 22 Jul for 2nd yr running. Autumn/winter sightings incl 2 Machriewaterfoot 8 Sep; 3 Lochranza 3 Nov; 1 Kildonan 9 Nov. Max 15 Sannox 17 Aug.

### **Jack Snipe**

Scarce winter visitor. 1 Auchareoch 14 Jan; 1 Cleat 17 Mar.



### **Snipe**

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 Lagg reservoir 17 Apr; pr N Glen Sannox 28 Apr; pr Tighvein 20 Aug; 1 Kilmory shore 27 Aug; 1 Glen Sannox 7 Dec.

### **Woodcock**

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 Lochranza 8 Jan; roding birds incl 1 Carlo, 1 Corrie 5 May; 1 Machrie Forestry gate, pr Glen Loig 11 May; 1 junction of String/Machrie Moor rd 14 May; 1 Ardlui 16 May; 1 High Corrie 5 Jun. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Torrylinn shore 21 Aug; 1 Machriewaterfoot 9 Sep; 3 Torrylinnwaterfoot, 1 Pirmill 10 Sep; 2 Cleat 27 Sep, last seen 16 Oct.

### **Whimbrel**

Fairly common on passage spring/Autumn, occasionally overwinters. 1 Auchenhew 8 Apr; 1 Kildonan 29 Apr; 2 Cleat 5 May; 2 Brodick 7 Sep; 1 Whitefarland 9 Sep. Max 8 Kildonan 4 May.

### **Curlew**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs nesting Pirmill mid Apr. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 237 Kildonan 13 Jan. Inland records incl 7 Machrie Standing Stones 18 Jun; 10 Shiskine Valley 17 Dec.

### **Redshank**

Common resident, formerly bred. Seen round the coast Jan/Apr and Jul/Dec. Max c40 Whiting Bay 5 Oct.

### **Greenshank**

Scarce passage visitor. 3 records, possibly of the same bird - 1 Cleat 17 Jul; 1 Machriewaterfoot 24 Jul; 1 Cleat 27 Sep.

### **Common Sandpiper**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 2 prs with yng Clauchlands 20 Jun; pr with 3 yng Corriecravie 16 Jul; adult with 1 yng Brodick 8 Aug. Arr 1 Wine Port 4 Apr, widespread round the coast by May, with max 6 Whiting Bay 9 Jun. 1 Carlo 23 Nov/5 Dec is latest ever recorded.

### **Turnstone**

Common resident non-breeder. Seen round the coast Jan/Apr and Jul/Dec, with max 36 Kildonan 13 Jan.

### **Great Skua**

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Brodick/Ardrossan 30 Jun; 1 Glenashdalewaterfoot 14 Sep.

### **Black-headed Gull**

Fairly common resident, formerly bred. Groups of up to 12 seen round the coast Jan/May and Jul/Nov, with max 21 Brodick 14 Jan.

### **Common Gull**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: very low success rate due to adverse weather conditions - only 6 prs on Pladda with yng 10 Jun; c15 prs nesting Dougarie 10 May; min 8 prs nesting Shiskine Golf Course 28 Jun, only 1 yng. Seen all yr round the coast. Larger groups incl 94 Blackwaterfoot 12 Aug; 52 Pirnmill 10 Oct, and max c100 Blackwaterfoot 13 Jan.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 60 prs nesting Pladda 10 Jun, but low survival rate of yng due to adverse weather; 8 incl juvs Pirnmill 14 Jul. Common round the coast Mar/Dec. Return 1 High Kildonan 3 Mar, with max 67 Brodick 12 May.

### **Herring Gull**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: 100 prs nesting Pladda 10 Jun, again fewer yng than normal. Groups of up to 100+ seen round the coast all yr, with max 260 Whiting Bay 13 Jan.

### **Yellow-legged Gull**

1 Lochranza 5 Jul (M.Williams), but record rejected by B.Zonfrillo due to insufficient evidence.

### **Iceland Gull**

1 2nd winter High Kildonan 3 Mar (T.Southall).

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 14 prs nesting Pladda 10 Jun, 7 yng ringed. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 35 Cleat 29 Sep. 1 seen killing lesser black-backed gulls on 3 occasions 3/13 Jun, and again 16 Jul.

### **Kittiwake**

Common passage visitor. 190 still at Whiting Bay 13 Jan, reduced to 47 by 10 Feb; return 4 Whiting Bay 13 Aug, inc to 150 by 6 Sep, lower nos than last yr. Other records incl 5 Pirnmill 10 Feb; 12 flying S Kilbrannan Sound 15 May; c100/200 Kilbrannan Sound 26 Oct; 6 Brodick/Ardrossan 9 Nov.

### **Sandwich Tern**

Fairly common passage visitor. Arr 1 Kilmory 7 Apr. Up to 6 at Arranton, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, King's Cave, Pirnmill, Dougarie, Kilpatrick and King's Cross Apr/Oct, with max 19 Machriewaterfoot 5 May. Last 2 juvs Clauchlands 6 Oct.

### **Arctic Tern**

Uncommon migrant breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Dougarie 27 May, success unknown; failed to breed on Pladda. Arr 2 Kildonan 4 May, inc to 6 10 Jun; adult with juv Machriewaterfoot 2 Aug; last 2 with 3 juvs Kildonan 18 Aug.

### **Guillemot**

Common passage visitor. Seen mainly in the Kilbrannan Sound and Brodick/Ardrossan. c6 washed up dead on shore Pirnmill/Dougarie 3 Mar; 1 found dead Torrylinnwaterfoot 2 Jun; 1 swimming under Sannox bridge 25 Nov. Groups of up to 10 at Whiting Bay, Pirnmill, Kilpatrick, Machrie and Brodick/Ardrossan Jan/Nov, with max 100+ Kilbrannan Sound 30 Oct.

### **Razorbill**

Uncommon passage visitor, again seen mainly in the Kilbrannan Sound and Brodick/Ardrossan. 1 blown on shore Lamlash 11 Feb; c10 washed up dead on shore Pirnmill/Dougarie 3 Mar; dead birds found Blackwaterfoot 1 Jun and Whiting Bay 20 Dec. Up to 3 seen all yr at Pirnmill, Largiemore, Whiting Bay, Kilpatrick and Brodick/Ardrossan, with max 100/200 Kilbrannan Sound 26 Oct.

### **Black Guillemot**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting under Brodick Pier 7 Apr; 4 prs nesting King's Cave 1 May; also nested at Imachar. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 17 Imachar 10 May.

**Little Auk**

Rare passage visitor. 1 found dead Sandbraes 7 Jan (T.McNeish).

**Puffin**

Rare passage visitor. Pr Brodick/Ardrossan 28 Jun (A.Fyffe).

**Rock Dove**

Failry common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Dougarie 13 Jun. 2 Cleateadh Buidhe 30 Jan; 8 Pirmill 11 Mar; 12 N Glen Sannox 2 May; 2 King's Cave 4 Nov. Max 16 Kilpatrick 9 May.

**Woodpigeon**

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Seen all yr, mainly on farmland, with max 40+ Lamlash 17 Sep.

**Collared Dove**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: min 2 prs nested Whiting Bay. Singles and prs seen all yr at Clachaig Fm, Corrie, Brodick, Dippen, Blackwaterfoot, Torbeg, Shiskine and Kildonan, with max up to 10 at S Kiscadale.

**Turtle Dove**

Rare Vagrant. 1 Thunderguy 14 Jun (F.Laing).

**Cuckoo**

Common migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Cloined, 1 Glen Cloy 19 Apr. Widespread by May, with max 3 singles Ross Rd 16 May.



### **Barn Owl**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: Good yr, with 14 yng successfully fledged from BCP and Forest Enterprise nest boxes (all yng ringed), and a further 5 yng at other locations. Prs and singles seen all yr at Cnoc na Dail, Sannox, King's Cave, The Heights, Corriecravie, Dunan, Machrie Moor Rd, Corrie, Carlo and Ross Rd. 1 found dead inside Drumadoon farmhouse 6 Feb.

### **Tawny Owl**

Rare Resident. 1 BCP all yr, no other records.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Uncommon resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs bred in the Machrie Moor area, success unknown. No other records.

### **Short-eared Owl**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: poor yr, with no yng surviving as far as is known. Seen mainly in the Boguille and Machrie Moor areas Apr/Nov. Other records incl pr in courtship flight Urie Loch 5 May; 1 found dead at roadside Shiskine 11 Oct; 1 Glen Shant 21 Nov.

### **Swift**

Fairly common passage migrant. Arr 1 Lagg 23 May; 2 Dippen 21 Jun; 1 Machrie 28 Jul; 21 Machrie Golf Course 1 Aug. Max c50 Lamlash 10 Aug.

### **Kingfisher**

Rare winter visitor. 1 Port-na-Lochan late Mar; 1 Rosa burn 22 Sep.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

Rare vagrant. 1 drumming BCP 8 May (A.McCormack).

### **Skylark**

Common resident breeder and winter visitor. No breeding records. Up to 3 seen Feb/Sep at Machrie Golf Course, Glen Sannox, Drumadoon, Machrie and Cleat. Larger nos incl 28 High Kildonan 24 Feb; 8 prs Glenree/Loch Cnoc an Loch 21 Jul; 100+ Cleat 27 Sep. Max 157 flying W Cleat 26 Sep.

### **Sand Martin**

Fairly common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 prs excavating nest holes Kilpatrick 7 Apr; 3 prs feeding yng Sannox Quarry 16 May. Arr 7-8 Sannox Quarry 29 Mar. Other records incl 3 Machrie Pond 13 Apr; c3 Machrie Fm 21 Apr; 1 Lochranza 7 Aug. Max 30-40 Brodick end of May.

### **Swallow**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: nest King's Cross 27 Apr; 8 nests BCP 15 May; 2 nests Sliderry 3 Jun; 4 nests S Kiscadale 17 Jun; pr feeding 4 yng Pirnmill 31 Jul. Arr 1 Dippen 30 Mar, widespread by Apr. Last 1 Torbeg 16 Oct, and max c200 Pirnmill 9 Aug.

### **House Martin**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 12 prs bred successfully Corriecravie; pr nesting Brodick 14 May; adult at nest Blackwaterfoot 23 May; 14 nests Kildonan 20 Jun; 2 nests with 6 yng Whiting Bay 5 Sep; 2 prs feeding yng Lamblash 19 Sep. Arr 7 Shiskine 30 Mar (earliest ever recorded). Widespread by Apr, with max c200 Kildonan 5 Aug. Last 10 Largiemore 12 Oct.

### **Tree Pipit**

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Ross Rd 23 Apr. Low nos, with 2 Blackwaterfoot 8 May; 1 High Kildonan 22 Aug. Last 1 Sliderry 4 Sep.

### **Meadow Pipit**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest Kildonan 20 Jun. Up to 20 seen all yr at Corrie, Pirnmill, Lochranza, N Glen Sannox, Boguille and Fallen Rocks. Max 50+ Machrie Moor 25 Sep and 50+ Cleat 26 Sep.

### **Rock Pipit**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult carrying nesting material Kilpatrick and Kilmory 7 Apr, and Kildonan 24 May; adult carrying food Shiskine Golf Course 23 Jul. Seen all yr round the coast Jan/Nov, with max 30+ Blackwaterfoot 8 Sep.

### **Grey Wagtail**

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding 1 yng Slidderlywater 15 May; adult carrying food N Sannox 21 May; pr with 4 juvs Clauchlands 9 Jul. Singles and prs seen at Clauchlands, Whiting Bay, Corrie, Pirnmill, Carlo, String Rd, Glenashdale, High Benlister, Garbh Allt, Machrie and Cleat all yr, with max 6 Lamblash 25 Sep.

### **Pied Wagtail**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Dunan 1 May; adult carrying food Pirnmill 7 May; pr nesting Arranton 12 May; pr feeding yng at nest Margnaheglish 10 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 40m Torrylinn 9 Mar.

### **White Wagtail**

Fairly common passage visitor. Arr 2 groups of 6 and 7 Kildonan 25 Apr; 6 Cleat 5 May; 4 Brodick 24 Sep. Last 4 Cleat 27 Sep.

### **Dipper**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult with juv Glenashdale 7 May; juv BCP 14 May; 2 juvs Benlister Falls 26 May. Singles and prs seen all yr at Cloy burn, Monamore burn, Machriewater, Pirnmill, Millhill burn (Lamblash), Corrie burn, Merkland burn and Lochranza.

### **Wren**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Dunan 1 May, 5 yng successfully fledged; nesting Kildonan 11 May, Margnaeglish 25 May; successful nests at Arranton and BCP. Prs and singles seen all yr in a wide variety of habitats.

### **Dunnock**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nested Whiting Bay, 2 broods, 1 yng from each survived; nest with yng High Kildonan May; nest with 5 eggs High Kildonan 26 May. Widespread all yr, with max 4 Merkland Wood 18 Jun.

### **Robin**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: pr nested Pirnmill Apr; adult carrying food Lochranza 28 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max adult with 4 imms fighting for territory Torbeg 7 Aug.

### **Redstart**

Scarce migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Sannox/Corrie 5 May. 1 BCP 11 May was only other record.

### **Whinchat**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: pr with 4 juvs Machrie Pond 2 Aug. Arr 1 Ross Rd 5 May, widespread by late May. Seen mainly in the Ross Rd, Machrie Moor and Boguille areas. Other records incl f Shiskine Golf Course 28 Jun; pr Loch Cnoc an Loch 21 Jul; pr lower Goatfell path 28 Jul; 3 Sannox 18 Aug; pr Cleat 22 Aug; Last sighting several (?) Glen Sannox 19 Sep.



### **Stonechat**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 nests with 6 yng, 1 nest with 5 yng, 12 nests with 4 yng, pr with 4 juvs Auchenhew/Bennan Head 11 Jun; 4 prs with yng incl 1 brood of 5 Torrylinnwaterfoot/Bennan Head 11 Jun; pr with 2 juvs Kerr's Port 22 Jun; adult with 1 juv Glen Catacol 8 Aug; m with 4 yng Corriecravie Pond 26 Jul. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 3 King's Cave path 28 Mar, 3 Ross Rd 16 May, and 3 Cleat 16 Oct.

### **Wheatear**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 prs with yng Auchenhew/Bennan Head 10 Jun; 1 nest with eggs, 1 pr with yng Torrylinnwaterfoot/Bennan Head 11 Jun; pr feeding 1 yng Glenscorrodale 15 Aug. Arr 4 Corriecravie Moor 17 Mar (2nd earliest ever). Seen mainly round the coast, but also on high moorland Mar/Oct, with max 5 Blackwaterfoot 1 Apr and c5 Kildonan 18 Aug. Last 1 Clauchlands 1 Oct. Greenland race incl 2 Kildonan 4 May.

### **Blackbird**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: m carrying food Whiting Bay 27 Apr; pr feeding 3 juvs Margnaheglish 11 May; pr with 2 yng Kildonan 29 May; m with 2 yng (2nd brood) Pirnmill 22 Jun; pr feeding 1 juv (only survivor of 2 broods) Whiting Bay 1 Jul. Widespread all yr, with max 8 Port-na-Lochan 24 Nov.

### **Fieldfare**

Common winter visitor. Jan/Mar sightings incl 9 Clachaig Fm 6 Jan; 22 Clauchlands 7 Jan; 18 Machrie 26 Mar. Very early return 10/11 with mistle thrushes Sannox 23 Aug. Groups of up to 30 at King's Cross, N Kiscadale, Strathwhillan, Balmichael, Blackwaterfoot and Auchencairn Sep/Nov. Larger groups incl 70+ flying N Pirnmill 17 Oct and 100+ Machrie 9 Nov, with max c200 Balnacoole 12 Jan.

### **Song Thrush**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f at nest Pirnmill 15 Apr; adult carrying food Blackwaterfoot 25 Apr; pr carrying food Whiting Bay 5 May; adult feeding 2 yng Kildonan 19 May; adult carrying food Balmichael 20 May; double brooded Arranton and Pirnmill Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 6 BCP 3 May.

### **Redwing**

Common winter visitor, but fewer than fieldfares. Jan/Mar sightings incl 9 Clachaig Fm 6 Jan; 11 High Kildonan 24 Feb. Return 12+ Spion Kop 6 Oct; c5 Strathwhillan 11 Oct; c42 with fieldfares High Kiscadale 28 Oct; 5 Corrie 29 Oct; 2 Glenashdale 6 Nov; 30 Balmichael 7 Nov. Max 100+ Auchencairn 9 Oct.

### **Mistle Thrush**

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: adult gathering nesting material Carlo 8 Apr; 1 carrying food Pirnmill 13 Apr; pr at nest Brodick 29 Apr; adult carrying food S Corriegills 20 May; pr with 1 juv Machrie Pond 10 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 32 Sannox 12 Sep.

### **Lesser Whitethroat**

Rare migrant. Arr 1 Kildonan 30 Apr, seen again same location 6 May.

### **Sedge Warbler**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: adult feeding yng Corriecravie Pond 26 Jul. Arr 1 Kilmory 19 Apr (earliest ever recorded). Fewer than usual, with 1 Kildonan 2 May; 2 Shiskine Golf Course 12 May; 2 Glenashdale, 2 King's Cross 14 May; 1 Dougarie 27 May; 1 Auchenhew 23 Jun.

### **Whitethroat**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 prs at nests with 5 well grown yng each Auchenhew/Bennan Head 10 Jun; adult carrying food Clauchlands 16 Jun. Arr 1 Ardlui 4 May. Singles and prs thereafter at Shiskine Golf Course, King's Cross, King's Cave car park, Kildonan, N Glen Sannox, Sliderry, Lakin, Machrie and Whiting Bay May/Aug. Last 1 Kildonan 21 Aug.

### **Garden Warbler**

Scarce migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 King's Cross 14 May; 1 Cordon 1 Jun.

### **Blackcap**

Common migrant breeder and winter visitor. No breeding records. Singles and prs seen in suitable habitat all yr, with some coming to bird tables in winter. Most records came from Brodick, Lamdash and Whiting Bay areas, but also 1m Pirnmill 17 Oct; m Balmichael 29 Oct.

### **Wood Warbler**

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 2m holding territory Glenashdale 4 May; 1 Merkland Wood, 1 Monamore Forestry 26 May; 2 singles Merkland Wood 28 May. Fewer than normal.

### **Chiffchaff**

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Whiting Bay 25 Mar; thereafter singles and prs at Brodick, Torr Righ Forestry, Balmichael and Merkland Wood Mar/May. Last 1 Kildonan 1st half Dec, latest ever recorded.

### **Willow Warbler**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: nest with 7 eggs High Benlister 26 May; adult feeding 1 yng Torbeg 4 Aug. Arr 1 Pirnmill 5 Apr, widespread by Jun, with max c10 Dippen 8 Apr. Last m singing Pirnmill 24 Sep.

### **Goldcrest**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 juvs Fallen Rocks 19 Jun; adults with yng Loch Thomson 25 Jun. Singles and prs seen all yr in suitable habitat, with max 6 BCP 13 Aug.

### **Spotted Flycatcher**

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: adult carrying nesting material Merkland Wood 26 May; pr feeding 1 yng Largiemore 13 Aug. Arr 2 Merkland Wood 25 May. Prs and singles seen at Corrie, Sannox, Monamore Forestry, Newton, Pirmill, Glen Sannox, Largiemore and Kildonan May/Sep. Last 1 Auchencairn 11 Sep.

### **Long-tailed Tit**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr feeding 6 yng Glenashdale 11 May; pr with 2 yng Margnaheglish 23 May; pr with 6 yng Brodick 3 Aug. Inc in sightings, with up to 10 at Sannox, Pirmill, Whitehouse Woods, Glen Sannox, Merkland Wood, Fallen Rocks, Kildonan, Cleat, Corrie and King's Cave all yr. Larger nos incl c24 Pirmill 4 Sep and 20+ Merkland 12 Sep.

### **Coal Tit**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nesting Glenkiln Forestry 7 Apr; adult carrying food BCP 3 May. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max c20 Pirmill 4 Sep.

### **Blue Tit**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: successful nest box Arranton and Brodick 20 May; adult with 4 juvs Margnaheglish 17 Jun. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 8 Pirmill 15 Feb, 8 Merkland 15 Jun and 8 Whiting Bay 28 Sep.



### **Great Tit**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: successful nest box Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; pr with 4 yng Marnaheglis 12 Jun; pr feeding yng Kildonan 13 Jun. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables. Max 4 Glenashdale 31 Dec.

### **Nuthatch**

Rare visitor. 1 heard Glenashdale 4 May and again 2 Jun; 1 seen Corrie 25 Jun, possibly same bird.

### **Treecreeper**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding Merkland Wood 25 May; pr with yng Benlister 26 May. Singles and prs seen all yr in suitable habitat at Glenashdale, Newton, Lochranza, Torbeg, Pirnmill, King's Cross and Monamore Forestry.

### **Jackdaw**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 prs nesting Cleateadh Buidhe 5 May; nest with yng Clauchlands 2 Jun; adult feeding 1 yng Lochranza 23 Jun. Widespread all yr. Larger groups incl c30 Blackwaterfoot 20 Jan; 20+ Pirnmill 3 Apr; 35 Lochranza 21 Jul. Max 40 Whiting Bay 28 Sep, and 40 Machrie Fm 24 Nov.

### **Rook**

Scarce winter visitor. 1 Dippen 15-30 Mar; 12 S Feorline 14 Oct; 1 Whiting Bay 16 Nov. Max 30 Blackwaterfoot 23 Nov.

### **Carrion/Hooded Crow**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: nest Auchenhew 6 May; adult feeding juv Kildonan 19 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 77 Cleat 28 May.

### **Raven**

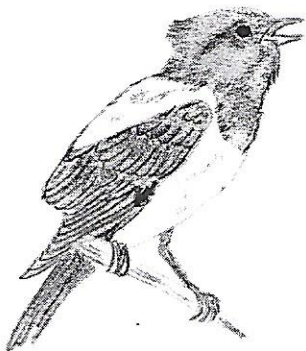
Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 4 yng Kilpatrick, pr with 4 yng Kilmory (all yng ringed) Apr; pr with 2 juvs Clachan Glen 28 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 9 Cleat 29 Sep.

### **Starling**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Pirnmill 11 Apr; 2 nesting prs, 1 nest with yng Largiemore 6 May; 2 prs feeding yng Balmichael 15 May; pr feeding yng Kildonan 20 May. Widespread all yr, with max c120 Shiskine 6 Oct.

### **Rose-coloured Starling**

Rare vagrant. 1 Brodick 27/28 Jun, 2nd record for Arran.



### **House Sparrow**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nested Pirnmill 5 May; nested Corrie 11 May; pr feeding yng Kildonan 20 May; pr with 4 juvs Whiting Bay 21 May; adult feeding yng Corrie 2 Jul. Common round the villages all yr, with max 40 Whiting Bay roost 12 Jul, and c40 Machrie 8 Aug.

### **Chaffinch**

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: fledglings Pirmill 9 Jun. Widespread all yr, with many at bird tables in winter. Max 50 Auchencairn 28 Jul. 1m in full song High Kildonan 16 Feb was unusually early.

### **Brambling**

Occasional winter visitor. Inc in sightings, with m Pirmill 3 and 8 Jan; pr Brodick 21 Jan; 1 Strathwhillan 1 Feb; 1 Auchencairn mid Oct; m Lochranza 25 Nov. Max 7-8 Kilmory 14 Jan.

### **Greenfinch**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: adult feeding yng Kildonan 23 May; adult with juv Pirmill 20 Jun; adult with 2 juvs Shiskine Golf Course, juv Catacol 23 Jul; f with 2 yng Pirmill 1 Aug. Widespread all yr, many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 6 Whiting Bay 10 Jul.

### **Goldfinch**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 3 yng Kildonan 16 Aug. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly in gardens and on farmland, also coming to bird tables in winter. Larger autumn flocks incl c100 Cleat 14 Sep and again 27 Sep.

### **Siskin**

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Widespread in suitable habitat Mar/Nov, and many coming to nut feeders in winter. Larger autumn flocks incl 30 Corriecravie 25 Sep; 60+ Cleat 27 Sep; 20-30 High Corrie 2 Oct. Max c150 Whitefarland 27 Sep.

### **Linnet**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f feeding yng Dunfion 2 Jun; nest with 3 yng Torrylinn shore 11 Jun; pr with min 4 yng Machrie Pond 2 Aug. Up to 10 seen Mar/Dec at Blackwaterfoot, Cleat, Dougarie, Kildonan, Auchenhew, Imachar, Shiskine Golf Course, and Machriewaterfoot. Larger counts incl 25-30 Drumadoon Fm 23 Jul; 50-60 Clauchlands 9 Sep; 60 Cleat 14 Sep; c20 Sannox 28 Sep. Max 110 Sliderry 30 Mar.

### **Twite**

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. Pr Arranton 7 May; 2 Kilpatrick 11 May; 1 Kildonan 29 Aug; 1 Machrie 8 Sep; 1 Whitefarland 9 Sep; 2 Cleat 27 Sep.

### **Redpoll**

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. m holding territory High Kildonan 3 May; f Pirnmill 18 May; 3m S Bank Fm 21 Jun; 1 Drumaghinier 21 Jul; 1 BCP 24 Aug; 1 Kerr's Port 28 Sep. Larger nos incl c15 with linnets Machrie 7 Aug; 9 Cleat 29 Sep. Max 16 Torrylinnwaterfoot 30 Sep.

### **Crossbill**

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. Fewer records than usual, with 1 at nut feeder Imachar 22 May; 10 High Kildonan 8 Jun. Max c20 Cnoc na Dail Forestry 13 Oct.

### **Bullfinch**

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f feeding yng Torbeg 17 Aug. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly in gardens and forestry. Max 5m 1f Whiting Bay 24 Jan and 6 Corrie Golf Course 27 Oct.



**Yellowhammer**

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 Lamlash 8 Jul; 2 Shiskine Golf Course 9 and 14 Jul, and again 4 Nov. Max 3 Strathwhillan 1 Feb.

**Reed Bunting**

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. Singles and prs Apr/Aug at Machriewaterfoot, Clauchlands, Cleat, Corriecravie, Blackwaterfoot and Allt Burican. No winter records.

## 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 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 Crake 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  
 172. Blackbird RC  
 173. Fieldfare WC  
 174. Song Thrush RC  
 175. Redwing WC  
 176. Mistle Thrush RU  
 177. Grasshopper Warbler SU  
 178. Sedge Warbler SC  
 179. Lesser Whitethroat SO  
 180. Whitethroat SC  
 181. Garden Warbler SU  
 182. Blackcap SC/WU  
 183. Wood Warbler SU  
 184. Chiffchaff SU  
 185. Willow Warbler SC  
 186. Yellow-browed Warbler V  
 187. Goldcrest RC  
 188. Spotted Flycatcher SC  
 189. Pied Flycatcher S\*/U  
 190. Long-tailed Tit RC  
 191. Willow Tit O  
 192. Coal Tit RC  
 193. Blue Tit RC  
 194. Great Tit RC  
 195. Nuthatch V  
 196. Treecreeper RC  
 197. Golden Oriole V  
 198. Red-backed Shrike V  
 199. Great Grey Shrike V  
 200. Jay B\*/X  
 201. Magpie B\*/O  
 202. Chough B\*/V  
 203. Jackdaw RC  
 204. Rook B\*/WC/SU  
 205. Carrion/Hooded Crow RC  
 206. Raven RC  
 207. Rose-coloured Starling V  
 208. Starling RC

209. House Sparrow RC  
 210. Tree Sparrow B\*/U  
 211. Chaffinch RC  
 212. Brambling WO  
 213. Greenfinch RC  
 214. Goldfinch RC  
 215. Siskin RC  
 216. Linnet SC/WU  
 217. Twite RU  
 218. Redpoll SC/WU  
 219. Scarlet Rosefinch V  
 220. Crossbill RU  
 221. Bullfinch RC  
 222. Hawfinch V  
 223. Snow Bunting WO  
 224. Yellowhammer RU  
 225. Reed Bunting RU  
 226. Corn Bunting B\*



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