

The Isle of Arran Natural History Society 2005

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT 2004 Published by The Isle of Arran Natural History Society 2005

Compiled and illustrated by Audrey Walters

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INTRODUCTION

Thanks to another good year for voles, our raptors had a very good breeding season. For the third year in succession though, the pair of nesting hen harriers on camera at Kilmory lost all their eggs, this time to a hooded crow. Island Porcelain have now ceased to trade, and their building at Kilmory is no longer available to house the viewing equipment. We hope that a new venue can be found in the future. There was plenty of action at the barn owl nesting box on camera at Brodick Country Park, but they too failed to breed. There are now plans to put up kestrel nesting boxes, and if they are successful, they may be on camera in the future. The on-going eider survey which took place from the 18th to the 25th September produced very low results, and in some cases no eiders were seen.

The Arran landscape continues to alter, the most obvious being the installation of new sewage systems at Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay. The whole sea front at Lamlash for instance has been excavated, and although some of the grass has now been relaid, there is still a lot of work to be done, especially at Clauchlands. Meantime, new areas of forestry have been clear felled, most noticeably a very large area in the Monamore Forestry between the Forestry road and the coast.

With the return of some species, and other species failing to show, a total of 148 species was recorded, the same as last year. Highlights of the year included a juvenile white-tailed eagle, a juvenile marsh harrier, a spotted redshank, a willow tit, and the biggest number of waxwings ever recorded here. Great spotted woodpeckers are now definitely resident. They have extended their range, and we hope to have a breeding record in the near future. Last year, we reported breeding goosanders but no breeding goshawks. This year, it was the other way round!

Once again, many thanks to everyone who wrote to me or phoned with information. Thanks too to Tony Smith for proof reading, and to John Rhead, Terry Southall and Bernie Zonfrillo who helped with identification and other matters. All bird records are important, whether it is common garden birds or rarities. Lists in Voous order (i.e. the same order as the check list at the back of this report) are a great help. Date lists are fine, but take me a good bit longer to enter on the computer. I say it every year, but all I need to know is how many, where and the date. I would ask visitors in particular to be aware of the status of Arran

birds, given both in the systematic list and the check list. What might be a common bird in your home area could be a rarity here, magpies being the classic example! Beware too of hybrid ducks and geese which cause confusion every year, particularly the hybrid geese at Whiting Bay.

Please send your information to: Mrs.A.Walters, "Sula", Margnaheglish Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LE, or phone (01770) 600 406 before the end of January '06.

CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

JANUARY

The year started well, with the first two returning gannets at Whiting Bay, and c80 lapwing near Kilpatrick on the 1st. A dead ringed barn owl was found by the roadside at Shiskine on the 2nd, one of the youngsters ringed here last year, while five shelduck were seen at the Cleat. A pair of peregrines was noted at Dunfion, and a scarce water rail was heard squealing loudly at Kildonan on the 3rd. Four purple sandpipers overwintering at Kildonan and four pairs of shelduck were recorded on the 4th, as well as 55 wigeon at Cosyden and a female merlin darting across the road at Lamlash Golf Club. A flock of 8-10 siskin was at Corrie on the 5th. A gap in sightings until the 17th, with 130+ teal at Kilpatrick. On the 21st there were five black-throated divers and nine pairs of fulmars at King's Cave, and a single great northern diver at Pirnmill. A flock of redwings at Sannox on the 24th included 13 mistle thrushes. On the 25th there were 53 wigeon at Kildonan, and 71 eider and 116 kittiwakes at Whiting Bay. A kingfisher was seen on four occasions on the Rosa burn during the 3rd week. On the 26th, a female sparrowhawk was seen chasing a mixed flock of fieldfares and redwings near Kilpatrick, and by an odd coincidence a male was seen later at Balmichael doing the same thing. Good notes on the 27th, with a single little grebe and a male goosander at Lochranza, and a flock of 35 lapwings at Shiskine.

FEBRUARY

A series of hen harrier sightings started on the 9th, with a female at Glenree, followed by a pair at Garbh Allt on the 18th, a female at Meall Mor and a male at Beinn Bhreac on the 19th, a female near the Urie Loch on the 26th, and a pair at the String summit on the 27th. A great spotted woodpecker was heard drumming at Brodick Country Park on the 9th. On the 10th, a leg with a ring was recovered from a dead goldcrest, and it was later identified as having been ringed on the island of Sanda in '03. A group of nine black guillemots was at Brodick Pier on the 12th, while on the 14th there were five goldeneye at Lochranza and two pairs at Catacol. A moorhen was seen on Machrie pond on the same day. A walk to Loch Nuis on a beautiful sunny day on the 18th produced an unusual inland record of a single teal and two female goldeneye on the loch, as well as four adult and two juvenile golden eagles soaring above Garbh Thorr, and a short-eared owl on the other side of the Garbh Allt burn. A second great spotted woodpecker turned

up at Auchareoch on the 20th as well as a single brambling at High Kildonan. A chiffchaff heard at Lochranza on the 22nd is the first record of one overwintering. The 23rd brought possibly the best sighting of the year when a juvenile white-tailed eagle landed briefly on the Catacol shore. The red wing tags with the letter Z identified it as having been tagged on Mull the previous year. On the 25th, the flock of lapwings at Kilpatrick had increased to 70+ and there was also a flock of 80+ greylag geese. Meantime, the number of greylags at Shiskine had risen to 350. A second water rail was recorded at Knockenkelly on the 26th. On the 27th there were four adult and six juvenile whooper swans at Whiting Bay, and the first two returning lesser black-backed gulls at Brodick. Two purple sandpipers were noted at Drumadoon Point on the 28th, the only other location for this species, and last note for the month was of 30 twite in a mixed flock of finches at Kilmory on the 29th.

MARCH

Some interesting sightings on the 6th, with 30-40 fulmars at Drumadoon, a pair of snow buntings on the Castles summit and six common scoter at Blackwaterfoot. A goshawk was seen at Brodick Country Park on the 8th, and a single knot on passage and about 60 gannets passing in one hour at Kildonan on the 13th. By the 16th, the number of shelducks at Clauchlands had risen to five pairs and a single. A male reed bunting turned up in the same area on the 20th. A single white-fronted goose was spotted in a flock of about 400+ greylags at Shisking on the 21st, while there were still 17 kittiwakes at Whiting Bay on the same day. The first summer migrant, a chiffchaff, was seen at Arranton on the 23rd, beating the first wheatear at Machrie by one day. On the 27th, the first two swallows were seen at Sannox, and there was an unusual record of a jack snipe at Kildonan. Another wader on passage, a bar-tailed godwit, turned up at Slidderywaterfoot on the 28th. The most astonishing sight of the year must have been on the 31st, when a cock pheasant flushed from the shore path at Imachar flew straight out to sea and plunged into the water about 200 yds offshore. It was last seen swimming strongly in choppy water, but we couldn't stay long enough to see if it made it back to the shore!

APRIL

A month of arrivals and departures, as the last of the winter visitors left and a second batch of summer migrants arrived, starting with a willow warbler at Strabane on the 2nd. A Sandwich tern at Machriewaterfoot was next to arrive on the 4th. The last goldeneyes were seen at Strabane

gravel pit on the 6th, and by then a pair of mute swans was back at their nest at Corriegills Point. There were up to seven pairs of breeding mutes, but cygnets were seen at only four locations, and the survival rate was very low. A pair of grey herons was at their nest at Lagg on the 7th, while the first sand martin arrived at Slidderywaterfoot, and there were two whimbrels at Auchenhew. The first common sandpipers were seen at both Machrie and Merkland Point on the 8th. A white wagtail arrived at the Cleat on the 9th, and it was also a good day for raptors at Imachar with both a peregrine and a merlin being seen. The familiar call of the cuckoo was heard at Glen Cloy on the 10th, while there was the unusual sight of two Canada geese at the Cleat. On the 11th, the last two greylags were seen heading north at Machrie, and it was a good day for divers, with two red-throated overflying Cladach, 11 black-throated at Kilpatrick and eight at Machrie, as well as two great northern at Machrie. The eight whooper swans at Whiting Bay had gone by the 13th, and a single ptarmigan was seen above the Coirein Lochain on the 16th. A second wave of summer migrants began to arrive, with two house martins at Lamlash on the 20th, a "comic" tern at Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 21st, a tree pipit at Brodick Country Park on the 22nd, sedge warblers at Kerr's Port and Auchenhew, and a whitethroat at Clauchlands on the 25th, and finally two grasshopper warblers at Machrie Moor on the 26th. Four Greenland wheatears on passage were seen at Kildonan on the 25th, and final note for the month was of a barn owl nest with six eggs at Auchareoch on the 28th.

MAY

More breeding records, starting with a rock pipit nest with four eggs and a pair feeding young, and an arrival lesser whitethroat at Auchenhew on the 1st. On the 5th, a passage osprey was fishing in Lamlash Bay until the unwelcome attentions of the huge flock of gulls that surrounded it forced it to move on. The first whinchat record was at Machrie Moor on the 6th, and a second goshawk was seen at Glenloig. By the 12th, three wren nests in the Whitehouse Woods were occupied. An important record on the 13th when a willow tit was both heard and seen at North Glen Sannox, last recorded in 1987. On the 14th there were nine great northern divers at Kilmory, while eight common scoters were seen between Ayr and Arran from the "Waverley". The first swift was seen at High Kildonan on the 17th, and two meadow pipit nests with eggs were found, one on Beinn Bhiorach and one on Beinn Nuis. Spotted flycatchers were next to arrive with singles at Brodick Country Park and Glenashdale on the 21st. Also on the 21st, the first shelduck family appeared at Clauchlands, but of the 11-12 ducklings only three

remained by the 29th. Mallard families were also seen in the same area a day later, a female with four young and another with eight young. More passage migrants on the 24th with four sanderling at Blackwaterfoot, then an arrival redstart at North Sannox on the 25th, and a wood warbler at Glen Rosa on the 26th. A kestrel nest with four well-grown young at Benlister on the 29th was just one example of a successful breeding season. The first Manx shearwater was seen at Brodick on the 29th, a more usual arrival date after an exceptionally late arrival last year. Last but not least was a single crossbill at Corriecravie on the 31st, the first of only two records, and numbers seem to be well down.

JUNE

The pair of nesting hen harriers on camera at Kilmory were unlucky for the third year running when a hooded crow took five eggs from their nest on the 1st. On the 2nd, a stonechat nest at Auchenhew had a record seven young, their second brood. The mute swan still sitting at Clauchlands on the 3rd finally produced five cygnets by the 20th, reduced to two by the 30th. On the 5th there were two pairs of nesting ovstercatchers and a third pair with young at Clauchlands, a sample of a prolific breeding season for this species. A pair of common sandpipers was seen at Drumadoon with three newly hatched young on the 6th, and a pair of ringed plovers with two young was seen at Sandbraes, the first of many successful breeding records. Sadly, the only puffin of the year was found dead on shore at Blackwaterfoot on the same day. A visit to Trareoch on the 12th produced a pair of long-tailed tits with three young, three juvenile greenfinches, and three juvenile linnets. A buzzard was watched between Kildonan and Dippen on the 15th as it inspected a hare carcass at the side of the road, accompanied by two carrion crows, while there were young sand martins visible at a minimum of four nest holes at Sannox Quarry. By mid June, there were two grasshopper warblers reeling at the Lakin Farm, but more importantly a nest was found at High Kildonan - proof of breeding at last! A busy day for our local ringer Terry Southall when he made his annual visit to Pladda on the 22nd. He reported 60 pairs of shag with young, 50 pairs of common gulls with minimum 12 young, about 100 pairs of herring gulls, 12 pairs of great black-backed gulls with minimum 6 juveniles, 60-70 pairs of lesser black-backed gulls, and 12 pairs of nesting arctic terns, some with eggs.

Thanks to a ring ouzel survey being undertaken by the Brodick Country Park Ranger Service, a pair was recorded between Cir Mhor and the Saddle on the 20th, and a male at Coire Daingean on the 22nd. Also on the 22nd, a pair of short-eared owls was seen dropping food to two juveniles, and a pair of whinchats was also feeding three young near Moss Farm. Finally, 28 house martin nests were reported on the one house at Corriecravie at the end of June, most of them occupied.

JULY

A quiet month, with most birds busy bring up their families and generally keeping a low profile. On the 1st, there were two groups of eiders, three females with three young and four females with seven young at Brodick, the first of many families seen round the island. Another ring ouzel was recorded at the rock slabs below Beinn Tarsuinn on the 6th, and a kingfisher turned up at Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 8th. Three fulmar nests were occupied at Catacol on the 9th, while six kestrels were causing a commotion at Imachar. A flock of 12 mistle thrushes was seen on the Beinn a' Chliabhain ridge on the 14th. A large flock of 82 red-breasted mergansers and five common sandpipers were at Machrie on the 18th. Six crossbills were noted at High Glenashdale in mid July, but there were no breeding records. A buzzard was discovered eating miner bees in a bunker on Corrie Golf Course on the 26th, an interesting variation in its diet. Last note for the month was of a juvenile peregrine attacking a flock of oystercatchers at Kildonan on the 27th, but it missed its target and flew off to practise its search and destroy tactics elsewhere.

AUGUST

Usually the best month to look for birds on passage, and a variety of species duly turned up. On the 4th, c30 Canada geese were flying north close inshore at Pirnmill, while on the 5th a total of c350 Manx shearwaters were seen between Brodick and Whiting Bay, and there were seven reed buntings at Torbeg. On the 6th, a group of seven moorhens of varying ages was seen at a flooded field at Shiskine. The second redstart of the year appeared at High Kildonan on the 7th. A large number of dunlin, c50 in all, was seen at Whiting Bay on the 9th. A series of knot sightings began on the 10th with two at Kildonan, followed by a single at Glenashdalewaterfoot on the 12th, five at Kildonan on the 14th, and a single at the Cleat on the 30th. Young fulmars were seen in two nests at Cleateadh Buidhe on the 10th. The 14th was full of interest, with a female sparrowhawk taking a chaffinch at Loch Thomson to the accompaniment of loud calls from her two youngsters nearby, a passage greenshank at the Cleat, and a storm petrel seen off The Cock of Arran, last recorded in 1998. On the 17th, 16

Sandwich terns were gathered onshore at Machrie. There was real excitement on the 19th when a juvenile marsh harrier which had been radio-tagged on Tayside overflew Lamlash, before making its way down to Carlisle and then over to Newcastle-on-Tyne. As far as I know, nobody here actually saw it, but some people tracked it on the Website. The last record was in 1988. Another scarce passage wader was seen on the Lamlash shore on the 21st, a spotted redshank with other redshanks, last recorded in 1996, while a kingfisher was glimpsed at the Benlister burn. More sanderlings arrived, with eight at Blackwaterfoot on the 23rd, and nine at Drumadoon Point on the 24th. The last two arctic terns left Whiting Bay, and the first 25 kittiwakes drifted in on the 26th. On the 28th a great spotted woodpecker was seen in a Pirnmill garden, hopefully a sign that they are spreading into new areas. Last to leave was a swift at Lamlash on the 31st.

SEPTEMBER

The 5th was a busy day, with the last sighting of the greenshank at the Cleat, a great skua at Pirnmill, while at King's Cross Point a swallow was still feeding young in the nest, and the last spotted flycatcher of the year was noted. Just across the water though, two peregrines on Holy Isle were involved in interplay as one caught a pigeon and attempted to pass it to the other with a lot of screaming. A pair of mute swans was seen with three juveniles at Machrie, and a pair at Carlo with one juvenile on the 7th. These were thought to be the only surviving cygnets of the year. The last whinchat was seen on the Ross road on the same day. Five white wagtails were with a group of pieds at Whiting Bay on the 8th, and a second osprey on migration was flying south at Lochranza. In the space of one hour, 180 gannets were flying east at Pirnmill, and on the 12th the last willow warbler of the year was at Shiskine. A single whimbrel was reported at King's Cave on the 13th, as well as three black-throated divers. Two more departures, with two Sandwich terns at Whiting Bay on the 14th, and the last chiffchaff at Dippen Head on the 18th. By the 19th, the number of kittiwakes at Whiting Bay had increased to 210, and there were also nine common sandpipers. There was the unusual sight of nine buzzards feeding in a newly ploughed field at Shiskine on the 20th. Flocks of small birds were gathering, with an estimated 200 siskins at Kildonan on the 22nd, 200-300 at Balliekine on the 24th, and 100 linnets at Clauchlands on the 27th. Two rooks were at Kilpatrick on the 26th, but there were no reports from the Torbeg, Blackwaterfoot or Corriecravie areas where they have overwintered in recent years.

OCTOBER

Two albinos turned up on the 2nd, a pheasant in Benlister, probably the same one seen a year ago, and a hen harrier at Glen Rosa which has also been recorded before. A little grebe returned to overwinter at Lochranza on the 7th, and the first eight returning greylags arrived at High Kildonan a day later. On the 12th, c10 sanderling were on the Kilmory shore, then the last three swallows of the year left King's Cross on the 15th. Next to arrive were 30-40 returning fieldfares at Machrie Moor on the 17th. More departures on the 21st, with the last wheatear at the Cleat, and the last five house martins at King's Cross, while there were 12-whooper swans at Shiskine. The 22nd saw a huge raft of an estimated 400-500 razorbills on the Kilbrannan Sound, seven returning wigeon at Auchenhew, and a flock of 170+ golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot. Good sightings at High Kildonan on the 23rd, with 50 returning redwings, four redpolls and a single brambling, and later the same day the same observer recorded a garden warbler at Auchenhew, the latest date ever recorded. The 25th was a significant day as it marked the start of the biggest number of waxwings ever to come to Arran. The first two were at Margnaheglish, and they were followed in quick succession by 50+ at Brodick on the 27th, two at Dippen on the 29th, and 36 at Sandbraes on the 30th. Sadly, five of the Brodick flock were killed by a window strike on the 31st. Also on the 31st there were 86 mallard and two male goosanders at Cosyden, and the first two returning goldeneye at Port-na-lochan.

NOVEMBER

The last gannet was recorded at Corrie on the 1st, and a heavy mob of 50 great black-backed gulls at Dougarie. The last Manx shearwater was seen off Pirnmill on the 4th, and another series of waxwing sightings began with 130 at Whiting Bay and 200 in Glen Cloy, then 125 at Largiemor on the 7th and six at Cnoc na Dail on the 18th. A female merlin was seen at the top of the Kildonan road, and four returning purple sandpipers at Kildonan on the 7th. A scarce yellowhammer was seen at Thunderguy on the 9th, a welcome sighting since their numbers here remain very low. On the 10th there was a pair of snow buntings on Beinn a' Chliabhain, and the lone tawny owl at Brodick Country Park was heard. Two snipe were flushed at Clauchlands Point on the 15th. On the 20th a flock of 16 incoming lapwings was at Kilpatrick, and the first returning shelduck was back at Clauchlands. Two more unusual sightings on the 28th, when a single pink-footed goose was noticed in a flock of 120 greylags at Shiskine, and a male smew was recorded for the second year running at Pirnmill.

DECEMBER

A quiet month, but there were some interesting sightings, starting on the 1st when a buzzard perched briefly on the eagle's head prow of the replica viking longship at Corrie. It could possibly have been the wildlife photo of the year, but sadly there was no time to fetch a camera! A party of 20-30 long-tailed tits at Corrie brightened up a dull day on the 5th. By the 7th, two pairs and a female wigeon were back at Clauchlands. There was another buzzard incident on the same day when one dived into a big flock of crows in a farm field at Benlister, taking a hoodie. As it stood mantling its prey, a herd of ever curious cows wandered over, and one was seen to actually nudge the buzzard. It stood its ground however, and was last seen tearing into the carcass. A gap until the 19th when a flock of c80-100 teal was present at Kilpatrick, and a moorhen was seen at Port-na-lochan, not for the first time. Another female merlin was seen darting in and out of a hedgerow at Torbeg on the 22nd. Sadly, a dead barn owl was found on the Newton shore on the 28th. Four yellowhammers brightened up a garden at Shiskine on the 30th, while the last note for the year was of a flock of 15-20 reed buntings on Machrie Moor on the 31st, a smaller flock than last year.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Chiffchaff 23 Mar Wheatear 24 Mar Swallow 27 Mar Willow Warbler 2 Apr Sand Martin 7 Apr Sandwich Tern 8 Apr Common Sandpiper 8 Apr White Wagtail 9 Apr Cuckoo 10 Apr House Martin 20 Apr Garden Warbler 20 Apr Arctic Tern 21 Apr Tree Pipit 22 Apr Sedge Warbler 25 Apr Grasshopper Warbler 26 Apr Lesser Whitethroat 1 May Whinchat 6 May

Manx Shearwater 14 May

Swift 17 May

Spotted Flycatcher 21 May

Redstart 25 May

Wood Warbler 26 May

(NB blackcap and whimbrel sometimes overwinter)

ABBREVIATIONS

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

wk/s = week/s

Jan etc. = all months abbreviated

incl = including

inc = increase

dec = decrease

pr/s = pair/s

arr = arrival

rd = road

BCP = Brodick Country Park

cf - compare

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver

Common resident breeder. Breeding: bred successfully at several inland lochans. Seen Apr/Dec round the coast, with max 6 Pirnmill 12 Aug and 6 Machrie 13 Aug.

Black-throated Diver

Fairly common passage visitor. Seen round the coast Jan/Nov, with max 11 Kilpatrick 11 Apr.

Great Northern Diver

Fairly common passage visitor, with majority of sightings in May. Seen all yr round the coast, with max 4 Machrie 14 May.

Little Grebe

Uncommon winter visitor. 1 Lochranza 27 Jan; return 1 Lochranza 7 Oct. No report from Fish Fm.

Fulmar

Common round the coast all yr. Breeding: 6 prs nesting Catacol 16 Apr; 8 prs nesting Cleateadh Buidhe 2 May; 15 prs nesting Drumadoon 7 Jul; 3 nests occupied Imachar 9 Jul; 2 nests with yng Cleateadh Buidhe 10 Aug; 1 yng Drumadoon 20 Aug. Max 15-20 prs Drumadoon 6 Mar.

Manx Shearwater

Abundant on passage summer/autumn. First 1 Brodick Bay 14 May. Max 300/half hr Whiting Bay 26 Jun. Last 1 Kilbrannan Sound 4 Nov. Dead birds incl 1 Torrylinn shore 3 May and 2 Kilmory shore 2 Jun.

Storm Petrel

Occasional vagrant. 1 Cock of Arran 14 Aug (N.Rankine), last recorded 1998.

Gannet

Common round the coast Jan/Nov. Return 2 Whiting Bay 1 Jan, inc to 60/1 hr Kildonan 13 Mar. Last 1 Corrie 1 Nov, and max 180/hr Cleat 11 Sep. 2 dead ads Sandbraes shore 15 Oct.

Cormorant

Fairly common non-breeding resident. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 36 Holy Isle 14 May. 1 with a white head Pirnmill 3 Mar.

Shag

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 60 prs bred on Pladda, yng hatched 2 wks earlier than last yr, most nests successful. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 131 Blackwaterfoot 14 May.

Grey Heron

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr at nest Lagg 7 Apr; ad with 1 juv Machriewaterfoot 15 Aug; no reports from other heronries at Brodick and Lamlash. Common round the coast all yr, with max 6 Lochranza 25 Apr.

Mute Swan

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Corriegills Pt 6 Apr; ad at nest Catacol 16 Apr; nest with 4 eggs Cordon 29 Apr, abandoned by early May; f at nest Dhunan 9 May; nest with 6 eggs Clauchlands 9 May, 5 yng seen 20 Jun, reduced to 2 by 30 Jul; pr with 4 yng Brodick 21 Jun, reduced to 1 by 22 Sep; pr with 4 yng Machrie 6 Jul, reduced to 3 by 7 Sep. Ad found dead Lamlash 31 Mar. Max 21 Whiting Bay 25 Jan.

Whooper Swan

Fairly common passage and winter visitor. 8 overwintering Whiting Bay 25 Jan; 10 Sandbraes 2 Feb; last 8 Whiting Bay 13 Apr; 1 Shiskine Valley 23 Sep; return pr with 4 juvs Whiting Bay 24 Oct. Max 12 Shiskine Valley 21 Oct.

Pink-footed Goose

Occasional winter visitor. 1 with greylags Shiskine 28 Nov (J. & A.Cassels).

White-fronted Goose

Occasional winter visitor. 1 with greylags Shiskine 21 Mar; 2 Shiskine 4 Apr.

Greylag Goose

Common winter visitor. 2 Kildonan 25 Jan; 180+ Torbeg 7 Feb; 11 Corrie 14 Feb; 80+ Kilpatrick 25 Feb; 120 flying E Shannochie 8 Apr; return 8 High Kildonan 8 Oct; 14 Shiskine Valley 13 Oct, inc to 188 by 24 Nov; 2 groups of 60+ and 15 Kilpatrick 23 Oct. Max 400+ Shiskine 21 Mar.

Canada Goose

Scarce passage visitor. 2 Cleat 10 Apr, 1 same location 9 and 16 May; c30 flying N Pirnmill 4 Aug.

Shelduck

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 11-12 yng Clauchlands 21 May, reduced to 3 yng by 29 May; pr with 4 yng Machrie 31 May; ad with 4 yng King's Cave 2 Jun; pr with 1 yng Cleat 3 Jun; pr with 1 yng Clauchlands 20 Jun. Common round the coast Jan/Jul, with max 17 Auchenhew 18 Apr. Return f Clauchlands 20 Nov.

Wigeon

Common winter visitor. Recorded at Auchenhew, Clauchlands, Kildonan and Machriewaterfoot Jan/Mar; return 7 Auchenhew 22 Oct. Max 55 Cosyden 4 Jan.

Teal

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder. No breeding records. Recorded at Kilpatrick and Machriewaterfoot Jan/Apr; return 6 Kilpatrick 26 Sep; 4 Cosyden 31 Oct; 2m Carlo 2 Dec. Max 130+ Kilpatrick 17 Jan. Inland records incl m Loch Nuis 18 Feb; 2 prs Shiskine Valley 3 Apr.

Mallard

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: f with 12 yng crossing rd opposite Lamlash Golf Course late Apr; f with 4 yng, f with 8 yng Clauchlands 22 May; f with 4 yng Pirnmill 8 Aug. Common round the coast all yr, with max 86 Cosyden 31 Oct. Inland records incl c30 Strabane gravel pit 17 Jan; 7 Loch Nuis 18 Feb; 2 prs Shiskine Valley 3 Apr; 3 Corriecravie pond 6 May.

Eider

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: 58 yng representing c13 broods recorded at Cordon, Clauchlands, Kildonan, Lochranza, Pirnmill, Brodick and Corrie. Common round the coast all yr, with max 77 Whiting Bay 25 Apr.

Common Scoter

Ocasional visitor. 6 Blackwaterfoot 6 Mar; 8 Ayr/Arran 14 May.

Goldeneye

Common winter visitor. Up to 5 seen at Sannox, Corrie, Clauchlands, Lochranza, Catacol, Kildonan, Whiting Bay, and Machrie Jan/Mar. Return 2f Port-na-lochan end Oct. Max 6 Clauchlands 25 Jan and 7 Dec. Inland records incl 2f Loch Nuis 18 Feb; 1m 2f Strabane gravel pit 6 Apr; 2 prs + 1f Port-na-lochan end Nov.

Smew

Rare winter visitor. m Pirnmill 28 Nov (M.Patterson) is 2nd yr running at this location.

Red-breasted Merganser

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: 34 yng representing 5 broods recorded at Machrie, Brodick, Cordon and Pirnmill. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 84 Machrie 13 Aug.

Goosander

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. Inc in sightings, with singles and prs at Lochranza, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Dougarie, Cosyden and Cordon Jan/Nov.

Marsh Harrier

Rare vagrant. Juv radio tagged on Tayside overflew Lamlash 19 Aug, last recorded 1988 (per B.Zonfrillo).

Hen Harrier

Common resident breeder. Breeding: bred successfully in many locations. Nest at Kilmory on camera predated by a hooded crow which took 5 eggs 1 Jun. Seen all yr, mainly in the Machrie Moor, Boguille and String rd areas. Albino m recorded for 2nd yr running in Glen Rosa 1st wk Oct.

Goshawk

Scarce resident breeder. Breeding: bred successfully at more than 1 location. Inc in sightings, with 1 BCP 8 Mar; 1 Glenloig 6 May; 1 N Sannox 14 May; 1 Ross rd 7 Sep.

Sparrowhawk

Common resident breeder. Breeding: f Loch Thomson with 2 yng calling nearby 14 Aug; juv m Corrie 23 Aug. Widespread all yr, with many reports of garden birds being taken. Dead m found under trees in a Lamlash garden 10 Aug.

Buzzard

Common resident breeder. Breeding: no reports, but must have bred successfully in many locations. Widespread round the island all yr, with max 10 Cnoc na Dail 7 Aug. Other groups incl 5 singles Ross rd 7 Sep; 6 Glen Rosa 15 Sep; 9 feeding in a ploughed field Shiskine 20 Sep.

White-tailed eagle

Rare visitor. 1 juv Catacol 23 Feb, later identified by red wing tags with letter Z as having been tagged as a chick on Mull 2003.



Golden Eagle

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 4 yng successfully fledged. Singles and prs seen all yr, mainly in the Boguille, Lochranza, Glen Catacol, String rd and Glen Rosa areas. Other records incl 1 imm Blackwaterfoot 19 May and 1 imm High Benlister 11 Nov. Max 4 ads 2 juvs Monyquil 18 Feb.

Osprey

Scarce passage visitor. 1 fishing Lamlash Bay 5 May; probably same bird again Shiskine Valley 8 May; 1 flying S Lochranza 10 Sep.

Kestrel

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 3 eggs Glen Chalmadale 1 May; nest with 4 well grown yng Benlister 29 May; nest with 4 yng Imachar Pt 31 May; pr with 2 juvs The Saddle 3 Jun; ad with min 1 juv Moss Fm 21 Jun; 2 juvs found dead Machrie Moor 28 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 6 Imachar 9 Jul.

Merlin

Scarce resident, no recent breeding reports. 1 Lamlash Golf Course 4 Jan; 1 Imachar 9 Apr; 1 Lamlash 19 May; 1 Abhainn Bheag 25 Jun; 1 Kildonan 7 Nov; 1 Torbeg 22 Dec.

Peregrine

Common resident breeder. Breeding: min 3 prs nested, 1 nest with 4 yng 1 Jun. Seen all yr at Dunfion, Glenloig, Imachar, Drumadoon, Brodick, Machrie, King's Cave, Kildonan, Newton and Holy Isle, with max 3 The Castles 16 Jul.

Red Grouse

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 1 yng Meall Biorach 27 May. Breeding success patchy, no large coveys reported, and singles only at Laggantuine, Coire na Ciche and Glen Sannox.

Ptarmigan

Scarce resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 above Correin Lochan 16 Apr; 1 Bealach an Sharraig 20 Aug.

Red-legged Partridge

Introduced resident breeder. No breeding records. Low nos, with few releases surviving. Singles and prs at Lamlash, Dougarie, Imachar, Whitefarland and Machriewaterfoot Apr/Nov.

Pheasant

Introduced resident breeder. Breeding: 10 poults Imachar 5 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr. 1 swimming in the sea after being flushed from path at Imachar 31 Mar; 2m 1f Pirnmill 6 May; 1m 4f BCP 20 Sep; white m Benlister 2 Oct; white m Kilpatrick 12 Dec.

Water Rail

Rare resident, no breeding records. 1 heard Kildonan 3 Jan; 1 Knockenkelly 26 Feb.

Moorhen

Scarce resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 1 yng Shiskine 26 Jul. 1 Machrie pond 14 Feb and 11 Mar; 1 Port-na-lochan 19 Dec. Max 7 of varying ages Shiskine Valley 6 Aug.

Oystercatcher

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: 62 prs nesting Machrie/Dougarie, many with eggs and some with yng 22/29 May; nest with 1 egg Cordon 26 May; nest with 2 eggs Drumadoon 31 May; nest with 3 eggs Whiting Bay 3 Jun; 2 prs at nests, pr with 3 newly hatched yng Clauchlands Point 5 Jun; pr with yng Trareaoch 15 Jun; Widespread round the coast all yr, with max 161 Machriewaterfoot 21 Mar.

Ringed Plover

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 3 prs Blackwaterfoot with eggs or yng 22/29 May; 2 nests with 1 and 4 eggs Drumadoon 5 Jun; pr with 2 yng Sandbraes 6 Jun; pr with 3 yng King's Cross 18 Jun; pr with 3 yng Torrylinnwaterfoot, pr with 1 yng Eilean Mairi 19 Jun. Widespread round the coast all yr, with max c125 Sannox 7 Aug.

Golden Plover

Uncommon resident breeder, common passage/winter visitor. Breeding: c15 territories on the Western Hills/Glen Catacol; nest with 3 eggs Loch nan Cnamh 29 Apr, successfully hatched by May. Most records came from the Machriewaterfoot area. 9 Machriewaterfoot 4 Jan, inc to 60+ by 4 Apr; 17 same location 15 Jul, inc to max 170+ by 22 Oct. Other records incl 40+ Blackwaterfoot 7 Feb; 3 Kilpatrick 29 Feb.

Lapwing

Uncommon resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor. No breeding records. 30+ Kilpatrick 1 Jan; 35 Shiskine Valley 27 Jan; 2 Clauchlands, 2 Machriewaterfoot 22 Feb; 50 Blackwaterfoot 27 Feb; 1 Torrylinn shore 3 May. All records Oct/Dec came from Kilpatrick. Max 70 Kilpatrick Fm 25 Feb.

Knot

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Kildonan 15 Mar; 2 in summer plumage Kildonan 10 Aug; 1 Glenashdalewaterfoot 12 Aug; 1 Cleat 30 Aug. Max 5 Kildonan 14 Aug.

Sanderling

Scarce passage visitor. 4 Blackwaterfoot 24 May, inc to 14 by 13 Jun; 4 with dunlin Machrie 12 Aug; 9 Drumadoon Pt 24 Aug. Max c10 Kilmory shore 12 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper

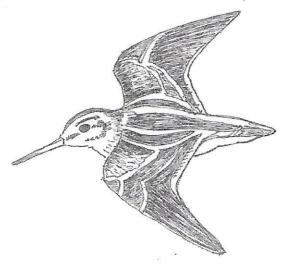
Scarce winter visitor. 4 Kildonan 4 Jan; 2 Drumadoon Pt 28 Feb; return 4 Kildonan 7 Nov.

Dunlin

Fairly common non-breeding resident. Most records came from Machriewaterfoot Jan/Oct. Other records incl 4 in summer plumage Cleat 16 May; 3 Brodick 21 May; 11 Kildonan 11 Aug; 2 Drumadoon Pt 19 Oct. Max 50 Whiting Bay 9 Aug.

Jack Snipe

Scarce winter visitor. 1 Kildonan 27 Mar (A.Hollick).



Snipe

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. Singles only recorded at Kilpatrick, N Glen Sannox, High Corrie, BCP, Machrie pond, String summit, Merkland Pt, Slidderywaterfoot and Kilpatrick all yr, with max 2 N Glen Sannox 17 Aug and 2 Clauchlands Pt 15 Nov.

Woodcock

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Fewer sightings than usual with 1 Cnoc na Dail 14 May; 1 Fallen Rocks 16 Jun; 1 Benlister 11 Nov; 1 Newton 5 Dec; 1 Merkland 8 Dec. Max 3 Machrie Moor Forestry 26 May.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Slidderywaterfoot 28 Mar; 1 Cleat 7 Apr; 1 S Feorline 8 Apr; 1 Kilmory shore 25 Sep.

Whimbrel

Fairly common spring/autumn passage, occasionally overwinters. 2 Cleat 7 Apr; 1 Kilpatrick 25 Apr; 2 Kerr's Port 27 Apr; 1 King's Cave 13 Sep. Max 5 Auchenhew 25 Apr.

Curlew

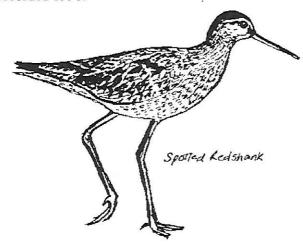
Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr probably nesting Beinn Bharrain 15 Apr. Seen round the coast all yr. Larger nos incl 40-50 Merkland Pt 5 Feb; 47 Clauchlands 22 Feb; c30 Port na Feannaiche 8 Aug; 44 Machrie 18 Sep; 50 Cordon 11 Nov; 45 Kilpatrick 31 Dec. Max 53 Cosyden 24 Nov.

Common Sandpiper

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: nest with 3 eggs N Sannox 25 May; ad with 1 yng Newton shore 5 Jun; pr with 3 newly hatched yng Drumadoon 6 Jun; ad at nest Sandbraes 6 Jun; ad with 1 yng Pirnmill 9 Jun; ad with juv Clauchlands 20 Jun. Arr 1 Machrie, 1 Merkland 8 Apr, widespread round the coast by May. Max 7 Machrie 15/16 Aug. Last 9 Whiting Bay 19 Sep.

Spotted Redshank

Rare passage visitor. 1 with redshanks Lamlash 21 Aug (I.Hart), last recorded 1996.



Redshank

Common resident, formerly bred. Seen round the coast all yr. Larger nos incl 15 Blackwaterfoot 10 Jan; 18 Machriewaterfoot 13 Aug; 16 Cleat 21 Oct; 20+ Corrie/Merkland 1 Dec. Max 33 Whiting Bay 18 Sep.

Greenshank

Scarce passage visitor. 1 Cleat 14/15 Aug and again 5 Sep (T.Southall).

Turnstone

-Common resident non-breeder. Seen all yr round the coast. Most records came from Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot and Machriewaterfoot, with max c40 Kildonan 18 Feb. Other records incl 8 Whiting Bay 21 Mar; 12 Kilpatrick 12 Dec.

Great Skua

Occasional summer/autumn visitor. 1 Pirnmill 5 Sep (M.Patterson).

Black-headed Gull

Fairly common resident, formerly bred. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 12 Imachar 20 Aug.

Common Gull

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 30 prs nesting Shiskine Golf Course, some with yng, 25 prs nesting Machrie/Dougarie, some with yng, also nesting Pirnmill 22/29 May; 3 nests with hatching eggs Leacan Ruadha 5 Jun; 50 prs nesting Pladda with min 12 yng 22 Jun. No report from Holy Isle. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 150 Monamore 11 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 60-70 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun; no report from Holy Isle. Return 2 Brodick 27 Feb. Dec in nos, with max 20 Machriewaterfoot 11 Aug. Last 10 Lochranza 13 Sep.

Herring Gull

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: c100 prs nesting Pladda 22 Jun, success unknown. No report from Holy Isle. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 105 Whiting Bay 21 Mar. 1 inland record of c200 following a tractor Shiskine 7 Aug.

Great Black-backed Gull

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 12 prs nesting Pladda with min 6 yng 22 Jun. Seen round the coast all yr, with max 50 Dougarie 1 Nov.

Kittiwake

Common passage visitor. Most records came from Whiting Bay, Machriewaterfoot and Pirnmill Jan/May and Aug/Dec. 116 Whiting Bay 25 Jan, dec to 17 by 21 Mar; 25 Whiting Bay 26 Aug inc to 210 by 19 Sep; 100/hr flying N Pirnmill 13 Sep; 13 Machriewaterfoot 22 Oct, dec to 4 by 8 Nov. Max 300+ Pirnmill 3 Oct. Other records incl 120 Blackwaterfoot 26 Sep; 85+ Catacol 9 Oct; 12 Dougarie 24 Nov.

Sandwich Tern

Fairly common passage visitor. Arr 1 Machriewaterfoot 4 Apr (equal earliest record). Up to 4 at Whiting Bay, Arranton, Pirnmill, Brodick, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, and Lamlash Apr/Aug; ad with 2 juvs Whiting Bay 5 Sep; ad feeding 1 juv Pirnmill 10 Sep. Max 16 Machrie 17 Aug and last 2 Kildonan 14 Sep.

Arctic Tern

Uncommon migrant breeder. Breeding: 12 prs nesting Pladda, some with eggs 22 Jun, success unknown; no sign of the usual pr at Dougarie 18 Jun. Arr 1 "comic" Glenashdalewaterfoot 21 Apr; 2 "comics" Lamlash 22 Apr; 1 Machriewaterfoot 13 Aug. Max 28 Arran/Ayr 14 May, and last 2 Whiting Bay 26 Aug.

Guillemot

Common passage visitor. Seen all yr round the coast and from ferry crossings. Larger nos incl 60+ Ardrossan/Brodick 10 May; 77 Whitefarland, 63 Blackwaterfoot 14 May; 100+ Kilbrannan Sound 5 Oct. Max c1000 flying S past Pladda 24 Oct.

Razorbill

Common passage visitor. Seen all yr round the coast and from ferry crossings. Larger nos incl 100+ Kilbrannan Sound 2 Jan; 50+ Pirnmill 18 Nov. Max 400-500 Kilbrannan Sound 22 Oct.

Black Guillemot

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting King's Cave 29 May; pr nesting Catacol 21 Jun; also nested Brodick Pier; 7 incl juvs Pirnmill 3 Sep. Seen round the coast all yr. Larger nos incl 9 Brodick Pier 12 Feb; 10 Imachar 9 Jul. Max 15 King's Cave 12 May.

Puffin

Uncommon passage visitor. 1 found dead Blackwaterfoot 6 Jun (J. & A.Cassels).

Rock Dove

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. 16 Kilpatrick 25 Jan; pr Pirnmill 17 Apr; 1 Corrie 5 May; 5 Imachar 10 May; 3 King's Cave 12 May; 11 Cleateadh Buidhe 16 Jun; 7 Machrie 29 Nov. Max 25-30 Machriewaterfoot 29 Jan.

Wood Pigeon

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Seen all yr, mainly on farmland, with max 40 High Kildonan 29 Feb.

Collared Dove

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 4 eggs destroyed by high winds Lamlash 8 Apr. Seen all yr, mainly around the villages, with max 15 Torbeg 26 Sep.

Cuckoo

Common migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Glen Cloy 10 Apr. Singles heard and seen at Catacol, Auchencar, High Corrie, Glen Shurig, Lakin Fm, N Sannox Fm Park, Glen Rosa, Glenloig and Corrie Golf Course during Apr. Widespread by May with max 2 Lochranza 3 May and 2 Catacol 9 May. Last 1 Glen Rosa 21 Jun.

Barn Owl

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 6 eggs Auchareoch 28 Apr; Forest Enterprise reported a total of 52 yng from nest boxes, some of which were ringed, but survival rate unknown; pr occupied nest box on camera at BCP but failed to breed. Prs and singles widespread all yr. 3 dead birds found, 1 locally ringed juv Shiskine 2 Jan; 1 Brodick 2 Mar; 1 Newton shore 28 Dec.

Tawny Owl

Scarce resident non-breeder. 1 White House Woods 31 Mar; 1 BCP 10 Nov.

Long-eared Owl

Uncommon resident breeder. Breeding: may have bred at 2 sites nr Machrie Moor, but not proven. 1 Machrie Forestry gate 26 May (A.Walters) was the only record.

Short-eared Owl

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Glen Rosa 3 Apr; pr dropping food to 2 juvs Moss Fm 22 Jun. Seen mainly in the Machrie Moor area Feb/Oct. Other records incl 1 above Monyquil Fm 18 Feb; 1 Boguille, 1 String summit 2 Jun; 1 Shannochie 13 Jun; 1 Ross rd summit 4 Sep; 1 Glen Shant 11 Oct; 1 Whitefarland 26 Oct. Max 3 Urie Loch mid Jun.

Swift

Fairly common passage migrant. Arr 1 High Kildonan 17 May; 1 Blackwaterfoot 9 Jul; 5 Machriewaterfoot 18 Aug. Larger nos incl 14 Ardlui 8 Aug; c30 Dippen 10 Aug. Max c50 flying S at Machrie 12 Aug.

Kingfisher

Scarce non-breeding resident. 1 Rosa burn seen 4 times during 3rd wk Jan, again 8 Aug, and every day 1st wk Sep; 1 Glenashdalewaterfoot 8 Jul; 1 Benlister burn 21 Aug; 1 Merkland Pt 12 Oct.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Scarce non-breeding resident. Inc in records, mostly from BCP Feb/Apr. Other records incl 1 Auchareoch 20 Feb; 1 heard Monamore Forestry Mar/Apr; 1 heard Margnaheglish 9 Apr; 1 Pirnmill 28 Aug; 1 Merkland Wood 10 Oct.

Skylark

Common resident breeder and winter visitor. Breeding: ad carrying food Machrie Moor 8 Jun. 1 Drumadoon Fm 8 Apr; 1 Gleann Easan Biorach 3 May; 2 Glen Sannox 7 May; 3 Machrie Moor 8 May; 2 N Glen Sannox 13 May; 1 Kilpatrick 16 May. Max 6 Machrie Golf Course 30 Mar.

Sand Martin

Fairly common migrant breeder. Breeding: yng visible at min 4 nest holes Sannox Quarry 15 Jun; 1 nest hole with 4 yng, 1 with 1 yng same location 15 Aug. No reports from Kilpatrick, Auchencar or Strabane gravel pit. Arr 1 Slidderywaterfoot 7 Apr; 3 Machrie pond 6 Jul. Max 30 Sannox quarry 15 Aug and c30 Machrie 14 Aug. Still present Sannox 7 Sep.

Swallow

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 3 yng fledged Kilpatrick; pr nesting Dyemill Chalets 21 May; 7 yng fledged Pirnmill 30 Jun; nest with 3 yng Shiskine 26 Jul; ad feeding yng Rangers Centre, BCP 10 Aug; ad feeding yng King's Cross Pt 5 Sep. Arr 2 Sannox 27 Mar, widespread by Apr. Max c200 Imachar 12 Aug, and last 3 King's Cross 15 Oct.

House Martin

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: 4 collecting mud Pirnmill 1 Jun; 7 collecting mud Lamlash 5 Jun; 28 nests on 1 house occupied Corriecravie by end Jun, success unknown; nest with 1 yng Margnaheglish 8 Aug; yng still being fed Corrie 7 Sep. Arr 2 Lamlash 20 Apr, 3 wks later than last yr, widespread by end of Apr with max c112 King's Cross 2 May and last 5 Sandbraes 21 Oct.

Tree Pipit

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 BCP 22 Apr; 1 Largybeg 28 Apr; 1 Glen Rosa 27 May. Max 3 High Kildonan 17 Aug.

Meadow Pipit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 4 eggs Beinn Bhiorach 17 May; nest with 3 eggs Beinn Nuis 22 May; nest with 4 eggs Beinn Lochain 7 Jun; nest with 4 yng Beinn Bhreac 25 Jun. Widespread all yr, with max 26 Machrie Golf Course 31 Mar.

Rock Pipit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 4 eggs and pr feeding yng Auchenhew 1 May; pr with well grown yng Lochranza 24 May; 3 juvs Clauchlands 14 Jun. Widespread round the coast all yr, with max 15 Kildonan 22 Sep.

Grey Wagtail

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: nest with 5 yng High Kildonan 4 Jun; 4 juvs BCP 16 Jul; pr with 3 juvs Clauchlands 30 Jul. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 6 Lamlash 11 Aug.

Pied Wagtail

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 3 juvs Clauchlands 14 Jun; pr with 5 juvs Cleat 22 Jul; ad with 1 juv Pirnmill 4 Aug. Widespread all yr, with max 20 Whiting Bay 8 Sep and c20 Kildonan 18 Sep.

White Wagtail

Fairly common passage visitor. Arr 1 Cleat 9 Apr; 5 Kildonan 22 Apr; 1 Machrie 7 Sep; 5 with pied wagtails Whiting Bay 8 Sep; 1 Machrie Golf Course 13 Sep. Max 21 Auchenhew 25 Apr, and last 1 Lamlash 14 Sep.

Waxwing

Irregular winter visitor. Exceptional yr, with largest nos ever recorded here. 2 Margnaheglish 25 Oct; 50+ Brodick 27/29 Oct; 2 Dippen 29 Oct; 36 Sandbraes 30 Oct; 150+ Whiting Bay 4 Nov; 125 Largiemor 7 Nov; c6 Cnoc na Dail 18 Nov. Max c200 Glen Cloy 4 Nov. 5 killed by window strike Brodick 31 Oct, and 1 again in Brodick 7 Nov.

Dipper

Common resident breeder. Breeding: ad at nest Glen Rosa 11 Apr; 1 juv Sannox 3 May; pr feeding yng at nest Benlister Falls 29 May; ad with juv Corrie 6 Jun. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, with max 4-5 Machriewater 17 Oct, and 5 Glenashdalewaterfoot 23 Oct.

Wren

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 3 nests occupied Whitehouse Woods 9 May; ad at nest King's Cave path 12 May. Widespread all yr, with max 5 Monamore 12 Aug.

Dunnock

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 1 juv Pirnmill 8 Jul. Singles and prs seen all yr at Clauchlands, Kildonan, Torbeg, Corriegills, King's Cave, Lamlash and Corrie (and many other locations).

Robin

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: juv Pirnmill 28 May; juv Sannox 18 Jun; juv Margnaheglish 19 Jun; 2 juvs Pirnmill 2 Aug; pr with 1 juv Knockenkelly 9 Aug. Widespread all yr in varying habitat with max 6 Kildonan 25 Sep.

Redstart

Scarce migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr m N Sannox 25 May; 1 High Kildonan 7 Aug.

Whinchat

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: pr feeding 4 juvs Glen Rosa 21 Jun; pr feeding 3 juvs Moss Fm 22 Jun; 1 juv Sannox quarry 14 Jul; ad

with 1 juv Shiskine Valley 24 Jul. Arr 1 Machrie Moor 6 May. Prs and singles seen at Glen Rosa, Kilpatrick, N Glen Sannox and Glenree Fm May/Aug, with max 4 Ross rd 13 Aug. Last 1 Ross rd 7 Sep.

Stonechat

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 nests, 1 with 6 eggs, 1 with 5 eggs Kildonan 12 Apr; pr with 3 juvs N Glen Sannox 13 May; nest with 7 yng (2nd brood) Auchenhew 2 Jun; pr with 2 juvs Kilmory 20 Jun; ads carrying food Glen Iorsa 22 Jun; pr with 2 juvs Machrie Moor 24 Jun; pr with 1 juv Shiskine Golf Course 7 Jul. Widespread all yr, with max 9 prs Kildonan/Kilmory 12 Apr.

Wheatear

Common breeding migrant. Breeding: nest Auchenhew 1 May; ad with yng Kilpatrick 31 May; f with yng King's Cave 26 Jul. Arr m Machrie 24 Mar, widespread by end Apr, with max 4 Kildonan/Bennan Head 8 Apr, and 4 Cleat 9 Sep. Last 1 Cleat 21 Oct. Greenland race: 4 Kildonan 25 Apr; 2 Kerr's Port 27 Apr; 2 High Kildonan 5 May.

Ring Ouzel

Irregular breeding/passage migrant. No breeding records. Pr CirMhor/Saddle 20 Jun; m Coire Daingean 22 Jun; m Meadow Slabs below Beinn Tarsuinn 6/7 Jul; m Goatfell summit 22 Aug.

Blackbird

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: f feeding yng in nest Pirnmill 5 Apr; ad carrying food Corrie 1 May; 3 juvs Margnaheglish end Jun; 2 juvs, m feeding yng in nest Pirnmill 2 Jul; f feeding yng BCP 3 Aug; f feeding yng Torbeg 6 Aug; m with juv Machrie 8 Aug; f feeding 1 yng Torbeg 11 Aug. Widespread all yr, with max 9 incl m with a white tail feather Corrie 4 Nov.

Fieldfare

Common winter visitor. 50 Kilpatrick 10 Jan; 40 Bennecarrigan, 30 with redwings nr Kilpatrick being chased by f sparrowhawk, 20 with redwings Balmichael, again being chased by m sparrowhawk 26 Jan; 30 High Kildonan 29 Feb; c50 Shiskine 1 Mar. Return 30-40 Machrie Moor 17 Oct; flocks of up to 100 seen at King's Cross, High Kildonan, Shiskine, Sannox, Cnoc na Dail, Corrie, Glen Chalmadale Oct/Nov. Higher nos incl 100+ Corriegills 25 Oct; c100 Shiskine 31 Oct; c150 Lochranza 7 Nov; c200 Newton 28 Nov. Max 200-300 Lochranza 22 Oct, and 200-300 High Corrie 4 Nov.

Song Thrush

Common resident breeder. Breeding: ad feeding juv High Kildonan 8 May; ad at nest High Whitefarland 10 May; 2 juvs Pirnmill 17 May. Widespread all yr, with max 5 Narrachan 7 May.

Redwing

Common winter visitor, but fewer than fieldfares. 4 with mistle thrushes Sannox 24 Jan; 10 with fieldfares being chased by a f sparrowhawk nr Kilpatrick, 20 with fieldfares being chased by a m sparrowhawk Balmichael 26 Jan; 1 High Kildonan 27 Feb and 6 Apr. Return 50 High Kildonan 23 Oct; 1 Margnaheglish 29 Oct; c20 with fieldfares Shiskine Valley 31 Oct; c30 Newton 28 Nov; pr with fieldfares Corrie 18 Dec.

Mistle Thrush

Fairly common resident breeder. No breeding records. Widespread all yr with prs and singles seen at Brodick Golf Course, High Kildonan, Whiting Bay, BCP, Machrie Golf Course, Glen Rosa, Sannox, Pirnmill, Ross rd and Corrie. Larger nos incl c12 Beinn a' Chliabhain ridge 6 Jul; 6 Sannox 14 Jul; 8 Monamore 12 Aug, and max 13 with redwings Sannox 24 Jan.

Grasshopper Warbler

Scarce migrant breeder. Breeding: nest at High Kildonan - at long last, proof of breeding! (per J.Rhead). Arr 2 Machrie Moor rd 26 Apr; 1 High Kildonan 28 Apr; 1 reeling Corrie 10 May; 2m reeling Lakin Fm mid Jun.

Sedge Warbler

Common migrant breeder. No breeding records. Nos remain low, with arr 1 Kerr's Port, 1 Auchenhew 25 Apr; 1 King's Cross 13 May; 1 Slidderywaterfoot 16 May; 1 Clauchlands 30 May; 1 Kilmory 20 Jun; 1 Machrie 9 Aug; 1 Shiskine Golf Course 10 Aug.

Lesser Whitethroat

Scarce migrant non-breeder. 1 Auchenhew 1 May (T.Southall) was the only record.

Whitethroat

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: pr nesting Clauchlands 3 Jun; pr carrying food Machrie 15 Jun. Arr 1 Clauchlands 25 Apr. Singles and prs seen at the Cleat, Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan, King's Cave path, Trareoch and Dougarie May/Jun, with max pr and 2 singles Lagg/Kilmory 20 Jun. Last 1 Lenamhor 28 Aug.

Garden Warbler

Scarce migrant breeder. No breeding records. Inc in sightings, with arr 1 Kilmory 20 Apr; 1 upper Machriewater 2 May; 1 King's Cross 11 May; 1 Merkland 31 May; 1 Whiting Bay 20 Jun. Last 1 Auchenhew 23 Oct, latest ever recorded.

Blackcap

Common migrant breeder and winter visitor. Breeding: f with 1 yng Monamore Forestry pond 6 Jul. Winter sightings incl 1 Margnaheglish 28/29 Jan; 1 Whiting Bay 29 Jan. Singles and prs seen at Merkland Wood, Strabane, Auchenhew, Narrachan, Pirnmill, Brodick, N Sannox, Whitefarland and Kildonan Apr/Oct.

Wood Warbler

Uncommon migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Glen Rosa 26 May; 1 N Sannox Fm Pk 18 Jun; 2 singing Glenashdale 19 Jun.

Chiffchaff

Fairly common migrant breeder. No breeding records. Arr 1 Arranton 23 Mar. Singles only at Whiting Bay, Strabane, High Kildonan, Glen Rosa, Corrie, Machrie Forestry, Merkland Wood, Imachar, Glenashdale, and Kildonan. Last 1 Dippen Head 18 Sep. Records incl 1 overwintering heard at Lochranza 22 Feb.

Willow Warbler

Common migrant breeder. Breeding: f feeding yng Pirnmill 12 May; nest with 6 yng Torrylinn 29 May; nest with 6 yng Auchenhew 2 Jun; pr carrying food Dougarie 22 Jun. Arr 1 Strabane 2 Apr, widespread by May. Max 4 High Kildonan 9 Apr, and last 1 Shiskine 12 Sep.

Goldcrest

Common resident Breeder. No breeding records. Widespread in suitable habitat, with singles and prs seen all yr. Larger nos incl 3 Shiskine 4 Feb; 3 N Sannox 14 May; 3 BCP 3 Aug; 3 Whiting 11 Aug; 5 Monamore 12 Aug; 3 High Corrie 1st wk Oct; 4 Fallen Rocks 1 Dec. Max 7 Pirnmill 30 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher

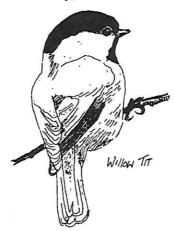
Common migrant breeder. Breeding: juv Sannox 15 Jul. Arr 1 BCP, 1 Glenashdale 21 May. 3 singles N Sannox Fm Pk 18 Jun; 1 Whiting Bay 20- Jun; 1 Auchareoch 12 Jul; 1 Pirnmill 13 Jul; 3 Glen Sannox 19 Aug. Last 1 King's Cross Pt 5 Sep, and max 2 prs Lochranza 22/29 May.

Long-tailed Tit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 4 yng Pirnmill 12 Jun; pr with 3 yng Trareoch 15 Jun. Seen all yr, with up to 10 at Arranton, Merkland, Brodick, High Corrie, Glenashdale, Machrie, King's Cross Pt, Pirnmill, Lagg, Eas Mor, Slidderywaterfoot, Margnaheglish and Clauchlands. Larger nos incl 20 Knockenkelly 9 Aug and max 20-30 Corrie 5 Dec.

Willow Tit

Rare visitor. 1 N Sannox 13 May, last recorded 1987 (C.Robinson).



Coal Tit

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: pr with 3 juvs N Sannox Fm Pk 18 Jun. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 6 Lamlash 13 Aug.

Blue Tit

Very common resident breeder. Breeding: pr feeding yng at nest Cordon 26 May; nest box with 7 yng Benlister 29 May; successful nest box Arranton May/Jun; ad with 4 juvs Pirnmill 12 Jun; 2 juvs Margnaheglish, pr with 7 yng Kildonan 18 Jun; ad with 3 juvs Whiting Bay 20 Jun; ad with 2 juvs Corrie 31 Jul; ad feeding 2 yng Torbeg 7 Aug. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Max 10 Lamlash 13 Aug.

Great Tit

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 juvs Margnaheglish 18 Jun; 5 juvs Pirnmill 29 Jun. Widespread all yr, often coming to bird tables in winter. Max 8 incl juvs Pirnmill 29 Jun.

Treecreeper

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr carrying food Brodick 26 May. Prs and singles seen all yr at Margnaheglish, Brodick Golf Course, Sannox, Knockenkelly, Merkland Wood, BCP, Cordon, Sannox, Glen Sannox, Pirnmill, Glen Catacol, Corrie and Monamore Forestry.

Jackdaw

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 2 nests Cleateadh Buidhe 10 May; 2 prs feeding yng Lochranza 22/29 May. Widespread all yr. Larger nos incl 50-60 Kilpatrick 16 Apr; 83 Machrie 27 Aug; 85 Drumadoon 1 Dec. Max c140 Machrie 18 Aug.

Rook

Uncommon winter visitor. 2 Kilpatrick 26 Sep, 10 Oct and 20 Oct (J. & A.Cassels) was the only record. No reports from The Roddin, Blackwaterfoot, Corriecravie or Sliddery where previously recorded regularly.

Carrion/Hooded Crow

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: nest Lochranza 9 May. Widespread all yr, with max 50 Cleat 3 Jun.

Raven

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 13 prs nested, 19 yng ringed at 5 nests; ad at nest with 4 yng Eas Mor 6 May; nest with 2 yng Bennan Head 10 May. Widespread all yr round the coast and inland, with max 6 Glen Rosa 1st wk Oct.

Starling

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: min 3 nests Kildonan 11 May; yng fledged Pirnmill 2 Jun. Widespread all yr. Large groups incl 150 E Bennan 25 Jan; 100+ Shiskine 16 Aug; 200+ Kilpatrick 10 Oct. Max c250 Machrie Moor 9 Aug.

House Sparrow

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr nesting in old house martins nest Lamlash 11 May; pr feeding yng Kilpatrick 30 May; pr feeding 4 juvs Pirnmill 11 Jun; m with 5 juvs Machrie 11 Aug. Records of flocks incl 30 Torbeg 2 Aug; 20 BCP, 20 Lamlash 3 Aug; 30 Pirnmill 5 Aug; 40 Knockenkelly 9 Aug; 30+ Machrie 7 Aug; 20 Corriegills, 20 Arranton, 25 Kildonan 22 Sep. Max c50 Brodick 3 Aug.

Chaffinch

Abundant resident breeder. Breeding: juvs Pirnmill 17 May; pr feeding yng at nest Cordon 24 May; f feeding 2 yng Torbeg 12 Aug. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Larger nos incl 20 Lamlash 24 Jan; c40 Brodick 6 Jul; 30-40 BCP 3 Aug; 40 Knockenkelly 9 Aug; 20 Torbeg 11 Aug; 40 Corriegills 24 Sep. Max 200+ Torbeg 31 Oct.

Brambling

Irregular winter visitor. Only 2 records (cf 9 last yr). 1 High Kildonan 20 Feb; 1 same location 23 Oct.

Greenfinch

Common resident breeder. Breeding: juvs Pirnmill 17 May; yng at feeders Kilpatrick 30 May; juv Clauchlands 14 Jun; 3 juvs Trareoch 15 Jun; juv Sannox 18 Jun. Widespread all yr, also coming to bird tables in winter. Larger nos incl c40-50 Blackwaterfoot 22 Aug, and max c50 King's Cross 12 Aug.

Goldfinch

Common resident breeder. Breeding: ad with 3 juvs Dougarie 7 Jul; ad with 1 juv Kildonan 22 Jul; pr with 2 juvs Machrie 11 Aug. Widespread all yr, with some coming to bird tables in winter. Max 30 Kildonan 25 Sep.

Siskin

Common resident breeder. Breeding: pr gathering nesting material Arranton 26 Apr; juvs Pirnmill 17 May; pr with 2 juvs Auchareoch 12 Jul; ads + 10 juvs Kildonan 22 Sep. Widespread all yr, with many coming to bird tables in winter. Up to 10 at Corrie, Sandbraes, Kilpatrick, Lamlash, Pirnmill, Ballymeanoch, Whiting Bay, Brodick and King's Cross Jan/Aug. Flock nos incl c50 Lagg 25 Sep; c100 Dougarie 26 Sep; c40 Corrie 20 Dec. Max c200-300 Balliekine 24 Sep.

Linnet

Common resident breeder. Breeding: 3 juvs Trareoch 15 Jun; pr with 3 juvs Clauchlands 20 Jun. Up to 7 seen at Margnaheglish, Cleat, Drumadoon Fm, Clauchlands, Corriegills, Pirnmill, Machrie, Lochranza, Shiskine Golf Course and Machrie Moor Feb/Jul. Larger nos incl 50+ S Bank Fm 8 Sep and max c100 Clauchlands 27 Sep.

Twite

Uncommon resident breeder. Breeding: No breeding records. 2 Arranton 5 Apr; 1 Glen Sannox 11 Apr; 3 Machrie Golf Course 2 May; 2 Kilpatrick, 1 Corriecravie 31 May; 5 Whitefarland 5 Aug; 1 Machriewaterfoot 20 Aug; 20 S Feorline 10 Oct; 8 Kildonan 17 Oct; 2 Ross rd 9 Nov. Max c30 in mixed flock of finches Kilmory 29 Feb;

Redpoll

Uncommon resident breeder. No breeding records. 1 record only of 4 High Kildonan 23 Oct (T.Southall).

Crossbill

Fairly common resident breeder. May have bred, but not proven. A poor yr, with 1 Corriecravie 31 May; c6 High Glenashdale mid Jul.

Bullfinch

Common resident breeder. No breeding records. Singles and prs seen all yr at Machrie Fm, Lamlash, BCP, Lagg, Kilpatrick, Kildonan, Fallen Rocks, Whitefarland, Corrie, Torbeg and N Glen Sannox, with max 3m 2f Corriegills 21 Mar.

Snow Bunting

Scarce winter/spring visitor. Pr Castles summit 6 Mar; f Goatfell summit 30 Mar and 12 Apr; pr Beinn a' Chliabhain 10 Nov.

Yellowhammer

Scarce resident breeder. No breeding records. Min 1 pr present Shiskine Golf Course all summer; 1 Thunderguy 9 Nov; 4 Shiskine 30 Dec.

Reed Bunting

Fairly common resident breeder. Breeding: m with 1 juv Machrie 9 Aug; ad with 3-4 juvs Lakin Fm mid Aug. Singles and prs seen at Clauchlands, Kilpatrick, Machrie pond, Kildonan, Drumadoon, Glen Rosa and Machrie Moor Mar/Dec. Higher nos incl 7 Torbeg 5 Aug, and max 15-20 Machrie Moor 31 Dec.

KEY TO CHECKLIST

R = resident (breeds)

 R^* = resident (no recent breeding records)

R** = resident (no breeding records)

S = summer visitor (breeds)

 $S^* =$ summer visitor (no recent breeding records)

 S^{**} = summer visitor (no breeding records)

W = winter visitor

P = passage migrant

I = introduced

C = common

U = uncommon

 $B^* =$ formerly bred

O = occasional

V = vagrant

X = pre 1956 records

CHECK LIST

- 1. Red-throated Diver RC
- 2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC
- 3. Great Northern Diver R**/PC
- 4. Little Grebe WU
- 5. Great Crested Grebe O
- 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. Marsh Harrier V
- 53. Hen Harrier RC
- 54. Goshawk R/U
- 55. Sparrowhawk RC
- 56. Buzzard RC
- 57. Rough-legged Buzzard V
- 58. White-tailed Eagle B*/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
- Red-Legged Partridge I
- 70. Grey Partridge B*
- 71. Quail B*/O
- 72. Pheasant I
- 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 R/P

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

Woodcock RC

96. Black-tailed Godwit PO

97. Bar-tailed Godwit PU

98. Whimbrel PC

99. Curlew RC

100. Spotted Redshank PO

101. Redshank B*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**/U111. 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 WO

118. Iceland Gull WO

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 RC

153. House Martin RC

154. Tree Pipit SU

155. Meadow Pipit RC

156. Rock Pipit RC

157. Yellow Wagtail B*

158. Grey Wagtail RC

159. Pied Wagtail RC

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