

The Arran Bird Report 2018



Compiled by
Dr Jim Cassels for the Arran Natural History Society

Published by



The Arran Natural History Society

Arran Natural History Society

The Arran Natural History Society was formed in 1977 for the purpose of encouraging the study of local natural history, geology, meteorology, archaeology and cognate subjects. This is done through publications, talks, guided walks and workshops.

One of the publications of the society is the *Arran Bird Report*. This annual report was first published in 1978. These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last thirty plus years.

Other publications include *Where can I see...?* a guide to wildlife on the island, *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012*, *Arran Naturalist commemorative edition* celebrating forty years of the Arran Natural History Society and *Arran's Flora* a fully revised checklist 2019.

In 2013 the society won the Marsh Award for Local Ornithology for producing the *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012*. This is made to a bird club or group that publishes a book, completes a study or conducts any other exceptional activity that advances knowledge about birds. For more information visit the website:

http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/marsh_award_for_local_ornithology_2013.html

For more information on the Arran Natural History Society visit FaceBook and Twitter

Facebook <https://en-gb.facebook.com/arranwildlife/>

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Members receive a copy of the annual *Arran Bird Report*.

Annual Subscription is £15 for adults, £25 for couples and £5 for junior members.

The subscription is payable to arrannaturalhistorysociety@gmail.com

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In addition, permission to access the Arran records submitted to BirdTrack: www.bto.org/birdtrack and to BirdGuides www.birdguides.com has been granted.

Permission has also been granted to access Arran raptor data held by the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme <http://raptormonitoring.org/about-the-srms>

Records were also received from North Ayrshire RSPB group who have a presence on some of the weekend ferries during the summertime. All bird records given to the National Trust rangers at Brodick Country Park and to the Brodick Tourist Information Centre were forwarded to me.

Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report* for 2018. This is the thirty-ninth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the thirteenth one compiled by me.

This report would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of a number of individuals whose input I would like to acknowledge publicly: Terry Southall and the team of local ringers, Andy Walker and Malcolm Whitmore for their local knowledge of raptors, Robert Logan for his work on Barn Owls and Bernie Zonfrillo, the bird recorder for the Clyde Islands. The input of the local "volunteers" involved in various surveys including the Wetland Bird Survey, the Breeding Bird Survey and the Garden BirdWatch has been a valuable source of information. It has also been helpful to be given permission to access the Arran records submitted to both BirdTrack, and BirdGuides and the Arran data held in the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. At the writing stage, the advice of the committee and the editing and proof reading skills of Angela Cassels and Alan Hollick were invaluable. Having said that, I accept full responsibility for all omissions and errors. My thanks also to the following photographers for giving me permission to use their images to illustrate the report: Brian Couper, Colin Cowley, Simon Davies, Arthur Duncan, Nick Giles, David Hogg, Liz Leyden, Dennis Morrison, Alex Penn and Chris Southall. Finally, my thanks to the contributors; there would be no report without their input.

Over the year I have been encouraged by the number of people, locals and visitors, who have contacted me by email, letter and phone. All contacts have been welcome. I am not interested just in rare or unusual birds, but common birds, where there are significant numbers of common birds, which birds come to the garden at different times of the year, where breeding birds have been seen, when our summer or winter visitors have arrived or departed and what sightings have given individuals particular pleasure. I encourage everyone to share their bird sightings with me, so that the basis of our annual *Arran Bird Report* can be as comprehensive as possible.

In 2018, over three hundred contributors submitted over eighteen thousand records on one hundred and fifty-two species. All these records have been distilled and I have tried to provide a readable chronological summary and a systematic list that should provide a useful record of the bird life on Arran in 2018.

The chronological summary gives the highlights for each month. The systematic list is in the order of the British list as published by the British Ornithologists' Union (2006). This is in line with the Clyde Report. For each species, as well as the common name, the (new) official name and its scientific name have been given. There is information on the number of records received for each species and the number of sites in which the bird was recorded. This is followed by a brief statement giving the status of each bird on Arran, which can be markedly different from the status of the same bird on the adjacent mainland.

For 2019, please send any bird notes with "what, when, where" to me before Monday 06 January 2020, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Cassels,
Bird Recorder for the Arran Natural History Society.

Chronological Summary

2018 was another fascinating birding year on Arran.

With four species of wintering geese and two species of white-winged gulls, the year got off to an interesting start. As winter stretched into March the low lying snow-free fields of Arran were alive with many species of birds foraging for food but the cold spell took a heavy toll on some species including Barn Owl. However a warm dry spring and summer did come. Highlights of the summer included: a Red-backed Shrike in June, a Rose-coloured Starling in July followed by Little Egret sightings from September to the end of the year. The migration period in autumn did not disappoint with Osprey and Slavonian Grebe being highlights while the winter saw both Great and Arctic Skuas visiting in November.

The number of species recorded each month in Arran in 2018 is shown in the table below.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In Month	97	95	104	115	110	103	98	102	100	101	94	90
Year Total	97	104	112	134	140	141	143	146	149	149	151	152

January

January 2018 had a mean temperature more than a degree colder than January 2017 and had almost twice as much rain as last year with snow at times even to low levels. While the weather was not conducive to being out of doors, almost one hundred species were reported.

Highlights included: a pair of Goosander at Fisherman's Walk on 12th, four Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 17th and a Merlin on Braehead Farm on 20th. Two of our more secretive species were also reported: a Water Rail by Sliderry Shore on 12th and three Moorhen at Port na Lochan on 22nd. In addition there were reports of all three divers including: two Great Northern Diver in Catacol Bay on 18th, six Black-throated Diver off Largymore on 22nd and a Red-throated Diver off Sandbraes on 29th.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: four hundred and thirty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 9th, one Whooper Swan at Mossend Pond on 10th, six White-fronted Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 18th, forty-three Wigeon in Feorline on 22nd, eighteen Pink-footed Geese on Corrie cravie Moor on 25th, seventeen Barnacle Geese over Sliderry on 26th and ninety-two Teal at Kilpatrick Point also on 26th. Other winter visitors included: seven Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 18th, eighty Fieldfare at Sliderry on 19th, fourteen Rook in Sliderry also on 19th and forty-seven Redwing on Corrie cravie Moor on 25th. There were no January reports of Waxwing or Brambling.

Wintering flocks included: seventeen Lapwing on Kilpatrick Farm on 10th, fifteen Turnstone in Catacol Bay on 14th, one hundred and ten Starling in Sliderry on 19th, one hundred and fifty Chaffinch on Braehead Farm on 20th, sixty-five Curlew at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 22nd, seventeen Common Crossbill at the Dyemill also on 22nd, seventeen Yellowhammer on Corrie cravie Moor on 25th, fifty-six Ringed Plover at Blackwaterfoot on 26th and twelve Redshank at Kilpatrick Point also on 26th.

Interesting garden birds included: two Bullfinch in Whiting Bay on 9th, thirty Siskin in Shiskine on 14th, one Treecreeper in Lamlash on 19th, one Great Spotted Woodpecker in Margnaheglish on 24th, nineteen Long-tailed Tit in Lamlash on 26th, eleven Collared Dove in Corrie on 28th and one Blackcap in Lamlash on 29th.

While there were only two records of returning Gannet, a single north of Lochranza and a single south of Whiting Bay both on 29th, Shelduck were on numerous coastal territories including Auchenhew, Clachlands, Cosyden, Drumadoon, Fisherman's Walk, Kildonan, Kilpatrick. King's

Cave and Pirnmill. Other signs of approaching spring included: twenty courting Eider in Whiting Bay on 29th and displaying Golden Eagle over Lochranza on 30th.

February

The wet unsettled weather that dominated much of the winter came to an end in February with the wind coming latterly from the east. There was no measurable rain after the 19 February and the temperature fell. In comparison with January, February had 40% of the rain of January and the mean temperature was a degree less in February. In comparison with February last year, this February had 60% of the rain of last February and the mean temperature was two degrees lower.

Gulls were a feature with reports of two species of uncommon white-winged gulls. A first winter Glaucous Gull was photographed in Catacol Bay on 3rd and a first winter Iceland Gull was photographed among hundreds of Common Gulls in an unharvested crop field by the Castle Drive on 4th. The first returning Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Machriewaterfoot on 22nd, an early sign of approaching spring.

Reports of winter visitors included: a Brambling at the Dyemill on 4th, seventeen Rook in Sliderry on 6th, two hundred and fifty Redwing in Shiskine on 8th, two hundred Fieldfare in Feorline on 9th and seven Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 18th.

In February, wintering wildfowl were present in numbers including: two hundred and fifty Greylag Geese in Feorline on 2nd, fifty-two Pink-footed Geese on Corriecravie Moor on 7th, a male Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 8th, thirty-two Teal at Cosyden on 17th, two Whooper Swan at Kilpatrick Farm on 19th and seventy-five Wigeon at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 21st.

Other wintering flocks included: sixteen Common Crossbill in Clachan Glen on 2nd, thirty Lesser Redpoll at the Dyemill on 4th, sixty Skylark in Sliderry on 6th, eight hundred Common Gull with four hundred Woodpigeon plus eighty Hooded/Carrion Crows in an unharvested crop field by the Castle Drive on 7th, one hundred and twenty Starling at Bennecarrigan on 17th, sixty Curlew in South Feorline on 20th and thirty-six Lapwing in Shiskine on 28th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The occasional calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: a Red-throated Diver off Imachar on 2nd, five Black-throated Diver off Fairy Dell on 4th and two Great Northern Diver at Dougarie on 9th. There were some signs of approaching spring with eight courting Red-breasted Merganser at Alltoghblach on 7th, eighteen displaying Eider in Cosyden on 17th, seven Black Guillemot at their breeding colony in Corrie on 25th and three returning Gannet off Clachlands Point on 26th.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species. Among the many garden highlights were; a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lamblash on 4th, a male Blackcap in Strathwillan on 9th, fifty Siskin in Shiskine on 10th, twenty-two Collared Dove in Blackwaterfoot on 19th and ten Bullfinch in Cordon on 21st. It was also encouraging to receive more reports of Greenfinch. This once common species has been decimated in recent years by the parasitic disease trichomonas.

Other sightings included: two Jack Snipe at Hazelburn on 2nd, fifteen Reed Bunting at Sliderry on 6th, six Yellowhammer also at Sliderry on 8th, three Goosander in Loch Ranza on 13th, a Merlin at Torbeg on 17th, four Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 25th and a Kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 26th.

By the end of the month with most of mainland Scotland covered with snow and biting, freezing winds from the east, the low lying snow-free fields of Arran and the shore itself were areas that seemed to be alive with many species of birds foraging for food including Blackbird, Fieldfare, Lapwing, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Skylark and Song Thrush.

March

Freezing weather continued into March. Spring is an exciting time of year, awaiting the arrival of our summer visitors and seeing the last of our winter visitors leaving. The timing of the northerly spring migration is dependent on the weather, not just locally, but throughout the whole length of the migration route. This March with periods of cold easterly winds even towards the end of the month, spring was on hold. This March was colder than last March.

Having said that, a few pioneer summer migrants did arrive, namely a Chiffchaff in Cnocan Wood 11th, a male Wheatear on Kildonan shore on 18th, a Manx Shearwater off the south end of Arran on 26th and a Sandwich Tern off Blackwaterfoot on 31st. But that was all the records and unlike last year there were no March records of Sand Martin, Swallow and House Martin.

In March, our winter visitors were to the fore. The highlight was the Arctic breeding white-winged gulls which are usually uncommon winter visitors to Arran, not recorded every year. This year there were reports of Iceland Gull throughout the month from five locations including two off Pirnmill on 6th. There was also a report of a first winter Glaucous Gull on Sliderry shore on 3rd. Other wintering species included: a Brambling at Cordon on 4th, two hundred Greylag Geese in South Feorline also on 4th, one hundred Wigeon and eighty Teal in Cosyden on 5th, a Goldeneye in Lamlash Bay on 7th, four Purple Sandpiper on Silver Sands on 11th and sixty-nine Pink-footed Geese in Sliderry on 31st. Towards the end of the month there were some signs of wildfowl preparing to head north to their breeding grounds including fourteen Whooper Swan flying off Kildonan and later across Whiting Bay on 25th.

Throughout March there were signs of this ongoing migration including: on Cleats Shore on 3rd a Merlin, twelve Fieldfare, one hundred and thirty Redwing and two hundred Song Thrush; twenty-two Lapwing on Kilpatrick Farm on 5th; three Black-throated Diver off Corrie on 7th; twenty-five Turnstone on Silver Sands on 12th; twenty-seven Pied Wagtail also on Silver Sands on 18th; four Great Northern Diver off King's Cave on 20th and two hundred and fifty Chaffinch at Sliderry on 25th.

In a month in which records were received on almost one hundred species, these are a small selection of other interesting records: a Snipe in a Shannochie garden on 2nd, two Grey Plover on Cleats Shore on 3rd (last recorded on Arran in April 2012), an immature White-tailed Eagle in Pirnmill on 13th, a Kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 20th, eight Long-tailed Tit in Brodick on 22nd, four Common Crossbill on Kilbride Hill on 24th, Short-eared Owl in Glen Rosa on 27th and a Water Rail in Corriecravie on 31st. In addition there were several reports of Magpie. Magpie, while common and widespread on the adjacent mainland, is a vagrant to Arran. In 2017 there was one short-staying bird and in 2016 none. In March the first record was from Sannox on 19th, followed by one in Whiting Bay on 28th and then on 30th there were reports from Lochranza in the north and Dippen in the south at the same time. There were two Magpie on Arran. In my twelve years as bird recorder on Arran that was a first!

Spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships. In March the signs were there, including: two Starling nest building in Lochranza on 6th, twelve Black Guillemot displaying by Pladda on 8th, a Grey Heron carrying twigs into Whitehouse Woods on 24th, four Collared Dove on nests in Blackwaterfoot on 25th, three nest boxes occupied by House Sparrow in Kildonan on 26th and among many reports of birds singing, there was one of Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 31st. If it had stayed to breed it would have been the first confirmed breeding of this once widespread familiar farmland bird on Arran since 1999.

April

April is the month when spring migration gets fully underway, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories. This April was an interesting, almost "four season" month with a wide range of temperatures and other weather conditions. Like last April, it was cold with a mean temperature half that of April 2016 but it was wetter than April 2017. There was a lot of

easterly winds. The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to initially hold them up. Even by the end of the month the bulk of the migrants had still to arrive.

By the end of March the first Chiffchaff, Wheatear, Manx Shearwater and Sandwich Tern had been reported. Here are April "firsts" with the 2017 arrival date in brackets for comparison: Swallow in Brodick on 6th (26 March), Willow Warbler in Clachlands on 7th (4 April), White Wagtail in Kildonan on 7th (7 April), Sand Martin in Sannox on 14th (28 March), Common Sandpiper in Clachlands on 14th (15 April), House Martin in Blackwaterfoot on 15th (12 March), Cuckoo in Glen Cloy on 16th (8 April), Grasshopper Warbler in Whitefarland on 20th (20 April), Tree Pipit in North Sannox on 24th (22 April), Whitethroat in Sliderry on 27th (30 April), Whinchat on Sliderry Shore on 28th (1 May), Arctic Tern at Dougairie on 29th (14 May), Ring Ouzel on Beinn Bharrain on 29th (2 May), Lesser Whitethroat on Cleats Shore on 30 April (11 May) and Spotted Flycatcher in High Kildonan on 30th (12 May).

Not surprisingly with the cold weather, some of our wintering birds were still around including: twenty-seven Wigeon at Machrie Bay on 2nd, three hundred Greylag Geese in South Feorline on 4th, twenty-eight Redwing in High Kildonan on 9th, fifty Fieldfare on the top of the String on 14th and one Whooper Swan in Whiting Bay on 18th. In addition there were four further reports of Iceland Gull involving at least two birds. The last report was off Fairy Dell on 23rd.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. These are a few examples: eleven Turnstone on Silver Sands on 4th, a Merlin in Clachaig on 6th, five Great Northern Diver off Kildonan on 8th, fifty Song Thrush over the String on 14th, two Dunlin on Silver Sands on 19th, four Black-throated Diver at Machriewaterfoot on 24th and forty Golden Plover over Clachaig on 30th. In addition there was a much reported passage of Sandwich Tern, including seven at Cosyden on 27th, and Whimbrel, including fifteen at Auchenhew on 29th. One Whimbrel which had been ringed on a southern Arran shore twelve months ago was reported again almost on the same shore having spent the winter in Africa!

Migration was also in evidence from the widespread reports received of Goldfinch, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll moving through people's gardens throughout the month. Larger garden numbers reported included; twenty-five Goldfinch in Kildonan on 13th, twenty Siskin in Brodick on 15th and four Lesser Redpoll in Lamblash on 24th. Tens of thousands of birds seem to be moving through the island at this time of year.

In April there were one hundred and twelve species recorded. Here is a further small selection from this list: a Great Crested Grebe off Laggan on 1st, only one record last year, Puffin east of Holy Isle on 5th, Red Kite in Sannox on 12th, first record since May 2016 and a pair of Goosander in the lorsa on 24th. The Maggie reports in March continued until 9th. Finally it was good to see an increase in the reports of Greenfinch in April. They may be on the way to recovery.

May

In May spring arrived, with the temperature building up during the month giving a particularly settled spell towards the end of the month. There was no rain at all after the 20th and temperatures were in the twenties after the 24th. Although there was a cold start to the month, it was generally warmer and drier than recent Mays. Conditions were generally good for birds trying to migrate north and birds getting on with breeding. May, like April, was an interesting birding month, again with over one hundred species recorded.

Throughout the month the numbers of familiar summer visitors like Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and Cuckoo continued to build up. In addition to the "firsts" reported in the April notes, here are some further "firsts" with the 2017 arrival dates in brackets for comparison two Swift over Blackwaterfoot on 5th (5 May) and a Garden Warbler in Gortonallister on 31st (28 June). There were only two records of Garden Warbler in 2017.

Species which breed further north continued to pass through including: seven Turnstone and two Black-throated Diver in Blackwaterfoot on 3rd, six White Wagtail at Drumadoon Point on 5th, six Dunlin on the shore by Shiskine Golf Course on 6th, a Whooper Swan at Claulands also on 6th, six Sandwich Tern in Lamlash Bay on 7th, two Whimbrel at Kilpatrick Point also on 7th and eight Great Northern Diver off Drumadoon Point on 13th.

In May, breeding was well underway for many species. Encouraging signs included reports of Golden Eagle, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Red-throated Diver and Short-eared Owl all holding breeding territories. Activity was reported from all the monitored heronries on the island but only three reports were received of Lapwing holding territories. A number of coastal cliffs held nesting Fulmar. Breeding Stonechat were again reported from widespread areas. These delightful birds appear to have recovered after the two consecutive very cold winters. There were also May reports of Kingfisher in two possible breeding territories. To date there has been no confirmed breeding of Kingfisher on Arran. Other breeding records included: around thirty Sand Martin at a new colony in Glen Catacol on 8th, Dipper with young in Glenashdale on 9th, three Woodcock roding over Machrie Moor on 12th, nineteen Black Guillemot off Whitefarland on 13th, a family of Shelduck near Bennan Head on 23rd and a report of Common Sandpiper nesting in a garden in Blackwaterfoot on 27th. In addition towards the end of the month, there were lots of reports of garden birds carrying food and feeding recently fledged young.

Here are some other highlights: fifty Gannet feeding in Machrie Bay on 18th, two Puffin feeding off Pirnmill on 31st, only the second Arran record this year, and an adult Mediterranean Gull flying along Sliderry Shore also on 31st. The last Arran record of this vagrant gull was in 2015.

With the long daylight hours it is a great time of year to be birding. Most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. Please also remember that under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used. Do not hesitate to report any criminal activity to the local police. Particularly take care on our shores and please keep dogs on their leads at this time of year.

June

June was the driest month with the highest temperatures of the year so far. There was less than half the rain that there had been in June last year and the mean temperature was three degrees warmer than May. The predominantly warm settled spell was disrupted when Storm Hector came through on the 14 June.

The warm settled spell benefitted many breeding birds. There were many reports of fledged birds in gardens including unfamiliar looking young birds, like Goldfinch without the red face of the adult birds and Robin with spots and no red breast. As well as the more familiar birds like Blackbird, Song Thrush, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit and Chaffinch all with young, there were reports of a family of Bullfinch in Sannox on 13th, young Great Spotted Woodpecker with its distinctive red cap in Lamlash on 21st, a family of Long-tailed Tit in Strathwillan on 23rd and five active House Martin nests on one house in Kildonan on 27th. Most prolific of all seemed to be House Sparrow with twenty in Dippin on 28th being one of the larger numbers and also lots of reports of numbers of Siskin and Goldfinch with young around homes across the island. It was particularly encouraging to get reports of young Greenfinch from widespread locations. This species had been decimated by the parasitic disease, trichomonas.

Away from gardens there were many signs of breeding including: Moorhen with five young in Machrie on 12th, a family of Whinchat in Glen Rosa on 21st, Raven with three young in Kilpatrick on 22nd, around one hundred Sand Martin nest holes in Glen Catacol on 22nd, a family of Stonechat also in Glen Catacol on 22nd, Hen Harriers passing food on Machrie Moor on 23rd, young Curlew on Machrie Moor also on 23rd and activity at the Grey Heron heronries in Stronach Wood, Brodick, Lagg and Whitehouse Wood, Lamlash by the end of the month. There was also encouraging reports of young Lapwing from three areas. This once widespread farmland breeder is just hanging on.

Around the coast there were further signs of breeding including: Eider with six young Porta Buidhe on 4th, Mute Swan with seven young Glenashdalewaterfoot on 10th, forty Shag and fourteen Arctic Tern on Pladda also on 10th, seven pairs of nesting Fulmar on Drumadoon Cliff on 21st, Shelduck with six young at Kilpatrick Point on 22nd and Red-breasted Merganser with five young in Sannox Bay on 24th.

But it was not all good news. When Storm Hector came through on the 14th there were particularly high tides that swept away nests of Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Common Gull from a number of shores. There was also a sad report of a Common Sandpiper, who having travelled from south of the Sahara to breed, had chosen to nest in a garden in Blackwaterfoot, presumably trying to avoid disturbance on the shore from human activity including dog walkers with dogs roaming freely. The pair incubated their eggs for three weeks, only to have their hatched young taken by a cat.

The birding highlight of the month was a male Red-backed Shrike by Port na Lochan on 13 June. Interestingly on 16 June last year there had been an identical report from Kingscross. The previous record before that of this rare vagrant to Arran had been twenty years ago when a male was reported in Kildonan on 27 September 1997.

Other highlights included the following: four Red-throated Diver in Whiting Bay on 6th, a Lesser Whitethroat by Cleats Shore also on 6th, a Puffin off the Cock of Arran on 11th and numerous reports of Spotted Flycatcher. Cuckoos, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seem to be thriving on Arran. Throughout May and June there were many widespread reports.

July

While last July was the wettest July in my thirteen years as bird recorder, this July was much drier with about fifty percent less rain than last year. Generally, the warm settled spell that started in late May continued throughout July. In the main this was conducive to birds raising young and many species had a good breeding season. There were widespread reports of Swallow and House Martin with young and the Sand Martin colonies in Sannox and in Catacol were thriving. Another measure of the successful breeding season came from the local bird ringing group, who in three hours in Auchenhew Bay on 24 July caught and ringed fifty-two Willow Warbler, forty-eight of which were young birds. Some observers reported gardens "awash" with young birds including Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, House Sparrow, Robin, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Siskin and encouragingly, Greenfinch.

Other signs of a successful breeding season included: a family of Dipper in Gleann Easan Biorach on 4th, seven Grey Heron on Loch a' Mhuilinn on 8th, a crèche of four female with eight young Eider in Loch Ranza on 18th, a pair of Mute Swan with five young at Glenashdalewaterfoot on 19th, a female Red-breasted Merganser with five young by Fisherman's Walk on 20th, a family of Grey Wagtail at Port a' Ghille Ghlais also on 20th, a young Great Spotted Woodpecker in Sliderry on 21st, four young and two adult Kestrel over Torr Mhoile also on 21st, a pair of Shelduck with six flying young at Kilpatrick Point on 24th, a family of Common Sandpiper at Whitefarland on 25th and a family of Spotted Flycatcher at Shannochie on 29th.

There was some concern expressed that low water levels in some hill lochans had affected breeding Red-throated Divers and that Barn Owl breeding may have been delayed as a result of the extended wintry spell of weather in March/April.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. It can be an interesting time looking out for birds dispersing after breeding. This year a Rose-coloured Starling turned up in Sliderry almost exactly a year after one had appeared in Sliderry in 2017. This year it was reported from Thursday 19 July to Saturday 21 July. This was an exceptional sighting. The last Arran record prior to 2017 was in June 2002.

A number of northern breeding species heading south from their breeding grounds, many still in their breeding plumage, were reported, including: a Great Northern Diver in Catacol Bay on 1st, a Greenshank in Lochranza on 12th, eight Turnstone in Machriewaterfoot on 13th, fifty-four Golden

Plover also in Machriewaterfoot on 19th, two Whimbrel and four Sandwich Tern at Silver Sands on 28th and three Dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 29th.

Around a hundred species were reported in July. Other highlights included: a Moorhen and a Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 19th, twelve Manx Shearwater in Brodick Bay on 26th, eleven Puffin off the Cock of Arran on 27th and three Swift over Clachaig Farm on 28th.

August

While the mean temperature for August was a couple of degrees lower than July, the mean temperature this August was identical to the mean temperature of last August. This August was drier than last August with about twenty percent less rain. The relatively dry summer continued.

Summer visitors were still to the fore including: a Swift over Torrylinnwaterfoot on 2nd, a Spotted Flycatcher in Merkland Wood on 3rd, two Common Sandpiper in Blackwaterfoot on 10th, twenty-six Willow Warbler in Corrieravie on 11th, one Grasshopper Warbler in Shiskine on 12th, twenty Sand Martin in Glen Catacol on 15th, a Chiffchaff in Brodick on 20th, seventy-five Swallow in Sliderry on 11th and one hundred and twenty House Martin in Shannochie on 30th.

Some signs of successful breeding this month included: Red-breasted Merganser with five young by Fisherman's Walk on 6th, Eider with four young at Cosyden on 7th, juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker in Glen Cloy on 9th, juvenile Water Rail and juvenile Greenfinch in Corrieravie on 11th, juvenile Golden Eagle in Glen Rosa on 20th and juvenile Little Grebe and juvenile Moorhen in Mossend Pond on 24th. In August there was an exceptional number of reports of Sparrowhawk in gardens including many young birds. This may be reflecting the breeding success of the many small birds on which Sparrowhawk prey.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: forty-two House Sparrow at Silver Sands on 6th, thirty-eight Curlew at Corrieravie on 7th, fifty-six Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot also on 7th, three hundred and fifty Starling at Sliderry also on 7th, twenty-one Ringed Plover at Drumadoon on 10th, one hundred and forty-two Meadow Pipit at Sliderry on 13th, one hundred and forty Linnet and thirty Goldfinch on Cleats Shore on 20th and one hundred and sixty Pied Wagtail on Braehead Farm on 21st.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including: a Merlin at Corrieravie Pond on 7th, a Greenshank at Blackwaterfoot also on 7th, three Sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 10th, a Knot on Silver Sands also on 10th, thirty Dunlin at Porta Buidhe on 12th, three Wheatear at Sliderry on 13th, a Black-tailed Godwit at Porta Buidhe also on 13th, a Osprey over Sliderry Shore on 19th, two hundred Manx Shearwater in Brodick Bay on 20th, twenty White Wagtail on Braehead Farm on 27th, two Whimbrel at Kildonan also on 27th and four Sandwich Tern in Lamlash Bay on 30th.

Among the one hundred plus species reported in August there were a number of other noteworthy ones. These included: a Goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 7th, thirty Gannet off Cosyden also on 7th, a Dipper at Glenashdale Falls on 19th and six Canada Geese at Blackwaterfoot on 21st. In addition there were two reports of Red Kite, the first on Sliderry Shore on 4th and the second report from Lamlash Golf Course on 6th. This was the third report of this occasional visitor this year. The first was in April. The previous record before this was May 2016.

September

The mean temperature in September was very similar to last year and about two degrees cooler than August. Rainfall was less than August but the main weather feature was the storm on the 19 September. The first named storm of the winter came with a marked drop in air pressure. Some trees were blown over on the island and some hedges, heavy with autumn fruits, were scorched.

September is the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move. There was a wide range of species recorded in September, almost one hundred. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected and among the unusual records was a Puffin off Pladda on 3rd, an Arctic Skua pursuing seabirds off Imachar on 20th and a female Scaup by Sliderry Shore also on 20th. The Arctic Skua and Scaup records were the first this year.

Other birds on migration included: a Whimbrel at Cosyden on 6th, eighteen Turnstone at Silver Sands also on 6th, four Dunlin at Machriewaterfoot again also on 6th, a Sandwich Tern at Cordon on 11th, a Wheatear at Porta Buidhe also on 11th and four White Wagtail at Kilpatrick Point on 17th.

Birds continued to flock together this month, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: six hundred and twenty Kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 3rd, three hundred Linnet on Cleats Shore on 4th, one hundred Starling and two hundred and fifty Meadow Pipit on Braehead Farm on 5th, three hundred Skylark on Cleats Shore on 23rd, forty Pied Wagtail in Knockenkelly also on 23rd and one hundred Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 26th. This gives an indication of the numbers of birds that are on the move at this time of year.

In September there were reports of returning winter visitors including two Whooper Swan and nine Pink-footed Geese on Cleats Shore on 23rd, one hundred and thirteen Greylag Geese and a Wigeon also on Cleats Shore on 28th and six Redwing on Lamlash Golf Course on 30th. A number of summer visitors were still around in September including: five Willow Warbler in Lochranza on 5th, two Chiffchaff and a Spotted Flycatcher in High Kildonan on 14th, a Common Sandpiper and two Swallow at Clauchlands on 22nd and four House Martin at the Auchrannie Hotel on 26th. October should see the last of the House Martins and Swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: two Black-throated Diver off Cosyden on 6th, two Woodcock on Holy Isle also on 6th, a Kingfisher at Cordon on 17th, one Moorhen by Sliderry Shore on 20th, two Snipe at Sloc Ruandh on 24th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Cnoc na Dail on 27th and a Dipper at Glenashdalewaterfoot on 29th.

October

October was cooler and wetter than September. In comparison with October 2017 it was colder and drier with a fine settled spell in the second half of the month. October is arguably the busiest birding month, as summer breeders depart, migrants pass through, winter visitors arrive and there is always a strong chance of something unusual. This October there were plenty of interesting birds to enjoy with more than one hundred species recorded.

A particular highlight was a Little Egret with records from a range of coastal areas throughout the month including Loch Ranza, Imachar, Pirnmill, King's Cave, Merkland and Carlo. The last report was from Cordon on 28th. This is only the third occasion that this species has been reported on Arran.

The build up of the number of winter thrushes, Fieldfare and Redwing, was a feature of the month. There were widespread reports of the birds feasting on the autumn berries, with flocks in the hundreds being reported from the north to the south of the island including four hundred Redwing and over one thousand Fieldfare at Sliderry on 20th. Brambling an irruptive species from northern Europe not recorded every winter, was also a feature in October with reports from many areas including Cordon, Glenloig, Newton, Sannox, Sliderry and Torbeg.

Other winter visitors arriving included: twenty-one Barnacle Geese at Sandbraes on 3rd, one hundred Teal in Cosyden on 4th, four Wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 11th and at Sliderry on 28th three hundred Greylag Geese, fifty-two Rook and ten Yellowhammer. In addition, flocks of migratory Whooper Swan filled the autumn skies with their honking and trumpeting calls, including nine over Whitefarland on 19th and eight over Brodick Golf Course on 20th.

Migration was in full flow in October as birds were moving out of colder northern Europe to milder climes. These included: two hundred and thirty Linnet and eighty Meadow Pipit on Cleats Shore on 1st, two Sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 5th, two hundred Goldfinch at Blackwaterfoot on 11th, twelve Lapwing in Shiskine on 12th, sixteen Turnstone in Whiting Bay on 13th, one hundred and fifty Skylark and thirty Twite on Cleats Shore on 18th, six hundred Common Gull on Sliderry Shore on 25th and three Dunlin at Drumadoon Point on 30th.

There were some "last sightings" of summer visitors also moving south including: twenty Manx Shearwater in Brodick Bay on 6th, a Common Sandpiper at Pirmill on 8th, a Willow Warbler at Auchenhew Bay on 18th, two Swallow at Sliderry on 21st, a Chiffchaff at Torbeg also on 21st and a Wheatear at Porta Buidhe on 29th. (See November. There was an even later record.)

Other interesting records from a month with a plethora of birds included: a Jack Snipe on Sliderry Shore on 20th, four Great Northern Diver off Porta Buidhe on 24th, two Little Grebe at Loch Ranza also on 24th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Whiting Bay on 26th, two Moorhen on Mossend Pond on 29th and the first report this year of Slavonian Grebe with two in Whiting Bay on 30th. In addition there were two reports of White-tailed Eagle in October, an adult over Auchencar on 21st and a juvenile over Lochranza on 24th.

November

November this year was milder and wetter than November last year. The mean temperature was 1.8 degrees warmer and there was almost 70% more rain. There was a comparatively dry spell between the 11th and 27th.

Among the highlights this month were: a Mediterranean Gull at Sliderry on 5th, the second record this year; following on from coastal records in September and October a Little Egret at Glaister on 15th; and a Red Kite at Auchareoch on the 21st, the fourth record this year. There had been no records of Mediterranean Gull nor Red Kite in 2017.

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging Fieldfare and Redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group was at Cnoc na Dail on 5th, with around two hundred Fieldfare with fifty Redwing. Other records of wintering birds included: six Rook and ten Yellowhammer at Sliderry on 5th; three hundred Common Gull at Kilpatrick Point on 7th; thirty-two Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot, eleven Turnstone at Drumadoon Point, seven Brambling at Cnoc na Dail and five hundred Starling at Kilpatrick, all on 8th; twenty-four Redshank at Sandbraes 12th; a Dunlin and a Purple Sandpiper on Silver Sands on 16th; and twenty-five Lapwing on Cleats Shore on 18th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: seven Whooper Swan at Glenscorrodale on 5th, three hundred Greylag Geese at Sliderry also on 5th, forty Wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 7th, sixty-two Teal in Torbeg on 8th, thirty Pink-footed Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 21st and three Goldeneye by the Fisherman's Walk on 30th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months with many people providing regular food and water for their feathered friends. These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: eleven Coal Tit in Torbeg on 4th, six Brambling in Cordon on 6th, three Great Spotted Woodpecker in Glenloig on 14th, twelve Long-tailed Tit in Gortonallister on 15th, two Goldcrest in Lamash on 22nd, two Treecreeper in Whiting Bay also on 22nd and eleven Blackbird in Pirmill on 29th.

Other November highlights included: an Arctic Skua and a Great Skua off Pirmill on 3rd, a Merlin at Blackwaterfoot on 8th, two Goosander at Cordon on 15th, a Kingfisher by Kingscross on 18th, a Water Rail on Holy Isle (first ever record) on 25th and a Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 28th.

Finally some firsts and some lasts. There was a Wheatear, a summer visitor, at Drumadoon Point on 1st, the last Gannet was reported off Pirmill on 2nd and two Shelduck at Silver Sands on 26th were the first reports of Shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult.

December

The weather in December was a little cooler and a little wetter than November. In comparison with December 2017 it was milder, 1.4 degrees warmer, and wetter with almost twenty percent more rain.

Following on from the reports of Little Egret from various locations round Arran starting on 27 September there was a further report from the east coast at Rubha Salach on 20 December, giving thirteen records in total this year. Given that 2017 saw only the second ever record for Arran, this species may be about to establish here. In a similar vein following on from no records of Red Kite on Arran in 2017, December saw two further reports giving six in total for the year and the report on 10 December was for two Red Kites on the slopes above Corrie and Sannox.

Other visitors in December included: a Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 3rd, a Merlin at Porta Buidhe on 13th, two Dunlin at Kildonan on 15th and nineteen Redwing at Cnocantubha on 16th. In addition the Arctic breeding Long-tailed Duck on the sea at the north end of Whiting Bay on 7th and 9th was a particular highlight.

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: thirteen Whooper Swan at Torbeg on 5th, eighty-two Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 11th, one hundred Wigeon in the Shiskine Valley on 16th, four hundred and eighty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 28th and with these geese on 31st was a Barnacle Goose.

Groups of wintering birds included: nine Black-throated Diver off Cosyden on 3rd, forty-eight Golden Plover, thirty-seven Turnstone and one hundred Jackdaw at Machriewaterfoot also on 3rd, six Great Northern Diver off Cnoc Buidhe on 10th, forty-nine Curlew at Cordon on 13th, twenty-four Lapwing at Torbeg on 16th, one hundred and ten Starling at Blackwaterfoot on 23rd and fifty-six Rock Pipit in Auchenhew Bay on 26th.

Other interesting records this month included: two male Goosander at Fisherman's Walk on 1st, a Moorhen at Port na Lochan on 23rd, a Dipper at the mouth of the Glenashdalewater on 27th and three Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 31st. There were further reports of Shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult with sightings from Auchenhew Bay, Carlo, Kildonan and Kilpatrick.

Gardens provide a safe refuge for some birds in winter. Among the more unusual records received were: three Greenfinch at Kilpatrick on 1st, a Goldcrest at Pirnmill on 3rd, twelve Long-tailed Tit at Blackwaterfoot on 23rd, four Siskin in Shiskine on 28th and a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lamlash also on 28th.

Finally on 29 December there was a report of a Gannet flying west off Silver Sands. At this time of year most Gannet are wintering in the Bay of Biscay or off the west coast of Africa!

From the above summary it has again been an interesting birding year on Arran.

Later in this annual report there are notes on a number of projects on Arran which are contributing to increasing our understanding of birds on Arran.

The Weather 2018

The weather influences the timing of bird migration.

This March/April there was an extended cold spell with strong easterly winds blowing in from the continent. The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to hold them up.

The weather influences the timing of breeding.

The cool spring may have delayed the timing of the breeding of some of our summer visitors.

The weather influences the success of breeding.

When May and June are warm and dry, these are ideal conditions for raising young and this can result in a good breeding season for many species. This summer was close to these ideal conditions and many passerines thrived.

The weather influences survival.

The cold winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 resulted in a decline in some species like Stonechat and Grey Wagtail. After some milder winters there are some signs of recovery.

It is because weather has such a marked impact on the lives of birds that data on weather is included in the annual bird report.

Here is a summary of weather data for 2018 from our weather station at Kilpatrick on the west of the island.

	Temperature (degrees C)			Rainfall (mm)	Wind Speed (mph) and Direction		
	Mean	High	Low		Average	High	Dom. Dir.
January	5.0	11.4	-2.8	170.8	6.7	42	WSW
February	3.9	9.5	-3.6	73.2	5.6	36	SSE
March	4.4	10.7	-3.1	125.7	5.9	34	ENE
April	7.5	15.8	-1.1	115.7	5.5	35	SSE
May	11.5	24.1	2.5	41.2	4.1	29	SSE
June	14.3	27.0	5.1	33.6	3.0	42	WSW
July	15.6	25.7	6.6	70.6	2.7	31	SSE
August	13.8	20.3	7.0	80.8	3.3	25	SSE
September	11.8	18.1	3.4	60.6	5.1	52	WSW
October	9.9	20.2	-0.3	79.2	4.8	33	SE
November	8.4	12.9	1.1	106.2	6.2	39	ENE
December	7.2	11.7	-0.7	113.1	5.5	40	SSE

Dom.Dir. – dominant direction

The topography of the island results in a variation in weather. For example here are the 2018 annual rainfall figures from various areas: Clauchlands 1927mm, Kilpatrick 1070mm, Margnaheglish 1966mm, Pirmill 1628mm and Sandbraes 1293mm.

For the most comprehensive and up to date information on the weather on Arran refer to this excellent website run by Glen Sloss of Sannox <http://www.arranweather.com/>

Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

	"Earliest" Recorded Date	Arrival Date 2018
Chiffchaff	11-Mar-17	11 March
Wheatear	13-Mar-05	18 March
Sand Martin	18-Mar-09	14 April
Willow Warbler	20-Mar-94	07 April
Swallow	23-Mar-05	06 April
White Wagtail	24-Mar-08	07 April
Manx Shearwater	26-Mar-18	26 March
House Martin	12-Mar-17	15 April
Common Sandpiper	29-Mar-98	14 April
Sandwich Tern	30-Mar-16	31 March
Whinchat	01-Apr-88	28 April
Tree Pipit	07-Apr-90	24 April
Redstart	08-Apr-11	None recorded in 2018
Cuckoo	08-Apr-17	16 April
Grasshopper Warbler	12-Apr-11	19 April
Garden Warbler	12-Apr-95	14 May
Whitethroat	13-Apr-16	27 April
Sedge Warbler	14-Apr-11	20 April
Arctic Tern	14-Apr-13	20 April
Corncrake	20-Apr-90	None recorded in 2018
Common Tern	21-Apr-93	None recorded in 2018
Spotted Flycatcher	21-Apr-11	30 April
Wood Warbler	25-Apr-09	None recorded in 2018
Lesser Whitethroat	27-Apr-10	30 April
Pied Flycatcher	28-Apr-98	None recorded in 2018
Swift	01-May-09	05 May
Nightjar	17-May-13	None recorded in 2018

Regular Winter Migrant Arrival and Departure Dates

	"earliest" Arrival date	"latest" Departure date	2018 Arrival date	2018 Departure date
Whooper Swan	18-Sep-11	21-May-14	23 September	06 May
Pink-footed Goose	09-Oct-16	30-Apr-18	23 September	30 April
Greylag Goose	31-Aug-18	12-May-18	31 August	12 May
Wigeon	11-Jul-11	16-May-17	28 September	03 April
Goldeneye	12-Oct-09	04-May-06	22 November	07 March
Purple Sandpiper	07-Nov-16	20-May-16	17 November	11 March
Waxwing	21-Oct-10	15-Apr-09		
Fieldfare	02-Sep-13	24-Apr-18	14 October	24 April
Redwing	30-Sep-17	13-Apr-16	30 September	09 April
Rook	03-Jul-07	23-Apr-14	14 October	25 February
Brambling	09-Oct-07	25-Apr-08	14 October	04 March

The above table only includes regular winter visitors to Arran and does not include species like Bewick's Swan, White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Brent Goose and white-winged gulls which do appear on Arran in winter from time to time. In addition it does not include Turnstone which can be seen in most months of the year and Yellowhammer which has become a winter visitor.

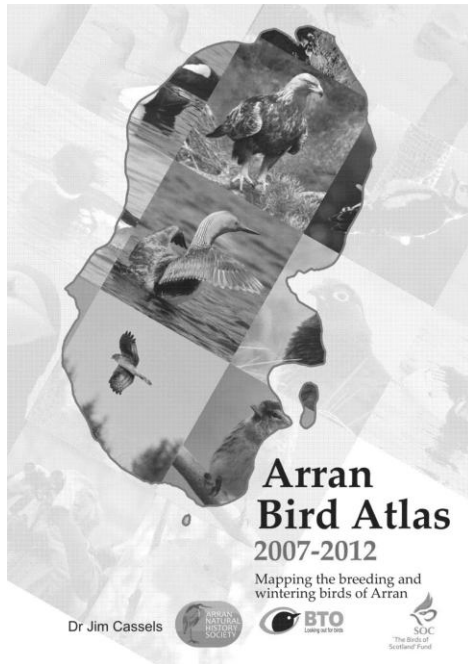
Note: there is also a naturalised population of Greylag Geese which is frequently seen in the summer in Clachlands.

Bird Surveys and Projects on Arran

Bird Atlas

For the first time, the partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology, BirdWatch Ireland and the Scottish Ornithologists Club have combined the results of breeding season and winter fieldwork into one national atlas. Winter fieldwork started in the winter of 2007/2008 and lasted for four winters. Breeding season fieldwork took place in the summers of 2008 to 2011. The work was published in November 2013. Balmer, D.E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B.J., Swann, R.L., Downie, I.S. & Fuller, R.J. (2013). *Bird Atlas 2007–11: the breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland*. BTO Books, Thetford.

On Arran, alongside the fieldwork for the national atlas, the Arran Natural History undertook to do a local atlas of the distribution and abundance of birds on Arran. The published book, *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012* describes the mapping of the birds of Arran for the first time. Over 36,000 records on 177 species were collected over five breeding seasons and five winters. Almost 700 people contributed to this work which was published in July 2014.



The book has 168 pages, more than 400 maps and more than 200 photographs. It is a “must” for anyone interested in the birds of Arran. For more information, including how to get a copy, visit this website. http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/arran_bird_atlas.html

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) surveys

Through the efforts of volunteers participating in British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment.

On Arran volunteers are taking part in all of the following core BTO surveys.

Breeding Bird Survey

This survey was launched in 1994 by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB, and involves thousands of volunteer birdwatchers carrying out standardised annual bird counts on randomly-located 1-km sites. Comparing these annual counts enables the population changes of over 100 bird species to be monitored. There are four areas on Arran covered by four volunteers. For more information visit this website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/about>

Garden BirdWatch

In the last weekend in January 2018 around thirty households on Arran took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and shared their results with me. A report on the Arran results is available here <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/top-ten-garden-birds-2018.html>

Garden BirdWatch is a national survey run by the BTO that monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of volunteers. There were nine volunteers on Arran in 2015. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers from each week during the year are analysed by BTO researchers.

Arran seems to be different from the national picture. For example while nationally there has been a decline in House Sparrows, here on Arran it is still the second most numerous bird visiting gardens.

To find out how to take part in this worthwhile and enjoyable survey, visit the website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>

Heronries Census

On Arran five heronries are currently monitored as part of this BTO census. These are at Lochranza, Brodick, Lamlash, Lagg and Whiting Bay. Find out more at http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/arran_heronries.html

Nest Record Scheme

The Nest Record Scheme (NRS) gathers vital information on the breeding success of Britain's birds by asking volunteers to find and follow the progress of individual birds' nests. Anyone can be a nest recorder. Some people watch a single nest box in their back garden while others find and monitor nests of a whole range of species. Registering to take part is easy and there are lots of resources to help you get started. More information here <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/nrs/taking-part>

In addition to these core surveys the BTO has an extensive range of other species specific surveys including House Martin Survey, Project Owl and Woodcock Survey. For the complete list of BTO volunteer surveys use this link <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys>

Wetland Bird Survey - Arran Summary for 2017-2018

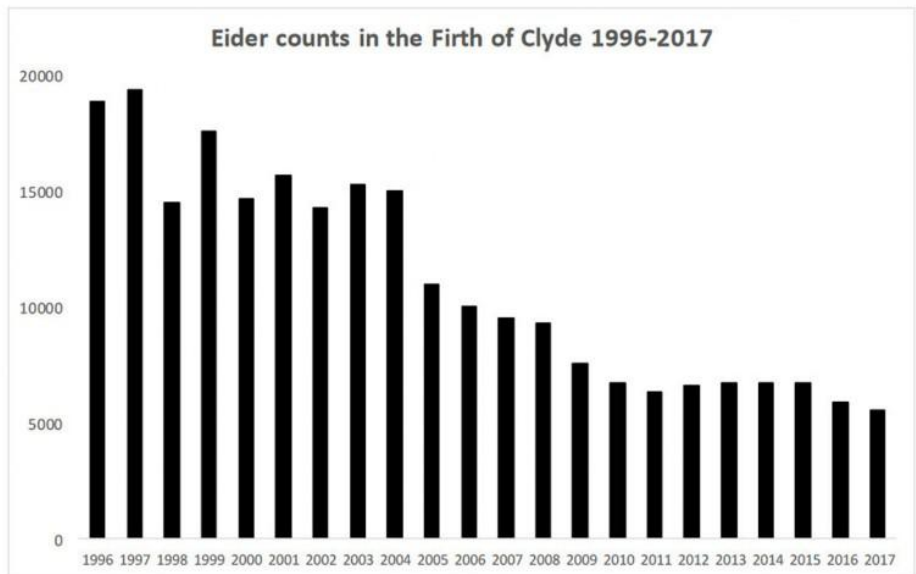
Data was supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in association with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org). The survey is dependent on volunteers. Eight of the survey sites are on Arran, the coastlines at Brodick, Lamash, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Pirmill and Lochranza. These are counted one Sunday each month with total results on Arran as below. The national survey provides information on the size of waterbird populations, the trends in numbers and the importance of individual sites. For example, Arran is a site of national importance for Red-breasted Merganser.

The collated data in the table below has been prepared with the assistance of Heidi Mellan, WeBS Counter Network Organiser at the BTO and her staff.

Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Black-throated Diver					1	2	2	7	3	1	4		20
Canada Goose				6					2		2	6	16
Common Sandpiper	13									9	27	37	86
Cormorant	10	7	28	11	14	5	3	10	9	8	4	3	112
Curlew	27	80	74	73	98	19	66	80	115	58	8	16	714
Dunlin	6	8	15								6	2	37
Eider	26	3	4			24	56	84	31	79	35	21	363
Golden Plover	92		141		41	12	54						340
Goosander							1	1	2				4
Great Northern Diver					2	1	6	10	9	5	10	4	47
Grey Heron	7	9	12	8	19	17	15	10	4	5	7	11	124
Greylag Goose	11	8			107		151	8	107	19	2		413
Knot								2					2
Lapwing					18		5						23
Little Grebe					3		2	1					6
Mallard	68	56	124	81	191	116	199	104	113	64	49	66	1231
Moorhen							3						3
Mute Swan	27	19	28	14	13	9	30	38	37	31	35	20	301
Oystercatcher	187	131	179	115	205	62	115	195	304	219	160	180	2052
Purple Sandpiper					1								1
Red-breasted Merg.	64	47	28	32	16	45	15	44	24	23	25	33	396
Redshank	6	7	23	29	45	34	44	51	53	30	2		324
Red-throated Diver	2	2	2	1	2			7	1	2	2	2	23
Ringed Plover	61	75	175	172	141	53	127	107	119	46	63	38	1177
Sanderling		2	1										3
Shag	79	72	91	158	85	90	65	51	45	36	30	19	821
Shelduck	9						5	12	9	25	28	15	103
Snipe									1	2			3
Teal		2	36		186	80	137	61	52	46	1		601
Turnstone	18	14	45	65	39	41	105	49	70	23	14		483
Whimbrel	2	1											3
Whooper Swan								1					1
Wigeon	2			15	32	56	109	120	122	60			516
Grand Total	717	543	1006	780	1259	666	1315	1053	1232	791	514	473	10349

Eider Survey

Eiders are familiar birds around the Arran coast but their numbers are declining not only around Arran but in the Firth of Clyde as a whole.



Chris Waltho, a past president of the Scottish Ornithologists Club, has organised September surveys in the Clyde for over twenty years. Chris's data above shows that the post breeding population of Eiders in the Firth of Clyde is in decline. The 5500 birds counted in 2017 is only 28.5% of those counted in 1997. This represents a 71.5% decline. Similar declines have been widely reported across much of Europe, from Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the White Sea in Russia. The causes of declines across these areas are currently under investigation.

While the Arran trend reflects the overall figures, there has been considerable variation on the Arran September survey figures from over six hundred in 1999 to six in 2008. The figures for the last three years for Arran are 117, 116 and 36. This year volunteers from the Arran Natural History Society covered the coastline by foot and in some cases by boat and by kayak to try and achieve the most accurate count of Eider round our coast in September. In 2018 the count was 33, the lowest Arran count in ten years.

In the Victorian era, there was a major expansion of Eiders in western Scotland and this led to the colonisation of the Firth of Clyde, which began at the beginning of the twentieth century. With an annual population growth of around ten percent by the late 1990s, the Firth of Clyde held around 25-30% of the Scottish population. The reason for the marked decline in recent years is not clear. The Clyde Ringing Group and Glasgow University have ringed approximately 1500 females over the last decade. These results suggest some decline in annual survival rate, but there is little evidence of mass mortality events or of any major displacement within or without of the Clyde. Mussels, crabs, starfish and other seabed creatures are the main food sources and with many different pressures and influences operating in different parts of the Firth, there is no single cause for the decline. This decline is likely to be the cumulative effect of multiple causes that have an overall chronic impact on the population. It is important to continue to monitor the situation.

Barn Owl Nest Box Project: Forestry Commission Report

For twenty-nine years, Barn Owl nest boxes have been put up and monitored on Arran by Rab Logan, Wildlife Ranger of the Forestry Commission (Scotland). This is his report from the twenty-eight nest boxes checked on Forestry Commission (Scotland) land on Arran,



The harsh weather conditions last winter that continued on late into the spring would appear to have had a devastating effect on the resident breeding population for although there seemed to be an abundance of field voles, whose numbers normally dictate the breeding success rate, the weather conditions for the birds to hunt for them were poor.

It would appear that many adults did not make it through these tough times resulting in many boxes being unoccupied (50%) and those that did get occupied were 3 to 4 weeks later than normal in starting to try to breed and were not very successful.

In total only 13 chicks were recorded in the boxes. This is not enough to bring the population back to last year's pre-winter level. From the ringing data of Terry Southall, Barn Owls migrate further than we were aware and the Arran population may get topped up from further afield. Better weather through this winter and a good breeding season next year should help restore numbers.

Black Grouse Project; Arran Black Grouse Group Report

Following a feasibility study in 2005, the Arran Black Grouse was set up with the intention of trying to re-establish this species on Arran. The species is in decline in almost all western and central European countries. Several Black Grouse recovery projects have been initiated in the UK. The Arran Black Grouse Group is one of them. The group is very much a local group with a wide range of representation including: conservationists, estate managers, farmers, foresters, and gamekeepers. This almost unique partnership of local people with the support of Scottish National Heritage, the National Trust for Scotland and Forestry Commission (Scotland) is committed to Black Grouse reintroduction.

In the autumn of 2007, three pairs of Black Grouse were bought to start the breeding stock. In autumn 2009 the first captive bred birds were released. In April 2010, the first lekking of Black Grouse on Arran was reported in over thirty years. The annual release of captive bred birds continued until autumn 2017.

If you see a Black Grouse on Arran it would be helpful if you could report your sighting directly to Kate Sampson, Head Ranger Brodick Country Park ksampson@nts.org.uk. Any sightings will help the group assess the success of the project. If possible, take a photograph to confirm the sighting.

Bird Ringing

Bird ringing in Britain and Ireland is organised and co-ordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology. A network of over 2,400 trained and licensed volunteers currently ring over 800,000 birds every year. On average only one in every 50 birds ringed are subsequently found and reported, so **every report of a ringed bird is of value.**

Why ring birds? The main focus of the ringing scheme today is monitoring bird populations. Ringing allows us to study how many young birds leave the nest and survive to become adults, as well as how many adults survive the stresses of breeding, migration and severe weather. Changes in survival rates and other aspects of birds' biology help us to understand the causes of population declines. Each bird ring also has an address, so that anyone finding a ringed bird can help by reporting where and when it was found and what happened to it. Some ringing projects also use colour rings to allow individual birds to be identified without being caught. Please report all sightings of ringed birds to <http://www.bto.org/ringing>

Does ringing affect the birds? The simple answer is no. Ringing is carried out by skilled ringers with the utmost consideration for the birds' welfare.

How are birds caught for ringing? Birds are caught for ringing in a variety of ways including in the nest and using a mist net.

Learning to ring The skills necessary to become a ringer can only be learnt by practice under the close supervision of experienced ringers; effectively an apprenticeship. For more information on how to become a ringer use this link. <http://www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/become-a-ringer.htm>

Codes for Age and Sex This table gives the codes used in the following bird ringing report.

Code	Explanation
M, F, J	Male, female and juvenile
1	Pulli - young bird in nest
3J	Bird in juvenile plumage hatched in current calendar year
3	Bird in full-grown plumage hatched in current calendar year.
4	Hatched before current calendar year.
5	Hatched in previous calendar year.
6	Hatched before last calendar year - exact year unknown.
8	Hatched 3 or more years ago – exact year unknown.
10	Hatched 4 or more years ago – exact year unknown.
12	Hatched 5 or more years ago – exact year unknown.

Some interesting facts discovered from ringing data....

Oldest bird – Manx shearwater, 50 yrs 11 months

Furthest travelled – Arctic Tern from Wales to Australia 18,000 km

Strangest recovery – Osprey ring found in stomach of a crocodile in The Gambia!

Bird ringing on Arran in 2018

Report by Terry Southall

A much improved total of birds were ringed this year reflecting the productive breeding season that most birds had with the drier and warmer summer. Although some species of birds which breed early or had nests that were on east lying shorelines or cliffs fared less well owing to the wind chill and high tides from the "Beast from the East" earlier in the year; one such species was the Black Guillemot. Several new species were ringed for the first time and larger numbers of more common birds were ringed, although no Dipper or Grasshopper Warblers were caught!

A new project on satellite tracking Short-eared Owls was started with the BTO. Only a single bird was tagged and unfortunately the tracker that was used failed not long after being fitted. The project will be resumed next year with hopefully better results.

Also this summer, adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Pladda were fitted with Satellite trackers for a project being carried out by Hayley Douglas of Muirshield Park. The project aims to show the public that gulls are not the maligned birds as documented in the media. Some of the results from this project were presented to the ANHS by Hayley at a meeting last November.

The colour ringing of gulls, waders, Cormorants and wagtails continued with a new additional species added, that being Twite.

Selected list of recoveries of birds ringed on Arran

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Date recovered	Lapsed days	Where recovered	Distance moved
Sanderling	4	10/05/2017	12/08/2018	459	Heacham, Norfolk	470km
Short-eared Owl	1	21/05/2018	21/09/2018	143	Ferrydon, Angus	222km
Sedge Warbler	3J	03/08/2018	23/08/2018	20	Mondesir, France	1150km
Willow Warbler	3	07/08/2018	20/08/2018	13	Filey Brig, N Yorks	350km
Oystercatcher	4	12/03/2018	09/05/2018	59	Hofn, Iceland	1123km

Codes for age and sex are given on page 23.

Sanderlings are long distance migrants travelling from their breeding grounds on the high-arctic tundra to winter on oceanic sandy beaches further south. The bird ringed on the shoreline at Sliderry was in breeding plumage, carrying a lot of fat and was on its way north to breed when caught, it was re-caught in Norfolk the following autumn heading south or it may have even have been wintering on the Wash estuary.

Continuing with waders, the colour ringed Oystercatcher sighted and photographed in Iceland was again a bird that was heading north to breed when caught on Arran. It is our first colour ringed Oystercatcher to be sighted abroad from this particular project.

The Short-eared Owl recovery is a mystery. Why would a young bird reared on Arran travel so far to the east of Scotland in the same summer? Hopefully some light will be shed on the reason for its movements with the continuation of the satellite tracking project this summer.

Both the Willow Warbler and Sedge warbler were young birds on their first migration heading south when re-caught.

Selected list of birds recovered on Arran but ringed elsewhere

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Where ringed	Date recovered	Lapsed days	Distance moved
Sedge Warbler	3	08/08/2017	Titchfield Haven, Hamps	29/04/2018	264	575km
Lesser Redpoll	3 F	22/10/2016	Kessingland, Suffolk	04/05/2018	559	560km
Lesser Redpoll	4 M	08/11/2016	Sandwich Bay, Kent	24/04/2018	532	633km
Lesser Redpoll	5 M	12/04/2018	Great Wamford, Cheshire	04/05/2018	20	301km
Goldfinch	3 F	20/12/2017	Warsop, Notts	24/04/2018	125	357km
Goldfinch	5 F	04/04/2016	Leswalt, Dun & Gall	15/04/2018	741	51km
Siskin	3J F	18/06/2016	Kildary, Highland	13/03/2018	633	265km

Codes for age and sex are given on page 23.

A young Sedge Warbler caught and ringed in Hampshire when heading south in August was re-caught the following spring on Arran as it migrated north back to breed, having wintered in Africa.

There were a host of finch recoveries of birds caught on Arran that were either wintering in England or migrating back to breed further north in Scotland, as was clearly the case with the Siskin which had been ringed as a juvenile in the Highland region.

Not shown in the tables are the numerous sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls from the continuing colour ringing project. Sightings from Portugal, Spain and Morocco of gulls marked on Arran continue. It is hoped this year to have sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls ringed as chicks on Pladda four years ago returning to breed for the first time, now they have reached maturity.

The table on the following page gives the ringing totals for the year.

Finally

If you come across any birds with rings, please pass on the information.

In particular, groups of gulls are worth an extra look to see if you can spot and read a colour ringed bird. All sightings of colour ringed gulls are welcome even of birds that seem to be resident in an area.

Terry Southall.

Email address terrysouthall789@btinternet.com

Ringling Totals for 2018

Species	FG	Pulli	Total		Species	FG	Pulli	Total	
Red-throated Diver	0	1	1		Blackcap	6	0	6	
Cormorant	0	4	4		Chiffchaff	12	0	12	
Shag	0	14	14		Willow Warbler	284	6	290	
Greylag Goose	1	0	1		Goldcrest	24	0	24	
Eurasian Teal	32	0	32		Long-tailed Tit	23	0	23	
Mallard	1	0	1		Coal Tit	27	0	27	
Scaup	1	0	1		Blue Tit	37	0	37	
Eider	1	0	1		Great Tit	36	0	36	
Sparrowhawk	3	4	7		Hooded Crow	0	3	3	
Oystercatcher	7	2	9		Starling	4	42	46	
Ringed Plover	5	7	12		House Sparrow	18	0	18	
Golden Plover	5	0	5		Chaffinch	167	0	167	
Sanderling	4	0	4		Greenfinch	5	0	5	
Jack Snipe	10	0	10		Goldfinch	89	0	89	
Snipe	3	0	3		Siskin	322	0	322	
Woodcock	22	0	22		Linnet	205	0	205	
Curlew	4	0	4		Twite	12	0	12	
Common Sandpiper	6	3	9		Lesser Redpoll	23	0	23	
Common Gull	0	3	3		Bullfinch	9	0	9	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	16	24	40		Yellow Hammer	2	0	2	
Herring Gull	30	17	47		Reed Bunting	22	0	22	
Great Black-backed Gull	0	2	2						
Arctic Tern	1	9	10						
Cuckoo	1	0	1						
Barn Owl	6	3	9						
Long-eared Owl	1	0	1						
Short-eared Owl	1	2	3						
Skylark	103	0	103						
Sand Martin	24	0	24						
Swallow	1	43	44						
Tree Pipit	1	0	1						
Meadow Pipit	318	3	321						
Rock Pipit	34	0	34						
Grey Wagtail	1	0	1						
Pied/White Wagtail	23	3	26						
Wren	27	0	27						
Dunnock	43	0	43						
Robin	37	0	37						
Whinchat	1	0	1						
Stonechat	6	0	6						
Wheatear	12	0	12						
Blackbird	32	0	32						
Songthrush	14	5	19						
Redwing	2	0	2						
Mistle Thrush	2	0	2						
Sedge Warbler	34	0	34						
Whitethroat	12	0	12						
					Total	2215	200	2415	

FG – Full grown, Pulli - young birds in nest.

Mediterranean Gull

Gulls are familiar birds on Arran, the three most common species being Herring, Common and Great Black-backed Gulls. Among the more unusual gulls to appear on Arran is the Mediterranean Gull. One was recorded in May this year in Slidderly and another in November also in Slidderly. The last previous record was in June 2015 and before that, there is a record from December 1992. Not many, but they could be being overlooked.

In UK terms it used to be a rare bird. Formerly restricted to the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean this species has now expanded over most of Europe as far as Great Britain and Ireland. A Mediterranean Gull first bred in the UK in Hampshire in 1968. There has been a slow and steady increase in the breeding population since then, the majority in southern England. Events in Britain have mirrored those in Europe. For example, in France the breeding population increased from over 100 pairs in 1991 to nearly 1,400 pairs by 1998.

This expansion is continuing.

This is clearly demonstrated in the adjacent map which shows the changes in the winter distribution of Mediterranean Gulls in Great Britain and Ireland between the atlas of 1981-84 and the most recent atlas of 2007-11

Winter Distribution Change 1981-84 to 2007-11

- ▲ Gain
- Present both
- ▼ Loss



After the breeding season, Mediterranean Gulls migrate towards the Atlantic coasts and are now annually being reported in numbers along the Ayrshire coast and in the Firth Clyde, for example fourteen on Barassie shore in July 2014. From ringing information these gulls are coming from a range of areas in Europe including the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia.

Mediterranean Gulls are likely to be around Arran in increasing numbers and it is certainly worth checking among our familiar gulls for this gull whose success may be down its feeding habits. It is an opportunistic omnivore, eating fish, worms, scraps, insects, offal and carrion.

What to look out for? In the breeding season, a gull with a big black head and a big bright red bill. The Mediterranean Gull can be confused with the more common Black-headed Gull. A feature that can help separate the slightly larger Mediterranean Gull from the Black-headed Gull, is the extent of the black head in the breeding season. In the Mediterranean Gull the black hood extends all the way down the back of the head and nape. The Black-headed Gull has a

chocolate brown head and the colour does not go down the back of the head and nape. In addition Black-headed Gull has a white leading edge to the wing, often able to be seen from a great distance. Mediterranean Gull does not have this. Adult Mediterranean Gull has a very pale grey mantle and upper-wings with white wing tips and white under-wings and it has a large, slightly drooped bright red beak bill. The non-breeding adult is similar but the hood is reduced to an extensive dusky "bandit" mask through the eye. Dennis Morrison's photos capture these features.

Check your bird book for features of non-adult birds and for more information on identifying small gulls with black heads have a look at this British Trust for Ornithology website link <https://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/bto-bird-id-small-black-headed-gulls>

Rose-coloured Starling: July 2018

On Monday 10 July 2017, a resident in Sliderry was at the kitchen window keeping an eye on the garden birds, when a Rose-coloured Starling appeared. The Rose-coloured Starling is a stunning bird with pink body, pale orange legs and bill, and glossy black head, wings and tail. As an experienced bird-watcher, he knew instantly what it was. The bird was later photographed, caught and ringed by a licensed ringer. This was the first Arran record since June 2002.

One year on, Thursday 19 July 2018, the same Sliderry resident saw a Rose-coloured Starling on his early morning walk. Like last year, it was in a flock with Common Starling. Last year the bird was seen on only one day, whereas this year it was seen on three consecutive days. This year it was not caught and ringed, so we do not know if was the same bird. It certainly was the same species.

Where do they come from? The Rose-coloured Starling's breeding range is from easternmost Europe across temperate southern Asia. It is a strong migrant, and winters in India and tropical Asia. It is a bird of steppe and open agricultural land. In years when grasshoppers and other insects are abundant, it will erupt well beyond its core range, with occasionally significant numbers reaching western Europe and the UK. It is during dispersal after breeding, that some birds stray into north-west Europe. The Sliderry bird was one such long distance wanderer. In the UK in July this year, there were around sixty reports of Rose-coloured Starling.

What a coincidence on Arran! The same species, in the same area, on almost the same date. How little we know about our feathered friends!

Little Egret : September- December 2018

In the *Arran Bird report 2017* on page 29 there was an account of a Little Egret on Arran from Friday 4 August to Monday 7 August 2017. This was only the second record of Little Egret on Arran. The first one, at Sliderry Shore on 1 July 2013, did not hang around. In 2018 there was a report of a Little Egret on 27 September in Auchenhew Bay followed by further reports throughout October from a range of places including Loch Ranza, Imachar, Pirmill, King's Cave, Merkland and Carlo. In November there was a report from Glaister. The last report was from Rubha Salach on 20 December. This is only the third year that this species has been reported on Arran.

Winter Distribution 2007-11
● Present



Little Egret first appeared in the UK in significant numbers in 1989 and first bred in Dorset in 1996. Its colonization followed naturally from its range expansion into western and northern France in previous decades.

The map shows the winter records between 2007-11 from the national bird atlas survey conducted by the BTO and its partners. This is hugely different to the previous national winter atlas conducted between 1981-84, when there was a grand total of one record. The Little Egret is now at home on numerous south coast sites, both as a breeding species and as a winter visitor. Following the first breeding record in England in 1996, the first in Ireland was 1997, the first in Wales was 2002, but to date there is no confirmed breeding in Scotland.

The expansion continues and it can only be a matter of time before it is widespread in coastal and inland water habitats in Scotland, including Arran.

Shore Birds in Decline

In 2017 a person who had meticulously counted the shore birds on Arran for almost thirty years decided to step down. He is one of thousands of counters who once a month on a designated date count the number of the birds on UK shores. The count is organized by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is called the Wetland Bird Survey or WeBS for short. On Arran there are currently eight stretches of shore monitored each month. His stretch of shore was Whiting Bay. When he indicated to me his intention to step down, he expressed the view that he felt the number of birds that he was counting each month was considerably less than when he started. I felt this was a valid observation from a reliable, methodical counter.

As the local organiser of the count I felt that I would like to investigate this further so I approached the BTO and asked if they would provide me with the shore bird count data for Whiting Bay for 1993 and 1994 when the present WeBS arrangements started and the data for the last two years. This was provided. From this I extracted all the counts of Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Redshank and Turnstone. These are our most familiar shore birds. While some breed on our shores others feed on the shore on their way to and from breeding grounds further north. A comparison between the sum of the totals of these five species between 1993/94 and the sum of the totals of the last two years showed an 86% decline in number.



In twenty plus years that is a huge decline and from my point of view alarming.

While there could be many inter-related factors at work including aspects associated with climate change, the general marine health of the Firth of Clyde or changes in distant breeding grounds, one factor that does contribute to this decline is human disturbance associated with dogs.

While some of the large global factors may be difficult to manage, the local factor of human disturbance is one that could be managed and I would argue should be managed for the benefit of our wildlife.

That is why I am delighted to see this local initiative lead by the Arran Access Trust and

supported by the Arran Natural History Society asking dog owners to keep their dogs under control particularly in the bird breeding season.

Notices encouraging this are on display in areas where there are likely to be ground breeding birds. This is in line with the legislation in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. These notices are a genuine attempt to protect our wildlife while giving appropriate access for humans.

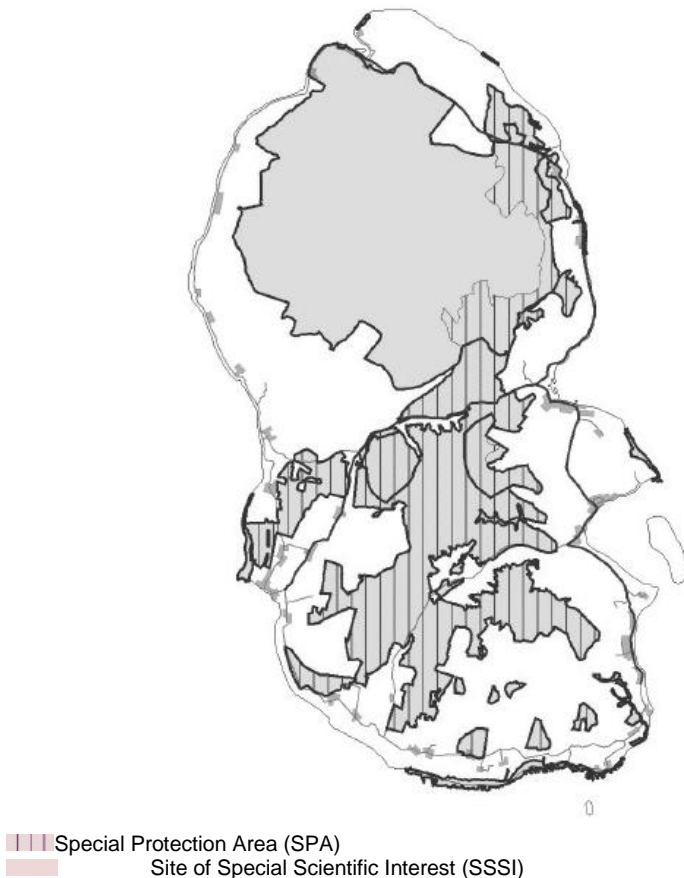
Hopefully those who love Arran will support this initiative and help ensure that the shores on Arran retain their wildlife because otherwise it will be a poorer place.

The Arran Moors Special Protection Area

The Arran Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as shown in the map below, cover an extensive area of Arran.

This area is of outstanding interest for the variety of upland habitats and breeding birds. There are large tracts of blanket bog, wet and dry heath and upland grassland. With small areas of broad-leaved woodland and several small lochs, this diversity of habitats supports a rich variety of moorland breeding birds.

The area is internationally important for its breeding Hen Harriers. Around five percent of the UK breeding population of Hen Harriers are found in Arran. In addition the area is nationally important for Red-throated Diver, Golden Eagle, Peregrine and Short-eared Owl.



The knowledge of the Hen Harrier population on the island is due to the many years of effort put in by the resident member of the South Strathclyde Raptor Study Group, John Rhead. The SPA status was eventually granted in 2003. John Rhead continues to provide the Arran data on Hen Harrier held by the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme.

Systematic List 2018

The systematic list is in the order of the British list as published by the British Ornithologists' Union (2006). This is in line with the Clyde Report. For each species, as well as the common name, the (new) official name and its scientific name have been given. In addition, for each species reported, there are two numbers, both taken from the annual data. The first is the number of records received for that species and the second is the number of sites in which the bird was recorded. A site is a one kilometre square. There are over four hundred on Arran. This is followed by a brief statement giving the status of each bird on Arran, which can be markedly different from the status of the same bird on the adjacent mainland.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* 380,140

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included pair with seven young Glenashdalewaterfoot on 10 June, pair with six young Whiting Bay on 16 June, pair with six young Kingscross on 21 June, pair with four young Clauchlands on 23 June and pair with three young Blackwaterfoot on 23 June. Winter groups included 17 Whiting Bay on 7 January, 19 Sandbraes on 1 April, 13 Strabane on 29 October and 8 Silver Sands on 28 November.

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan) *Cygnus columbianus*

Rare winter visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* 29,20

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups included 29 Whiting Bay on 25 March, 14 Silver Sands on 25 March, 12 Sandbraes on 25 March, 9 Whitefarland on 19 October, 8 Brodick Golf Course on 20 October and 13 Torbeg on 5 December.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* 18,9

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups included 56 Corrie cravie Moor on 11 February, 56 Clachaig Farm on 30 March, 69 Slidery on 31 March, 9 Cleats Shore on 23 September and 30 Torbeg on 21 November.

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons* 1,1

Occasional winter visitor.

One record for 2018. Six in Shiskine Valley on 18 January (SKT). Last year there were six records from three sites.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 115,44

Regular winter visitor; small naturalised population mainly around Lamlash Bay.

In Shiskine Valley up to 300 between January and April and up to 400 between November and end of year. In the Slidery area up to 300 between January and April and up to 300 between November and end of year. Other groups included 200 on Cleats Shore on 1 October. There is a naturalised population which is found mainly around Lamlash. Largest count at Marganaheglish of 200 on 10 April may have included some of the wintering birds.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* 23,16

Localised breeding and occasional visitor.

After seven consecutive years with confirmed breeding there was no confirmed breeding in 2018. Reports included 7 Sliddery on 26 January, 7 Corriecravie Pond on 30 March, 8 Silver Sands on 9 June, 6 Clauchlands on 22 June and 6 Cleats Shore on 18 November.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* 5,4

Occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 17 Sliddery on 26 January, 21 Sandbraes on 3 October and 20 Sliddery Shore on 26 October.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* 4,2

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record 31 in Machrie Bay on 24 April 2017.

Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna* 174,67

Breeding. Common round coast from January to August and November to December.

Breeding included 14 young Cleats Shore on 6 June, 4 young Kildonan on 2 July, 5 young Cosyden on 13 July, 6 young Clauchlands on 16 July and 6 young Kilpatrick Point on 24 July. Groups included 14 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 8 King's Cave on 20 March, 6 Drumadoon on 8 May and 5 Auchenhew Bay on 26 December.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Irregular visitor. Introduced species. Nearest breeding group is in Cowal, Argyll.

No records for 2018. Last record Rosa and Cloy Burns in Brodick on 27 March 2009.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* 60,23

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant with records from January to April and September to December.

Groups included 64 Cosyden on 2 February, 75 Machrie Bay on 21 February, 100 Torbeg on 4 March, 40 Kilpatrick Point on 7 November and 100 Shiskine Valley on 16 December.

Teal (Common Teal) *Anas crecca* 68,25

Breeding and regular winter visitor. Common round coast from January to April and August to December.

No confirmed breeding. Groups included 35 Mossend Pond on 25 January, 92 Kilpatrick Point on 26 January, 35 South Carlo on 26 January, 100 Cosyden on 4 October, 40 Sliddery Shore on 22 October, 62 Torbeg on 8 November and 82 Kilpatrick Point on 11 December.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 330,131

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 8 young Imachar on 18 May, 5 young Lamlash on 2 June and 8 young Lochranza on 12 June. Groups included 50 Port na Lochan on 23 August, 80 Shiskine Valley on 12 October, 120 Kilpatrick Point on 7 November and 47 Fisherman's Walk on 22 December.

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one male Machriewaterfoot on 19 May 2014.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2018. A pair on the pond at Torr Righ on 9 May 2012 is the only Arran record of this species.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one male by the Fisherman's Walk on 24 May 2015.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was a male at Port na Lochan from 15 to 18 September 2011.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record was a female Mossend Pond on 10 November 2017.

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila* 1,1

Occasional winter visitor.

One record for 2018. Juvenile female type Sliderry Shore on 20 September. (DSCS)

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima* 230,93

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 4 young Blackwaterfoot on 6 June, 3 young Silver Sands on 26 June, 8 young Lochranza on 18 July and 5 young Cosyden on 19 July. Groups included 23 Catacol Bay on 4 February, 40 Cosyden on 3 March, 60 Sandbraes on 20 March, 62 Lamblash Bay on 1 April and 30 Sandbraes on 5 November.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza in April 1980.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* 4,1

Rare vagrant.

One male off Kingscross between 7 and 9 December were all the records in 2018.

Common Scoter (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record 4 off Pirnmill on 23 September 2017.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record 2 off Catacol on 5 April 1998.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula* 9,5

Winter visitor with records from January to April and November to December.

In 2017 there were 28 records. This year only 9 records and most were single birds. Sightings included 2 Mossend Pond from 1 to 6 January and 3 Clachlands on 28 November.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record a male with four redheads off the Fallen Rocks car park on 25 April 2016.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 212,86

Breeding. Common round coast all year. Arran is a site of national importance.

Breeding included 5 young Sannox Bay on 24 June, 4 young Pirnmill on 25 July and 5 young Fisherman's Walk on 6 August. Groups included 15 Dougarie on 4 April, 21 Machriewaterfoot on 21 July, 32 Cosyden on 7 August and 20 Pirnmill on 14 October.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* 41,18

Breeding. Localised.

No confirmed breeding in 2018. Sightings included 3 Loch Ranza on 13 February, 2 Blackwaterfoot on 14 May, 2 Cordon on 15 November, 2 Fisherman's Walk on 1 December, 2 Imachar on 3 December and 2 Dougarie on 25 December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.

No records for 2018. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 is the only Arran record of this species.

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

Occasional summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record 2 calling birds in Glenscorrodale on 6 June 2012.

Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus* 16,11

Resident. Breeding. Underreported.

Sightings included 2 Loch Cnoc an Loch on 3 March, 2 Allt Ruadh on 18 May, 3 Coire Chatan on 4 September and 3 Coire Fhionn Lochan on 26 November.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Very localised.

No records for 2018. Last record 6 Coire a' Bhradain on 21 January 2015.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* 2,2

Previously bred.

Reintroduction breeding programme.

All records from Arran Black Grouse Group reintroduction programme. See page 22.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* 3,3

Local introduced resident. Around 500 released in 2018.

One Brodick on 8 May, one Whitefarland on 16 August and 40 Machrie on 29 September are all the records for 2018.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record, excluding released birds in the 1990s, was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus* 169,79

Common introduced resident. Around 3,000 released in 2018.

Reports from all areas.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* 91,40

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Poorer breeding season. Dry spring meant some hill lochan water levels were low and sites not used. Population remains healthy. Groups on sea included 7 Cosyden on 30 March, 6 Whiting Bay on 24 April, 6 Kildonan on 29 May and 4 Sandbraes on 6 June.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* 29,19

Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2018 except June. Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.

Groups included 6 Largymore on 22 January, 6 Machrie Bay on 21 February, 5 Blackwaterfoot on 23 September, 4 Cnoc Buidhe on 25 October, 9 Cosyden on 3 December and 4 Catacol on 24 December.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* 110,50

Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2018 except August.

Groups included 4 King's Cave on 20 March, 6 Imachar on 31 March, 4 Creagan Liatha on 6 May, 6 Cnoc Buidhe on 10 December, 4 Kilpatrick Point on 23 December and 5 Catacol on 24 December.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis* 45,22

Breeding. Round coast all year.

Largest groups at nest areas 14 King's Cave on 26 March, 4 Catacol on 21 April, 6 Cleiteaeadh Buidhe on 21 April, 4 Bannan Head on 29 April, 5 Cnocan Cuallaich on 31 May and 14 Drumadoon on 21 June. No young were reported from any nesting area in 2018.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one off Largymore on 22 July 2012.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was 7 in Machrie Bay on 6 September 2009.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* 37,16

Regular passage migrant with records from 15 April to 12 September.

Large groups included 500 Whiting Bay on 24 July, 500 Cosyden on 7 August, 200 Brodick Bay on 20 August, 300 Pladda on 28 August and 1,000 Largymore on 1 September.

Mediterranean Shearwater (Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.

Leach's Petrel (Leach's Storm Petrel) *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one off Pirnmill 24 September 1991.

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record two Brodick Bay on 12 July 2013.

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus* 283,117

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year, but much more common in summer than winter. Records every month in the year in 2018.

Groups included 50 Machrie Bay on 18 May, 30 Cosyden on 7 August, 50 Leac Gharbh on 28 August, 30 Kilpatrick Point on 17 September, 40 Brodick Bay on 6 October and 60 Catacol on 26 October.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo* 191,84

Common round coast all year but less common than Shag. Breeding Pladda.

Nine nests on Pladda. Groups included 5 Brodick Bay on 1 April, 5 Sannox Bay on 3 August, 11 Cleats Shore on 13 September, 6 Machriewaterfoot on 23 September, 7 Imachar on 11 October and 8 Dougarie on 25 December.

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* 304,108

Common round coast all year. Breeding Pladda.

Groups included 70 Imachar on 29 April, 40 Pladda on 10 June, 80 Auchenhew Bay on 27 August, 138 at Clauchlands Point on 22 September, 32 Balliekin Shore on 23 September and 79 Cleats Shore on 1 October.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was a dead one found in Shiskine on 10 March 1996.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

One record of this American species.

It was recorded over the winter of 2001-02 mainly in the Cloy/Rosa Burn area. Last record was on 28 March 2002 at Carlo/Corrie.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 14,12

Rare vagrant.

All records were of a single bird between 27 September and 20 December. This is only the third year in which this species has been recorded on Arran. The first record was in 2013. (See note page 28)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 338,145

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Reports of activity at all known heronries namely Stronach Wood, Lagg, Lochranza, Whitehouse Woods and Whiting Bay. Groups included 5 Whiting Bay on 8 June, 6 Stronach Wood on 28 June, 7 Lochranza on 8 July, 4 Clachlands on 18 July, 4 Kilpatrick Point on 24 July and 4 Cleats Shore on 20 August.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 48,17

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor. One breeding record in 2018.

Pair with young at Mossend Pond. Sightings included 3 Mossend Pond on 8 February, one Cordon on 21 February, 4 Lochranza on 25 February, 2 Brodick Bay on 6 October, one Holy Isle on 28 December and 3 Catacol Bay on 31 December.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 1,1

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One record for 2018. One off Laggan on 1 April (SD).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one Catacol Bay on 6 March 2016.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* 1,1

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One record for 2018. Two Whiting Bay on 30 October (NG).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one Whiting Bay on 14 February 2014.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* 12,8

Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.

This is the largest number of sightings in one year. There were no records 2017. All sightings were of single birds except one sighting of two on high ground above Corrie on 10 December. Last record one over the String on 13 December.

Marsh Harrier (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was a juvenile in Lamlash 19 August 2004.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* 185,87

Resident. Breeding widespread. Arran is an internationally important area with five percent of UK breeding population.

A very good season. There was an increased number of reports of fledged young. Vole numbers continued to recover from the low of 2015 and the weather was benign at crucial times. In recent years the number of young fledged has varied depending on factors like food availability and weather. Numerous widespread sightings mainly within the Special Protection Area. See page 30.

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Irregular sightings. No confirmed breeding.

No records for 2018. Last record one Slidery on 31 January 2017.

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus* 125,68

Resident. Breeding widespread.

From eleven sample nest sites that were checked, occupied nests were found in four of them. A minimum of five young were fledged from these nests. This is a poorer sample breeding outcome than 2017. However there were numerous widespread sightings throughout the year.

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo* 341,178

Resident. Breeding widespread.

From the eight nest sites that were checked two were successful. Three chicks fledged. This is a poorer sample breeding outcome than 2017. However there were numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 6 Kilbride Hill on 20 May, 6 the String on 5 June, 7 Glen Cloy on 19 June and 4 Clachan Glen on 2 December.

Rough-legged buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one at Cleats Shore on 10 November 1974.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* 4,4

Rare vagrant.

One Pirnmill on 13 March, one Cnocan Cualach on 21 October, one Auchencar on 21 October and one Lochranza on 24 October are all the records for 2018. All sightings were of immature birds.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* 114,63

Resident. Breeding. Arran is a nationally important area with one percent of UK breeding population.

Most territories occupied. Poor season perhaps because of the severe weather in spring. There is a healthy breeding population and at least two young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year mainly to the north of the String.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 1,1

Occasional passage migrant.

One record for 2018. One Slidery Shore on 19 August (SeBu).

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus* 185,110

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year with more reports of fledged young. These included fledged young at Torr Mhoile on 21 July, Burrican Hill on 6 August, Coire Fhraich on 20 August, Lochranza on 21 August and Glenscorrodale on 22 August..

Merlin *Falco columbarius* 15,9

No confirmed breeding. Possibly underreported. Regular passage migrant more widely distributed in winter.

More reports than 2017. Sightings included male Slidery on 1 March, female Clachaig on 6 April, male Blackwaterfoot on 8 November and female Kildonan on 13 December.

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was an adult bird by the Ross Road on 22 June 2011.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* 46,33

Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.

Pairs present at five of the seven sites checked. A minimum of eight young fledged. There is a healthy breeding population. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* 8,4

Localised breeding resident and passage migrant.

More sightings from more locations than 2017 mainly from Sliderry/Corriecravie area but also the first ever records from Holy Isle in November and December.

Spotted Crake *Porzana Porzana*

One historical record. One found dead by Pladda lighthouse on 24 October 1895.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Rare summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record one calling at Port na Lochan from 7 to 9 May 2008.

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus* 26,8

Scarce localised breeding resident.

More sightings from more locations than 2017. Sightings included 3 Port na Lochan on 26 January, 7 Machriewaterfoot on 12 June and 4 Mossend Pond on 26 November.

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record one Port na Lochan from 3 August to 14 August 2016.

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record two over Dougarie on Wednesday 22 April 2015.

Oystercatcher (*Eurasian Oystercatcher*) *Haematopus ostralegus* 642,192

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded included Clauchlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Machrie, Kildonan, Kilpatrick, Sandbraes, Shannochie and Thunderguy. Groups included 46 Clauchlands on 3 February, 42 Drumadon Point on 20 February, 70 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 50 Clauchlands on 8 November and 60 Auchenheugh Bay on 26 December.

Golden Plover (*European Golden Plover*) *Pluvialis apricaria* 43,16

Breeding and winter visitor. Common Machrie shore from January to April and August to December.

Around twenty successful territories in north western moorland. Groups included 40 Clachaig Farm on 30 April, 54 Machrie on 19 July, 11 Cleats Shore on 1 October and 100 Machriewaterfoot on 26 September.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 1,1

Uncommon passage migrant.

One record for 2018. Two Cleats Shore on 3 March (DSCS).

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus* 69,34

Increasingly localised breeding and regular winter visitor.

Two areas of confirmed breeding, one in Kilmory and the other in the Shiskine Valley. Groups included 30 Port na Feannaiche on 2 February, 36 Shiskine on 28 February, 22 Kilpatrick on 5 March, 20 Rodden on 6 March and 44 Clachaig on 11 March.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 300,97

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded Clachlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Machrie and Sandbraes. Groups included 47 Clachlands on 20 January, 50 Sandbraes on 23 January, 50 Blackwaterfoot on 26 January, 65 Cleats Shore on 3 March and 82 Machriewaterfoot on 8 November.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records 2018. Last record was one calling summit of Beinn Tarsuinn 4 June 2012.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 35,24

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 8 Porta Buidhe on 28 April, 15 Auchenheugh Bay on 29 April, 28 Cleats Shore on 30 April, 4 Kilpatrick Point on 6 May and 2 Kildonan on 27 August.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata* 344,127

Resident but underreported breeder.

Signs of breeding were reported from Balnacool, Bennecarrigan, Cnocubha, Kilbride Hill, Machrie Moor, Penrioch and Torr Beag. Groups included 65 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 22 January, 64 Clachlands on 3 February, 95 Sliderry Shore on 24 February, 90 Sliderry Shore on 20 September and 49 Cordon on 13 December. .

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant.

One Silver Sands on 4 August and one Porta Buidhe on 13 August are all the records for 2018.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 1,1

Uncommon passage migrant.

One record for 2018. Three Lochranza on 4 February (ESS).

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres* 85,35

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor with records from most months.

Groups included 35 Silver Sands on 12 March, 19 Holy Isle on 25 April, 16 Whiting Bay on 16 December, 37 Machriewaterfoot on 3 December and 21 Whitefarland on 16 December.

Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus* 1,1

Regular passage migrant.

One record for 2018. One Porta Buidhe on 10 August (DaSm).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was 2 at Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 6,6

Regular passage migrant.

Sightings included one Brodick Bay on 1 August, 3 Drumadoon Point on 10 August, 2 Sliderry Shore on 21 August and 2 Drumadoon Point on 6 October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 37,16

Regular passage migrant with records from most months. No breeding records.

Groups included 3 Blackwaterfoot on 28 July, 3 Fisherman's Walk on 4 August, 30 Porta Buidhe on 12 August, 4 Machriewaterfoot on 6 September and 2 Silver Sands on 15 December.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* 10,3

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Most records were from Kildonan area, Silver Sands and Porta Buidhe between the start of the year and 2 April and between 16 November and end of the year including 7 Silver Sands on 18 February. There was only one record outwith this area, one at Clachlands Point on 10 January.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was 3 at Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was a juvenile at Sliderry on 1 August 2016.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one Silver Sands on 6 December 2015.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 203,87

Regular summer visitor with records from 15 April to 1 September. Breeding.

Pairs each with young included Cleiteadh Buidhe on 9 June, Cnoc Buidhe on 10 June, Clachlands on 10 June, Sannox Bay on 13 June, Blackwaterfoot on 23 June and Corrie on 18 July plus two nests in gardens adjacent to shores in Corrie and Blackwaterfoot.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

No records for 2018. One Clachlands from 19 May to 21 May 2015 is the only Arran record of this North American species.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was at High Thunderguy on 1 August 2008.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one at South Feorline shore on 5 August 2010.

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia* 8,5

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

More records than 2017 but all single birds. Sightings included one Lochranza on 21 July, one Corriecravie on 7 August and one Blackwaterfoot on 10 August.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant.

No records 2018. One at Drumadoon Point on 22 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus* 192,79

Passage migrant with records from every month of the year. Previously bred.

Groups included 12 Kilpatrick Point on 26 June, 20 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 6 Lochranza on 21 August, 26 Sandbraes on 20 September, 38 Cleats Shore on 1 October and 41 Whiting Bay on 9 October.

Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Two Hazelburn on 2 February and one Sliderry Shore on 20 October are all the records for 2018.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One record of this American species.

No records for 2018. One juvenile Sliderrywaterfoot from 15 to 17 September 1990 is the only Arran record of this North American species.

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola* 22,15

Resident but underreported breeder. Numbers increase in winter.

Pairs flying at dusk included Machrie Moor on 12 May, Clauchlands on 13 May, Glenkiln on 14 May and Glenscorrodale on 18 May. There was also a report of a pair with two young on Holy Isle on 6 September. Largest winter group 6 Hazelburn on 6 February.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 26,15

Passage migrant with records from most months of the year. Localised breeding.

No confirmed breeding. One drumming String 31 May. Groups included 14 Sliderry on 16 January, 7 Hazelburn on 2 February, 12 Sliderry Shore on 3 March and 9 Corriecravie Pond on 30 March.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records for 2018. Last record was 2 off Kildonan on 16 May 2009.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One Imachar on 30 September and one Pirnmill on 3 November are all the records for 2018.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records 2018. Two off Kildonan on 19 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* 1,1
Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One record for 2018. One off Pirnmill on 3 November (AP).

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica* 10,7
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

More reports than 2017. Only two reports of more than one bird with two off Pirnmill on 31 May and 11 off the Cock of Arran on 25 July.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* 130,59
Breeding. Round coast all year.

Breeding included Brodick Pier, Catacol, Corrie, Imachar, Kilpatrick, King's Cave, Thunderguy and Pladda. Numbers and sightings are increasing. Groups included 20 Pladda on 9 April, 15 Cnoc Buidhe on 29 April, 14 Imachar on 12 May, 19 Whitefarland on 19 May and 20 Brodick Bay on 18 June.

Razorbill *Alca torda* 11,7
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

Groups included 4 Machrie Bay on 12 June, 2 Fairy Dell on 18 July, 3 Brodick Bay on 26 July, 10 Cosyden on 22 July and 6 Kilpatrick Point on 18 August.

Little Auk *Alle alle*
Scarce and irregular winter visitor, usually seen after severe gales.

No records for 2018. Last record one Holy Isle on 8 January in 2016.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge* 49,22
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

Groups included 15 Machrie Bay on 2 April, 40 Cosyden on 7 August, 250 in Brodick Bay on 18 August, 150 Brodick Bay on 20 August and 11 Whitefarland on 19 October.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one at Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* 50,31
Summer visitor. Non breeding. Records from 31 March to 11 September.

Groups included 6 Porta Buidhe on 11 April, 6 Whiting Bay on 17 April, 6 Silver Sands on 19 April, 6 Margnaheglish on 7 May and 7 Cosyden on 21 July.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record was one Machriewaterfoot on 19 April 2013.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record was 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* 12,4

Regular summer visitor. Breeding colony Pladda.

Groups included 2 Clauchlands on 20 April, 6 Balliekie Shore on 29 April, 4 Silver Sands on 5 June, 14 Pladda on 10 June and 28 Pladda on 17 July.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

One historical record. One shot in Lamlash Bay in 1895.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one adult Brodick Bay on 3 September 2009.

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla* 26,15

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.

Numbers considerably less than recent years with few young reported. Groups reported included 620 Sandbraes on 3 September, 250 Brodick Bay on 6 September, 200 Catacol Bay on 23 September, 200 Fisherman's Walk on 30 September.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 107,56

Non breeding. Present round coast all year in 2017. Usually absent in summer

Groups included 7 Porta Buidhe on 7 March, 5 Dougarie on 19 October, 4 Blackwaterfoot on 8 November and 16 Porta Buidhe on 1 December.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Uncommon irregular visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record 2 Whiting Bay on 2 September 2013.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* 2,2

Rare vagrant.

One Sliderry Shore on 31 May and one Sliderry on 5 November are all the records for 2018. See note on page 27.

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus* 417,158

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Poor breeding season with few reports of fledged young from coastal nesting areas including Machriewaterfoot, Dougarie, Holy Isle, Pladda, Sannox and Thunderguy. Groups included 800 Strabane on 7 February, 200 Cordon on 4 March, 200 Pladda on 17 July, 600 Sliderry Shore on 26 October, 600 Sliderry on 5 November and 300 Kilpatrick Point on 17 November.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* 151,84

Breeding. Common round coast from February to October.

Colony on Holy Isle had 20 birds in May and the colony on Pladda had 150 birds in June. No reports from colony by Cnoc na Croise. Other groups included 10 Cordon on 12 June, 10 Machrie on 30 June, 14 Auchenhew Bay on 11 August, 29 Whiting Bay on 20 August and 16 Sannox Bay on 22 September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* 444,174

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Colony on Holy Isle had 100 birds in May and the colony on Pladda had 250 birds in June. No reports from colony by Cnoc na Croise. Other groups included 132 South Feorline on 31 August, 112 Kilpatrick Point on 11 October, 115 Drumadoon Point on 27 October, 200 Sliderry on 5 November and 143 Dougarie on 5 December. In addition an "albinistic" gull was caught and ringed in Sliderry on 24 June. (See photo page (i))

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* 20,15

Uncommon winter visitor.

More reports than 2017. These were mainly single sightings of immature birds but there were 2 at Lochranza on 4 March and 2 in Pirnmill on 6 March plus an adult at Sliderrywaterfoot on 1 April.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* 2,2

Uncommon winter visitor.

One first winter in Catacol Bay on 3 February and one first winter on Sliderry Shore on 3 March were all in the records in 2018.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* 228,104

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Colony on Pladda had 50 birds in June. Groups included 11 Machriewaterfoot on 25 March, 12 Catacol Bay on 15 August, 14 Silver Sands on 9 October, 13 Fisherman's Walk on 18 November and 11 Dougarie on 5 December.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrhaptes paradoxus*

One historical record.

One mention in one source of being present in Arran during the irruption from Asia to Western Europe in 1888. No further details.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* 62,32

Resident. Breeding. Localised round the coast.

Groups included 19 Torrylinnwaterfoot on 4 February, 20 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 20 June, 23 Brown Head on 24 July, 12 Cleats Shore on 28 September and 10 Kilpatrick on 30 August.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Very scarce.

No records for 2018. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

Woodpigeon (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus* 196,105

Resident. Breeding. Common.

Groups included 400 Strabane on 7 February, 100 Cordon on 25 February, 100 Stronach Wood on 19 April, 155 Sliderry on 20 October and 80 Sliderry Shore on 28 October.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto* 143,51

Resident. Breeding. Common. First bred in Britain in 1955.

Present around all villages. Groups included 11 Corrie on 28 January, 22 Blackwaterfoot on 19 February, 20 Whiting Bay on 4 April and 26 Sliderry on 20 October.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Occasional passage migrant.

No records in 2018. Last record one Clachaig Farm on 30 September 2015. There were also two records in 2014.

Cuckoo(Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus* 207,131

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First one reported calling in Glen Cloy on 16 April. Later widespread reports from around the island. Population seems to be healthy. The last one reported was a juvenile in Glen Sannox on 26 July.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* 49,36

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Poorer breeding season than 2017. Sightings from Auchagallon, Auchencar, Balmichael, Carlo, Corrie, Brodick, Cladach, Dippen, Dougare, Glenkiln, Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Lamlash, Lochranza, Monyquill, Pirnmill, Ross Road, Shiskine, String and Whiting Bay.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Only recent records are from one long lived introduced bird in Brodick Country Park.

No records for 2018.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

No records in 2018. Last record one Clachan Glen on 10 September 2017.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* 6,6

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

Good breeding season. Sightings included one Glenshant Hill on 10 January, one Glen Rosa on 27 March, one Machrie Forest 15 April, one Boguille on 16 April, one Machrie Moor on 29 April and one Crogan on 3 July.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record one churring Dhunan from 16 June to 7 July 2017.

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus* 6,6

Summer visitor and passage migrant. No breeding records. Reports from 5 May to 2 August.

Fewer records than 2017. Sightings included 2 Blackwaterfoot on 5 May, 5 Bailemargaidh on 13 May, one High Kildonan on 19 July and 3 Clachaig Farm on 28 July.

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis* 13,4

Resident. No confirmed breeding. Most records dispersing birds in winter.

A reduction from the seventy-two records of 2017. Most records were from the Fisherman's Walk area. Other sightings included one Sandbraes on 8 May, one Cordon on 17 September and one south of Kingscross on 18 November.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. One in a garden in Lamlash on 28 December 2014 is the first Arran record of this species.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* 74,37

Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.

Regularly heard drumming in Brodick Country Park and Merkland Wood from January to April. As well as breeding records from this area, fledged young were reported from other sites including Lamlash on 14 June, Corrie on 8 July, Gortonallister on 16 July, Sliderry on 21 July, Whiting Bay on 24 July and Brodick on 8 August.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* 1,1

Rare vagrant.

One record for 2018. One Port na Lochan on 13 June (MaJo).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubiter*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza on 24 October 2007.

Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record one by Narachan track from 5 to 29 September 2011.

Magpie (*Black-billed Magpie*) *Pica pica* 19,12
Vagrant.

More sightings this year than previous years. There were three records in 2017, none in 2016, one in 2015, one in 2014, none in 2013 and one in 2012. This year there were records from 19 March at Corrie to 24 April Holy Isle. Between 31 March and 2 April there were reports from both Kildonan and Lochranza suggesting the presence of two birds on Arran.

Jay (*Eurasian Jay*) *Garrulus glandarius*
Rare vagrant. Before 2011 the last record was 1985.

No records for 2018. Last record one on road to Glen Rosa on 9 April 2012.

Jackdaw (*Eurasian Jackdaw*) *Corvus monedula* 232,97
Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 150 Machrie on 15 January, 151 High Whitefarland on 21 June, 251 Machriewaterfoot on 31 October, 150 Sliddery on 5 November and 100 Blackwaterfoot on 8 November.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* 15,2
Regular winter visitor.

All records from Sliddery area between January and February and October and December, including 14 on 19 January, 17 on 6 February, 15 on 21 October and 52 on 28 October.

Carrión Crow *Corvus corone* **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* 252,136 314,140
Both species including intermediates are common residents. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 80 Strabane on 7 February, 100 Kilpatrick Point on 2 June, 52 Cleats Shore on 13 September and 50 Silver Sands on 4 November.

Raven (*Common Raven*) *Corvus corax* 199,110
Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Breeding pairs included Beinn a Chliabhain, Bennan Head, Brown Head, Catacol and Imachar. Groups included 7 Auchencar on 2 February, 10 Glenscorrodale on 28 March, 19 Machrie Moor on 22 August, 60 Cleats Shore on 13 September and 60 Clachan Glen on 6 October.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* 63,50
Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Records included 5 Dyemill on 22 January, 5 Silver Sands on 17 July, 4 Corriecraive on 11 August, 3 Dereneneach on 6 October and 3 Holy Isle on 20 November.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*
Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

One Whiting Bay 17 November 2007 is the only accepted record.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* 242,102

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 24 May, Gortonallister on 21 May, Alma Park on 18 June, Laigh Kilmory on 19 June, Stron na Carraige on 30 June and Whiting Bay on 18 July. Largest group was 8 Corrie on 16 June.

Great Tit *Parus major* 250,101

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports Brodick 26 May, Kilpatrick Farm 10 June, Alma Park 18 June, Gortonallister on 19 June, and Cordon on 24 June. Largest group was 8 Silver Sands on 9 June.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* 220,91

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 26 May, Alma Park on 13 June, Cordon on 18 June, Porta Leacach on 28 June, Lochranza 30 June and Corrie on 30 June. Largest group was 21 Lag na Daer on 10 January.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one in Lamlash from 16 to 18 May 2009.

Skylark (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis* 57,32

Breeding resident, Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding territories occupied in Ard Bheinn, Corriecravie Moor, Drumadoon, Drumaghinier, Glen Cloy, Kilbride Hill, Kilpatrick, Leac a'Ghille, Machrie Moor, Penrioch and Sannox. Groups included 65 Braehead Farm, 300 Cleats Shore on 23 September, 90 Sliderry on 14 October and 150 Cleats Shore on 18 October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 103,55

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.

First report Sannox on 14 April. Breeding colonies occupied in Auchencar, Clauchlands, Cosyden, Glen Catacol, Glen Rosa, Kilpatrick, Sannox and Whitefarland. Groups included 28 Coire Fhraoich on 9 June, 300 Sannox sand quarry on 19 July and 200 Fuar Achadh on 22 July. Last record was Glen Catacol on 15 August.

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica* 338,167

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report Brodick Castle Gardens on 6 April. Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods raised. Better breeding season than 2017. Groups included 40 Kilpatrick on 4 June, 75 Cleats Shore on 11 August, 150 Sliderry Shore on 31 August and 36 Braehead Farm on 15 September. Last record was Sliderry on 21 October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* 272,126

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report was from Blackwaterfoot on 15 April. Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods. Groups included 45 Glenloig on 7 August, 56 Braehead Farm on 21 August, 40 Strabane on 29 August, 130 Shannochie on 30 August and 40 Whiting Bay on 19 September. Last record was Auchrannie on 26 September.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* 76,45

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 19 Lamlash Golf Course on 26 June, 19 Gortonallister on 6 October, 15 Sliderry on 17 October, 12 Glenkiln on 22 November, 10 Imachar on 3 December and 12 Blackwaterfoot on 23 December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record was one in Whiting Bay from 4 to 6 December 2007.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised Records from May to June.

No records for 2018. Last record was two Leana Cuil on 13 June 2017.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita* 85,49

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Most records from March to September.

First report was from Cnocan Wood on 11 March. Records included males singing Whiting Bay on 7 April, Lamlash on 7 April, Brodick on 15 April, Allt Ruadh on 18 May the Torr on 22 May, Cordon on 21 June and Porta Buidhe on 21 June. Good breeding season. Last record was Torbeg on 21 October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* 207,130

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Records from April to September.

First report was Clauchlands on 7 April. Records included males singing Brodick on 15 April, the Torr on 15 April, Coire Fhroaich on 15 April, Corrie on 18 April, Porta Buidhe on 21 April and Shiskine Golf Course on 13 May . Good breeding season. Last record was Auchenhew Bay on 17 October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 85,62

Summer and winter visitor. Breeding widespread. Summer population mainly April to September. Smaller wintering population mainly from November to February.

Records included singing males Alma Park on 12 May, Catacol on 27 May, Sannox on 27 May, Brodick Country Park on 30 May, Lochranza on 2 June and Cordon on 26 June. Winter records included one Strathwillan on 9 February, one Torbeg on 24 February, one Marganaheglish on 13 March and two Machriewaterfoot on 11 November .

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 3,3

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding. Possibly underreported.

One Narachan on 14 May, one Brodick Country Park on 21 May and one Gortonallister on 31 May are all the records for 2018.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* 2,1

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding.

Male singing Cleats Shore on 30 April and male singing Cleats Shore on 6 June are all the records for 2018.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis* 94,60

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Records from April to September.

First report was from Sliderry on 27 April. Records included singing males Shiskine Golf Course on 13 May, Allt Ruadh on 18 May, Shannochie on 23 May, Moss Farm on 23 May, top of the String 27 May and Catacol on 30 May. Last record was one Shiskine on 2 September.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia* 11,11

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Records from April to August.

Reports of reeling birds South Feorline on 19 April, High Whitefarland on 20 April, King's Cave on 28 April, Sannox Bay on 22 May, Tormore on 26 May and Cleats Shore on 6 June.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 45,29

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Records from April to August.

First report was from Sliderry Shore on 20 April. Records included singing males Porta Buidhe on 6 May, Clauchlands on 7 May, Drumadon on 10 May, Port na Lochan on 14 May, Machrie on 25 May, Lochranza on 26 May and Brodick on 27 May. Last record was one at Corriecravie on 11 August.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Rare vagrant

No records in 2018. Male Dereneneach 19 June to 5 July 2014 is the first Arran record.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

No records in 2018. In 2017 there was one record of 20 Merkland Wood on 8 January. In 2016 there had been eight records.

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea*

Vagrant but records may be increasing as species spreads north across the UK

No records in 2018. In 2017 there was one record of one at Strathwillan on 27 November. In 2016 there had been seven records.

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris* 22,19

Resident. Breeding. Widespread but underreported.

Sightings included 2 Cnoc na Dail on 7 January, 3 Glenashdale Falls on 6 June, 2 Loch Garbad on 17 June, 6 Corrie Golf Course on 14 July, 3 High Kildonan on 6 September and 2 Dereneneach on 6 October.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* 258,144

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Records from varied habitats throughout the island from high tops to shore. Groups included 4 Holy Isle on 30 May, 6 Marganaheglish on 26 July, 12 Auchenhew Bay on 3 August, 5 Dun Fionn on 14 October, 7 Auchenhew Bay on 26 December and 6 Sandbraes on 31 December roosting in a House Martin nest.

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris* 230,95

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports Lamlash Golf Course on 22 May, Shannochie on 23 May, Catacol on 27 May, Kilpatrick on 2 June, Glenloig on 2 June and Dougarie on 10 June. Larger groups included 100 Feorline on 10 February, 120 Bennicarrigan on 17 February, 350 Sliderry on 7 August, 100 Braehead Farm on 5 September, 200 Blackwaterfoot on 8 November and 500 Kilpatrick on 8 November.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* 8,1

Rare vagrant.

One record for 2018. There was one adult in Sliderry from 19 to 21 July (DSCS). See note on page 28

Dipper (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus* 52,28

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs recorded included Benlister, Bennecarrigan, Blackwater, Cladach, Corrie, Dyemill, Fisherman's Walk, Gleann Easan Biorach, Glenashdale, Glen Chalmadale, Lochranza, Merkland, Sliderrywater, Strabane and Torrylinnwater. Birds move towards coast in winter.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* 6,3

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

Sightings included a male on Beinn Bharrain on 29 April, a male at the Witch's Step on 20 May and a male on Beinn Nuis on 21 May.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula* 478,163

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Good breeding season with reports of double and triple broods. Groups included 10 Sliderry on 19 January, 11 Corriecravie on 25 January, 12 Pirmill on 28 February, 10 Machrie on 25 May, 12 Clauchlands on 31 May and 60 Cnoc na Dail on 8 November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* 77,45

Regular winter visitor. Records from January to April and October to December.

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, included 85 Corriecravie Moor on 25 January, 200 Feorline on 9 February, 376 Corriecravie on 17 October, 100 Narachan on 25 October, 400 Sliderry on 25 October and 200 Cnoc na Dail on 5 November.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* 294,136

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Groups included 200 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 55 Sliderry Shore on 3 March, 18 Blackwaterfoot on 4 March, 10 Cosyden on 4 March, 24 Catacol on 2 April and 50 top of the String on 14 April.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* 87,42

Regular winter visitor. Records from January to April and October to December.

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares, included 250 Feorline on 8 February, 130 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 100 Shannochie on 18 October, 100 Clauchlands on 18 October, 1,100 Sliderry on 20 October and 140 Corrie on 27 October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 75,53

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included fledged young Machrie on 18 June, Strathwillan on 19 June, Monyquill on 11 July and Sliderry on 12 July. Groups included 20 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 7 Cosyden on 4 March, 11 Lochan a'Mhill on 17 July, 15 Machrie on 2 September and 16 Whiting Bay Golf Course on 4 September.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* 55,31

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Records from May to August.

Confirmed breeding included Sannox on 30 June, Glenree on 21 July, Shannochie on 22 July, Auchamore on 24 July, Eas Ban on 25 July and Brodick Country Park on 31 July.

Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula* 426,186

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Glenashdale on 25 May, Cordon on 26 May, Margnaheglish on 26 May, Newton on 10 June, Kilpatrick on 16 June, Strathwillan on 17 June and High Kildonan on 18 June plus all villages. Other groups included 6 Sliderry Shore on 3 March, 25 Cleats Shore on 3 March, 8 Shiskine Golf Course on 1 October, 13 Sliderry on 17 October, 5 Holy Isle on 25 December and 8 Auchenhew Bay on 26 December.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Irregular summer visitor.

No records for 2018. Last record was one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Last record one Cordon 24 June 2017.

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. The last record was a juvenile in Sliderry from 21 May to 7 July 2017.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* 45,30

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Breeding territories included Boguille, Garbh Allt, Glen Catacol, Glen Chalmadale, Glen Iorsa, Glen Rosa, Machrie Moor, North Sannox and Ross Road. The breeding Whinchat study continued (see page 20, *Arran Bird Report 2011*) with birds now being colour ringed so that they can be more easily identified in the future. Please report all colour ringed birds to Terry Southall, bird ringer, terrysouthall789@btinternet.com.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* 166,82 (In 2015 it was 79,47)

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Continuing signs of recovery after the two cold winters 2009-2011 with more records from more sites. Fledged young reports included Shiskine Golf Course on 5 May, King's Cave on 10 May, Fuar Achadh on 29 May, Loch Iorsa on 10 June, Machrie Moor on 14 June, Blackwaterfoot on 22 June, Cleats Shore on 25 July, Ross Cairn on 25 July, Drumadon on 25 July and Port na Lochan on 25 July.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe* 74,56

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

First report was from Kildonan on 18 March. Confirmed breeding included Cleats Shore 28 June, Kilpatrick on 4 July, Auchenhew on 10 July, King's Cave on 24 July and Laggan on 28 July. Groups included 4 Fisherman's Walk on 4 April, 4 Drumadoon on 13 April, 8 Kingscross on 5 May, 7 Clauchlands on 6 May, 6 Coire Fhionn Lochan on 6 May and 10 Sannox Bay on 3 August. Last record was one Drumadoon Point on 1 November.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis* 252,112

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports Margnaheglish on 21 May, Cordon on 26 May, Glen Cloy on 4 June, Laigh Kilmory on 12 June, Alma Park on 17 June and Silver Sands on 26 June. Other groups included 4 Newton on 1 June, 4 Cleats Shore on 1 October, 4 Shiskine Golf Course on 4 October, 5 Silver Sands on 5 October, 4 Imachar on 22 October and 12 Sliderry on 28 October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 324,109

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs reported from all villages. Reports of double and triple broods. Larger groups included 35 Alma Park on 26 July, 24 Kilpatrick Farm on 31 July, 42 Silver Sands on 6 August, 100 Blackwaterfoot on 11 October and 110 Sliderry on 20 October.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Previous record was 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records for 2018. Previous record was a first winter bird on the shore at Kildonan from 13 December to 15 December 2013.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 125,71

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young Cordon on 31 May, Brodick Country Park on 15 July, Balmichael on 21 July, Levenorrach on 21 July, Machriewaterfoot on 21 July and Meal Bhig on 24 July.

White Wagtail *Montacilla alba* 28,15

Regular passage migrant.

First report was from Porta Buidhe on 7 April. Other sightings included 6 Silver Sands on 23 April, 15 Clauchlands Point on 24 April, 20 Braehead Farm on 27 August, 9 Sliderry Shore on 31 August and 70 Cleats Shore on 4 September. Last report was from Sliderry Shore on 20 September.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* 445,174

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young at Sannox on 21 May, Brodick Country Park on 22 May, Shannochie on 23 May, Moss Farm on 25 May, Shiskine Golf Course on 9 June, Lochranza on 16 June and Corrie on 18 June. Other groups included 40 Blackwaterfoot on 2 February, 40 Porta Buidhe on 13 August, 180 Braehead Farm on 21 August, 40 Sliderry Shore on 20 September and 40 Knockenkelly on 23 September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* 4,4

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported.

One North Sannox on 24 April, one Fairy Dell on 22 May, one Catacol on 28 May and one Sliderry Shore are all the records for 2018.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* 226,133

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous breeding records. Groups included 30 Kildonan on 1 April, 50 High Kildonan on 9 August, 142 Sliderry on 13 August, 160 Sliderry Shore on 31 August, 130 Cleats Shore on 4 September and 250 Braehead Farm on 5 September.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* 283,103

Breeding resident, Widespread on the coast, Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous breeding records including pairs carrying food at Silver Sands on 31 May, Shiskine Golf Course on 9 June, Cosyden on 12 June, Sannox Bay on 13 June, Catacol Bay on 14 June and Blackwaterfoot on 21 June. Groups included 50 Porta Buidhe on 3 April, 20 Sliderry Shore on 31 August, 50 Silver Sands on 21 December, 34 Clauchlands on 23 December, 29 Blackwaterfoot on 23 December and 56 Auchenhew Bay on 26 December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 32,13

Irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers. Not seen every year.

Sightings included 2 Newton on 16 October, 6 Sliderry Shore on 26 October, 20 Sliderry on 28 October, 2 Torbeg on 29 October, 6 Cordon on 6 November and 7 Cnoc Na Dail on 8 November.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* 436,184

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from all the settlements on the island including some double broods. Larger groups included 100 Kingscross Point on 1 January, 150 Braehead Farm on 20 January, 75 Corriecravie Moor on 25 January, 80 Brodick on 3 April, 200 Blackwaterfoot on 11 October and 300 Sliderry on 20 October.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2018. Last record one Pirnmill on 21 April and one Lochranza on 22 April, possibly the same bird, in 2016.

Scarlet Rosefinch (Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2018. The last record was a juvenile caught and ringed at High Kildonan on 24 October 2011.

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* 60,47

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Confirmed breeding included reports Strabane on 22 May, Kingscross on 2 June, Invercloy on 24 June and Sannox on 30 June. Groups included 15 Torr Righ Mhor on 18 January, 10 Cordon on 21 February, 6 Cnocan Coilich on 8 June, 7 Corriecravie on 17 August, 5 Cnoc na Dail on 8 November and 6 Holy Isle on 27 December.

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris* 181,72 (Figures for 2017: 136,41)

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

In 2018 there was an increase in the number of records from an increased number of sites reflecting a much better breeding season and perhaps some recovery from the impact of trichomonas <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/trichomonas-in-garden-birds.html>
Confirmed breeding included reports from Shannochie on 23 May, Kilpatrick on 2 June, Clauchlands on 10 June, Alma Park on 18 June and Cordon on 18 June. Groups included 16 Dougarie on 2 April, 6 Port na Lochan on 14 June, 5 Drumadoon on 3 August, 9 Cleats Shore on 23 September, 12 Sliderry on 14 October and 5 Torbeg on 20 October.

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina* 133,58

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between April and November.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Pladda on 10 June, Clauchlands on 13 June, Kilpatrick on 18 June, Shannochie 1 July, Blackwaterfoot on 2 July and Cleats Shore on 11 July. Larger groups included 150 Braehead Farm on 20 August, 42 Lagg on 30 August, 60 Sliderry Shore on 31 August, 50 Kilpatrick on 7 September, 450 Cleats Shore on 23 September and 230 Cleats Shore on 1 October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* 9,5

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

No confirmed breeding. Sightings included one Drumadoon on 13 April, 7 Cleats Shore on 28 September, 3 Sliderry on 14 October, 30 Cleats Shore on 18 October and 11 Cleats Shore on 30 October.

Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret* 42,21

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant. Most records in spring.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Dyemill on 24 May, Kilpatrick on 30 May, Cordon on 18 June and Lochranza on 28 June. Groups included 30 Dyemill on 4 February, 15 Lag na Daer on 4 February, 3 Lamlash Golf Club on 6 May, 3 Auchenhew Bay on 24 July, 50 Holy Isle on 7 September and 6 Glenkiln on 22 November.

Crossbill (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra* 32,21

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Possibly underreported.

Groups included 9 High Kildonan on 1 January, 14 Lag na Daer on 10 January, 17 Dyemill on 21 January, 10 Clauchan Glen on 2 February, 2 Ballymichael Glen on 24 March and 4 Kilbride Hill on 24 March.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis* 285,111

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Kilpatrick on 10 June, Cordon on 18 June, Lamlash on 18 June, Lochranza on 19 June, Margnaheglish on 21 June and Porta Leacach on 28 June. Groups included 28 Torbeg on 27 January, 25 Silver Sands on 13 April, 30 Cleats Shore on 20 August, 100 Blackwaterfoot on 21 August and 42 Braehead Farm on 5 September.

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus* 154,68

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between January and June.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Lamash on 22 May, Kilpatrick on 3 June, Gortonallister on 14 June, Auchenhew Hill on 17 June, Alma Park on 18 June and Shiskine on 26 June. Groups included 20 Lamash on 11 January, 50 Dyemill on 4 February, 50 Shiskine on 10 February, 20 Whiting Bay on 15 June, 60 Mayish on 18 June and 60 Glenrickard on 30 August.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Varying numbers on passage and in winter.

No records for 2018. Last records from 2016 two Clachlands Point on 15 March and two on the top of Sail Chalmadale.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* 27,3 (Figures for 2017: 76,6)

Once common resident, currently in decline. Most records in winter.

No records between 31 March and 14 October. In 2018 there were fewer records from fewer sites. Most records from Slidery area including 21 on 11 February, 14 on 21 February, 10 on 31 March and 10 on 5 November. Records from other areas 15 Braehead Farm on 20 January and 17 Corriecravie Moor on 25 January.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* 43,24

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included Clachlands on 3 July, Lochranza on 14 July, Slidery Shore on 17 July and Corriecravie on 20 July. Groups included 25 Braehead Farm on 20 January, 15 Slidery on 6 February, 4 Pirnmill on 28 February, 6 Slidery Shore on 29 March, 3 Cleats Shore on 28 September and 3 Holy Isle on 29 December.

Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2018. Last record was 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

Gazetteer of Arran Place Names

To help people making use of this annual report, a gazetteer of Arran place names, linking names to the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 361 "Isle of Arran", has been produced and is available as a PDF download. <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/gazetteerarran.pdf>

Arran Birding Website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk>



The Arran Birding Website has been developed as a resource for local and visiting birders. It is intended to be comprehensive, up to date and easy to use.

Previous Annual Reports

There is a facility to download previous annual reports.

Bird Notes

These regular articles which have been published in the "*Arran Banner*" are accessible.

Photo Gallery

There is an extensive photo gallery with a section for each of the major habitats on Arran.

If you would like to send your bird photographs for consideration for inclusion, please send these to info@arranbirding.co.uk.

Finding Birds

There is information on where to find birds with some suggested walks.

Bird Sightings

In this section there is access to regularly updated information including: Monthly Sightings, a selection of highlights from each month and Recent Sightings, some recent bird sightings on Arran.

In addition there is accommodation information and links to local and national websites.

Rarities. Species to be submitted to Scottish and Local Record Committees

The British Birds Rarities Committee is the official adjudicator of rare bird records in Britain. It publishes its annual report in the monthly journal *British Birds*. <http://www.bbrc.org.uk/>

In addition, at a local level, records of the following species will only be accepted if a satisfactory description is submitted. Descriptions of species listed in bold type will be referred to the Scottish Birds Records Committee. Others will be considered by the Clyde Bird Records Panel. Under certain circumstances a description may be required for a species not on the list.

Black-throated Diver
White-billed Diver
 Black-necked Grebe
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
 Sooty Shearwater
 Balearic Shearwater
Wilson's Petrel
 Storm Petrel
 Leach's Petrel
Night Heron
Cattle Egret
 Little Egret
Great White Egret
Purple Heron
 White Stork
 Spoonbill
 Bean Goose
 American Wigeon
 Green-winged Teal
 Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck
 Surf Scoter
 Honey Buzzard
Black Kite
 Red Kite
Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard
 Goshawk
Red-footed Falcon
 Hobby
 Crane
Stone Curlew
 Little Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
 American Golden Plover

Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Grey Phalarope
 Pomarine Skua (immature)
 Long-tailed Skua
 Mediterranean Gull (except adult)
 Sabine's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
Yellow-legged Gull
Caspian Gull
 Iceland Gull - form *L. g. kumlieni*
 known as 'Kumlien's Gull'
White-winged Black Tern
 Roseate Tern
 Little Owl
 Nightjar
Alpine Swift
 Bee-eater
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Short-toed Lark
Woodlark
Red-rumped Swallow
 Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
 Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race)
Water Pipit
 Yellow Wagtail (continental races)
Nightingale
 Bluethroat
Cetti's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler

Melodious Warbler
 Reed Warbler
 Icterine Warbler
 Barred Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Subalpine Warbler
Greenish Warbler
 Pallas's Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
 Firecrest
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
Bearded Tit
 Willow Tit
 Marsh Tit
 Nuthatch
 Golden Oriole
Woodchat Shrike
 Chough
 Rose-coloured Starling
Serin
 Common (Mealy) Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll
 Scarlet Rosefinch
 Bullfinch (Northern)
 Hawfinch
Parrot Crossbill
Girl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting
 Corn Bunting

Note: Black-throated Diver records refer to breeding records.

Descriptions of the above species (or races/forms) and descriptions of national rarities for consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee should be sent preferably by email to the Assistant Local Clyde Recorder, Val Wilson val.wilson38@btinternet.com or by post to Flat 2/1, 12 Rawcliffe Gardens, Glasgow G41 3DA as soon as possible after the date of observation.

For advice on how to complete the form, please visit the website:
http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/reporting_rarities.html

How to be a good birdwatcher

Some points to bear in mind.

1. **Welfare of birds must come first.** Whether your particular interest is photography, ringing, sound recording, scientific study or just birdwatching, remember that the welfare of the bird must always come first.
2. **Habitat protection.** Its habitat is vital to a bird and therefore we must ensure that our activities do not cause damage.
3. **Keep disturbance to a minimum.** Birds' tolerance of disturbance varies between species and seasons. Therefore, it is safer to keep all disturbance to a minimum, particularly in the breeding season. No birds should be disturbed from the nest in case opportunities for predators to take eggs or young are increased. In very cold weather disturbance to birds may cause them to use vital energy at a time when food is difficult to find.
4. **Rare breeding birds.** If you discover a rare bird breeding and feel that protection is necessary, inform the local wildlife crime officer, Constable Phil Adams, telephone 01770 302574 . Otherwise it is best in almost all circumstances to keep the record strictly secret in order to avoid disturbance by other birdwatchers and attacks by egg-collectors. Never visit known sites of rare breeding birds unless they are adequately protected. Even your presence may give away the site to others and cause so many other visitors that the birds may fail to breed successfully. In terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 disturbance at or near the nests of birds is a criminal offence.
5. **Rare migrants.** Rare migrants or vagrants must not be harassed. If you discover one, consider the circumstances carefully before telling anyone. Will an influx of birdwatchers disturb the bird or others in the area? Will the habitat be damaged? Will problems be caused with the landowner?
6. **The Law.** The bird protection laws, as embodied in Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, are the result of hard campaigning by previous generations of birdwatchers. As birdwatchers, we must abide by them at all times and not allow them to fall into disrepute.
7. **Respect the rights of landowners.** The wishes of landowners and occupiers of land must be respected. Always follow the Scottish Access Code.
8. **Respect the rights of other people.** Have proper consideration for other birdwatchers. Try not to disrupt their activities or scare the birds they are watching. There are many other people who also use the countryside. Do not interfere with their activities and, if it seems that what they are doing is causing unnecessary disturbance to birds, do try to take a balanced view. While flushing gulls when walking a dog on a beach in winter may do little harm, in the breeding season, the same dog would be a serious disturbance to nesting shore birds or a nesting gull colony. When pointing this out to a non-birdwatcher, be courteous, but firm. The non-birdwatchers' goodwill towards birds must not be destroyed by the attitudes of birdwatchers.
9. **Keeping records.** Much of today's knowledge about birds is the result of meticulous record keeping by our predecessors. Make sure you help to add to tomorrow's knowledge by sending records to your local recorder. The Arran recorder is Jim Cassels at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316, or email jim@arranbirding.co.uk

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