

Maggie H Dunn 1924-2022: A Tribute

Maggie died peacefully in Montrose House on Thursday 28 July 2022. Maggie was a founder member of the Arran Natural History Society, which was formed in 1977. As the first ANHS bird recorder, Maggie produced the annual bird report in 1980 and continued producing it until 1991. Every year since, she has contributed to the annual report. Maggie was also a local teacher. Both as a teacher and as a member of the society, Maggie was an inspiration. Through her, many developed and shared her passion for the birds of Arran. Her enthusiasm was boundless. Maggie was a wonderful person, always with a twinkle in her eye.

The Arran Naturalist No15 (1992) edited by Tristan ap Rheinallt has a very apt tribute to Maggie written by her very dear friend Audrey Walters when Maggie moved for a few years to Hampshire.

"It was Maggie Dunn through her enthusiasm and vision who not only started the annual report but who maintained it through her meticulous and prolific note taking. Throughout her time on Arran, she meticulously recorded the birdlife here, writing up her notes in longhand. Everyone who sent her records of sightings was thanked personally by letter. Every doubtful record was followed up. The mammoth task of writing the annual report was done without the use of a computer. She served the Arran Natural History Society with total dedication to its ideals."

In that same Arran Naturalist magazine, Maggie wrote an article that gives an insight into her qualities. These are a few selected paragraphs .

"Since I came to live in Arran in 1956, with a young child, a baby and a husband to look after, every available opportunity was taken to watch birds, even if only in the garden and surrounding fields. Later when I began teaching in Brodick School there was often a lunchtime to have a quick walk or drive to observe birds while consuming sandwiches. My constant companion on walks was my late husband Alasdair who although not a birdwatcher, was interested to make ceramic birds. His eyes would often be on the seashore looking for driftwood to use in his sculptures while mine would be raised to the skyline!

In 1980 I found myself in charge of a small party on one of Jonathan Williams' Island Safaris. We had climbed to the top of the Narachan searching the horizon for eagles, had given up hope and were descending on rough ground when the resident pair of "Goldies" swept down so low overhead that we could almost have touched them. Those from south of the border were overawed, indeed we all were, by the effortless soaring and huge wingspan of these majestic birds. Now below us, they ignored the mobbing crows which were completely dwarfed by comparison.

One whose name, in my mind, will always be synonymous with Fulmars, is Bernie Zonfrillo, who visited Arran whenever he could in order to ring these birds. This involved me standing by, averting my eyes, as he leant over cliff-tops such as Drumadoon, lowering his long pole with a net at one end in which he would bring up a Fulmar.

I must mention how exciting was the visit of the Cranes to Shiskine and I was fortunate enough to see them along with Audrey Walters, keen birder and friend."

Dedicated and enthusiastic. Her passion is clear, and it was fun. Maggie concludes: *"These memories, never to be forgotten, are all part of Arran, and will linger with me forever."*

These qualities were constant throughout her long life. When in 2020 I was writing the book to mark the fortieth year of the annual Arran bird report, it was to Maggie that I turned. Many a get together we had in her home in Whiting Bay and in Cooriedoon talking about birds. I listened as she drew on her vast experience and there was such joy in these recollections.

Her memory will linger with me forever. Maggie Dunn was my friend.

Jim Cassels Bird Recorder for the Arran Natural History Society

Arran Bird Report 2022



Compiled by
Dr Jim Cassels for the Arran Natural History Society

Published by



The Arran Natural History Society

Arran Bird Report 2022

Contents	Page
Maggie H Dunn 1924-2022; A Tribute	1
Arran Natural History Society	3
List of Contributors	4
Introduction and Acknowledgements	5
Chronological Summary	6-18
Summer Migrant Arrival Dates	19
Winter Migrant Arrival and Departure Dates	19
Bird Ringing	20
Bird Ringing on Arran in 2022	21
Notes	24-31
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on Arran	24
Resident Bird?	25
Pollinating Birds: July 2022	26
Marsh Harrier: August 2022	27
Turtle Dove: September 2022	28
Yellow-browed Warbler: October 2022	29
Cracking Food	30
Cattle Egret, a First for Arran	31
Systematic List	32-57
More Information on Arran Birds	58
Index by Common Name	59-60

© Arran Natural History Society publisher of the *Arran Bird Report*

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. One of the publications of the society is the *Arran Bird Report*. These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last forty years. In 2013 the society won the Marsh Award for Local Ornithology for producing the *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012*.

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

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

Annual Subscription is £15 for adults and £25 for couples.

Information on payment of subscription is available from arrannaturalhistorysociety@gmail.com

Printed by Ardrossan Printing Company Ltd.

Tel: 01294 603402 e:ardrossanprintco@hotmail.com

List of Contributors 2022

J. Abrahams	C. Cochrane	M. Giles	B. Lennox	A. Paton	C. Steed
K. Acham	S. Collins	N. Giles	B. Lerner	A.&K. Penn	E. Stevenston
Y. Allen	I. Coote	C. Gill	G.&J. Logan	E. Pilgrim	I. Stewart
J. Anderson	D. Coulter	T. Gilmour	H. Logan	G. Platt	R. Strang
S.&J. Andrews	V. Coulthard	C. Goeckeritz	R. Logan	J.&D. Platt	I. Struthers
J.&B. Anthony	B. Couper	J. Gould	M. Lovejoy	J. Plenderleith	D. Sutherland
S.&P. Archer	S.&R. Cowan	J.&I. Grant	M.M.H. Lyth	B. Porter	M. Swinden
K.&C. Armour	B.&J. Cowell	K. Haggarty	D. MacAlister	J.&R. Porter	S. Talbot
R. Armour	C. Cowley	C.&S. Harding	I.M. McCallum	V. Price	V. Thomas
E. Arnott	S. Craig	J. Harris	I.&A. McCleary	A. Proud	A.&R. Thompson
N.&J. Arthur	J. Crawford	Le. Hartley	G. McEwan	N. Queralt	S. Thompson
R.&H. Ayrton	D. Crichton	Li. Hartley	J. McGovern	S. Redmayne	J. Thomson
T. Baboolal	P. Crooks	P. Heivers	A. McGregor	T. ap Rheinallt	P.&S. Tilley
M. Baigent	L. Dale	A.&D. Henderson	J. McKinnon	P.&C. Robbin	C.&J. Totty
M.&Y. Bailey	N. Davidson	N. Henderson	K. Maclean	M. Robertson	G. Tranter
J. Baines	C. Davis	F. Hendrie	M. McLelland	A. Robinson	A. Turner-Swan
T. Baker	M. Devine	K. Hesp	S. McMillan	S. Rogers	C.&D. Turbett
T. Baron	J. Dickson	E. Hill	E.&A. McNamara	J. Ross	J. Turnbull
R. Barnden	R. Dobson	K. Hodges	T.&A. McNeish	D. Russell	J.&J. Tytler
R. Batt	G.W. Dodds	A.&J. Hollick	M.&A. McNicol	K. Sayer	E. Urquhart
A. Beck	B. Donaldson	F.I.J.&L. Hopkins	D. McQueen	K. Sampson	H. Vernon
R. Berry	J. Dove	W.&A. Hume	P. McWatters	H. Sargent	Al. Walker
P. Berger	A. Duncan	A.&C. Irving	J.P. Martin	F. Schlicke	An. Walker
R. Betley	M.H. Dunn	M.&V. Iutz	N. May	P.D. Scott	L.&S. Wallace
J. Bickley	A.&J. Enticknap	D.&P. Jack	K. Miller	I. Scott	A.&J. Walsh
A. Binnie	T. Faichen	A. Jephson	R. Milligan	R. Scott	S. Ward
L. Bowmore	A. Fallows	N. Jervis	N. Minnis	S. Scott	C. Watson
C.&M. Brown	A. Fannin	D.&P. Johnston	J. Mitchell	M. Shand	K.&N. Wells
D. Brown	J. Fenby	A.&S. Johnstone	G.&S. Moreland	A. Sheppard	S. Wheeler
M Bunyan	J. Fenton	D. Jones	J. Morgan	J.&G. Sillars	M.&C. Whitaker
C. Burnet	M. Fenton	E. Judge	A. Morris	J. Simmonds	M. Whitmore
T. Burrin	Gem. Ferguson	J. Kemp	D.&J. Morrison	J. Sloan	A.&J. Wilkinson
T. Byars	Geo. Ferguson	I. Kennedy	M. Murchie	G. Small	T. Willets
S.&J. Campbell	J.&J. Fitzpatrick	J. Kerr	M.&H. Murdo	D. Smallwood	J. Williams
A.&J. Cassels	S.D. Fletcher	M. Kerr	F. Mutch	J. Smith	M. Williams
L. Cassels	D. Francis	M. Ketcher	A. Nicol	S. Smith	S. Willis
P. Chandler	F. Francis	M. Khan	C.G. Norman	P. Speake	J. Wilson
P. Cheek	D. Freeman	A.&D. Kilpatrick	T. Nunn	M. Soetens	E.&M. Wise
M. Christie	N.&M. Frost	S. Knox	M.&D. Oakes	C. Southall	H.&L. Wood
T.&I. Church	L. Fry	F. Laing	L. Offord	D. Southall	M. Woods
F. Clark	A. Fyffe	S. Lambie	C. Oliver	T. Southall	R. Wright
C. Clough	V. Gall	M. Lancashire	P.&S. Padfield	P. Speake	B. Zonfrillo

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>

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 2022. This is the forty-third consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the seventeenth 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, Jackie Kemp for his work on Barn Owls, John Calladine, Senior Research Ecologist with the BTO, for his permission to use data on Short-eared 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 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: Mairi Christie, Charlotte Clough, Brian Couper, Colin Cowley, Jim Dickson, Arthur Duncan, Mike Fenton, Daniel Francis, Ian Francis, Mo Khan, Helen Logan, Dennis Morrison, James Morrison, Alex Penn, Ben Porter, David Russell, Kate Sampson, Chris Southall, Cindy Thomas, Joan Thomson, Nigel Wells and Bernard Zonfrillo. The expertise of Sharon Smith and the staff of Ardrossan Printing Company is a key factor in achieving the published report.

Finally, my thanks to the contributors; there would be no report without their input. Some make a substantial contribution to the total number of records received. There is a core of regular contributors, locals, and visitors, submitting regular sightings who provide the bedrock on which this annual report is based. In addition, I have been encouraged by the number of people, locals and visitors, who have contacted me. 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 2022, around three hundred contributors submitted almost twenty thousand records on one hundred and fifty-six 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 2022.

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 (2018). 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 2023, please send any bird notes with “what, when, where” to me before Tuesday 02 January 2024, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316, or email me at jjm@arranbirding.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Chronological Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic arrived in the UK in late January 2020 and had a profound impact on all our lives throughout the whole of 2020 and 2021. In 2022 the unprecedented restrictions to try to control the spread of the disease, to minimise the risk to health and to save lives were eased. The number of contributors, the number of species reported, and the number of records received in 2022 were all similar to pre-pandemic figures.

In 2022 another pathogen impacted on the birdlife of Arran. On 12 July, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 arrived on Arran. Dead and dying Guillemots were washed up on shores. By the end of the month over three hundred and fifty dead birds had been recorded. The situation on Arran reflects the national situation as stated by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Defra. *The ongoing situation with HPAI H5N1 in breeding birds over the summer months in GB and north-west Europe is unprecedented, and we are in uncharted territory with mass die-offs continuing in seabird breeding colonies around the GB coastline.* Who knows what the long-term impact will be.

In this context, 2022 was still a fascinating birding year on Arran. Several species were recorded after an absence of a number of years including Yellow-browed Warbler after fifteen years and Turtle Dove after seven years. There were also increasing reports of a number of species including Kingfisher, Little Egret and White-tailed Eagle.

The number of species recorded each month in Arran in 2022 is shown in the table below.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In Month	98	95	105	113	105	106	108	101	102	96	90	89
Year Total	98	105	117	131	136	143	146	147	153	154	154	156

January

In comparison to January 2021, January 2022 was warmer and drier. The mean temperature was 3.7 degrees higher. The rainfall was about 30% less. The weather was benign except for the last weekend when there were two named storms. Almost one hundred species were reported.

Highlights included reports of Brambling. Brambling is an irruptive winter visitor not seen every year.

Reports in December continued into January with records throughout the month from widespread locations from Newton in the north to Sliderry in the south. Another highlight was Little Egret. In December there had been seventeen reports from twelve locations, all of a single bird and in a "Banner" Bird Note I wondered if there was one bird moving about or more than one bird. In January there were thirty-eight reports from nine locations. Again, all of a single bird. All but four of the records were from locations round Lamlash Bay. It looks as if there was one Little Egret getting familiar with Lamlash Bay. In addition, there were two White-tailed Eagle in Gleann Diomhan on 16th, four Moorhen in Mossend Pond on 24th and a Red Kite at the east end of Torrylinn Shore on 30th.



Brambling - Photographer Alex Penn

Wintering wildfowl included: ninety-five Pink-footed Geese in Sliderry on 2nd, one Whooper Swan on Sliderry Shore on 5th, five White-fronted Geese in Shiskine Valley on 10th, four Goosander in Machrie Bay on 15th, three hundred and fifty Greylag Geese in Shiskine Valley on 16th, four Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 18th, forty-six Wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 19th and eighty-nine Teal also at Kilpatrick Point on 21st.

Other wintering species included: nine Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 2nd, one Jack Snipe on Sliderry Shore on 5th, ten Brambling in Cordon also on 5th, two Rook on Braehead Farm on 6th, sixty Redwing in Sliderry on 9th, two hundred Fieldfare at the Rodden on 10th and two Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 16th.

Wintering flocks included: seven Great Northern Diver off Torrylinnwater Foot on 5th, sixty-eight Shag on Hamilton Rock on 9th, 50 Curlew in Clauchlands also on 9th, 200 Starling at the Rodden on 10th, twenty Pied Wagtail in Porta Buidhe on 15th, ninety-two Ringed Plover and twenty-three Turnstone in Blackwaterfoot on 21st, forty Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 22nd, twelve Bullfinch at Fairy Dell on 22nd, one hundred and fifty Jackdaw in Shannochie on 23rd, thirty-two Oystercatcher on Brodick Golf Course on 28th and three hundred and fifty Common Gull in Sliderry on 30th.

Interesting garden birds in January included: two Goldcrest in Newton on 5th, one Blackcap in Corrie on 8th, one Treecreeper in Pirmill on 14th, one Lesser Redpoll in Largymore on 22nd and two Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lagg on 25th. In a future Bird Note, there will be a report on the Arran RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend of 28 to 30 January.

In January there were two reports of Gannet, both off Pladda, one on 10th and one on 15th. There were a number of reports of returning Shelduck on coastal territories including Clauchlands, Cleats Shore, Cosyden, Kildonan, Machrie and Merkland Point. Other signs of approaching spring included: a Song Thrush singing in Lamlash on 18th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming in Stronach Woods on 20th, fifty-two Eider courting off Pirmill on 22nd and six Red-breasted Merganser displaying in Sannox Bay on 23rd.

February

In comparison to February 2021, this February was milder, the mean temperature was two degrees higher, and it was wetter with 15% more rain...but the story of the month was the wind. The last weekend in January there were two named storms. February continued in the same vein with three more named storms within a procession of unsettled weather. While at times the weather was not conducive to being out of doors, nevertheless almost one hundred species were reported.

Highlights included Little Egret. Continuing from December and January records, in February there were forty records. Again, all of a single bird. All but four of the records were from locations round Lamlash Bay. The others were from Merkland to the north and Sandbraes to the south. Another highlight was the reports of Brambling. Brambling is an irruptive winter visitor not seen every year. Again, reports in December continued into January with widespread records throughout January but in February there were only four records. The last one was four in Sliderry on 25th.



Other wintering visitors included: a second winter Glaucous Gull flying up the west coast from Machrie through Whitefarland towards Lochranza on 6th, a female Merlin in Strathwillan on 12th, a Snow Bunting on Caisteal Abhail on 15th, forty Redwing in Cloined on 23rd, thirty-two Rook and fourteen Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 25th and one hundred and thirty Fieldfare in the Shiskine Valley on 27th. In addition, there were several reports of Blackcap including a male "hoodlum" dominating feeders in a garden in Lamlash.

Wintering wildfowl continued to be present including twenty-one Canada Geese in Clachaig on 9th, four Common Scoter off Pirmill on 10th, six Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 12th, two hundred and fifty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 14th, one hundred and twenty Pink-footed Geese in Clachaig also on 14th, thirty-two Wigeon and twenty-six Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 19th, and twelve White-fronted Geese in Feorline on 27th. This is a large number for Arran. The numbers in the last

three years have been around half of this figure. In addition, there were reports throughout the month of a single Whooper Swan in Lamlash Bay.

Other wintering flocks included: eleven Blackbird in Pirnmill on 6th, two hundred and fifty Starling in Cloined on 7th, two hundred and eighty-seven Common Gull in Shannochie on 13th, twenty-three Greenfinch in Kiscadale also on 13th, two hundred and fifty Herring Gull on Pladda on 14th, twenty-one Turnstone on Silver Sands on 17th, forty-three Curlew by Port na Lochan on 19th, twenty-four Pied Wagtail in Blackwaterfoot also on 19th, thirty-four Lapwing on Cleats Shore on 21st, and sixteen Woodcock in Bennan also on 21st and thirty Meadow Pipit in Feorline on 27th.

Other interesting sightings included: six Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 17th, a Moorhen in Port na Lochan on 19th, a Dipper at Machriewaterfoot on 27th and a Kingfisher in Machrie on 28th. There was a report of a White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight passing over Arran on 4th. As well as this, there were two other White-tailed Eagle reports in February, an immature off Pirnmill on 2nd and an adult over Corrie cravie on 25th.

In February there were seven reports of returning Gannet, the largest group being ten off Newton on 10th. There were two records of returning Lesser Black-backed Gull. The first of these was one at Kilpatrick Point on 19th. Other signs of approaching spring included: Grey Heron nest building in Whitehouse Wood on 4th, twenty-one Red-breasted Merganser displaying off Thunderguy on 13th, four Black Guillemot displaying off Imachar on 14th, aggression between male Eiders off Cordon on 18th, a pair of Stonechat holding territory in Clauchlands on 21st, three Oystercatchers excitedly piping in Lamlash on 27th, a Song Thrush singing in Blackwaterfoot on 28th and numerous reports of garden birds checking out nest boxes. By the end of the month there were signs that spring was on its way.



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. On Arran, March was warmer and dryer than February. The rainfall in March was a third of that of February's. No rain fell in the second half of the month. It was a sunny settled spell with temperatures reaching eighteen degrees. It was during this more settled spell that a few pioneer summer migrants did arrive. On the 15th the first Wheatear was reported at the Cock of Arran. Last year the first record was 25th. On 18th the first Chiffchaff was reported at Lakin Farm. Last year the first record was 17th. On 24th the first Sand Martin was reported over Machrie Golf Course. Last year the first record was 31st. On 28th the first Willow Warbler was reported on Holy Isle. Last year the first record was 2 April. These were all the migrant species reported in March.

In March, our winter visitors were still to the fore including: ten Redwing in Corrie cravie on 3rd, two hundred and fifty Pink-footed Geese at the Rodden on 4th, one Purple Sandpiper on Silver Sands also on 4th, a Jack Snipe in Bennecarrigan also on 4th, thirty-two Wigeon at Tormore on 5th, ten Yellowhammer in Sliddery on 9th, four Brambling also in Sliddery on 10th, two Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 12th, sixteen Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 16th, two hundred Greylag Geese and five White-fronted Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 18th and one hundred and forty Fieldfare in Sliddery on 27th.

In March there were many signs of migration. Flocks of up to forty Whooper Swan were reported flying north over the island on 26th and 27th. Other signs included twenty-seven Lapwing and thirty-three Curlew at Torrylinnwater Foot on 1st, twelve Twite on Sliddery Shore on 12th, one Bar-tailed Godwit at Torrylinnwater Foot on 22nd, nine Golden Plover on Sliddery Shore on 25th, twenty Linnets also on Sliddery Shore on 26th, fifteen Lesser Redpoll on Holy Isle also on 26th and thirty Great Northern Diver in Machrie Bay on 27th. Gannet sightings began to slowly increase during the month with twelve off Sliddery Shore on 26th the largest group reported. In addition, there was an increase in numbers of Goldfinch and Siskin at garden feeders from several areas as these species began to move north.



Snow Bunting - Photographer Dennis Morrison

In a month when over one hundred species were reported, here is a small selection of other interesting March records: two Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 2nd, a Dipper in Benlister on 4th, a Magpie on Lamlash Golf Course on 6th (Last Arran record 15 February 2021), a Reed Bunting in Cosyden also on 6th, three Lesser Black-backed Gull in High Kildonan on 9th, two Goldcrest in Brodick on 11th, two Red Grouse on Maol Donn on 12th, a Moorhen on Port na Lochan on 18th and eight Shelduck on Cleats Shore on 19th. Also, on 19th two Snow Bunting by Drumadon Point and between 25th and 31st a single Snow Bunting was reported on the summit of Goatfell.

Like last winter, a Little Egret seems to have overwintered on Arran This winter it was first reported on 29 October in Cordon and the last March report received was 17 March by the Fisherman's Walk.

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: a Long-tailed Tit gathering spiders' webs for nest material in Cordon on 6th, six male Red-breasted Merganser courting two females in Machrie Bay on 17th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming in Sannox on 21st, a Blackcap singing in Whiting Bay on 26th, three Skylark in full song soaring over Torr Dubh on 29th and numerous reports of sky dancing Hen Harriers display flying over Arran's moors.

April

April is the month when spring migration gets underway, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories. April was warmer and dryer than March. In comparison to last April, it was warmer. Last April was exceptionally dry. This April was dry with fifteen days with no measurable rain and one third of the monthly rainfall falling in the last 24 hours. The impact on migrating birds of the weather here and throughout their route is difficult to know, but even by the end of the month the bulk of the migrants had still to arrive.

By the end of March, the first Wheatear, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Sand Martin had been reported. Here are April "firsts" with the 2021 arrival date in brackets for comparison: Swallow 6th(2nd), House Martin 6th(5th), Sandwich Tern 10th(2nd), White Wagtail 13th (17 March), Common Sandpiper 14th(2nd), Sedge Warbler 16th(23rd), Grasshopper Warbler 17th(19th), Cuckoo 17th(14th), Whitethroat 19th(22nd), Tree Pipit 24th(22nd) and Whinchat 24th(21st).

In April some of our wintering birds were still around, including one hundred and two Pink-footed Geese at Sliddery on 1st, ten Wigeon at Cosyden on 2nd, eighty Greylag Geese in Shiskine Valley on 2nd, a Purple Sandpiper at Blackwaterfoot on 7th, a Snow Bunting on Goatfell on 9th, forty Teal at

Kilpatrick Point on 11th, a Merlin at Porta Buidhe also on 11th, fourteen Whooper Swan at Cordon on 16th and Brambling records continued to be reported until 17th. It has been an exceptional year for records for this species.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. These are a few examples: ten Linnet and five Twite on Sliderry Shore on 2nd, three Black-throated Diver at Cosyden on 11th, fourteen Meadow Pipit at Auchencar also on 11th, six Golden Plover and twenty-seven Turnstone at Catacol Bay on 23rd, eight Great Northern Diver in Machrie Bay on 25th and two Dunlin at Porta Buidhe on 28th. In addition, groups of migrating Whimbrel were feeding on Kildonan beaches with eleven in Auchenhew Bay on 28th. One of these Whimbrel, A2, had been ringed on a southern Arran shore in 2017. It was reported for the fifth year in a row, having again spent the winter in Africa!

Migration was also in evidence from the widespread reports received of Goldfinch and Siskin moving through people's gardens throughout the month. Larger garden numbers reported included thirty Goldfinch at Pirnmill on 7th and thirty Siskin at Strathwillan on 28th. In addition, there were widespread reports of Lesser Redpoll at garden feeders including twenty in Strabane on 17th. Tens of thousands of birds seem to be moving through the island at this time of year.



Mediterranean Gull - Photographer Jim Dickson

In April there were over one hundred and ten species recorded on Arran. One of these, a Little Egret, seems to have over-wintered on Arran and as the breeding season approached it seems to have left. This winter it was first reported on 29 October in Cordon and the last report received was at Clauchlands on 9 April. Here is a further small selection from this list: six Red-throated Diver off Dhunan on 19th, an Osprey carrying a fish by Gortonallister on 25th, a first winter Mediterranean Gull by Fisherman's Walk on 26th and several reports of Ring Ouzel on the northern mountain ranges at the end of the month.

May

With over thirty percent more rain than May 2021, this May seemed cool and wet. Only towards the end of the month with the winds moving away from a northerly direction, was there a noticeable rise in temperature. There was a feeling that while spring was arriving, it was late. Conditions were generally good for birds trying to get on with breeding with, for example, familiar garden birds flourishing.

Throughout the month the numbers of the usual summer visitors like Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and Cuckoo continued to build up. As last year, Swallow and House Martin seemed to be delaying nesting perhaps because of a shortage of flying insects. Cuckoo seemed to be particularly widespread and noticeable this year with small groups being reported from some areas. The numbers of Tree Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher and Whinchat were only building up towards the end of the month.

In addition to the "firsts" reported in the April notes, here are some further "firsts" with the 2021 arrival dates in brackets for comparison: a Garden Warbler in Kildonan on 21st (7th) and a Spotted Flycatcher on Holy Isle on 17th (14th). Perhaps reflecting the late arrival of spring, by the end of May, there had been no reports of Arctic Tern, Manx Shearwater, Swift and Wood Warbler. Unlike last year there have been no reports of scarce summer visitors like Common Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat. To date there have been no reports this year of Corncrake, Nightjar or Common Tern.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through including: thirty Whimbrel at Porta Buidhe on 2nd, twenty Turnstone and three Sandwich Tern in Machrie Bay also on 2nd, five Dunlin at Porta Buidhe on 7th, seven Sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 14th and two courting Great Northern Diver off Blackwaterfoot on 15th. In addition, there is a single Whooper Swan not heading north but over-summering again on Arran, mainly in the Lamlash Bay area.



Little Egret - Photographer Arthur Duncan

In May, breeding was well underway for many species. Encouraging signs included reports of Golden Eagle, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Red-throated Diver, Short-eared Owl and Long-eared Owl all holding breeding territories. Activity was reported from all the monitored heronries on the island and four areas held small numbers of breeding Lapwing. A number of coastal cliffs held single figure numbers of nesting Fulmar which seem to be in serious decline on Arran. I would be interested to receive any reports of young birds. None were reported in 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 from any colony. By contrast the Black Guillemot colonies seem to be thriving. Other breeding records included: forty nesting Common Gull in Catacol Bay on 5th, four pairs of Stonechat in Auchenheew Bay on 18th, a Pheasant with eleven young in a Lamlash garden on 20th, two Woodcock roding over Machrie Moor on 22nd, a crèche of five

Eider at Silver Sands on 27th, a pair of Shelduck with four young at Kilpatrick Point on 28th and a pair of Mallard with seven young at Corrie on 31st.

In May one hundred and five species were recorded. Here are some other highlights: a pair of Goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 7th, an Osprey flying across Whiting Bay from Kingscross to Glenashdale on 10th and an adult White-tailed Eagle near Beinn Lochain on 27th. This sighting was reported by a search and rescue helicopter pilot on an exercise. Finally, after an absence of five weeks, a Little Egret returned and was reported in Lamlash Bay and Whiting Bay between 17th and 22nd. This bird was in breeding plumage.

June

June was cool and wet. Although the mean temperature was almost identical to June 2021, the highest temperature was three degrees lower and there was more than double the rain of last June. While the first week was predominantly dry with the highest temperature for the month, after that it was unsettled.

The unsettled weather seems to have been helpful to some of our ground nesting birds. With less use of beaches and shores by humans, there was less disturbance and more reports of young Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Common Gull.

The unsettled weather did not deter many birds raising young during the long daylight hours in

June. Some observers reported gardens full of young 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. Among the familiar garden birds Blackbird, Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Dunnock seemed to be doing well. Most prolific of all seemed to be House Sparrow, with thirty in Alma Park on 25th being one of the larger numbers. Also, there



were many reports of numbers of Siskin and Goldfinch with young around, including forty Siskin in Whiting Bay on 12th and thirty Goldfinch in Lagg on 17th. In addition, Bullfinch seemed to have had a particularly good breeding season with widespread reports including twelve with young from Cordon on 10th. Again, it was encouraging to get reports of young Greenfinch and young Great Spotted Woodpecker from widespread locations. In Corrie, unusually, an adult Common Sandpiper was reported ushering young through a garden towards the shore on 25th.

Away from gardens there were many signs of breeding including, roding Woodcock in Machrie on 6th, a pair of Mute Swan with six young at Carlo on 7th, Mallard with seven young in the Cloy River on 9th, Skylark singing over Machrie Moor on 22nd, nesting Little Grebe and Moorhen at Mossend Pond on 30th and activity at the Grey Heron heronries in Stronach Wood, Brodick, Lagg and Whitehouse Wood, Lamlash by the end of the month. The Sand Martin colony in Glen Catacol had one hundred and two nest holes and was a hive of activity on 4th. To date the largest group of Swallow was twelve at Corrie on 6th while the largest group reported of House Martin was eighteen at Whiting Bay on 12th. There was a feeling that the unsettled weather had delayed the breeding of these summer visitors. On the other hand, Cuckoo, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seems to be thriving on Arran.

The breeding success of some raptors is linked to the vole cycle. Bumper years of voles tend to be followed by a crash followed by a gradual build up followed by a bumper year in a roughly four-year cycle. Last year was a crash year with few voles around. This year the vole population is on the increase and those licensed to monitor Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl territories report a better breeding season than last year.

In June a number of scarce summer visitors were reported but none lingered, a male Merlin at Bennecarrigan on 2nd, a Quail in Sliderry also on 2nd, a Lesser Whitethroat at Catacol on 4th, a Common Redstart at Moss Farm on 7th and a Corncrake in Machrie on 21st.

Other highlights in a month with around one hundred species reported included the following: two Arctic Tern at Kildonan on 1st, a Red Kite at Corriecravie on 7th, two Golden Plover in Catacol Bay on 8th, three Dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 11th, three pairs of feeding Red-throated Diver in Whiting Bay on 12th and three Swift over Porta Buidhe on 6th.

July

On 12 July, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 arrived on Arran. Dead and dying Guillemots were washed up on the shore at Blackwaterfoot and at Sliderry. See Note on page 25.

In comparison to June, July was a little warmer and much drier with about a third of the rain of June. This had a positive impact on the breeding success of most of our visiting summer birds, particularly those that relied on airborne insects to feed young. Looking at the proportion of adult to young birds from information gathered by licensed bird ringers, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher all had a good season and Willow Warbler had a very



Sedge Warbler - Photographer David Russell

good breeding season. Similarly, while Sand Martin did not seem to return in as big a number as previous years and House Martin were later arriving in numbers, these species and Swallow had a good season although this was not uniform across the island. As reported in the June notes, garden birds seemed generally to be thriving. Seed eating birds like House Sparrow and Bullfinch had a very good breeding season.

Other signs of a successful breeding season included: three pair of Common Gull each with young by the mouth of the Black Water on 1st, Common Sandpiper family in Sannox Bay on 7th, Spotted Flycatcher family by Dunfion on 11th, Lapwing family in Shiskine Valley on 19th, pair of Mute Swan with four young at Machriewaterfoot on 23rd, pair of Shelduck with three young on Cleats Shore on 25th, Grey Wagtail family in Cosyden on 26th, young Great Spotted Woodpecker in Shiskine on 27th and three young Grey Heron in Auchenhew Bay on 28th. Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Peregrine and Kestrel were all reported with young.

On the downside there is an ongoing concern about disturbance on shores of nesting Oystercatcher and nesting Ringed Plover by dog walkers. In addition, diminishing records of breeding Curlew, Fulmar and Lapwing is a continuing cause for concern.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. It can be an interesting time looking for breeding species dispersing from their breeding grounds, many still in their breeding plumage. Reports included; a Kingfisher at Cordon on 6th, a Kingfisher by Fisherman's Walk on 10th, Sandwich Tern with young in Blackwaterfoot on 15th, two Sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 23rd, three Turnstone in Whiting Bay on 24th, two Whimbrel at Whitefarland also on 24th, a Greenshank on Sliderry Shore on 27th, two Great Skua in Brodick Bay also on 27th, Black-Headed Gull with young at Porta Buidhe on 28th and a second Great Skua report, one harassing a Gannet off Pladda on 31st.

In addition, after breeding many species begin to flock together. Reports included; twenty-two Golden Plover in Catacol Bay on 7th, nineteen Linnet at Drumadoon Point also on 7th, one hundred Starling in Blackwaterfoot on 18th, forty-three Red-breasted Merganser in Machrie Bay on 23rd, nineteen Redshank in Whiting Bay on 24th, twenty-nine Canada Geese on Cleats Shore on 25th and 15 Pied Wagtail at Porta Buidhe on 26th.

Over a hundred species were reported in July. Other highlights included; thirty-nine Manx Shearwater in Brodick Bay on 1st, six Little Grebe in Mossend Pond on 8th, one hundred and twenty Gannet and eighty Shag in Whiting Bay on 15th, a Swift over Sliddery on 18th, a Common Crossbill struck a window in Lamblash on 18th, an Osprey over Brodick Country Park on 23rd, four Arctic Tern at Porta Buidhe on 23rd, eight Mistle Thrush near Goatfell summit on 28th and finally the last date that I have for Cuckoo is 17th when one was reported in Strathwillan.

August

The warm and dry weather of July continued into August. In comparison to August 2021, this August was warmer and much drier with about a third of the rain of last August. Towards the end of the month there was just a hint of the approach of autumn. One sign of this was a report of a flock of forty Pink-footed Geese flying over Kildonan on 21 August. Last year the first report of this returning sub-Arctic breeding species was 5 September.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including: two Common Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 6th, a family group of four Chiffchaff in Glen Shurig on 7th, a family group of five Spotted Flycatcher in Brodick Country Park also on 7th, a juvenile Common Redstart at Burrican Hill on 10th, four Tree Pipit in Sliddery on 11th, a juvenile Whinchat at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 14th and ten juvenile Willow Warbler and three juvenile Sedge Warbler at Corriecravie on 15th. The largest group of each hirundine reported was forty Swallow at Kilpatrick Farm on 14th, forty House Martin at Corriecravie on 15th and forty Sand Martin in Glen Catacol on 20th.

Some other signs of successful breeding this month included: Shelduck with three young on Sliddery Shore on 6th, Red-breasted Merganser with eight young at Corrie also on 6th, eleven Crossbill including young at Merkland on 14th, Fulmar feeding young on Drumadoon Cliff on 16th (first record for several years), Red-throated Diver with two young off Pirmill on 23rd and three fledged Grey Heron in Auchenhew Bay on 28th. As well as this, there were widespread reports of young birds at garden feeders. Of these the species that seems to have had the most successful breeding season has been House Sparrow, with widespread reports of many groups with more than fifty birds. House Sparrow may be in decline in the UK but not on Arran.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, birds begin to disperse, and a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: twenty Redshank at Sandbraes on 9th, three hundred and sixty-one Starling at High Kildonan on 13th, eighty Kittiwake at Fisherman's walk on 15th, seventy Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 17th, one hundred and ten Ringed Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 21st and four hundred Linnets on Cleats Shore on 30th.

All around the island, but particularly on the coast, there were signs of birds on migration, including: a Little Egret at Porta Buidhe on 13th and 14th, three juvenile Mediterranean Gull at Blackwaterfoot on 16th, one Whimbrel, eleven Dunlin and eighteen Wheatear on Sliddery Shore on 17th, a Greenshank at Machriewaterfoot on 20th, three Sanderling at Machriewaterfoot on 21st, five White Wagtail on Cleats Shore on 30th and twenty-four Turnstone at Lochranza also on 30th. In addition, there were more than twenty reports of Kingfisher from six coastal locations, dispersing after breeding.



Among the one hundred plus species reported in August there were a number of other noteworthy ones including: a White-tailed Eagle at Auchamore on 6th, a Moorhen at Port na Lochan on 15th, a Treecreeper at Shannochie on 16th, forty-two Canada Geese at Porta Buidhe on 21st, one hundred Manx Shearwater off Blackwaterfoot on 28th, four Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 31st and one hundred and twenty Gannet off Blackwaterfoot also on 31st. Last but by no means least in a month of exceptional records, there was a report of a Marsh Harrier on Arran. This was only the fourth ever Arran record and the first one photographed. See Note on page 27.

September

The weather in September was cooler than August and the dry spell through July and August ended. In comparison to last September, while the temperature was similar, this September was wetter with seventy percent more rain. September is the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. The weather was generally conducive for watching this migration.

Birds on migration included: a Knot at Machriewaterfoot on 5th, a Whimbrel at Imachar on 9th, five Wheatear and thirty-two White Wagtail on Sliderry Shore also on 9th, a Bar-tailed Godwit at Kildonan on 11th, one Greenshank and five Sandwich Tern in Whiting Bay on 12th, twenty-three Dunlin at Machriewaterfoot on 20th, a female Merlin on Sliderry Shore on 26th and a Black-tailed Godwit on Cleats Shore on 29th.



At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: forty Manx Shearwater off Blackwaterfoot on 2nd, fifty Starling at Silver Sands on 5th, one hundred and fourteen Ringed Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 6th, sixteen Black-throated Diver at Machriewaterfoot on 8th, forty-three Pied Wagtail at Cleiteadh Buidhe also on 8th, thirty-one Red-breasted Merganser at Whitefarland on 9th, five hundred Linnet on Cleats Shore on 10th, one hundred Gannet off Kilpatrick on 11th, fifty-one Redshank

in Whiting Bay on 12th, one hundred and fifty Common Gull in Blackwaterfoot on 13th, fifty Goldfinch in Pirnmill also on 13th, fifty-four Turnstone in Machriewaterfoot on 20th, one hundred and sixty Shag in Lamlash Bay on 22nd, one hundred and forty-three Golden Plover at Dougarie on 29th and two hundred and fifty Skylark over Cleats Shore also on 29th. 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: three Rook on Cleats Shore on 10th, eighty Pink-footed Geese over Sliderry on 16th, one Barnacle Goose on Pladda on 24th, eight Whooper Swan over the Rodden on 28th and eleven Redwing in Glenree on 29th. A number of summer visitors were still around in September including: a Chiffchaff in Monyquill on 2nd, a Common Sandpiper on Sliderry Shore on 9th and two Lesser Black-backed Gull and two Sand Martin in Sannox Bay on 21st. For House Martin, the largest September record was one hundred and fifty in Sliderry on 20th and the latest one was three Brodick on 30th. For Swallow the largest September group was thirty Glenloig on 1st and the latest one was two on Cleats Shore on 29th.

Over one hundred species were recorded on Arran in September. Other interesting sightings this month included: a Water Rail on Cleats Shore on 2nd, three Little Egret on Sliderry Shore on 9th, four Common Crossbill in Clauchan Glen on 10th, one Moorhen at Port na Lochan on 13th, a Red Kite over the Fallen Rocks on 16th, a female Goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 29th and a Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 30th. In addition, there were twelve reports of Kingfisher from seven coastal locations, dispersing after breeding. Last but by no means least, there was a report of a Turtle Dove on Arran. See note on page 28.

October

October was much drier than September with about thirty percent less rain. It was milder and drier than October 2021 with again about thirty percent less rain. 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 did not disappoint.

A particular highlight was a report of a Yellow-browed Warbler on Tuesday 11 October. The bird was seen and heard in Sliderry. This species major breeding areas are to the east of the Urals. There have only been two previous Arran records of Yellow-browed Warbler. The last one was fifteen years ago in December 2007. See note on page 29.

Other highlights included: a report of six Snow Bunting on Pagoda Ridge on 16th (The last time we had a record of five or more Snow Bunting on Arran was 2019.) and two reports of male Ring Ouzel, one on the Ross above Lamlash on 17th and the other in a garden in north Newton on 22nd.

Winter visitors arriving included: twenty-three Whooper Swan off Pirnmill on 10th, twenty-five Teal at Carlo on 14th, three Rook in Sliderry on 15th, two Brambling - a male and female - at Pirnmill on 23rd, a female Blackcap at Sliderry also on 23rd and twenty Wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 29th. In addition, there were widespread reports of wintering thrushes. The first report of Fieldfare was ten in Invercloy on 16th and the largest group reported was two hundred at Sliderry on 22nd. The first report of Redwing was three hundred in Glen Sannox on 7th and the largest group reported was five hundred at the Narachan on 18th.



Migration was in full flow in October as birds were moving out of colder northern Europe to milder climes. These included: one Dunlin at Porte Buidhe on 2nd, two White Wagtail on Silver Sands on 4th, eighteen Turnstone at Catacol Bay on 12th, thirty-one Curlew at Claunchlands on 14th, six Snipe and a female Merlin in Sliderry on 16th, fifty Skylark on Shiskine Golf Course on 17th, sixteen Blackbird at Cordon on 22nd, sixteen Golden Plover at Catacol Bay on 24th, eighty Ringed Plover at Blackwaterfoot on 25th and fifty Goldfinch at Pirnmill on 30th.

There were some "last sightings" of summer visitors also moving south including: a Chiffchaff in Sliderry on 6th, a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Lochranza on 13th and a Gannet in Lamlash Bay on 26th. In addition, the last House Martin report was one in Kildonan on 1st and the last Swallow report was two Whiting Bay on 26th.

Other interesting records from a month with almost one hundred species reported included: two Little Grebe in Lochranza on 1st, two Jack Snipe in Penrioch on 2nd, three Golden Eagle over Lochranza on 16th, one hundred Jackdaw on Shiskine Golf Course on 17th, a Kingfisher in Brodick on 18th, two Goosander in Machriewaterfoot also on 19th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lagg on 20th, two Great Northern Diver off Pirnmill also on 20th, twenty Long-tailed Tit on Fallen Rocks walk on 21st, two Common Crossbill at Loch Garbad on 24th, female Common Scoter in Brodick Bay on 25th, eighteen Bullfinch in High Kildonan on 25th and sixty-five Eider were reported off Kingscross Point on 10th. This was more than the island total during the Eider survey in September!

November

November had a very similar rainfall to October and the mean temperature was two degrees cooler. In comparison to last November, it was wetter and a little milder. There was fifty percent more rain and the mean temperature was one degree higher.

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. These included three Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 3rd, three Snow Bunting in Glenree on 7th, nine Twite at Drumadoon on 18th and a Brambling in Pirnmill on 20th. The large flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare reported in October seemed to have moved on. In November, the largest group of Redwing was twenty-five in Margnaeglish on 8th and the largest group of Fieldfare was sixty in Glen Sannox on 15th.

Other records of wintering birds included: a juvenile Merlin at Drumadoon Point on 4th, eight Lapwing in Feorline on 11th, thirty Turnstone in Whiting Bay on 16th, one hundred and eighty-nine Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 19th, a Snipe at Cordon on 23rd, three Purple Sandpiper at Kildonan on 28th and five Woodcock in Lamlash on 30th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: a flock of fifty Pink-footed Geese, thirty-five Greylag Geese and a Barnacle Goose in the Shiskine Valley on 3rd, forty-five Teal in Carlo on 11th, five Wigeon at Silver Sands on 30th and the largest group of Whooper Swan was twenty-nine over Shannochie on 29th. Two juvenile Whooper Swan on their own were reported in the Shiskine Valley between and 10th and 20th. Perhaps they had got detached from their family group while on migration from Iceland. Later in the month, adult Whooper Swans with two juveniles were reported in the area.

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: five Siskin in Pirnmill on 2nd, a Treecreeper in Cordon on 3rd, eight Long-tailed Tit also in Cordon on 9th, a male Blackcap in Whiting Bay on 10th, nine Blackbird in Pirnmill on 15th, two Goldcrest in Brodick on 29th, fifty Chaffinch in Pirnmill on 30th and eleven Robin in Lochranza also on 30th.

There were some November records of birds usually associated with warmer months of the year. The last Gannet record was two in Lamlash Bay on 11th. In addition, there were two sightings of Osprey, one at the top of the String on 3rd and one at Whitefarland on 20th.

Finally, here is a further selection of highlights from what has been another exceptional month for bird-watching on Arran: three Moorhen on Mossend Pond on 5th, two Dipper at Machriewaterfoot on 9th, a White-tailed Eagle over Machrie Moor on 11th, five hundred Woodpigeon in Pirnmill on 13th, a Kingfisher in Sannox on 15th, seven Great Northern Diver in Machrie Bay on 19th, one Common Crossbill at Cnoc na Dail on 21st, three Goosander at Cordon on 22nd, two Shelduck returning to Auchenhew Bay on 28th after their autumn moult, two Golden Eagle over the summit of the String on 30th, four Little Grebe in Lochranza also on 30th and widespread reports of a single Little Egret from Lochranza to Kildonan but mainly from around Lamlash Bay from 18th to 30th.



Osprey - Photographer Brian Couper

December

During the first two weeks of December there was a prolonged cold settled spell. This was in contrast to the mild December of 2021 which had no negative temperatures. The latter half of December was milder but unsettled.

During this unsettled spell, on Monday 19 December there was a report of an immature Arctic Skua flying north past Pirnmill. At the time there were lots of auks and Kittiwakes pushed into Kilbrannan Sound by the weather. Other more usual winter visitors in December included five Purple Sandpiper on Silver Sands on 13th, one hundred Fieldfare at Auchareoch also on 13th and four Redwing at Porta Buidhe on 18th.



Purple Sandpiper - Photographer Joan Thomson

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: six Whooper Swan in Feorline on 1st, fifty Pink-footed Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 8th, two male Goldeneye on Mossend Pond also on 8th, four hundred Greylag Geese in Clauchlands on 9th, twenty-seven Teal at Carlo on 13th and nineteen Wigeon by Auchagallon Jetty on 15th.

Other groups of wintering birds included: nineteen Lapwing at Kilpatrick Point on 3rd, thirty Curlew in Glenkiln also on 3rd, one hundred Starling in Kilpatrick on 4th, sixteen Turnstone in Clauchlands on 6th, fifty-

two Ringed Plover also in Clauchlands on 9th, nineteen Golden Plover in Catacol Bay on 11th, twelve Redshank in Whiting Bay also on 11th, twenty-six Rock Pipit in Porta Buidhe also on 11th, twenty Reed Bunting in Auchareoch on 13th, thirty Jackdaw on Shiskine Golf Course on 21st, twenty-nine Oystercatcher on Ormidale pitches on 22nd and ten Bullfinch in Kildonan also on 22nd.

Again, this year, both Kingfisher and Little Egret appeared on Arran after the breeding season. In December there were seven further reports of Kingfisher, all from the east coast of Arran. All were of single birds except for two in Brodick at the front on 9th. In addition, in December there were twenty-five further reports of Little Egret. While most reports were from the east coast there were two from the west coast. All were single birds except for two in Lamlash Bay on 14th.

Other interesting records this month included: a pair of Goosander by Fisherman's Walk on 1st, five Red-throated Diver at Clauchlands on 6th, three Snipe also at Clauchlands on 6th, two Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 8th, one Snow Bunting on Cir Mhor on 9th, two Woodcock in Glenkiln on 10th, five Red Grouse on the Urie on 15th, two White-tailed Eagle at Dougarie Point on 17th, eleven Common Crossbill at Dunan Mor on 21st and four Great Northern Diver off Drumadoon Point on 22nd.

Although still in the depth of winter there were some signs of approaching spring with eight Red-breasted Merganser displaying by Fisherman's Walk on 8th, sixty-eight Eider courting by Gortonallister on 9th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming in Brodick Country Park on 12th and a Song Thrush singing in Brodick on 24th.

Gardens provide a safe refuge for some birds in winter. Among the many records received were: twenty Long-tailed Tit in Corrie on 11th, three Wren in Alma Park on 20th, a Goldcrest in Pirnmill on 23rd and also in Pirnmill fifteen Blackbird on 26th, ten Siskin also on 26th and ten Goldfinch on 27th.

A major influence on the chronological summary is the weather, which on Arran can be very localised. 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/>

From the above summary it has been another outstanding year on Arran.

Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

	<i>"Earliest" Recorded Date</i>	Arrival Date 2022
Chiffchaff	11-Mar-17	18 March
Wheatear	13-Mar-05	15 March
Sand Martin	18-Mar-09	24 March
Willow Warbler	14-Mar-19	28 March
Swallow	18-Mar-19	06 April
White Wagtail	17-Mar-21	13 April
Manx Shearwater	26-Mar-18	01 July
House Martin	12-Mar-17	06 April
Common Sandpiper	22-Mar-19	14 April
Sandwich Tern	23-Mar-19	10 April
Whinchat	01-Apr-88	24 April
Tree Pipit	07-Apr-90	24 April
Redstart	08-Apr-11	07 June
Cuckoo	08-Apr-17	17 April
Grasshopper Warbler	12-Apr-11	17 April
Garden Warbler	12-Apr-95	21 May only record
Whitethroat	13-Apr-16	19 April
Sedge Warbler	14-Apr-11	16 April
Arctic Tern	14-Apr-13	01 June
Corncrake	20-Apr-90	21 June only record
Common Tern	21-Apr-93	None recorded in 2022
Spotted Flycatcher	21-Apr-11	17 May
Wood Warbler	25-Apr-09	None recorded in 2022
Lesser Whitethroat	27-Apr-10	04 June only record
Pied Flycatcher	28-Apr-98	None recorded in 2022
Swift	01-May-09	06 June
Nightjar	17-May-13	None recorded in 2022

Regular Winter Migrant Arrival and Departure Dates

	"earliest" Arrival date	"latest" Departure date	2022 Arrival date	2022 Departure date
Whooper Swan	18-Sep-11	21-May-14	28 September	16 April
Pink-footed Goose	21-Aug-22	30-Apr-18	21 August	21 April
Greylag Goose	31-Aug-18	12-May-18	09 September	12 April
Wigeon	11-Jul-11	16-May-17	29 October	11 April
Goldeneye	12-Oct-09	04-May-06	08 December	12 March
Purple Sandpiper	07-Nov-16	20-May-16	28 November	07 April
Waxwing	21-Oct-10	15-Apr-09	None recorded	None recorded
Fieldfare	02-Sep-13	24-Apr-18	16 October	27 March
Redwing	18-Sep-20	13-Apr-16	29 September	27 March
Rook	03-Jul-07	28-Apr-19	10 September	18 April
Brambling	09-Oct-07	25-Apr-08	23 October	17 April

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. Plus, a single over-summering Whooper Swan.

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	Pullie - 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!

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

Bird ringing on Arran in 2022

Report by Terry Southall

Another year of restrictions affecting the annual number of birds ringed on Arran! A serious and very contagious outbreak of Avian Flu in the seabirds of Scotland rightfully prompted a ban on the ringing and of any study of these birds in their colonies initially, but soon went on to ban the catching and ringing of any seabirds in Scotland regardless of location. Thus, virtually no seabirds were ringed this year on Arran as reflected in the year ringing totals.

It was good to see vole numbers starting to recover after their crash last year. After the failure of Barn Owls to raise any young because of the lack of voles in 2021, it was pleasing to see a moderate number of pairs breeding this year. Along with Barn Owls another owl species, the Short-eared Owl also bred successfully although in reduced numbers.

Last year, members of the ringing team here on Arran put a lot of effort in assisting with the British Trust for Ornithology project to fit geo-locators on several species of trans-Saharan migrants. It was encouraging to see that some of the birds survived their travels and made it back to Arran. These birds were re-caught and the tiny data loggers removed so that the information they hold of the birds movements could be downloaded. The results of their movements will be published in future issues of this report.

No new species of birds were ringed on Arran this year and general numbers were down, but this was in part down to the weather and availability of bird ringers.

Selected list of recoveries of birds ringed on Arran

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Date recovered	Lapsed days	Where recovered	Distance moved
Oystercatcher	8	04/01/19	16/05/22	1228	Runos Voe, Shetland	569km
Whimbrel	5	30/04/17	24/11/22	2035	Bank a'Arguin Mauritania	4254km
Woodcock	6	14/02/21	06/11/21	265	St Fergus, Aberdeenshire	315km
Great B- b Gull	1	03/07/19	21/04/22	1023	Dundrum, NI.	138km
Lesser B-b Gull	1	02/07/15	24/09/22	2642	Algarve, Portugal	2063km
Lesser B-b Gull	1	17/07/18	02/06/22	1416	Troon, South Ayrshire	33km
Long-eared Owl	4 M	15/10/21	15/11/22	396	Calliburn Croft, Argyle	19km
Sedge Warbler	3J	16/07/21	03/08/22	383	Marston, Lincs	410km
Sedge Warbler	3J	10/07/22	18/08/22	39	Audenge, Girude, France	1235km
Sedge Warbler	3J	27/07/22	18/08/22	22	Teifi, Ceredigion, Wales	377km
Goldfinch	5 F	12/03/22	09/04/22	28	Leswalt, Stranraer, D&G	56km
Siskin	6F	30/03/22	19/06/22	81	Biggar, South Lanarks	98km

Codes for age and sex are given on page 20.

The Oystercatcher in the table above is a bird breeding on Shetland and this is the second sighting of it there in summer having been caught and ringed on Arran as it wintered here. See Species Note on page 25.

It is hard to believe that Woodcock are a red data species and in serious decline yet are still hunted and shot as this bird had been in Aberdeenshire, probably on its return to Scotland to winter after breeding on the continent.

Whimbrel A2- Photographer Joan Thomson



A Whimbrel wintering on the coast at Bank a' Arguin, Mauritania is our first reported there, having been seen on Arran virtually in the same week in the spring for the last five years! From 26-28 April A2 was on a Kildonan shore where it was photographed.

Another Great Black-backed Gull in Northern Ireland shows the fairly sedentary nature of these birds unlike their close relations the Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Two of the many Lesser Black-backed Gull recoveries for 2022 are mentioned in the table to show the difference in colour ring sightings and survival rates. The first gull has been reported 36 times by 17 different observers at two locations in the Algarve, Olhao and Fuseta during its post juvenile development and then its return back to winter there after breeding in northern Europe during the summer. The second bird was only reported once from Spain in the four years where it had presumably stayed during its post juvenile development and then unfortunately died on its first return to breed in Scotland.

The Long-Eared Owl was caught on the Mull of Kintyre by another ringer and is the first movement of this species to or from Arran.

Three Sedge Warbler movements in the same year depict the speed and direction these birds take in their annual migration south; all were caught by other bird ringers.

A Goldfinch ringed on the south of Arran during March presumably overshot on its northward migration as it was re-caught in April 57km south at Leswalt near Stranraer.

The Siskin likewise was caught on Arran in March but had moved south-east early in June after breeding further north.

Selected list of birds recovered on Arran but ringed elsewhere

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Where ringed	Date recovered	Lapse days	Distance moved
Goldfinch	5 M	07/04/18	Leswalt, Stranraer D & G	09/04/22	1439	56km

The Goldfinch was a bird returning north to breed when caught, having been ringed further south.

Ringed Totals for 2022

This table gives the ringing totals for the year.

Species	FG	Pulli	Retraps	Total	Species	FG	Pulli	Retraps	Total
Teal	3		1	4	Grey Wagtail	1			1
Red-breasted Merganser	1			1	Pied Wagtail	3			3
Buzzard	1			1	Meadow Pipit	31			31
Oystercatcher	2	3	3	8	Tree Pipit	9			9
Lapwing		2		2	Rock Pipit	16			16
Ringed Plover		3		3	Chaffinch	172		9	181
Whimbrel			1	1	Brambling	7		2	9
Curlew	5	3		8	Bullfinch	2			2
Woodcock	30		4	34	Greenfinch	4			4
Jack Snipe	2		1	3	Twite	5			5
Snipe	6		1	7	Linnet	161		1	162
Common Sandpiper		5		5	Lesser Redpoll	44		3	47
Common Gull		2		2	Goldfinch	167		22	189
Black Guillemot			1	1	Siskin	185		33	218
Collard Dove	1			1	Yellowhammer	2			2
Cuckoo	4			4	Reed Bunting	1			1
Barn Owl	19	21	4	44					
Long-eared Owl	2	3	1	6					
Short-eared Owl	11	1		12					
Hooded Crow	3	3		6					
Raven		3		3					
Coal Tit	37		12	49					
Blue Tit	23		8	31					
Great Tit	27		5	32					
Skylark	8			8					
Swallow	4			4					
House Martin	3	28	1	32					
Willow Warbler	218		11	229					
Chiffchaff	17		1	18					
Sedge Warbler	53		2	55					
Grasshopper Warbler	1			1					
Blackcap	15		1	16					
Whitethroat	10			10					
Goldcrest	110		2	112					
Wren	13		4	17					
Treecreeper	6		1	7					
Starling	7	27		34					
Songthrush	9			9					
Redwing	339		1	340					
Blackbird	35		4	39					
Robin	40		2	42					
Whinchat	1		1	2					
Stonechat	4	11	1	16					
Wheatear	4	6		10					
Dipper		4		4					
House Sparrow	6		2	8					
Dunnock	12			12					
					Total	1840	125	138	2103

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

Terry Southall. Email address terrysouthall789@btinternet.com

Notes

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on Arran

Guillemot- Photographer Charlotte Clough



On 12 July, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 arrived on Arran. Dead and dying Guillemots were washed up on shores. By the end of the month over three hundred and fifty dead birds had been recorded; three hundred and thirty-four Guillemot, nine Gannet, six Herring Gull, one Razorbill, one Shag, one Common Gull, one Raven and one crow.

Under the direction of Charlotte Clough, the local vet, strenuous efforts were made to make residents and visitors aware of the situation. North Ayrshire Council staff put up posters on the coast. The "Arran Banner" the local weekly paper gave front page coverage on consecutive weeks supporting the information that went out on social media. Visit Arran, other organisations and individuals encouraged the use of the Nature Scot poster on ferries, shops, hotels, B&Bs, businesses, outlets etc.

The two North Ayrshire Council collectors, Peter McKinnon and David Heenan did a stalwart job removing dead bodies from the shore. The numbers coming up on beaches depended on

wind direction and tide as well as the number of birds dead and dying on the sea. Some of the dead bodies on the shore were being scavenged by other species most likely gulls, crows, and raptors. Two reports were received one of crow and one of Raven dying inland. The latter died by farm buildings. There was an on-going concern of these wild bird species carrying the pathogen into domesticated and commercial poultry. Samples taken by Charlotte Clough from dead Guillemots on Sandbraes and Blackwaterfoot tested positive for the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1

The situation on Arran reflects the national situation as stated by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Defra.

The ongoing situation with HPAI H5N1 in breeding birds over the summer months in GB and north-west Europe is unprecedented, and we are in uncharted territory with mass die-offs continuing in seabird breeding colonies around the GB coastline. A variety of seabird species have been infected including gannets, great skuas, puffins, guillemots, common eider ducks, herring gulls, and arctic, sandwich and common tern. In previous years HPAI has generally not been detected in wild birds in the summer months and the national risk level for HPAI H5 in wild birds has typically been at low for several weeks. While seabirds typically forage in the sea, gull species may fly inland and scavengers such as raptors and corvids could bring infection inland from the affected coastal sites. Inland cases together with the affected gull colonies in coastal areas present a period of uncertainty and warrant maintaining the national risk level for HPAI H5 in wild birds at medium.

Charlotte Clough continues to liaise with local council and Defra staff.

On 14 July it was announced that NatureScot was setting up a new task force to co-ordinate a national response to the avian influenza crisis that is devastating vulnerable seabirds, and other wild bird populations in Scotland.

Resident Bird?



Resident bird is a term used to describe birds that spend the whole year in the same area unlike migratory birds which have different breeding and wintering areas. We are familiar with, for example, Swallows which breed here in the summer and winter in South Africa or the Whooper Swans which winter with us after breeding in Iceland.

However, it is not as clear cut as that. Oystercatcher is a familiar bird round the shores of Arran but is it a resident? Ringing has shown that Oystercatchers which winter with us do not necessarily stay here to breed. You may be seeing Oystercatcher on Arran all year, but it need not necessarily be the same bird.

This Oystercatcher was photographed breeding at Ronas Voe in Shetland in May this year by Ian Francis. As well as a blue ring on its right leg it has a white ring with the unique black number on its left leg, 12A. This bird was ringed on Arran on 4 January 2019 by Terry Southall and his ringing team, part of the Clyde Ringing Group, on the shore by Corriecravie. The bird wintered here.

Look out for it this winter and if you see it, please let Terry Southall know.

Pollinating Birds: July 2022

In the space of a few days in July, I received photos of three different species of bird from three different parts of Arran all with orange crowns.

We are used to plants being pollinated by insects and by the wind, but New Zealand Flax uses another method: it is pollinated by birds. The tubular flowers produce a rich, sweet nectar that many birds find irresistible. As they stick their beaks down into the flowers to feed, a small brush-like

appendage dusts the tops of the birds' heads with brightly coloured pollen, staining it a vivid orange or red colour. When they move on to feed from another flax flower, these birds bring the pollen with them, helping the plant to reproduce.



In New Zealand the main pollinator is a unique native bird called the Tui *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*. It has even evolved a beak with exactly the same curvature as the flax flower to allow it to feed more easily. No Tuis on Arran but a Starling in Lamlash, House Sparrow in Kildonan and Blue Tit in Pirrmill were all tempted by the New Zealand Flax nectar this July.



Marsh Harrier: August 2022

On 29 August a juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen by Matt Frances and his family near the summit of the String. It was photographed by son, Daniel. This is the first time that this species has been photographed on Arran. While not an award-winning photograph, it was certainly more than good enough to confirm the identity of this rare vagrant to Arran, dark brown in colour with creamy white crown and throat.



Marsh Harrier - Photographer Daniel Francis

The Arran Natural History Society records go back over forty years. Marsh Harrier appears in only three previous occasions.

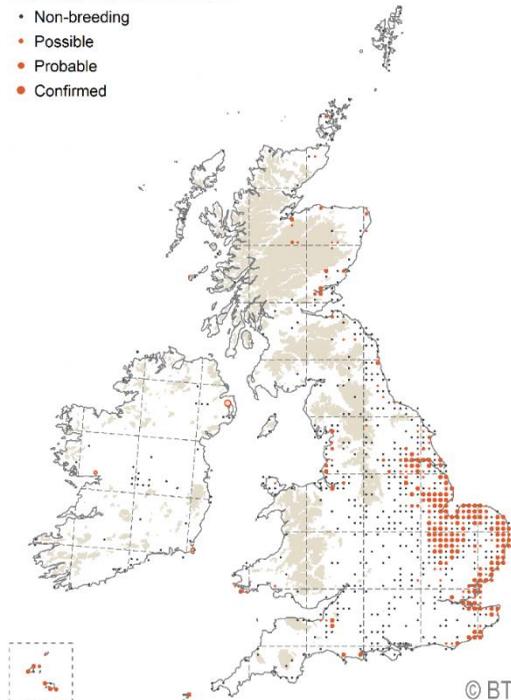
In 1988 a female was reported on 8 May on the String. In 2004 Audrey Walters, the previous bird recorder, in the annual report for that year wrote “*There was real excitement on 19 August when a juvenile Marsh Harrier which had been radio-tagged on Tayside overflowed Lamlash before making its way down to Carlisle and then over to Newcastle-on-Tyne. As far as I know nobody actually saw it, but some people tracked it on the website*”. In 2019 a female type/juvenile was seen at Machrie Farm on 15 May.

In Scotland, Marsh Harrier is a scarce migrant breeder with a stronghold in the reed beds of Tayside. Small, though variable, numbers of passage birds have been noted in both spring and autumn in most recording areas, with the majority along the east coast. There are few Scottish winter records.

In the British Isles, as can be seen on the British Trust for Ornithology map, Marsh harriers are mainly found in eastern and south-east England in their preferred habitats of reedbeds and marshes, as well as farmland near wetlands.

Breeding Distribution 2008–11

- Non-breeding
- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed



© BTO

Turtle Dove: September 2022



Collared Dove with Turtle Dove - Photographer Mike Fenton

On Monday 12 September a juvenile Turtle Dove appeared in Sliderry along with the familiar Collared Doves. It looked a bit lethargic. The Turtle Dove is a dainty dove, much smaller and darker than the Collared Dove - slightly larger than a blackbird. Its upperparts are distinctively mottled with chestnut and black, and its black tail has a white edge. The Turtle Dove has a "purring" call, and its name comes from Latin *turtur* which is an onomatopoeic representation of the bird's song. The name has no connection to the reptile, turtle. This juvenile Turtle Dove enjoyed the feeding provided in Sliderry gardens and perked up until on Saturday 17 September it left, hopefully heading south for the winter.

The Arran Natural History Society records go back over forty years. Turtle Dove first appears in Arran records in 1979 when there was one in Lamdash from 17th to 24th May. There were three records in the 1980s, none in the 1990s, five in the 2000s and three in 2010s, the last one being on Clachaig Farm on 20 September 2015. The longest staying bird was one in a Brodick garden again with Collared Dove from 25th October to 8th November 2006. All records have been of single birds with records split almost evenly between spring and autumn.

Arran reflects Scotland. In Scotland, European Turtle Dove is a scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn. Winter records are very rare. A few pairs nested in south-eastern Scotland from the middle of the 20th century up to the 1980s but there have been no breeding reports since. Numbers on passage are in decline.

The Turtle Dove is the only long-distance migratory dove species in Europe with a range covering most of Europe and the Middle East including Turkey and North Africa. It is rare further north in Scandinavia and Russia. It winters south of the Sahara. Populations of turtle dove are in rapid decline across Europe and this species has red list conservation status globally. In the United Kingdom its numbers have declined by 93% since 1994 and across Europe, numbers fell by 78% 1980–2013. Research in the UK last year revealed that there were now an estimated 2,100 pairs, down from 125,000 in 1970.



Turtle Dove - Photographer Mike Fenton

Factors that may be influencing this rapid and sustained population decline include, lack of seed and grain during the breeding season, resulting in a much shorter breeder season with fewer nesting attempts and hunting during migration and in wintering areas.

This highly endangered species is able to be hunted in ten EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Spain where around 2 million are legally shot every year. Turtle Dove is also hutable in other European countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. There is more information here. The SOS of the European Turtle-dove - BirdLife International <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2021/08/10/do-we-hear-the-sos-of-the-european-turtle-dove/>

Yellow-browed Warbler: October 2022

On Tuesday 11 October in the morning, a Yellow-browed Warbler was seen and heard in Slidderly by Chris Southall. It was the loud and distinctive call note *tsoeest* that first caught Chris's attention. Although Chris had poor views of the bird, the bird was very vocal, and it remained in the area for about twenty minutes. There was no sign of it after nine o'clock. Yellow-browed Warbler is a small, active warbler with greenish upperparts, white underparts, distinct pale yellowish eyebrow, and distinct pale wingbars. The upper wingbar is shorter and less distinct. It is similar in size to a Goldcrest. The yellow 'eyebrow' is distinctive, as is the call. Dennis Morrison's illustrative photograph captures its physical features well.



There have only been two previous Arran records of Yellow-browed Warbler. The first one was in Kilmory in December 1995 and the second in Whiting Bay in December 2007.

Where have they come from? Yellow-browed Warblers breed across Russia, extending east from the Urals as far as Kamchatka and south to Afghanistan, northern India and the Sea of Japan. In autumn most of the breeding population migrates through north-eastern China, to the species' winter quarters, which extend from central Nepal south to the Malay Peninsula. The breeding areas are vacated in August and September and birds arrive in the winter range from mid-October, departing again in late March and early April. In the autumn and in increasing numbers, some Yellow-browed Warblers are moving into western Europe including Britain.

The middle fortnight of October is the peak time for Yellow-browed Warbler arriving in Britain, but the first birds often turn up as early as mid-September and the last as late as December. Records are mostly along the east coast south to Norfolk and along the south coast from Kent to Scilly. A few birds are recorded inland or from western counties. In Scotland, the Northern Isles and east coast sites get most of the records, but the species also reaches the Outer Hebrides most years.

In Britain, Yellow-browed Warbler was recorded only a handful of times before 1958. The following years saw a remarkable and unexpected increase. By the 1970s, about 70 individuals appeared each year, and by the early 2000s it was more than 400 a year. Records kept on rising, with more than 800 in 2003 and an incredible 2,000 in 2017. And yet these are birds that should be on their way south to winter in south-east Asia, in places such as Thailand and Singapore.

So why are so many Yellow-browed Warblers now reaching Britain each autumn? Many theories have been proposed. Perhaps with milder winters we are witnessing a subtle shift in wintering range, with regular dispersal having become successful and leading to overwintering and a subsequent return migration. Maybe the birds we are seeing have become genetically programmed to migrate this way, with Britain and Europe now on a new migration path and a new winter range slowly evolving. Whatever the reason, there is no doubt that this warbler, one of our smallest scarce visitors, is welcome whenever it appears.

Cracking Food



Crow with Crab - Photographer Arthur Duncan



Crow with Cockle - Photographer Arthur Duncan

There is no doubt that birds are clever animals. For example, there is a worldwide phenomenon involving over thirty species of crows, gulls and raptors taking advantage of rocks, pavements and solid surfaces to crack into nuts, bones, molluscs and other hard-shelled food by dropping them from a height. On Arran this is most clearly demonstrated by some of our gulls and crows dropping cockles, winkles and other molluscs onto rocky shores, piers and parking areas adjacent to the shore. Carrion Crows, Hooded Crows and Herring Gulls seem to be particularly adept at it and have been well captured in Arthur Duncan's photographs.



Crow with Winkle - Photographer Arthur Duncan

Over the last hundred years there have been numerous scientific studies of this phenomenon. It involves more sophistication than just carrying the potential food into the air and dropping it. The food is deliberately dropped onto hard surfaces rarely water. Shells are selected according to size and the dropping height is fine tuned to effectively crack shells according to size and weight. Not surprisingly immature birds are less efficient than adults in cracking shells. The skill could be innate, but these studies suggest that the behaviour is consistent with learning.



Gull with Shell - Photographer Arthur Duncan

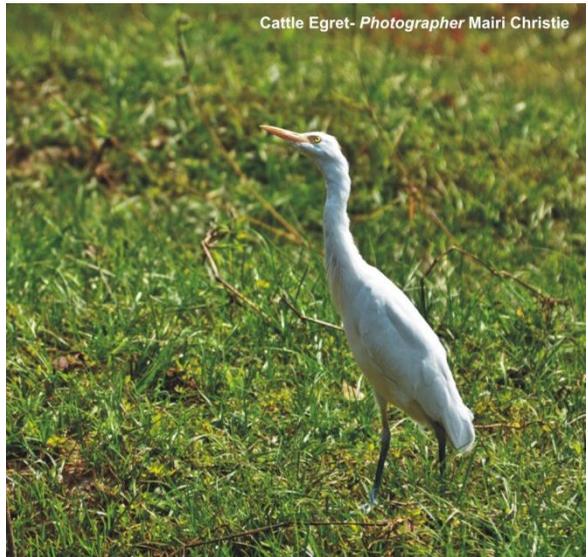
Next time you notice crows and gulls dropping objects over rocky shores or notice broken shells strewn across hard areas adjacent to the shore, never mind the mess, just think about the incredible capacity for avian learning and ingenuity.

Cattle Egret, First Arran Record

On Monday 8 August 2011 Mairi Christie from Kildonan photographed a white egret in Clauchlands. On Thursday 29 September 2022 I gave a presentation on “Arran’s Bird Life” to the Arran branch of U3A in Brodick Hall. Mairi was at that presentation and spoke with me.

A few days later Mairi sent some images of birds to me. This one, taken eleven years ago, was labelled a Little Egret. On realising it was a Cattle Egret I shared it with Val Wilson, assistant bird recorder for the Clyde area. Cattle Egret is a rare bird in Scotland and there have been no Arran records.

Val felt that this record like all records of rarities, should be retrospectively assessed by Scottish Birds Rarities Committee (SBRC). To go with the photographic evidence, Val encouraged Mairi to write a little in an email about the circumstances of her photograph.



I thought the bird was a little egret when I spotted it and it was a thrill to see.

The photograph of the bird was taken on 8/08/2011 – a jpeg, in Lamlash just past the Brodick road towards Clauchlands. It was feeding on the grass foreshore with about 20 oyster catchers. I spotted the white amongst the dark oyster catchers and quietly got out of the car. The oyster catchers all flew away as a car passed and so I could not get the shot with the others. It was a little slower in taking off, but I got only one shot. My husband saw it from the car. I remember it clearly. I was helping a friend, a keen photographer, who could no longer walk or talk due to a severe stroke. I made him a calendar every year and tried to include favourite places and wild life as well as some fun or unusual shots. The egret represented August in one of those. It was then seen and discussed by many local people who visited, but no one knew that it was a cattle egret. One gentleman assured me it was an albino heron!!

This was submitted in the appropriate form to SBRC in October 2022. Checking on SBRC records, it was noted that there were two records accepted of Cattle Egret in the autumn of 2011, both from the west coast of Scotland, a single bird on Mull on 27 October 2011 and a single bird on Tiree from 17 to 25 November 2011. All the same bird?

The first Scottish record I can find of Cattle Egret was in 1979 at the Loch of Kinnordy in Angus from 10 to 18 May. There have only been around twenty Scottish records and this one, now confirmed by SBRC in December 2022 more than eleven years after it was photographed, is a first for Arran as well as being the only one for Arran. Although Cattle Egret is rare in Scotland, it is now occurring annually. In 2022 there was an exceptional flock of eleven in Ayrshire.

Systematic List 2022 BOU/IOC ORDER

The systematic list is in the order of the British List as published by the British Ornithologists' Union (2018). 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, in 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.

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>

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record 2 Cleats Shore on 5 October 2021.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* 35,11

Localised breeding and occasional visitor. Numbers increasing.

No confirmed breeding this year. Groups included 21 Cleats Shore on 21 February, 36 Clachaig Farm on 13 August, 42 flying over Porta Buidhe on 21 Augst and 30 Clachaig on 25 December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* 2,2

Occasional winter visitor.

One Pladda on 24 September and one Feorline on 3 November are all the records for 2022.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 103,35

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

In Shiskine Valley up to 350 between January and April and up to 200 between November and end of year. In the Sliddery area taking in Clachaig and Cleats Shore up to 200 between January and April and up to 200 between November and end of year.

There is also a naturalised population of Greylag which is found mainly around Lamlash Bay throughout the year. Largest count of 400 at Clauchlands on 9 December may have included some wintering birds.



Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* 37,11

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers increasing. Groups included 120 Clachaig on 11 February, 102 Sliddery on 1 March, 250 Rodden on 4 March and 250 Torbeg on 5 March.

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons* 9,4

Occasional winter visitor.

Sightings included 5 Shiskine on 10 January, 12 Feorline on 27 February, 12 Shiskine on 28 February and 5 Feorline on 18 March.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* 276,108

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included pairs with young: 7 young Corrie on 31 May, 6 young Carlo on 7 June, 3 young Catacol on 8 June, 3 young Port na Lochan on 27 June and 4 young Machriewaterfoot on 23 July. Groups included 12 Fisherman's Walk on on 17 March, 14 Cordon on 14 April and 19 Whiting Bay on 12 June.

Bewick's Swan (Tundra Swan)

Cygnus columbianus

Rare winter visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
44,30

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Plus, one over-summering single bird.

Groups included 41 Sliddery Shore on 26 March, 26 Sliddery Shore on 27 March, 14 Cordon on 16 April, 16 Silver Sands on 15 November and 29 Shannochie on 29 November. Re the solitary summering bird, this one first appeared in the winter of 2017-18.



Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna* 121,50

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

Breeding included 4 young Auchenhew Bay on 22 May, 4 young Kilpatrick Point on 28 May, 3 young Cleats Shore on 25 July and 3 young Sliddery Shore on 6 August. Groups included 6 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February, 10 Cleats Shore on 1 March and 6 Pirnmill on 27 March.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

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

No records for 2022. Last record Rosa and Cloy Burns in Brodick on 27 March 2009.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record pair Sliddery Shore on 3 May 2020.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one male by the Fisherman's Walk on 24 May 2015.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* 47,21

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

Groups included 46 Kilpatrick Point on 19 January, 19 Auchengallon on 21 January, 24 Cosyden on 22 January, 45 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February and 32 Tormore on 5 March.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 212,92

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 7 young Fisherman's Walk on 9 June, 5 young Clauchlands on 4 July and 14 young Loch Ranza on 27 July. Groups included 30 Fisherman's Walk on 3 August, 62 Kilpatrick Point on 15 August, 28 Port na Lochan on 13 September, 24 Cordon on 24 October and 20 Clauchlands on 25 December.

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one male Machriewaterfoot on 19 May 2014.



Teal (Common Teal) *Anas crecca* 41,18
Breeding and regular winter visitor.
Common round coast from January to April and August to December.

No confirmed breeding. Groups included 31 Slidderly Shore on 1 January, 89 Kilpatrick Point on 21 January, 22 Cleats Shore on 22 January, 40 Kilpatrick Point on 18 April, 20 Port na Feannaiche on 31 October and 45 Carlo on 11 November.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male at Port na Lochan from 15 to 18 September 2011.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male on Mossend Pond from 24 June to 26 June 2019.

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male by Fisherman's Walk from 14 May to 17 May 2021.

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima* 170,76

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 2 young Silver Sands on 27 May, 2 young Cordon on 19 June, two young Whiting Bay on 23 June. Groups included 52 Pirnmill on 22 January, 32 Thunderguy on 26 March, 44 Whiting Bay on 20 April, 69 Kingscross on 8 October, 35 Cordon on 3 November and 68 Gortonallister on 9 December. For information on the annual September Clyde Eider Survey visit the website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/Firth-of-Clyde-Eider-News-No.20-Aug-2022.pdf>

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza in April 1980.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

North American Species. Rare

No records for 2022. Last record was one immature/female type in Catacol Bay from 24 November 2019 to 1 January 2020. This was the first Arran record of this species.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one male Cosyden on 14 October 2019.

Common Scoter (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra* 3,2

Occasional visitor.

Four off South Pirnmill on 10 February, one female by Fisherman's Walk on 25 October and on 29 October are all the records for 2022.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male in Porta Buidhe on 5 January 2021.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula* 24,7

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

Sightings included 3 Clauchlands on 9 January, 4 Mossend Pond on 18 January, 2 Lamlash Bay on 19 January, 6 Mossend Pond on 12 February and one Sandbraes on 11 December.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record a male with four redheads off the Fallen Rocks car park on 25 April 2016.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* 66,35

Breeding. Localised.

No confirmed breeding in 2022. Sightings included 3 Cordon on 3 January, 2 Fisherman's Walk on 10 January, 4 Machrie Bay on 15 January, 2 Lochranza on 17 January, 4 Whiting Bay on 9 April and 3 Catacol on 22 November.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 277,103

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

Breeding included 3 young Merklund Point on 12 July and 8 young Corrie on 6 August. Groups included 30 Auchencar on 11 April, 43 Machriewaterfoot on 27 July, 25 Cosyden on 17 August, 29 Pirnmill on 1 September, 31 Whitefarland on 9 September and 20 Merklund Point on 25 November.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.

No records for 2022. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 is the only Arran record.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* 3,1

Previously bred. Reintroduction programme. (See arranbirding website).

All records associated with reintroduction programme.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Very localised.

No records for 2022. Last record 6 Coire a' Bhradain on 21 January 2015.

Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus* 12,8

Resident. Breeding. Underreported.

Sightings included 4 Tighvein on 11 February, 2 Goatfell on 20 May, 2 A'Chir on 22 June, 4 Carn Mor on 10 July and 2 Clachan on 6 October.



Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Local introduced resident. Around 500 released in 2019.

No records for 2022. Twenty-nine records in 2019 and only two in 2020. None in 2021.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2022. Last record was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix* 1,1

Occasional summer visitor. Previously bred.

One record for 2022. One bird seen in Sliderry on 2 June (CS).

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus* 432,60

Common introduced resident. Around 3,000 released in 2019.

Reports from all areas.



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* 110,43

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Poor breeding season. Human disturbance is a factor. Population remains healthy. Groups on sea included 6 Dhunan on 19 April, 6 Cordon on 27 April, 6 Whiting Bay on 12 June, 6 Pirmill on 10 July, 6 Machrie Bay on 3 September and 5 Claulchlands on 6 December.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* 42,27

Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2022.

Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.

Groups included 3 Kilpatrick Point on 19 February, 6 Cosyden 28 February, 3 Dougarie on 14 April 16 Machriewaterfoot on 8 September and 13 Drumadoon Point on 23 October.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* 157,54

Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2022 except July and August.

Groups included 14 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February, 8 Catacol on 23 March, 14 Sliderry Shore on 26 March, 30 Machrie Bay on 27 March and 7 Drumadoon Point on 24 October.

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record two Brodick Bay on 12 July 2013.

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

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one off Pirmill 24 September 1991.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis* 33,15

Breeding. Round coast all year. In decline.

One young being fed on Drumadoon Cliff on 14 August was only confirmed breeding. Largest groups at some nest areas; 3 Brown Head on 11 April, 6 Bennan Head on 17 April, 5 Drumadoon Cliffs also on 17 April, 3 Catacol on 1 May and 2 Kings Cave also on 1 May.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one off Largymore on 22 July 2012.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was 7 in Machrie Bay on 6 September 2009.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* 12,8

Regular passage migrant with records from June to September.

Groups included 39 Brodick on 1 July, 50 Kings Cave on 5 July, 6 Cosyden on 17 August and 100 Blackwaterfoot on 28 August.

Mediterranean Shearwater (Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 69,22
Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.
One breeding record in 2022.

Pair with young at Mossend Pond. Sightings included 2 Cordon on 1 February, one Port na Lochan on 11 February, 6 Lochranza on 17 February, 6 Mossend Pond on 8 July, 4 Mossend Pond on 31 August and 2 Mossend Pond on 8 December.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one Catacol Bay on 6 March 2016.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records in 2022. Last record one off Laggan on 1 April 2018.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*
Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records in 2022. One Machriewaterfoot on 20 January 2021.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one Whiting Bay on 14 February 2014.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a dead one found in Shiskine on 10 March 1996.

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

No records for 2022. Only Arran record was 8 August 2011. See Species Report page 31.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 296,102
Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Reports of activity at all known heronries namely Stronach Wood, Lagg, Lochranza, Whitehouse Woods, Whiting Bay and a new one in Auchenhew Bay Groups included 6 Lochranza on 21 January, 4 Cordon on 11 April, 8 Lagg on 25 May, 5 Auchenhew Bay on 4 September and 6 Mossend Pond on 13 October.

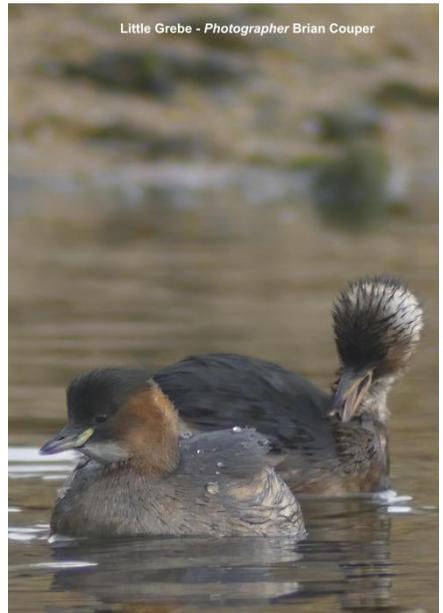
Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
One record of this American species.

Recorded in the winter of 2001-02 mainly in the Cloy/Rosa Burn area. Last record 28 March 2002.

Little Egret *Egretta gargetta* 136,27

Records increasing. First record 2013. In 2020 twenty records. In 2021 seventy-four records.

This year records from 1 January to 22 May and from 13 August to 31 December. While the vast majority of records were from the east coast between Carlo and Whiting Bay, there were several records from the north, south and west coasts. All records except three were of single birds. 3 Sliderry Shore on 9 September, 2 Cleats Shore on 10 September and 2 Lamash Bay on 14 December.



Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus* 373,110

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Records every month except December in 2022.

Groups included 60 Sandbraes on 13 July, 120 Whiting Bay on 15 July, 30 Pirnmill on 30 July, 179 Blackwaterfoot on 2 September, 100 Kilpatrick Point on 11 September and 20 Cosyden on 20 September.

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* 361,116

Common round coast all year. Breeding Pladda.

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See Note page 24. Groups included 68 Hamilton Rock on 9 January, 70 Pladda on 14 February, 80 Whiting Bay on 15 July, 160 Lamash Bay on 22 September and 110 Porta Buidhe on 28 September.



Cormorant - Photographer Helen Logan

Cormorant (Great Cormorant)

Phalacrocorax carbo 197,79

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

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See note page 24. Groups included 7 Lochranza on 4 January, 5 Fisherman's Walk on 3 August, 23 Brodick Bay on 6 November 10 Lamash Bay on 1 December and 5 Pladda on 21 December.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 10,10

Occasional passage migrant.

All records of single bird including Kingscross Point on 25 April, Sandbraes on 10 May, Brodick Country Park on 19 July, top of the String on 3 November and Whitefarland on 20 November.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* 78,53

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

All territories occupied. There is a healthy breeding population. Three young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year mainly to the north of the String.

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus* 102,59

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Good breeding season. There is a healthy population with numerous widespread sightings throughout the year.

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis* 1,1

Irregular sightings. No confirmed breeding.

One record for 2022. One Glenashdale on 17 August (GWD)

Marsh Harrier (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus* 2,1

Rare vagrant.

One top of the String on 29 August and again on 31 August (M&DF). See Species Report page 27.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* 166,90

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

Better breeding season. Vole numbers increased. In recent years, the number of young fledged has varied depending on factors like food availability and weather. The population remains healthy. In 2018 a minimum of fifty-two young fledged. This is the most recent data available from the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. Numerous widespread sightings mainly within the Arran Moors Special Protection Area.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* 5,5

Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.

Sightings included one Lenamhor Farm 30 January, 2 Port na Lochan on 30 March, one Corriecravie on 7 June and one Creagan Liatha on 16 September.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* 11,11

Vagrant.

Decrease in sightings from 19 in 2021 to 11 in 2022. Sightings included 2 Imachar on 6 January, 2 Gleann Diomhan on 16 July and 2 Dougarie on 17 December. The rest were single birds including one on 4 February which had been released on the Isle of Wight the previous year.

Rough-legged buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2022 Last record one Glenree on 25 April 2021 was the first Arran record since 1974.

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo* 289,132

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Good breeding season. There were numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 3 Pirmill on 1 February, 4 Glenscorrodale on 14 March, 4 the top of the String on 26 April, 4 Glenree on 19 May and five Imachar on 17 December.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* 1,1

Localised breeding resident and passage migrant.

One record for 2022. One bird heard and seen Cleats Shore on 2 September (PB).

Corncrake *Crex crex* 1,1

Rare summer visitor. Previously bred.

One record for 2022. One bird heard Moss Farm on 21 June (DaBr).

Spotted Crane *Porzana Porzana*

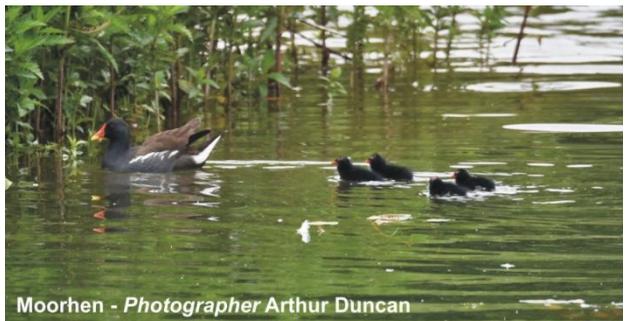
One historical record. One found dead by Pladda lighthouse on 24 October 1895.

Moorhen (Common Moorhen)

Gallinula chloropus 28,4

Scarce localised breeding resident.

Sightings included 4 Mossend Pond on 24 January, one Port na Lochan on 19 February, one Port na Lochan on 22 June and 5 Mossend Pond on 30 June.



Moorhen - Photographer Arthur Duncan

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra* 1,1

Occasional visitor.

One record for 2022. One Mossend Pond on 16 May (JoTo).

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record two over Dougarie on Wednesday 22 April 2015.



Oystercatcher (*Eurasian Oystercatcher*) *Haematopus ostralegus* 547,151

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded included Claulchlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Machrie, Kilpatrick, Sandbraes, Shannochie, Thunderguy and Kildonan. Groups included 50 Cleats shore on 22 January, 37 Brodick Golf Course on 28 February, 49 Whitefarland on 3 March, 36 Catacol Bay on 12 March and 28 Whiting Bay on 12 September. See Species Report page 24.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus* 59,23

Increasingly localised breeding and regular winter visitor.

Five areas of confirmed breeding in Kilmory and one in the Shiskine Valley. Winter groups included 20 Cleats Shore on 22 January, 15 Port na Feannaiche on 12 February, 34 Cleats Shore on 21 February, 27 Torrylinwater Foot on 1 March and 19 Kilpatrick on 3 December.

Golden Plover (*European Golden Plover*) *Pluvialis apricaria* 36,14

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 120 Machriewaterfoot on 6 September, 143 Dougarie on 29 September, 189 Machriewaterfoot on 19 November, 19 Catacol Bay on 11 December and 19 Pirnmill on 19 December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records in 2022. Last record was one Cleats Shore 26-27 April 2019.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 278,90

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded Claulchlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Machrie, Sandbraes and Kildonan. Groups included 92 Blackwaterfoot on 21 January, 110 Machriewaterfoot on 21 August, 59 Whiting Bay on 12 September, 89 Fisherman's Walk on 25 October, 44 Silver Sands on 7 December and 52 Claulchlands on 9 December.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records in 2022. Last record was two Caisteal Abhail on 4&5 May 2019.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 25,13

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 33 Porta Buidhe on 24 April, 19 Auchenhew Bay on 25 April, 31 Porta Buidhe on 27 April, 7 Sliderry Shore on 9 May and one Cleats Shore on 12 September. One Whimbrel, A2, was on a Kildonan shore from 26-28 April feeding before heading north. Having been ringed in 2017 on Arran, this was the fifth year in a row, that the bird had passed through after spending the winter in Africa. A report that it was seen in Mauritania, west Africa, in late November has been confirmed. (See page 22)

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata* 332,114

Resident but underreported breeder.

Signs of breeding were reported from Balnacool, Bennecarrigan, Burrigan, Kilbride Hill, Machrie Moor and Penrioch. Groups included 50 Clauchlands on 9 January, 43 Port na Lochan on 19 February, 33 Cleats Shore on 1 March, 50 Auchenhew Bay on 11 July, 30 Corriecravie on 27 July, 40 Port na Feannaiche on 31 October.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 1,1

Uncommon passage migrant.

One record for 2022. One Cleats Shore on 29 September (CS).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 3,3

Uncommon passage migrant.

Sightings, all single birds, Torrylinnwater Foot on 22 March, Kildonan on 11 September and Porta Buidhe are all the records for 2022.

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone)

Arenaria interpres 114,42

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor with records from all months except June in 2022.

Groups included 27 Catacol Bay on 23 March, 24 Lochranza on 20 August, 54 Machriewaterfoot on 20 September, 25 Dougarie on 29 September, 30 Whiting Bay on 16 November.



Bar-tailed Godwit - Photographer Joan Thomson

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

Regular passage migrant.

One record for 2022. One Machriewaterfoot on 5 September (JoFe).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was 2 at Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one Drumadoon Point on 18 September 2020.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 9,8

Regular passage migrant.

Sightings included 4 Blackwaterfoot on 13 May, 7 Drumadoon Point on 14 May, 2 Drumadoon Point on 23 July, one Sliderry Shore on 17 August and 3 Machriewaterfoot on 21 August.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 35,19

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

Groups included 11 Sliderry Shore on 17 August, 10 Kildonan on 31 August, 20 Blackwaterfoot on 2 September, 20 Drumadoon Point on 5 September, 23 Machriewaterfoot on 20 September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* 9,3

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Groups included 2 Silver Sands on 16 January, 3 Silver Sands on 28 November, 5 Silver Sands on 13 December and 4 Auchenhew Bay on 22 December.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was 3 at Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One record of this American species.

No records for 2022. One juvenile Slidderlywaterfoot from 15 to 17 September 1990.

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola* 25,21

Resident but underreported breeder. Numbers increase in winter.

Pairs flying at dusk included Machrie Moor on 12 May, Creag Rosa on 10 June, Tormore on 24 June and Brodick Country Park on 1 July. Winter groups included 21 Bennan on 28 January, 2 Brown Head on 9 February, 16 Bennan on 21 February, 5 Glenkiln on 30 November and 2 Kingscross on 11 December.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* 3,3

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

One Slidderly Shore on 5 January, one Bennecarrigan Moor on 4 March and 2 Penrioch on 2 October are all the records for 2022.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 19,17

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Localised breeding.

Confirmed breeding on central high ground by the String. Groups included 3 Bennan on 28 January, 4 Port na Feannaiche on 12 February, 2 Kilpatrick on 28 February, 2 Machrie Moor on 19 September, 6 Slidderly on 16 October and 3 Clauchlands on 6 December.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a juvenile at Slidderly on 1 August 2016.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one Silver Sands on 6 December 2015.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 138,78

Regular summer visitor with records from 14 April to 9 September. Breeding.

Nests recorded Clauchlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Machrie, Pirnmill, Sandbraes, Sannox and Slidderly. Largest group 20 Auchenhew Bay on 20 May.



Redshank - Photographer James Morrison

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

North American Species. Rare.

No records for 2022. One Clauchlands from 19 May to 21 May 2015 only Arran record.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one Blackwaterfoot on 11 May 2019.

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus* 208,74

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

Groups included 11 Kilpatrick Point on 19 February, 13 Clauchlands on 4 July, 19 Whiting Bay on 24 July, 20 Sandbraes on 9 August, 51 Whiting Bay on 12 September and 15 Lochranza on 28 September.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one flying and calling over Sliderry on 24 July 2020.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one at South Feorline shore on 5 August 2010.

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia* 5,4

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

One Lochranza on 25-26 January, one Sliderry on 27 July, one Machriewaterfoot on 20 August and one Whiting Bay on 12 September are all the records for 2022.

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla* 24, 16

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.

Numbers considerably less than recent years with few young reported. Groups reported included 250 Pirnmill on 27 February, 12 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February, 12 Whiting Bay on 24 July, 14 Brodick Bay on 7 August and 80 Fisherman's Walk on 15 August.

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 2022. Last record one adult Brodick Bay on 3 September 2009.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 66,36

Nonbreeding. Present round coast every month except May in 2022.

Groups included 7 Blackwaterfoot on 21 January, 5 Silver Sands on 14 February, 20 Machriewaterfoot on 3 September, 13 Drumadoon Point on 23 September and 10 Porta Buidhe on 28 October.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Uncommon irregular visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record 2 Whiting Bay on 2 September 2013.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.



Mediterranean Gull - Photographer Jim Dickson

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* 2,2

Rare vagrant.

One first winter Fisherman's Walk on 26 April and three of this year's young at Blackwaterfoot on 16 August are all the records for 2022. Correction from 2021 report. Two first winter Fisherman's Walk from 4th to 6th October instead of one.

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus* 334, 118

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Better breeding season. Fledged young at coastal nesting areas including Blackwaterfoot, Machriewaterfoot, Dougarie, Holy Isle, Pladda, Sannox and Thunderguy. Groups included 350 Sliderry on 30 January, 287 Shannochie on 13 February, 190 Torrylinnwater Foot on 1 March, 170 Blackwaterfoot on 16 August and 200 Clachaig on 19 October.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* 233,92

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See Note page 24. Groups included 7 Dougarie on 11 January, 10 Cordon on 28 February, 11 Blackwaterfoot on 31 May, 12 Sannox Bay on 19 October and 25 Fisherman's Walk on 25 October.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* 4,4

Uncommon winter visitor.

One second winter flew Machrie Bay, Whitefarland to Lochranza on 6 February and an immature bird was at Blackwaterfoot on 11 February. These are all the records for 2022.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Uncommon winter visitor.

No records in 2022. Last record one first winter Fisherman's Walk on 29 March 2021.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* 482,142

Breeding colonies on Holy Isle and Pladda. Common all year.

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See Note page 24. Groups included 250 Pladda on 14 February, 78 Kilpatrick Point on 19 February, 60 High Kildonan on 9 March, 100 Holy Isle on 27 April and 130 Cleats Shore on 10 September. The leucistic gull first reported and ringed in Sliderry on 24 June 2018 continued to be reported including Blackwaterfoot on 29 April and Kilpatrick Point on 14 July.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* 96,61

Breeding colonies on Holy Isle and Pladda. Common from February to October.

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See Note page 24. Groups included 10 Machrie on 10 April, 15 Clachaig on 13 May, 7 Sannox Bay on 15 May, 8 Whiting Bay on 15 July and 10 Fisherman's Walk on 3 August.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* 76,36

Summer visitor. Nonbreeding. Records from 10 April to 15 September.

Groups included 8 Blackwaterfoot on 8 April, 10 Cleats Shore on 13 April, 10 Porta Buidhe on 14 April, 12 Fisherman's Walk on 4 August and 5 Sandbraes on 1 September.



Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was one Machriewaterfoot on 19 April 2013.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* 4,4

Regular summer visitor. Breeding colony Pladda.

Nesting on Pladda not checked this year because of Avian Flu restriction. See Note page 24. Two Pladda on 1 June, 2 Porta Buidhe on 13 June, 4 Porta Buidhe on 23 July and one Machriewaterfoot are all the records for 2022.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one at Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

Two Brodick Bay on 27 July and one off Pladda on 31 July are all the records for 2022.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records for 2022. Last record was 2 off Kildonan on 16 May 2009.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* 1,1

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One record for 2022. An immature off Pirnmill on 19 December (AP).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records 2022. Two off Kildonan on 19 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce and irregular winter visitor, usually seen after severe gales.

No records for 2022. Last record one Holy Isle on 8 January in 2016.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge* 48,30

Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

On 12 July, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 arrived on Arran. Dead and dying Guillemots were washed up on shores. See note page 25.

Groups of living birds included 40 Pirnmill on 10 February, 30 Brodick Bay on 7 May, 15 Brodick Bay on 15 July, 40 Laggan on 26 August and 5 Auchenhew Bay on 22 December.

Razorbill *Alca torda* 15,10

Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

On 12 July, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 arrived on Arran. See note page 25.

Groups of living birds included 20 Pirnmill on 4 February, 20 Pirnmill on 27 February, 70 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February and 2 Brodick Bay on 27 July.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* 123,57

Breeding. Round coast all year.

Breeding included Brodick Pier, Catacol, Corrie, Imachar, Kilpatrick, King's Cave, Thunderguy and Pladda. Numbers are increasing. Groups included 8 Imachar on 3 March, 4 Kilpatrick Point on 11 April, 10 Newton on 17 April, 11 Catacol on 27 April, 9 Rubha Glas on 5 May, 3 Corrie on 23 May and 4 Brodick pier on 4 June.

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin)

Fratercula arctica 1,1

Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.

One record for 2022. One Torrylinnwater Foot on 20 January (TS).



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* 73,29

Resident. Breeding. Localised round the coast.

Groups included 10 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 11 January, 60 Cleats Shore on 1 March, 20 Brown Head on 11 April, 122 Clachaig 29 June and 50 Clachaig Farm on 22 November.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Rare.

No records for 2022. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

Woodpigeon (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus* 175,101

Resident. Breeding. Common.

Groups included 30 Glenloig on 10 April, 150 Glenkiln on 16 September, 500 Pirrmill on 13 November, 30 Lochranza on 30 November and 27 Lamlash on 1 December.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* 9,1

Occasional passage migrant.

One record for 2022. Juvenile Sliderry 12-17 September (CSDS). See Species Note on page 28.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto* 129,56

Resident. Breeding. Common.

Present around all villages. Groups included 12 Corrie on 2 January, 18 Sliderry on 29 January, 6 Whiting Bay on 15 July, 7 Silver Sands on 1 September, 24 Clachaig on 9 November and 6 Shiskine on 28 November.

Cuckoo (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus* 174,92

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

Healthy population. First record Machrie Moor on 17 April and last record Strathwillan on 17 July.



Cuckoo - Photographer Nigel Wells

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* 67,34

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Better breeding season. The summary of the annual monitoring of nest sites on Forestry Land was 25 boxes checked, 16 occupied, 11 successful breeding and 19 young ringed. In contrast in 2021, there were no eggs and no chicks. In 2021 vole numbers crashed as part of the cyclic nature of the vole population. In 2022 vole population began to increase. The number of Barn Owl reports received this year was double last year's total.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

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

No records for 2022.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* 3,3

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

One Dereneneach on 7 May, one Machrie on 1 August and one Glenree on 29 September are all the records for 2022.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* 16,13

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

Better breeding season. In 2022 vole numbers began to rise after the cyclic crash of vole numbers in 2021. Short-eared Owls appear to be nomadic, breeding almost prolifically in suitable habitat in some years, yet in others appearing to be absent. Members of the Arran ringing group have been participating on the ongoing work for the British Trust for Ornithology Short-eared Owl Tracking Project. For more information and some initial results visit this website <https://www.bto.org/our-science/topics/tracking/tracking-studies/short-eared-owl-tracking>

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer visitor. Confirmed breeding.

No records in 2022. Last record Kilmory 24 to 26 June 2021.

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus* 7,5

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Nonbreeding. Reports from 6 June to 18 July 2022

Sightings included 3 Porta Buidhe on 6 June, 3 Clachaig Farm on 20 June, 2 Newton on 25 June and one Sliderry on 18 July.

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis* 70,18

Resident. No confirmed breeding. Most records dispersing birds after breeding.

Seventy reports this year is a large increase from five in 2021. Almost all were single birds. There was one record from Machrie in February and the rest were from the east coast of Arran mainly Brodick Bay and Lamlash Bay between early July and the end of December. Two were seen on the front at Brodick on 9 December.



Kingfisher - Photographer Arthur Duncan

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one Levenacoroch on 8 April 2020.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one in Sannox on 25 September 1997.



Great Spotted Woodpecker (juv.) - Photographer Joan Thomson

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major 37,22

Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.

Regularly heard drumming in Auchenhew, Brodick Country Park, Corrie, Glen Cloy, High Kildonan, Lochranza, Machrie and Merkland Wood. As well as breeding records from these areas fledged young were reported from other sites including Kildonan on 26 June, Sannox on 29 June and Clachaig on 1 September.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. One in a garden in Lamlash on 28 December 2014 is the first Arran record of this species.

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus* 73,53

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Better breeding season related to better vole season. Reports of fledged young included Cleiteadh Buidhe on 6 June, Glen Sannox on 5 July, Glen Rosa on 7 July, Glen Shurig on 8 July, Dippen Head on 12 July, Kilpatrick Point on 23 July, Shannochie on 26 July, Glenree on 6 August and Cnoc na Dail on 16 August.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* 9,8

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

Sightings included female Strathwillan on 12 February, male Bennecarrigan on 5 June, female Sliderry Shore 26 September, one Cleats Shore on 29 September and female Sliderry on 16 October.



Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco Subbuteo*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one adult bird by Cnocan Donn on 30 June 2021.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* 22,22

Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.

Three sites successfully raised 5 young. There is a healthy breeding population. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one Port na Lochan on 13 June 2018

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubiter*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza on 24 October 2007.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius* 1,1

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record one Port na Lochan on 24 April 2021.

Magpie (Black-billed Magpie) *Pica pica* 2,2

Vagrant.

One Lamlash Golf Course on 6 March and one Brodick Country Park on 6 June are all the records for 2022.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2022. Last record one by Narachan track from 5 to 29 September 2011.

Jackdaw (Eurasian Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula* 223,82

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 50 Kilpatrick Farm on 1 January, 150 Shannochie on 24 January, 95 Lochranza on 20 June, 100 Shiskine Golf Course on 17 October and 100 Clachaig Farm on 19 October.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* 25,7

Regular winter visitor.

Most records from Corrieravie/Sliderry/Clachaig area between January and 18 April and between September and October, including 10 Clachaig on 2 February, 32 Sliderry on 25 February, 3 Cleats Shore on 10 September and 2 Sliderry on 20 October.

Carrión Crow *Corvus corone* **Hooded Crow**
Corvus cornix 149,86 383,140

Both species including intermediates are common residents. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 60 Clachaig on 5 March, 80 Glenkiln on 9 July, 50 Kilpatrick Point on 14 July, 70 Drumadoon on 23 September and 57 Silver Sands on 23 October.

Raven (Common Raven) *Corvus corax* 268,112

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Breeding pairs included Beinn a Chliabhain, Bennan Head, Brown Head, Catacol and Imachar. Groups included 6 Torrylinnwater Foot on 1 Mar, 5 Catacol on 3 May, 5 Lochranza on 7 July, 5 Kilpatrick Point on 14 July and 5 Cleiteadh on 4 September.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was one in a garden in Cordon on 24 February 2020.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* 534,83

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Corrie on 13 June, Pirmill on 17 June, Shiskine 24 June, Alma Park on 25 June and Lagg on 28 June. Largest group was 10 Clachaig on 30 January.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was one in Lamlash from 16 to 18 May 2009.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* 580,95

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Widespread confirmed breeding included reports Pirmill on 17 June, Whiting Bay on 19 June, Alma Park on 25 June, Sannox on 26 June. Largest group was 9 Clachaig on 17 February.

Great Tit *Parus major* 578,97

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Widespread confirmed breeding included reports Whiting Bay on 19 June, Kilpatrick on 24 June, Alma Park on 25 June, Corrie on 26 June and Lagg on 29 June. Largest group was 8 Pirmill on 25 January.

Skylark (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis* 43,24

Breeding resident, Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding territories occupied in Ard Bheinn, Clachaig, Corrie, Corrieravie Moor, Drumadoon, Drumaghinier, Glen Cloy, Kilbride Hill, Kilpatrick, Leac a'Ghille, Machrie, Penrioch and Shiskine. Groups included 7 Torrylinnwater Foot on 1 March, 4 Cloined on 13 April, 9 Cleats Shore on 10 September, 250 Cleats Shore on 29 September, and 50 Shiskine Golf Club on 29 September.

Raven - Photographer Ben Porter





Sand Martin-Photographer Arthur Duncan

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 83,50

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.

First report Machrie Golf Course on 24 March. Relatively good breeding season. Breeding colonies occupied in Auchencar, Clauchlands, Glen Catacol, Glen Rosa, Kilpatrick, Machrie Golf Course, Sannox and Whitefarland. Groups included 30 Sannox on 11 April, 5 Clauchlands on 13 April, 200 Glen Catacol on 4 June, 8 Glen Rosa on 5 July and 10 Machrie Golf Course on 17 August. Last record was Sannox on 21 September.

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica* 269,126

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report Kilpatrick on 6 April.

Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods raised. Relatively good breeding season. Groups included 30 Sliderry on 11 August, 40 Kilpatrick on 14 August, 30 Machrie Golf Course on 17 August, 30 Shannochie on 27 August and 35 Clachaig on 31 August. Last record was Whiting Bay on 26 October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* 193,93

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report Largymore on 6 April. Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods. Relatively good breeding season. Groups included 80 Margnaheglish on 28 July, 30 Shannochie on 13 August, 40 Corriecravie on 15 August, 30 Lochranza on 18 August and 150 Sliderry on 20 September. Last record Kildonan on 1 October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* 54,39

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 12 North Sannox Farm on 14 August, 20 Fallen Rocks on 21 October, 12 Cordon on 22 October, 20 Corrie on 12 December and 15 Bailemargaidh on 14 December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* 165,91

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

First report was Holy Isle on 28 March. Early records included males singing at Cnocantubha, Glen Catacol, Kilpatrick, Lochranza, Machrie moor, Machrie Golf Course and Porta Buidhe all on 14 April. Good breeding season. Last record was Kildonan on 31 August.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita* 55,39

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

First report was from Lakin on 18 March. Early records included males singing Whiting Bay and Kildonan on 19 March, Brodick on 23 March, Merkland on 24 March, Corrie on 25 March and Cloined on 28 March. A good breeding season. Last record was from Sliderry on 6 October.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

No records in 2022. After eleven records in 2021, including long-staying reports in Brodick Country Park, 2022 was disappointing. Last record was one Brodick Country Park on 6 June 2021.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 1,1

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

One record for 2022. One Sliderry on 11 October (CS). See Species Note on page 29.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 45,21

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

First report was from Silver Sands on 16 April. Records included singing males Auchenhew Bay on 19 April, Porta Buidhe on 20 April, Corriegills on 5 May and Feorline on 11 May. Last record was from Corriecravie on 15 August.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Rare vagrant

No records in 2022. Male Dereneneach 19 June to 5 July 2014 is the only Arran record.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia* 10,8

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

Reports of reeling birds included Lochranza on 17 April, Bennan Head on 19 April, Clachaig on 24 April, Lakin on 2 May and Glen Sannox on 6 June.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 82,56

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

Records included singing males Auchenhew Bay on 20 April, Lamlash on 24 April, Brodick Country Park on 24 May, Dougarie on 26 May and Glenkiln on 1 June. Winter garden records included male Lamlash on 21 February and female Sliddery on 23 October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 1.1

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding. Possibly underreported.

One record for 2022. Two Kildonan on 21 May (MWil).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* 1,1

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding.

One record for 2022. One Catacol on 4 June (MWil).

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis* 60,43

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

First report was from Auchenhew Bay on 19 April. Records included singing males Clachaig on 26 April, Kilpatrick on 27 April, Port na Lochan on 13 May, Blackwaterfoot on 14 May and Glenree on 21 May. Last record was from Blackwaterfoot on 15 August.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

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

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* 68,43

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Records included 5 Clauchan on 8 January, 4 Newton on 30 January, 5 Benlister on 12 February, 6 Cordon on 10 July, 4 Kildonan on 31 August and 6 Merkland on 4 September.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* 260,134

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Records from varied habitats throughout the island from high tops to shore. Groups included 6 Sliddery on 30 January, 10 Dereneneach on 7 May, 7 Corriecravie on 16 July, 7 Merkland on 26 July, 14 Machriewaterfoot on 8 September and 7 Crochan Wood on 29 November.



Sedge Warbler - Photographer James Morrison

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea* 41,2

Vagrant but records increasing as species spreads north across the UK.

No records in 2022. The previous year one over-wintering bird generated 42 reports in Pirnmill up to 1 April and then in Dippin from 4th to 6th April 2021.



Treecreeper - Photographer Arthur Duncan

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris* 40,29

Resident. Breeding. Widespread but underreported.

Sightings 2 Sannox on 4 April, 4 Glenashdale on 1 June, 4 Glenkiln on 18 June, 4 Glen Rosa on 5 July and 3 Lagg on 6 July.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2022. In 2021, for the fifth year in a row, there were reports of this species on Arran. Last report one Sliderry on 18 June 2021.

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris* 193,85

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports Whiting Bay on 19 June, Alma Park on 25 June, Shiskine on 27 June, Brodick on 28 June and Margnaheglis on 12 July.. Larger groups included 200 at the Rodden on 10 January, 250 Cloined on 7 February, 361 in Kildonan on 13 August, 200 Kilpatrick on 31 August and 300 Sliderry on 22 October.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* 8,6

Scarce summer visitor underreported.

Sightings included one the Saddle on 7 March, 2 the Witches Step on 1 May, one the Ross on 17 October and one Newton on 22 October.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula* 726,152

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Good breeding season with reports of double and triple broods. Groups included 14 Pirnmill on 17 July, 16 Cordon on 22 October, 15 Cnoc na Dail on 21 November 14 Porta Buidhe on 13 December and 30 Glenashdale on 14 December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* 61,37

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

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, 100 Clachaig on 7 January, 200 the Rodden on 10 January, 130 Feorline on 27 February, 200 Sliderry on 19 October, 200 Shannochie also on 19 October and 120 Lochranza on 25 October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* 63,35

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

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares, 100 Clachaig on 7 January, 200 the Rodden on 10 January, 300 Sannox on 7 October, 330 Kingscross on 15 October, 500 Narachan on 18 October and 800 Sliderry on 23 October.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* 370,115

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Good breeding season. Groups included 5 Machriewaterfoot on 28 February, 12 Fisherman's Walk on 4 March, 8 Holy Isle on 12 March and 5 Lamdash on 1 December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 71,53

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included Torbeg on 27 April, Machrie Golf Course on 2 May, Dougarie on 23 May and Shiskine Golf Course on 5 June. Groups included 8 Ballymeanochglen on 15 February, 12 Glenree on 10 September, 13 Lamlash Golf Course on 11 September, 12 Lochranza on 7 July.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* 27,23

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

Confirmed breeding included Sannox on 22 May, Fairy Dell on 8 June, Glenkiln on 20 June, Dunfion on 11 July, Brodick Country Park on 7 August and Shannochie on 16 August.



Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula* 737,158

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding all villages. Groups included 7 Torrylinnwater Foot on 1 March, 8 Brodick Country Park on 7 August, 7 Porta Buidhe on 25 September, 11 Lochranza on 30 November, 7 Lamlash on 1 December and 7 Auchareoch on 13 December.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Irregular summer visitor.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male Invercloy on 30 July 2021.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records for 2022. Last record was a male in Porta Buidhe from 21 to 23 November 2019.

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 2,2

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported. Previously bred.

One male singing Moss Farm on 7 June and a juvenile male Burrigan Hill on 10 August are all the records for 2022.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* 46,29

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 easily identified in the future. Please report ringed birds to Terry Southall terrysouthall789@btinternet.com.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* 139,86

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Good breeding season. Fledged young reports included Auchenhew Bay on 24 May, Loch Iorsa on 26 May, Glen Scaftgill also on 26 May, Fuar Achadh on 27 May, Cnoc Reamhar on 28 May, Imachar on 6 June and Glen Rosa on 29 June.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe* 96,63

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

First report was from Cock of Arran on 15 March. Confirmed breeding included Kilpatrick Point on 28 May, Sliderry Shore also on 28 May, Cloined on 29 May and Glen Sannox on 20 June. Groups included 5 Cleats Shore on 13 April, 6 Machrie Moor on 21 April, 4 Glen Catacol on 7 July, 3 Glen Sannox on 20 June, 18 Sliderry Shore on 17 August and 5 Silver Sands on 9 September. Last record was from Auchenhew Bay on 27 September.

Dipper (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus* 50,25

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs recorded included Benlister, Bennecarrigan, Blackwater, Brodick Golf Course, Cladach, Corrie, Dyemill, Fisherman's Walk, Gleann Easan Biorach, Glenashdale, Glen Chalmadale, Lochranza, Sannox, Slidderlywater and Torrylinnwater. Birds move towards coast in winter.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 664,113

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs reported from all villages. Reports of double and triple broods. Larger groups included 70 Slidderly on 29 January, 50 Lagg on 25 May, 50 Margnaheglish on 12 July, 45 Pirmill on 22 August, 50 Balmichael on 31 August and 42 Strathwillan on 12 December.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2022. Last record was 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis* 560,102

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Reports of fledged young, included Silver Sands 27 May, Alma Park on 26 June, Corrie on 19 July, Corriecravie on 27 July and Catacol on 11 August. Other groups included 5 Slidderly on 29 January, 5 Lochranza on 28 February, 4 Brodick on 8 June, 5 Pirmill on 4 November and 5 Silver Sands on 7 December.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records in 2022. Last record one Silver Sands feeding on kelp flies on 27 May 2021.



Grey Wagtail - Photographer Helen Logan

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 90,58

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Sightings included 4 Cosyden on 26 July, 4 Lochranza on 28 July, 3 Porta Buidhe on 9 August, 8 Corriecravie on 15 August, 6 Cleats Shore on 30 August and 4 Clauchlands on 25 December.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* 386,130

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young Glenloig on 25 June, Porta Buidhe on 9 July, Lochranza on 12 July, Kilpatrick on 27 July, Lamlash on 28 July and Silver Sands on 1 August. Other groups included 40 Blackwaterfoot on 11 January, 20 Porta Buidhe on 15 January, 15 Brodick Golf Club on 22 January, 15 Silver Sands on 16 March, 12 Kilpatrick on 9 April and 43 Machrie on 8 September.

White Wagtail *Montacilla alba* 15,11

Regular passage migrant.

First report was from Porta Buidhe on 13 April. Other sightings included 3 Kildonan on 15 April, 5 Blackwaterfoot on 20 April, 5 Cleats Shore on 30 August, 4 Kildonan on 31 August and 32 Slidderly Shore on 9 September. Last report was from Silver Sands on 4 October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* 139,94

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous breeding records. Groups included 30 Feorline on 27 February, 14 Auchenhew on 11 April, 20 Allt Ruadh on 18 June, 35 Machriewaterfoot on 3 September, 26 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 8 September and 40 Cleats Shore on 10 September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* 8,7

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported.

Sightings included one Cnoc na Dail on 24 April, 4 Glen Rosa on 1 June, 2 Torr Dubh on 2 June, 4 Sliddey on 11 August and one Cleats Shore on 30 August.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare Vagrant.

No records in 2022. Last record was in 2019 when there was one in Machrie Bay from 23 February to 5 April. This was the first Arran record.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* 219,90

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

Numerous breeding records including pairs carrying food at Porta Buidhe on 18 May, Kilpatrick Point on 28 May, Cosyden on 29 May, Blackwaterfoot on 30 May, Shiskine Golf Course on 09 June, and Thunderguy on 20 June. Groups included 30 Silver Sands on 17 February, 10 Torrylinnwater Foot on 1 March, 15 Whitefarland on 3 March, 14 Auchenhew Bay on 4 September, 9 Imachar on 29 September and 26 Porta Buidhe on 11 December.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* 711,148

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from all the settlements on the island including some double broods. Good breeding year. Groups included 80 Sliddey on 9 January, 40 Whiting Bay on 6 February, 48 Strathwillan on 13 February, 50 Cordon on 22 October and 50 Pirmill on 29 November.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 38,13

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

The winter of 2021-22 was a good Brambling year. 33 of the records for 2022 were in the first months of the year. Sightings included 5 Cnoc na Dail on 4 January, 10 Cordon on 5 January, 6 Sliddey on 15 January, 6 High Kildonan on 25 January and 2 Pirmill 23 October.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2022. Last record one Pirmill on 21 April and one Lochranza on 22 April, possibly the same bird, in 2016.

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula 96,64

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Confirmed breeding included reports Alma Park on 23 June, Corrie on 26 June, Feorline on 27 June, Lamlash on 30 June and Dunfion on 11 July. Groups included 8 Corrie on 5

January, 17 Clauchlands on 22 January, 10 Holy Isle on 22 March, 12 Cordon on 10 June and 18 Kildonan on 25 October.



Scarlet Rosefinch (Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2022. The last record was a juvenile caught and ringed at High Kildonan on 24 October 2011.



Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris* 242,70

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

In 2022 there was a further increase in the number of locations reflecting a good breeding season and continuing recovery from the impact of trichomonas. Confirmed breeding included reports from Whiting Bay on 19 June, Lagg on 28 June, Margnaheglis on 12 July, Kilpatrick on 27 July, Pirmill on 28 July and Catacol on 11 August. Groups included 11 Silver Sands on 19 January, 23 Whiting Bay on 13 February, 18 Blackwaterfoot on 16 February and 15 Drumadoon on 29 September.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* 15,8

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

No confirmed breeding. Groups included 12 Sliderry Shore on 12 March, 4 Sliderry on 25 March, 3 Cleats Shore on 18 April, 8 Kilpatrick Point on 24 July and 30 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 8 September.

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina* 73,48

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between April and November.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Drumadoon on 17 June, Kildonan on 23 June, Kilpatrick on 24 June and Sliderry on 30 June. Groups included 50 Shiskine Golf Course on 10 April, 30 Clachaig on 24 May, 120 Kingscross on 9 August, 40 Corriecravie on 15 August, 400 Cleats Shore on 30 August and 500 Cleats Shore on 11 September.

Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret* 65,39

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

Confirmed breeding included reports from Dyemill on 29 May, and Pirmill on June. Groups included 15 Holy Isle on 26 March, 4 Sliderry shore also on 26 March, 3 Kilpatrick on 28 March, 20 Cladach on 17 April and 5 Corriecravie on 5 July.

Crossbill (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra* 12,10

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Possibly underreported.

Groups included 6 Machrie Farm on 5 January, 5 Lagg on 5 June, 11 Merkland on 14 August, 4 Clauchan on 10 September and 11 Dunan Mor on 21 December.



Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis* 617,124

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Good breeding season. Reports of young included Pirnmill on 17 June, Whiting Bay on 19 June, Kildonan on 20 June, Sannox on 26 June and Lagg on 28 June. Groups included 35 Sliderry on 9 January, 50 Pirnmill on 30 April, 30 Whiting Bay on 15 July, 250 Shannochie on 22 September, 100 East Bannan also on 22 September and 50 Porta Buidhe on 3 October.

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus* 499,79

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between January and June.

Good Breeding season. Confirmed breeding included reports from Pirnmill on 17 June, Whiting Bay on 19 June, Kilpatrick on 25 June, Lagg on 28 June and Margnaeglish on 12 July. Groups included 20 Lochranza on 27 January, 15 Corrie on 10 March, 30 Pirnmill on 7 April, 30 Strathwillan on 28 April, 50 Whiting Bay on 15 July and 19 Cordon on 4 September.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*.

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2022. Last record was 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* 15,2

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

One record between the 10 March and 3 November and that was a single bird in Newton on 6 May. There was another report from that location on 15 November. All other records were from the Sliderry area including 9 on 2 January, 8 on 9 January, 10 on 29 January, 14 on 25 February, 8 on 10 March and 2 on 4 November.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Rare Vagrant

No records for 2022. Last record one in Strathwillan on 6 June 2019 was the first Arran record.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* 48,12

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Sightings included one Clachaig on 23 March, 2 Newton on 30 April, 2 Machrie Moor on 14 June, 2 Glen Rosa on 5 July, 2 Drumadon on 28 November, and 20 Auchareoch on 13 December.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

No records for 2022. Last record one Cleats Shore on 11 October 2020 was the first Arran record.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* 18,12

Varying numbers on passage and in winter.

Sightings included one Caisteal Abhail on 15 February, 2 Shiskine Golf Course on 19 March, one Glenshant on 25 March, one Goatfell summit from 25 March to 9 April, 6 Padoga Ridge on 16 October, one Fisherman's Walk on 10 November and one Cir Mhor on 9 December.

In 2018 there were no records. In 2019 there were 20 records.



Reed Bunting Female - Photographer Brian Couper

More Information on Arran Birds



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 all previous annual reports except the two most recent ones. The data from all these annual reports is also incorporated into the Online Scottish Bird Report (oSBR) of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC).

Arran Bird Atlas

The award-winning local atlas, *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012* mapping the breeding and wintering birds of Arran is also available from the website as a free download.

Recent Sightings and Monthly News

These sections on the website provide regularly updated information including a selection of highlights from each month as well as recent bird sightings on Arran.

Bird Notes

These regular articles which have been published in the "*Arran Banner*" provide a wide range of background information on the birds and birding on Arran.

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.

Reporting Sightings

Use of the excellent BirdTrack system is welcomed. Alternatively, on the website there are suggestions on how to report your sightings directly to me.

In addition, on the website there is information on the Arran Moors Special Protection Area, the Arran Black Grouse Group, the annual Clyde Eider Survey, the Raven Survey, the Birdwatchers Code, and how to report rarities including a list of species that require a written report to the local rarities committee before acceptance.

Also, on the website there is accommodation information and links to local and national websites.

Index by Common Name

Common Name	Page	Common Name	Pa	Common Name	Page
Auk, Little	45	Eagle, White-tailed	39	Guillemot, Black	45
Bittern	37	Egret, Cattle	37	Gull, Black-headed	43
Blackbird	52	Egret, Little	37	Gull, Common	43
Blackcap	51	Egret, Snowy	37	Gull, Glaucous	44
Brambling	55	Eider	34	Gull, Great Black-backed	44
Bunting, Black-headed	57	Eider, King	34	Gull, Herring	44
Bunting, Corn	57	Falcon, Peregrine	48	Gull, Iceland	44
Bunting, Lapland	57	Fieldfare	52	Gull, Ivory	43
Bunting, Reed	57	Finch, Bullfinch	55	Gull, Lesser Black-backed	44
Bunting, Snow	57	Finch, Chaffinch	55	Gull, Little	43
Buzzard	39	Finch, Goldfinch	57	Gull, Mediterranean	43
Buzzard, Rough-legged	39	Finch, Greenfinch	56	Gull, Ross's	43
Chiffchaff	50	Finch, Hawfinch	55	Gull, Sabine's	43
Chough	48	Finch, Scarlet Rosefinch	56	Harrier, Hen	39
Coot	39	Firecrest	51	Harrier, Marsh	38
Cormorant	38	Flycatcher, Pied	53	Heron, Grey	37
Crake, Corn	39	Flycatcher, Spotted	53	Hobby	48
Crake, Spotted	39	Fulmar	36	Hoopoe	47
Crane	40	Gannet	38	Jackdaw	48
Crossbill	56	Garganey	33	Jay	48
Crow, Carrion	49	Godwit, Bar-tailed	41	Kestrel	48
Crow, Hooded	49	Godwit, Black-tailed	41	Kingfisher	47
Cuckoo	46	Goldcrest	51	Kite, Red	39
Curlew	41	Goldeneye	35	Kittiwake	43
Dipper	54	Goosander	35	Knot	41
Diver, Black-throated	36	Goose, Barnacle	32	Lapwing	40
Diver, Great Northern	36	Goose, Brent	32	Linnet	56
Diver, Red-throated	36	Goose, Canada	32	Magpie	48
Dotterel	40	Goose, Greylag	32	Mallard	33
Dove, Collared	46	Goose, Pink-footed	32	Martin, House	50
Dove, Rock	46	Goose, White-fronted	32	Martin, Sand	50
Dove, Stock	46	Goshawk	38	Merganser, Red-breasted	35
Dove, Turtle	46	Grebe, Black-necked	37	Merlin	48
Dowitcher, Long-billed	42	Grebe, Great Crested	37	Moorhen	39
Duck, Long-tailed	34	Grebe, Little	37	Nightjar	47
Duck, Mandarin	33	Grebe, Red-necked	37	Nuthatch	52
Duck, Ruddy	35	Grebe, Slavonian	37	Oriole, Golden	48
Duck, Tufted	34	Greenshank	43	Osprey	38
Dunlin	41	Grouse, Black	35	Owl, Barn	46
Dunnock	54	Grouse, Red	35	Owl, Long-eared	46
Eagle, Golden	38	Guillemot	45	Owl, Short-eared	47

Page	Common Name	Page	Common Name	Page	
Owl, Tawny	46	Sandpiper, Spotted	42	Tern, Common	44
Oystercatcher	40	Sandpiper, Wood	43	Tern, Little	44
Partridge, Grey	35	Scaup	34	Tern, Roseate	44
Partridge, Red-Legged	35	Scoter, Common	34	Tern, Sandwich	44
Petrel, Leach's	36	Scoter, Surf	34	Thrush, Mistle	53
Petrel, Storm	36	Scoter, Velvet	34	Thrush, Song	52
Phalarope, Grey	42	Shag	38	Tit, Blue	49
Phalarope, Red-necked	42	Shearwater, Cory's	36	Tit, Coal	49
Pheasant	35	Shearwater, Manx	36	Tit, Great	49
Pintail	34	Shearwater, Mediterranean	36	Tit, Long-tailed	50
Pipit, Meadow	55	Shearwater, Sooty	36	Tit, Willow	49
Pipit, Rock	55	Shelduck	33	Treecreeper	52
Pipit, Tree	55	Shoveler	33	Turnstone	41
Pipit, Water	55	Shrike, Great Grey	48	Twite	56
Plover, Golden	40	Shrike, Red-backed	48	Wagtail, Grey	54
Plover, Grey	40	Siskin	57	Wagtail, Pied	54
Plover, Ringed	40	Skua, Arctic	45	Wagtail, White	54
Pochard	34	Skua, Great	45	Wagtail, Yellow	54
Ptarmigan	35	Skua, Long-tailed	45	Warbler, Blyth's Reed	51
Puffin	45	Skua, Pomarine	45	Warbler, Garden	51
Quail	35	Skylark	49	Warbler, Grasshopper	51
Rail, Water	39	Smew	35	Warbler, Sedge	51
Raven	49	Snipe	42	Warbler, Willow	50
Razorbill	45	Snipe, Jack	42	Warbler, Wood	50
Redpoll Lesser	56	Sparrow, House	54	Warbler, Yellow-browed	50
Redshank	42	Sparrow, Tree	54	Waxwing	49
Redshank, Spotted	43	Sparrowhawk	38	Wheatear	53
Redstart	53	Spoonbill	37	Whimbrel	40
Redstart, Black	53	Starling	52	Whinchat	53
Redwing	52	Starling, Rose-coloured	52	Whitethroat	51
Ring Ouzel	52	Stint, Little	42	Whitethroat, Lesser	51
Robin	53	Stonechat	53	Wigeon	33
Rook	49	Swallow	50	Woodcock	42
Ruff	41	Swan, Bewick's	33	Woodpecker, Great Spot.	47
Sanderling	41	Swan, Mute	33	Woodpecker, Green	47
Sandgrouse, Pallas's	46	Swan, Whooper	33	Woodpigeon	46
Sandpiper, Common	42	Swift	47	Wren	51
Sandpiper, Curlew	41	Teal	34	Wryneck	47
Sandpiper, Green	42	Tern, Arctic	44	Yellowhammer	57
Sandpiper, Purple	41	Tern, Black	44		