

The Arran Bird Report 2017



Compiled by
Dr Jim Cassels for the Arran Natural History Society

Published by



The Arran Natural History Society

Arran Natural History Society

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

One of the publications of the society is the *Arran Bird Report*. This annual report was first published in 1978. These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last thirty plus years. Other publications include *Where can I see...?* a guide to wildlife on the island, *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012* and *Arran Flora*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report* for 2017. This is the thirty-eighth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the twelfth one compiled by me.

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

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

In 2016 I set a challenge (see page 30) to make Arran a well watched island. In terms of numbers of records received. That challenge has been accepted. In 2017, over three hundred contributors submitted over twenty-one thousand records on one hundred and fifty-eight 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 2017.

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

For 2018, please send any bird notes with “what, when, where” to me before Monday 07 January 2019, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Chronological Summary

2017 was another fascinating birding year on Arran.

While the first summer migrants arrived earlier than in recent years, the bulk arrived late, and with reports of Swallows flying in sleet and snow in April, this is perhaps not surprising! Breeding soon got underway with a new Sand Martin colony in Glen Catacol being of particular note. Our resident raptors had a mixed breeding season with some having a good season and others poor. Highlights of the summer included: a Red-backed Shrike in June, the first Arran record since 1997; a Rose-coloured Starling in July, the first Arran record since 2002; and in August there was only the second ever Little Egret on Arran. The migration period in autumn did not disappoint with Osprey and Great Crested Grebe being highlights while the winter saw White-tailed Eagles visiting in November and December.

The number of species recorded each month in Arran in 2017 is shown in the table below.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
In Month	94	89	104	120	114	101	110	105	98	96	96	89
Year Total	94	100	112	131	142	147	151	153	155	156	158	158

January

In January, the mild winter continued with only three days where the temperature was in negative figures. The mean temperature was a degree warmer than January 2016. It was also drier than January 2016 with around 40% less rain and there were fewer winter storms.

Highlights included: a Slavonian Grebe in Loch Ranza on 1st, the last record was January 2016, aerial jousting between a Merlin and Peregrine over Sliderry on 2nd, a pair of Goosander on Loch lorsa on 25th and a hunting Goshawk in the south of Arran on 31st.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: twenty Pink-footed Geese on the Roddin on 1st, one hundred Teal at Cosyden on 5th, four Whooper Swan at Cordon also on 5th, four hundred Greylag Geese in Shiskine on 9th and fifty Wigeon at Cleats Shore on 30th. Other winter visitors included: forty Fieldfare in Sliderry on 15th, six Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands also on 15th, two Rook in Sliderry on 16th and eight Redwing at Hazelburn on 28th. While there were numerous reports of wintering Woodcock, Snipe and Jack Snipe, unlike December 2016 there were no January reports of Brambling and only one of Waxwing.

Wintering flocks included: one hundred and fifty Lesser Redpoll in Lochranza on 7th, forty-one Turnstone at Silver Sands on 15th, forty Curlew at Clachlands on 16th, six hundred Common Gull with four hundred Herring Gull at Kilpatrick Point on 25th, twenty-five Lapwing on Kilpatrick Farm on 27th, one hundred and fifty Chaffinch in Sliderry on 29th and one hundred and ten Starling at Cosyden also on 29th. Off the coast there were reports of all three divers including: four Red-throated Diver at Dougarie on 13th, five Black-throated Diver at Pirnmill on 14th and four Great Northern Diver at Cosyden on 25th.

Interesting garden birds included: a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Margnaheglish on 1st, ten Goldcrest in Shannochie on 4th, two Siskin at Torbeg on 9th, a Yellowhammer in Catacol on 10th, eight Long-tailed Tit in Lamlash on 25th, four Bullfinch in Corrie on 29th and several reports of numbers of the usually singular, fiercely territorial Robin, including eight in a Brodick garden on 28th.

Signs of approaching spring included: Shelduck on numerous coastal territories, two returning Lesser Black-backed Gull at Sandbraes on 21st, eight returning Linnet in Sliderry on 29th, thirty-two courting Eider off Cosyden on 25th and displaying Golden Eagle over Lochranza on 26th.

February

In February, the mild winter continued with only five days where the temperature was in negative figures. The mean temperature was a degree and a half warmer than February 2016. There was 25% more rain than February 2016 but fewer winter storms. There was also about 25% more rain than January. To sum up, the weather was changeable with the coldest spell being around 11 February.

Winter visitors were to the fore including: nine Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 8th, eight Redwing at Torbeg on 9th, twenty-five Fieldfare at Cnoc Dubh on 23rd, one Rook at Sliderry on 24th, two Brambling at Sliderry on 27th and throughout the month the long staying Greenshank at Clachlands. The largest group of wintering Yellowhammer was ten at Sliderry on 7th.

Wintering wildfowl were present in numbers including: one hundred and twenty Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 4th, forty-seven Pink-footed Geese in Kilmory on 14th, eighty-two Wigeon at Machrie on 15th, two hundred and twenty Greylag Geese at Feorline on 16th and two male Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 18th.

Other wintering flocks included: forty-two Redshank at Sandbraes on 3rd, 200 Common Gull at Lenamhor Farm on 4th, 100 Herring Gull at Kilpatrick Point also on 4th, twenty-four Lapwing at Kilpatrick on 6th, ninety-six Curlew at Corriecravie on 9th, one hundred and seventy-nine Jackdaw at Machrie on 12th, one hundred and fifty Starling at Kilpatrick on 18th, one hundred Chaffinch at Clachaig on 21st and one hundred and thirty-five Skylark at Sliderry on 24th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The occasional calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: five Black-throated Diver off Rubha Creagan Dubha on 12th, six Great Northern Diver off Cosyden on 15th and two Red-throated Diver in Whiting Bay on 18th. There were some signs of approaching spring with some reports of species in full courtship display including forty Eider off Cosyden on 15th and fourteen Red-breasted Merganser in Whiting Bay on 24th.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species. Among the many garden highlights were eight Coal Tit at Torbeg on 8th, ten Long-tailed Tit in Brodick on 9th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Cordon on 17th and ten Goldfinch in Shiskine on 26th. Increasingly, numbers of Siskin on their annual journey north began to appear at garden feeders including three in Whiting Bay on 22nd. It was also encouraging to receive more reports of Greenfinch. This once common species has been decimated in recent years by the parasitic disease trichomonas.

Other sightings included: a pair of Goosander off the Crow on 1st, two Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 3rd, one Moorhen also on Mossend Pond on 5th, one Water Rail at Corriecravie on 9th, one Twite at Sliderry on 19th and two Dipper at Cordon on 24th.

As well as displaying Eider and Red-breasted Merganser on the coast, other signs of approaching spring included; a Blackbird in splendid song outside the Co-op in Brodick on 1st, a Grey Heron in full-breeding plumage at Strabane on 5th, twenty House Sparrow nest building in Lamlash on 5th, twelve courting Fulmar on the cliffs at Drumadoon on 7th, Woodpigeon on a nest in Clachaig on 23rd, Raven nesting in Clachan Glen on 25th and returning Lesser Black-backed Gull in Kildonan on 26th. In addition, there were reports of returning Gannet from twelve locations around the island.

March

March was warmer and drier than February. While March this year was a little warmer, overall it was a little wetter than March last year. There was a lovely settled spell from 24th to 28th of March.

The first summer migrants arrived earlier than last year.

The first Chiffchaff was reported at Sannox on 11th, sixteen days earlier than 2016. The first House Martin was reported at Blackwaterfoot on 22th, almost a month earlier than 2016. The first Wheatear was reported at Kilpatrick Point on 20th, eight days earlier than 2016. The first Swallow was reported at Kilpatrick Farm on 26th, seven days earlier than 2016. The first Sand Martin was reported at Machrie Golf Course on 28th, three days earlier than 2016. The first Sandwich Tern, a group of five, were reported at Machriewaterfoot on 31st, a day later than 2016. While these first arrivals are interesting, by the end of the month the bulk of our migrants was still anticipated.

In March, our winter visitors were still to the fore. The highlight was an adult Iceland Gull in the fields in Sliderry and Corrie cravie on 17th and 18th. This is the first Arran record of this white-winged gull since March 2014. Other wintering species included: five Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 1st, one Greenshank at Clauchlands on 9th, three Brambling in Sliderry on 17th, fifteen Redwing in Sliderry on 18th, twenty-two Fieldfare on Kilbride Hill on 26th, two Rook in Sliderry also on 26th and thirteen Wigeon at Tormore on 31st. In the Shiskine Valley the wintering geese included two hundred and fifty Greylag Geese and thirteen White-fronted Geese on 9th. Towards the end of the month skeins of wildfowl were heading north to their breeding grounds including: forty Whooper Swan over Clachaig on 26th, with a similar number over Brodick Golf Course on the same date, one hundred and twenty Pink-footed Geese over Dippen on 27th and one hundred Whooper Swan over Shiskine also on 27th and a further eighty Whooper Swan over Shiskine on the 29th.

In March there were many signs of ongoing migration including: in the fields twenty-eight Skylark on Kilbride Hill on 5th, thirty Lapwing in Clachaig also on 5th and a male Merlin in the Rodden on 9th. By the shore there were more signs of migration including: ten Twite on Cleats Shore on 6th, three Black-throated Diver and four Common Scoter off Cosyden on 7th and four Great Northern Diver in Machrie Bay on 21st. In gardens, there were further signs of this northerly movement of birds with thirty-two Siskin in High Kildonan on 17th, three Lesser Redpoll in Sliderry on 28th and thirteen Goldfinch in Torbeg on 31st.

In a month in which records were received on one hundred and four species, these are a small selection of other interesting records: four Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 1st, seven Common Crossbill in High Kildonan on 7th, two Goosander in Whiting Bay on 20th and a Moorhen in Mossend Pond on 26th. In addition, it was encouraging to get Short-eared Owl records from five different locations in March.

Spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. In March the signs were there, including: a Grey Heron carrying twigs in Stronach Wood on 5th, seven Fulmar on nesting sites on Drumadoon Cliffs on 6th, House Sparrows exploring nest holes in Lamblash on 7th, six Eider courting in Loch Ranza on 12th, Hen Harrier displaying over Machrie Moor on 24th, fourteen Black Guillemot in breeding plumage on Pladda on 25th and among many reports of birds singing, there was one of a Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 29th. If it had stayed to breed it would have been the first confirmed breeding of this once widespread familiar farmland bird on Arran since 1999.

April

April is the month when spring migration gets underway, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories. This April was an interesting, almost “four season” month with a wide range of temperatures and other weather conditions but this April was much drier and colder than April of last year. There was less than a tenth of the rain of last April and the mean temperature was half that of last April. The last ten days saw mainly cold northerly winds. The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to hold them up. While a number of the regular migrants did arrive in April, it seemed to be only the pioneers. Even by the end of the month the bulk of the migrants had still to arrive.

Here are April “firsts” with the 2016 arrival date in brackets for comparison: Willow Warbler in High Kildonan on 4th (10 April), White Wagtail on Blackwaterfoot shore on 7th (17 April), Cuckoo in Brodick Country Park on 8th (18 April), Common Sandpiper on Sannox shore on 15th (14 April),

Manx Shearwater in Brodick Bay on 15th (02 April), Grasshopper Warbler in Monyquill on 20th (01 May), Sedge Warbler in Porta Buidhe on 20th (04 May) and Tree Pipit on Torr Dubh on 22nd (20 April). On 24th Swallows were reported flying in the falling sleet and snow in Whiting Bay!

Not surprisingly with the cold weather, some of our wintering birds were still around including: fifty Redwing in Glenree on 1st, two Brambling in Sliderry on 5th, one Purple Sandpiper in Kildonan also on 5th eleven Wigeon in Cosyden on 6th, fifty Fieldfare in Sliderry also on 6th, twelve Pink-footed Geese in Clachaig on 7th, four Goldeneye in Loch Ranza on 19th, two Whooper Swan off Pirmill on 26th and the adult Iceland Gull that was first reported in March was at Sliderrywaterfoot on 27th. On the morning of 24 April there were two reports of Brent Geese feeding on the shore, twenty-three at South Feorline and thirty-one in Machrie Bay, refuelling before continuing their journey to their breeding grounds in Greenland.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. Other examples included: twenty-six House Martin over Mossend Pond on 6th, one hundred Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 8th, thirty-four Redshank at Sandbraes on 11th, one Great Skua off Brodick Bay on 15th, one Black-throated Diver in breeding plumage off Pirmill on 18th, two hundred and fifty Meadow Pipit at Hazelburn also on 18th, two Black-tailed Godwit at Fisherman's Walk on 19th, two Great Northern Diver courting and calling off Kilpatrick Point also on 19th, sixteen Sandwich Tern in Kildonan on 21st, two Dunlin on Sliderry shore on 27th and thirty-three Whimbrel at Sliderrywaterfoot also on 27th.

Migration was also in evidence from the widespread reports received of Goldfinch, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll moving through people's gardens throughout the month. Larger garden numbers reported included; thirty Siskin in Gortonallister on 7th, fifteen Goldfinch in Shannochie on 15th and five Lesser Redpoll in Kilpatrick on 28th. Tens of thousands of birds seem to be moving through the island at this time of year.

In April there were one hundred and twenty species recorded. Here is a further small selection from this list: two Little Grebe and two Moorhen at Mossend Pond on 5th, three Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 7th, a Merlin in Glenshant Hill on 8th, five Common Crossbill in Kilmory on 9th, two Goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 16th and an Osprey over Sliderry on 18th. Finally Magpie, while common on the adjacent mainland, is a vagrant to Arran. When it does appear it is regularly reported! The last report was in 2015 until April 2017 when one was reported on Shiskine Golf Course on 20th with a further report from Strathwillan on 22nd.

Finally, spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. By the end of April there had already been reports of Blue Tits nest building, Blackbirds carrying food, Grey Heron with young in the nest, Stonechat and Mallard with young out of the nest.

May

The settled weather of April continued into May with no rain recorded in the first ten days. It was warmer and drier than May 2016 with the highest temperature five degrees warmer than last May and the rainfall some twenty percent less than May 2016. Conditions were generally good for birds trying to migrate north and birds getting on with breeding. May, like April, was an interesting birding month, again with over one hundred species recorded.

Here are some highlights. On 13 May there were eight Common Crossbill on Brodick Golf Course. A Long-eared Owl seemed to investigate two bird-watchers on the Machrie Moor road at dusk on 14 May. This is the first record of this secretive owl since July 2015. On 21 May a male Black Redstart posed on a post for a Lamblash resident on his regular evening walk. The last record was also in Lamblash in April 2015.

Our regular summer visitors continued to arrive. Here are May "firsts" with the 2016 arrival date in brackets for comparison: Whinchat in Glen Rosa on 1st (2 May), Ring Ouzel on Mullach Buidhe on 2nd (10 April), Swift over Cleats Shore on 5th (9 May), Wood Warbler in Auchenhew on 7th (no records in 2016), Lesser Whitethroat in Kildonan on 11th (11 May), Spotted Flycatcher at Machriewaterfoot on 12th (8 May) and Arctic Tern at Silver Sands on 14th (14 May).

In addition, throughout the month the numbers of familiar summer visitors like Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and Cuckoo continued to build up.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through including: one Black-tailed Godwit at Porta Buidhe on 1st, ten Whimbrel also at Porta Buidhe on 3rd, two White Wagtail on Cleats Shore on 5th, four Great Northern Diver off Millstone Point on 6th, ten Dunlin at Torrylinnwaterfoot on 7th, a Bar-tailed Godwit at Sliderry Shore on 10th, four Black-throated Diver off Cosyden on 11th, eight Turnstone at Machriewaterfoot also on 11th, three Sandwich Tern at Drumadoon Point on 13th and six Sanderling on Blackwaterfoot shore on 19th.

In May, breeding was well underway for many species. Encouraging signs included reports of Golden Eagle, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Red-throated Diver and Short-eared Owl all holding breeding territories. Activity was reported from all the monitored heronries on the island but only two reports were received of Lapwing holding territories. A number of coastal cliffs held nesting Fulmar. As no young had been reported in 2016 from any colony, the outcome this year was awaited with interest. However breeding Stonechat were again reported from widespread areas. These delightful birds appear to have recovered after the two consecutive very cold winters. Other breeding records included: around sixty Sand Martin at a new colony in Glen Catacol on 9th, five Woodcock roding over Machrie Moor on 14th, Dipper with young in Glenashdale on 16th, thirty Arctic Tern at the colony on Pladda on 28th and a pair of Shelduck with seven young at Clauchlands also on 28th. In addition towards the end of the month, there were lots of reports of garden birds carrying food and feeding recently fledged young.

June

April and May's dry spell ended, with June having 70% more rain than May. In comparison with last June, June 2017 had more than twice as much rain and the mean temperature was two degrees cooler. While these wet cool conditions were not ideal for breeding, there were many reports of fledged birds in gardens including unfamiliar looking young birds, like Goldfinch without the red face of the adult birds and Robin with spots and no red breast. As well as the more familiar birds like Blackbirds, Blue Tits and Chaffinches all with young, there were reports of a family of Bullfinch in Brodick on 8th, eight House Martin nests and a Spotted Flycatcher nest in Shedog on 16th, a family of Blackcap in Cordon on 27th and a young Great Spotted Woodpecker with its distinctive red cap in Lamblash on 30th. Most prolific of all seemed to be House Sparrow with thirty in Alma Park on 18th being one of the larger numbers and also lots of reports of numbers of Siskin and Goldfinch with young around homes across the island.

Away from gardens there were many signs of breeding including: a Dipper carrying food in Sannox on 7th, Hen Harrier carrying out a food-pass over Machrie Moor on 13th, Tree Pipit carrying food in Leanna Cuil also on 13th, fledged Stonechat and Whinchat in Glenscorrodale on 18th, a family of Snipe by the String on 21st, over one hundred Sand Martin nest holes in the colony in Sannox quarry on 26th, Long-eared Owl young calling in North Corriegills on 30th and activity at the Grey Heron heronries in Stronach Wood, Brodick, and Whitehouse Wood, Lamblash by the end of the month. There was also encouraging reports of young Lapwing from two areas. This once widespread farmland breeder is just hanging on.

Around the coast there were further signs of breeding including: Eider with eight young at Auchenhew on 4th, Shelduck with thirteen young at Carlo on 14th, Fulmar with young in the nest at King's Cave on 24th, an active Common Gull colony at Drumadoon Point on 25th, Red-breasted Merganser with thirteen young in Loch Ranza also on 25th and a Mute Swan with seven young in Lamblash on 26th.

But it was not all good news. Observers involved in regular shore bird counts reported increasing disturbance of nesting shore birds from human activity including dog walkers with dogs roaming freely. Some shores had no successful breeding Oystercatchers this year. There were increasing reports of shore birds breeding away from the shore perhaps because of this disturbance. These included Oystercatchers nesting in a flower tub by Machrie Golf Course clubhouse, Oystercatchers breeding by the distillery in Lochranza, Common Sandpipers breeding in gardens in Blackwaterfoot and Lamlash and Ringed Plover nesting in the sand quarry.

The birding highlight of the month was a Red-backed Shrike in Kingscross on 16 June. The last record of this rare vagrant to Arran was twenty years ago when a male was reported in Kildonan on 27 September 1997.

Other highlights included the following. There were four Swift over Sliderry on 4th. A Nightjar churring in Dhunan on several consecutive nights in the middle of the month was the first Arran record since May 2015. A Puffin off Clachlands Point on 19th was the first record this year and a Garden Warbler in Glenashdale on 28th was also the first record this year. Cuckoos, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seem to be thriving on Arran. Throughout May and June there were many widespread reports.

July

This July was the wettest July in my twelve years as bird recorder. While April and May this year had been dry, the cooler, wetter theme of June continued into July. The highest temperature this July was six degrees lower than last July, and with a third more rain than last year, this July was not conducive to the successful breeding of some of our avian summer visitors like the hirundines which rely on flying insects to raise their young. The number of young Swallows and young House Martins reported was fewer than last year. With numbers of hirundines still around including eighty Swallow at Sliderry on 23rd, one hundred Sand Martin at Sannox on 25th and thirty House Martin at Balmichael, perhaps later broods would be more successful.

By contrast seed eating species seemed to have a successful breeding season, with for example, widespread reports of young House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Siskin in gardens. Other signs of a successful breeding season included: a young Great Spotted Woodpecker in a garden in Brodick on 3rd, young Fulmar at Cnoc Buidhe on 7th, seven young Shelduck on Cleats Shore on 11th, two young Mute Swan at Catacol on 17th, forty Black Guillemot on Pladda on 18th, three young Spotted Flycatcher in Lochranza on 22nd, one hundred and sixty-nine Jackdaw at Drumadoon on 24th, sixteen Eider at Machriewaterfoot on 24th and three young Hen Harrier at Torr Rìgh Mòr on 25th.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. It can be an interesting time looking out for birds dispersing after breeding. This year there was an exceptional sighting when on Monday 10 July, a Rose-coloured Starling turned up in Sliderry. The last Arran record was in June 2002. Its breeding range is from easternmost Europe across temperate southern Asia. Other dispersing highlights included: a male Scaup on Mossend Pond on 1st, a Redstart at Sliderry on 4th, a male Tufted Duck joined the Scaup on Mossend Pond on 4th and a Kingfisher was at Cladach on 18th, the first Arran record since August 2015

A number of northern breeding species heading south from their breeding grounds, many still in their breeding plumage, were reported including: a Greenshank on Sliderry Shore on 5th, an Arctic Tern in Brodick Bay on 17th, seventeen Redshank in Sandbraes also on 17th, four Dunlin, ninety-two Golden Plover and twelve Turnstone at Machriewaterfoot on 24th and three Sanderling, two Whimbrel and three White Wagtail on Sliderry Shore on 26th.

Over one hundred species were reported in July. Other highlights included: Grasshopper Warbler reeling in the dark at Bennecarrigan on 1st, Moorhen on Mossend Pond on 11th, Garden Warbler at Corrie cravie on 12th, five Little Grebe on Mossend Pond on 13th, five hundred Manx Shearwater in Whiting Bay also on 13th, three Swift over High Kildonan on 17th, six Water Rail in Corrie cravie on 23rd, a Black-throated Diver in Catacol Bay on 24th and a Tree Pipit at Cnoc an Fheidh on 29th.

August

The cool wet summer continued into August. As in July, there was no dry warm settled spell in August. While the mean temperature of August was similar to July, the highest temperature of August was five degrees less. The rainfall in August was 20% less than July but it rained on 24 days in August compared with 21 days in July. Towards the end of the month, with lower temperatures, there was more than a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including: seven Common Sandpiper on Sliderry Shore on 1st, six Blackcap and two Sedge Warbler by Corrie cravie Pond on 2nd, a Swift over the Knowe on 3rd, a juvenile Cuckoo at Torr Righ Beag on 7th, eighty Swallow at Claulchlands on 8th, fifty House Martin at Lagg on 10th, fifty Sand Martin at Fuar Achadh on 15th, two Tree Pipit at Carn Ban on 27th, a Willow Warbler in Kilmory also on 27th and a Whitethroat at the Fallen Rocks on 30th.

Some signs of successful breeding this month included: Mute Swan with two young at Pirmill on 1st, juvenile Water Rail at Corrie cravie on 2nd, juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker in Kildonan on 12th, female Eider with two young Brodick Bay on 13th, juvenile Collared Doves in Kilpatrick on 15th, second brood of Blackbird in Machrie on 21st and a family group of Buzzard over north Newton on 30th.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: fifty House Sparrow at Kingscross on 4th, one hundred and eighty-three Jackdaw at Drumadoon on 7th, sixty Curlew at Claulchlands on 8th, seventy Starling at High Kildonan on 15th, twenty-four Red-breasted Merganser at Cosyden on 17th, two hundred Goldfinch at East Bannan on 26th, a thousand Kittiwake in Whiting Bay also on 26th, two hundred Linnet at Leven corroch also on 26th and on 27th one hundred Golden Plover and fifty Turnstone at Machriewaterfoot.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including: two Whimbrel on Sliderry Shore on 1st, a Merlin on the Holy Isle on 7th, a Sanderling at Drumadoon Point also on 7th, a Great Skua and 1,000 Manx Shearwater off Largymore on 14th, four Sandwich Tern at Claulchlands on 20th, fifty Redshank in Whiting Bay on 26th, six Dunlin and one hundred and fifty-nine Ringed Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 27th, two White Wagtail at Porta Buidhe on 28th, four Knot at Drumadoon Point also on 28th, a Bar-tailed Godwit at Torrylinn on 29th, two Wheatear in Auchenhew Bay also on 29th and a Black-throated Diver off Leac Garbh on 30th.

Among the one hundred plus species reported in August there were a number of other noteworthy ones. These included on 30th one hundred Gannet off Laggan and two Goosander at the mouth of the lorsa. Plus, after no records in 2016, there were twenty-one records of Kingfisher in August from five locations including Brodick pier. In addition there was one exceptional sighting in August, a Little Egret. This was only the second ever record of this species on Arran and it was reported in both Lamhlaish Bay and Whiting Bay between the 4th and 7th of August inclusive.

September

The cool wet weather which had been a feature of July and August continued into September. In fact there was even more rain in September than there had been in July or in August. This September was wetter than last September. It is difficult to know the impact of this on our local birds but owls in particular struggled to find food. One young Long-eared Owl was fortunate when it was found drenched and under-weight by the local vet. Ten days later it was feeding itself and was fit enough to return to the wild.

September is the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move. There was a wide range of species recorded in September, almost one hundred. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected and among the unusual records was a Black-tailed Godwit on Shiskine Golf Course on 1st, an Osprey over Pirmill on 24th, a Puffin off Laggan on 25th and two Great Crested Grebe off Pirmill on 23rd. This was the first record of Great Crested Grebe on Arran this year.

Other birds on migration included: two Sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 2nd, a Great Northern Diver in Loch Ranza on 3rd, an Arctic Skua in Whiting Bay on 4th, two Black-throated Diver off Torrylinnwater Foot also on 4th, two White Wagtail in Auchenhew Bay on 7th, two Sandwich Tern in Kildonan on 13th, three Bar-tailed Godwit on Shannochie shore on 20th and a Great Skua off the Cock of Arran on 25th.

At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: ten Dunlin in Blackwaterfoot on 2nd, eighty Starling in Benlister on 2nd, one hundred and seventy Jackdaw on Drumadoon Farm on 5th, one hundred and forty-one Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 6th, twenty Long-tailed Tit on Fisherman's Walk on 18th, eighteen Turnstone on Silver Sands on 21st, forty-two Redshank in Whiting Bay on 24th, thirty Goldfinch on Silver Sands on 28th, one hundred Kittiwake at Machriewaterfoot on 29th and one hundred Linnet in Blackwaterfoot 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 namely two Wigeon in Loch Ranza on 18th and four Common Scoter off Pirnmill on 23rd. A number of summer visitors were still around in September including: a Willow Warbler on Bennan Head on 1st, a Whitethroat at Kingscross on 4th and a Chiffchaff at Silver Sands on 14th. The following are the last September reports of the hirundines: a Sand Martin at Auchencar on 8th, three House Martin in Lamash on 19th and two Swallow at North Sannox on 30th. October should see the last of the House Martins and Swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: a Moorhen at Mossend Pond on 2nd, eighty Gannet in Brodick Bay on 5th, two Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 7th, a Yellowhammer at Torrylinnwater Foot on 9th and a Dipper in Cordon on 24th. Plus, following a number of records in August, there were another twenty-six records of Kingfisher in September from four locations mainly on the east of the island. In addition, the Arran Black Grouse Group released a further forty Black Grouse. To help with the monitoring of these birds Kate Sampson, Head Ranger Brodick Country Park, would be delighted to receive a note of any sightings of Black Grouse. (See page 22)

October

While October 2016 was the driest month of that year with less than a quarter of the rainfall normally recorded in recent Octobers, this October was more typical, with more than three times as much rain as last year, continuing the cool wet weather which had been a feature of the previous three months. Having said that, during October there were plenty of interesting birds to enjoy. Almost one hundred species were recorded. 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.

The build up of the number of winter thrushes, Fieldfare and Redwing, was a feature of the month. There were widespread reports of the birds feasting on the autumn berries, with flocks in the hundreds being reported from the north to the south of the island including 200 Fieldfare at Kildonan on 21st and 1000 Redwing in Sliderry on 23rd of October. Flocks of migratory Whooper Swan were also a feature with their honking and trumpeting calls filling the autumn skies, including thirty over Glen Rosa on 12th, eleven over Creagan Liatha on 29th and twenty over Sliderry also on 29th.

Migration was in full flow in October as birds were moving out of colder northern Europe to milder climes. These included: fifty Pied Wagtail in Kildonan on 5th, twenty-one Turnstone and three Dunlin on Silver Sands on 8th, twenty-two Mistle Thrush at Kingscross on 12th, sixty Goldfinch on Whiting Bay Golf Course also on 12th, two hundred Kittiwake off Fairy Dell on 13th, three hundred Starling and thirty-four Skylark at Sliderry on 18th, thirty Meadow Pipit on Shiskine Golf Course on 23rd, ten Redshank at Sandbraes on 28th, twenty-two Curlew and one hundred and twenty-nine Common Gull at Blackwaterfoot on 6th.

There were some "last sightings" of summer visitors also moving south including: nine House Martin at Silver Sands on 5th, one Wheatear at Drumadoon Point on 8th, thirty Gannet off Fairy Dell on 13th, one Lesser Black-backed Gull in Loch Ranza also on 13th and three Swallow at Silver Sands on 21st.

Winter visitors arriving included: two Yellowhammer at Clauchlands on 7th, fifteen Wigeon at Cosyden on 8th, nine Pink-footed Geese at Sliderry on 14th, twenty-one Rook also at Sliderry on 18th, four Brambling at Leac Gharbh on 22nd, one Purple Sandpiper on Silver Sands on 29th and four Greylag Geese on Drumadoon Farm on 30th.

Other interesting records from a month with a plethora of birds included: two Snipe at Porta Buidhe on 6th, six Grey Heron and two Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 11th, twelve Long-tailed Tit in Whiting Bay on 12th, a covey of Red Grouse on An Tunna on 13th, a pair of Goosander in Catacol Bay on 21st and a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Torbeg on 25th. In addition there were reports of all three divers including: four Black-throated Diver off Imachar on 27th, four Red-throated Diver off the Cat Stone on 29th and two Great Northern Diver in the bay under Drumadoon Cliffs on 30th.

November

In November, winter arrived with the first substantial snow on the mountains. The mean temperature was five degrees lower than October. It was drier than October with the month ending in a cold dry spell.

One of the highlights of the month was the appearance of two juvenile White-tailed Eagles on the west coast on 19 November. One observer managed to photograph one of the birds between Imachar Point and Whitefarland Point. This is the first report of this rare vagrant to Arran this year.

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging Fieldfare and Redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group of Fieldfare reported was one hundred at Cnoc na Dail on 9th and the largest group of Redwing was fifty at Corrie on 26th. Other records of wintering birds included: a Brambling and a Yellowhammer in Sliderry on 5th, five Purple Sandpiper at Silver Sands on 11th, twenty-five Rook in Sliderry on 15th and a male Blackcap in Brodick Country Park on 26th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: twenty-one Wigeon at Cosyden on 9th, a female Tufted Duck on Mossend Pond on 10th, a female Goldeneye at Cordon on 14th, thirty Pink-footed Geese with two hundred and twenty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 30th and one hundred and twenty-two Teal at Kilpatrick Point also on 30th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months with many people providing regular food and water for their feathered friends. These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: fourteen Coal Tit in Blairbeg on 3rd, one Goldcrest in Lamlash on 4th, six Blackbird in Kildonan also on 4th, one Great Spotted Woodpecker in Whiting Bay on 5th, seventy House Sparrow in Sliderry on 16th, ten Long-tailed Tit in Lamlash on 18th and on 27th there was a report of a Nuthatch in a garden in Strathwillan. This is the first Arran report of Nuthatch this year. This species is increasing its range and moving north from strongholds in England into Scotland.

Other November highlights included: a Kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 1st, one hundred and fifty Starling at Kilpatrick on 2nd, a Merlin in Auchenhew Bay on 4th, six Bullfinch on Whiting Bay Golf Course on 7th, four Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 18th and twenty Lapwing on Cleats Shore on 19th. In addition there were numerous reports of Common Crossbill in various forests including thirty-five in Machrie Forest on 19th. This is the largest group reported in the last ten years. The numbers reported may reflect the fir cone crop this year.

Finally it was good to get reports of Shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult. The first report was from Sandbraes on 4th, with three on Cleats Shore on 19th being the largest number reported in November.

December

The weather in December could best be described as changeable. There were mild periods with heavy rain, and cold, bright, dry spells. There were days with snow on the hills and occasionally on lower ground and the year ended by the island being swept by a storm force Atlantic front.

Following on from the report of two juvenile White-tailed Eagles on the west coast in November which was the first report of this rare vagrant to Arran this year, an adult bird was reported in Clauchan Glen on 2nd December. The observer's attention was drawn to a commotion with three Buzzards and a Raven calling and wheeling around a White-tailed Eagle perched at the top of a broken-off lone pine. The mobbing by the smaller birds drove the eagle off. It dwarfed the other species and gave great views of its short white tail and broad long wings as it flew south.

Other visitors in December included: seven Purple Sandpiper in Silver Sands on 1st, seven Rook in Sliderry on 9th, a Brambling also in Sliderry on 12th, twelve Yellowhammer also in Sliderry on 15th, a female Blackcap in Cordon on 19th and one hundred and twenty Fieldfare with forty-five Redwing on Corrie cravie Moor on 23rd. In addition there was a report of a Chiffchaff in Sliderry on 2nd. This regular summer visitor has been increasingly reported over-wintering in more southern parts of the UK.

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: two hundred Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 10th, forty-two Wigeon in Machrie Bay on 12th, eight Pink-footed Geese in Hazelburn on 20th, two White-fronted Geese flying over Corrie cravie Moor on 24th, five Goldeneye at Clauchlands on 28th, fifty Teal in South Carlo on 29th and a Whooper Swan by Mossend Pond on 31st.

Groups of wintering birds included: one hundred Jackdaw in the Shiskine Valley on 3rd, eleven Wren roosting in a reed bed in Kildonan on 9th, twenty-two Lapwing in Kilpatrick on 11th, one hundred and twenty Skylark in Sliderry on 15th, twenty-eight Snipe in Hazelburn on 19th, six Great Northern Diver off Blackwaterfoot on 21st, one thousand gull mainly Common Gull and Herring Gull in Hazelburn on 29th and five hundred Woodpigeon by Mossend Pond on 30th.

Other interesting records this month included: two Black-throated Diver off Cosyden on 12th, a Kingfisher by Fisherman's Walk also on 12th, a Woodcock by the entrance to Cnoc na Dail on 16th, a pair of Goosander in Catacol Bay on 20th, a Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on 30th, a Moorhen in Mossend Pond on 31st and a Dipper at the mouth of the Glenashdalewater also on 31st.

Gardens provide a safe refuge for some birds in winter. Among the more unusual records received were: ten Long-tailed Tit in Lamlash on 15th, a Treecreeper in Invercloy on 18th, two Common Crossbill in Sliderry on 19th, four Goldcrest in Shannochie on 21st, a Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Lakin on 28th, a Lesser Redpoll in Cordon on 29th and five Siskin in Torbeg on 30th.

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

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

The Weather 2017

The weather influences the timing of bird migration.

This April there was less than a tenth of the rain of last April and the mean temperature was half that of last April. The last ten days saw mainly cold northerly winds. The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to hold them up.

The weather influences the timing of breeding.

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

The weather influences the success of breeding.

When May and June are warm and dry, these are ideal conditions for raising young and this can result in a good breeding season for many species. This summer was generally wet and far from ideal for raising young.

The weather influences survival.

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

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

Here is a summary of weather data for 2017 from our weather station at Kilpatrick on the west of the island.

	Temperature (degrees C)			Rainfall (mm)	Wind Speed (mph) and Direction		
	Mean	High	Low		Average	High	Dom. Dir.
January	6.3	10.1	-1.1	96	5.0	47.0	SSE
February	6.0	11.4	-2.9	124.4	6.2	42.0	SE
March	7.1	13.8	-0.7	97.5	6.0	37.0	SSE
April	8.2	16.4	-1.0	5.0	5.2	38.0	W
May	11.9	25.1	2.8	52.0	4.3	25.0	ENE
June	13.2	23.2	5.3	87.4	4.4	30.0	SSE
July	13.9	24.9	6.5	124.1	3.5	24.0	S
August	13.8	19.8	6.8	100.0	3.7	30.0	SSE
September	11.8	17.5	4.8	76.0	3.7	33.0	SSE
October	11.4	16.9	1.8	95.8	5.5	37.0	SSE
November	6.6	12.3	-0.2	62.8	4.9	34.0	NNW
December	5.8	12.2	-4.2	87.2	5.0	48.0	NNW

Dom.Dir. – dominant direction

The topography of the island results in a variation in weather. For example here are the 2016 annual rainfall figures from various areas: Clauchlands 2295mm, Kilpatrick 1008mm, Marnaeglish 2105mm and Pirnmill 1728mm.

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

Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

	"Earliest" Recorded Date	Arrival Date 2017
Chiffchaff	11-Mar-17	11 March
Wheatear	13-Mar-05	20 March
Sand Martin	18-Mar-09	28 March
Willow Warbler	20-Mar-94	04 April
Swallow	23-Mar-05	26 March
White Wagtail	24-Mar-08	07 April
Manx Shearwater	27-Mar-14	15 April
House Martin	12-Mar-17	12 March
Common Sandpiper	29-Mar-98	15 April
Sandwich Tern	30-Mar-16	31 March
Whinchat	01-Apr-88	01 May
Tree Pipit	07-Apr-90	22 April
Redstart	08-Apr-11	21 May
Cuckoo	08-Apr-17	08 April
Grasshopper Warbler	12-Apr-11	20 April
Garden Warbler	12-Apr-95	28 June
Whitethroat	13-Apr-16	30 April
Sedge Warbler	14-Apr-11	20 April
Arctic Tern	14-Apr-13	14 May
Corncrake	20-Apr-90	None recorded in 2017
Common Tern	21-Apr-93	None recorded in 2017
Spotted Flycatcher	21-Apr-11	12 May
Wood Warbler	25-Apr-09	07 May
Lesser Whitethroat	27-Apr-10	11 May
Pied Flycatcher	28-Apr-98	None recorded in 2017
Swift	01-May-09	05 May
Nightjar	17-May-13	16 June

Regular Winter Migrant Arrival and Departure Dates

	"earliest" Arrival date	"latest" Departure date	2017 Arrival date	2017 Departure date
Whooper Swan	18-Sep-11	21-May-14	04 October	26 April
Pink-footed Goose	09-Oct-16	20-Apr-14	14 October	07 April
Greylag Goose	11-Sep-16	07-May-17	30 October	07 May
Wigeon	11-Jul-11	16-May-17	18 September	16 May
Goldeneye	12-Oct-09	04-May-06	14 November	14 April
Purple Sandpiper	07-Nov-16	20-May-16	29 October	05 April
Waxwing	21-Oct-10	15-Apr-09		08 April
Fieldfare	02-Sep-13	21-Apr-16	20 October	20 April
Redwing	30-Sep-17	13-Apr-16	30 September	05 April
Rook	03-Jul-07	23-Apr-14	14 October	26 March
Brambling	09-Oct-07	25-Apr-08	22 October	05 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.

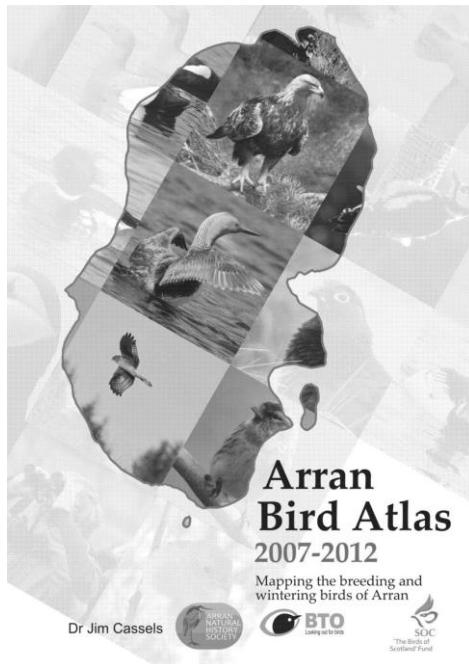
Note: there is also a naturalised population of Greylag Geese which is frequently seen in the summer in Clachlands.

Bird Surveys and Projects on Arran

Bird Atlas

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

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



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

Breeding Bird Survey

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

Garden BirdWatch

In the last weekend in January 2017 around thirty households on Arran took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and shared their results with me. A report on the Arran results is available here <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/top-ten-garden-birds-2017.html>

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

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

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

Heronries Census

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

House Martin Survey

We know surprisingly little about House Martins despite the fact that they breed alongside us, using our houses on which to build a nest made of hundreds of beakfuls of mud. This BTO survey is an attempt to find out why they are declining and provide scientific evidence to help inform policy decisions that could reverse the declines. The House Martin survey collected information on population size, breeding ecology and habitat preferences, so the BTO can begin to tackle some key questions about this eagerly awaited summer visitor.

In 2015 the nationwide random square survey involved volunteers visiting 2,000 – 3,000 'random' (i.e. pre-selected) 1-km squares throughout the UK. Find out more at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-survey-2015>

In 2016 the Nest Monitoring Study involved volunteers making regular observations at individual nests to collect information about nesting activity. This study was ideal for observers who have nests on their home or place of work including those who contributed to the 2009-13 survey. Find out more at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-nest-study-2016>

Wetland Bird Survey - Arran Summary for 2017

This is a joint scheme involving the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee which monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The survey is dependent on volunteers. Eight of the survey sites are on Arran, the coastlines at Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, Machrie, Pirmill and Lochranza. These are counted one Sunday each month with total results on Arran as below. The national survey provides information on the size of waterbird populations, the trends in numbers and the importance of individual sites. For example, Arran is a site of national importance for Red-breasted Merganser.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mute Swan	38	41	38	25	36	44	27	19	28	14	13	9
Greylag Goose	132	182	146	5	2		11	8			107	
Canada Goose		10								6		
Shelduck		13	12	21	14	14	9					
Wigeon	130	200	67	13			2			15	32	56
Teal	176	178	95	46	1			2	36		186	80
Mallard	161	157	109	62	52	90	68	56	124	81	191	117
Eider	60	50	43	63	27	21	26	3	4			24
Common Scoter			4									
Red-breasted Merganser	19	19	14	17	8	39	64	47	28	31	16	21
Goosander		1		1								
Red-throated Diver					2		2	2	2	1	2	
Black-throated Diver	6	3	3	1	4						1	2
Great Northern Diver	6	10	9	3	9						2	1
Little Grebe	2	1	1								3	
Cormorant	10	12	22	9	11	4	10	7	28	11	13	5
Shag	62	46	26	19	20	19	80	73	90	160	86	64
Grey Heron	8	5	1	1	6	7	7	9	12	8	19	16
Oystercatcher	307	249	315	215	127	134	177	131	179	115	205	62
Ringed Plover	122	119	99	31	57	28	61	75	175	172	141	53
Golden Plover	60						92		141		41	12
Lapwing											18	
Sanderling						2		2	1			
Purple Sandpiper											1	
Dunlin					15	1	6	8	15			
Whimbrel					1		2	1				
Curlew	162	52	98	15	9	2	27	80	74	73	98	19
Redshank	25	44	49	13	9	5	6	7	23	29	45	32
Common Sandpiper					15	17	11					
Turnstone	102	68	98	24	14		18	14	45	65	39	44

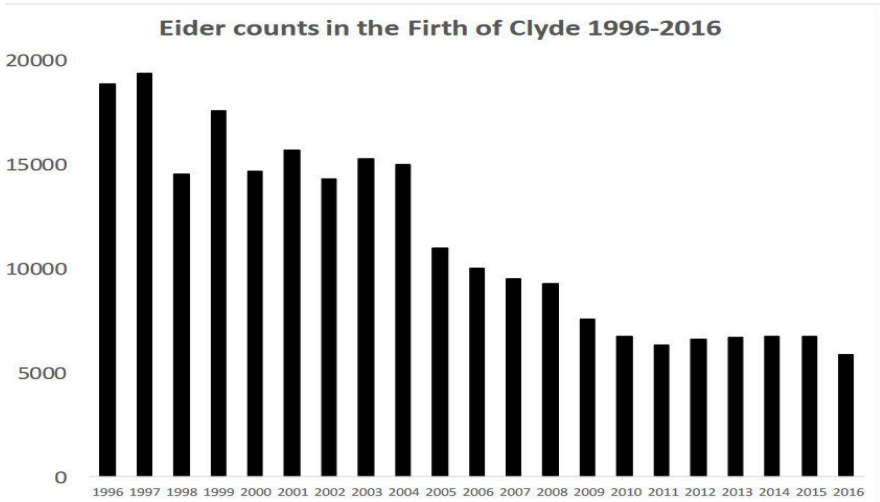
In 2017 there were seven fewer species recorded on the survey days than there had been in 2016.

The following were recorded on survey days in 2016 but were not recorded in 2017; Pink-footed Goose, Scaup, Slavonian Grebe, Knot, Snipe, Bar-tailed Godwit and Greenshank.

If you would like to find out more the Wetland Bird Survey visit <http://www.bto.org/survey/webs>

Eider Survey

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



Chris Waltho, a past president of the Scottish Ornithologists Club, has organised September surveys in the Clyde for over twenty years. Chris's data above shows that the post breeding population of Eiders in the Firth of Clyde is in decline. While there appears to be some stabilisation in overall numbers since 2010, numbers have declined by more than 67% since 1997.

In the Victorian era, there was a major expansion of Eiders in western Scotland and this led to the colonisation of the Firth of Clyde, which began at the beginning of the twentieth century. With an annual population growth of around ten percent by the late 1990s, the Firth of Clyde held around 25-30% of the Scottish population.

The reason for the marked decline in recent years is not clear. The Clyde Ringing Group and Glasgow University have ringed approximately 1500 females over the last decade. These results suggest some decline in annual survival rate, but there is little evidence of mass mortality events or of any major displacement within or without of the Clyde. Mussels, crabs, starfish and other seabed creatures are the main food sources and with many different pressures and influences operating in different parts of the Firth, there is no single cause for the decline. This decline is likely to be the cumulative effect of multiple causes that have an overall chronic impact on the population. It is important to continue to monitor the situation.

One of the ways that this is done is through Chris's annual September survey. While the trend on Arran reflects the overall figures, there has been considerable variation in the Arran figures from over six hundred in 1999 to six in 2008. In 2017 the total number of birds recorded round Arran was thirty-six. This is a change from the last four years when the numbers from the census appeared to be more stable. In 2013 the total was one hundred and forty-four, in 2014 it was one hundred and sixteen, in 2015 it was one hundred and seventeen and in 2016 it was one hundred and sixteen.

The Clyde Ringing Group has been colour ringing females for several years. All Clyde colour ringed birds have a white ring on the right leg. On the left leg is a bigger colour ring, which indicates its nesting colony. If you see any of these ringed Eiders around Arran, please take a note of the colours plus where and when you saw the bird and forward the details to me. All the information will be forwarded to Chris Waltho.

Barn Owl Nest Box Project: Forestry Commission Report

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



After the very poor success rate in 2015 there was a slightly better breeding rate in 2016 which continued in 2017. This is a direct result of the field vole population just beginning to recover from the previous years crash in numbers. This year from the 28 boxes monitored there were 57 chicks reared. This is an increase over last year and is directly attributable to the increasing vole numbers. The very poor weather conditions throughout the late summer and autumn will have had a major impact on the survival of these fledgling birds as this is when they are at their most vulnerable.

Young in the nest have been ringed by Terry Southall and in recent years Barn Owls ringed on Arran have turned up in Skye, the Black Isle and Campbeltown. This dispersal reflects the ongoing success of the project in helping to maintain a high density of this Schedule 1 Species on Arran.

Black Grouse Project; Arran Black Grouse Group Report



Over the past few years the Arran Black Grouse Group has been releasing captive bred birds onto the moors of Arran. Some of these birds have radio collars which enables the group to track the birds. However, most of the birds have no tracking device. If you see a Black Grouse on Arran it would be very helpful if you could report your sighting to me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk. These will be forwarded to the Black Grouse group. Any sightings will help the group assess the success of the project. If possible, take a photograph to help confirm the sighting.

For more information visit the website <http://www.arranblackgrouse.com/>

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!

Bird ringing on Arran in 2017

Report by Terry Southall

The year saw a much reduced number of bird species ringed because of the specific targeting of certain bird species for study purposes and also due to the inclement weather when mist-netting trips were planned. In particular virtually no seabirds were ringed because no trips were made to Pladda because of inclement weather on the days they were planned.

New colour ringing projects were started in addition to that of the five species already being ringed, these were Whimbrel, Curlew and Oystercatcher.

Again Rock Pipits were caught in good numbers to study the moult strategies used by this species and to compare it with the much more migratory Scandinavian race of Rock Pipits.

Efforts to ring more waders were rewarded with a Sanderling, the first to be ringed on Arran.

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

Selected list of recoveries of birds ringed on Arran

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Date recovered	Lapsed days	Where recovered	Distance moved
Cormorant	1 -	30/05/2015	24/02/2017	636	Rhyl, Conwy	258km
Goldfinch	5 M	13/04/2011	15/03/2017	2163	Arran	0km
Sedge Warbler	3J	12/07/2017	26/08/2017	45	Land's End Cornwall	601km

Codes for age and sex are given on page 23.

A re-sighting of one of the young Cormorants colour ringed on Pladda is the first to be seen in Wales.

Goldfinch that is over six years old is noteworthy, small passerines are not normally long lived.

The Sedge Warbler was a juvenile migrating south and shows how quickly these birds move. Normally these birds migrate in a south easterly direction through Britain and not directly south.

In addition, there were numerous sightings of colour ringed gulls ringed as chicks on Pladda, from Morocco, Spain, Portugal and France.

A bird of note is a Lesser Black-back Gull 4M1:C ringed on Pladda as a breeding adult on 31/05/2014. It was next seen on the 31/05/2014 at Praia da Mira, Portugal, reported from Eirol, Portugal on the 07/02/2015, it then visited Ondarroa in Spain on the 07/03/16 and then to close by Orio also in Spain. On the 09/03/16, it was back on Arran where it was observed on the 06/06/16 probably breeding on Pladda. It was back in Portugal at Gafanha da Nazane on the 04/02/17 and then back at Praia da Mira, Portugal this winter on the 07&08/11/2017.

There are many more reports of our Lesser Black-back Gulls from Iberia and North Africa and a clearer picture is emerging of their post juvenile and winter migrations.

Ringling Totals for 2017

Species	FG	Pulli	Retraps	Total	Species	FG	Pulli	Retraps	Total
Sparrowhawk	1			1	House Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Oystercatcher	12	1		13	Chaffinch	67	0	1	68
Ringed Plover	3	0	0	3	Greenfinch	2	0	0	2
Sanderling	1	0	0	1	Goldfinch	76	0	13	89
Dunlin	4	0	0	4	Siskin	146	0	17	163
Jack Snipe	1	0	0	1	Linnet	5	0	0	5
Snipe	1	0	0	1	Lesser Redpoll	41	0	4	45
Woodcock	1	0	1	2	Bullfinch	7	0	0	7
Whimbrel	4	0	0	4	Reed Bunting	1	0	0	1
Curlew	13	0	4	17	Wheatear	10	0	0	10
Common Sandpiper	9	1	0	10					
Common Gull	0	5	1	6					
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	0	0	1					
Black Guillemot	7	5	0	12					
Rock Dove	1	0	0	1					
Cuckoo	6	0	0	6					
Barn Owl	0	23	0	23					
Swallow	0	43	0	43					
House Martin	6	0	0	6					
Meadow Pipit	67	0	0	67					
Rock Pipit	69	0	0	69					
Pied/White Wagtail	20	0	0	20					
Wren	16	0	1	17					
Dunnoek	16	0	2	18					
Robin	25	5	0	30					
Redstart	1	0	0	1					
Whinchat	0	26	0	26					
Stonechat	6	4	0	10					
Wheatear	10	0	0	10					
Blackbird	20	0	0	20					
Songthrush	7	0	0	7					
Redwing	1	0	0	1					
Grasshopper Warbler	1	0	0	1					
Sedge Warbler	24	0	0	24					
Whitethroat	7	0	0	7					
Garden Warbler	1	0	0	1					
Blackcap	12	0	0	12					
Chiffchaff	2	0	0	2					
Willow Warbler	149	0	2	151					
Goldcrest	36	0	1	37					
Long-tailed Tit	1	0	0	1					
Coal Tit	9	0	0	9					
Blue Tit	25	0	0	25					
Great Tit	17	0	0	17					
Hooded Crow	0	3	0	3					
Starling	5	15	0	20					
Rose-coloured Starling	1	0	0	1					
					Total	975	131	47	1153

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

Selected list of birds recovered on Arran but ringed elsewhere

Species	Age & Sex	Date ringed	Where ringed	Date recovered	Lapsed days	Distance moved
Shag	1 -	10/06/2015	Firth of Forth	10/04/2017	670	168km
Oystercatcher	4 -	24/08/2014	Annan, Dum. & Galloway	27/01/2017	887	139km
Goldfinch	5 M	19/03/2016	Calf of Man, Isle of Man	26/03/2017	372	155km
Goldfinch	3	22/10/2016	South Walney, Cumbria	11/04/2017	171	199km
Siskin		31/12/2015	Fothabers, Moray	18/05/2017	504	268km
Siskin	5 M	26/05/2016	Cnoc, Argyll & Bute	11/03/2017	289	90km
Siskin	5 F	14/04/2016	Lerwick, Shetland	29/03/2017	349	573km
Lesser Redpoll	4 M	26/11/2016	Crabtree Hill, Gloucester	12/07/2017	228	444km
Lesser Redpoll	5	06/03/2014	Cannock Chase	24/05/2017	1175	359km
Lesser Redpoll	3 M	09/10/2015	Thorpness, Suffolk	29/03/2017	537	573km

Codes for age and sex are given on page 23.

A long dead Shag found on Pladda ringed as a chick on a small island in the Firth of Forth is without precedence, and begs the question did it fly around Scotland or directly over the central belt? These birds are purely maritime!

The Siskin from Lerwick on Shetland was either a Scandinavian bird wintering in Britain and heading back north or an overshoot from central Scotland which is more likely.

A Goldfinch from the Isle of Man is a first for Arran but birds have been caught that were heading north up the east of Ireland in the past.

The rest of the finch recoveries fall into the normal migration strategies of these birds.

Finally

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

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

Terry Southall.

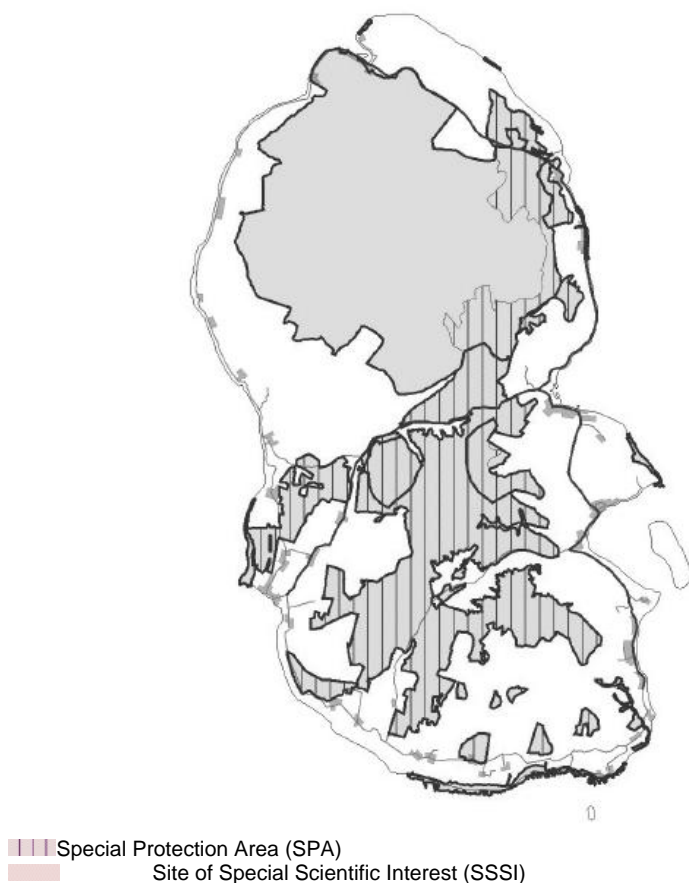
Email address terrysouthall789@btinternet.com

The Arran Moors Special Protection Area

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

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

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



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



Red-backed Shrike, Kingscross: Photographer Sue Naylor.



Rose-coloured Starling, Sliderry: Photographer Jim Cassels.



Cuckoo, Corriecravie Moor: Photographer by Chris Southall.

Red-backed Shrike: June 2017

The Red-backed Shrike breeds in most of Europe and western Asia and winters in tropical Africa. Once a common summer visitor to Great Britain, it is now mainly recorded as a passage migrant. Numbers declined sharply during the 20th century. This dramatic decline to virtual extinction as a UK breeding species make this a red listed bird. By the 1990s no nests were being recorded in the UK. In September 2010 the RSPB announced that a pair had raised chicks at a secret location in Devon where the bird last bred in 1970. In 2011, two pairs nested in the same locality. In 2012 there was another breeding attempt, this time unsuccessful, probably due to a prolonged spell of wet weather. In 2013 breeding was again confirmed in Devon, with two young fledged at a new site. This return to south western England has been an unexpected development and has raised speculation that a warming climate could assist the bird in re-colonising some of its former haunts, if only in small numbers.

Continuing with the Devon connection, on the 16 June 2017 a couple from Devon were at the Ardlui campsite in Kingscross when they saw and photographed a male Red-backed Shrike. To say that they were delighted by this unexpected encounter on their first visit to Arran would be an understatement. The last record of this rare vagrant to Arran was twenty years ago when a male was reported in Kildonan on 27 September 1997. The Kingscross bird did not hang around. There was only the one sighting, but there was a photograph.

Rose-coloured Starling: July 2017

On Monday 10 July a resident in Sliderry was at the kitchen window washing the dishes and keeping an eye on the garden birds, when this stunning bird, with its pink body, pale orange legs and bill, and glossy black head, wings and tail, appeared. As an experienced bird-watcher, he knew instantly that it was a Rose-coloured Starling and called his brother. The excitement was palpable. The bird was associating with a flock of Common Starling and was feeding in the adjacent fields as well as coming into the garden. The bird was later photographed, caught and ringed by a licensed ringer.

In the previous month there had been reports of Rose-coloured Starling from six locations in the UK, three in Scotland on Islay, Barra and Skye. It is not known how many birds were involved. The Rose-coloured Starling is a rare vagrant to Arran. The last Arran report had been in Brodick on 28 June 2002.

Its breeding range is from easternmost Europe across temperate southern Asia. It is a strong migrant, and winters in India and tropical Asia. It is a bird of steppe and open agricultural land. In years when grasshoppers and other insects are abundant, it will irrupt well beyond its core range, with occasionally significant numbers reaching western Europe and the UK. In their natural habitat they are highly gregarious birds, and often form large, noisy flocks, which can on occasion be a pest for growers of cereal crops or orchards. On the other hand they are also greatly beneficial to farmers as they prey on pests such as locusts and grasshoppers, thereby limiting their numbers.

The birds breed in tight colonies in a very short breeding season timed to take advantage of peak abundance of grasshoppers during May to June. It is during dispersal after breeding that some birds stray into north-west Europe. The Sliderry bird was one such bird in 2017. From examination while being ringed, the Sliderry bird was a male hatched in 2016

The Sliderry bird hung about with the Common Starlings for the whole day on Monday 10 July, but although the flocks of Common Starling were checked throughout the week it was not seen again.



Juvenile, White-tailed Eagle, Whitefarland: Photographer David Kilpatrick.



Male Sparrowhawk, Torbeg: Photographer Simon Davies.



Little Egret, Sandbraes: Photographer Nick Giles.

Little Egret : August 2017

On Friday 4 August I received an email indicating that there was a Little Egret in Whiting Bay on the shore opposite the primary school. The sighting was confirmed and the information put out on the arranbirding website. This was to be the first of ten such reports between Friday 4 and Monday 7 August. Most of these were from the Sandbraes end of Whiting Bay but some were also from Clachlands in Lamlash Bay. This was only the second record of Little Egret on Arran. The first one, at Slidderly Shore on 1 July 2013, did not hang around, but at least this latest one stayed for a few days, enabling many to enjoy this pure white heron with black legs and yellow feet hunting in the shallow pools on the shore. The liveliest hunters among the herons, they feed chiefly by walking through water and snapping at prey, or by running and agitating the water with their feet to disturb prey. The excellent photograph by Nick Giles captures the essence of the bird.

In breeding plumage it has a black bill with attractive white plumes on crest, back and chest. These plumes almost lead to its demise in western Europe. At one time common in western Europe, it was hunted extensively in the 19th century to provide plumes for the decoration of hats and became locally extinct in northwestern Europe and scarce in the south. Around 1950, conservation laws were introduced in southern Europe to protect the species and their numbers began to increase. The birds also wander north in late summer after the breeding season, and this tendency to disperse may have assisted in the recent expansion of the bird's range. By the beginning of the 21st century the bird was breeding again in France, the Netherlands, Ireland and Britain.

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

Winter Distribution 2007-11

● Present



The map shows the winter records between 2007-11 from the national bird atlas survey conducted by the BTO and its partners.

This is hugely different to the previous national winter atlas conducted between 1981-84, when there was a grand total of one record. The Little Egret is now at home on numerous south coast sites, both as a breeding species and as a winter visitor. The population increase has been rapid, with over 750 pairs breeding in nearly 70 colonies in 2008. They are colonial nesters, building near water, in trees and bushes or sometimes on rocks or cliffs. Colonies can range from a few nests up to a couple of thousand, usually in association with other herons, including the familiar Grey Heron.

Following the first breeding record in England in 1996, the first in Ireland was 1997, the first in Wales was 2002, but to date there is no confirmed breeding in Scotland. It is really a bit strange that birds breed in Lancashire and Northern Ireland, but not yet in Scotland - as far as is known. Indeed Mark Holling of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel has put out a plea

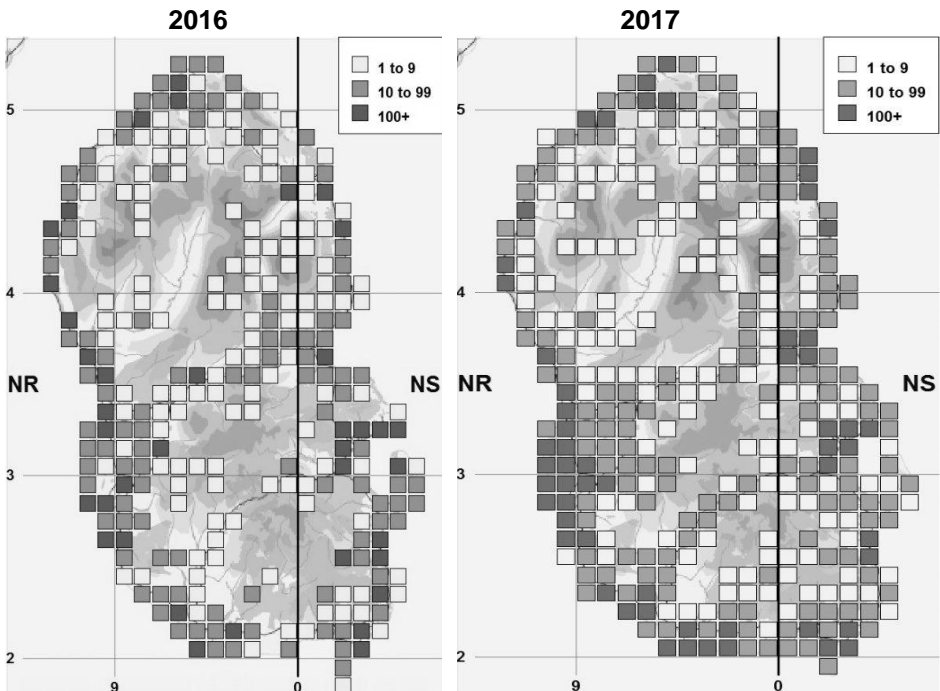
for any information on possible breeding of Little Egret in Scotland. The expansion continues and it can only be a matter of time before it is widespread in coastal and inland water habitats in Scotland, including Arran.

A Challenge Revisited

In the 2016 report (see page 30) a challenge was set to make Arran a well watched island.

The first annual report that I was responsible for was in 2006 and was based on around 2,000 records. This total has increased each year. In 2016 when I set the challenge it was based on 12,000 records. This year perhaps in response to the challenge there has been a massive increase to 21,000 records. So the island is certainly being better recorded but the challenge remains because there are large parts of the island that are under-watched and under-reported. (See maps below.) The dark squares are one kilometre squares where over one hundred bird sightings were recorded. The palest squares are one kilometre squares where only one to nine bird sightings were recorded. The "gaps" are where no birds were recorded all year.

For 2018 let's see if we can have more dark squares and fewer "gaps".



How the Maps were made

In recent years all the Arran data that I have received has been loaded onto Bird Track. This is an excellent system for storing and sharing bird records. If you are not already familiar with Bird Track, I would encourage you to have a look at their website. About BirdTrack | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack/about> In Bird Track each Arran record has been allocated to the the one kilometre square in which it was seen.

All this data has been processed using DMAP Distribution Mapping Software developed by Alan Morton. The base map was produced by Ian Andrews member of the Scottish Ornithogists' Club. The skill and experience of Phil Davis from Gloucestershire in using the software with the base map has produced these maps showing the distribution of records at the one kilometre square level in 2016 and 2017.

Systematic List 2017

The systematic list is in the order of the British list as published by the British Ornithologists' Union (2006). This is in line with the Clyde Report. For each species, as well as the common name, the (new) official name and its scientific name have been given. In addition, for each species reported 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.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* 406,106

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included pair with seven young Clauchlands on 19 May, pair with five young Whiting Bay on 9 June, pair with three young Port na Lochan on 13 June, pair with three young Blackwaterfoot on 23 June and pair with two young Catacol Bay on 17 July. Winter groups included 16 Whiting Bay on 2 January, 19 Sandbraes on 3 February, 7 Lamlash on 4 October and 14 Whiting Bay on 29 December.

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

Rare winter visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* 22,12

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups included 40 Brodick Golf Course on 26 March, 47 Sliddery on 27 March, 80 Shiskine on 29 March, 30 Glen Rosa on 12 October, 11 Creagan Liatha on 29 October and 8 Strabane also on 29 October.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* 26,9

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups included 20 Roddin on 1 January, 48 Sliddery on 7 March, 129 Dippen Head on 27 March, 12 Clachaig on 7 April, 24 Shiskine on 23 November and 30 Feorline on 30 November.

White-fronted Goose (Greater White-fronted Goose) *Anser albifrons* 6,3

Occasional winter visitor.

Between the 1 March and 9 March there was a group of up to 13 in the Shiskine Valley. The only other record was 2 Corriecravie Moor on 24 December.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 127,26

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

In Shiskine Valley up to 400 between January and April and up to 200 between November and end of year. In the Sliddery area up to 200 between January and April and up to 300 between November and end of year. Other groups included 150 at Kildonan on 17 January. There is a naturalised population which is found mainly at Clauchlands. Largest count at Clauchlands of 150 on 15 February may have included some of the wintering birds.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* 26,14

Localised breeding and occasional visitor.

This is the seventh year that this species has bred with a breeding report from Porta Buidhe on 4 May. Reports included 10 Clachaig on 4 February, 10 Kildonan on 12 February, 5 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 29 March and 5 Sliderry on 31 December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* 1,1

Occasional winter visitor.

One record for 2017. Five Drumadoon Point on 9 April (SD).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* 4,2

Occasional winter visitor.

Twenty-three at Eilean Mhor, Blackwaterfoot between 24 April and 26 April and 31 in Machrie Bay on 24 April are all the records for 2017.

Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna* 231,62

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

Breeding included 9 young the Doon on 2 June, 4 young Auchenhew Bay on 4 June, 3 young Cosyden on 12 June, 11 young Carlo on 14 June and 7 young Merkland on 24 June. Groups included 6 Shannochie on 5 March, 6 Porta Buidhe on 23 March, 8 Cleats Shore on 10 April and 8 Auchenhew Bay on 26 April.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

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

No records for 2017. Last record Rosa and Cloy Burns in Brodick on 27 March 2009.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* 74,28

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

Groups included 100 Machrie Bay on 7 January, 80 Kilpatrick Point on 25 January, 50 Cleats Shore on 30 January, 82 Cleateadh Buidhe on 15 February, 21 Cosyden on 9 September, 30 Shannochie on 27 October and 42 Machrie Bay on 12 December.

Teal (Common Teal) *Anas crecca* 70,17

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

No confirmed breeding. Groups included 100 Cosyden on 5 January, 120 Kilpatrick Point on 25 January, 39 Cleats Shore on 26 February, 60 Sliderry on 2 November, 122 Kilpatrick Point on 30 November, 80 Cosyden on 12 December and 50 Carlo on 29 December.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 349,107

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 6 young Mossend Pond on 4 April, 5 young Torr Righ Mhor on 18 April and 12 young Corrie on 9 May. Groups included 42 Shiskine on 25 January, 58 Fisherman's Walk on 14 October and 56 Kilpatrick Point on 30 November.

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record one male Machriewaterfoot on 19 May 2014.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2017. A pair on the pond at Torr Righ on 9 May 2012 is the only Arran record of this species.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record one male by the Fisherman's Walk on 24 May 2015.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was a male at Port na Lochan from 15 to 18 September 2011.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 2,1

Occasional visitor.

Male Mossend Pond on 4 July and a female Mossend Pond on 10 November are all the records for 2017.

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila* 6,1

Occasional winter visitor.

One male Mossend Pond from 1 July to 4 July are all the records for 2017.

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima* 184,76

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 8 young Auchenew Bay on 4 June, 4 young Kilpatrick Point on 10 June and 6 young Cladach on 26 July. Groups included 50 Cosyden on 5 January, 22 Fisherman's Walk on 6 April, 43 Pladda on 13 April, 30 Kingscross on 24 April and 19 Pirnmill on 30 October.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza in April 1980.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record a male off Blackwaterfoot on 11 February 2016.

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

Occasional visitor.

Four Cosyden on 7 March and 4 Pirnmill on 23 September are all the records for 2017.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record 2 off Catacol on 5 April 1998.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula* 28,9

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

Groups included 2 Mossend Pond on 5 January, 2 Lamlash on 25 March, 4 Loch Ranza on 19 April, 5 Clachlands on 28 December and 2 Mossend Pond on 31 December.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record a male with four redheads off the Fallen Rocks car park on 25 April 2016.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 268,97

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

Breeding included 12 young Machriewaterfoot on 12 June, 4 young Fisherman's Walk on 23 June and 11 young Loch Ranza on 25 June. Groups included 48 Machriewaterfoot on 24 July, 24 Cosyden on 17 August, 11 Thunderguy on 16 September and 25 Pirmill on 17 September.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* 27,18

Breeding. Localised.

No confirmed breeding in 2016. Sightings included 2 Loch Iorsa on 29 January, 2 the Craw on 1 February, 3 Dougarie on 23 April, 3 Loch Ranza on 14 June, 2 Lenimore on 4 November and 2 Catacol Bay on 20 December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.

No records for 2017. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 is the only Arran record of this species.

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

Occasional summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Last record 2 calling birds in Glenscorrodale on 6 June 2012.

Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus* 14,13

Resident. Breeding. Underreported.

Sightings included 4 Goat Fell on 20 January, 4 Torr Nead an Eoin on 29 January, 6 Sail an Im on 13 May, 2 Beinn Tarsuinn on 3 November and 2 Loch Cnoc an Loch on 16 November.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Very localised.

No records for 2017. Last record 6 Coire a' Bhradain on 21 January 2015.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* 8,7

Previously bred.

Reintroduction breeding programme.

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

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* 2,1

Local introduced resident. Around 500 released in 2017.

Two Dougarie on 12 May and 2 Dougarie on 30 July are all the records for 2017.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Last record, excluding released birds in the 1990s, was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus* 312,89
Common introduced resident. Around 3,000 released in 2017.
Reports from all areas.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* 72,45
Breeding. Common round coast all year.

An average breeding season. Population remains healthy. Groups on sea included 5 Dougurie on 14 January, 3 King's Cave on 18 April, 4 Catacol Bay on 30 May, 3 Kildonan on 15 August, 5 Whiting Bay on 4 September and 4 Corrie on 29 October.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* 50,26
Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2017 except June. Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.

Groups included 5 Pirnmill on 14 January, 6 Cosyden on 25 January, 5 Rubha Airrigh Dhughail on 2 February, 3 Kilpatrick Point on 26 March, 4 Machriewaterfoot on 11 May and 4 Imachar on 27 October.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* 99,40
Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2017 except July and August.

Groups included 4 Kildonan on 17 April, 5 Blackwaterfoot on 20 April, 6 Sliderry on 23 April, 4 Millstone Point on 6 May, 6 Drumadoon Point on 21 December and 4 Whitefarland on 26 December.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis* 65,22
Breeding. Round coast all year.

Largest groups at nest areas 16 Drumadoon on 8 April, 8 Bennan Head on 39 April, 5 Cnocan Cuallaich on 31 May, 5 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 1 June, 8 Catacol on 12 June, 4 Clauchlands on 17 June and 4 King's Cave on 24 June. No young were reported from any nesting areas in 2017.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one off Largymore on 22 July 2012.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was 7 in Machrie Bay on 6 September 2009.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* 45,32
Regular passage migrant with records from 15 April to 12 September.

Large groups included 500 Whiting Bay on 13 July, 500 Cosyden on 16 July, 300 Pladda on 18 July and 1,000 Largymore on 14 August.

Mediterranean Shearwater (Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.

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

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one off Pirnmill 24 September 1991.

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record two Brodick Bay on 12 July 2013.

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus* 308,112

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year, but much more common in summer than winter. Records each month except January and December in 2017.

Groups included 100 Blackwaterfoot on 12 June, 80 Porta Leacach on 16 June, 100 Laggan on 30 August, 100 Brodick Bay on 1 September and 50 Catacol Bay on 2 September.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo* 190,78

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

Twelve nests on Pladda. Groups included 10 Merkland on 4 January, 12 Blackwaterfoot on 29 January, 7 Cleats Shore on 22 February, 8 Balliekin on 21 December and 6 Drumadoon Point on 3 December.

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* 287,102

Common round coast all year. Breeding Pladda.

Groups included 70 Auchenhew Bay on 21 August, 30 Balliekin on 30 August, 72 Clauchlands Point on 1 September, 51 Pladda on 16 September, 48 Drumadoon Point on 8 October and 40 Silver Sands on 21 December.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was a dead one found in Shiskine on 10 March 1996.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

One record of this American species.

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

Little Egret *Egretta gargetta* 10,3

Rare vagrant.

All records of a single bird between 4 August and 7 August mainly from Sandbraes but also from other parts of Whiting Bay and also from Lamlash Bay. This is only the second Arran record. The first record was in 2013. (See note page 29)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 418,137

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Reports of activity at all known heronries namely Stronach Wood, Lagg, Lochranza, Whitehouse Woods and Whiting Bay. Groups included 12 Lagg on 28 April, 4 Glenashdalewater Foot on 23 June, 14 Cordon on 16 July. 5 Fisherman's Walk on 2 September and 11 Lochranza on 30 September.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 62,15

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor. One breeding record in 2017.

Pair with young at Mossend Pond. Sightings included two Fisherman's Walk on 4 January, 5 Loch Ranza on 5 January, one Clachaig on 18 May, 5 Mossend Pond on 2 September and one Clachlands on 18 September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 1,1

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One record for 2017. Two off Pirnmill on 23 September (PeSe).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record one Catacol Bay on 6 March 2016.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* 1,1

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One record for 2017. One Loch Ranza on 1 January (AliHa).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2016. Last record one Whiting Bay on 14 February 2014.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.

No records 2017. Last record one Sliderry on 27 May 2016.

Marsh Harrier (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was a juvenile in Lamlash 19 August 2004.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* 164,80

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

A better breeding season. There was an increased number of reports of fledged young. Vole numbers continued to recover from the low of 2015 although the weather at crucial times was poor. In recent years the number of young fledged has varied depending on factors like food availability and weather. Numerous widespread sightings mainly within the Special Protection Area. See page 27.

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Irregular sightings. No confirmed breeding.

One record for 2017. One Sliderry on 31 January(DSCS).

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus* 140,67

Resident. Breeding widespread.

From ten sample nest sites that were checked, occupied nests were found in five of them. A minimum of 11 young were fledged from these nests including a brood of 4. This is an improvement from 2016.

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo* 523,231

Resident. Breeding widespread.

From the eight nest sites that were checked five were successful. Six chicks fledged. This is similar to 2016. Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 6 Kilbride Hill on 20 May, 6 the String on 5 June, 7 Glen Cloy on 19 June, 5 Newton on 1 September, 4 Kildonan on 5 November and 4 Clauchan Glen on 2 December.

Rough-legged buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one at Cleats Shore on 10 November 1974.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* 2,2

Rare vagrant.

Two immature birds in Whitefarland on 19 November and an adult in Clauchan Glen on 2 December are all the records for 2017.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* 109,56

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

Most territories occupied. There is a healthy breeding population with at least three young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year mainly to the north of the String.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 2,2

Occasional passage migrant.

One Slidery on 18 April and one Pirnmill on 24 September are all the records for 2017.

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus* 135,90

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Better breeding season than 2016. Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year with more reports of fledged young. These included fledged young at Clauchlands Cliffs on 17 July, Cleiteadh Buidhe on 6 July, Giant's Grave on 20 July, Kilbride Hill on 21 July, and Kilpatrick Point on 21 August.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* 13,12

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

More reports than 2016. Sightings included one Rodden on 9 March, one Slidery on 24 March, one Corrie on 23 September and one Auchenhew Bay on 4 November.

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was an adult bird by the Ross Road on 22 June 2011. (See decisions by Clyde Birds Records Panel on page 57.)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* 46,35

Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.

Pairs present at seven sites checked. Success confirmed at one site but monitoring was incomplete. There is a healthy breeding population. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* 4,1

Localised breeding resident and passage migrant.

All records from Corriecravie between 9 February and 2 August with three pairs reported on 23 July.

Spotted Crake *Porzana Porzana*

One historical record.

One found dead by Pladda lighthouse on 24 October 1895.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Rare summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Last record one calling at Port na Lochan from 7 to 9 May 2008.

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus* 10,2

Scarce localised breeding resident.

Fewer sightings from fewer locations than 2016. All sightings were of single birds except 2 Mossend Pond on 6 April.

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record one Port na Lochan from 3 August to 14 August 2016.

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record two over Dougarie on Wednesday 22 April 2015.

Oystercatcher (*Eurasian Oystercatcher*) *Haematopus ostralegus* 707,162

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded included Clachlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Machrie, Kildonan, Kilpatrick, Sandbraes, Shannochie and Thunderguy. Groups included 91 Clachlands on 15 January, 41 Kildonan on 24 January, 66 Cnongan Cuallaich on 25 February, 54 Machriewaterfoot on 7 March, 36 Kilpatrick Point on 24 July, 36 Cleats Shore on 23 August and 39 Blackwaterfoot on 2 November.

Golden Plover (*European Golden Plover*) *Pluvialis apricaria* 48,20

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 102 Clachgaig, 141 Machriewaterfoot on 6 September, 12 Cleats Shore on 11 October, 105 Machrie Moor on 8 November and 32 Sliderry on 12 December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records 2017. Last record was one on Torrylinn Shore on 5 April 2012.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus* 47,18

Increasingly localised breeding and regular winter visitor.

Two areas of confirmed breeding, one in Kilmory and the other in the Shiskine Valley. Groups included 25 Cleats Shore on 30 January, 25 Kilpatrick Farm on 2 February, 30 Clachaig on 5 March, 18 Kilpatrick Point on 30 November and 21 Sliderry on 12 December.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 250,70

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded Clachlands, Cleats Shore, Dougarie, Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Machrie and Sandbraes. Groups included 34 Whitefarland on 26 January, 159 Machriewaterfoot on 27 August, 50 Blackwaterfoot on 29 August, 50 Dougarie on 30 August, 39 Lamblash on 1 September, 42 Whiting Bay on 12 October and 56 Sliderrywaterfoot on 13 October.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records 2017. Last record was one calling summit of Beinn Tarsuinn 4 June 2012.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 45,21

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 16 Cleats Shore on 17 April, 12 Blackwaterfoot on 24 April, 33 Sliderrywaterfoot on 27 April, 14 Auchenheugh Bay on 27 April and 10 Kildonan on 3 May.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata* 410,119

Resident but underreported breeder.

Signs of breeding were reported from Balnacoolie, Bennecarrigan, Cnocubha, Kilbride Hill, Machrie Moor, Penrioch and Torr Beag. Groups included 87 Clachlands on 15 January, 50 Lenamhor on 4 February, 86 Corriecravie on 9 February, 42 Kilpatrick Point on 20 August, 30 Cleats Shore on 23 August and 40 Cladach on 24 October.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 4,4

Uncommon passage migrant.

Two Fisherman's Walk on 9 April, one Kildonan on 1 May, one Shiskine Golf Course on 1 September and one Cleats Shore on 11 October are all the records for 2017.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 12,8

Uncommon passage migrant.

Sightings included one one Kildonan on 1 May, one Cleats Shore also on 1 May, 2 Torrylinnwater Foot on 20 September and 3 Lenamhor also on 20 September.

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres* 111,31

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

Groups included 41 Silver Sands on 15 January, 35 Whitefarland on 4 February, 36 Machriewaterfoot on 15 February, 50 Machriewaterfoot on 27 August, 18 Blackwaterfoot on 8 October and 21 Kildonan on 2 November.

Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus* 6,4

Regular passage migrant.

Sightings included one Blackwaterfoot on 25 August, 4 Drumadoon Point on 28 August, one Lenamhor on 29 August and one Cleats Shore on 30 August.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was 2 at Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 16,7

Regular passage migrant.

Sightings included 6 Sliderry Shore on 9 May, 5 Drumadoon Point on 13 May, 6 Blackwaterfoot on 19 May and 2 Drumadoon Point on 2 September.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 47,14

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

Groups included 6 Machriewaterfoot on 2 September, 10 Blackwaterfoot on 2 September, 9 Silver Sands on 21 September and 8 Cleats Shore on 11 October.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* 12,3

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Most records were from Kildonan area, Silver Sands and Porta Buidhe between the start of the year and 5 April and between 29 October and end of the year including 9 on 8 February and 5 on 11 November. There was only one record outwith this area, one at Drumadoon Point on 29 March.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was 3 at Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was a juvenile at Sliderry from 31 July to 1 August 2016.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one Silver Sands on 6 December 2015.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 182,84

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

Pairs each with young included Clachlands on 20 June, Newton on 25 June, Rubha Salach on 8 July, Cleats Shore on 11 July and Machriewaterfoot on 13 July plus three nests in gardens adjacent to shores in Lamlash, Corrie and Blackwaterfoot.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

No records for 2017. One Clachlands from 19 May to 21 May 2015 is the only Arran record of this North American species.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was at High Thunderguy on 1 August 2008.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one at South Feorline shore on 5 August 2010.

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia* 3,2

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

One Clauchlands on 9 March, one Slidderlywaterfoot on 5 July and one Slidderlywaterfoot on 23 July are all the records for 2017.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant.

No records 2017. One at Drumadoon Point on 22 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus* 196,65

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

Groups included 12 Catacol Bay on 17 January, 34 Sandbraes on 11 April, 9 Cleats Shore on 19 April, 50 Whiting Bay on 26 August, 42 Sandbraes on 24 September and 11 Clauchlands on 16 December.

Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

One Slidderly on 4 January and one Cleats Shore on 29 March are all the records for 2017.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One record of this American species.

No records for 2017. One juvenile Slidderlywaterfoot from 15 to 17 September 1990 is the only Arran record of this North American species.

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola* 26,20

Resident but underreported breeder. Numbers increase in winter.

Pairs flying at dusk included Clauchlands on 10 May, Glenkiln on 10 May, Cordon on 10 May, Machrie Moor on 14 May, Glenscorrodale on 18 May and Gortonallister on 17 June. There was also a report of an adult with four young on the String road on 5 May.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 56,19

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

Confirmed breeding in one area plus one drumming Creag a' Mhadaidh on 4 April. Groups included 2 Porta Buidhe on 6 October, 2 Loch Cnoc an Loch on 16 November, 11 Slidderly on 10 December and 18 Hazelburn on 19 December.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records for 2017. Last record was 2 off Kildonan on 16 May 2009.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* 2,2

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One Catacol Bay on 2 September and one one Whiting Bay on 4 September are all the records for 2017.

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

No records 2017. Two off Kildonan on 19 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* 5,4
Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

Sightings included one Brodick Bay on 14 August, one Largymore on 14 August, one Kilbrannan Sound on 2 September and one Cock of Arran on 25 September.

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica* 2,2
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.
One Clachlands Point on 19 June and one Laggan on 25 September are all the records for 2017.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* 122,58
Breeding. Round coast all year.

Breeding included Brodick Pier, Catacol, Corrie, Imachar, Kilpatrick, King's Cave, Thunderguy and Pladda. Numbers and sightings are increasing. Groups included 20 King's Cave on 27 April, 16 Kilpatrick Point on 11 May, 15 Imachar on 10 July and 40 Pladda on 18 July.

Razorbill *Alca torda* 8,7
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.
Groups included 30 Brodick Bay on 27 March, 2 Fairy Dell on 18 July, 10 Cosyden on 24 July and 6 Kilpatrick Point on 20 August.

Little Auk *Alle alle*
Scarce and irregular winter visitor, usually seen after severe gales.
No records for 2017. Last record one Holy Isle on 8 January in 2016.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge* 36,25
Breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year. Most sightings in summer.
Groups included 40 Brodick Bay on 27 March, 50 Corriegills on 1 May, 100 Whiting Bay on 18 July, 60 Rubha Glas on 17 September and 32 Fallen Rocks on 4 November.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
Uncommon summer visitor.
No records for 2017. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
Uncommon passage migrant.
No records for 2017. Last record one at Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* 67,25
Summer visitor. Non breeding. Records from 31 March to 24 September.
Groups included 6 Blackwaterfoot on 21 April, 16 Silver Sands on 21 April, 5 Sliderry Shore on 27 April, 7 Machriewaterfoot on 28 April, 4 Clachlands on 20 August and 4 Blackwaterfoot on 25 August.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record was one Machriewaterfoot on 19 April 2013.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record was 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* 3,3

Regular summer visitor. Breeding colony Pladda.

Three Silver Sands on 14 May, 30 Pladda on 28 May and one Brodick Bay on 17 July are all the records for 2017.

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 2017. Last record one adult Brodick Bay on 3 September 2009.

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla* 34,22

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.

Numbers considerably less than recent years with few young reported. Groups included 1,000 Whiting Bay on 26 August, 100 Catacol Bay on 2 September, 100 Machriewaterfoot on 29 September, 50 Fisherman's Walk on 11 October and 200 Fairy Dell on 13 October.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* 50,26

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

Groups included 12 Brodick Bay in 4 January, 5 Sandbraes on 17 July, 3 Blackwaterfoot on 21 October, 10 Porta Buidhe on 4 November and 6 Silver Sands on 2 December.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Uncommon irregular visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record 2 Whiting Bay on 2 September 2013.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last records one first summer bird Blackwaterfoot on 28 June and perhaps the same first summer bird at Auchenhew Bay on 29 July 2015.

Common Gull (*Mew Gull*) *Larus canus* 405,131

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Poor breeding season with few reports of fledged young from coastal nesting areas including Machriewaterfoot, Dougarie, Holy Isle, Pladda, Sannox and Thurgary. Groups included 600 Kilpatrick Point on 24 January, 200 Blackwaterfoot on 25 January, 200 Lenamhor on 4 February, 250 Slidery on 18 November, 500 Hazelburn on 29 December and 200 Strabane on 31 December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* 126,70

Breeding. Common round coast from February to October.

Colony on Holy Isle had 20 birds in May and the colony on Pladda had 150 birds in June. No reports from colony by Cnoc na Croise. Other groups included 25 Corriecravie on 12 April, 22 Blackwaterfoot on 17 June, 12 Clauchlands on 23 July and 19 Torrylinnwater Foot on 10 August.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* 538,168

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Colony on Holy Isle had 100 birds in May and the colony on Pladda had 250 birds in June. No reports from colony by Cnoc na Croise. Other groups included 100 Torrylinnwater Foot on 22 January, 400 Kilpatrick Point on 25 January, 69 Sannox Bay on 11 July, 200 Clauchlands on 23 July, 500 Hazelburn on 29 December and 200 Slidery on 31 December.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus* 6,6

Uncommon winter visitor.

A single adult bird moving in the area around Slidery is probably responsible for all records between 17 March in Slidery and 27 April in Sliderywaterfoot.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

No records in 2017. Last record one first winter gull at the mouth of the lorsa on 13 February 2016.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* 342,112

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Groups included 7 Sannox Bay on 5 April, 21 Dougarie on 12 June, 16 Torrylinnwater Foot on 10 August, 22 Machriewaterfoot on 17 August, 9 Fallen Rocks car park on 4 November and 11 Whiting Bay on 10 December.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrhaptes paradoxus*

One historical record.

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

Rock Dove *Columba livia* 90,34

Resident. Breeding. Localised round the coast.

Groups included 27 Torrylinnwater Foot on 21 January, 35 Torbeg on 3 February, 32 Drumadoon Farm on 24 February, 33 Lenamhor on 4 September and 33 Kilpatrick Farm on 26 November.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Very scarce.

No records for 2017. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

Woodpigeon (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus* 292,137

Resident. Breeding. Common.

Groups included 50 Shiskine on 21 January, 50 Clachaig on 20 February, 250 Sliddery on 18 November, 150 Hazelburn on 23 December and 500 Strabane on 30 December.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto* 116,41

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

Present around all villages. Groups included 15 Sliddery on 30 January, 9 Whiting Bay on 3 February, 12 Margnaheglish on 22 July, 8 Lamlash on 6 August and 7 Blackwaterfoot on 29 September.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Occasional passage migrant.

No records in 2017. Last record one Clachaig Farm on 30 September 2015. There were also two records in 2014.

Cuckoo(Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus* 148,94

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First one reported calling in Brodick Country Park on 8 April. Later widespread reports from around the island. Population seems to be healthy. The last one reported was of a juvenile in Torr Rìgh Beag on 7 August.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* 56,39

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Better breeding season than 2016. Sightings from Auchagallon, Auchencar, Balmichael, Carlo, Corrie, Brodick, Cladach, Dippen, Dougare, Glenkiln, Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Lamlash, Lochranza, Monyquill, Pirnmill, Ross Road, Shiskine, String and Whiting Bay.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

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

No records for 2017.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* 4,3

Resident . Underreported. Breeding.

One Machrie Moor on 14 May, one Corriegills North on 30 June and one Clachan Glen on 10 September are all the records for 2017.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* 16,10

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

Better breeding season than 2016 with more reports. Sightings included one Monyquill on 3 March, 2 Corriecravie Moor on 6 May, 2 Glenscorrodale on 18 May, 2 Clachan on 26 May and 2 Boguille on 27 June.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* 1,1

Summer visitor. Previously bred.

One churring Dhunan from 16 June to 7 July (BM). Previous record was one by the Narachan on 20 May 2015. Before that there was one at Merkland churring from 17 June to 26 June 2013 which was the first record since one at Maol Donn on 24 May 1998.

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus* 23,16

Summer visitor and passage migrant. No breeding records. Reports from 5 May to 3 August.

Groups included 4 Sliderry on 4 June, 2 Imachar on 21 June, 2 Corriecravie Moor on 21 June, 3 High Kildonan on 17 July and 2 Shiskine on 26 July.

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis* 72,11

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

Seventy-two records is in marked contrast to no records for 2016. Most records were from the Fisherman's Walk area from 18 July to 21 December. Other sightings included one Kingscross on 12 August, one Cordon on 18 August, one Brodick pier on 24 August, one Rubha Salach on 8 September and one Lamlash on 7 December.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Rare vagrant

No records for 2017. One in a garden in Lamlash on 28 December 2014 is the first Arran record of this species.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* 48,29

Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.

Regularly heard drumming in Brodick Country Park and Merkland Wood from January to April. As well as breeding records from this area, fledged young were reported from other sites including Glenkiln on 20 May, Clauchlands on 27 May, Stronach Wood on 31 May, Invercloy on 3 July, Gortonallister on 1 September and Alma Park on 11 September.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* 1,

Rare vagrant.

Male Kingscross on 16 June (PSN). Last record a male at Kildonan on 27 September 1997. (See note page 28)

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubiter*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza on 24 October 2007.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Last record one by Narachan track from 5 to 29 September 2011.

Magpie (*Black-billed Magpie*) *Pica pica* 3,3

Vagrant.

One Creag a' Mhadaich on 19 April, one Shiskine Golf Course on 20 April and one Strathwillan on 27 April, possibly all the same bird. Previous record one Mayish on 23 April 2015. There was one bird in 2014 from 19 March to 6 May, no records in 2013 and one record in 2012.

Jay (*Eurasian Jay*) *Garrulus glandarius*

Rare vagrant. Before 2011 the last record was 1985.

No records for 2017. Last record one on road to Glen Rosa on 9 April 2012.

Jackdaw (*Eurasian Jackdaw*) *Corvus monedula* 269,64

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 110 Sliderry on 1 February, 179 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 12 February, 111 Machriewaterfoot on 10 March, 130 Lochranza on 13 July, 200 Clachaig on 28 July and 183 Drumadoon Farm on 7 August.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* 20,2

Regular winter visitor.

All records from Sliderry area between January and March and September and December, including 5 Sliderry Shore on 1 September, 37 Sliderry on 10 October and 25 Sliderry on 15 November.

Carriac Crow *Corvus corone* **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* 291,139 472,153

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

Groups included 60 Kilpatrick Pint on 25 January, 37 Torbeg on 5 April, 100 Sliderry Shore on 21 October, 104 Sliderry on 29 October, 35 Kildonan on 4 December, 50 Hazelburn on 21 December and 50 Strabane o 30 December.

Raven (*Common Raven*) *Corvus corax* 296,142

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Breeding pairs included Beinn a Chliabhain, Bennan Head, Brown Head, Catacol and Imachar. Groups included 26 Cleats Shore on 8 January, 27 Sliderry on 8 March, 20 Machrie Moor on 19 September, 5 Glen Rosa on 12 October and 6 Corriecravie Moor on 26 December.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* 145,76

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Records included 10 Shannochie on 4 January, 10 Kilbride Hill on 26 March, 7 Brodick Country Park on 26 June, 8 Loch Garbad on 25 July, 7 High Kildonan on 28 July and 6 Silver Sands on 2 September.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

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

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* 368,95

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 26 May, Laigh Kilmory on 5 June, Gortonallister on 17 June, Alma Park on 18 June, Stron na Carraige on 30 June and Whiting Bay on 18 July. Largest group was 8 Margnaheglish on 10 September.

Great Tit *Parus major* 411,116

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports Brodick 27 May, Laigh Kilmory 4 June, Kilpatrick Farm 14 June, Gortonallister on 17 June, Alma Park 18 June and Cordon on 24 June. Largest group was 8 Balmichael on 30 January.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* 368,102

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 26 May, Laigh Kilmory on 4 June, Gortonallister on 17 June, Brodick on 24 June, Lamlash on 28 June and Whiting Bay on 18 July. Largest group was 14 Lamlash Golf Course on 3 November.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one in Lamlash from 16 to 18 May 2009.

Skylark (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis* 69,24

Breeding resident, Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding territories occupied in Ard Bheinn, Corriecravie Moor, Drumadoon, Drumaghinier, Glen Cloy, Kilbride Hill, Kilpatrick, Leac a'Ghille, Machrie Moor, Penrioch and Sannox. Groups included 135 Slidderly on 24 February, 28 Kilbride Hill on 5 March, 22 Cleats Shore on 11 October and 120 Slidderly on 15 December.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 108,49

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.

First report Machrie Golf Course on 28 March. Breeding colonies occupied in Auchencar, Clauchlands, Cosyden, Glen Catacol, Glen Rosa, Kilpatrick, Sannox, Shiskine Golf Course, Strabane and Whitefarland. Groups included 20 Coire Fhraoich on 8 April, 60 Fuar Achadh on 9 May, 100 Sannox on 25 June and 25 Slidderlywaterfoot on 12 July.

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica* 366,147

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report Kilpatrick on 26 March. Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods raised. Better breeding season than 2016. Groups included 80 Slidderly Shore on 23 July, 80 Clauchlands on 8 August, 30 Kilpatrick Farm on 13 August and 50 Silver Sands on 9 September. Last record was 3 Silver Sands on 21 October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* 247,118

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report was from Blackwaterfoot on 12 March. Widespread breeding with some failures and some double broods. Groups included 24 Brodick Castle Gardens on 29 May, 30 Balmichael on 26 July, 50 Alt Dhepin on 29 July, 50 Lagg on 10 August and 50 Auchenhew Bay on 9 September. Last record was 9 Silver Sands on 5 October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* 101,51

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 20 Fisherman's Walk on 18 September, 10 Cordon on 24 September, 17 Silver Sands on 8 October, 12 Whiting Bay on 12 October, 30 Creagan Liatha on 4 November and 10 Lamlash on 15 December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Last record was one in Whiting Bay from 4 to 6 December 2007.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* 2,2

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

One Auchenhew on 7 May and two Leana Cuil on 13 June are all the records for 2017.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita* 81,49

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

First report was from Sannox on 11 March. Records included males singing Corrie on 2 April, Whiting Bay on 6 April, Knockenkelly on 6 April, Alma Park 15 April and Lochranza on 17 April, Auchenhew on 5 May, Dyemill on 9 May and Whiting Bay on 11 September. Good breeding season. There was a winter record at Slidery on 2 December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* 308,160

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

First report was High Kildonan on 4 April. Records included males singing Glenrickard on 13 April, Shannochie on 28 April, Drumadoon on 18 May, Monyquill on 9 June, Kildonan on 10 June and Glen Rosa on 15 June . Good breeding season. Last record was one Bennan Head on 1 September.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 81,58

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

Records included singing males Brodick Country Park on 12 April, Slidery on 4 May, Lagg on 9 May, Lochranza on 14 May and Lamlash on 26 May. Winter records included one Brodick Castle Gardens on 26 November, one Slidery on 1 December and one Cordon on 19 December.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 2,2

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding. Possibly underreported.

One Glenashdale on 28 June and one Corriecravie Pond on 12 July are all the records for 2017.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* 2,2

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding.

Male singing Silver Sands and Porta Buidhe on 11 May are all the records for 2017.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis* 137,85

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

First report was from High Kildonan on 30 April. Records included singing males Clauchlands on 5 May, Shiskine on 12 May, Newton on 17 May, Glen Rosa on 18 May and Lagg on 26 June, Last record was one Kingscross on 4 September.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia* 16,12

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

Reports of reeling birds Monyquil on 20 April, Glen Cloy on 23 April, Sliddery on 2 May, Bennan Head on 18 June, Bennicarrigan on 1 July and Stron na Carriage on 8 July.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 44,28

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

First report was from Porta Buidhe on 20 April. Records included singing males Shiskine Golf Course on 11 May, Shiskine on 12 May, Clauchlands on 16 May, Kildonan on 19 May and Lagg on 20 May. Last record was one at Corriecravie on 2 August.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Rare vagrant

No records in 2017. Male Dereneneach 19 June to 5 July 2014 is the first Arran record.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus* 1,1

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

After 8 records in 2016 only one record this year, 20 Merkland Wood on 8 January (SE).

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea* 1,1

Rare vagrant but records increasing. Species has spread north across the UK

After 7 records in 2016 only one record this year, one Strathwillan 27 November (MK).

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris* 21,18

Resident. Breeding. Widespread but underreported.

Sightings included 2 Whiting Bay on 26 February, 2 Lamlash on 8 May, 2 Glenkiln on 27 May, and 2 Brodick Country Park on 6 July, 2 Lochranza on 25 November and 3 Leac Gharbh on 27 November.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* 365,169

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Records from varied habitats throughout the island from high tops to shore. Groups included 8 Clauchlands Farm on 19 January, 12 Kilbride Hill on 26 March, 4 Bennecarrigan on 8 July, 6 Corriecravie on 2 August, 4 Silver Sands on 7 October, 5 Auchenhew Bay on 15 November, 11 Porta Buidhe on 9 December and 5 Imachar on 15 December.

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris* 277,96

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports Tormore on 18 May, Cosyden on 24 May, Kilpatrick Farm on 24 May, Margnaheglish on 26 May, Cordon on 27 May, Brodick on 18 June and Shiskine on 24 June. Larger groups included 300 Slidery on 2 January, 70 Glenkiln on 24 January, 100 Kilbride Hill on 27 January, 200 Kilpatrick Farm on 8 October, 100 Torbeg on 28 October and 180 Silver Sands on 29 December.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* 1,1

Rare vagrant.

One adult Slidery on 10 July (DSCS). Previous record one adult in Brodick on 28 June 2002. (See note page 28)

Dipper (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus* 54,33

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

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

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* 1,1

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

After 9 records in 2016 only one record this year, one Mullach Buidhe on 2 May (LW).

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula* 571,173

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Good breeding season with reports of double and triple broods. Groups included 8 Margnaheglish on 8 January, 50 Slidery on 8 March, 6 Shannochie on 7 May, 10 Shiskine on 18 May, 5 Kingscross on 18 May, 6 Kildonan on 4 November and 12 Corriecravie on 29 December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* 69,26

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

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, included 200 High Kildonan on 21 October, 150 Bennan Head on 22 October, 100 Cnoc na Dail on 9 November and 120 Corriecravie Moor on 23 December.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* 342,141

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Groups included 6 Slidery on 24 February, 4 Shannochie on 6 May, 6 Kilbride Hill on 19 May, 6 Porta Buidhe on 21 June, 10 Fallen Rocks car park on 22 October and 30 Cnoc an Donn on 31 December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* 95,39

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

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares, included 500 Lochranza on 20 October, 600 Kildonan on 20 October, 100 Sannox on 22 October, 100 Shannochie on 22 October, 600 Bennan Head on 23 October and 1,000 Slidery on 23 October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 108,70

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included fledged young Monyquill on 11 June, Machrie on 17 June, Strathwillan on 9 July and Sliderry on 10 July. Groups included 8 Machrie Moor on 26 June, 20 Strathwillan on 25 July, 3 Lakin on 7 August, 10 Lochranza on 24 September, 22 Kingscross on 12 October and 23 Corrie cravie on 18 December.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* 34,29

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

Confirmed breeding included Shedog on 14 June, Glenashdale on 16 June, Clauchlands on 24 June, Sliderrywaterfoot on 7 July, Lochranza on 15 July and Merkland on 25 July.

Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula* 755,202

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Cordon on 24 June, Glenashdale on 25 May, Margnaheglish on 26 May, Newton on 8 June, Kilpatrick on 14 June, Strathwillan on 17 June and High Kildonan on 18 June plus all villages. Other groups included 8 West Mayish on 28 January, 8 Auchenhew Bay on 4 March, 7 Silver Sands on 31 May, 7 Strathwillan on 8 July, 6 Fairy Dell on 18 July and 16 Sliderry on 29 December.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Irregular summer visitor.

No records for 2017. Last record was one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* 1,1

Scarce passage migrant.

One Cordon 24 June (GI). Previous record was one female Lamlash on 26 April 2015.

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 5,2

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported. Previously bred.

One juvenile in Sliderry from 21 May to 7 July and a record from the Narachan on 10 July. These are all the records in 2017.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* 33,25

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

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

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* 211,98 (In 2015 it was 79,47)

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Continuing signs of recovery after the two cold winters 2009-2011 with more records from more sites. Fledged young reports included King's Cave on 10 May, Shiskine Golf Course on 15 May, Machrie Moor on 18 May, Auchenhew Bay on 4 June, Glenscorrodale on 14 June, the Doon on 23 June, High Kildonan on 25 June, Blackwaterfoot on 28 June, Torr Beag on 8 July and Cleats Shore on 8 July.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe* 137,75

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

First report was from Laggan on 20 March. Confirmed breeding included Cleats Shore 28 June, Kilpatrick on 4 July, Auchenhew on 10 July, King's Cave on 24 July and Laggan on 28 July. Groups included 4 Shannochie on 6 May, 4 Goat Fell on 7 May, 3 Aucheleffen on 9 May, 4 Cleats Shore on 28 June, 5 Silver Sands on 24 July and 4 Drumadoon Point on 27 April. Last record was one Cleats Shore on 11 October.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis* 274,114

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports Margnaheglish on 21 May, Cordon on 26 May, Glen Cloy on 4 June, Laigh Kilmory on 12 June, Alma Park on 17 June and Silver Sands on 26 June. Other groups included 8 Sliderry on 2 January, 3 Lamash Golf Course on 9 January, 3 Cordon on 29 January, 3 Blackwaterfoot on 30 October, 5 Porta Buidhe on 9 December and 8 Hazelburn on 29 December.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 416,92

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs reported from all villages. Reports of double and triple broods. Larger groups included 25 Blackwaterfoot on 17 February, 50 Laigh Kilmory on 14 June, 20 Kilpatrick on 28 June, 50 Kingscross on 30 July, 40 Lagg on 16 September, 120 Sliderry on 25 September, 30 Torbeg on 13 October and 60 Sliderry Shore on 19 November.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Previous record was 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records for 2017. Previous record was a first winter bird on the shore at Kildonan from 13 December to 15 December 2013.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 142,82

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young Auchareoch on 18 May, Glenashdale 28 June, Porta Buidhe on 30 June, Machriewaterfoot on 3 July, Fisherman's Walk on 25 July and Alt Dhepin on 29 July.

White Wagtail *Montacilla alba* 26,17

Regular passage migrant.

First report was from Blackwaterfoot on 7 April. Other sightings included 12 Porta Buidhe on 21 March, 3 Kilpatrick Point on 21 April, 3 Cleats Shore on 23 August and 30 Sliderry Shore on 1 September. Last report was from Silver Sands on 21 September.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* 477,158

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young at Kildonan on 4 June, Lochranza on 5 June, Auchareoch on 8 June, Kilpatrick on 14 June and High Kildonan on 22 June. Other groups included 30 Glen Cloy on 27 April, 90 Sliderry Shore on 26 July, 63 Aird nan Rin on 26 August and 80 Porta Buidhe on 26 September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* 7,7

Scarce summer visitor. Possibly underreported.

Birds holding territories included Torr Dubh on 22 April, Maol Donn on 24 April, Tormore on 28 April, Leana Cuil on 13 June and Kildonan on 16 June.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* 237,129

Breeding resident. Widespread. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous breeding records. Groups included 250 Hazelburn on 18 April, 21 Imachar on 23 April, 60 High Kildonan on 29 June, 40 Cnocan Bioach on 30 June, 30 Shiskine Golf Course on 23 October and 118 Sliderry on 16 December.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* 310,100

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

Numerous breeding records including pairs carrying food at Cosyden on 6 June, Dougarie on 9 June, Imachar on 14 June, Clachlands on 3 July, Silver Sands on 7 July and Blackwaterfoot on 20 July. Groups included 40 Sliderry Shore on 1 September, 20 Drumadoon Point on 2 September, 25 Torrylinnwater Foot on 20 September and 28 Silver Sands on 3 December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 25,2

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

All records from Sliderry between 1 February and 5 April and between 29 October and 12 December including 3 on 17 March. In addition, 4 at Leac Gharbh on 22 October. These are all the records in 2017.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* 622,188

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from all the settlements on the island including some double broods. Larger groups included 60 Balmichael on 24 January, 26 Catacol on 28 January, 200 Sliderry on 5 February, 100 Clachaig on 21 February, 50 Laigh Kilmory on 15 June and 28 Margnaheglish on 3 September.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2017. Last record one Pirmill on 21 April and one Lochranza on 22 April, possibly the same bird, in 2016.

Scarlet Rosefinch (Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2017. The last record was a juvenile caught and ringed at High Kildonan on 24 October 2011.

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* 93,63

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Confirmed breeding included reports Kingscross on 21 June, West Mayish on 24 June and Auchareoch on 29 July. Groups included 6 Lochranza on 5 January, 5 Clachan Glen on 29 January, 10 Silver Sands on 10 June, 6 Corriecravie on 12 July and 6 Whiting Bay Golf Course on 7 November.

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris* 136,41

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 26 May, Cordon on 27 May and Gortonallister on 14 July. Groups included 6 Torbeg on 3 April, 3 Kilpatrick on 26 April, 10 Drumadoon Point on 2 September and 3 Blackwaterfoot on 30 October.

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina* 170,66

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between April and November.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Clauchlands on 17 June, Kilpatrick on 23 June, Blackwaterfoot on 2 July and Cleats Shore on 11 July. Larger groups included 200 Torrylinnwater Foot on 19 July, 100 Kilpatrick on 17 August, 200 Levenorrach on 26 August, 100 Cleats Shore on 27 August and 100 Blackwaterfoot on 29 September.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* 11,8

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

No confirmed breeding. Groups included 10 Cleats Shore on 6 March, 16 Sliderry on 13 March, 3 Sliderrywaterfoot on 27 April, 3 Kilpatrick on 23 June, 6 Newton on 23 September and 2 Auchenhew Bay on 4 November.

Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret* 88,38

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

Confirmed breeding included reports from Kilpatrick on 20 May, Dyemill on 24 May, Lochranza on 20 June and Corriecravie on 15 July. Larger groups included 100 Lochranza on 7 January, 20 Glen Rosa on 1 March, 6 Torbeg on 1 May, 20 Corriecravie on 17 July and 8 Machrie Forest on 19 November.

Crossbill (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra* 35,20 (in 2016 it was 6,2)

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Possibly underreported.

More records from more sites than recent years. Larger groups included 8 Brodick Golf Course on 13 May, 35 Machrie Forest on 19 November, 18 Cnocan Biorach on 23 November, 16 Alt na Clach on 30 November and 8 Tormusk on 28 December.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis* 430,114

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Margnaheglish on 26 May, Kilpatrick on 5 June, Brodick on 18 June, Kildonan on 26 June and Lamlash on 28 June. Larger groups included 32 Torbeg on 13 January, 200 East Bennan on 26 August, 40 Machriewaterfoot on 30 August, 50 Lenamhor on 30 August and 60 Whiting Bay Golf Course on 17 October,

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus* 240,58

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between January and June.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Lamlash on 26 May, Margnaheglish on 26 May, Laigh Kilmory on 27 May, Gortonallister on 17 June, Cordon on 24 June and Kilpatrick on 29 June. Larger groups included 32 High Kildonan on 17 March, 40 Glen Cloy on 8 June, 50 Gortonallister on 13 July, 80 Fallen Rocks on 26 September and 30 Leac Gharbh on 22 October.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Varying numbers on passage and in winter.

No records for 2017. Last records from 2016 two Clauchlands Point on 15 March and two on the top of Sail Chalmadale.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* 76,6

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

No records between 7 April and 9 September. Most records from Slidderly area including 10 on 7 February and 12 on 15 December. Records from other areas included one Catacol on 10 January, one Torrylinnwater Foot on 10 September, 2 Clauchlands on 7 October and one Shannochie on 10 December.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* 54,33

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included Fairy Dell on 14 July, Clauchlands on 23 July, Slidderly Shore on 23 July and Corriecravie on 23 July. Groups included 7 Torbeg on 23 January, 11 Cleats Shore on 6 March, 6 Clauchlands on 20 March and 6 Slidderly on 29 October.

Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2017. Last record was 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

Decisions by Clyde Birds Records Panel

Hobby: Lochranza on 8 May 2017

Not proven.

Hobby: Clauchan Glen on 22 June 2017

Not proven.

Gazetteer of Arran Place Names

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

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



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

Previous Annual Reports

There is a facility to download previous annual reports.

Bird Notes

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

Photo Gallery

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

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

Finding Birds

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

Bird Sightings

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

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

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

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

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

Black-throated Diver

White-billed Diver

Black-necked Grebe

Cory's Shearwater

Great Shearwater

Sooty Shearwater

Balearic Shearwater

Wilson's Petrel

Storm Petrel

Leach's Petrel

Night Heron

Cattle Egret

Little Egret

Great White Egret

Purple Heron

White Stork

Spoonbill

Bean Goose

American Wigeon

Green-winged Teal

Ring-necked Duck

Ferruginous Duck

Surf Scoter

Honey Buzzard

Black Kite

Red Kite

Montagu's Harrier

Rough-legged Buzzard

Goshawk

Red-footed Falcon

Hobby

Crane

Stone Curlew

Little Ringed Plover

Kentish Plover

American Golden Plover

Temminck's Stint

White-rumped Sandpiper

Pectoral Sandpiper

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Red-necked Phalarope

Grey Phalarope

Pomarine Skua (immature)

Long-tailed Skua

Mediterranean Gull (except adult)

Sabine's Gull

Ring-billed Gull

Yellow-legged Gull

Caspian Gull

Iceland Gull - form *L. g. kumlieni*

known as 'Kumlien's Gull'

White-winged Black Tern

Roseate Tern

Little Owl

Nightjar

Alpine Swift

Bee-eater

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Short-toed Lark

Woodlark

Red-rumped Swallow

Richard's Pipit

Tawny Pipit

Red-throated Pipit

Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race)

Water Pipit

Yellow Wagtail (continental races)

Nightingale

Bluethroat

Cetti's Warbler

Aquatic Warbler

Marsh Warbler

Melodious Warbler

Reed Warbler

Icterine Warbler

Barred Warbler

Dartford Warbler

Subalpine Warbler

Greenish Warbler

Pallas's Warbler

Yellow-browed Warbler

Radde's Warbler

Dusky Warbler

Firecrest

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Bearded Tit

Willow Tit

Marsh Tit

Nuthatch

Golden Oriole

Woodchat Shrike

Chough

Rose-coloured Starling

Serin

Common (Mealy) Redpoll

Arctic Redpoll

Scarlet Rosefinch

Bullfinch (Northern)

Hawfinch

Parrot Crossbill

Girl Bunting

Ortolan Bunting

Rustic Bunting

Little Bunting

Corn Bunting

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

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

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

How to be a good birdwatcher

Some points to bear in mind.

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

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