

# Arran Bird Report 2007

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Compiled by Jim Cassels

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
List of Contributors	1
Introduction	2
Chronological Summary	3
Summer Migrant Arrival Dates	10
Systematic List	11
Index by Common Name	39
Birdwatchers Code	42

## Contributors 2007

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## Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report for 2007*. This is the twenty-eighth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the second 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: Audrey Walters, the previous bird recorder, Terry Southall, our resident ringer, John Rhead, Andy Walker and Malcolm Whitmore for their local knowledge of raptors, and Bernie Zonfrillo, the bird recorder for the Clyde Area. The input of the local "volunteers" involved in the monthly shore bird count for the national Wetlands Bird Survey has been a valuable source of information. It has also been helpful to be given permission to access the Arran records submitted to BirdTrack, [www.bto.org/birdtrack](http://www.bto.org/birdtrack). At the writing stage, the advice of the committee of the Arran Natural History Society, and the editing and proof reading skills of Angela Cassels, Alan Hollick and Rod Smith 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: Arthur Duncan, Robert Lambie, Colin McCort, Carl Reavey and to Don Smith for his permission to use his Golden Eagle photograph for the front cover. Finally, there would be no report without the input of the contributors listed at the beginning.

Over the year I have been encouraged by the number of people, locals and visitors, who have contacted me by email, letter and phone. Some with one sighting; others, like a visitor, had over one hundred sightings in a week. All contacts have been welcome. I am not just interested 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 know that a number of people keep for their own interest all sorts of bird notes, and I would encourage these people to share this information with me, so that the basis of our annual Arran Bird Report can be as comprehensive as possible.

In 2007, over two hundred contributors submitted over three thousand records on one hundred and sixty species. Two are new to the Arran list, namely Ruddy Duck and Firecrest. 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 2007.

The Chronological Summary gives the highlights for each month. The Systematic List is in Voous order 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. 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 2008, please send any bird notes with "what, when, where" to me before Monday 13 January 2009, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316 (you can leave a message), or email me at [james.cassels@virgin.net](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Cassels

## Chronological Summary

### January

The year 2006 ended with a severe storm on Hogmanay, and a Shag, a bird more associated with the coast, was found on high ground on the top of the String Road. This unsettled spell continued for the first three weeks of 2007 with more than 140mm of rain falling.

With such inclement weather, garden bird watching was to the fore. Sightings in gardens included a Waxwing in Lamlash on 8<sup>th</sup>. This colourful bird was later seen in Kingscross on 26<sup>th</sup>. Siskins visited Bailiemargaidh on 18<sup>th</sup> and later there was a group in Pirnmill on 29<sup>th</sup>. In Shiskine gardens there was a Yellowhammer on 19<sup>th</sup>, seven Long-tailed Tits also on 19<sup>th</sup> and a Reed Bunting on 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup> there were four pairs of Bullfinches in a garden in Strabane. In Kilpatrick, three Goldfinches on 30<sup>th</sup> were followed by a Redpoll on 31<sup>st</sup>. None of these bird appearances coincided with the RSPB "Big Garden Birdwatch" of the weekend of Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 January. It was almost as if they did not want to be counted!

Winter visitors included: four Purple Sandpipers at Kildonan on 5<sup>th</sup>; three Black-throated Divers in Whiting bay on 5<sup>th</sup>; a Rook on Levenorrach Farm on 6<sup>th</sup>; three hundred Greylag Geese between Sliderry and Lagg on 9<sup>th</sup> and similar number in the Shiskine Valley on 10<sup>th</sup>; two male and two female Goldeneye on Cleats Shore on 16<sup>th</sup>; four Great Northern Divers off Dippen on 21<sup>st</sup>; eighty Fieldfares with Redwings in Kilpatrick on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a Jack Snipe at Kildonan on 27<sup>th</sup>.

There were signs of approaching Spring with some song birds in full flow; a Gannet off Clauchlands on 1<sup>st</sup>; seven Fulmars on the cliffs at Cleiteadh Buidthe and an optimistic pair of Collared Doves nest building in Corriegills.

### February

In February, the mild and generally wet spell of weather continued with the temperature falling below zero on only five days.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> two rare visitors were reported: a Great Crested Grebe in breeding plumage in Lamlash Bay and a Red Kite at Kingscross. There had been a similar report of a Red Kite from this area around this time the previous year.

Other reports included: thirty Bullfinches feeding on heather above Kilpatrick on 5<sup>th</sup>; a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Brodick Country Park on 8<sup>th</sup>; a Peregrine in Glen Rosa on 14<sup>th</sup>; four pairs of Goldeneye at Cordon on 15<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Golden Eagles over Beinn Bhreac on 18<sup>th</sup>; twenty-five Siskin in Glenashdale on the 25<sup>th</sup>; eight Pink-footed Geese with the Greylags in Shiskine on 26<sup>th</sup>; twenty seven Wigeon in Cosyden also on 26<sup>th</sup> and a dead Water Rail in Glenashdale on 28<sup>th</sup>.

All three divers were seen around the coast this month, including one Black-throat at Kilpatrick on 5<sup>th</sup>, one Great Northern at Catacol on 11<sup>th</sup> and two Red-throat at Auchenhew Bay on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, some birds that used to be considered as only summer visitors were now over wintering. For example, there was a male Blackcap in a Brodick garden on 11<sup>th</sup> February and also on that date a Lesser Black-backed Gull on Kilpatrick shore.

## March

In March the first half of the month was mild and wet and the second half was dry and bright, with winds mainly from the cold north and east. These winds may have delayed the arrival of our spring migrants. The first Wheatear was reported on 14<sup>th</sup> March from Corriecravie ponds. This was followed on 25<sup>th</sup> by the first Sand Martin in Lamlash and on the same date the first Chiffchaff in Brodick Country Park. On 29<sup>th</sup>, a White Wagtail was reported from High Kildonan.

Other birds passing through on their way to their breeding grounds in the north included: a Bar-tailed Godwit at Machriewaterfoot on 24<sup>th</sup>; one hundred and ten Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 29<sup>th</sup>; and three groups of flying Whooper Swans - seventy over Bannan Head on 24<sup>th</sup>, fifty-nine over Lamlash on 25<sup>th</sup> and thirty-two over Blackwaterfoot on 31<sup>st</sup>.

As well as this, some of our winter visitors were still around, including: a Rook at Knowe Farm on 5<sup>th</sup>; a group of Redwing in Shiskine on 17<sup>th</sup>; a single Fieldfare in Lamlash on 30<sup>th</sup> and twelve Wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings included: a Merlin at Glenashdale on 9<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Red Grouse above Monyquill Farm on 13<sup>th</sup>; a Golden Eagle carrying sticks in Glen Chalmadale on 14<sup>th</sup>; on 15<sup>th</sup> a pair of Crossbills feeding fledged young in Dyemill forest; a Twite at Clauchlands on 19<sup>th</sup>; a Short-eared Owl on the String road on 22<sup>nd</sup>; seven Linnet at Cleats Shore on 22<sup>nd</sup>; a Woodcock in Brodick Country Park on 25<sup>th</sup> and a female Goosander at Slidderwaterfoot on 26<sup>th</sup>.

## April

April's weather was dominated by long dry spells with only a few days of rain. Initially the wind was mainly from the north and this may have delayed the arrival of our summer visitors. For example, in 2006 the first Swallow in Arran was reported on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The first one this year was reported on 8<sup>th</sup> April. However, as the temperature rose towards the end of the month, so the summer visitors began to arrive.

Other "firsts" for summer visitors were: on 11<sup>th</sup> Willow Warbler in Glen Righ; on 13<sup>th</sup> House Martin in Lamlash; on 14<sup>th</sup> Sandwich Tern in Kildonan, Whitethroat in Corriecravie and Blackcap in Glen Cloy; on 15<sup>th</sup> Whinchat in Machrie; on 18<sup>th</sup> Cuckoo in North Glen Sannox; on 21<sup>st</sup> Common Sandpiper at Port-na-Lochan; on 24<sup>th</sup> Manx Shearwater off Pladda; 26<sup>th</sup> Garden Warbler by the Goat Fell track through Brodick Country Park; 28<sup>th</sup> Wood Warbler in Merkland Wood; 29<sup>th</sup> Tree Pipit in Dyemill forest and 30<sup>th</sup> Grasshopper Warbler in Glen Righ and at Kilmory Farm.

Other birds passing through to breeding grounds further north included one Common Scoter off Largiemore on 5<sup>th</sup>; one Jack Snipe in Glen Righ on 10<sup>th</sup>; two Purple Sandpipers in Kildonan on 15<sup>th</sup>; one Whimbrel at the lorsa mouth on 23<sup>rd</sup> and two male and two female Dotterel on the hills above Glen Sannox on 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the first report of this species since 1996.

An introduced species from North America, the Ruddy Duck, was reported from Port-na-Lochan on 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the first record on Arran. On 24<sup>th</sup>, at the gull roost by the mouth of the lorsa, an immature Iceland Gull was photographed. This is the first record since 2002.

## May

May's weather was more unsettled than April's. Rain fell on over twenty days and, with the wind often from the north and east, temperatures could be low.

In May, the summer visitors continued to arrive with the following "firsts": Swift on 1<sup>st</sup> in Blackwaterfoot; Spotted Flycatcher on 1<sup>st</sup> in Castle Park field; Sedge Warbler on 2<sup>nd</sup> at Corriecravie; Lesser Whitethroat on 2<sup>nd</sup> at Auchenhew; Corncrake on 14<sup>th</sup> at Port-na-Lochan and Arctic Tern on 15<sup>th</sup> in Kildonan.

The date and place of the Corncrake was very similar to last year's report and again it only stayed for a few hours.

Another bird that did not stay was an Osprey. This bird was seen being mobbed by gulls as it flew above a group of people in their kayaks in Lamlash Bay on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through, including: three Whimbrels at Brodick on 15 May; four Purple Sandpipers at Drumadoon on 16<sup>th</sup>; a Knot at Blackwaterfoot on 19<sup>th</sup>; a Great Northern and a Black-throated Diver off Pirnmill on 21<sup>st</sup>; twenty-two Dunlin on the shore at Blackwaterfoot on 26<sup>th</sup> and seven Sanderling at Drumadoon on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Breeding for many species was well underway, including: young Siskin at feeders in High Kildonan on 6<sup>th</sup>; a Ringed Plover nest with four eggs at Sandbraes on 13<sup>th</sup>; twenty Fulmar pairs on the cliff at Drumadoon on 16<sup>th</sup>; a Dipper with two fledged young in Glenashdale on 27<sup>th</sup>; Long-tailed Tit feeding three young in Lamlash on 28<sup>th</sup> and a pair of Shelduck with twelve young on Cleats Shore on 30<sup>th</sup>. One of the factors determining success in breeding is the availability of food. A Short-eared Owl nest with eight eggs may reflect a good vole population this year, whereas dead House Martins by nest sites in Shiskine reflected a shortage of flying insects related to the cool weather.

A resident in Lochranza patiently waited for a pair of Pied Wagtails to raise their family. While the resident had been away for a few days, the birds had built a nest and laid five eggs inside the engine compartment of the family car!

## June

After a cool May, June started with a warm settled spell, but this did not last.

The sighting of an Osprey in May was followed by another report of one over the Newton Shore on 8 June. Other reports in June included: a Great Skua off Lochranza on 5<sup>th</sup>; one hundred Manx Shearwaters west of Holy Isle on 10<sup>th</sup>; five Woodcocks roding over Brodick Country Park on 18<sup>th</sup> and eleven Teal on Torr Rìgh Beag on 29<sup>th</sup>.

In June, two of our less common summer visitors were first reported: a Redstart in Kildonan on 17<sup>th</sup> and two Common Terns at Blackwaterfoot on 27<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly the female Redstart, which had been caught and ringed, was in breeding condition with a brood patch.

Raising young is the priority during the long daylight hours in June. There were lots of reports of young birds, including: sixteen Long-tailed Tits in Whiting Bay on 6<sup>th</sup>; four cygnets at Port-na-Lochan on 11<sup>th</sup>; three Red-legged Partridge in Brodick Country Park on 12<sup>th</sup>; seven Red-breasted Merganser ducklings in Brodick Bay on 19<sup>th</sup>; two Kestrels at King's Cave on 19<sup>th</sup>; twenty Jackdaws at Dougarie on 25<sup>th</sup> and two Reed Buntings by the Ross Road on 27<sup>th</sup>. The five young Swallows on camera at the Rangers Centre were close to fledging on 28<sup>th</sup>.

On 20 June, there was an intriguing sighting of a pair of Rooks feeding two full grown young birds in a field in Shiskine. If they had bred on Arran this would have been a first, but they may have come from the mainland where there are rookeries in Ayrshire and Argyll, as well as on Bute and Cumbrae. The family did not linger, suggesting the latter is the more probable explanation.

Breeding can be hazardous. The high winds combined with high tides around 19 June wiped out many of the nests in the Common Gull colony at Dougarie.

On a more positive note, the Kilmory Hen Harriers on camera did extremely well this year. Four young have been successfully reared by devoted parents. By the end of June the young birds were only a few days away from taking flight. Many visitors to Kilmory Hall had been enthralled by the images of their progress during June and this success is a great credit to all involved with this innovative project.

## **July**

July was drier than June, with a dry warm spell from 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.

On 1 July, a Kingfisher was seen on Monamore Burn in Lamlash. This is an unusual summer sighting for Arran and was followed by another report of a Kingfisher on 13<sup>th</sup> at the Fisherman's Walk in Brodick. Other unusual summer sightings for Arran included: sixteen Rooks in Kilpatrick on 3<sup>rd</sup> and fifty-four Swifts in three flocks that followed the coast at Kildonan before heading across the sea to the mainland on 17<sup>th</sup>.

As in June, raising young continued to be a priority in July. Reports of breeding included: a female Bullfinch with five juveniles at Porta Leacach on 1<sup>st</sup>; a pair of Ringed Plover with five young in Kildonan on 1<sup>st</sup>; a small family group of Redpolls at Kilpatrick on 3<sup>rd</sup>; two young Barn Owls in a nest hole in Lamlash and one dead outside the nest on 5<sup>th</sup>; two young Spotted Flycatchers in a nest in Pirnmill on 7<sup>th</sup>; a group of eighteen Linnet including seven young at Corriecravie on 8<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Shelduck with six full grown young at Clauchlands on 25<sup>th</sup>; an immature Golden Eagle showing its white wing patches over Lochranza on 25<sup>th</sup>; a young rufous coloured Cuckoo with white neck patch on the Ross Road on 29<sup>th</sup> and after the five Swallows at Brodick Rangers Centre fledged, another four eggs were in the nest on 30<sup>th</sup>.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. Some shore birds, which have been breeding further north, appeared again on their migration south including: a Whimbrel at Auchenhew on 3<sup>rd</sup>; a Dunlin with four Sanderlings at Blackwaterfoot on 16<sup>th</sup>; a Greenshank at Auchenhew on 23<sup>rd</sup>; fifteen Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 27<sup>th</sup>; twenty-five Redshanks in Whiting Bay on 29<sup>th</sup> and a Turnstone in Blackwaterfoot on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Other observations received included: a Puffin from the Ardrossan ferry on 1<sup>st</sup>; a Long-eared Owl calling in Kildonan on 9<sup>th</sup>; a Short-eared Owl over Machrie standing stones on 11<sup>th</sup>; eight Crossbills at Machrie forest on 17<sup>th</sup>; twelve Gannets in Brodick Bay on 19<sup>th</sup>; fourteen Black Guillemots by Kings Cave on 22<sup>nd</sup> and an Arctic Skua off Pladda on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, on 15<sup>th</sup> July there was an interesting report of a Sparrowhawk hunting bats at dusk in Shiskine.

## **August**

In August there was only one day where the temperature was more than twenty degrees centigrade. After the heavy rain around the 18<sup>th</sup>, the weather was a little more settled but with a hint of the approach of autumn.

Birding highlights this month included a number of sightings from the "Caledonian Isles". These included a Great Skua on the 8<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of Manx Shearwaters on 9<sup>th</sup>, an Arctic Skua on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a Great Northern Diver on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and a Little Tern also on 11<sup>th</sup>. The Little Tern was the first one reported since 2005. On 8<sup>th</sup> and again on 11<sup>th</sup>, three Storm Petrels were reported. They breed in some of the smaller remote islands in the firth. They were last reported off Arran in 2004.

Other observations received included: twenty-four Canada Geese at the mouth of the Iorsa on 10<sup>th</sup>; a Red Kite in Dougarie also on 10<sup>th</sup> and a Merlin in Lochranza on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Summer visitors were still around, including: Chiffchaff in High Kildonan on 13<sup>th</sup>; Garden Warbler in Machrie on 15<sup>th</sup>; Whitethroat in Lamlash on 19<sup>th</sup>; and Spotted Flycatcher in Sliddery on 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 twenty-one Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 21<sup>st</sup>; one hundred and seventy Kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 21<sup>st</sup>; and twenty-two Pied Wagtail near the Auchrannie on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Other birds starting on their migration included: five Dunlin with a Sanderling at Drumadoon on the 12<sup>th</sup>; two Whimbrel at Kilpatrick also on the 12<sup>th</sup>; and three Knot in Whiting Bay on 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **September**

By the end of September migration was well underway. For example, on 30<sup>th</sup>, there were literally hundreds of birds making use of the fields at Drumadoon and Sliddery. These included large numbers of Skylark, Reed Bunting and Linnet, with smaller numbers of Twite and a few Wheatear and Yellowhammer. In Sliddery there are areas of unharvested crop of oats, kale, quinoa and red clover. Also, wholecrop silage of triticale and lupin mix have been used. These rely on the vigorous growing nature of both plants to compete with weeds, although there are some weeds such as redshank present. After harvesting there is quite a lot of triticale and weed seed left on the ground. This combination of the feed available in the unharvested crop areas along with the triticale and weed seed in the adjacent fields, together with substantial hedges around the fields, all contribute to attracting these large numbers of birds. All part of the farmers' interest in supporting wildlife.

Other birds on migration included: Bar-tailed Godwit at Blackwaterfoot on 20<sup>th</sup>; a female Merlin in Balegra on 23<sup>rd</sup>; two Redwing in South Newton on 30<sup>th</sup> and seven Black-throated Divers in Drumadoon Bay also on 30<sup>th</sup>.

With the approach of winter some birds move to the milder coast. On 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a Little Grebe in Lochranza and Dipper were reported at the mouths of Glenashdale burn and the Blackwater on 28<sup>th</sup>. Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: Common Sandpiper at Kingscross on 16<sup>th</sup>; Sandwich Tern at Lochranza on 22<sup>nd</sup>; House Martin and Sand Martin in Sannox on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Swallow in Lamlash on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings included: Arctic Skua in Whiting Bay on 13<sup>th</sup>; fifteen Teal on Torr Righ Beag on 27<sup>th</sup>; seventy Turnstone at Kildonan and twelve Wigeon at Cleats Shore on 28<sup>th</sup> and three hundred Kittiwake at Catacol on 29<sup>th</sup>.

After the report of the Red Kite in August, there were further sightings in September including east of Glenloig on 19<sup>th</sup>, Auchenhew on 28<sup>th</sup> and above Glenashdale on 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **October**

October was warmer than normal with only a few unsettled days.

The latest reports for summer visitors were: twelve Manx Shearwaters from Ardrossan ferry on 7<sup>th</sup>; two Wheatears at Shiskine Golf Course on 15<sup>th</sup>; one Swallow in Kildonan on 21<sup>st</sup> and eight House Martins at Port-na-Lochan on 24<sup>th</sup>.

In October migration continued. Sightings included: two Bar-tailed Godwits at Kilpatrick on 7<sup>th</sup>; one Whimbrel at South Feorline on 13<sup>th</sup> and two Grey Plovers at Machriewaterfoot on 25<sup>th</sup>.

With the hedgerows almost red with haws and other berries, the wintering thrushes, the Redwings and Fieldfares, from the north had plenty to feed on. Hundreds were reported from various places including Kilpatrick on 17<sup>th</sup>; Kings Cross Point on 20<sup>th</sup>; Corrie on 20<sup>th</sup> and Lamlash on 21<sup>st</sup>. Most of these groups seemed to be passing through.

The first reports for some other winter visitors were: eight Whooper Swans at Pirnmill on 8<sup>th</sup>; one Brambling at High Kildonan on 9<sup>th</sup>; twenty-two Greylag Geese between Lagg and Sliderry on 12<sup>th</sup> and five Rooks in South Feorline on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings included: on 7<sup>th</sup> a Kingfisher at Fisherman's Walk Brodick and a thousand Kittiwake in Whiting Bay; on 8<sup>th</sup> fourteen Crossbills and a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Corriegills; on 20<sup>th</sup> two Little Grebe at Lochranza and on 24<sup>th</sup> thirty Twite in Blackwaterfoot and ten Black-throated Divers off Drumadoon.

## **November**

During this month of unsettled weather, a number of scarce passage migrants and rare winter visitors were reported, including: Snow Bunting in Glen Catacol on 10<sup>th</sup>; seven Purple Sandpipers at Kildonan on 11<sup>th</sup>; Firecrest in Whiting Bay on 17<sup>th</sup>; Brambling in High Kildonan on 18<sup>th</sup> and on 24 October a Great Grey Shrike was with winter thrushes in Fairy Glen. The Firecrest is a first for Arran.

The first Shelduck report was from Clauchlands on 28<sup>th</sup> October and the first Goldeneye was from Cordon on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Other sightings in November included: Ptarmigan on Beinn Bharrain on 1<sup>st</sup>; a mixed flock of two to three hundred Redwing and Fieldfare in Sliderry on 3<sup>rd</sup>; one hundred and sixty Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 4<sup>th</sup>; two males and a female Yellowhammer in a Shiskine garden on 4<sup>th</sup>; one hundred and fifty Grey Lag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 8<sup>th</sup>; one hundred and thirty Teal at Torr Righ Beag on 8<sup>th</sup>; one hundred and fifty Curlew at Corriecravie on 9<sup>th</sup>; two hundred Starling at South Feorline on 11<sup>th</sup>; eighty eight Turnstone also on 11<sup>th</sup> at Kildonan; twenty-three Bullfinches at Butter Hill on 12<sup>th</sup>; eighteen Blackbirds feeding around a seaweed mulch in a Kilmory garden on 13<sup>th</sup>; eight Rooks in Corriecravie on 18<sup>th</sup>; a male Mandarin Duck by Rosaburn Lodge on 21<sup>st</sup> and over fifty Linnets at Clauchlands on 26<sup>th</sup>.



## December

During December, the unsettled weather continued that included a cold spell just before Christmas.

The Firecrest in Whiting Bay in November was followed by a report of a Yellow-browed Warbler on 4<sup>th</sup> December and again on 6<sup>th</sup> December. This species was last recorded in Arran in Kilmory on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1995.

Other winter visitors included: three Little Auks in Brodick Bay on 27<sup>th</sup> November; a Snow Bunting on Meall Breac on 3<sup>rd</sup> December; a Goldeneye on Sannox Burn on 4<sup>th</sup>; two Whooper Swans in Whiting Bay on 5<sup>th</sup> and three flying over Brodick Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> and a Barnacle Goose with Grey Lags at High Clachaig on 8<sup>th</sup>.

Other bird sightings in December included: a male Merlin at Machrie on 4<sup>th</sup>; a Kingfisher at the mouth of the Rosa burn on 11<sup>th</sup>; three pairs of Bullfinches on top of the hill near the Urie Loch on 13<sup>th</sup>; over one hundred Curlew in the field by the fire station in Lamlash on 16<sup>th</sup>; a sparring match between a Golden Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon at Garbh Allt on 18<sup>th</sup> and a small covey of Red Grouse to the west of Beinn Nuis also on 18<sup>th</sup>.

From the above summary, it has been an interesting birding year on Arran, including: the first reports of Dotterel since 1996; the innovative project, the Kilmory Hen Harriers on camera, fledging four young in July; over a thousand Kittiwakes in Whiting Bay in October; a Firecrest on 17<sup>th</sup> November, a first for the island; and there were a number of sightings of Red Kites dispersing from their release sites on the mainland. Also in the summer of 2007, there were reports of two species that used to be regular summer visitors to Arran: Nightjar and Corncrake. The reports were of long staying birds. This is the first report of Nightjar since 1998. Recent Corncrake reports have all been short staying birds. Both species were in areas where for the welfare of the bird, the landowners rightly wished no information be released. Let's hope this marks the beginning of the return of both species. Let's hope also that with the support of the landowners and Scottish National Heritage, measures will be taken that enable these species to thrive again on Arran.

Finally, 2007 saw the start of the re-introduction of Black Grouse on Arran with three pairs brought onto the island to establish a breeding programme, from which in a few years it is planned to release birds into the wild. If you would like to find out more, including how you could help, contact [arranbgg@fwi.co.uk](mailto:arranbgg@fwi.co.uk). Financial support is welcome, and you can send a cheque, made payable to the Arran Black Grouse Group, to The Arran Black Grouse Group, Broomhill Croft, North Kiscadale, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RH

## Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

	<b><i>"Earliest" Recorded Date</i></b>	<b>Recorded Arrival Date for 2007</b>
Wheatear	13-Mar-05	14-Mar-07
Chiffchaff	17-Mar-05	25-Mar-07
Willow Warbler	20-Mar-94	11-Apr-07
Sand Martin	22-Mar-05	25-Mar-07
Swallow	23-Mar-05	08-Apr-07
House Martin	28-Mar-05	13-Apr-07
Common Sandpiper	29-Mar-98	21-Apr-07
White Wagtail	29-Mar-07	29-Mar-07
Whinchat	01-Apr-88	15-Apr-07
Sandwich Tern	03-Apr-05	14-Apr-07
Tree Pipit	07-Apr-90	29-Apr-07
Cuckoo	10-Apr-01	18-Apr-07
Garden Warbler	12-Apr-95	26-Apr-07
Whitethroat	17-Apr-06	14-Apr-07
Arctic Tern	18-Apr-99	15-May-07
Manx Shearwater	18-Apr-06	24-Apr-07
Sedge Warbler	19-Apr-02	02-May-07
Grasshopper Warbler	19-Apr-89	30-Apr-07
Corncrake	20-Apr-90	14-May-07 only date in public domain
Common Tern	21-Apr-93	27-Jun-07
Spotted Flycatcher	24-Apr-87	01-May-07
Wood Warbler	26-Apr-96	28-Apr-07
Pied Flycatcher	28-Apr-98	None recorded in 2007
Lesser Whitethroat	30-Apr-02	02-May-07
Swift	01-May-07	01-May-07
Redstart	03-May-02	17-Jun-07 only date recorded
Nightjar	23-May-94	No records in public domain in 2007

## Systematic List 2007

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

#### **Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

2 adults with one juvenile off Auchencar on 14 August; one adult and one juvenile in Whiting Bay on 15 September. Groups included 3 off Kilpatrick on 30 May and 5 off Largiebeg on 7 October.

### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

#### **Passage migrant with records from January to June and September to December 2007. Site of national importance for birds in autumn.**

Groups included 5 in Machrie Bay on 16 May (some in breeding plumage), 7 off Drumadoon on 30 September, 5 in Whiting Bay on 15 October and 5 off Pirnmill on 18 December.

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

#### **Passage migrant. Records from January to May and August to December 2007.**

Groups included 4 off Dippen on 21 January, 6 in Drumadoon Bay 24 March, 6 in Kilbrannan Sound on 6 April and 6 in Machrie Bay on 26 April.

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

#### **Overwinters.**

Two on Cloy/Rosa burns by Brodick Golf Course on 14 January, one Port-na-Lochan from 30 January to 2 March and 2 at Lochranza on 20 October. Singles in Lochranza on 4 January, 10 October, 16 November and 17 December.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

#### **Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

One Lamlash Bay in breeding plumage on 27 February and one in Lamlash Bay on 1 March. These are all the records for 2007.

### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

#### **Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one Whiting Bay 23-24 October 2006.

### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

#### **Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

One Drumadoon Bay 24 October. (JA)

### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

#### **Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one Whiting Bay 15 December 2003.

**Fulmar** ( Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Nest areas included 7 pairs Cleiteadh Buidhe 29 January, 11 Dun Fionn 14 March, 24 Drumadoon 16 May and 11 Kildonan 17 June. There were no reports of fledged young.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one off Porta Leacach 18 January 1997.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one off Largymore 24 August 1996.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Passage migrant with records from 24 April to 27 October.**

Large groups included over 100 off Pladda on 10 June, 20 passing Kildonan in half an hour on 26 July and over 100 from Ardrossan ferry on 11 August.

**Mediterranean Shearwater** ( Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.



**Storm Petrel** (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

**Rare vagrant.**

One 20 May, one 14 July, 3 on 8 August and again on 11 August. All from the Ardrossan ferry. These are all the records for 2007.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one off Pirmill 24 September 1991.

**Gannet** (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

**Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year but much more common in summer with records from 1 January to 4 November.**

Groups included 30 off Pirmill 11 March, 65 passing Kildonan in half an hour on 25 July, over 80 from Ardrossan ferry on 11 August and 54 in Brodick Bay on 15 August.

**Cormorant** (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

**No breeding records. Common round coast all year but less common than Shag.**

Groups included 12 Corriecravie shore 22 January, 13 Dougarie 12 August and 14 Kildonan on 7 October.

**Shag** (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Nest area on Pladda 17 July 70-80 pairs and good numbers of young. Groups included 43 Corriecravie shore 22 January, 74 Blackwaterfoot on 15 May, 54 in Whiting Bay on 29 June and 89 Lamlash on 16 September.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. 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.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Nest areas in 2007 included 3 at Whitehouse Lamlash on 28 March and one at Lagg on 1 May. Groups included 4 at Lochranza on 16 June, 4 Pirnmill on 3 September, 4 Whiting Bay on 4 September and 3 Clauchlands on 25 September.

**Spoonbill** (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Pairs with young included 4 young at Port-na-Lochan and 5 young Sannox on 11 June. In August there were pairs with one young at Blackwaterfoot on 11<sup>th</sup>, at Corrie on 12<sup>th</sup>, at Catacol on 13<sup>th</sup>, and a pair with two young at Machrie on 14<sup>th</sup>. Winter groups included 10 adults and 3 juveniles at Whiting Bay on 1 January.

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

**Rare winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

**Winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Up to 4 adults in Whiting Bay between 1 January and 13 April. Also in Whiting Bay there were 2 on 24 October, 2 on 11 November and 3 on 20 December. Passage groups included 70 over Bennan Head on 24 March, 59 in Lamlash Bay on 25 March and 14 in Machrie Bay on 23 October.

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

**Winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Five with Greylags in Shiskine Valley on 18 February increased to 22 by 19 March.

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

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one bird with identification collar with Greylags in Shiskine Valley on 4 March 2006.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

**Winter visitor**

Up to 400 in Shiskine Valley between 1 January and 1 April. Up to 300 in fields Slidery and Lagg from 31 October to 12 December. 65 on Cleats Shore on 5 April.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

**Occasional visitor.**

Seven over Braehead quarry on 31 May and 24 at the mouth of the lorsa on 10 August. These are all the records for 2007.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*.

**Occasional winter visitor.**

One with Greylags at High Clachaig on 25 November and again on 8 December. These are all the records for 2007.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record 16 in Brodick Bay on 6 October 2005.

**Shelduck** (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

**Breeding. Common round coast from January to July and November to December.**

Pairs with various numbers of young included: 11 young at Clauchlands on 13 May, 8 at Carlo on 15 May, 10 on Cleats Shore on 25 June and 6 at Clauchlands on 25 July.

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

**Introduced species which has bred regularly at Loch Eck, Cowal, Argyll in recent years.**

Male in Rosa and Cloy burns by Brodick Golf course from 13 April to 10 June.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

**Winter visitor with records from January to March and September to December.**

Groups included 24 at Cosyden on 21 January, 15 at Auchenhew Bay on 25 January, 35 at Machrie on 11 November, 11 at Kildonan on 11 November and 3 at Clauchlands on 9 December.

**Teal** (Common Teal) *Anas crecca*

**Breeding and winter visitor. Common round coast from January to April and September to December.**

Groups included 80 on Kilpatrick shore on 5 February, 17 on pond in Kilpatrick plantation on 27 March and 120 on Torr Righ Beag from 18 October to 8 November.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Females with young included 12 on Machrie pond on 14 April, 3 on Shiskine pond on 21 April, and 3 by Fisherman's Walk, Brodick on 22 June. Groups included 58 in Brodick Bay on 21 January and 100 on Kilpatrick shore on 19 November.

**Pintail** (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one on Machrie pond on 14 August 1994.

**Shoveler** (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 males at Machrie on 18 August 1996.

**Pochard** (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Lamlash on 21 March 1984.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

**Occasional visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record one male on Port-na-Lochan from 21 April to 4 May 2006.

**Scaup** (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record a pair on Port-na-Lochan on 2 January 2003.

**Eider** (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Breeding included 6 females with 6 young at Pirnmill on 10 June, and one female with one young Torrylinn on 14 July. Groups included 21 Catacol on 22 January, 24 Lamlash on 13 May, 27 Kings Cave on 27 September and 50 in Whiting Bay on 11 November.

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza with no records after 26 April 1980.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Blackwaterfoot on 27 April 1998.

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

**Occasional visitor.**

One male off Largymore on 5 April was the only record in 2007. (MG)

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 off Catacol on 5 April 1998.

**Goldeneye** (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

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

Groups included 4 at Cleats Shore on 16 January and 8 off Cordon on 15 February. Latest spring record a male off Kilpatrick shore on 8 April and first autumn record a pair off Cordon on 14 November.

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record a male off Pirnmill on 28 November 2004.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year. Site of national importance.**

Female with 5 young in Machrie and female with 3 young Creag Dubh on 16 July. Groups included 130 at Machrie on 2 July and 40 at Pirnmill on 12 July.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

**Breeding. 2006 was first breeding record since 2003.**

No confirmed breeding in 2007. Sightings included a male in Lochranza on 2 January, a pair at Machriewaterfoot on 14 April, a pair at Auchencar on 25 April and 3 males at Kilmory on 17 May.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

**Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.**

Male on Port-na-Lochan on 21 April (GB).





**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

**Occasional Visitor.**

Singles seen included Knowe Farm on 27 February, Dougarie on 10 August, Glenloig on 19 September and Auchenhew on 28 September..

**Marsh Harrier** (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was a juvenile in Lamlash 19 August 2004.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

**Resident. Breeding widespread. Internationally important area with five percent of UK breeding population.**

Breeding season better than 2006 with a minimum of 44 chicks fledged including 4 on camera in Kilmory in July. Numerous widespread sightings including male in Kilpatrick on 8 March, a pair on Machrie moor on 21 March, a male in Glen Chalmadale on 25 April, a pair on Glenshant Hill on 21 June and a pair on the Ross Road on 9 November.

**Goshawk** (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

**No confirmed breeding.**

Singles recorded High Kildonan on 21 March, a juvenile in Corriecravie on 26 August, Cleats Shore on 28 October and Monamore Glen on 14 November. These are all the records for 2007.

**Sparrowhawk** (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

Poorer breeding season than 2006 with 13 young fledged from 8 successful nests within 11 territories studied. Crossbill remains found at 1 plucking post. Numerous sightings throughout the year including one hunting bats in Shiskine on 15 July.

**Buzzard** (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

Numerous sightings throughout the year including 5 over Ross Road on 14 July, 4 over Machrie Moor on 11 August and 5 in Pirnmill on 12 August.

**Rough-legged buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last recorded Cleats Shore 10 November 1974.

**White-tailed eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was an adult over Sandbraes flying towards Holy Isle on 18 March 2006.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

**Resident. Breeding.**

All territories occupied. Three young fledged.

Sightings included a pair on Beinn Bhreac on 18 February, a pair in Glen Chalmadale on 14 March, 3 circling Cir Mhor on 20 March, one immature over Lochranza on 27 October and one immature in Glen Rosa on 3 November.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Occasional passage migrant.**

Singles recorded in Lamlash Bay on 13 May and over north Newton Shore on 8 June. These are all the records for 2007.

**Kestrel** (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

Numerous sightings throughout the year including a pair in Glen Chalmadale on 25 April, a family of 4 by the Kings Cave on 29 June, a family of 4 at Brown Head on 2 August and 3 in Glen Catacol on 17 December.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

**No confirmed breeding, possibly underreported. More widely distributed in winter and on passage.**

Singles recorded included a female at the Dyemill on 15 January, a male over Glenashdale shore on 9 March, a male in Monamore Glen on 24 May, a female over Cleats Shore on 21 September and a male at Machrie on 4 December.

**Hobby** (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last recorded Largiemore on 24 May 2002.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

**Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.**

All territories occupied. Five young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year including male Whiting Bay 3 January, one stooping on a Raven at Cioch nah-Oige on 28 April, a pair Beinn Nuis on 7 July, two young pursuing Sandwich Terns on 12 August, a juvenile on Cleats shore on 28 September and one mobbing a Golden Eagle by Garbh Allt on 18 December.

**Red Grouse** (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus*

**Resident. Breeding. Underreported.**

Ten Glen Righ 30 April. Pair with 6 young north west of Loch Tanna 6 June. Three by Loch na Leirg 20 November.

**Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus*

**Very localised.**

Two Beinn Bharrair on 1 November (TL).



**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

**Previously bred.**

No records for 2007. Last record a female in High Glen Cloy on 18 February 2000. Re-introduction programme started.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

**Introduced species.**

Groups included, 6 Balmichael estate on 23 February, 3 Balnacool on 1 March and a pair with three young in Brodick Country Park on 12 June.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

**Previously bred.**

No records for 2007. Last record, excluding released birds in the 1990s, was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

**Quail** (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

**Previously bred.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Kilpatrick plantation on 30 May 1995.

**Pheasant** (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

**Introduced species. Long-established, widespread, and common resident breeding bird,**

Reports from all areas including two leucistic birds in Shiskine valley.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Localised Resident. Breeding,**

One found dead 28 February in Glenashdale. Three young reared Kings Cross area with 3 birds still in this area in December. These are all the records for 2007.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana Porzana*

**One historical record.**

One found dead by Pladda lighthouse on 24 October 1895.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

**Rare summer visitor. Previously bred.**

One calling Port-na-Lochan on 14 May is the only record in the public domain. (GH)

**Moorhen** (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

**Localised resident. Breeding.**

One juvenile on Port-na-Lochan pond from 4 January to 14 March. One Machrie pond on 18 March. Two Corriecravie pond on 8 July. Two Port-na-Lochan 17 November.

**Coot** (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

**Occasional visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Machrie pond on 21 April 2002.

**Crane** (*Grus grus*)

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 in Shiskine valley on 26 September 1989.

**Oystercatcher** (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

**Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Nests recorded Kilpatrick, Dougarie, Machrie, Clauchlands, Sandbraes, Cleats Shore, Kildonan, Pladda.

Groups included 150 at Machriewaterfoot on 20 January, 130 at Clauchlands on 21 January, 120 on Slidderly shore on 26 January and 130 at Kildonan on 9 December.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Nests recorded Kilpatrick, Dougarie, Machrie, Kilmory, Clauchlands, Sandbraes, Cleats Shore, Kildonan.

Groups included 52 in Whiting Bay on 5 January, 63 in Blackwaterfoot on 12 August, 70 Porta Leach, Kildonan, on 15 August and 42 at Clauchlands on 11 November.

**Golden Plover** (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Five successful territories in north western moorland. Groups at Machriewaterfoot included 110 on 29 March and 165 on 24 October.



**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

Two males and two females on Mullach Buidhe on 26 April (JH).

**Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

Two at Machriewaterfoot on 25 October (JWil).

**Lapwing** (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

**Breeding and winter visitor.**

No confirmed breeding records. Groups included 41 Kilpatrick on 21 January, 97 at Port na Feannaiche on 22 January, 51 Corriecravie shore on 18 November and 15 in Lamlash on 9 December.

**Knot** (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

**Passage migrant.**

One at Blackwaterfoot on 19 May, 3 in Whiting Bay on 17 August, one at Drumadoon on 23 August and 2 on Cleats Shore on 9 September. These are all the records for 2007.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

**Passage migrant.**

Groups included 2 Blackwaterfoot on 13 May, 7 Drumadoon on 31 May, 4 Blackwaterfoot on 16 July and 2 South Feorline on 24 September.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 3 Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

**Winter visitor.**

Groups included 4 Kildonan on 5 January, 4 Drumadoon on 16 May and 10 Kildonan on 9 December.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

**Passage migrant with records from most months of the year. No breeding records.**

Groups included 11 Drumadoon on 16 May, 9 Kildonan on 15 July, 12 Brodick on 10 August and 20 Kilpatrick on 19 November.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

One Kildonan on 27 January and one Glen Righ on 10 April. These are all the records for 2007.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Resident but underreported breeder.**

No breeding records. Groups included 2 Glen Easburg on 7 April, one Glen Righ on 30 April, 5 Kildonan on 10 September and 3 Balnagowan farm on 27 December.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

**One record of this American species.**

One juvenile was at Slidderwaterfoot from 15 to 17 September 1990.

**Woodcock** (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

**Resident but underreported breeder.**

No breeding records. Pairs flying at dusk at Lagg on 20 May, Machrie on 24 May, Knockenkelly on 17 June, Brodick Country Park on 20 June and over the Dyemill on 27 November.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one at Kildonan on 27 September 2005.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One Machriewaterfoot on 24 March, one Blackwaterfoot on 20 September, one Cleats Shore on 22 September and 2 Kilpatrick shore on 7 October. These are all the records for 2007.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.**

Groups included 5 at Auchenhew bay on 3 May, 4 Blackwaterfoot on 4 May, 6 Auchenhew bay on 23 July and 3 Kilpatrick on 26 August.

**Curlew** (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

**Resident but unreported breeder.**

No breeding records. Short billed young birds in group of 56 on Porta Leacach, Kildonan, on 23 July. Other groups included 38 Dougachie on 21 January, 188 Corriecravie on 22 January, 106 Port na Feannaiche on 27 January, 54 Machrie on 25 October and 100 in Lamlash on 16 December.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one at Lamlash on 21 August 2004.

**Redshank** (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

**Passage migrant with records from most months of the year. No breeding records.**

Groups included 9 at Kildonan on 6 January, 12 at Torrylinn on 26 January, 8 at Lochranza on 9 August and 33 at Sandbraes, Whiting Bay on 2 September.

**Greenshank** (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One Porta Leach on 23 July and 2 Cleats Shore on 19 August. These are all the records for 2007.

**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*)

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one at Kildonan on 1 August 2003.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Summer visitor with records from April to August. Breeding.**

Pairs with 2 young at Drumadoon on 10 June, 2 young at Fallen Rocks on 27 June, 3 young Machrie on 3 July and 3 young on South Feorline shore on 5 August.

**Turnstone** (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*

**Passage migrant with records from most months of the year.**

Groups included 20 in South Feorline on 21 January, 39 in Machrie on 15 April, 28 in Whiting Bay on 29 October and 90 in Kildonan on 9 December

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 in Wineport area of Brodick bay on 28 August 1983.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Brodick bay on 23 March 1989.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one off Pirnmill on 3 October 1991.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One from Ardrossan ferry on 19 May, one off Pladda on 26 July, one from Ardrossan ferry on 11 August and one in Whiting Bay on 13 September. These are all the records for 2007.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*.

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

Two from Ardrossan ferry on 20 May, 3 north of Lochranza on 5 June and one from Ardrossan ferry on 8 August. These are all the records for 2007.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one at Catacol on 30 December 1992.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

**Uncommon irregular visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Whiting Bay on 27 June 2005.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

**Non breeding. Present round coast most of the year.**

Groups included 11 at Clauchlands on 1 January, 24 in Whiting Bay on 28 February and 6 on Kilpatrick shore on 11 November.

**Common Gull (Mew Gull)** *Larus canus*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Between 50 and 55 nests at Dougarie on 5 June, many later destroyed by high tide. Groups included 198 in Lamlash on 19 March, and on 11 November 287 on Kilpatrick shore and 146 in Lamlash.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

**Breeding. Common round coast from February to October.**

Two hundred plus pairs with some flying young on Pladda on 17 July. Other groups included 52 at Cordon on 14 March, 58 at mouth of Iorsa on 26 June, 114 in Whiting Bay on 12 August and 40 in Machrie on 15 August.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Groups included 496 in Sannox bay on 23 May, 245 in Whiting Bay on 12 August and 241 on Kilpatrick shore on 11 November.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

First winter gull at mouth of Iorsa on 24 April (SDH). This is the only record for 2007.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record was in 2006. That year, a bird in first winter plumage was first reported north of Pirnmill on 8 March. On the 12 March it was in Whiting Bay. On 23 March it was in Lamlash. Last reported 30 March Whiting Bay.



**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

**Breeding. Common round coast all year.**

Six pairs on Pladda on 26 June. Two fledged young at mouth of lorsa on 6 August. Groups included 25 at Catcacol on 29 September and 14 at Kilpatrick on 11 November.

**Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 31 December 1994.

**Kittiwake** (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla*

**Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.**

Groups included 300 in Kildonan on 4 June, 170 in Whiting Bay on 21 August, 300 off Lochranza on 22 September, over 1,000 in Whiting Bay on 11 November and 290 in Whiting Bay on 11 November.

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*

**One historical record.**

One shot in Lamlash bay in 1895. There was one at Greanan near Ayr on the Ayrshire coast from 13 December 2006 to 3 January 2007.

**Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

**Rare summer visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

**Uncommon summer visitor.**

Two in Blackwaterfoot on 27 June and one in the same area on 27 July. These are all the records for 2007.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

**Summer visitor. Breeding.**

On Pladda 10-15 pairs on 1 June. Other sightings included 7 in Kildonan on 15 May, 20 on Pladda on 10 June and one in Whiting Bay on 26 June.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

**Uncommon summer visitor.**

One in Brodick bay on 11 August (MMcG). This is the only record for 2007.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicencis*

**Summer visitor. Non breeding.**

Groups included 7 in Machrie Bay on 23 April, 4 in Blackwaterfoot on 1 July, 8 in Whiting Bay on 12 August, and 5 in Cleats Shore on 24 September.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

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

Three in Brodick bay on 25 November (CTay). This is the only record for 2007.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

**Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year but more sightings in summer.**

Groups included 60 off Pirnmill on 18 January, 14 in Kildonan on 21 January, 8 in Whiting Bay on 24 April and 25 in Porta Leacach on 6 October.

**Guillemot** (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge*

**Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year but more sightings in summer.**

Groups included over 200 off Lochranza on 22 September and over 500 off Pirnmill on 25 December.



**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

**Breeding. Round coast all year.**

Two nests Kilpatrick on 24 April, 3 nests Brodick pier on 18 May, and 3 nests Imachar on 14 July. Other groups included 14 off Kings Caves on 22 July, 13 off Pirnmill on 9 August and 6 in Whiting Bay on 4 September.

**Puffin** (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica*

**Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year but more sightings in summer.**

One seen between Pladda and Kildonan on 26 April. Other singles seen from the Ardrossan ferry on 26 April, 22 May, 1 July and the body of one bird was on the shore at Sannox on 2 July. These are all the records for 2007.

**Pallas's Sandgrouse** *Syrrhaptes 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*

**Resident. Breeding.**

Groups included 5 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 20 January, 62 Auchencar on 11 August and 19 at Brown Head on 14 November.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

**Very scarce.**

No records for 2007. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

**Woodpigeon** (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus*

**Resident. Breeding.**

Groups included 12 in Whiting Bay on 28 February, 52 in High Kildonan on 2 April and 25 in Sannox on 23 October.

**Collared Dove** (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Resident. Breeding.**

Present around all villages. Groups included 14 in Blackwaterfoot on 11 August and 16 in Brodick on 23 October.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Occasional Visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one with a group of Collared Doves in Brodick from 25 October to 8 November 2006.

**Cuckoo**(Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

First one reported calling in North Glen Sannox on 18 April. Later reports from around the island. The last one, a rufous juvenile, was reported on 29 July by the Ross Road.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Most territories occupied: at least 12 pairs raised young, with a replacement brood of youngsters still in the nest in September. Sightings from Balmichael, Corrie, Brodick Dougare, Kilmory, Lamlash, Lochranza, Ross Road, Shiskine, String, and Whiting Bay.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

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

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

**Resident possibly underreported. Breeding.**

Pair nesting forest area of Ross Road and unusually a ground nesting pair in Machrie. Other reports included a calling bird in Kildonan on 18 June and again during the week of 9 July.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

**Resident. Breeding.**

Poor year. Only one breeding record – a nest with 8 eggs top of the String on 27 April. Other sightings included 4 Glen Righ on 30 April, singles on Machrie moor between 15 May and 28 May, single Glenshant Hill on 21 June and a pair on Beinn Bhreac on 2 September.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Summer visitor, Previously bred.**

No records in the public domain in 2007. Last record Maol Donn on 24 May 1998.

**Swift** (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

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

Groups included 6 over High Kildonan on 9 July, 54 in three groups at Porta Leacach on 17 July and two at Clauchlands on 12 August.

**Kingfisher** (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

**Resident. No confirmed breeding.**

Singles by Monamore burn on 1 July, on Blackwaterfoot shore on 18 October, by Port-na-Lochan pond 24 October and by Fisherman's Walk, Brodick 26 January, 13 July, 7 October, 3 November and 11 December.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

**Vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record was one photographed in a garden in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Regularly seen at feeders by nature centre in Brodick Country Park and heard drumming in Merkland Wood from January to April. Also one Glen Rosa on 1 April, one Corriegills on 8 October and one by Rosa bridge on String Road on 26 November.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

**Skylark** (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis*

**Resident with increased numbers in winter. Breeding.**

Breeding territories occupied in Machrie, Kilpatrick, Drumadoon, Torrylinn, and Sannox. Groups included 5 Kildonan 18 February, 120 on Cleats Shore on 21 September and between 80 and 100 on Drumadoon Farm on 30 September.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.**

Breeding territories occupied in Strabane, Sannox, Auchencar and Kilpatrick with up to 20 tunnels being used in Sannox on 9 June. Groups included 3 at Strabane on 11 April, 25 in Sannox bay on 14 April, 7 in Kilpatrick on 24 April and 2 in Pirnmill on 9 August.

**Swallow** (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

Twenty occupied nests in Kilpatrick on 14 August. Groups included 30 in Brodick Country Park on 13 May, 30 in Catacol on 20 May, 100 at Balmichael on 10 August and 300 over High Kildonan on 9 September. Last one Kildonan on 21 October.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

Numbers of occupied nests included 16 at Corriecravie from 18 April to 8 September, some had second broods. Groups included 30 in Catacol on 20 May, 18 by Corriecravie ponds on 8 July, 30 in Lamdash on 19 August and 10 over Port-na-Lochan pond on 24 October.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported. No breeding records.**

Singles at Dyemill on 29 April, in Brodick Country Park on 1 and 15 May, above Corrie on 4 June and in North Glen Sannox on 14 June. These are all the records for 2007.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Nest with four eggs Loch na Davie 25 June. Groups included 50 on Cleats Shore on 21 September and 40 on Kildonan shore on 7 October.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread along the coast.**

Adults with small young at Kildonan on 1 June. Pair carrying food Kilpatrick on 10 June. Groups included 24 on Blackwaterfoot shore on 20 January and 6 at Clachlands on 14 August.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

**Scarce passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record two Cleats Shore on 23 April 2006.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Pair carrying food at Auchenhew on 28 May and at South Feorline on 30 May. Family of 4 at Port-na-Lochan and in Blackwaterfoot on 17 June. Other groups included 3 in Lamlash on 19 August and 2 South Feorline on 11 November.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Family of 6 in Blackwaterfoot on 7 June and family of 4 Machrie Golf Course 6 August. Groups included 16 at Blackwaterfoot on 20 January and 22 at Kildonan on 19 August.

**White Wagtail** *Montacilla alba*

**Passage migrant.**

Groups included 3 Cleats Shore on 12 April, 10 Kildonan shore on 15 April, 3 Corriecravie on 26 August and 16 Kildonan shore on 28 August, as well as groups passing south along Machrie shore throughout September.

**Waxwing** (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

**Irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers; not seen every year.**

Singles in Lamlash on 8 January, Kings Cross on 26 January, and Clauchlands on 31 January. These are all the records for 2007.

**Dipper** (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs recorded at Rosa, Monamore, Ben Lister and Ashdale burns. Also pairs at Slidderwater, Machriewater and Lochranza with juveniles reported from Slidderwater on 27 May and Clauchan Water on 15 June. Tend to move towards coast in winter.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Records from varied habitats through out the island. Groups included 2 adults with 6 young in Blackwaterfoot on 6 July.

**Dunnock** (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pair carrying food in Merkland Wood on 28 May and a second brood fledged in Pirnmill on 29 June.

**Robin** (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Three fledged young at High Kildonan on 24 May, one fledged young in Kilpatrick on 14 June and 3 fledged young in Sannox on 28 June. Group of 5 in Shiskine on 24 October.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

**Scarce passage migrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record a juvenile on Blackwaterfoot shore on 8 November 2006.

**Redstart** (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported. Previously bred.**

A female was caught and ringed at Porta Leacach, Kildonan, on 17 June. It had a brood patch. There had been no records for 2006.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.**

Pairs and singles recorded Glen Righ, Machrie Moor, Glen Rosa, Lochranza, Kilmory, Ross Road, Auchenhew and Laggan.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Sightings included a pair on Shiskine Golf course on 21 January, a nest with 5 eggs in Lamlash on 8 May, a family of 4 by Coire Fhionn Lochan on 17 June, 12 including juveniles in Glen Rosa on 28 August and a pair on Machrie Moor on 16 December.

**Wheatear** (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Summer visitor and passage migrant. Breeding. Widespread.**

First reported: a male at Corriecravie ponds on 14 March. Pair with fledged young at Moss Farm on 21 May. Six including young at Kilpatrick on 3 July. On passage, two "Greenland" Wheatears ringed at Auchenhew Bay on 26 May.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.**

No records for 2007. Last record a single bird calling east side of Cir Mhor 9 June 2006.

**Blackbird** (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs reported from all villages. Large groups included 18 in a Kilmory garden feeding in seaweed mulch on 13 November and 14 in Whiting Bay on 17 December.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

**Winter visitor with records from January to April and October to November.**

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, included 80 in Kilpatrick on 22 January, 50 in Machrie on 26 January, 150 at Dyemill on 21 October, and 300 by Sliderywater on 3 November.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs reported from all villages. Largest group 6 at Auchenhew bay on 26 April.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

**Winter visitor with records from February to March and November to December.**

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares included 100 in Shiskine on 25 March, 300 High Kildonan on 18 October and 75 in Corrie on 20 October.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pair with 3 fledged young Aucheleffan. A group of 12 Auchareoch on 13 August.

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

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

Records included one reeling at Kilmory from 30 April, one Glen Righ on 30 April, two Auchenhew on 3 May, one Glenscorrodale on 21 May and one Machrie Moor on 21 May.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Records included 3 singing Corriecravie on 2 May, 3 pairs Auchenhew bay on 14 May, 2 at Port-na-Lochan on 20 May and one at Pirmill on 9 August.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

**Scarce summer visitor. No breeding records.**

The only record for 2007 was one at Auchenhew Bay on 2 May (MHD).

**Whitethroat** (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

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

Pairs feeding young at Port-na-Lochan on 3 June, Cleats Shore on 14 August and at Claulands on 20 August. Other records included a male in Kildonan on 14 April, 4 Kilmory on 18 May and 2 Corriecravie on 8 July.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.**

One at Knockenkelly on 26 April, one Brodick Country Park on 26 April, one in Merkland Wood on 28 May and one in Machrie on 15 August. These are all the records for 2007.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Summer visitor and winter visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

Records included male in Whiting Bay on 18 January, a male at garden feeder in Brodick on 11 February, 3 singing in Glenashdale on 7 June and 2 juveniles at Porta Leacach on 17 June.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

**Very rare and irregular passage migrant.**

The only record for 2007 was one in Whiting Bay from 4 to 6 December (MHD).



**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

With the exception of one singing in Glenashdale on 7 June, all records were from Merkland Wood where there were sightings between 28 April and 6 June.

**Chiffchaff** (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Records from March to August.**

Records included one Brodick Country Park 25 March, one Knockenkelly 27 March, one Sliderry 27 March, one Kilpatrick 28 March, one Whiting Bay 5 April and one High Kildonan on 13 August.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Records included one Glen Righ 11 April, one Glen Cloy 14 April, one Clauchlands 20 April, one Cladach 26 April, one juvenile Kilpatrick 12 July and one Sliderry 20 August.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Groups included 3 Brodick Country Park 25 September, 5 Milburn Wood 19 October, 3 Machrie Wood 15 November and 7 Glen Rosa 25 November.



**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

**Very rare and irregular passage migrant.**

The only record for 2007 was one in Whiting Bay on 17 November (MW)

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

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

Nest with 2 young Pirnmill 7 July, 2 young Kilmory 6 August, and 2 young Sliderry 20 August. Other records included 2 Brodick Country Park 1 May, 3 Glenashdale 20 May and 2 Merkland Wood 28 May.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Irregular summer visitor.**

No records for 2007. Last record one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Records included 14 Brodick 16 January, 10 South Feorline 23 May, 10 Sannox 24 May, 16 Whiting Bay 6 June, 30 Doonan 30 August and 18 Corriegills 28 October.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one North Sannox on 13 May 2004.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Largest group was 9 in Glenashdale on 9 December.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Seven young Sliderry 3 June, 3 young Whiting Bay 6 June, 2 young Kilpatrick 24 June and 4 young Pirnmill 29 June.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Two young Auchrannie 26 May, 3 young Kilpatrick 15 June and 4 young Pirnmill on 29 June.

**Nuthatch** (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Corrie on 25 June 2002.

**Treecreeper** (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Family group of 5 in Glenashdale on 20 May. Other records of single birds included Cladach 18 January, Whitehouse Wood 2 April, Merkland Wood 11 April, Pirnmill 28 May and Porta Leacach 1 July. .

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record a male at Kildonan on 27 September 1997.



**Great Grey shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

**Rare vagrant.**

The only record for 2007 was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza, on 24 October (PAH).

**Jay** ( Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Brodick Country Park on 24 October 1985.

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

**Vagrant. Only seven records in last twenty five years.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Corriecravie ponds on 9 December 2006.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

**Rare vagrant. Previously bred.**

No records for 2007. Last record 5 in Lochranza on 5 July 2001.

**Jackdaw** (Eurasian Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Groups included 120 Drumadoon on 21 January, 75 Kildonan on 27 January, 50 Pirnmill on 10 February and 64 Machriewaterfoot on 21 March.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Winter visitor.**

Groups included 6 Lamlash on 6 January, 2 adults and 2 fledged young Shiskine on 20 June, 13 Kilpatrick on 3 July, 5 South Feorline on 18 October and 8 Corriecravie on 18 November.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* : **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

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

Groups included 30 Cleat s Shore on 16 January, 40 Shiskine on 4 February and 120 Lamlash on 7 February.

**Raven** (Common Raven) *Corvus corax*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs at Brown Head on 8 March, Dun Fionn on 14 March, Glen Chalmadale on 14 March, Corriecravie on 4 May and Bennan Head on 10 May. Largest group 27 on the Ross Road on 24 April.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one adult in Brodick on 28 June 2002.

**Starling** (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Groups included 180 Kilpatrick on 18 February, 150 in Cosyden on 8 March, 300 Kilpatrick on 17 October and 200 South Feorline on 11 November.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Adults feeding 3 young in Shiskine on 21 May, 3 young in Machrie on 25 May and 2 young in Kilpatrick on 17 June (second brood). Groups included 9 Shiskine on 29 January, 15 Lamlash on 19 May, 5 Lochranza on 16 June, 25 Whiting Bay on 17 July, 100 Shiskine on 16 August and 38 Kilpatrick on 19 August.

**Tree Sparrow** (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

**Rare vagrant. Previously bred.**

No records for 2007. Last record 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Two fledged young Kilpatrick 26 June. Groups included 30 Brodick Country Park on 15 May, 35 Shiskine on 22 October and 16 Whiting Bay on 17 December.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**Irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers; not seen every year.**

Both from High Kildonan a male on 9 October and a female on 19 November. These are all the records for 2007.

**Greenfinch** (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Fledged young at garden feeders in Kildonan on 28 May, Kilpatrick on 29 May, and Sannox on 28 June. Groups included 30 Kildonan on 21 January, 12 Kilpatrick on 8 February, 30 High Kildonan on 22 February and 8 Corriecravie on 8 June.

**Goldfinch** (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Fledged young at garden feeders in Kilpatrick on 7 June and Blackwaterfoot on 15 June. Groups included 24 Corriecravie on 15 April, 15 Levenorrach on 17 May, 20 South Feorline on 24 September, 30 Lamlash on 29 September and 17 Auchareoch on 9 October.

**Siskin** (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Most records between January and June.**

Fledged young at feeders High Kildonan on 6 May, Blackwaterfoot on 18 June and Kilpatrick on 19 June. Groups included 10 Kilpatrick on 1 February, 25 Glenashdale on 25 February, 15 Catacol on 21 September and 50 Dyemill on 10 October.

**Linnet** (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Most records between April and November.**

Pair nest building Cleats Shore 6 April. Groups included 18 (7 young) Corriecravie on 8 July, 200 Cleats Shore on 24 September, 40 Drumadoon on 30 September and 50 Clauchlands on 26 November.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised. Most records in spring and autumn.**

No breeding records. Groups included 10 Cleats Shore on 22 September, 10 Drumadoon on 30 September, 30 Blackwaterfoot on 24 October and 100 Thunderguy shore also on 24 October .

**Redpoll** (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised. Most records in spring.**

Records included one first winter in Kilpatrick from 1 to 4 February, 4 Kilmory on 17 May, family of 3 Kilpatrick on 2 July, 3 Imachar on 14 July, 6 Pirnmill on 9 August and 4 Machrie Moor on 29 September.

**Crossbill** (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Pair feeding 2 fledged young Dyemill forest 15 March. Records included 3 at Home Farm, Brodick on 17 May, 8 Machrie on 17 July, 14 Corriegills on 8 October and 22 Kilmory on 6 November.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** ( Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one juvenile at High Kildonan on 24 October 1999.

**Bullfinch** (Common Bullfinch ) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Female with 5 juveniles Porta Leacach on 1 July. Groups included 12 Urie Loch on 12 January, 4 pairs Brodick on 28 June, 30 feeding on heather by Kilpatrick plantation on 5 February, pair Margnaheglish on 23 February, 23 Kilmory on 12 November and 15 Boguille on 17 December.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2007. Last record one Margnaheglish on 26 April 2000.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

***Varying numbers on passage and in winter.***

Singles reported from Glen Catacol on 10 November, Casteal Abhail on 11 November and Meall Breac on 3 December. These are all the records for 2007.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

***Resident. Breeding. Localised. Most records between January and April and in November and December.***

No breeding records for 2007. Records included 4 males 2 females Shiskine on 19 January, a pair Roddin on 28 February, a pair Drumadoon on 30 September and a pair Shiskine on 11 November.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

***Resident. Breeding. Localised.***

Female with 2 fledged young Ross Road 27 June. Records included a pair Machrie pond on 14 April, a pair Clauchlands on 15 April, a pair Corriecravie on 2 May and 40 Drumadoon on 30 September.

**Corn bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

***Rare vagrant. Previously bred.***

No records for 2007. Last record 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

## Index by Common Name

Common Name	Page	Common Name	Page
Auk, Little		Fieldfare	
Bittern		Finch, Bullfinch	
Blackbird		Finch, Chaffinch	
Blackcap		Finch, Goldfinch	
Brambling		Finch, Greenfinch	
Bunting, Corn		Finch, Hawfinch	
Bunting, Reed		Finch, Scarlet Rosefinch	
Bunting, Snow		Firecrest	
Buzzard		Flycatcher, Pied	
Buzzard, Rough-legged		Flycatcher, Spotted	
Chiffchaff		Fulmar	
Chough		Gannet	
Coot		Godwit, Bar-tailed	
Cormorant		Godwit, Black-tailed	
Crake, Corn		Goldcrest	
Crake, Spotted		Goldeneye	
Crane		Goosander	
Crossbill		Goose, Barnacle	
Crow, Carrion		Goose, Brent	
Crow, Hooded		Goose, Canada	
Cuckoo		Goose, Greylag	
Curlew		Goose, Pink-footed	
Dipper		Goose, White-fronted	
Diver, Black-throated		Goshawk	
Diver, Great Northern		Grebe, Black-necked	
Diver, Red-throated		Grebe, Great Crested	
Dotterel		Grebe, Little	
Dove, Collared		Grebe, Red-necked	
Dove, Rock		Grebe, Slavonian	
Dove, Stock		Greenshank	
Dove, Turtle		Grouse, Black	
Dowitcher, Long-billed		Grouse, Red	
Duck, Long-tailed		Guillemot	
Duck, Mandarin		Guillemot, Black	
Duck, Ruddy		Gull, Black-headed	
Duck, Tufted		Gull, Common	
Dunlin		Gull, Glaucous	
Dunnock		Gull, Great Black-backed	
Eagle, Golden		Gull, Herring	
Eagle, White-tailed		Gull, Iceland	
Egret, Snowy		Gull, Ivory	
Eider		Gull, Lesser Black-backed	
Eider, King		Gull, Little	
Falcon, Peregrine		Gull, Mediterranean	

**Common Name****Page****Common Name****Page**

Gull, Ross's  
Gull, Sabine's  
Harrier, Hen  
Harrier, Marsh  
Heron, Grey  
Hobby  
Hoopoe  
Jackdaw  
Jay  
Kestrel  
Kingfisher  
Kite, Red  
Kittiwake  
Knot  
Lapwing  
Linnet  
Magpie  
Mallard  
Martin, House  
Martin, Sand  
Merganser, Red-breasted  
Merlin  
Moorhen  
Nightjar  
Nuthatch  
Oriole, Golden  
Osprey  
Owl, Barn  
Owl, Long-eared  
Owl, Short-eared  
Owl, Tawny  
Oystercatcher  
Partridge, Grey  
Partridge, Red-Legged  
Petrel, Leach's  
Petrel, Storm  
Phalarope, Grey  
Phalarope, Red-necked  
Pheasant  
Pintail  
Pipit, Meadow  
Pipit, Rock  
Pipit, Tree  
Plover, Golden  
Plover, Grey  
Plover, Ringed  
Pochard  
Ptarmigan

Puffin  
Quail  
Raven  
Razorbill  
Redpoll  
Redshank  
Redshank, Spotted  
Redstart  
Redstart, Black  
Redwing  
Ring Ouzel  
Robin  
Rook  
Ruff  
Sanderling  
Sandgrouse, Pallas's  
Sandpiper, Common  
Sandpiper, Curlew  
Sandpiper, Green  
Sandpiper, Purple  
Scaup  
Scoter, Common  
Scoter, Velvet  
Shag  
Shearwater, Cory's  
Shearwater, Manx  
Shearwater, Mediterranean  
Shearwater, Sooty  
Shelduck  
Shoveler  
Shrike, Great-grey  
Shrike, Red-backed  
Siskin  
Skua, Arctic  
Skua, Great  
Skua, Pomarine  
Skylark  
Smew  
Snipe  
Snipe, Jack  
Sparrow, House  
Sparrow, Tree  
Sparrowhawk  
Spoonbill  
Starling  
Starling, Rose-coloured  
Stint, Little  
Stonechat



**Common Name****Page****Common Name****Page**

Swallow  
Swan, Bewick's  
Swan, Mute  
Swan, Whooper  
Swift  
Teal  
Tern, Arctic  
Tern, Black  
Tern, Common  
Tern, Little  
Tern, Roseate  
Tern, Sandwich  
Thrush, Mistle  
Thrush, Song  
Tit, Blue  
Tit, Coal  
Tit, Great  
Tit, Long-tailed  
Tit, Willow  
Treecreeper  
Turnstone  
Twite  
Wagtail, Grey  
Wagtail, Pied  
Wagtail, White  
Wagtail, Yellow  
Warbler, Garden  
Warbler, Grasshopper  
Warbler, Sedge  
Warbler, Willow  
Warbler, Wood  
Warbler, Yellow-browed  
Water Rail  
Waxwing  
Wheatear  
Whimbrel  
Whinchat  
Whitethroat  
Whitethroat, Lesser  
Wigeon  
Woodcock

Woodpecker, Great Spotted  
Woodpigeon  
Wren  
Wryneck  
Yellowhammer

## 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, PC Frazer Mitchell, 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 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 [james.cassels@virgin.net](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net).