

## **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.

A sub group of the Arran Natural History Society contributes to this purpose, through a week long Wildlife Festival that is held in May. For more information visit this website <http://www.arranwildlife.co.uk/index.html>

One of the publications of the Arran Natural History 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 years.

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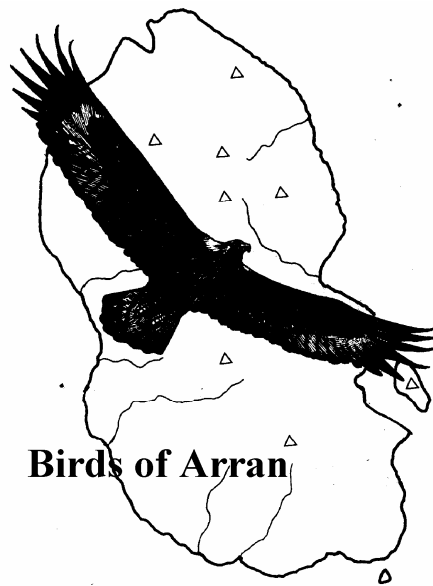
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Front cover photograph: Golden Eagle by David Callan

# Arran Bird Report 2009



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

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## Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report for 2009*. This is the thirtieth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the fourth 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 Islands. The input of the local “volunteers” involved in the BirdAtlas survey and 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) and to be given records submitted to BirdGuides [www.birdguides.com](http://www.birdguides.com). 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: Angela Cassels, Brian Couper, Peter Curran, Brian Henderson, Robert Lambie, Dennis Morrison, Carl Reavey and Gordon Riddle. Finally, there would be no report without the input of the contributors listed.

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 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 all sorts of bird notes for their own interest 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 2009, nearly three hundred contributors submitted over four thousand records on one hundred and fifty eight species. 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 2009.

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 2010, please send any bird notes with “what, when, where” to me before Monday 10 January 2011, 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, Bird Recorder for the Arran Natural History Society

## Chronological Summary

### January

January started with ten days of dry cold weather. The month had around half of the rain of January 2008.

Raptors were to the fore this month. Reports included: three Golden Eagles in the sky over Lochranza on 13<sup>th</sup>; a Peregrine sparring with four Ravens near Bennan also on 13<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Hen Harrier on Machrie Moor on 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there were lots of sightings of Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel. At this time of year these species numbers are increased by birds which have migrated from the harsh winters in Scandinavia. Another bird that is known to migrate from the colder north is the Merlin. There were two reports this month of this small raptor which is about the size of a thrush: a female at the Dyemill on 9<sup>th</sup> and a male at Drumadoon on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings included: nine Black-headed Gulls and ten Kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 1<sup>st</sup>; Red Grouse on Cnoc Breac on 7<sup>th</sup>; seventy seven Woodpigeon in Shiskine on 12<sup>th</sup>; twenty pairs of Fulmars on the cliffs at Drumadoon on 13<sup>th</sup>; a solitary Waxwing at Balmichael on 19<sup>th</sup>; two male and one female Goosander in Lochranza on 22<sup>nd</sup>; eighteen Dunlin in Whiting Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup>; a Jack Snipe in Clachlands on 28<sup>th</sup>.

Garden bird sightings included: a Redpoll on 4<sup>th</sup> in Catacol; a Great Spotted Woodpecker on 5<sup>th</sup> in Pirmill; a Siskin on 17<sup>th</sup> at Dhunan; a Blackcap on 23<sup>rd</sup> in Brodick; a Yellowhammer on 31<sup>st</sup> in Shiskine.

Our most numerous wintering geese are the Greylag. On the 13<sup>th</sup> there were over four hundred in Clachaig. The largest groups of those other winter visitors, the Fieldfares and Redwings, were at Balmichael on 19<sup>th</sup>, when there were around two hundred and fifty Fieldfare and fifty Redwing.

There were signs of approaching Spring with Gannet off Kildonan on 4<sup>th</sup>, in Lamblash Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> and north of the Fairy Dell on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### February

February started with a cold, predominantly dry spell. Throughout the month there were eleven days with no rain.

Winter visitors were to the fore, with four Purple Sandpipers on Hamilton Rocks on 4<sup>th</sup> February; forty Fieldfare at Balmichael on 9<sup>th</sup>; thirty one Wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on 17<sup>th</sup>; a Little Grebe in Lochranza on 19<sup>th</sup>; three hundred and sixty six Greylag with thirty five Pink-footed Geese on Cleats Shore on 22<sup>nd</sup> and sixty Redwing in High Kildonan on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Other groups included: fifteen Wren in a roost in Blackwaterfoot on 2<sup>nd</sup>; eighteen Golden Plover in a Kilpatrick field on 6<sup>th</sup>; seventy two Teal on Kilpatrick shore on 8<sup>th</sup>; fifty six Lapwings in South Feorline on 9<sup>th</sup>; twenty three Skylark in High Kildonan on 15<sup>th</sup>; five Snow Bunting on the ridge between Mullach Buidhe and North Goatfell on 18<sup>th</sup> and eighty four Jackdaw sitting on the roof of the Kinloch Hotel on 27<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday 7 February there was a report of a Great Crested Grebe in Whiting Bay. The bird was actively feeding and, although in winter plumage, there were some signs of emerging breeding plumage. Great Crested Grebe sightings are rare round Arran. In 2007 one bird was in Lamlash Bay from 27 February to 1 March. In 2008 there was only one report, a group of four in Machrie Bay on 29 July.

On the morning of Friday 20 February all three divers, Red-throat, Black-throat and Great Northern were seen off Drumadoon Point.

Other sightings included: a Long-eared Owl near the top of the String on 5<sup>th</sup>; a stunning male Yellowhammer in Kildonan on 7<sup>th</sup>, with four regularly visiting a garden in Dippen throughout the month; a male Bullfinch in Cladach on 25<sup>th</sup> and seven Siskins in Lamlash on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island, House Sparrows gathering nest material in Kilpatrick on 8<sup>th</sup>, over thirty pairs of Fulmars on the cliffs on the Holy Isle on 15<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Golden Eagle displaying over Lochranza on 19<sup>th</sup> and the first record of the year of returning Lesser Black-backed Gull at Whiting Bay on 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **March**

March had twice as much rain as February, but a dry settled spell from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> seemed to encourage the arrival of the spring migrants.

The first Wheatear was reported on 17<sup>th</sup> at Clauchlands. Last year the first report of Wheatear was some eight days later on 25<sup>th</sup>. The earliest report for Wheatear is 13 March in 2005. On 18<sup>th</sup> two Sand Martins were investigating the nest holes at Sannox sand quarry. Last year the first report was some eleven days later. On 20<sup>th</sup> a Chiffchaff was heard calling in Whiting Bay. Last year the first report of Chiffchaff was some fifteen days later on 4 April.

In March, some of our winter visitors were around, including: three Waxwings in Brodick on 7<sup>th</sup>; two Purple Sandpipers at Kildonan on 17<sup>th</sup>; over one hundred Whooper Swans flying over Blackwaterfoot on 19<sup>th</sup>; a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 28<sup>th</sup>; three pairs of Goldeneye in Whiting Bay on 30<sup>th</sup>; and the wintering Greylag Geese flock in the Shiskine Valley had two Barnacle Geese and up to thirteen Pink-footed Geese at the end of the month.

Other sightings included: a Blackcap in Lamlash on 2<sup>nd</sup>; a Red-necked Grebe in Whiting Bay on 9<sup>th</sup>; twelve Black Guillemots at Brodick Pier on 17<sup>th</sup>; a Whimbrel at Machrie on 18<sup>th</sup>; a Short-eared Owl on the high ground above Whiting Bay on 20<sup>th</sup> and a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Corrie on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In previous Arran Bird Reports reference has been made to the numbers of Siskins passing through gardens. In 2007, the month when most Siskins were reported was February, in 2008 it was January, and this year it has been March, with up to twelve in Blackwaterfoot on 17<sup>th</sup> and eight in Lamlash on 29<sup>th</sup>.

## April

April had a few dry spells, but overall the month had more rain than March. With the wind mainly from the south, summer migrants arrived generally a few days earlier than last year.

The April "firsts" for summer visitors were White Wagtail on 1<sup>st</sup> on Kildonan shore, Swallow on 2<sup>nd</sup> over High Kildonan, Sandwich Tern on 3<sup>rd</sup> at Blackwaterfoot, House Martin on 4<sup>th</sup> by Port-na-Lochan, Willow Warbler on 8<sup>th</sup> in Kilmory, Common Sandpiper on 11<sup>th</sup> on Kilpatrick shore, Cuckoo on 16<sup>th</sup> in Corriegills, Arctic Tern on 16<sup>th</sup> off Kildonan, Manx Shearwater on 18<sup>th</sup> from Brodick ferry, Garden Warbler also on 18<sup>th</sup> in Lochranza, Sedge Warbler on 19<sup>th</sup> in Kildonan, Tree Pipit on 22<sup>nd</sup> in Glen Rosa, Whitethroat on 24<sup>th</sup> in High Kildonan, Wood Warbler on 25<sup>th</sup> at Merkland Point, Grasshopper Warbler on 29<sup>th</sup> in Corriecravie and also on 29<sup>th</sup> a Whinchat on Machrie Moor.

Other birds passing through to breeding grounds further north included: one Waxwing in Brodick Country Park on 15<sup>th</sup>; five Whooper Swans at Clauchlands on 17<sup>th</sup>; one Purple Sandpiper with thirty Turnstones at Blackwaterfoot on 20<sup>th</sup>; seventeen Whimbrel on 25<sup>th</sup> at Auchenhew and sixteen Dunlin at King's Cave on 29<sup>th</sup>. As well as these sightings, the reports of a Great Skua from the Brodick ferry on 20<sup>th</sup> and an Arctic Skua off Pirnmill on 27<sup>th</sup> may indicate the start of the passage of skuas.

Other sightings included: the long staying solitary Magpie at Brodick Golf Course on 1<sup>st</sup>; ten Canada Geese at Sliderry on 2<sup>nd</sup>; one Rook at Kildonan also on 2<sup>nd</sup>; three Twite at Clauchlands on 3<sup>rd</sup>; the over-wintering Greenshank still at Clauchlands on 8<sup>th</sup>; a Long-eared Owl in Glen Shant on 10<sup>th</sup>; a Short-eared Owl on Corriecravie Moor on 19<sup>th</sup> and a male Yellowhammer in a Dippen garden on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last breeding record for this species on Arran was ten years ago.

Finally, here are two other highlights from the many April highlights. On 3<sup>rd</sup> a male Shoveler was on the pond just west of Shiskine red church by the String Road. This is the first Arran record since August 1996. On 27<sup>th</sup> an adult White-tailed Eagle flew low from the north west over Auchencar. This is the first report of White-tailed Eagle on Arran since one was seen fishing in Lochranza on 13 May 2008.

## May

In comparison with May 2008, May 2009 was cooler and wetter. This may have delayed the timing of the breeding of some of our summer visitors. In particular House Martins and Swallows seem to have been later in establishing their nests.

Having said that, breeding was well underway for many species, including: a pair of Shelduck with ten young at Clauchlands on 10<sup>th</sup>; Lapwing defending territory in Kilmory on 11<sup>th</sup>; twenty four Common Gulls on nests in Dougarie on 12<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Common Sandpipers on a nest in Pirnmill on 13<sup>th</sup>; seven occupied Grey Heron nests in Lamlash on 15<sup>th</sup>; one young Greylag Goose on Pladda on 18<sup>th</sup>; a Dipper with two young on the Sliderrywater on 24<sup>th</sup>; and three Skylarks over Machrie Moor on 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition there were lots of reports of garden birds carrying food and, contrary to national reports, there is no apparent shortage of Cuckoo on Arran this spring from reports sent to me.

In May, summer visitors continued to arrive with the following “firsts”: Swift in Whiting Bay on 1<sup>st</sup> and Spotted Flycatcher in Newton on 10<sup>th</sup>.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through including: a Great Northern Diver in Whiting bay on 1<sup>st</sup>; seven Whimbrel in South Feorline on 3<sup>rd</sup>; nine Sanderling in Blackwaterfoot on 8<sup>th</sup>; two Dunlin at Torrylinn on 10<sup>th</sup>; two White Wagtail at Drumadoon on 14<sup>th</sup> and also on 14<sup>th</sup> three Black-throated Divers off Cosyden.

While there were plenty of reports of Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk, two other raptors were also reported: a pair of Merlin near the Ross Road on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a Goshawk seeing off a Buzzard over Kildonan on 19<sup>th</sup>. These are unusual sightings for Arran.

Over one hundred species of birds were reported to me in May. Here are a few more highlights, this time from sea watching during May. On 16<sup>th</sup> off Kildonan, there were two Puffins and two Pomarine Skuas. Since the removal of rats from Ailsa Craig, Puffin sightings have increased around Arran. Pomarine Skuas were last reported off Pirnmill in October 1991. On 17<sup>th</sup> a Sooty Shearwater was with the more common Manx Shearwaters off Thunderguy. The main breeding grounds for Sooty Shearwaters are off New Zealand, with all breeding areas in the southern hemisphere. Off Arran there has only been one other record in the last twelve years.

Finally in May there was a Willow Tit in the Mill House area of Lamlash from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the first record since 14 May 2004. Then, on 29 May, an Osprey flew over the Holy Isle, harassed by what seemed to be the entire gull population of that island.

## June

In comparison with May 2009 and with June 2008, June 2009 was drier and warmer. The mean temperature was over three degrees higher than in May and there was half the rain.

Raising young is the priority during the long daylight hours in June, and the settled spell in June seemed to have benefited the breeding birds. There were many reports of fledged birds in gardens, including a second brood of Starlings in Shannochie on 27<sup>th</sup> and a second brood of Blue Tits in Brodick on 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there was a family of Redpolls at Corriecravie on 7<sup>th</sup>, a nest with seven young Wood Warblers in Glen Rosa on 8<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Shelduck with nine young at Pirnmill on 12<sup>th</sup> and the Barn Owl box scheme organised by Rab Logan of the Forestry Commission had over two thirds of the boxes occupied.

Whinchats, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seem to be thriving in some areas of Arran with up to eight pairs in Glen Sannox on 11<sup>th</sup>, nine pairs on the Ross Road on 13<sup>th</sup> and five pairs in Glen Rosa on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Other reports included: four Swifts over Drumadoon on 5<sup>th</sup>; a Barnacle Goose at Clauchlands on 7<sup>th</sup>; six Crossbills in Lamlash on 7<sup>th</sup>; Woodcock roding in Catacol on 8<sup>th</sup>; Spotted Flycatcher in Brodick Castle Gardens on 11<sup>th</sup>; both Great Northern Diver and Red-throated Diver off Blackwaterfoot on 14<sup>th</sup>; a male Common Scoter in Kilbrannan Sound on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Great Spotted Woodpecker in the adventure playground in Brodick Country Park on 29<sup>th</sup>.

In June there was the first report of one of Arran's less common summer visitors, a Lesser Whitethroat. A male was singing at Auchenhew Bay on 27<sup>th</sup>. The last report was in the summer of 2007 from the same area.

## July

After the dry warm June, July was decidedly showery, with nearly three times as much rain as June. On the west coast there was 112mm of rain and only four days with no rain.

As in June, raising young continued to be a priority in July. Reports of breeding included: eight young Red Grouse in Monamore Glen on 5<sup>th</sup>; a young Blackcap in Marganaheglish on 7<sup>th</sup>; young Common Sandpipers on the shore at Dougarie on 9<sup>th</sup>; on 13<sup>th</sup> in Glen Rosa young Whinchat and a late Cuckoo calling, a Lesser Whitethroat singing in Auchenhew Bay on 15<sup>th</sup> and on 18<sup>th</sup> a young Great Spotted Woodpecker in a garden in Pirnmill. This is the first breeding record of this species in Pirnmill.

No breeding records have been received of Fulmar nor Common Tern or Redstart. On the other hand, after the successful eradication of rats from Ailsa Craig, formerly a stronghold of Puffins, there have been more reports of Puffin in Arran waters, including one on Pladda on 29<sup>th</sup>.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. Birds which have been breeding further north appeared again on their migration south including: a Knot in summer plumage at Drumadoon on 16<sup>th</sup>; an Arctic Skua from the "Caledonian Isles" on 30<sup>th</sup>; a pair of Common Scoter in Machrie Bay on 30<sup>th</sup>; a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 30<sup>th</sup>; two Dunlin including one juvenile at Machriewaterfoot on 31<sup>st</sup> and a Goldeneye at Port-na-Lochan on 1<sup>st</sup>.

Other observations received included: on 2<sup>nd</sup> a Short-eared Owl by the Ross Road and a Long-eared Owl by the Kilmory Track; a female Goosander off South Feorline shore on 12<sup>th</sup>; twenty four Crossbills in High Kildonan on 19<sup>th</sup>; twenty nine Gannets in Whiting Bay and a similar number off Fairy Dell on 31<sup>st</sup> and also on 31<sup>st</sup>, in one hour, over two hundred Manx Shearwaters passed through Whiting Bay.

## August

August was wet with over 200mm of rain. With more than twice as much rain as the previous two Augusts, there was more than a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including: a Cuckoo at Drumadoon on 7<sup>th</sup>; three Sand Martins at Kilpatrick and a Spotted Flycatcher at High Kildonan on 10<sup>th</sup>; Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler in Shiskine on 17<sup>th</sup>; a Wheatear at Balmichael and a Whitethroat at Cosyden on 21<sup>st</sup> and over one hundred Swallows in Kilpatrick on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Other signs of successful breeding this month included: three fledged Robins in Lamblash on 2<sup>nd</sup>; six Grey Wagtails in Carlo on 21<sup>st</sup>; four juvenile Stonechat on Shiskine Golf Course on 24<sup>th</sup>; young, barely able to fly, from late breeding Ringed Plover on the shore at Kildonan on 30<sup>th</sup> and juvenile Golden Eagles in the skies over Arran.

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: seven Twite at Drumadoon on 4<sup>th</sup>; up to one hundred Goldfinch on Cleats Shore on 27<sup>th</sup>; up to three hundred Linnet also on Cleats Shore on 29<sup>th</sup>, one hundred and fifty Kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 29<sup>th</sup> and four Sandwich Terns in Kildonan on 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there was a big movement of Manx Shearwaters seen from various points around Arran, including an estimated three thousand an hour passing Largiemore on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup>.

Shore birds on migration included: twenty five Turnstone in Whiting Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup>; a Greenshank and two Whimbrel on Kilpatrick Point on 19<sup>th</sup> and fourteen Dunlin and two Sanderling in Blackwaterfoot on 24<sup>th</sup>.

There were two early reports of birds that are considered to be winter visitors: a Wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 19<sup>th</sup> and a small flock of Fieldfare at Corriegills on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Other birding highlights this month included: a Short-eared Owl at Machrie Farm on 2<sup>nd</sup>; an immature White-tailed Eagle over Rubha Glas on 7<sup>th</sup>; a female Merlin on the Boguillie on 16<sup>th</sup>; a Goosander at Kilpatrick Point on 19<sup>th</sup> and a Great Skua in Brodick Bay on 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **September**

After the deluge in August, September was much drier, with a quarter of the rain of August and half the rain of last September.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. It is the time to expect the unexpected. This year was no exception, with an adult Sabine's Gull and a Cory's Shearwater both reported from the Caledonian Isles on 3 September. This species of gull was last reported in Arran waters in 1994 and this species of shearwater was last reported in 1997. In addition there was the second report of the rare Sooty Shearwater this year, with seven in Machrie Bay on 6<sup>th</sup>.

Shore birds on migration included: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 3<sup>rd</sup>; seven Dunlin and two Knot at Blackwaterfoot on 18<sup>th</sup>; a Bar-tailed Godwit and a Whimbrel on Kildonan shore on 20<sup>th</sup> and over one hundred Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 25<sup>th</sup>. Also on the coast the passage of other birds on migration was noted, including: two White Wagtail at Kildonan on 10<sup>th</sup>; over fifty Meadow Pipit at Kilpatrick Point on 10<sup>th</sup> and over fifty Pied Wagtail at Kildonan on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Birds on migration were not only reported from the coast but also inland, including a female Merlin in North Glen Sannox on 9<sup>th</sup> and twelve Wheatear on the Castles ridge on 16<sup>th</sup>.

At this time of year, birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: eighty Goldfinch at Dippen on 3<sup>rd</sup>; forty Siskin in Sannox on 12<sup>th</sup>; fifty Linnet at Kilpatrick on 14<sup>th</sup> and also at Kilpatrick on 26<sup>th</sup> fifty Twite and over three hundred Starlings. On the coast, there were eighty Gannet in Whiting Bay on 4<sup>th</sup>, over two hundred Shag in Lamlash Bay in the early morning of 19<sup>th</sup> and around one thousand five hundred Kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 20<sup>th</sup>.

With the approach of winter some birds move to the milder coast. Dipper was reported at Lochranza on 8<sup>th</sup> and Clauchlands on 17<sup>th</sup> and Kingfisher was reported from near the mouth

of the Rosa burn on 16<sup>th</sup> and from Cordon on 18<sup>th</sup>. Other birds more associated with winter included two Rooks in Shiskine on 4<sup>th</sup> and eight Wigeon at Cleats Shore on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around, including: a Swift over Dippen on 3<sup>rd</sup>; two House Martins in Kilpatrick on 14<sup>th</sup>; a Chiffchaff in Brodick on 17<sup>th</sup>; a Willow Warbler in Shiskine on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a pair of Swallows still feeding young in a nest in Lamlash on 30<sup>th</sup>.

All three divers were reported this month, including: thirteen Black-throated Divers off Cosyden on 18<sup>th</sup>; a Great Northern Diver in Machrie Bay also on 18<sup>th</sup> and five Red-throated Divers in Whiting Bay on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other sightings this month included: a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lagg Wood on 13<sup>th</sup>; a Water Rail in Machrie on 14<sup>th</sup> and a number of coveys of Red Grouse on high ground, with more than ten birds in each covey.

## October

October was mild. While the early part of the month had dry settled days, the latter part of the month was very wet and wild at times.

The latest reports for summer visitors in October were: five juvenile Swallows in Kilmory on 8<sup>th</sup> and two Wheatears in Kildonan on 11<sup>th</sup>. The first report of Greylags was seven in Sliderry on 17<sup>th</sup> and the first report from the Shiskine Valley was of "teens" on 27<sup>th</sup>.

In October migration continued. Other reports, as well as the Greylag geese, included: two Brent Geese briefly off Kildonan shore on 23 September; a Grey Plover on Blackwaterfoot shore on 6 October (first record since October 2007); thirty Skylark on Cleats Shore on 10<sup>th</sup>; a Goldeneye at Loch na Leirg on 12<sup>th</sup>; three Rook in the Shiskine Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> and a Great Skua in Brodick Bay on 15<sup>th</sup>. On the very wild 25<sup>th</sup> there was a huge movement of seabirds off Pladda, including counts of three hundred Gannets per hour, nine hundred Kittiwakes per hour and three thousand Guillemots per hour.

Also, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October, there were groups of Whooper Swans passing through, including five in Kilmory on 8<sup>th</sup>, four in Blackwaterfoot on 10<sup>th</sup>, forty over Balnacoolie on 23<sup>rd</sup>, twenty over Sandbraes, also on 23<sup>rd</sup> and six over Shannochie on 28<sup>th</sup>.

With the hedgerows heavy with haws and other berries, the wintering thrushes, Redwings and Fieldfares from the north have plenty to feed on. There were widespread reports, with the largest mixed groups being two hundred in Lochranza on 17<sup>th</sup>, three hundred on Lamlash Golf Course on 23<sup>rd</sup>, three hundred on the Heights on 26<sup>th</sup> and two hundred in Shiskine on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Other sightings included: a Snow Bunting on Beinn Bhreac on 5<sup>th</sup>; twenty five Canada Geese in Brodick Bay, also on 5<sup>th</sup>; and a Moorhen at Port-na-Lochan on 6<sup>th</sup> (first Arran report this year). Great Spotted Woodpeckers continue to spread, with reports from Lamlash and Lochranza on 10<sup>th</sup> and Catacol on 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were also two reports of Merlin, one at Drumadoon on 8<sup>th</sup> and one at Glenashdale burn mouth on 25<sup>th</sup>.

## November

November was wet, very wet and the month ended with a short cold spell with snow on the hills.

In November there were still reports of birds considered to be summer visitors, including a juvenile Swallow in Lamlash on 8 November, plus reports of over wintering Blackcaps visiting gardens, including a male in Lamlash on 8<sup>th</sup> and a female in Whiting Bay on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Increasing numbers of other winter visitors were reported, including: a Goldeneye in Lamlash Bay on 1<sup>st</sup>; fifty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 2<sup>nd</sup>; fourteen Whooper Swans over Bailemargaidh on 9<sup>th</sup>; two Fieldfare with ten Redwings on the Ross Road on 11<sup>th</sup> and eighteen Wigeon at Cosyden on 27<sup>th</sup>.

A pair of Black Redstarts was reported in Lamlash on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. They were seen in Bungalow Road, linking the A841 with Shore Road, opposite where the new houses are being built. Both the male and female birds have a red tail which gives them their appropriate name. November certainly seems to be the month to see this scarce passage migrant on Arran. In 2008 one was reported at the Lakin on 8<sup>th</sup> and in 2006 one was reported on Blackwaterfoot shore on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings in November included: an unusually high number of Moorhens, six in total, at Port-na-Lochan on 10<sup>th</sup>; twelve pairs of Fulmars on the cliffs at Drumadoon on 12<sup>th</sup>; thirty Lapwing on the shore at Corriecravie on 21<sup>st</sup>; a male Goosander in the mouth of the Rosa Burn on 24<sup>th</sup>; nine Bullfinches on Torr Righ on 28<sup>th</sup> and a Little Grebe in Lochranza, also on 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition all three divers were off the west coast, including two Black-throated and one Red-throated Diver off Cosyden on 27<sup>th</sup> and a group of five Great Northern Divers off Dougarie on 28<sup>th</sup>. All were in winter plumage.

## December

The weather in December was exceptional, with prolonged cold spells, overnight frosts, several falls of snow and snow lying even at low levels for the last ten days of the month.

In this wintry weather, some unusual birds turned up in gardens, including three female and a male Yellowhammer in Shiskine on 19<sup>th</sup> and a male Brambling, also in Shiskine, on 21<sup>st</sup>. In addition, flocks of wintering thrushes were widespread, including fifty Fieldfare in Kildonan on 11<sup>th</sup> and twelve in Lochranza on 25<sup>th</sup>, and twenty seven Redwing in Whiting Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The numbers of some resident species seem to have been increased by birds from the colder continent seeking the relatively milder climate on Arran, including the familiar Blackbird. Eight were reported in one Shiskine garden on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Other winter groups included: twelve Long-tailed Tits at Invercloy on 22<sup>nd</sup>; forty two Skylarks at Kildonan on 23<sup>rd</sup>; twelve Rooks at Drumadoon on 25<sup>th</sup>; eight Moorhens at Port-na-Lochan on 26<sup>th</sup>; ten Purple Sandpipers at Kildonan on 27<sup>th</sup>; eighty Lapwings in Clauchland fields on 28<sup>th</sup> and eighteen roosting Wrens in Blackwaterfoot on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Other winter visitors included: fourteen Wigeon at Bennan on 7<sup>th</sup>; four Whooper Swans at Sandbraes on 14<sup>th</sup>; four Goldeneye at Clauchlands on 20<sup>th</sup>; Merlin in Glenree, Glenashdale

and Machrie Moor on 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively; and an over-wintering Greenshank at Clauchlands throughout December.

Other bird sightings in December included: a male Goosander at Lochranza from 12<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month; a Jack Snipe in High Kildonan on 25<sup>th</sup>; a group of Crossbills in Lamash on 25<sup>th</sup> and Kingfisher at Whiting Bay on 5<sup>th</sup> and Fisherman's Walk, Brodick on 28<sup>th</sup>.

Around Arran, Slavonian Grebes are occasional winter and passage migrants. One was in the south end of Whiting Bay from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December. There were no records in 2008 and the last record was in Drumadoon Bay in October 2007. Other grebes reported in December included a Great Crested Grebe also in Whiting Bay on 5<sup>th</sup> and four Little Grebes in Lochranza on 20<sup>th</sup>.

The harsh winter weather to end the year was taking its toll of smaller birds. An indication of this was on 25 December when there were three Skylarks, twenty Meadow Pipits and a Dunlin all looking for food on the snow free grass in front of the Royal Bank in Brodick.

Perhaps there was a tiny glimmer of approaching Spring when a returning Gannet was reported off Pladda on 17<sup>th</sup> December. These majestic birds winter off the north and west coasts of Africa, returning usually in the early part of the year to their breeding colony on Ailsa Craig.

The above summary shows that it has again been an interesting birding year on Arran.

To conclude this section, here are brief reports on two innovative projects.

At the beginning of November the Arran Black Grouse Group released forty two Black Grouse in an appropriate location. In the released group there were thirty two males and ten females. Five of each gender have been fitted with radio tracking devices and a post graduate student from the University of Glasgow is working with the Arran Black Grouse Group to monitor the movement of the birds. This is part of on-going work to try to re-establish a breeding population of Black Grouse on the island. Please report all sightings of Black Grouse to the Rangers Centre at Brodick Country Park. If you would like to make a financial donation to this very worthwhile re-introduction programme, please visit this website: <http://arranblackgrouse.com/Donations.html> .

Finally, the excellent long term study of Hen Harriers on Arran under the able direction of John Rhead, Project Officer, and supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland, has entered a new phase with the wing tagging of young birds and the satellite tracking of two of these birds. For the first time this will enable information to be gathered on the movements of Arran Hen Harriers, increasing our understanding of this species.

The movements of the two birds that are being tracked by satellite can be followed on this link, Forestry Commission Scotland - Arran Hen Harriers <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/arranhenharriers>

If you see any Hen Harriers with yellow and black wing tags, please contact John directly at [rheadz@btinternet.com](mailto:rheadz@btinternet.com) with where and when sighted.

## The Weather 2009

The weather influences the timing of bird migration. This year, March had twice as much rain as February, but a dry settled spell from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> seemed to encourage the arrival of the spring migrants. April had a few dry spells and with the wind mainly from southerly directions, the summer migrants arrived generally a few days earlier than last year.

The weather influences the timing of breeding. In comparison with May 2008, May 2009 was cooler and wetter. This may have delayed the timing of the breeding of some of our summer visitors. In particular House Martins and Swallows seem to have been later in establishing their nests.

The weather influences the success of breeding. The cold northerly winds in June and heavy rain in both July and August may have had an impact on the poor breeding records for some of our raptors.

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 2009 to date from our weather station at Kilpatrick on the west of the island.

|                  | Temperature (degrees C) |      |      | Rainfall (mm) | Rainfall (mm) | Wind Speed (mph) and Direction |      |                    |
|------------------|-------------------------|------|------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|
|                  | Mean                    | High | Low  |               | BCG           | Average                        | High | Dominant Direction |
| <b>January</b>   | 5.4                     | 10.5 | -1.6 | 89            | 238.5         | 8.2                            | 50   | SSE                |
| <b>February</b>  | 5.3                     | 10.9 | -3.5 | 35.2          | 65.2          | 5.2                            | 37   | W                  |
| <b>March</b>     | 6.9                     | 15.7 | -1.5 | 75            | 225.6         | 7.8                            | 46   | W                  |
| <b>April</b>     | 9.0                     | 19.2 | 1.9  | 87.8          | 158.8         | 6.8                            | 42   | SSE                |
| <b>May</b>       | 10.8                    | 23   | 2.7  | 78.5          | 166.5         | 6.9                            | 36   | W                  |
| <b>June</b>      | 14.3                    | 25.5 | 3.4  | 38            | 77.3          | 4.8                            | 35   | ENE                |
| <b>July</b>      | 14.8                    | 24.3 | 7.1  | 112.8         | 170.6         | 4.0                            | 32   | SSE                |
| <b>August</b>    | 14.3                    | 19.9 | 8.9  | 200           | 332.7         | 5.8                            | 31   | SSE                |
| <b>September</b> | 13.1                    | 23.2 | 4.8  | 53            | 157.5         | 6.3                            | 40   | W                  |
| <b>October</b>   | 11.5                    | 16.2 | 4.7  | 103           | 232.7         | 3.9                            | 47   | SSE                |
| <b>November</b>  | 8.2                     | 13.1 | -0.8 | 192.5         | 443.5         | 8.3                            | 51   | WSW                |
| <b>December</b>  | 3.9                     | 11.4 | -3.2 | 95.8          | 140.6         | 4.6                            | 41   | SE                 |

Also included for comparison is the rainfall data from Brodick Castle Gardens (BCG) provided by Colin Totty, Head Gardener. This clearly demonstrates variation from the Kilpatrick data. As well as a variation in rainfall, during the prolonged cold spell in December the lowest temperature recorded in Kilpatrick in the west of Arran was negative four degrees Celsius, whereas in Brodick Castle Gardens in the east of Arran the lowest temperature was negative nine degrees Celsius.

The Arran Natural History Society would like to include weather data in future bird reports. Not just the data from one weather station but, knowing that the weather does vary across the island, the data from a range of weather stations across Arran.

If you are keeping records of the weather where you live on Arran and would like to share these records with me for inclusion in the Arran Bird Report, please get in touch.

## Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

| <b>Species</b>             | <b><i>"Earliest" Recorded Date</i></b> | <b>First Recorded Arrival Date for 2009</b> |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Wheatear</b>            | <i>13-Mar-05</i>                       | 17 March                                    |
| <b>Chiffchaff</b>          | <i>17-Mar-05</i>                       | 20 March                                    |
| <b>Sand Martin</b>         | <i>18-Mar-09</i>                       | 18 March                                    |
| <b>Willow Warbler</b>      | <i>20-Mar-94</i>                       | 08 April                                    |
| <b>Swallow</b>             | <i>23-Mar-05</i>                       | 02 April                                    |
| <b>White Wagtail</b>       | <i>24-Mar-08</i>                       | 01 April                                    |
| <b>House Martin</b>        | <i>28-Mar-05</i>                       | 04 April                                    |
| <b>Common Sandpiper</b>    | <i>29-Mar-98</i>                       | 11 April                                    |
| <b>Whinchat</b>            | <i>01-Apr-88</i>                       | 29 April                                    |
| <b>Sandwich Tern</b>       | <i>03-Apr-09</i>                       | 03 April                                    |
| <b>Tree Pipit</b>          | <i>07-Apr-90</i>                       | 22 April                                    |
| <b>Cuckoo</b>              | <i>10-Apr-01</i>                       | 16 April                                    |
| <b>Garden Warbler</b>      | <i>12-Apr-95</i>                       | 18 April                                    |
| <b>Arctic Tern</b>         | <i>16-Apr-09</i>                       | 16 April                                    |
| <b>Whitethroat</b>         | <i>17-Apr-06</i>                       | 24 April                                    |
| <b>Manx Shearwater</b>     | <i>18-Apr-06</i>                       | 18 April                                    |
| <b>Sedge Warbler</b>       | <i>19-Apr-09</i>                       | 19 April                                    |
| <b>Grasshopper Warbler</b> | <i>19-Apr-89</i>                       | 29 April                                    |
| <b>Corncrake</b>           | <i>20-Apr-90</i>                       | None recorded in 2009                       |
| <b>Common Tern</b>         | <i>21-Apr-93</i>                       | None recorded in 2009                       |
| <b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>  | <i>24-Apr-87</i>                       | 10 May                                      |
| <b>Wood Warbler</b>        | <i>25-Apr-09</i>                       | 25 April                                    |
| <b>Pied Flycatcher</b>     | <i>28-Apr-98</i>                       | None recorded in 2009                       |
| <b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>  | <i>30-Apr-02</i>                       | 27 June                                     |
| <b>Swift</b>               | <i>01-May-09</i>                       | 01 May                                      |
| <b>Redstart</b>            | <i>03-May-02</i>                       | None recorded in 2009                       |
| <b>Nightjar</b>            | <i>23-May-94</i>                       | None recorded in 2009                       |

## Bird Surveys on Arran

### Wetland Bird Survey

On one designated Sunday each month, all the waterbirds at identified sites across the UK are counted as part of the Wetland Bird Survey. This is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, to monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The survey is dependent on the thousands of volunteers. Six of these sites are on Arran, the coastlines at Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, and Machrie.

These surveys provide 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 Black-throated Divers in autumn, and it is a site of national importance for Red-breasted Merganser.

This is the summary of the results for the six sites in Arran in 2009.

| Species                | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mute Swan              | 28  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 16  | 14  | 15  | 23  | 2   | 14  | 16  | 15  |
| Whooper Swan           | 4   | 4   | 3   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 4   |
| Greylag Goose          | 24  | 2   | 32  | 0   | 1   | 0   | 15  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 20  | 42  |
| Shelduck               | 2   | 27  | 21  | 21  | 21  | 22  | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   |
| Wigeon                 | 66  | 19  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 20  | 10  |
| Teal                   | 45  | 54  | 41  | 3   | 2   | 0   | 2   | 8   | 24  | 16  | 43  | 0   |
| Mallard                | 112 | 94  | 51  | 35  | 18  | 45  | 49  | 45  | 143 | 97  | 123 | 75  |
| Eider                  | 29  | 54  | 58  | 63  | 36  | 72  | 20  | 11  | 39  | 40  | 40  | 22  |
| Goldeneye              | 2   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 43  | 29  | 24  | 25  | 13  | 12  | 11  | 19  | 32  | 56  | 35  | 15  |
| Red-throated Diver     | 2   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| Black-throated Diver   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 13  | 0   | 2   | 0   |
| Great Northern Diver   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Cormorant              | 10  | 4   | 3   | 1   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 3   | 8   | 12  | 13  | 3   |
| Shag                   | 69  | 42  | 39  | 52  | 31  | 9   | 24  | 14  | 92  | 108 | 115 | 48  |
| Grey Heron             | 7   | 2   | 5   | 3   | 3   | 5   | 5   | 4   | 8   | 6   | 5   | 5   |
| Oystercatcher          | 344 | 311 | 268 | 277 | 173 | 162 | 210 | 174 | 295 | 213 | 260 | 166 |
| Ringed Plover          | 118 | 79  | 82  | 25  | 25  | 18  | 26  | 177 | 184 | 137 | 80  | 50  |
| Golden Plover          | 0   | 1   | 0   | 93  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 73  | 156 | 12  | 0   |
| Purple Sandpiper       | 0   | 2   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   |
| Dunlin                 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 7   | 0   | 0   | 15  | 7   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Whimbrel               | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Curlew                 | 61  | 43  | 44  | 7   | 4   | 9   | 28  | 48  | 63  | 55  | 66  | 73  |
| Redshank               | 28  | 22  | 22  | 4   | 6   | 1   | 7   | 5   | 15  | 36  | 23  | 33  |
| Common Sandpiper       | 0   | 0   | 0   | 5   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 8   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Turnstone              | 61  | 88  | 44  | 41  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 43  | 37  | 92  | 72  | 79  |

If you would like to find out more the Wetland Bird Survey visit [www.bto.org/survey/webs](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs)

## Bird Atlas 2007-2011

Bird Atlas 2007-2011 is being organized by the British Trust for Ornithology. It aims to produce maps of distribution and relative abundance for all bird species breeding and wintering in Britain and Ireland. It will allow changes to be assessed in bird distributions since previous breeding atlases in 1970 and 1990, and since the last winter atlas of the early 1980s.

The survey work spans four winters and four breeding seasons, and started on 1 November 2007. The intention is that the whole of Britain and Ireland will be surveyed.

This will give information that will lead to the production of maps of distribution and relative abundance for all bird species breeding and wintering in Britain and Ireland.

Two methods of recording are being used.

### ***1. Roving Records – whatever you see, whenever, wherever.***

All bird sighting records submitted to me are added to the Bird Atlas records for Arran.

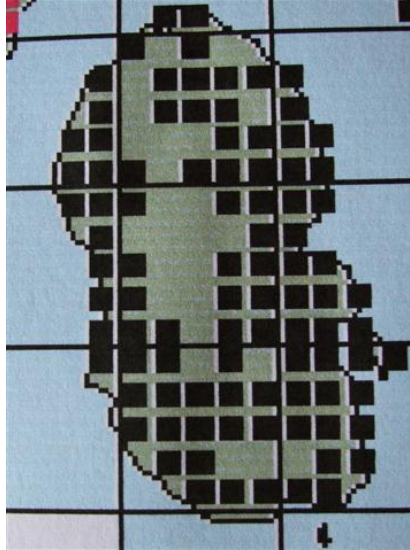
### ***2. Timed Tetrad Visits – concentrating on an area***

Arran is covered by ten 10km squares on the Ordnance Survey Map. Each of these 10km squares has up to 25 tetrads (group of four 1km squares).

In winter the tetrad is surveyed for two timed visits, one early in the winter and one late.

In the breeding season the tetrad is surveyed for two timed one early in the breeding season and one late, noting signs of breeding.

The map below shows the tetrads already allocated on Arran.



If you would like more information on the developing Arran Bird Atlas, use this link:

<http://arranbirding.blogware.com/blog/ArranBirdAtlas>

For information on the national Bird Atlas go to the website [www.birdatlas.net](http://www.birdatlas.net)

## 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

Much has been discovered about birds by watching and counting them, but such methods rarely allow birds to be identified as individuals. This is essential if we are to learn about how long they live and when and where they move, questions that are vital for bird conservation. Placing a lightweight, uniquely numbered, metal ring around a bird's leg provides a reliable and harmless method of identifying birds as individuals. Each 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.

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.

### 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. About twenty percent are ringed as chicks in the nest; this is valuable because their precise age and origin are then known. The method most frequently used to catch fully-grown birds is the mist net. This is a fine net erected between poles, and is designed to catch birds in flight. This method is very effective but birds can only be removed safely from mist nets by experienced ringers who have received special training.

### 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>

## Bird Ringing on Arran in 2009

On Arran there is one licensed volunteer ringer, Terry Southall from High Kildonan. He has been a bird ringer for over forty years. This report is based on data provided by Terry.

The number of birds ringed was down on previous years due to Terry's work commitments but the total was kept reasonable due to the efforts of visiting ringers. No seabirds were ringed due to poor weather on the days of the scheduled ringing visits to Pladda.

| Species            | Full-grown | Pulli-young at nest | Retraps/Recoveries | Total      |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Red-throated Diver | 0          | 1                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Sparrowhawk        | 0          | 7                   | 0                  | 7          |
| Buzzard            | 0          | 4                   | 0                  | 4          |
| Kestrel            | 0          | 10                  | 0                  | 10         |
| Peregrine          | 0          | 3                   | 0                  | 3          |
| Ringer Plover      | 1          | 2                   | 0                  | 3          |
| Common Gull        | 0          | 1                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Rock Dove          | 1          | 0                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Barn Owl           | 0          | 4                   | 0                  | 4          |
| Swallow            | 5          | 0                   | 0                  | 5          |
| Meadow Pipit       | 7          | 0                   | 0                  | 7          |
| Rock Pipit         | 12         | 0                   | 1                  | 13         |
| Dipper             | 4          | 4                   | 0                  | 8          |
| Wren               | 11         | 0                   | 0                  | 11         |
| Dunnock            | 3          | 0                   | 0                  | 3          |
| Robin              | 20         | 2                   | 0                  | 22         |
| Whinchat           | 0          | 19                  | 0                  | 19         |
| Stonechat          | 5          | 0                   | 1                  | 6          |
| Wheatear           | 2          | 0                   | 0                  | 2          |
| Blackbird          | 11         | 0                   | 0                  | 11         |
| Song Thrush        | 2          | 0                   | 0                  | 2          |
| Sedge Warbler      | 8          | 0                   | 1                  | 9          |
| Whitethroat        | 1          | 0                   | 1                  | 1          |
| Garden Warbler     | 1          | 0                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Blackcap           | 4          | 0                   | 1                  | 5          |
| Wood Warbler       | 0          | 7                   | 0                  | 7          |
| Willow warbler     | 16         | 6                   | 0                  | 22         |
| Coal Tit           | 19         | 0                   | 2                  | 19         |
| Blue Tit           | 20         | 0                   | 1                  | 21         |
| Great Tit          | 28         | 0                   | 0                  | 28         |
| Raven              | 0          | 8                   | 0                  | 8          |
| Chaffinch          | 88         | 0                   | 4                  | 92         |
| Greenfinch         | 45         | 0                   | 1                  | 46         |
| Goldfinch          | 44         | 0                   | 7                  | 51         |
| Siskin             | 210        | 0                   | 23                 | 233        |
| Linnet             | 1          | 0                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Redpoll            | 1          | 0                   | 0                  | 1          |
| Bullfinch          | 4          | 0                   | 0                  | 4          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>574</b> | <b>76</b>           | <b>44</b>          | <b>694</b> |

## **Selected List of Recoveries**

### **Birds ringed on Arran and recovered in 2008 and 2009**

| <b>Species</b>     | <b>Date ringed</b> | <b>Date recovered</b> | <b>Time lapsed in days</b> | <b>Where recovered</b> | <b>Distance from place ringed</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Peregrine Falcon   | 01/06/2004         | 27/04/2008            | 1426                       | Isle of Bute           | 23km                              |
| Raven              | 11/04/04           | 28/02/2008            | 1418                       | Isle of Arran          | 14km                              |
| Grey Wagtail       | 03/07/2004         | 21/12/2008            | 1632                       | Liverpool              | 268km                             |
| Goldfinch          | 30/05/2007         | 02/02/2008            | 248                        | Nottinghamshire        | 390km                             |
| Goldfinch          | 16/05/2005         | 16/01/2009            | 1371                       | Surrey                 | 559km                             |
| Siskin             | 06/05/2007         | 29/03/2008            | 328                        | Norfolk                | 472km                             |
| Siskin             | 29/03/2008         | 25/04/2009            | 392                        | Highland Region        | 219km                             |
| Siskin             | 15/03/2003         | 01/03/2009            | 351                        | Shropshire             | 365km                             |
| Siskin             | 17/05/2007         | 24/02/2009            | 649                        | Surrey                 | 559km                             |
| Common Whitethroat | 17/08/2006         | 24/06/2008            | 677                        | Isle of Arran          | 2km                               |
| Willow Warbler     | 17/07/2007         | 30/05/2008            | 318                        | Campbeltown            | 33km                              |

Recoveries of both Goldfinch and Siskin, which were caught and released, show the movements of these species to the south during the winter months, some birds reaching as far as Iberia.

The Peregrine Falcon recovery of a chick ringed on Arran from neighbouring Bute demonstrates the fairly sedentary nature of this falcon with young birds moving short distances in search of a territory. This bird was found dead, as was the Willow Warbler.

The Grey Wagtail and the Common Whitethroat were killed by cats.

The recovery of the Raven was of a bird killed during a licensed cull.

### **Birds ringed elsewhere and recovered on Arran in 2009**

| <b>Species</b> | <b>Date ringed</b> | <b>Date recovered</b> | <b>Time lapsed in days</b> | <b>Where ringed</b> | <b>Where recovered</b> | <b>Distance from place ringed</b> |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Siskin         | 05/05/2008         | 02/05/2009            | 362                        | Highland Region     | Whiting Bay            | 184km                             |
| Willow Warbler | 10/08/2007         | 04/08/2009            | 725                        | Lancashire          | Shiskine               | 221km                             |

Both birds were found dead.

#### **If you find a ringed bird**

The details on the ring can be reported on line using this link <http://blx1.bto.org/euring/main/>.

If you find a ringed bird on Arran please share this information with Jim Cassels, Bird Recorder for the Arran Natural History Society. The contact details are in the introduction to the annual bird report.

## Systematic List 2009

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

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

Successful breeding on several hill lochans. Groups on sea included 5 in Brodick Bay on 17 March, 4 off Pirnmill on 29 May and 6 in Whiting Bay on 13 September.

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

**Passage migrant with records from January to May and from September to December in 2009. Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.**

The largest groups were a group of 7 and a group of 6 in Machrie Bay on 18 September.

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

**Passage migrant. Records from January to June and September to December 2009.**

Groups included 5 off Fallen Rocks on 24 January, 3 off Pirnmill on 17 March, a group of 3 and a group of 4 off Dougarie on 28 November.

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

**Passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Groups included 4 in Loch Ranza on 20 December, two in Port-na-Lochan on 21 December and one at the mouth of the Rosa burn on 29 December.

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

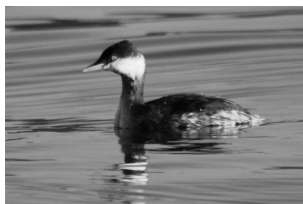
**Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

One in Whiting Bay on 7 February and one also in Whiting Bay from 5 to 10 December. These are all the records for 2009.

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

**Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

One in Whiting Bay on 9 March (MHD/AW).



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

**Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

One in Whiting Bay on 24 November and one also in Whiting Bay from 4 to 9 December. These are all the records for 2009.

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

**Occasional winter and passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. 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 on Catacol on 22 April, 4 Imachar on 13 June, 21 on Drumadoon on 14 June, and 8 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 9 July, There were no reports of fledged young.



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

**Rare vagrant.**

One in Brodick Bay on 3 September (CRol).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

**Rare vagrant.**

One off Thunderguy on 17 May and 7 in Machrie Bay on 6 September.

These are all the records for 2009.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Passage migrant with records from 18 April to 3 September.**

Large groups included over 300 in Whiting Bay on 8 May, over 300 from Ardrossan ferry on 9 August and over 3,000 in an hour passing Largiemore on 14 August.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record 3 north of Cock of Arran on 10 August 2008.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. 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 4 January to 21 December.**

Groups included 100 off Corrie on 19 August, 80 in Whiting Bay on 4 September and 300 in an hour passing Pladda on 25 October.

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

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

Groups included 3 off Blackwaterfoot on 13 March, 3 in Brodick Bay on 18 August, 3 off Drumadoon on 18 September and 2 at Torrylinn on 14 November

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

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

Nest area on Pladda in July, 70-80 pairs with good numbers of young. Groups included 30 at Drumadoon Point on 13 January, 14 off Kildonan on 16 May, 80 in Auchenhew Bay on 4 September and 250 in Lamlash Bay on 19 September.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. 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 2009 included 7 at Whitehouse Lamlash on 22 April and one at Lagg on 10 May. Groups included 2 Imachar 24 January, 4 North Sannox 27 August, 2 Machrie 19 September and 3 Lochranza 28 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

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

Pairs with young included 3 young Whiting Bay on 25 May, 6 young at Clauchlands on 28 May, 3 young Machrie 10 June and 4 young Sannox on 13 June. Winter groups included five adults in Whiting Bay on 12 November.

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

**Rare winter visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

**Winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Up to 11 adults in Whiting Bay between 1 January and 24 March. Also in Whiting Bay there were up to 4 adults from 24 October to the end of the year. Passage groups included 100 in Blackwaterfoot on 19 March, 28 Sandbraes on 23 October and seventeen including four juveniles in Shiskine on 2 November.

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

**Winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Thirty five with Greylags in Kilmory on 22 February and eleven with Greylags in Shiskine on 28 March were the largest counts.

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

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record, one with Greylags in Shiskine Valley from 13 January to 20 March 2008.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

**Winter visitor with small feral population in Lamlash Bay**

Up to 450 in Shiskine Valley between 1 January and 28 March. Up to 100 in fields Sliddery and Lagg from 16 October to end of year. Largest count from Lamlash Bay was 32. Pair with fledged young Pladda on 18 May.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

**Occasional visitor.**

Increasing reports including 10 Sliddery on 2 April, 4 Kildonan 4 April, 3 Port-na-Lochan 20 April, 3 Pladda 10 May, 25 Brodick Bay 6 October and 22 Lamlash Bay 24 December.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*.

**Occasional winter visitor.**

In Shiskine Valley 2 with Greylags from 15 to 28 March. One at Clauchlands on 7 June  
These are all the records for 2009.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

**Occasional winter visitor.**

Two Kildonan on 23 September and one at the mouth of the Rosa on 29 October.  
These are all the records for 2009.

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

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

Pairs with various numbers of young including 12 at Clauchlands on 13 May, 9 on Pladda on 18 May, 5 Cleats Shore 22 May, 6 Kilpatrick Shore 27 May and 9 Pirmill on 12 June.

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

**Introduced species. Nearest breeding group is at Loch Eck, Cowal, Argyll.**

Male reported in Rosa and Cloy burns by Brodick Golf Course from 12 January to 27 March. This is the only record for 2009.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

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

Groups included 60 Machriewaterfoot on 18 January, 18 Kildonan on 20 February, 8 Cleats Shore on 10 October, 14 Bennan on 7 December and 8 Clauchlands on 24 December.

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

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

Groups included 80 Cosyden 15 January, 72 Kilpatrick shore on 8 February and 50 on Torr Righ Beag on 25 September.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Females with young included 12 Strabane on 19 April, 9 Drumadoon on 25 April, and 9 Port-na-Lochan on 28 April. Groups included 44 Machrie Bay on 18 September, 64 Kilpatrick on 18 September and 12 Lochranza on 28 November.



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

**Rare vagrant.**

Pair Kildonan shore on 4 January (SRC).

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

**Rare vagrant.**

Male Shiskine pond on 3 April (BSc)

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one in Lamlash on 21 March 1984.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

**Occasional visitor.**

No records for 2009. 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 2009. 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 females with 3 young Kilpatrick shore on 14 June, 5 young Whiting Bay on 23 June, 4 Pirnmill on 25 June and 4 Holy Isle on 1 July. Groups included 18 Kildonan on 18 April, 77 Cosyden on 9 June and 200 in Lamlash Bay on 27 December.

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza in April 1980.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one in Blackwaterfoot on 27 April 1998.

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

**Occasional visitor.**

In Machrie Bay a pair on 30 July (JRTC).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 off Catacol on 5 April 1998.

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

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

Groups included 3 Lochranza on 24 January and 4 Clachlands on 20 December. Latest spring record three pair Whiting Bay on 30 March. First autumn record a female at Loch na Leirg on 12 October. A male on Port-na-Lochan pond on 1 July was a rare summer record.

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

**Occasional winter visitor.**

No records for 2009. 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.**

Breeding included female with 6 young on Rosa burn on 15 June, 3 young Machrie Bay on 14 August and 6 young Lochranza on 20 August. Groups included 10 Whiting Bay 8 January, 12 Lochranza on 11 October and 67 Cosyden on 9 June.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

**Breeding. Localised.**

No confirmed breeding in 2009. Sightings included a pair on the Machriewater on 22 January, two males and a female in Lochranza on 22 January, female Whiting Bay on 7 May, female Kilpatrick on 9 August and a male on Rosa burn on 24 November.

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

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

No records for 2009. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 was a first for Arran.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

**Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.**

No records for 2009. Last record one over Brodick Country Park on 4 July 2008.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. 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.**

A poor season with a minimum of 22 chicks fledged. A cool wet May followed by cold northerly winds in June and heavy rain in both July and August may have had an impact on breeding success. Numerous widespread sightings including a female on Boguillie on 4 January, a female Machrie Moor on 9 February, a male Corriecravie Moor on 19 March, a male by the String on 14 April, a male by the Ross Road 13 July, a male Glenshant Hill on 11 October and a male Drumadoon on 25 December.

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

**No confirmed breeding.**

Single bird Kildonan on 19 May was the only record (AJH).

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

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

A very poor breeding season with only 3 fledged young from 2 successful nests. 15 nest sites were checked and birds were found at only 7 of them.

Numerous individual sightings throughout the year.

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

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 4 over the String on 19 January, 6 at Pirnmill on 10 March, 5 in Glen Cloy on 21 May, 4 North Sannox on 22 September, 8 along the Ross Road on 10 November and 3 Lagg on 14 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last recorded Cleats Shore 10 November 1974.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

An adult at Auchencar on 27 April and an immature off Rubha Glas on 7 August.

These are all the records for 2009.



**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

**Resident. Breeding.**

All territories occupied. At least 3 young fledged. Sightings included a pair over Lochranza on 19 February, a pair in Glen Catacol on 19 May and a pair Glenloig on 11 August.

Immature birds sighted over Lochranza on 5 September, in Glen Chalmadale on 11 October and over Glenshant Hill on 13 October.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Occasional passage migrant.**

A single over the Holy Isle on 29 May. (MW)

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

**Resident. Breeding widespread.**

Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 2 on Machrie Moor on 20 January, 2 in Lamlash on 27 April, 2 Sannox on 1 June, two Lochranza on 8 September one Sandbraes on 20 October and five over the Ross Road on 11 November.

**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 9 January, a male at Drumadoon on 9 January, a male Auchenheugh Bay on 27 February, a female on the Boguille on 16 August, a female Glenashdale on 25 October and a male in Corriecravie on 28 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last recorded Largymore on 24 May 2002.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

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

All territories occupied. At least six young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year including one Bennan Head on 14 January, one Glen Catacol on 1 April, one Brown Head on 7 April, one Kildonan on 19 May and 2 Newton Point on 17 June.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Underreported.**

Groups included 8 Monamore Glen on 5 July, 6 Dubh Loch 28 July, 12 Windmill Hill on 17 September, 4 Maol Donn on 13 October and 3 Glen Shurig on 29 November.

**Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus*

**Very localised.**

No records for 2009. Last record Beinn Tarsuinn on 15 September 2008.

Survey conducted by National Trust for Scotland in 2008 provided no other records.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

**Previously bred.**

No records for 2009 other than released birds. Reintroduction was started in 2007  
Last record a female in High Glen Cloy on 18 February 2000.

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

**Scarce and local introduced resident.**

Sightings included 2 in Machrie on 15 March, 2 in Slidery on 22 April, 2 in Lamlash on 25 April and 2 in Kingscross on 9 November.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

**Previously bred.**

No records for 2009. 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 2009. Last record one in Kilpatrick plantation on 30 May 1995.

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

**Common introduced resident**

Reports from all areas including a leucistic bird in Shiskine valley.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Localised breeding Resident,**

One Machrie on 14 September. (DMcQ)

**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 2009. Last record one calling Port na Lochan from 7 to 9 May 2008.

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

**Localised breeding resident.**

All records in 2009 were from Port na Lochan pond with up to 8 birds on 29 December.

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

**Occasional visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one Machrie pond on 21 April 2002.

**Crane** (*Grus grus*)

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. 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 80 at Blackwaterfoot on 17 January, 81 in Whiting Bay on 18 January, 110 Machriewaterfoot on 17 February and 34 Brodick Bay on 18 August.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

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

Groups included 50 in Whiting Bay on 12 January, 86 in Blackwaterfoot on 24 August, 47 Cosyden on 18 September and 50 on Cleats Shore on 10 October.

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

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

Ten successful territories in north western moorland.

Groups included 18 in Kilpatrick on 3 January, 30 in Shiskine on 4 January, 34 in Corriecravie on 4 January and 177 at Machriewater on 5 October.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record two males and one female Beinn Bharrair on 5 May 2008.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One on Blackwaterfoot shore on 6 October. (SPar)

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

**Breeding and winter visitor.**

Two breeding areas one in Shiskine Valley with up to one dozen nests and the other in Kilmory with one. One nest area Shiskine Valley with up to twenty birds. Groups included 56 Kilpatrick on 9 February, 30 Corriecravie on 21 November and 80 Clauchlands on 28 December.

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

**Passage migrant.**

One at Drumadoon Point on 16 July and two in same area on 18 September and two on Kildonan shore on 22 September. These are all the records for 2009.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

**Passage migrant.**

All records from Blackwaterfoot shore. Nine on 8 May, 2 on 9 May, one on 24 August and one on 27 August. These are all the records for 2009.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record 3 Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

**Passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Groups included 4 Kildonan on 4 January, 4 Claulands on 4 February, 2 Whiting Bay on 12 March, one Blackwaterfoot on 20 April and 10 Kildonan on 27 December.



**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

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

Groups included 18 in Whiting Bay on 23 January, 16 by King's Cave on 29 April, 5 Kildonan on 19 May and 14 Blackwaterfoot on 24 August..

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

One Claulands on 28 January and one High Kildonan on 25 December.  
These are all the records for 2009.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Resident but underreported breeder.**

No confirmed breeding records. Sightings included 3 at Cosyden on 2 January, one Blackwaterfoot on 17 January, one High Kildonan on 14 September, one Cnoc Dubh on 29 December and one Whiting Bay on 28 December.

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

**One record of this American species.**

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

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

**Resident but underreported breeder. Numbers increase in winter.**

Pairs flying at dusk over Machrie Moor on 9 May, Brodick Country Park on 14 May, Glen Catacol on 8 June and Ross Road on 2 July.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one at Kildonan on 27 September 2005.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One on Kildonan shore from 20 to 22 September.

This is the only record for 2009.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.**

Groups included 17 Auchenhew Bay on 25 April, 10 Machrie on 30 April, 7 Blackwaterfoot on 3 May, 4 Torrylinn on 12 May, 2 Kilpatrick on 19 August and 5 Kildonan on 20 September.

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

**Resident but unreported breeder.**

No confirmed breeding records. Groups included 100 at Clauchlands on 1 January, 42 at Cosyden on 2 January, 30 on Cleats Shore on 11 February, 30 Kilpatrick on 14 September, 9 Lochranza on 11 October and 50 at Torrylinn on 14 November.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erthropus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one at Lamlash on 21 August 2004.

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

**Passage migrant with records from every month of the year. No breeding records.**

Groups included 7 Blackwaterfoot on 20 February, 14 Lamlash on 12 March, 20 at Cordon on 15 August, 22 in Whiting Bay on 22 August and 7 Lochranza on 20 December.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.**

One wintering bird at Clauchlands from January to 8 April returning 1 August to end of year, Also, one at Kilpatrick Point from 19 to 24 August. These are all the records for 2009.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record High Thurgary by track to Coire Fhionn Lochan on 1 August 2008.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Breeding records included nests Machrie and Dougarie on 10 June, and North Newton on 11 June. Pairs each with young Dhunan on 9 July, Dougarie 9 July, South Feorline on 12 July and Clauchlands on 1 August.

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

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

Groups included 30 in Blackwaterfoot on 1 January, 37 Clauchlands on 28 January, 34 Kildonan on 20 February, 25 Whiting Bay on 3 August, 27 Kildonan on 4 September, 43 Torrylinn on 14 November and 11 Lochranza on 28 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 in Wineport area of Brodick Bay on 28 August 1983.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 23 March 1989.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

Two off Kildonan on 16 May (JMCM).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One off Pirnmill on 22 April and one from Ardrossan ferry in Brodick Bay on 30 July. These are all the records for 2009.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*.

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One from Ardrossan ferry in Brodick Bay on 20 April, 27 August and 15 October. These are all the records for 2009.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one at Catacol on 30 December 1992.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

**Uncommon irregular visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one in Whiting Bay on 27 June 2005.

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

**Non breeding. Present round coast from January to April and July to December..**

Groups included 9 Whiting Bay on 1 January, 8 Lamlash on 17 March, 3 Blackwaterfoot on 28 April, 5 Clauchlands on 22 August and 2 Lochranza on 28 November.

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

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

Nests on 12 May, included 12 Balliekine, 4 Cosyden, 8 Machrie, 37 Holy Isle and 24 Dougarie . Groups included 300 Blackwaterfoot on 2 January, 300 Kilpatrick on 17 February, 170 Whiting Bay on 7 October and 45 Lochranza on 22 December.

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

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

Confirmed breeding Holy Isle. Groups included 15 Machrie on 17 March, 10 mouth of Iorsa on 17 March, 8 Cosyden on 9 June and 61 at the mouth of Glenashdale burn on 6 July.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

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

Confirmed breeding Holy Isle. Groups included 200 Catacol on 19 February, 300 Blackwaterfoot on 20 February, 180 Whiting Bay on 28 February and 72 Torrylinn on 14 November.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one long staying second winter gull in Kilpatrick area from 27 February to 11 May 2008

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Uncommon winter visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one first winter gull South Feorline on 4 February 2008.

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

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

Confirmed breeding Holy Isle. Groups included 11 Machriewaterfoot on 11 February, 36 Catacol on 19 February, 12 Cordon on 6 September and 14 Torrylinn on 14 November.



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

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

One adult Brodick Bay on 3 September.(CRol)

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

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

Groups included 100 Kildonan on 16 May, 180 Catacol on 6 September, 1,500 Whiting Bay on 20 September and 900 an hour passing Pladda on 25 October.

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*

**One historical record.**

One shot in Lamblash bay in 1895.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one Pirmill on 12 September 1992.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

**Rare summer visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

**Uncommon summer visitor.**

No records for 2009. Seven north of the Cock of Arran on 10 August 2008.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

**Summer visitor. Breeding colony Pladda.**

Sightings included one Kildonan 16 April, 2 Kildonan on 16 May, 6 Kildonan on 20 May and 4 Pladda on 31 May.

**Little Tern *Sterna albifrons***

**Uncommon summer visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

**Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis***

**Summer visitor. Non breeding.**

Groups included 6 Kildonan on 23 April, 10 Whiting Bay on 8 May, 4 Cosyden on 12 May, 2 Blackwaterfoot on 14 August, 4 Kildonan on 30 August and 2 Whiting Bay on 9 September.

**Little Auk *Alle alle***

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

No records for 2009. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 31 March 2008.

**Razorbill *Alca torda***

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

Groups included 100 off Pirnmill on 28 March, 12 from Ardrossan ferry on 6 April, 12 Kildonan on 16 May and 50 Brodick Bay on 19 May

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

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

Groups included 150 Brodick Bay on 19 May, 300 Drumadoon Bay on 5 August, and 3,000 an hour passing Pladda on 25 October.

**Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle***

**Breeding. Round coast all year.**

Breeding included two nests Kilpatrick on 18 April, 3 nests Brodick Pier on 1 July, and 3 nests Imachar on 4 July. Numbers and sightings are increasing. Groups included 12 Brodick Bay on 17 March, 20 by King's Cave on 10 May and 12 Imachar on 17 May

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

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

Numbers and sightings are increasing. One Brodick Bay on 2 May, 2 Kildonan on 16 May, one Lamlash Bay on 21 May, one Pladda on 27 June, one Brodick Bay 25 July and one Pladda on 29 July. These are all the records for 2009.

**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 30 Cleats Shore on 11 February, 12 Brown Head on 7 April and 8 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 10 June.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

**Very scarce.**

No records for 2009. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

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

**Resident. Breeding.**

Groups included 77 Shiskine on 12 January, 15 Clachaig on 1 April and over 60 in Lagg Wood on 22 September.

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

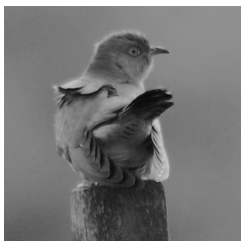
**Resident. Breeding. First bred in Britain in 1955.**

Present around all villages. Groups included 6 Blackwaterfoot on 19 January, 5 Brodick on 25 January, 20 Whiting Bay on 25 October, and 3 Lamlash on 27 November.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Occasional passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. 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 Corriegills on 16 April. Later reports from around the island. The last one reported was seen on Boguille on 18 August.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Most territories occupied. Good breeding season. Sightings from Balmichael, Corrie, Brodick, Cladach, Dougarie, Kilmory, Lamlash, Lochranza, Ross Road, Shiskine, String, Glenkiln and Whiting Bay.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

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

No records for 2009

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

**Resident possibly underreported. Breeding.**

Sightings included singles at top of the String on 5 February, Dyemill forest Lamlash on 9 February, Ross Road on 1 March, Glen Shant on 10 April and Kilmory track on 2 July.

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

**Resident. Breeding.**

Poor year. No nests located.

Sightings included one Loch na Leirg 21 March, pair on Corriecravie Moor on 19 April, pair Windmill Hill on 10 May, pair Machrie Moor on 14 May, pair Glen Shurig on 20 May, one on Ross Road on 2 July and one Glen Scorrodale on 2 August.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Summer visitor. Previously bred.**

No records for 2009. 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 September.**

Sightings included one Whiting Bay on 1 May, 8 High Kildonan on 30 May, 4 Drumadoon on 5 June, one Brodick Bay on 1 August, one Pirnmill on 18 August and one Dippen on 3 September.

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

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

Regular reports from Fisherman's Walk area in Brodick from 11 September to end of year.

Other sightings Cordon on 18 September and 26 November and mouth of Glenashdale burn on 5 and 22 December.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

**Vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one photographed in a garden in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.**

Regularly heard drumming in Brodick Country Park and Merkland Wood from January to April. From this stronghold, birds have now spread. Sightings included Pirmill on 5 January, Balnacoole on 7 February, Corrie on 22 March, Lagg on 13 September, Lamlash on 10 October, Lochranza on 10 October and Catacol on 23 October.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

**Uncommon passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

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

**Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

Breeding territories occupied in Kilmory. Kilpatrick, Machrie, Cnoc Dubh, Coire na Ciche, Drumadoon and Sannox. Groups included 23 High Kildonan on 15 February, 18 Drumadoon on 20 February, 30 Cleats Shore on 10 October, 42 Kildonan on 23 December and 4 Clauchlands on 24 December.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.**

Breeding territories occupied in Strabane, Sannox, Auchencar and Kilpatrick with up to 50 birds in Sannox on 11 April. Other sightings included 2 at Strabane on 31 March, 20 Cloy burn on 20 April, 4 Kilpatrick on 11 May, 16 at Auchencar on 12 May and 6 Machrie Pond on 14 June.

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

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

Twenty occupied nests in Kilpatrick in August. First report was High Kildonan on 2 April. Groups included 14 Cosyden on 12 May, 50 Drumadoon on 7 August, 120 Kilpatrick on 25 August and 40 Dippen Head on 1 October. Last one Lamlash on 8 November.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.**

Numbers of occupied nests included 14 at Corriecravie on 7 June and 16 Whiting Bay on 29 June. Groups included 18 Machrie on 26 April, 50 Largiebeg on 30 July, 30 Drumadoon on 7 August and 40 Brodick on 13 August. Last record Whiting Bay on 4 October.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.**

Birds holding territories in Brodick Country Park, Glen Rosa, Glen Sannox, Glen Shurig, Balliekine and Ross Road, Kilmory. Sightings included one Merkland on 22 April, two males singing in Glen Rosa on 29 May and one Ross Road, Kilmory on 11 June.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

**Breeding resident, widespread, passage migrant and winter visitor**

Groups included 23 Clauchlands on 8 April, 12 Lochranza on 8 October, 50 Kilpatrick Point and 10 Kildonan on 10 September and 12 Castles Ridge on 16 September.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

**Breeding resident, widespread along the coast, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Numerous breeding records including pairs carrying food Cosyden, Machrie, Dougarie and Balliekine on 12 May. Groups included 25 Kildonan on 28 January, 12 Lochranza on 12 March, 4 Blackwaterfoot on 14 August and 16 Torrylinn on 14 November.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

**Scarce passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record two Cleats Shore on 23 April 2006.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Fledged young included reports from Kilpatrick on 14 June, Fisherman's Walk on 17 June, and Pinmill on 17 July. Other groups included 2 Lochranza on 20 August, 6 Carlo on 21 August and 2 Whiting Bay on 5 September.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

**Breeding resident, widespread, passage migrant and winter visitor**

Fledged young included reports from Machrie on 10 June, Pirnmill on 12 June, Imachar on 13 June, Shannochie on 26 June, Whiting Bay on 19 July and Lamlash on 20 July. Other groups included 50 Kildonan on 22 September and 24 Kilpatrick on 4 October.

**White Wagtail** *Montacilla alba*

**Regular passage migrant.**

Sightings included 1 Lochranza on 9 April, 9 Auchenhew Bay on 11 April, 20 Blackwaterfoot on 3 May and 2 Kildonan on 10 September,

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

**Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.**

November/December 2008 had been a good year for this species with up to 100 birds on Arran. In 2009 there were three records one Balmichael on 19 January, 3 Brodick on 7 March and one Brodick Country Park on 15 April.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs recorded at Rosa, Monamore, Benlister and Glenashdale burns. Also pairs at Sliddywater, Machriewater. Kilmorywater, Glen Cloy, Catacol, Cordon and Lochranza. Tend to move towards coast in winter.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Records from varied habitats through out the island from high tops to shore. Groups included 12 singing males Glenashdale on 21 May, 15 Ross Road on 11 November and 15 sharing a roost pouch in Blackwaterfoot on 25 December.

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Fledged young included reports from Corriecravie on 7 June, Machrie on 10 June, Dougarie on 10 June, Holy Isle 24 June and Kilpatrick on 7 July. Other groups included 3 Shannochie and 4 Brodick on 25 January, 3 Lagg and 2 Whiting Bay on 14 November.

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Fledged young included reports from Brodick on 22 May, Whiting Bay on 2 June, Corriecravie on 7 June, Pirnmill on 12 June and Lamlash on 2 August. Other groups included 3 Strathwillan on 24 January and 7 Lagg on 14 November.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

**Scarce passage migrant.**

Pair in Bungalow road, Lamlash on 3 November (AD/AW).

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

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

No records for 2009. Last record a female ringed at Porta Leacach on 17 June 2007

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Auchenhew on 25 April, Balliekine on 12 May, Ross Road on 24 May, Holy Isle 24 June, Glen Rosa on 1 July, South Feorline on 12 July and Drumadoon on 24 August. Other sightings included pairs Cleats Shore on 9 February, Clauchlands on 4 April, North Glen Sannox on 21 May and 4 Shannochie on 14 October.



**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.**

Breeding territories included 8 Glen Sannox on 11 June, 9 on the Ross Road on 13 June and 5 in Glen Rosa on 14 June. Other sightings included 6 on Machrie Moor on 9 May and 2 North Newton on 11 July.

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

**Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

First reported was a male at Claulchlands on 17 March. Confirmed breeding included reports from Kildonan, Kilpatrick and Machrie on 10 April and Torrylinn on 10 May. Other sightings included 7 High Kildonan on 15 September, 12 Castles Ridge on 16 September and 2 Kildonan on 5 October.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.**

Female Glen Sannox on 27 September (KAH)

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Pairs reported from all villages. Large groups included 6 Shiskine on 8 January, 7 Shannochie on 25 January, 16 Dippen on 6 March, 8 Lamlash on 1 November, 17 Ross Road on 11 November and 4 Lagg on 14 November.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

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

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, 150 Balmichael on 19 January, 70 High Kildonan on 25 February, 200 Lochranza on 17 October, 100 Kilmory on 19 October and 300 the Heights on 26 October.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Pairs reported from all villages. Largest group 5 at Arranton on 1 November.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

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

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares included 50 Balmichael on 19 January, 60 High Kildonan on 25 February, 15 Lochranza on 11 October and 300 Lamlash on 23 October.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Dyemill on 8 May, Machrie on 13 May, King's Cave on 14 May, Cosyden on 9 June and Glenree on 13 July. Groups included 6 Imachar on 24 January, 3 Sannox on 16 September and 16 Dun Fionn on 26 October.

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

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

One reeling Corriecravie on 29 April, Machrie Moor on 19 May and Glen Catacol 29 May. These are all the records for 2009.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Records included 3 Blackwaterfoot on 10 May, 3 Sliderry on 11 May, 3 Kildonan on 16 May, 2 Pirnmill, 2 Clauchlands and 2 Whiting Bay on 31 May.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

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

Male singing Auchenhew Bay on 27 June and 15 July. These are all the records for 2009.

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

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

Records included 4 Kilpatrick on 11 May, 2 Machrie on 13 May, 2 Cordon on 15 May, 2 Kildonan on 16 May, 2 Lochranza on 22 May and 2 Clauchlands on 2 August.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

**Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.**

Singles reported from Lochranza on 18 April, Merkland and Corrie on 25 April, Cordon on 16 May, Dougarie on 10 June and Lamlash on 6 July. These are all the records for 2009.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Summer visitor. Widespread. Breeding. Overwinters in small numbers.**

Records included males singing in Corriecravie on 28 March, Pirnmill on 4 April, Kilmory on 11 April, Cladach on 19 April, Corrie 25 April and Stronach wood on 11 May. Winter records included singles in Dhunan on 24 January, Whiting Bay on 1 November and Knockinkelly on 8 November.

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

**Very rare and irregular passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one in Whiting Bay from 4 to 6 December 2007.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

Records included male singing Merkland on 25 April, male singing Glen Rosa on 11 May, nest with seven young Glen Rosa on 8 June and singing male Dyemill on 11 June.

These are all the records for 2009.

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

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

Records included males singing Whiting Bay on 20 March, Cladach on 1 April, Glenashdale on 2 April, Lochranza on 3 April, Brodick Castle on 4 April and Clauchlands on 8 April.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Records included males singing King's Cave on 12 April, Margnaheglish on 16 April, Blackwaterfoot on 18 April, Pirnmill on 19 April, Machrie Moor on 20 April, Torbeg on 26 April, Whiting Bay on 30 April and Torrylinn on 10 May.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Records included fledged young Ross Road on 2 June, fledged young North Sannox on 11 June, 4 Torr Righ on 31 July and singles Brodick Country Park on 5 and 9 November.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

**Very rare and irregular passage migrant.**

No records for 2009. Last and only record was one in Whiting Bay on 17 November 2007.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

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

Confirmed breeding included reports from Glen Cloy on 30 May, Cosyden on 9 June, Brodick Castle Gardens on 11 June, Machrie Farm on 12 June, Dyemill on 20 June, Dhunan on 30 July, Clauchlands on 2 August and Urie Loch path on 3 August.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Irregular summer visitor.**

No records for 2009. Last record one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Groups included 9 Whiting Bay on 11 February, 8 West Mayish on 20 February, 6 Margnaheglish on 28 March, 15 Dhunan on 1 November, 8 Knockinkelly on 19 November and 12 Invercloy on 22 December.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

**Rare vagrant.**

Single at Mill House Lamblash from 16 to 18 May. (RLon)

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Whiting Bay on 24 May, Pirnmill and Glen Rosa on 12 June, Lochranza on 15 June, Cladach on 27 June and Dhunan on 30 July

Largest group was 20 in Brodick on 9 November.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Brodick on 17 May, Lochranza on 22 May, Dyemill on 1 June, Corriecravie on 7 June, Whiting Bay on 27 June and Kilpatrick on 7 July.

Largest group was 10 in Machrie on 24 January.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Whiting Bay on 24 May, Corriecravie on 7 June, Lamblash on 22 June, Brodick 27 June and Kilpatrick on 7 July.

Largest group was 10 in Lagg on 14 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one Corrie on 25 June 2002.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Confirmed breeding included North Sannox on 20 May, Urie Loch path on 15 June and Dyemill on 20 June. Singles reported included Brodick Country Park on 14 January, Balmichael on 27 February, Lagg on 14 November and Lochranza on 28 November.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record a male at Kildonan on 27 September 1997.

**Great Grey shrike** *Lanius excubiter*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza, on 24 October 2007.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one Brodick Country Park on 24 October 1985.

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

**Vagrant. Before 2008 only seven records in last twenty five years.**

One long staying bird was first reported from Corriegills on 20 April 2008. Reports continued, mainly from the Brodick Golf Course area until 1 April 2009.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

**Rare vagrant. Previously bred.**

No records for 2009. Last record 5 in Lochranza on 5 July 2001.

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Groups included 50 Drumadoon on 13 January, 84 Blackwaterfoot on 27 February, 41 Lochranza 8 September, 12 Whiting Bay 2 October and 50 Cleiteadh Buidhe 5 October.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Winter visitor.**

One Kildonan on 2 April, 2 Shiskine on 4 September, 3 Shiskine on 14 October and 12 on Drumadoon farm on 25 December. These are all the records for 2009

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

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

Groups included 60 Kilpatrick on 1 January, 22 Whiting Bay on 6 March, 48 Kilmory on 3 September, 40 Kingscross on 12 September and 17 Lagg on 14 November

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Pairs at Bennan Head on 13 January, Catacol on 19 February, Brown Head on 5 April, Imachar on 14 May. Largest group 43 on Ross Road on 11 November.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one adult in Brodick on 28 June 2002.

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Blackwaterfoot on 18 April, Dippen on 29 April, Cosyden on 12 May, Lamlash on 12 June and Shannochie on 26 June.

Larger groups included 300 Kilpatrick on 26 September and 95 Shiskine on 26 November.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Kilpatrick and Marganaheglish on 22 April, Shiskine on 26 April, Pirnmill on 29 April, Machrie on 13 May and Brodick on 17 May.

Larger groups included 32 Machrie on 24 January and 40 Kilpatrick on 1 September.

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

**Rare vagrant. Previously bred.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Machrie on 10 June, Pirnmill on 12 June, Holy Isle 24 June, Cladach on 28 June, Corriecravie on 18 July and Dyemill on 20 July. Groups of around 50 reported in Brodick on 25 January, Shiskine on 26 January and Dippen on 6 March.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

Male in Shiskine garden on 21 December. (SKT)

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

**Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Torbeg on 13 May, Brodick on 22 May, Machrie on 10 June, Pirnmill on 12 June, Lamlash on 16 June, Brodick on 24 June and Corriecravie on 18 July. Largest group 16 in Kilpatrick on 25 January.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from High Kildonan on 6 June, Machrie on 10 June, Brodick Castle Gardens on 19 June, South Feorline on 12 July and Lamlash on 11 August. Larger groups included 100 on Cleats Shore on 27 August and 80 at Dippen 3 September.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.**

**Most records between January and June.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from High Kildonan on 6 June, Machrie on 10 June, Kilpatrick on 12 June, Lamlash on 19 June and Whiting Bay on 26 June. Larger groups included 12 Shiskine on 14 April and 40 Sannox on 12 September.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrants.**

**Most records between April and November.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Kilpatrick on 5 April, Kildonan on 20 April, Machrie 13 May and Holy Isle 24 June. Largest group 300 on Cleats Shore on 29 August

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.**

No breeding records. Groups included 3 Clauchlands on 3 April, 15 Drumadoon on 12 September, 54 Kilpatrick on 26 September, 21 Cleats Shore on 10 October and 30 Shannochie on 16 October.

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

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

Family groups reported on 7 June in Corriecravie, Lamlash and Kilmory. Other groups included one in Catacol on 4 January, one in Lamlash on 27 April, one on Pladda on 10 May, 6 King's Cave on 14 May and 2 High Kildonan on 4 July.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

No breeding records. Groups included 6 Lamlash on 7 June, 16 Brodick on 16 July and 24 in High Kildonan on 19 July.

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

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one juvenile at High Kildonan on 24 October 1999.

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

**Resident. Breeding. Localised.**

Confirmed breeding included reports from Brodick 17 June and Urie Loch path on 3 August. Groups included 2 Whiting Bay on 2 January, 2 Strathwillan on 24 January, 4 Rosaburn Lodge, Brodick, on 17 March, 4 Brodick Country Park on 4 May, 9 King's Cave forest walk on 28 November and 4 Kingscross on 23 December.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**Rare vagrant.**

No records for 2009. Last record one Margnaheglish on 26 April 2000.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Singles reported from Beinn Bhreac on 5 October and from Goatfell shoulder on 28 November. These are all the records for 2009.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

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

No breeding records for 2009. Records included one in Shiskine on 31 January, one Kildonan on 7 February, up to 4 in Dippen from 6 March to 23 April and up to 4 in Shiskine between 13 December and 31 December.



**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.**

Confirmed breeding included Glen Rosa on 8 June and Cosyden on 9 June. Groups included 4 Kilpatrick on 14 January, 2 Balmichael on 28 March, 2 Machrie pond on 14 June, 2 Kildonan on 30 August and 6 Clauchlands on 24 December.

**Corn bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

**Rare vagrant. Previously bred.**

No records for 2009. Last record 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

## Species to be submitted to Scottish and Local Record Committees

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**

**Cirl Bunting**

**Ortolan Bunting**

**Rustic Bunting**

**Little Bunting**

Corn Bunting

Descriptions of the above species (or races/forms) and national rarity descriptions for the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) should be sent preferably by email to the Assistant Local Clyde Recorder, Val Wilson [wilsonval@btinternet.com](mailto:wilsonval@btinternet.com) or by post to 76 Laigh Road, Newton Mearns, G77 5EQ as soon as possible after the date of observation.

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