

Arran Bird Report 2013



This report was compiled by **Jim Cassels**,
Bird Recorder for the Arran Natural History Society.

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

Records were also received from North Ayrshire RSPB group who have a presence on some of the weekend ferries during the summer time.

All bird records given to the National Trust rangers at Brodick Country Park and to the Brodick Tourist Information Centre were forwarded to me.

Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report* for 2013. This is the thirty- fourth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the eighth one compiled by me.

This report would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of a number of individuals whose input I would like to acknowledge publicly: Terry Southall, our resident ringer, Andy Walker and Malcolm Whitmore for their local knowledge of raptors, Robert Logan for his work on Barn Owls and Bernie Zonfrillo, the bird recorder for the Clyde Islands. The input of the local “volunteers” involved in the Bird Atlas survey, the Wetlands Bird Survey, the Breeding Birds Survey and the Garden BirdWatch has been a valuable source of information. It has also been helpful to be given permission to access the Arran records submitted to BirdTrack:

www.bto.org/birdtrack and to BirdGuides: www.birdguides.com . At the writing stage, the advice of the committee and the editing and proof reading skills of Angela Cassels and Alan Hollick were invaluable. Having said that, I accept full responsibility for all omissions and errors. My thanks also to the following photographers for giving me permission to use their images to illustrate the report: Angela Cassels, Brian Couper, Angus Hogg, Dennis Morrison, Jackie Newman, Jane Nichol and Howard Walker. Finally, my thanks to the contributors; there would be no report without their input.

Over the year I have been encouraged by the number of people, locals and visitors, who have contacted me by email, letter and phone. All contacts have been welcome. I am not 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 encourage everyone to share their bird sightings with me, so that the basis of our annual *Arran Bird Report* can be as comprehensive as possible.

In 2013, almost three hundred contributors submitted over seven and a half thousand records on one hundred and sixty species, one of which had never been recorded before on Arran, namely Little Egret. 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 2013.

The chronological summary gives the highlights for each month. The systematic list is in the order of the British list as published by the British Ornithologists' Union (2006). This is in line with the Clyde Report. For each species, as well as the common name, the (new) official name and its scientific name have been given. 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 2014, please send any bird notes with “what, when, where” to me before Monday 12th January 2015, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316, or email me at james.cassels@virgin.net.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Chronological Summary

2013 was another fascinating birding year on Arran.

The highlight to start the year was a wing-tagged Red Kite soaring along the top of cliffs on the south of the island in January and the highlight to finish the year was a Yellow Wagtail foraging on the kelp on the shore at Kildonan in December after a prolonged period of unsettled weather. In between there was no shortage of interest. The prolonged cold spell at the end of March with heavy lying snow in some parts of the island and the wind constantly from an easterly or northerly direction, delayed the arrival of the early spring migrants. In April and May there were unprecedented numbers of Lesser Redpolls visiting gardens throughout the island. By the end of May spring had caught up with high numbers of Cuckoo again reported and over one hundred species recorded that month. This included the return of Nightjar after an absence of fifteen years plus two reports of Hawfinch. After a cold spring, the dry summer was ideal for breeding and July saw the first ever report of Little Egret on Arran. The migration period in autumn did not disappoint with a Turtle Dove with Collared Dove in Sandbraes being a particular highlight.

Now read on.

January

January was twenty percent wetter than January 2012 and the month finished with a very unsettled spell.

A particular highlight this month was a wing-tagged Red Kite soaring along the top of the cliff west of Bennan Head on 22nd January. This is the first report of this species since one was seen over Brodick Country Park in April 2011.

Other highlights included: seven Shelduck on Silver Sands on 1st, over one hundred Jackdaw in the Shiskine Valley on 5th, thirteen Common Scoter off Cosyden on 15th, seven Moorhen at Port na Lochan on 22nd, eleven Bullfinch by Loch Cnoc an Loch on 23rd. Also, five Ptarmigan near the summit of Cioch na h-Oighe on 9th is the largest group for at least six years.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: eighteen Whooper Swans at Clauchlands on 11th, eighty-six Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 14th, twenty-eight Wigeon at Cosyden on 20th and twenty-one Pink-footed Geese with three hundred and thirty Greylag Geese in Shiskine Valley on 27th.

Other winter visitors in January included: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 1st, two Little Grebe by Fisherman's Walk on 3rd, fifteen Fieldfare in High Kildonan on 5th, seventy-one Turnstone on Silver Sands on 10th, three Goldeneye at the mouth of the Blackwater on 20th, thirty-five Lapwing in the Shiskine Valley also on 20th, forty-seven Golden Plover at Shannochie on 23rd and fifty Redwing at Kildonan on 25th.

Winter is a good time to see Dipper as they move down river to the coast. In winter food seems to be easier to find at the mouths of our rivers and burns rather than upstream. Reports of Dipper in January included: Silver Sands on 1st, Margnaheglish on 4th, Fisherman's Walk also on 4th and Loch Ranza on 27th.

All three divers were also reported, including five Black-throated and seventeen Great Northern Divers off Cosyden on 15th and a Red-throated Diver in Loch Ranza on 26th.

Interesting garden birds included: a Treecreeper in Brodick on 5th, eighteen Goldfinch in Lamlash on 8th, a male Blackcap in Brodick on 9th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Shiskine on 23rd and ten Long-tailed Tit in Margnaheglis on 27th.

There were some signs of approaching spring with a pair of Golden Eagle displaying over Lochranza on 4th, Shags in breeding plumage with their wispy crests at Kilpatrick on 12th, five Red-breasted Merganser displaying off Margnaheglis on 15th and a pair of Collared Doves in Blackwaterfoot carrying nest material on 30th.

February

February was a little colder but much drier than January with less than half the rain of January. The last fortnight of February was particularly dry and settled.

Winter visitors were to the fore including: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 1st, three Goldeneye off Blackwaterfoot on 9th, a very bedraggled solitary Waxwing in Lochranza on 10th, thirteen Purple Sandpiper with over seventy Turnstone at Kildonan on 12th and a mixed flock of around fifty Fieldfare and Redwing at Auchenhew on 23rd.

Wintering wildfowl were still present in numbers including: seventy-six Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 9th, twenty Wigeon at Auchenhew Bay on 23rd and a mixed flock of around three hundred and fifty Greylag with thirty Pink-footed Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 24th.

Other flocks included seventy Curlew at Glenkiln on 18th and forty Lapwing at High Clachaig on 24th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north including one hundred and fifty Common Gull at Blackwaterfoot on 9th and three hundred Herring Gull at Kilpatrick Point also on 9th. There was the first report of returning Lesser Black-backed Gull, which move south for the winter, with two at Kilpatrick Point on 15th.

Calm seas were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: twelve displaying Red-breasted Mergansers off Carlo on 14th, two Red-throated Divers in Whiting Bay on 17th, four Black-throated Divers off Machriewaterfoot on 19th, on the same date over one hundred and fifty courting Eiders in Machrie Bay, five Great Northern Divers off Balliekin on 23rd and thirteen Common Scoter off Cosyden on 25th.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species. There were some more unusual garden birds and some species on their northerly migration including: ten Long-tailed Tit at Cordon on 1st, a male Blackcap at Sandbraes on 9th, two Goldfinch at Kilpatrick on 16th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Glenloig on 20th, six Siskin at Shiskine on 24th, a Lesser Redpoll in High Kildonan on 27th and a male Bullfinch at Margnaheglis also on 27th.

Other sightings included: a male Goosander at Lochranza on 2nd, a Dipper at Margnaheglis on 9th, a Short-eared Owl at File Breugach on 15th, two Little Grebe by Fisherman's Walk on 16th and a Red Kite by Cnocan Cuallaich on 18th.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island towards the end of the month, plus nesting Fulmars on the cliffs at Bennan Head on 17th, Golden Eagles displaying over Lochranza on 21st, Grey Herons building nests in Whitehouse Woods on 26th, sixteen Black Guillemot in breeding plumage at Brodick pier on 27th and a Collared Dove nest with two eggs in Kildonan on 28th.



Oystercatcher in the snow. Photographer: Angela Cassels

March

The prolonged cold period gave March a mean temperature six degrees lower than March 2012. Together with heavy lying snow in some parts of the island in the last week of March and the wind constantly from an easterly or northerly direction, it was difficult to accept that spring was on the way.

The weather certainly impacted on the expected arrival of summer migrants. Unlike in March 2012 when Wheatear, Chiffchaff and Sand Martin had all been reported before the end of March, this year none had been reported.

Other observations which could be put down to the impact of the weather included the following. A Collared Dove's nest with eggs in High Kildonan was deserted and a new nest established in a more sheltered spot. A dead Little Auk was found in a Machrie garden after the strong north easterly winds on 10th. This was the first report of this Arctic species since 2008. A Short-eared Owl and a Buzzard competed for a rodent in snow covered Corriecravie on 23rd. There was also a report of Short-eared Owl hunting on the coast by Dougarie on 25th having moved from the more usual hunting areas on higher ground. Barn Owls seemed to struggle to find food. There was a dead Barn Owl found in a hay shed in Shiskine on 29th and around that date there was another dead Barn Owl in Pirnmill. In addition, there were reports of Barn Owl, which normally hunt after dusk, hunting in broad daylight in various locations. Generally gardens were a haven, with more birds and more species being reported including a Skylark in a Blackwaterfoot garden on 29th and the usually very secretive Water Rail was photographed in a garden in Lochranza also on 29th.

Signs of migration included: four Slavonian Grebe in Whiting Bay on 3rd, four Black-throated Diver in Machrie Bay on 5th, a Merlin in Glen Rosa on 15th, four Great Northern Divers off Blackwaterfoot on 17th and fifty Whooper Swan in classic V formation flying over Lamlash on 19th.

In March, winter visitors included: thirty-four Pink-footed Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 6th, a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 9th, eleven Purple Sandpiper at Kildonan on 11th, a Blackcap in a garden in Whiting Bay on 18th, twelve Fieldfare in Glenkiln also on 18th, two Goldeneye at Port na Lochan on 20th and 14 Wigeon at Auchenhew on 30th. In addition there was the over wintering Black Redstart. Normally a scarce passage migrant on Arran, this bird showed well throughout the month on the shore near Brodick pier.

Other sightings included: thirteen Common Scoter off Cosyden on 10th, two Dipper on Fisherman's Walk, Brodick, on 19th, five Snipe on Cleats Shore on 30th and in the same location on the same date there was a Snow Bunting. In 2012 there was only one Arran record of Snow Bunting.

Spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships. Even in the cold March of 2013 these signs were there, including six Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming in Merkland Wood on 1st, Golden Plover also setting up territories on the Western hills on 5th, over one hundred Eiders displaying off Cosyden on 10th, nine Fulmars on the cliffs at Drumadoon on 17th and a Blackbird carrying food in Whiting Bay on 30th.

April

April is the month when spring migration gets underway, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories. The colder March continued into April with winds mainly from an easterly and northerly direction. As a result our summer migrants, particularly the early ones, seemed to be arriving later than in recent years.

The April "firsts" for Arran summer migrants were: a Wheatear at Machriewaterfoot on 1st, three Manx Shearwater off Silver Sands on 3rd, two White Wagtail at Kilpatrick Point on 10th, two Sand Martin in Sannox on 12th, six Sandwich Tern in Machrie Bay on 13th, four Arctic Tern off Cosyden on 14th, a Chiffchaff singing in Sliddery on 14th, two Common Sandpiper at Blackwaterfoot on 14th, a Swallow at Catacol on 14th, a House Martin at Glenloig on 15th, a Willow Warbler at Knockenkelly on 18th, a Common Tern at Machriewaterfoot on 19th, a Blackcap in Sannox on 22nd, a Whitethroat in Sliddery on 28th and a Sedge Warbler at Port na Feannaiche on 29th. While some of these "first arrival" dates were later than 2012, for example Chiffchaff twenty eight days later and Sand Martin eighteen days later, there was some catching up with later species arriving more or less at the same time as last year. Like that harbinger of summer the Cuckoo, the first report was a bird calling in Glen Rosa on 19th, only a day later than last year. By the end of the month there were widespread reports of Cuckoo and the songs of other summer migrants like Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff were beginning to fill the air. On the other hand, by the end of April the bulk of some of these summer migrants, like Swallow, had still to arrive. Another sign of the delayed spring was the absence of April records of Whinchat, Tree Pipit, Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler, Garden Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher, all of which are often reported before the end of April.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. For example, on the coast there were four Great Northern Diver off Dougarie on 2nd, small groups of Linnet passing along Corriecravie shore on 4th, four Black-throated Diver off Cosyden also on 4th, a female Merlin hunting migrating Meadow Pipit in Auchenhew Bay on 10th, small groups of Twite passing along Cleats Shore on 19th and six Whimbrel at Auchenhew Bay on 22nd. In addition, there was a flock of one hundred and thirty-seven Golden Plover at Sliderry on 27th.

The signs of migration were also evident from the garden records in April. Lesser Redpoll garden records were unprecedented with numerous records ranging from Shannochie in the south to Lochranza in the north. In addition there were many widespread records of Goldfinch, with twelve at Shannochie on 24th being the largest group seen at one time. Siskin were similar, with eight at Shiskine on 23rd being the largest group seen at one time. However, when Terry Southall, licensed bird ringer, put up his mist nest in his garden in High Kildonan, he caught thirty-six Siskin in a few hours. This gives an insight into the thousands of birds which are on the move through Arran at this time.

In April some of our wintering birds were still around including; two Goldeneye at Port na Lochan on 2nd, twenty Fieldfare at Shannochie on 4th, a Rook at Strabane on 5th, a Redwing at High Kildonan on 10th, five Whooper Swan at Sandbraes on 13th, five Wigeon at Machrie Bay on 14th and two Greylag Geese at High Clachaig on 24th.

Other highlights from the many that had been shared with me in April included: ten Common Scoter off Cosyden on 4th, eighteen Shelduck off Whitefarland also on 4th, two Red-legged Partridge in a garden in Lamlash on 12th, three Canada Geese on Holy Isle on 19th and a Short-eared Owl over Machrie Moor on 26th.



Lesser Redpoll. Photographer: Angela Cassels

May

The colder weather in April continued well into May. Summer visitors continued to arrive but the cold weather seemed to delay their arrival by around ten days. The following “firsts” were reported: Grasshopper Warbler by Shiskine cemetery on 5th, Tree Pipit by Torran Loistge on 7th, Whinchat on Machrie Moor on 14th, Wood Warbler in Merkland Wood on 17th, Spotted Flycatcher by the Dyemill on 20th and two Swift over High Kildonan on 30th. There were no reports in May of Corncrake or Nightjar.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through, including: five White Wagtail at Port na Feannaiche on 1st, a Bar-tailed Godwit at Machriewaterfoot on 4th, two Black-throated Diver in Whiting Bay on 5th, thirty Turnstone at Kildonan on 6th, three Brent Geese on the shore at Margnaheglish on 8th, thirty-eight Whimbrel between Kilpatrick Point and Drumadoon Point on 11th, eighteen Sandwich Tern at Machriewater on 13th, three Great Northern Diver off the King's Cave on 19th, four Sanderling at Blackwaterfoot on 21st and fifteen Dunlin also at Blackwaterfoot on 23rd.

In May, breeding was well underway for many species including: Mute Swan with six young at Port na Lochan on 1st, a family of six Common Crossbill at the Dyemill on 20th, a Barn Owl nest with four healthy young at Shiskine on 23rd, a pair of Dipper carrying food in Brodick also on 23rd, a pair of Shelduck with ten young at Carlo on 29th and a Moorhen with young on Port na Lochan on 30th. In addition, particularly towards the warmer end of the month, there were lots of reports of garden birds carrying food and feeding recently fledged young. Again from garden sightings, there were widespread reports of Goldfinch, Siskin and almost unprecedented numbers of Lesser Redpoll.

Over one hundred species of birds were reported to me in May including: a Great Crested Grebe in Loch Ranza on 1st, a Red Kite at Merkland also on 1st, a male Goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 13th, a Ring Ouzel on the top of Cir Mhor on 20th and two reports of Hawfinch. Hawfinch is a rare vagrant to Arran. The last report on Arran was one at Margnaheglish on 26 April 2000. On Tuesday 28th a Hawfinch visited a garden in Whiting Bay and the next day probably the same "lost" bird visited a garden at Port na Lochan on the west of the island.

June

While June 2013 was cool it was much drier than the previous June. Raising young is the priority during the long daylight hours in June and there were many reports of fledged birds in gardens including unfamiliar looking young Goldfinch which lack the red face of the adult birds.

In addition, there was a pair of Shelduck with sixteen young on Cleats Shore on 1st, an Eider with four young at Clauchlands on 3rd, a family of Moorhen with four young at Port na Lochan on 11th, a family of Common Sandpiper at Blackwaterfoot on 17th, a family of Bullfinch at Mayish on 22nd and a noisy nest full of young Great Spotted Woodpecker by the start of the Goatfell track on 23rd. The population of Arctic Tern on Pladda was the largest for some years. On the negative side, there seemed to be a reduction in reports of Common Gull on the west coast and Hen Harrier in the north.

Cuckoos, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seemed to be thriving on Arran. Throughout May and June there were many widespread reports. People need no prompting to report the first Cuckoo. Most adult Cuckoos, taking no part in rearing their young, leave around mid to late July. Juveniles leave breeding areas soon after they fledge, quickly becoming independent of their hosts and disperse widely before also migrating south, usually in late July and early August. These young Cuckoos have a white patch on the back of the head.

The undoubted highlight of the month was the return of the Nightjar after an absence of fifteen years. This was first reported on 17th June in an area to the north of Brodick and reports continued until the end of the month. Nightjars migrate here from Africa arriving in Scotland in May and early June when the moth population explodes. They are most

active at the same times of day as moths, at dawn and at dusk. With their large eyes, huge gape surrounded by “whiskers” they are well adapted for catching their prey. Nightjars are rarely seen during daylight. As the name implies, people most often encounter the Nightjar at night. Males perform a prolonged churring call ('Nightjar' means night-churr) that may go on for several minutes, varying in pitch and volume. When the birds stop churring, they are often in flight and two other sounds are frequently heard. The first is a rather soft 'coohwick' given as a single note and thought to be a contact call. The second is a slapping or hand-clapping sound caused as the birds clap their wings in flight. Hearing a Nightjar used to be a not uncommon experience in Arran, but in the latter part of the twentieth century there was a decline. They finally disappeared from their last reported area in Brodick Country Park in 1998. Nightjar like forestry 'clear fell' sites. Let's hope this report is the first of many and the increase of these suitable areas in Arran may encourage the re-establishment of the Nightjar. Encountering Nightjar in the gloaming is a magic birding moment, if you can thole the inevitable midges.

Other reports included: a calling Ring Ouzel on the northern hills on 9th, eighty Manx Shearwater in Whiting Bay on 14th, an Osprey off Merkland Point on 16th, two Swift over High Kildonan on 18th, two Puffin between Lochranza and Kintyre also on 18th and a male Tufted Duck and a Coot at Port na Lochan on 22nd. The Tufted Duck was only the second report this year and the Coot was the first report since 2002.

July

With almost half the rain of the previous July and a mean temperature two degrees higher, the warm, generally dry, July was ideal for birds whose main priority is raising young. In July 2012 our insect-eating summer visitors like Willow Warbler and Whitethroat were particularly badly affected by the prolonged wet spell, so much so that by the end of the month many had left and started their journey south. By contrast, this July there were numerous reports of breeding warblers including Grasshopper Warbler at Shiskine on 8th, Wood Warbler in Glenashdale on 9th, Whitethroat at Levencorrach on 19th and Willow Warbler at Sannox on 22nd.

Other reports of breeding included: seven occupied Fulmar nests on Drumadoon Cliff on 9th, a family of five Common Sandpiper at Dougarie on 5th, twenty-five Black Guillemot including young off King's Cave on 22nd, eight Grey Heron including young fishing in Loch Ranza on 8th, eighteen Linnet in family groups at Kilpatrick Point on 31st and lots of fledged garden birds.

The most unusual garden bird in July was a female Common Crossbill at bird feeders in a garden in Lamlash on 1st. This is the first record of this species feeding in this way on Arran. It could start a trend and it is one to watch out for.

Another first for Arran in July was Little Egret. Although its American cousin, the rare Snowy Egret delighted local and visiting bird watchers alike with a prolonged stay in Arran over the winter of 2001-02, Little Egret has never been reported before. This one was seen by a person walking along Sliderry Shore towards Port an Feannaiche on 1st. It did not stay. Little Egret first appeared in the UK in significant numbers in 1989 and first bred in Dorset in 1996. Its colonization followed naturally from a range expansion into western and northern France in previous decades. It may be coming our way.

Other highlights included: two Swift over Largybeg on 7th, three Puffin off Pladda on 10th, a Storm Petrel in Brodick Bay on 12th and an Osprey also in Brodick Bay on 17th.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. These are some of the highlights of birds which were already dispersing, flocking or migrating south after breeding: sixty Red-breasted Merganser at Machrie Bay on 20th, twenty-four Curlew at Kilpatrick Point on 22nd, a Kingfisher in Lochranza on 23rd, seven Lapwing at Cleiteadh on 27th, three Sandwich Tern on Cleats Shore also on 27th, two Black-headed Gull in Lamlash Bay on 28th and a Knot, three Sanderling and thirty-eight Dunlin, all in partial breeding plumage, at Drumadoon Point also on the 28th.

August

August 2013 was much drier than August 2012 and the warm, generally dry summer continued. Towards the end of the month, with lower temperatures some nights, there was more than a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including family groups of the following: Willow Warbler at Narachan on 4th, Whitethroat in Shiskine on 5th and Spotted Flycatcher in Brodick Castle Gardens on 6th. In addition, there were sixty Swallow at Kilpatrick Farm on 18th, twenty House Martin in Shiskine on 24th and six Sand Martin at Shiskine Golf Course on 26th.

Other signs of successful breeding this month included: a crèche of six Eider at Sandbraes on 1st, a family of five Song Thrush in Brodick on 5th, the pair of Mute Swan in Blackwaterfoot with six large young on 13th and groups of up to forty House Sparrow in both Alma Park and Kilpatrick on 20th.

In August, breeding was coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: one hundred and sixty Linnet on Torrylinn shore on 18th, sixty-two Golden Plover and eighty-four Red-breasted Merganser at Machriewaterfoot on 25th, eighteen Teal and thirty-two Curlew at Kilpatrick Point on 26th and forty-eight Lesser Black-backed Gull in Whiting Bay on 30th.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including two Sandwich Tern in Brodick Bay on 2nd, a Whimbrel in Auchenhew Bay on 3rd, a White Wagtail at Kildonan on 10th, around one thousand Manx Shearwater off Cleats Shore on 25th, a Wheatear at Clauchlands also on 25th and seven Dunlin at Drumadoon Point, two Sanderling on Torrylinn shore and twenty Turnstone on Pladda all on 26th.

Other birding highlights this month included: nine Black-headed Gull in Whiting Bay on 4th, twenty Gannets in Catacol Bay on 17th, twelve Canada Geese on Cleats Shore on 19th, two Kingfisher in Lochranza on 21st and two Dipper on the Machriewater on 23rd.

September

With September being the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move, the changeable weather may have contributed to the wide range of species recorded. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected.

Unusual records included: a Great Skua flying through Brodick Bay on 1st, the first report this year, two Little Gulls in Whiting Bay on 2nd, last reported in 2011, an Arctic Skua passing Largymore on 13th, first report this year and two Great Crested Grebe at Machriewaterfoot on 14th, only the second report this year.

Other birds on migration included: a White Wagtail at High Kildonan on 8th, a thousand Manx Shearwater passing Largymore on 13th, two reports of Ring Ouzel, a female in Alma Park on 13th and a male at Largymore on 13th and two reports of Merlin, one at Blackwaterfoot on 14th and two in Glen Catacol on 28th. Wheatear, including Greenland Wheatear, were a feature, with wide ranging reports from Lochranza in the north to Sliderry in the south between the 23rd and the end of the month. The largest group was twelve on the eleventh fairway of Shiskine Golf Course on the 29th.

At this time of year, birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: sixty Goldfinch on Cleats Shore on 17th, twenty Pied Wagtail on Lochranza Golf Course also on 17th, five hundred Kittiwake at Glenashdalewaterfoot on 19th and seventy Linnet, one hundred and fifty Meadow Pipit and thirty-eight Skylark on Cleats Shore on 25th.

Some of our winter visitors began to be reported including: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 22nd, four Rook on Cleats Shore on 25th and three reports of Fieldfare – twenty-four at North Sannox Farm on 2nd a similar number at Glenloig also on 2nd and six by Machrie Moor stone circles on 27th. The previous earliest record for this species on Arran was September 25th in 2011.

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: fifty House Martin in Shiskine on 15th, a Chiffchaff singing in Sandbraes on 19th and one hundred and twenty Swallow at Glenashdalewaterfoot on 22nd. The last September report of Swallow was in Kilmory on 28th. October should see the last of the Swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: two Moorhen with three young at Port na Lochan on 3rd, twelve Long-tailed Tit in Lochranza on 7th and two reports of Kingfisher, two at Cordon on 11th and one at the Cnocan Burn mouth on 30th.

October

October was three degrees warmer than the previous October with ten percent more rain. October also had more than twice as much rain as September. During the month there were plenty of interesting birds to enjoy. October is arguably the busiest birding month, as summer breeders depart, migrants pass through, winter visitors arrive and there is always a strong chance of something unusual.

That was certainly the case this year when on Friday 11th October there was a report of a Turtle Dove feeding with Collared Doves in a garden in Sandbraes. Turtle Dove is an increasingly rare bird in the UK. On Arran it is an occasional passage migrant. The last record was again one with a group of Collared Doves in a garden in Brodick from 25th October to 8th November 2006.

Other occasional passage migrants included: two Scaup on the sea off Shannochie between 1st and 4th, a Great Crested Grebe in Brodick Bay on 3rd and five Ring Ouzel by the Narachan Track on 11th.

Other more regular birds on migration included: a Sanderling at Blackwaterfoot on 2nd, two Dunlin at Drumadoon Point on 5th, thirty-two Golden Plover at Shannochie also on 5th, twelve Snipe at Machriewater on 6th, twelve Skylark at Bennecarrigan on 12th and four Great Northern Divers off Pirnmill on 22nd.

On the 9th /10th there was a considerable movement of seabirds through Whiting Bay. For example, twenty Gannet were counted in ten minutes and over a thousand Kittiwake in half an hour.

In addition there were widespread reports of Wheatear and of wintering thrushes. The largest groups were: four Wheatear at Blackwaterfoot on 2nd, three hundred Fieldfare at Glen Shurig on 28th and six hundred Redwing on Whiting Bay Golf Course on 22nd.

There were some "last sightings" of summer visitors including: two Common Sandpiper in Blackwaterfoot on 2nd, two Lesser Black-backed Gull in Lochranza on 6th, a Chiffchaff in Whiting Bay on 9th, twelve House Martin over Whiting Bay Golf Course on 19th and a Swallow in Lamlash on 27th. A possible wintering Blackcap was reported at Margnaheglish on 28th

Finally, wintering wildfowl began to arrive with six Wigeon and fifteen Teal at Cosyden on 5th, three Whooper Swan at Sandbraes on 9th and twenty Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 25th.

November

November was about five degrees colder and forty percent drier than October.

This colder weather may have had an influence on the arrival of our winter visitors. While, unlike last year, there were no records of the irruptive Waxwing, throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging Fieldfare and Redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group of Fieldfare was three hundred at Kilpatrick on 12th and the largest group of Redwing was one hundred and twenty at Cnoc na Dail on 9th.

Other records of wintering birds included: eighty-four Rooks in Sliderry on 5th, two Yellowhammer also at Sliderry on 7th and a Brambling at High Kildonan on 21st.

Groups of wintering wildfowl included: four Whooper Swans at Shiskine on 6th, one hundred and twenty Teal at Kilpatrick Point on 7th and at Sliderry two hundred and fifty Greylag Geese on 19th and fifty Wigeon on 29th. Other groups included: thirty-six Lapwing at Port na Feannaiche on 3rd, fifty-six Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 9th, twenty-six Skylark on Cleats Shore on 10th, fourteen Redshank at Kildonan on 17th and sixty Curlew at South Feorline on 20th. Large groups of gull were also reported including one hundred and fifty Herring Gull at Kilpatrick Point on 7th, three hundred Kittiwake at Machriewaterfoot on 11th and four hundred Common Gull in Whiting Bay on 12th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months and these are some of the November reports from gardens round the island: twenty-two Long-tailed Tit in Whiting Bay on 3rd, thirty Chaffinch in Corriecravie on 6th, eight Blackbird in Lochranza on 12th, three Robin in Kilpatrick on 21st, seven Coal Tit in Margnaheglish on 26th and widespread reports of Great Spotted Woodpecker including the Dyemill on 19th and Balmichael on 26th.

A Slavonian Grebe in Whiting Bay on 10th and a Water Rail on Lakin Farm were only the second records for these species this year.

Other highlights included: a pair of Goosander at the mouth of the lorsa on 9th, a female Merlin on Cleats Shore on 10th, ten Twite at Machriewaterfoot on 11th, six Snow Bunting on Goatfell on 13th, a Kingfisher on the Fisherman's Walk on 17th, a Little Grebe off Newton Shore on 24th, six Moorhen on Port na Lochan also on 24th and two Common Crossbill at High Kildonan on 28th.

Finally, six Gannet off Catacol on 5th was an unusual record as winter approached.

December

The weather in December was characterised by regular, sometimes storm force Atlantic fronts sweeping across the island. It was mild, wet and unsettled.

Perhaps one outcome of this unsettled weather was the report of a Yellow Wagtail on the shore at Kildonan between Friday 13th and Sunday 15th. It was with Rock Pipit and Pied Wagtail feeding on the invertebrates on the kelp, just to the east of the Kildonan Hotel. The bird gave good close views and was thought to be a first winter bird in non-breeding plumage. On Arran, Yellow Wagtail is a scarce passage migrant. The last record was two on Cleats Shore on 23rd April 2006. At this time of year Yellow Wagtail should be wintering in Africa! The strong southerly winds may have driven it north.

Winter visitors were to the fore including in the Shiskine Valley five hundred Greylag Geese on 3rd, fourteen Barnacle Geese on 5th, sixteen Pink-footed Geese on 6th and two hundred and fifty Fieldfare also on 6th. There were reports of Goldeneye from Port na Lochan on 11th and Loch Ranza on 21st and the largest group of Wigeon reported in the month was twenty-five at Auchenhew Bay on 26th.

Other large groups of wintering birds included two hundred Starling at Kilpatrick on 6th, fourteen Lapwing in Shiskine on 7th and five hundred Woodpigeon at Clachaig on 22nd. There were widespread reports of Snipe and Woodcock including three Snipe at Clauchlands on 26th and a Woodcock in High Kildonan on 25th.

Gardens provided a safe refuge for some winter visitors including a Yellowhammer in Lochranza on 6th, a male Yellowhammer in Brodick on 28th plus a male Brambling in Shiskine from 15th to 19th. Other garden records included: five Bullfinch in Torbeg on 1st, twenty Chaffinch in Bailemargaidh on 15th, thirty-five Long-tailed Tit in Dhunan on 20th, twenty Greenfinch in Shiskine on 26th and six Lesser Redpoll in High Kildonan on 29th.

On 26th December there was a report of a male Stonechat at Clauchlands. After the two severe winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11, the numbers of Stonechat wintering on Arran crashed, so this was a welcome sighting.

Despite the unsettled weather there were signs of normal bird activity. After their autumn absence for their post-breeding moult, Shelduck returned to the island, first to Carlo on 12th and then to Clauchlands on 14th. In addition, there were reports of courting Red-breasted Merganser including in Whiting Bay on 12th.

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

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

The Weather 2013

The weather influences the timing of bird migration.

The prolonged cold period in March with a mean temperature six degrees lower than March 2012, heavy lying snow in some parts of the island and the wind constantly from an easterly or northerly direction, delayed the arrival of the early summer migrants.

The weather influences the timing of breeding.

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

The weather influences the success of breeding.

The comparatively dry summer had a beneficial impact on many breeding birds with passerines having multiple broods.

The weather influences survival.

The cold winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 resulted in a decline in some species like Stonechat and Grey Wagtail. In 2012 and again in 2013 after milder winters there were some signs of recovery.

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

Here is a summary of weather data for 2013 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 | Dom. Dir. |
| January | 5.8 | 11.4 | -0.1 | 129 | 241.5 | 6.9 | 64 | SSE |
| February | 4.9 | 11.7 | -1.1 | 66.9 | 152.2 | 5.1 | 54 | SE |
| March | 3.8 | 10.8 | -3.7 | 110.4 | 65.6 | 5.9 | 37 | ENE |
| April | 7.1 | 12.4 | -1.2 | 60.8 | 132.7 | 7.2 | 40 | ENE |
| May | 10.1 | 22.0 | 1.6 | 87.2 | 173.8 | 6.3 | 38 | SSE |
| June | 13.0 | 21.2 | 4.1 | 80.0 | 89.7 | 4.1 | 35 | W |
| July | 16.6 | 26 | 8.9 | 54.4 | 89.8 | 3.4 | 28 | S |
| August | 14.6 | 21.1 | 7.0 | 56.0 | 81.7 | 4.2 | 29 | W |
| September | 12.6 | 22.6 | 3.1 | 58.7 | 116.9 | 6.6 | 45 | N |
| October | 11.9 | 18.6 | 3.2 | 140 | 290.1 | 8.2 | 44 | E |
| November | 6.3 | 12.4 | -3.3 | 86.1 | 209.7 | 6.6 | 54 | N |
| December | 7.3 | 12.3 | 1.3 | 128.6 | 287.9 | 11.6 | 57 | SW |

Dom.Dir. – dominant direction

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. The total rainfall at Kilpatrick in the west was 1058.1mm whereas in Brodick Castle Gardens in the east the rainfall was 1931.6mm. Other rainfall totals received were Pirnmill 1844mm and Shiskine 1069mm

As well as a variation in rainfall, during the cold spell in March the lowest temperature recorded in Kilpatrick was negative 3.7 degrees Celsius, whereas in Brodick Castle Gardens the lowest temperature was negative 5.3 degrees Celsius.

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

| | "Earliest" Recorded Date | Arrival Date 2013 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wheatear | 13-Mar-05 | 01 April |
| Chiffchaff | 17-Mar-05 | 14 April |
| Sand Martin | 18-Mar-09 | 12 April |
| Willow Warbler | 20-Mar-94 | 23 April |
| Swallow | 23-Mar-05 | 14 April |
| White Wagtail | 24-Mar-08 | 10 April |
| House Martin | 28-Mar-05 | 15 April |
| Common Sandpiper | 29-Mar-98 | 14 April |
| Whinchat | 01-Apr-88 | 14 May |
| Sandwich Tern | 03-Apr-09 | 13 April |
| Manx Shearwater | 03-Apr-11 | 03 April |
| Tree Pipit | 07-Apr-90 | 07 May |
| Redstart | 08-Apr-11 | None recorded in 2013 |
| Cuckoo | 10-Apr-01 | 19 April |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 12-Apr-11 | 05 May |
| Garden Warbler | 12-Apr-95 | 29 April |
| Sedge Warbler | 14-Apr-11 | 29 April |
| Arctic Tern | 14-Apr-13 | 14 April |
| Whitethroat | 17-Apr-06 | 28 April |
| Corncrake | 20-Apr-90 | None recorded in 2013 |
| Common Tern | 21-Apr-93 | 19 April, only record |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 21-Apr-11 | 20 May |
| Wood Warbler | 25-Apr-09 | 17 May, one of three records |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 27-Apr-10 | None recorded in 2013 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 28-Apr-98 | None recorded in 2013 |
| Swift | 01-May-09 | 30 May |
| Nightjar | 17-May-13 | 17 May |

Regular Winter Migrant Arrival and Departure Dates

| | "earliest" Arrival date | "latest" Departure date | 2013 Arrival date | 2013 Departure date |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Whooper Swan | 18-Sep-11 | 10-May-12 | 09 October | 29 April |
| Pink-footed Goose | 11-Oct-10 | 15-Apr-12 | 06 December | 06 March |
| Greylag Goose | 04-Oct-12 | 16-Apr-13 | 11 October | 16 April |
| Wigeon | 11-Jul-11 | 14-Apr-13 | 04 October | 14 April |
| Goldeneye | 12-Oct-09 | 04-May-06 | 06 December | 02 April |
| Purple Sandpiper | 09-Nov-06 | 11-May-10 | | 10 March |
| Kingfisher | 13-Jul-07 | 27-Mar-08 | 23 July | |
| Waxwing | 21-Oct-10 | 15-Apr-09 | | 10 February |
| Fieldfare | 02-Sep-13 | 18-Apr-08 | 02 September | 11 April |
| Redwing | 30-Sep-07 | 10-Apr-13 | 11 October | 10 April |
| Rook | 03-Jul-07 | 20-Apr-11 | 14 September | 05 April |
| Brambling | 09-Oct-07 | 25-Apr-08 | 21 November | |

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

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

Bird Surveys and Projects on Arran

Bird Atlas 2007-2011 and the Arran Bird Atlas

What is it?

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

What is happening on Arran?

In Arran, alongside the fieldwork for the National Atlas, the Arran Natural History undertook to do a local atlas of the distribution and abundance of birds on Arran. To gather enough data to do this, every area of Arran has been surveyed. The island was divided into around one hundred and forty tetrads. (Tetrads are 2km × 2km squares.) Each tetrad has been surveyed twice during winter and twice during the breeding season, using the same methodology as used for the National Atlas. In addition, as many records as possible have been collected by tetrad, in order to build up comprehensive species lists for every tetrad.

In order to achieve this coverage the fieldwork for the local atlas started in the winter of 2007/2008 and lasted for five winters. Breeding season fieldwork took place in the summers of 2008 to 2012.

The last of the data was uploaded onto the Bird Atlas data base on 30th September 2012.

The Arran Natural History Society plans to publish the local atlas results in 2014. Details on how this will be done will be announced in due course on the website

http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/bird_atlas_2007-2011.html

Garden BirdWatch

In the last weekend in January 2013 twenty-five households on Arran took part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. A report on the Arran results is available here

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

Garden BirdWatch is a national survey run by the BTO that monitors the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife through its network of volunteers. On Arran in 2013 there were nine volunteers. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers, not just in one weekend of the year, but throughout the year are analysed by BTO researchers.

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

To find out how to take part in this worthwhile and enjoyable survey, visit the website

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>

Wetland Bird Survey - Arran Summary for 2013

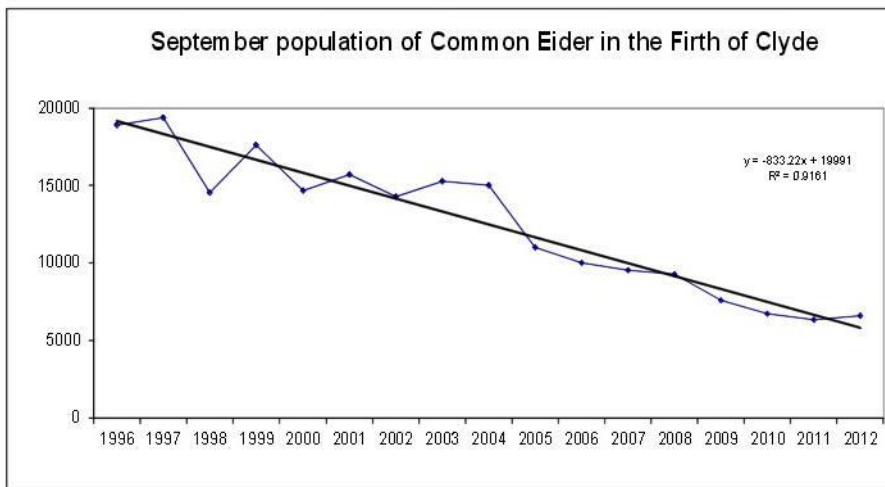
This is a joint scheme involving the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee which monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The survey is dependent on volunteers. Eight of the survey sites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

| Species | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mute Swan | 39 | 25 | 30 | 32 | 26 | 32 | 25 | 17 | 24 | 28 | 29 | 27 |
| Whooper Swan | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Greylag Goose | 6 | 77 | 67 | 18 | 25 | | | | | | 32 | |
| Canada Goose | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Shelduck | 10 | 15 | 22 | 46 | 26 | 23 | 15 | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Wigeon | 38 | 39 | 37 | 2 | | | | | | 9 | 26 | 25 |
| Teal | 56 | 81 | 61 | 1 | | 3 | | 16 | 4 | 31 | 68 | 61 |
| Mallard | 162 | 103 | 81 | 75 | 47 | 91 | 36 | 95 | 116 | 77 | 158 | 163 |
| Eider | 104 | 114 | 203 | 91 | 59 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 24 | 154 | 128 | 135 |
| Common Scoter | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| Goldeneye | | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 35 | 58 | 51 | 55 | 29 | 38 | 77 | 39 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 33 |
| Goosander | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | |
| Red-throated Diver | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 11 | 2 | 5 | 2 | | 1 |
| Black-throated Diver | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | | | 1 | | 5 | 12 | 10 | 7 |
| Great Northern Diver | 2 | 3 | 12 | 17 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 4 |
| Little Grebe | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Cormorant | 9 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 9 |
| Shag | 53 | 96 | 39 | 64 | 48 | 49 | 24 | 53 | 111 | 207 | 76 | 66 |
| Grey Heron | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 17 | 12 | 10 |
| Oystercatcher | 391 | 299 | 344 | 300 | 167 | 156 | 190 | 190 | 225 | 224 | 288 | 249 |
| Ringed Plover | 70 | 127 | 48 | 19 | 25 | 16 | 25 | 124 | 93 | 56 | 85 | 74 |
| Golden Plover | 17 | 3 | | | | | 62 | 83 | 63 | | | |
| Lapwing | | 18 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 14 |
| Knot | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Sanderling | | | | | 5 | | | | 2 | | | |
| Purple Sandpiper | 5 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dunlin | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 5 | | | |
| Snipe | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Curlew | 183 | 102 | 64 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 31 | 72 | 59 | 55 | 70 | 81 |
| Redshank | 27 | 25 | 34 | 15 | 2 | | 8 | 9 | 9 | 23 | 37 | 33 |
| Greenshank | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Common Sandpiper | | | | 4 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Turnstone | 40 | 29 | 8 | 42 | 10 | 3 | 11 | 46 | 66 | 72 | 67 | 58 |

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

Eider Survey

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



Chris Waltho, a past president of the Scottish Ornithologists Club, has organised September surveys in the Clyde for about twenty years. Chris's data clearly shows that the post breeding population of Eiders in the Firth of Clyde is in decline and has more than halved in the last ten years.

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

The reason for the marked decline in recent years is not clear. The Clyde Ringing Group and Glasgow University have ringed approximately 1500 females over the last decade. These results suggest some decline in annual survival rate, but there is little evidence of mass mortality events or of any major displacement within or out of the Clyde. Mussels, crabs, starfish and other seabed creatures are the main food sources and with many different pressures and influences operating in different parts of the Firth, there is no single cause for the decline. This decline is likely to be the cumulative effect of multiple causes that have an overall chronic impact on the population. It is important to continue to monitor the situation.

One of the ways that this is done is through Chris's annual survey. While the trend on Arran reflects the overall figures, there has been considerable variation in the Arran figures from over six hundred in 1999 to six in 2008. In 2013 the total figure from the census done in September was one hundred and forty-four.

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

Rook on Arran

Rook, a member of the crow family, with its greyish white face and beak, peaked head, and ragged “trousers”, is a familiar bird on the mainland adjacent to Arran, breeding in communal noisy rookeries. On Arran it does not breed but it is a regular winter visitor.

Rook is resident in Great Britain and Ireland as well as much of north and central Europe. It is also a vagrant to Iceland and northern Scandinavia and occurs as an eastern race in Asia. Birds were also released by settlers to New Zealand between 1862 and 1874 where it is now an agricultural pest and is being eradicated. In the north of its natural range the species has a tendency to move south during autumn and even the more southern populations are apt to range sporadically.

Historically Rook seems to have bred on Arran. This is a quote from R. Gray in *The Birds of Arran*; Bell and Bain: 1872 “Common and on the increase”. Sixty years later J.M. McWilliam: *The Birds of the Firth of Clyde*: Witherby: 1936 states “It was driven out of Arran many years ago.” While J.A. Gibson: *The Birds of the Island of Arran*: Buteshire Natural History Society: 1956 gives this account “There used to be three or four rookeries on Arran, but the bird was much persecuted and was finally exterminated as a breeding species many years ago; I do not think that it was nested in any numbers since 1900. Rooks still visit the island and odd birds are occasionally seen on the shore especially in winter.”

What about now? In the latter part of 2013 there were groups of Rook in the south of Arran, particularly around Slidery. The numbers built up from mid-October and continued to the end of the year. On one occasion over eighty birds were counted.

Table 1 gives some comparative data from the years that I have been the bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society. It shows for each winter the number of Rook records received, the number of places that Rook were recorded and the three highest counts of Rook.

Table 1

| Winter | No. of records | No. of places | No. of birds |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2013-14 | 10 | 3 | 84,49,48 |
| 2012-13 | 17 | 4 | 32,14,12 |
| 2011-12 | 5 | 3 | 7,5,2 |
| 2010-11 | 10 | 7 | 10,7,6 |
| 2009-10 | 4 | 3 | 12,3,2 |
| 2008-9 | 5 | 5 | 15,4,3 |
| 2007-8 | 11 | 10 | 13,8,4 |
| 2006-7 | 10 | 7 | 26,7,6 |

From Table 1 the numbers of birds recorded this winter is larger than recent winters and the figures seem to suggest a build-up of numbers.

With many of the birds recorded this winter being juvenile, could this be an indication of an attempt to colonise Arran?

In an attempt to answer this question the Arran Natural History annual reports for previous years were also scrutinised and Table 2 was produced.

In Table 2 the largest group of Rook recorded each year is noted. In five of the twenty-six years, there have been records of more than one hundred birds. In one year it was four hundred. Over the same period, in five years records of less than ten birds were recorded, whilst in two of these years, no Rook was recorded.

Table 2

| Year | Largest Number | Year | Largest Number | Year | Largest Number |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2005 | 80 | 1999 | 153 | 1989 | 50 |
| 2004 | 2 | 1998 | 20 | 1988 | 6 |
| 2003 | 40 | 1997 | 106 | 1987 | 50 |
| 2002 | 30 | 1996 | 34 | 1986 | 0 |
| 2001 | 20 | 1995 | 150 | 1985 | 12 |
| 2000 | 15 | 1994 | 0 | 1984 | 400 |
| | | 1993 | 200 | 1983 | 70 |
| | | 1992 | 70 | 1982 | 61 |
| | | 1991 | 55 | 1981 | 1 |
| | | 1990 | 60 | 1980 | 12 |

What could explain these fluctuations?

Some of it can be explained by the fact that the island is under-watched and under-reported, but perhaps of more significance is the migratory nature of the species. Rook moves out of its northern range in the autumn and even the more southern populations are apt to range sporadically in search of food. This publication (Wernham, C.V., Toms, M.P., Marchant, J.H., Clark, J.A., Siriwardena, G.M. & Baillie, S.R. (eds.) 2002. *The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland*. T. & A.D. Poyser, London) indicates that in the UK there have been over sixty recoveries of ringed Rooks from foreign countries. These birds originated from Norway to the Baltic States. The movements of Rook not only from the adjacent mainland but from further afield, including northern Europe, could explain the fluctuations in numbers in Arran in the winter.

Will Rook stay and attempt to breed in 2014? Rook start breeding early in the year with many on nests in March. This year the agricultural land on the south of the island will certainly be worth checking.



Rook: Photographer: Angus Hogg

Report from Forestry Commission Barn Owl Nest Box Project

For twenty-five years, Barn Owl nest boxes have been put up and monitored on Arran by Rab Logan, Wildlife Ranger of the Forestry Commission (Scotland).



Although the winter had been harsh and there were reports of dead Barn Owl in several areas, 2013 was a better year than 2012 for breeding Barn Owl. The breeding success of Barn Owl is closely associated with the vole population. In 2013 thirty-nine young were raised in the twenty-eight nest boxes on Forestry Commission Scotland land.

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

Report from the Arran Black Grouse Group

In 2011, after an absence of over thirty years, there were Arran bred Black Grouse on the moors of Arran again. This was a result of the work of this group.



To keep in touch with this project and find out how the release programme is going, the Arran Black Grouse Group has established a free newsletter service.

Subscribers automatically receive an email whenever anything is added to the website.

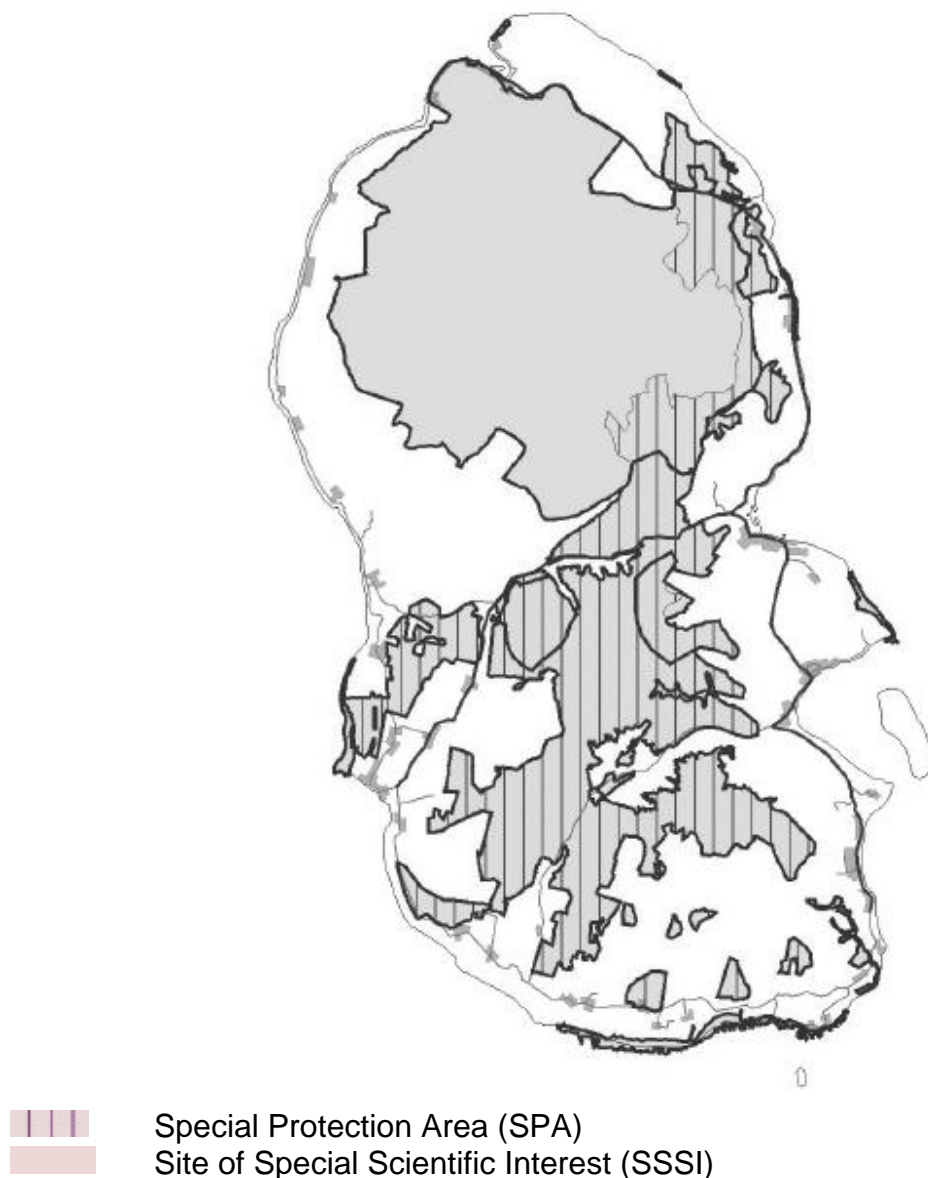
To find out how to join visit the website <http://www.arranblackgrouse.com/blog/>

Arran Moors Special Protection Area

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

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

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



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

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>

There is one licensed ringer living on Arran, Terry Southall. The following report is from Terry

Bird ringing on Arran in 2013

This year's total was less than 2012 due to Terry Southall recovering from knee surgery. Only one brief visit was made to Pladda to survey the breeding Arctic Terns. Finches dominated the ringing total. These birds seem to have survived the winter well and came back to Arran in good numbers.

The breeding Whinchat study continues with the birds being colour ringed so that they can be more easily identified in the future. Please report all colour ringed Whinchats.

Ringling Totals for 2013

| Species | Full grown | Pulli | Retraps | Total |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Mute Swan | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Sparrowhawk | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Buzzard | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Kestrel | 0 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| Peregrine | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Ringed Plover | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Snipe | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Arctic Tern | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Meadow Pipit | 26 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Rock Pipit | 59 | 0 | 0 | 59 |
| Wren | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dunnock | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Robin | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Whinchat | 0 | 23 | 0 | 23 |
| Wheatear | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Blackbird | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Willow Warbler | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Goldcrest | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Coal Tit | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Blue Tit | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Great Tit | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Hooded Crow | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Chaffinch | 8 | 0 | 4 | 12 |
| Greenfinch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Goldfinch | 54 | 0 | 13 | 67 |
| Siskin | 171 | 0 | 32 | 203 |
| Linnet | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Lesser Redpoll | 37 | 0 | 3 | 40 |
| Reed Bunting | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 423 | 53 | 54 | 530 |

Pulli – Young birds in nest

Selected List of Recoveries

| Species | Age & Sex | Date ringed | Date recovered | Lapsed days | Where recovered | Distance from place ringed |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lesser Redpoll | 3 | 23/9/12 | 04/02/13 | 134 | Nuthampstead, Hertfordshire | 514km |
| Lesser Redpoll | 5 | 18/4/09 | 24/02/13 | 1408 | Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire | 466km |
| Lesser Redpoll | 3J | 23/9/12 | 06/04/13 | 195 | Meldreth, Cambridgeshire | 503km |
| Lesser Redpoll | 3 | 22/9/12 | 26/05/13 | 246 | Lockerbie, Dumfries | 118km |
| Lesser Redpoll | 3 | 03/10/12 | 31/03/13 | 179 | Rochester, Medway. | 582km |

Age and sex were at time of ringing.

When caught on Arran, all the Lesser Redpoll were on passage heading south to winter. The above recoveries demonstrate the areas in England where these birds winter. The bird in Lockerbie had probably decided to breed there; the date is late for the bird still to be on passage.

In recent years the Lesser Redpoll population has increased and it is believed that this is due to the birds having discovered nyjer seed in bird feeders, thus making winter survival easier.

Birds ringed elsewhere and recovered on Arran.

| Species | Age & Sex | Date ringed | Date recovered | Lapsed days | Where ringed | Distance moved |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Goldfinch | 6 F | 04/10/12 | 20/04/13 | 198 | Silt Fen, Norfolk | 479km |
| Goldfinch | 6 M | 29/01/11 | 16/05/13 | 838 | Crosby, Merseyside | 254km |
| Goldfinch | 6 F | 03/02/12 | 01/05/13 | 453 | Lady Bank, Lincs | 427km |
| Lesser Redpoll | 6 M | 02/04/12 | 10/05/13 | 405 | Greystoke, Cumbria | 162km |
| Siskin | 6 M | 14/01/13 | 11/04/13 | 87 | Sheringham, Norfolk | 496km |
| Siskin | 6 M | 01/04/13 | 10/04/13 | 39 | East Grinstead, Sussex | 587km |
| Siskin | 6 M | 14/03/12 | 01/05/13 | 413 | Drummel, Inverness | 231km |
| Siskin | 6 F | 08/03/13 | 20/04/13 | 43 | Wrexham | 307km |

Age and sex were at time of ringing.

Codes for Age and Sex

- 3J Bird in juvenile plumage hatched in current calendar year.
- 3 Bird in full – grown plumage hatched in current calendar year.
- 4 Hatched before current calendar year.
- 5 Hatched in previous calendar year.
- 6 Hatched before last calendar year, exact year unknown.

Finally 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 of the Arran Natural History Society. The contact details are at the beginning of the report.



Terry Southall

Systematic List 2013

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 6 young Port na Lochan on 5 May, 6 young Cordon on 23 May and 5 young Machrie Bay on 10 July. Winter groups included 10 at Sandbraes on 7 January and 13 Lamlash Bay on 9 March.

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

Rare winter visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record was one at Lagg 6 January 1991.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups at Sandbraes from 1 January to 29 April and from 9 October until end of year where the largest group was 10 on 3 January. Passage groups included 18 Clauchlands on 11 January, 50 Lamlash on 19 March and thirty-eight Shedog on 20 March.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Groups in Shiskine valley from January to March returning in December. Largest groups 34 on 6 March and 16 on 6 December.

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

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record was one with Greylags in Shiskine valley on 24 January 2012.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Regular winter visitor with small naturalised population around Lamlash Bay.

Up to 350 in Shiskine valley between 1 January and 18 April. Up to 500 in Shiskine Valley between 19 October and end of year. Other groups included 250 at Sliderry on 19 November. Largest count of the non-migratory naturalised population was 92 at Clauchlands on 28 February.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Localised breeding and occasional visitor.

Increasing reports including 5 Silver Sands on 1 March, 3 Holy Isle on 19 April and 12 Cleats Shore on 19 August. This is the third year that this species has bred. A pair with four goslings was on the pond at Cnocan Donn on 24 April.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

Occasional winter visitor.

One Sliderry 6 June, one Sliderry on 10 October, 14 with Greylags in Shiskine Valley on 5 December and one in Shiskine Valley on 12 December were all the records for 2013.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Occasional winter visitor.

Eight Sannox Bay on 28 and 29 April and 3 Lamlash Bay on 8 May were all the records for 2013.

Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Breeding included 9 young Auchenhew Bay on 28 May, 10 young Carlo on 29 May, 16 young Cleats Shore on 1 June and 6 young Clachlands on 12 June. Groups included 20 Auchenhew Bay on 23 February and 18 Whitefarland on 4 April.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

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

No records for 2013. Last record Rosa and Cloy Burns in Brodick on 27 March 2009.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Groups included 31 Silver Sands on 1 January, 28 Cosyden on 11 February, 20 Auchenhew Bay on 23 February, 12 Kilpatrick Point on 2 April, 30 Shannochie on 11 November and 50 Sliderry on 29 November.

Teal (Common Teal) *Anas crecca*

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

Groups included 42 Cosyden on 15 January, 24 Cleats Shore on 31 March, 35 Sliderry on 19 October, 120 Kilpatrick Point on 7 November and 62 Shiskine on 11 November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 8 young Auchenhew Bay on 17 May, 12 young Kilpatrick on 24 May and 4 young Clachlands on 21 July. Groups included 58 Kilpatrick Point on 9 February, 20 Carlo 14 February, 20 Fisherman's Walk on 26 February and 68 Machriewaterfoot on 9 November.

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was a long staying pair at Cleats Shore from 7 February to 3 March 2012.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare summer Visitor

No records for 2013. A pair on the pond at Torr Righ on 9 May 2012 is the only Arran record of this species.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was a female or male in eclipse off Catacol on 6 July 2012.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was a male at Port na Lochan from 15 to 18 September 2011.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Occasional visitor.

A male on Port na Lochan on 15 April and 22 June and in the same location, a female from 4 to 11 November are all the records for 2013.



Scaup: Photographer: Angus Hogg

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Occasional winter visitor.

Two males off Shannochie from 1 to 4 October (BC).

Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included 4 young Clachlands on 3 June, 4 young Holy Isle on 7 June, 5 young Silver Sands on 16 June, 5 young Catacol Bay on 29 June and 4 young Sandbraes on 1 August. Groups included 173 Cosyden on 15 January, 60 Sannox Bay on 13 March, 48 Sandbraes on 12 April and 72 Machriewaterfoot on 25 August.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza in April 1980.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one at Blackwaterfoot on 27 April 1998.

Common Scoter (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra*

Occasional visitor.

All records were off Cosyden between 15 January and 4 April. Largest group was 14 on 11 February.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. 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 Blackwaterfoot on 20 January. 3 Loch Ranza on 26 January, 3 Clachlands on 2 February and 2 Port na Lochan on 6 December.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2013. 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 9 young Loch Ranza on 20 June and 9 young Fisherman's Walk on 8 July. Groups included 60 Machrie Bay on 20 July, 84 Machriewaterfoot on 25 August, 27 Pirnmill on 29 September and 15 Whiting Bay on 6 November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding. Localised.

No confirmed breeding in 2013. Sightings included a male at Cladach on 2 February, a pair in Loch Ranza on 16 February, a female at Cosyden on 26 February, a male at Machriewaterfoot on 13 May and a pair at the mouth of the lorsa on 9 November.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.

No records for 2013. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 is the only Arran record of this species.

Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus*

Resident. Breeding. Underreported.

Groups included 4 Coire nan Ceum on 6 July, 14 Maol Donn on 8 July, 3 Clachan Glen on 10 July and 7 Coire nan Meann on 12 August.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Very localised.

Five on the top of Cioch na h-Oighe on 9 January is the largest group in at least six years (JMCK).

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Previously bred. Reintroduction breeding programme.

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

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Scarce and local introduced resident.

Sightings included 2 Lamblash on 12 April, 8 Brodick on 28 August and one at the Dyemill on 29 November.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record, excluding released birds in the 1990s, was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

Occasional summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record 2 calling birds in Glenscorrodale on 6 June 2012.

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident.

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

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

A good breeding season. Groups on sea included 3 Cleats Shore on 19 April, 3 Dougarie on 16 July, 4 King's Cave on 13 August, 7 Largymore on 13 September and 4 Whiting Bay on 24 October.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Regular passage migrant with records in every month of the year in 2013. Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.

Groups included 6 Cosyden on 24 February, 4 Machrie Bay on 5 March, 3 Sannox Bay on 13 March and 2 Whiting Bay on 28 November.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Regular passage migrant. Records from January to July and September to December in 2013.

Groups included 17 Cosyden on 15 January, 5 Balliekine on 23 February, 5 Drumadoon Point on 2 April, 4 Dougarie on 2 April and 4 Pirnmill on 22 October.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Largest groups at nest areas included 16 Catacol on 26 April, 10 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 2 May, 22 Drumadoon on 23 May and 19 Holy Isle on 10 June. No reports of young from any sites.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one off Largymore on 22 July 2012.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was 7 in Machrie Bay on 6 September 2009.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Regular passage migrant with records from 3 April to 16 September.

Large groups included 400 Brodick Bay on 12 July, 1000 Cleats shore on 25 April and 1000 Largymore on 13 September.

Mediterranean Shearwater (Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one off Corriecravie 14 October 1990.

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

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one off Pirnmill 24 September 1991.

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant.

Two Brodick Bay on 12 July (DWal).

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year, but much more common in summer with records from 14 January to 5 November.

Groups included 50 Whiting Bay on 21 May, 30 off Fairy Dell on 8 July, 40 Imachar on 15 September and 50 Catacol Bay on 16 October.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Nest area on Pladda in July had 8 pairs. Groups included 6 Dougarie on 6 July, 5 Fallen Rocks on 17 July, 3 Cosyden on 25 August and 3 Whiting Bay on 29 October.

Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Common round coast all year. Breeding Pladda.

Nest area on Pladda in July had 35 pairs. Groups included 20 Drumadoon Point on 26 April, 100 Auchenheugh Bay on 9 August, 75 Clauchlands Point on 18 September and 100 Pladda on 26 September.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was a dead one found in Shiskine on 10 March 1996.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

One record of this American species.

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

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Rare vagrant.

One on Sliderry Shore on 1 July is the first Arran record of this species (JJF).



Grey Heron. Photographer: Dennis Morrison

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nest areas in 2013 included 2 at Lochranza on 4 May, 4 at Stronach Wood on 6 May, 4 at Lagg on 11 May and 6 Whitehouse Wood, Lamlash on 15 May. Groups included 3 Kildonan on 5 March, 3 Kilmory on 10 August, 4 Machriewaterfoot on 28 August and 12 Lochranza on 3 October.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one at Corrie on 13 October 1978.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor. One breeding record in 2011.

Pair displaying Strabane gravel pit on 10 April. Groups included 2 Fisherman's Walk on 3 January, one Clachlands on 4 January, 2 Lochranza on 10 October and 2 Port na Lochan on 24 November.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One Loch Ranza on 30 April, 2 Machriewaterfoot on 14 September and one Brodick Bay on 3 October are all the records for 2013.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one in Whiting Bay on 9 March 2009.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

Four Whiting Bay on 3 March and one Whiting Bay on 10 November are all the records for 2013.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one Whiting Bay on 30 October 2010.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.

One Shannochie on 20 January, one Cnocan Cuallaich on 18 February, one High Kildonan on 30 April, one Merkland Point on 1 May and one Clachlands on 26 May are all the records for 2013

Marsh Harrier (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. 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.

Good breeding season with some evidence of single males supporting more than one female. In recent years the number of young fledged has varied from around twenty to over forty depending on factors like food availability and weather. Numerous widespread sightings mainly within the Special Protection Area. See page 23.

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

Irregular sightings. No confirmed breeding.

No records for 2013. Last record was a male Dyemill, Lamlash, on 21 September 2011.

Sparrowhawk (*Eurasian Sparrowhawk*) *Accipiter nisus*

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Another very poor season with only one fledged young from one site. Seven nest sites were checked and signs of occupied territory were only found at this successful site. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

Resident, Breeding widespread.

Five nest sites were checked and at least 4 attempted to nest. Two were successful, each fledging one chick. Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 4 Shannochie on 19 April, 5 Torbeg on 2 May, 4 Burrigan Hill on 21 July, 5 Lamlash Golf Course on 23 October and 4 Bennecarrigan on 6 November.

Rough-legged buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one at Cleats Shore on 10 November 1974.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was an immature being seen off by two Golden Eagles over Torr Head and Eoin on 27 October 2012.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Resident. Breeding. Nationally important area with one percent of UK breeding population.

All territories occupied. At least one nest successful. Numerous sightings throughout the year mainly to the north of the String.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Occasional passage migrant.

One Merkland Point on 16 June and one Brodick Bay on 17 July are all the records for 2013.

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Good breeding season. Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including with fledged young at Glen Rosa on 6 June, Imachar on 26 June, Machrie on 1 July, Drumadoon on 5 July and Lochranza on 14 July.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Singles recorded included female High Kildonan on 5 January, male Cladach on 9 March, female Auchenhew on 10 April, female Blackwaterfoot on 14 September, female Cleats Shore 10 November and male Slidery on 25 November.

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was an adult bird by the Ross Road on 22 June 2011.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.

Good breeding season. Pairs present at usual breeding sites and seen throughout the year. At least seven young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Localised breeding resident and passage migrant.

One in a garden in Lochranza from 29 March to 1 April and one calling at the Lakin on 28 November are all the records for 2013.

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 2013. Last record one calling at Port na Lochan from 7 to 9 May 2008.

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Scarce localised breeding resident.

One on the Rosa Burn between 3 January and 19 March. All other records were from Port na Lochan throughout the year with up to six birds on 24 November.

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

Occasional visitor.

One Port na Lochan on 22 June (GB).

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was two in the Shiskine valley in September 1989.

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded Kilpatrick, Dougarie, Machrie, Clachlands, Sandbraes, Cleats Shore, Kildonan, Shannochie and Thunderguy. Groups included 48 Machrie on 10 February, 35 Lamlash on 9 March, 30 Blackwaterfoot on 22 July and 30 Catacol on 16 October.

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Around twenty successful territories in north western moorland. Groups included 47 Shannochie on 23 January, 60 Shiskine on 2 March, 137 in Sliderry on 27 April and 62 Machriewaterfoot on 25 August.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records 2013. Last record was one on Torrylinn Shore on 5 April 2012.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

Increasingly localised breeding and regular winter visitor.

No confirmed breeding. Two possible breeding areas one in Shiskine valley and the other in Kilmory. Groups included 35 Shiskine on 20 January, 40 High Clachaig on 24 February and 36 Port na Feannaiche on 3 November.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nests recorded Kilpatrick, Dougarie, Machrie, Kilmory, Clauchlands, Sandbraes, Cleats Shore and Kildonan. Groups included 26 Silver Sands on 10 January, 44 Drumadoon Point on 26 August, 42 Machriewaterfoot on 9 November and 50 Glenashdalewaterfoot on 18 November.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records 2013. Last record was one calling summit of Beinn Tarsuinn 4 June 2012.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 6 Auchenhew Bay on 22 April, 5 Kildonan on 7 May, 11 Drumadoon Point on 11 May and 7 Blackwaterfoot also on 11 May

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

Resident but underreported breeder.

Occupied nests on Machrie Moor on 2 June and fledged young on Machrie Moor on 13 June were the only confirmed breeding records. Groups included 42 Kilpatrick on 15 January, 70 Glenkiln on 18 February, 35 Cordon on 9 March, 32 Clauchlands on 18 September and 60 South Feorline on 20 November.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one Cleats Shore from 25 to 26 August 2012.



Bar-tailed Godwit: Photographer: Brian Couper

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon passage migrant.

One Machriewaterfoot on 4 May (BRM).

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*

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

Groups included 71 Silver Sands on 10 January, 28 Auchenhew Bay on 28 February, 40 Machriewaterfoot on 1 April, 27 Clauchlands on 18 September, 24 Blackwaterfoot on 5 October and 38 Kildonan on 17 November.

Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

Regular passage migrant.

One Drumadoon on 28 and 29 July are all the records for 2013.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was 2 at Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Regular passage migrant.

Groups included 4 Blackwaterfoot on 21 May, 3 Drumadoon Point on 25 May, 2 Torrylinnwaterfoot on 10 September and 3 Machrie on 7 October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Regular passage migrant with records from most months of the year. No breeding records.

Groups included 10 Kildonan on 4 May, 15 Blackwaterfoot on 23 May, 38 Drumadoon Point on 28 July and 8 Torrylinnwaterfoot on 10 September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records from Kildonan and Auchenhew Bay between 12 February and 10 March including 13 Kildonan on 12 February and 6 Auchenhew Bay on 28 February.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was 3 at Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was 2 in Wineport area of Brodick Bay on 28 August 1983.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one in Brodick Bay on 23 March 1989.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular summer visitor with records from April to August. Breeding.

Pairs each with young included Lag a'Mhill on 7 June, Blackwaterfoot on 17 June, Catacol on 18 June, Sannox on 22 June, Newton on 10 July and Dougarie on 16 July.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was at High Thunderguy on 1 August 2008.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erthropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one at South Feorline shore on 5 August 2010.

Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

One wintering bird at Clauchlands from 1 January to 10 March returning 22 September to end of year.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant.

No records 2013. One at Drumadoon Point on 22 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

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

Groups included 6 Blackwaterfoot on 14 January, 7 Kilpatrick on 9 February, 12 Sandbraes on 7 August, 16 Whiting Bay on 15 September and 14 Kildonan on 17 November.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

One Sliddery on 6 December (DS/TS).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One record of this American species.

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

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident but underreported breeder. Numbers increase in winter.

Pairs flying at dusk over High Kildonan on 31 March, Clauchlands on 23 April, Cnoc na Dail on 31 May and Lochranza on 20 June. Other sightings included two in Brodick Country Park on 11 March, one Catacol on 1 September, one Sliddery on 26 November and one Lakin on 24 December.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Passage migrant with records from most months of the year. Previously bred.

No confirmed breeding records. Groups included 5 Cleats Shore on 31 March, 12 Machriewaterfoot on 5 October, 3 Bennecarrigan on 12 October, 30 Sliddery on 6 December and 3 Clauchlands on 26 December.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records for 2013. Last record was 2 off Kildonan on 16 May 2009.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One off Largymore on 13 September (MGi).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

No records 2013. Two off Kildonan on 19 May 2011 is the only Arran record of this species.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*.

Uncommon passage migrant. Underreported.

One Brodick Bay on 31 August (FGBW).

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica*

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

Two off Loch Ranza on 18 June, one Brodick Bay on 25 June, one off Pladda on 5 July and 3 off Pladda on 10 July are all the records for 2013.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Breeding. Round coast all year.

Breeding included Corrie, Imachar, Kings Cave, Kilpatrick, Thunderguy, Pladda and Brodick pier. Numbers and sightings are increasing. Groups included 16 Brodick pier on 27 February, 12 Catacol on 9 April, 78 Pladda on 4 May and 25 King's Cave on 22 July.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

Groups included 5 Brodick Bay on 31 March, 8 Sandbraes on 1 April and 10 Cosyden on 25 August.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

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

One was found dead in Machrie on 10 March. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 31 March 2008.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge*

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

Groups included 50 Brodick Bay on 25 June, 80 Cosyden on 25 August, 22 Whiting Bay on 4 September and 50 Pirnmill on 26 September.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record one at Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Summer visitor. Non breeding.

Groups included 6 Machrie Bay on 13 April, 6 Drumadoon Point on 26 April, 18 Machriewaterfoot on 13 May and 3 Cleats Shore on 27 July.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon summer visitor.

One Machriewaterfoot on 19 April (BC).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.



Arctic Tern: Photographer: Dennis Morrison

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Regular summer visitor. Breeding colony Pladda.

Reports included 4 Cosyden on 14 April, 2 Whiting Bay on 18 April and 2 Machriewaterfoot on 19 April. Most sightings were from on or around Pladda between 20 April and 10 August with the maximum number reported 25 pairs on Pladda on 10 June.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

One historical record.

One shot in Lamlash Bay in 1895.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record one adult Brodick Bay on 3 September 2009.

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla*

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.

Groups included 200 Blackwaterfoot on 15 September, 500 Glenashdalewaterfoot on 19 September, 1000 Whiting Bay on 10 October and 300 Machriewaterfoot on 10 November with only around ten percent juveniles.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Groups included 4 Kilpatrick Point on 15 February, 4 Auchenhew Bay on 2 August, 25 Brodick Bay on 1 October, 11 Whiting Bay on 28 November and 12 Kildonan on 15 December,

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Uncommon irregular visitor.

Two Whiting Bay on 2 September (TS).

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record one at Catacol on 30 December 1992.

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Poor breeding season with few reports of fledged young from coastal nesting areas including Machriewaterfoot, Dougarie, Sannox and Thunderguy. Groups 150 Blackwaterfoot on 9 February, 300 Kilpatrick Point on 7 November, 400 Whiting Bay on 12 November and 457 Slidery on 10 December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Breeding. Common round coast from February to October.

Colony on Pladda had 40 occupied nests on 7 July. Colony by Cnoc na Croise had 150 birds on 13 June but few reports of fledged young in July. Other groups included 48 Whiting Bay on 30 August, 42 Lochranza on 15 September and 42 Blackwaterfoot on 17 September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Colony on Pladda had 120 occupied nests on 7 July. Colony by Cnoc na Croise had 150 birds on 13 June but few reports of fledged young in July. Other groups 300 Kilpatrick Point on 9 February, 112 North Newton on 9 July and 150 Blackwaterfoot on 29 September.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Uncommon winter visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record was two at Slidery from 3 April to 11 April 2012.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record was one Thunderguy on 3 March 2012.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Groups included 5 Catacol Bay on 8 April, 8 North Newton on 12 July, 9 Machriewaterfoot on 14 September and 10 Blackwaterfoot on 27 September.

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. Localised round the coast.

Sightings included 3 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 30 June, 14 Lenamhor Farm on 18 August, 36 Cleats Shore on 25 September and 40 Kilpatrick Point on 10 November.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Very scarce.

No records for 2013. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

Woodpigeon (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Resident. Breeding. Common.

Groups included 70 Shiskine on 8 January, 136 Torbeg on 14 February, 40 Strabane on 13 August and 498 at Clachaig Farm on 22 December.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Present around all villages. Groups included 4 Alma Park on 26 June, 4 Lagg on 5 March, 4 Lamlash on 2 June, 4 Sandbraes on 11 October and 12 Whiting Bay on 18 December.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Occasional passage migrant.

One with a group of Collared Doves in Sandbraes on 11 October (LR/AHob).

Cuckoo(Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First one reported calling in Glen Rosa on 19 April. Later reports from around the island. The last one reported was 25 June on Moss Farm.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Better breeding season than 2012. Sightings from Auchagallon, Auchencar, Balmichael, Carlo, Corrie, Brodick, Cladach, Dippen, Dougarie, Glenkiln, Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Lamlash, Lochranza, Monyquill, Pirnmill, Ross Road, Shiskine, String and Whiting Bay.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

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

No records for 2013.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

One top of the String on 10 May and again on 26 June plus two at Auchareoch on 8 July are all the records for 2013.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident. Underreported. Breeding.

Good breeding season with increased number of reports including at least twelve occupied territories. Sightings included one Corriecravie Moor on 24 April, one Machrie Moor on 26 April, one Beinn a' Chliabhain on 30 April, one top of the String on 3 June, one Maol Donn on 8 July and one Glenloig on 17 July.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer visitor. Previously bred.

One Merkland churring from 17 June to 26 June (RL). First record since record at Maol Donn on 24 May 1998.

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

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

Sightings included 2 High Kildonan on 30 May, one Strathwillan on 26 June, 2 Largybeg on 1 July and one Lamlash on 2 July.

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

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

Up to two in Lochranza in July and August, up to two in Cordon in July and August and one by Fisherman's Walk from September to November..

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.

Regularly heard drumming in Brodick Country Park and Merkland Wood from January to April. As well as breeding records from this area, fledged young were reported from Cnocan Wood on 23 June, Lamblash on 29 June, Machrie on 21 July, Sannox on 24 July and Glenashdale on 27 July. Widespread sightings from throughout Arran.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record a male at Kildonan on 27 September 1997.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubiter*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza on 24 October 2007.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record one by Narachan Track from 5 to 29 September 2011.

Magpie (Black-billed Magpie) *Pica pica*

Vagrant. Before 2008 only seven records in previous twenty five years.

No records in 2013. While in 2011 there were three records, in 2012 there was only one, a single bird in North Sannox on 31 March.

Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

Rare vagrant. Before 2011 the last record was 1985.

No records for 2013. Last record one on road to Glen Rosa on 9 April 2012.



Jackdaw. Photographer: Howard Walker

Jackdaw (Eurasian Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 100 Shiskine on 5 January, 40 Machrie on 26 January, 50 Newton on 10 July, 140 Kilpatrick on 21 July and 50 Catacol on 15 October.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Regular winter visitor.

One Strabane on 5 April, 2 Machrie on 14 September, 4 Cleats Shore on 25 September and one Kingscross on 11 November. All other records from Sliderry between 12 October and December, largest group 84 on 6 November and 7 December.

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

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

Groups included 26 Cnocantubha 28 February, 40 Strabane on 5 April, 20 Cleiteabh on 27 July, 120 Cleats Shore on 10 November and 47 Glenkiln on 8 December.

Raven (Common Raven) *Corvus corax*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Breeding pairs included Beinn a Chliabhain on 12 March, Brown Head on 5 April, Catacol 16 April and Imachar on 4 May. Groups included 10 Shannochie on 19 April, 8 Cir Mhor on 12 August and 7 Cleats Shore on 19 August.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Records included 2 Sannox on 13 April, 3 Lamlash on 23 April, 6 Brodick Country Park on 30 August, 4 King's Cave on 15 September and 2 Dougarie on 10 October.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

One Whiting Bay 17 November 2007 is the only accepted record. See page 59.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Lochranza on 30 May, Cordon on 20 June, Glenashdale on 22 June, Pirnmill on 24 June, Brodick on 25 June and Corriecravie on 28 June. Largest group was 12 in Newton on 9 July.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Brodick on 26 May, Lochranza on 30 May, Margnaheglish on 14 June, Kilpatrick on 22 June, Pirnmill on 24 June and Shannochie on 10 July. Largest group was 9 Balmichael on 26 November.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Regular passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Confirmed breeding included reports from Cordon on 22 June, Glenashdale on 23 June, Pirnmill on 24 June, Brodick 25 June and Lochranza on 29 June. Largest group was 20 at Cordon on 15 January.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record at Mill House Lamlash from 16 to 18 May 2009.

Skylark (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding resident, Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding territories occupied in Ard Bheinn, Corriecravie Moor, Drumadoon, Drumahinier, Glen Cloy, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Leac a'Ghille, Machrie Moor, Pirnmill and Sannox. Groups included 38 Cleats Shore on 25 September, 12 Bennecarrigan on 12 October and 30 Slidery on 17 November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.

First report Sannox on 12 April. Breeding colonies occupied in Auchencar, Clauchlands, Glen Rosa, Kilpatrick, Sannox, Shiskine Golf Course, Strabane and Whitefarland with up to 60 birds in Sannox on 22 July. Other sightings included 10 Clauchlands on 4 May and 8 Glen Rosa on 14 July.

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report at Catacol on 14 April. Groups included 100 Shiskine on 15 August, 200 Blackwaterfoot on 19 August, 100 Torbeg on 24 August, 120 Glenashdale on 22 September and 160 Whiting Bay on 23 September. Last record was Catacol on 1 October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First report was at Glenloig on 15 April. Groups included 15 Fisherman's Walk on 20 May, 10 Lochranza on 30 May, 23 Torrylinnwaterfoot on 1 June, 100 Port na Lochan on 12 September and 100 Shiskine in 15 September. Last record at Kingscross on 9 October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 10 Margnaheglis on 26 January, 10 Cordon on 1 February, 12 Lochranza on 7 September, 22 Whiting Bay on 3 November, 12 Merkland Wood on 25 November and 35 Dhunan on 20 December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

No records for 2013. 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.

In 2013 there were records from only two areas, Glenashdale and Merkland Wood.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Records from March to October.

Records included males singing Sliderry on 14 April, Cladach on 14 April, Brodick Country Park on 20 April, High Kildonan on 7 May, Machrie on 14 May and Sandbraes on 19 September. Last record was one at Whiting Bay on 11 November.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

Records included fledged young Corriecravie on 09 June, Sannox on 21 June, Lamdash on 23 June, Kildonan on 25 June, Lochranza on 29 June and Holy Isle on 16 July. Last record was one at Clauchlands on 28 August.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Records included fledged young Pirmill on 19 May, Corrie on 25 May, Lochranza on 31 May, Strabane on 26 June and Brodick Country Park on 26 June. Winter records included 2 at Margnaheglis on 28 November.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding. Possibly underreported. Records from May to August.

A male singing at each of the following; Brodick 29 April, Cnoc Dubh on 17 May and Cordon on 23 May, are all the records for 2013.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce summer visitor. Breeding. Records from May to August.

No records for 2013. Last record was two males singing Auchenhew on 18 May 2012.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

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

Records included fledged young at Porta Buidhe on 25 July, High Kildonan on 25 July, Shiskine on 29 July and Clauchlands on 30 July.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

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

Reports of reeling birds included Bridgend on 5 May, Sliderry on 8 May, Shiskine on 8 July, Shiskine Golf Course on 9 July and Machrie on 20 July.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Records included singing males Port na Feannaiche on 29 April, Clauchlands on 7 May, Kildonan on 17 May, Shiskine Golf Course on 19 May and Machrie on 14 July.

Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

After November and December 2012, which were exceptional months for sightings, in 2013 the only record was one on Lochranza Golf Course on 10 February.

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea*

Rare vagrant.

No records 2013. Last record was one calling in Cladach on 13 July 2012.



Treecreeper. Photographer: Jane Nichol

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Confirmed breeding included only two records this year Merkland Wood on 23 May and Cnoc na Daill on 22 June.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Records from varied habitats throughout the island from high tops to shore. Groups included 4 Cnoc na Tubha on 28 February, 10 Lamlash on 16 March, 5 Torrylinnwaterfoot on 1 June and 4 North Newton on 14 July.

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports Strathwillan on 6 May, Whiting Bay on 18 May, Blackwaterfoot on 22 May, Kilpatrick on 27 May and Shannochie on 30 May. Larger groups included 100 Blackwaterfoot on 22 February, 100 Shiskine on 5 December, 200 Kilpatrick on 6 December and 100 Balnacool on 6 December.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2013. Last record one adult in Brodick on 28 June 2002.

Dipper (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs recorded included Benlister, Coire Fhraoich, Cordon, Dyemill, Glenashdale, Glen Cloy, Lagg, Lochranza, Machriewater, Rosa Burn and Sliderywater. Tend to move towards coast in winter.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

Males singing Cir Mhor on 20 May and on Pagoda Ridge on 9 June. Single passage birds recorded in Brodick on 13 September, Largymore on 17 September and a group of five on Creag Ghlas Cuithe on 11 October. These are all the records for 2013.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Groups included 11 Pirnmill on 27 January, 12 Dyemill on 30 January, 18 Port na Lochan on 26 May, 10 Cleats Shore on 27 July, 20 King's Cave on 13 August and 12 Slidery on 17 November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Regular winter visitor with records from January to March and October to December.

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, included 20 Auchenhew on 23 February, 20 Shannochie on 4 April, 200 Sannox on 25 October, 300 Lochranza on 27 October, 300 Glen Shurig on 28 October and 300 Kilpatrick on 12 November.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Groups included 7 Shannochie on 21 March, 7 High Kildonan on 4 April, 6 Lochranza on 15 June, 5 Brodick on 5 August and 6 Brodick Country Park on 17 September.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Regular winter visitor with records from January to March and October to December.

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares, included 50 Kildonan on 25 January, 25 Kilmory on 25 February, 100 Lochranza on 22 October, 600 Whiting Bay Golf Course on 20 October, 120 Cnoc na Dail on 9 November and 60 Torbeg on 18 November.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included fledged young Torr Righ Beag on 19 May, Lochranza on 14 June, Machrie on 2 July and Brodick Country Park on 6 August. Groups included 9 Pirnmill on 20 February, 12 Shannochie on 28 March, 20 Glenloig on 1 September and 40 Ross Road on 17 September.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Confirmed breeding included reports from Merkland Wood on 30 May, Cladach on 3 June, Moss Farm on 24 June, Dyemill on 9 July and Fairy Dell on 14 July.

Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports King's Cave on 14 June, Glenashdale on 22 June, Brodick on 25 June, Lamash on 27 June and Lochranza on 29 June. Other groups included 7 Brodick on 25 June, 13 Glen Cloy on 13 July and 10 Clauchlands on 25 November.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Irregular summer visitor.

No records for 2013. Last record one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant.

One first winter female from 11 March to 30 March (DG).

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported. Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record a male singing by Narachan track on 5 June 2012.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

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

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fewer confirmed breeding than before the two cold winters 2009-2011 but continuing signs of recovery. Fledged young reports included Glen Rosa on 20 May, Pirnmill on 24 May, Holy Isle on 6 June, Machrie Moor on 13 June and North Newton on 12 July.

Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

First reported on 1 April a single male at Bennan Head and Machriewaterfoot. Fledged young reports included Kilpatrick on 24 May, Machrie Moor on 30 May, Laggan on 18 June and Lochranza on 10 July.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Lamlash on 17 May, Whiting Bay on 18 May, Clauchlands on 27 May, Kilpatrick on 16 June and West Mayish on 22 June. Other groups included 4 Brodick Country Park on 26 January, 4 Kilmory on 10 August and 4 Shiskine on 8 November

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Whiting Bay on 8 May, Kilpatrick on 9 May, Lochranza on 30 May, Shiskine on 6 June, Brodick on 25 June and Lamlash on 21 July. Larger groups included 26 Kilpatrick on 12 July, 35 Machrie on 19 August, 40 Brodick on 20 August and 56 Sliderry on 30 December.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record was 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce passage migrant.

First winter bird on the shore at Kildonan from 13 December to 15 December (TS/AHol).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young Auchenhew on 30 May, Garbh Allt on 29 June, Glenscorrodale on 22 June and Shannochie on 19 July. Other sightings included 2 Kildonan on 1 January, 2 Glenashdale on 26 May, 2 Blackwaterfoot on 26 August and 2 Lochranza on 19 September.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Breeding resident, Widespread, Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records included adults with fledged young at Corrie on 7 May, Blackwaterfoot on 11 June, Pirnmill on 24 June, Whiting Bay on 24 June and North Newton on 9 July. Other groups included 20 Kilpatrick on 10 April and 50 Kildonan on 15 December.

White Wagtail *Montacilla alba*

Regular passage migrant.

Sightings included 2 Kilpatrick Point on 10 April, 2 Auchenhew Bay on 25 April. 5 Port na Feannaiche on 1 May and 2 Machriewaterfoot on 14 September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

Birds holding territories included Torran Loisgte on 7 May, Torr Righ Beag on 19 May, Glen Rosa on 20 May, Coire Fhraoich on 5 June and Torr Reamhar on 13 July.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding resident, Widespread, Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numerous breeding records. Groups included 20 Kilpatrick on 30 March, 12 Corrie on 29 April, 15 Clauchlands on 12 July, 36 North Newton on 14 July and 150 Cleats Shore on 25 September.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

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

Numerous breeding records including pairs carrying food at Auchenhew, Catacol, Clauchlands, Cleats Shore, Drumadoon, Kildonan, Kilpatrick, Lamlash, Shannochie, South Feorline and Whiting Bay in May/June. Groups included 70 Silver Sands on 10 January, 29 Kilpatrick Point on 10 April and 150 Kildonan on 18 November.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Lochranza on 30 May, Sannox on 8 June, Pirnmill on 24 June, Brodick on 25 June, Lamlash on 27 June and Kildonan on 29 June. Larger groups included 60 Strabane on 1 January, 30 Pirnmill on 27 January, 60 North Sannox on 12 September, 60 Kilpatrick on 12 November and 120 Sliderry on 27 December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

One High Kildonan on 21 November, one Sliddery on 25 November and one Shiskine from 15 to 19 December are all the records for 2013.

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Shiskine on 12 May, Brodick on 26 May, Lamlash on 30 May, Kildonan on 16 June, Kilpatrick on 16 June and Kilmory on 27 August. Largest group 20 Shiskine on 26 December.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Shannochie on 30 May, Lochranza on 30 May, Glen Cloy on 8 June, Blackwaterfoot on 11 June, Kilpatrick on 22 June and Whiting Bay on 27 June. Largest group 60 at Cleats Shore on 9 September.

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between January and June.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Lochranza on 30 May, Alltobhlach on 30 May, Cordon on 22 June, Glenashdale on 22 June, Pirnmill on 24 June and Lamlash on 27 June. Largest group 36 High Kildonan on 19 April.

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.,

Most records between April and November.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Auchagallon on 28 May, Kilpatrick on 14 June and Clauchlands on 23 June. Larger groups included 160 Torrylinwaterfoot on 18 August and 70 Cleats Shore on 25 September.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Six Cleats Shore on 19 April, one Cleats Shore on 10 November and 10 Machriewaterfoot on 11 November are all the records for 2013.

Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

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

In April and May garden records were unprecedented with numerous reports ranging from Shannochie in the south to Lochranza in the north. Confirmed breeding included reports from Corriecravie on 3 June, Glenashdale on 8 June and Lamlash on 11 June. Largest group 18 Lamlash on 13 November.

Crossbill (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Sightings included 6 at the Dyemill on 20 May, one Brodick on 19 June, one Cnoc na Dail on 16 July, 2 High Kildonan on 28 November and one visited a garden feeder in Lamlash on 1 July.

Scarlet Rosefinch (Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare vagrant.

No records in 2013. The last record was a juvenile caught and ringed at High Kildonan on 24 October 2011.

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Confirmed breeding included reports from Whiting Bay on 11 May, Lamlash on 24 May, Lochranza on 30 May and West Mayish on 22 June. Groups included 11 by Loch Cnoc an Loch on 23 January and 6 Dhunan on 13 April.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare vagrant.

One Whiting Bay on 28 May and one Port na Lochan on 29 May are all the records for 2013.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Varying numbers on passage and in winter.

One Cleats Shore on 31 March, 6 by Goatfell track on 13 November and one Sliddery on 25 November are all the records for 2013.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

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

Reports of a singing male at the Fairy Dell on 9 June. Other reports included 14 Sliddery on 14 October, one Lochranza on 6 December, one Brodick on 28 December and 6 Sliddery on 30 December.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding included North Sannox on 26 May, Sliddery on 16 June, Thunderguy on 13 July and File Breugach on 16 July. Groups included 3 West Bennan on 13 March, 4 Kilpatrick on 10 April, 12 Sliddery on 17 November and 4 Clauchlands on 26 April.

Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2013. Last record 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

Gazetteer of Arran Place Names

To help people making use of this annual report, a gazetteer of Arran place names, linking names to the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 361 "Isle of Arran", has been produced and is available as a PDF download.

<http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/gazetteerarran.pdf>

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



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

Previous Annual Reports

There is a facility to download previous annual reports.

Bird Notes

The regular Bird Notes which have been published in the "*Arran Banner*" are accessible.

Photo Gallery

There is an extensive photo gallery with a section for each of the major habitats on Arran. *If you would like to send your bird photographs for consideration for inclusion, please send these to info@arranbirding.co.uk.*

Finding Birds

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

Bird Sightings

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

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

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
Girl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting
 Corn Bunting

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

Descriptions of the above species (or races/forms) and national rarity descriptions for the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) should be sent preferably by email to the Assistant Local Clyde Recorder, Val Wilson val.wilson38@btinternet.com or by post to Flat2/1, 12 Rawcliffe Gardens, Glasgow G41 3DA as soon as possible after the date of observation.

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

How to be a good birdwatcher

Some points to bear in mind.

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

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