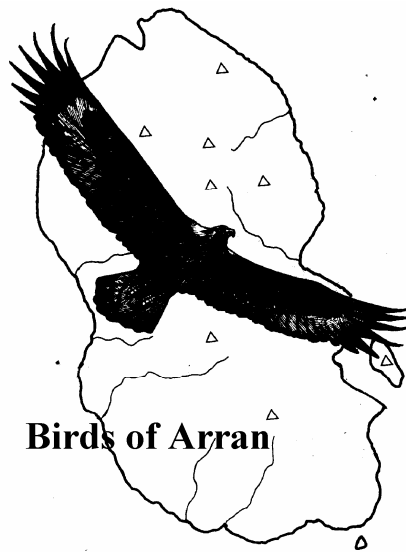


Arran Bird Report 2008



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

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Arran Bird Report for 2008*. This is the twenty-ninth consecutive annual bird report for the Isle of Arran and the third one compiled by me.

This report would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of a number of individuals whose input I would like to acknowledge publicly: Audrey Walters, the previous bird recorder, Terry Southall, our resident ringer, John Rhead, Andy Walker and Malcolm Whitmore for their local knowledge of raptors, and Bernie Zonfrillo, the bird recorder for the Clyde Islands. The input of the local “volunteers” involved in the BirdAtlas survey and in the monthly shore bird count for the national Wetlands Bird Survey has been a valuable source of information. It has also been helpful to be given permission to access the Arran records submitted to BirdTrack, www.bto.org/birdtrack and to be given records submitted to BirdGuides www.birdguides.com. At the writing stage, the advice of the committee of the Arran Natural History Society, and the editing and proof reading skills of Angela Cassels, Alan Hollick and Rod Smith were invaluable. Having said that, I accept full responsibility for all omissions, and errors. My thanks also to the following photographers for giving me permission to use their images to illustrate the report: Angela Cassels, Arthur Duncan, Robert Lambie, Penny McWatters, Dennis Morrison, Malcolm Ogilvie, and Carl Reavey. Finally, there would be no report without the input of the contributors listed.

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

In 2008, over two hundred and fifty contributors submitted over four thousand records on one hundred and sixty one species. These records have been distilled and I have tried to provide a readable Chronological Summary and a Systematic List that should provide a useful record of the bird life on Arran in 2008.

The Chronological Summary gives the highlights for each month. The Systematic List is in Vooous order in line with the Clyde Report. For each species, as well as the common name, the (new) official name and its scientific name have been given. This is followed by a brief statement giving the status of each bird on Arran, which can be markedly different from the status of the same bird on the adjacent mainland.

For 2009, please send any bird notes with “what, when, where” to me before Monday 11 January 2010, at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or telephone 01770 860316 (you can leave a message), or email me at james.cassels@virgin.net.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Cassels, Bird Recorder Arran Natural History Society

Chronological Summary

January

January was wet with more than 160mm of rain falling on the west coast. There were only three days in January when it did not rain.

With such unsettled weather, garden bird watching was to the fore, including the weekend of Saturday 26 and 27 January, the weekend of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. My thanks to those people who shared their sightings with me. From these sightings, the most numerous Arran garden birds that weekend were Chaffinches, with twenty five in Corrie cravie, thirty-six in Shiskine and fifty in Kilpatrick. Other records included: three Bullfinches in Corrie; six Coal Tits in Sannox; ten Collared Doves in Brodick; twelve Goldfinches in Lamlash; twelve House Sparrows in Shiskine; six Long-tailed Tits in Slidery and ten Siskin in Shiskine.

Other garden sightings included a male Blackcap in Lamlash on 14th and a Yellowhammer in Slidery on 16th.

On one of the few dry days, the 12th, there were a number of varied sightings including: three male Goldeneye at Sannox; three Black-throated Divers at Kildonan; five Great Northern Divers at Drumadoon; sixteen Lapwings at Kilpatrick and a very photogenic Snow Bunting on Cir Mhor.

Other sightings included: a Kingfisher on Brodick shore by the putting green on 13th; five Rooks in Kilmory on 14th; twelve Fieldfares by Balmichael on 15th and eighteen Wigeon on Cleats Shore on 19th.

Our most numerous wintering geese are the Greylag, with three hundred and fifty in Shiskine and one hundred and fifty in Clachaig on 14th. These flocks are worth checking for other species. On 14th there were two Barnacle Geese at Clachaig and on 26th, presumably the same birds were in Shiskine. Also in Shiskine, there was a White-fronted Goose on 13th and two Pink-footed Geese on 15th.

There were signs of approaching Spring with a Gannet off Cordon on 8th, three Fulmars on the cliffs at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 15th and a Blackbird carrying nesting material in Blackwaterfoot on 31st.

February

At the start and at the end of the month, February was wet, although for nearly a fortnight in the middle it was dry and settled.

Winter visitors were to the fore with nine Purple Sandpipers in Kildonan on 10th, three Whooper Swans at Sandbraes throughout the month, six Wigeon at Auchenhew on 27th, Little Grebe in Lamlash Bay on 10th and in Lochranza on 16th. The wintering geese in the Shiskine Valley on 27th numbered around three hundred and fifty Greylag, with ten Pink-footed Geese and one Barnacle Goose. Also on the 27th, a rare winter visitor was reported from Kilpatrick, a second winter Iceland Gull. This was feeding with Herring Gulls in the fields by the road and remained in the area into late April.

Other sightings included: eight Twite in South Feorline on 10th; Great-spotted Woodpecker in Brodick Country Park on 10th, Lamlash on 15th, and Sannox on 19th; regular sightings of Kingfisher at Fisherman's Walk between 3rd and 15th; a Water Rail calling at Corriecravie on 12th.

All three divers were seen around the coast this month, including one Black-throat at Kilpatrick on the 2nd, three Red-throat at Cordon on 12th and five Great Northern at Auchenhew on 17th.

Groups of Yellowhammers were reported from various gardens round the island, including Whiting Bay on 7th, Dippen on 14th, Corrie on 20th and the largest group of fifteen from Kilmory on 24th.

Returning Gannets were noticeable on 24th with sightings from Kildonan, Lamlash, Corrie, Catacol and Blackwaterfoot on that day.

Finally, some birds that used to be considered as only summer visitors, now overwinter. For example, there was a male Blackcap in a Sannox garden on the 5th February and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Cordon on 27th.

March

March was wet. It rained on more than twenty five days and there was more than twice as much rain as in March 2007. The cold northerly winds towards the end of the month may have delayed the arrival of the early spring migrants. The first Wheatear was reported on 25th March on Kilmory shore. This was followed on 28th by a male Wheatear at Rhubha Glas, Thunderguy and on 29th by the first Sand Martin at Port na Lochan. On 24th a White Wagtail was reported from Kildonan.

In March, some of our winter visitors were around including: six Redwings in a Shiskine garden on 3rd; a Brambling in a Whiting Bay garden in the first week; four Rooks in Corriecravie on 9th; six Goldeneye at Clauchlands on 10th; five Purple Sandpipers at Drumadoon on 27th; a Little Grebe in Lochranza on 28th; thirty Fieldfare at Balmichael on 28th; the wintering Greylag Geese were still in Shiskine Valley at the end of the month.

Other sightings included: a Knot at Machriewaterfoot on 10th; fifty Skylark in Shiskine on 10th; five Crossbill in Glenashdale on 26th; a Long-eared Owl in Machrie forest on 26th; a Merlin in Glen Rosa on 27th; a Kingfisher on the Benlister burn on 27th; a male Blackcap in a Lamlash garden on 30th.

All three divers were seen around the coast this month, including two Great Northern Divers off Pirmill on 18th, three Red-throated Divers in Brodick Bay on 26th and five Black-throated Divers off Drumadoon on 27th.

April

April had some dry spells. Initially the wind was mainly from the north and this may have continued to delay the arrival of our summer visitors. However, as the temperature rose towards the end of the month, so the summer visitors began to arrive.

The April "firsts" for summer visitors were Sandwich Tern on 3rd at Blackwaterfoot, House Martin on 4th in Whiting Bay, Chiffchaff on 5th in Kilmory, Swallow on 6th in Lamlash, Willow Warbler on 12th at High Kildonan, Common Sandpiper on 13th at the Wineport,

Whinchat on 19th at Kiscadale, Cuckoo on 20th at Lochranza, Garden Warbler on 21st in Thunderguy, Arctic Tern on 22nd in Brodick Bay and, on 27th Whitethroat, Manx Shearwater and Sedge Warbler all at Kildonan and Grasshopper Warbler at Corriecravie.

Other birds passing through to breeding grounds further north included: one Jack Snipe on Muileann Gaoithe on 3rd; four Wigeon on Cleats Shore on 6th; a Barnacle Goose in the Shiskine Valley on 7th; fourteen Fieldfares in High Kildonan on 18th; a male Black Redstart in Kilmory on 19th; a female Brambling in Catacol on 25th; two Purple Sandpipers at Port na Feannaiche on 27th; twenty one Whimbrel at Auchenhew Bay on 27th.

Another sign of migration at this time of year was the movement of Meadow Pipits through the island on the first few days of the month, with thirty reported in Brodick, fifty on Machrie Golf Course and over eighty in Lochranza.

Other sightings included: a male Mandarin Duck at Rosaburn Lodge on 9th; a Short-eared Owl at the top of the Ross Road on 9th; three Puffin from the Ardrossan ferry on 12th; a Canada Goose in Whiting Bay on 28th. In addition, there were reports of Magpie in Lamlash on 20th, Corriegills on 22nd and Kildonan on 27th and 28th.

May

May's weather was predominantly dry and settled.

This pleasant weather encouraged people to be out and about, and over one hundred species were reported to me in May. In addition to the escapee African Golden Oriole that turned up in Sliderry on 20th, other intriguing sightings included a group of Dotterel on the western hills on 5th, a Corncrake at South Feorline on 7th, a White-tailed Eagle fishing in Lochranza on 13th, Ring Ouzel sightings on the eastern hills from 5th to 25th, an Osprey being mobbed by gulls in Brodick on 26th and a Little Grebe in Lochranza on 31st.

The date and place of the Corncrake sighting was very similar to reports in the previous two years. Again it only stayed for a few days. Those who heard it were treated to its repetitive rasping call. Its systematic name, "Crex crex", encapsulates this call.

In May, summer visitors continued to arrive with the following "firsts": Spotted Flycatcher in Brodick Country Park on 1st, a Tree Pipit in Brodick Country Park on 9th and a Swift over High Kildonan on 11th.

Species who breed further north, continued to pass through: including eight Whimbrel in Drumaghinier on 9th; on 18th at Drumadoon point, two Black-throated Divers, five Dunlin, three Sanderling, and seventeen Turnstones; also on 18th a Great Northern Diver off the Fallen Rocks; a Purple Sandpiper at Drumadoon on 25th.

On Arran, breeding was well underway for many species, including: four young Ravens in Kildonan on 5th; a pair of Shelduck with eleven young at Clauchlands on 10th; four young Long-tailed Tits being fed in Glenashdale on 15th; the first Black Guillemot eggs hatching at Brodick Pier on 20th; thirty nesting pairs of Fulmars at the Drumadoon colony on 25th; a Woodcock nest with four eggs in Machrie Moor on 26th; a pair of Mute Swans with seven young at Blackwaterfoot on 30th.

June

June was unsettled, particularly the second half of the month. There was more than twice as much rain as there had been in May.

Raising young is the priority during the long daylight hours in June and the settled spell in May seemed to have benefited the smaller birds. There were lots of reports of young birds, including: on 8th almost fledged Great Spotted Woodpeckers in Lamlash; on 14th sixteen young Eiders at Machriewaterfoot; on 15th eleven young Red-Legged Partridge at Cladach; on 17th a second brood of young Blackbirds in a Brodick garden; on 21st six young Swallows being fed in Kilpatrick; on 22nd eight young Shelduck at Clauchlands; on 24th “endless” young Blue Tits in a Lamlash garden;

Species who breed further north, continued to pass through, including on 12th six Dunlin at Kildonan and on 13th eight Sanderling at Blackwaterfoot.

Following on from the Magpie sightings at the beginning of May, there were further reports of Magpie, particularly in the Brodick area, in June, the last one being from Douglas Row on 28 June. In the previous twenty five years there have been only seven sightings of this vagrant to Arran. Other less common species that were also reported in June included: on 4th a male Mandarin Duck in East Bannan; on 5th a male Yellowhammer in Kildonan; on 7th five Goosanders at Machriewaterfoot; a young Long-eared Owl in Glen Craigag area.

Nationally, BirdTrack had reported a late arrival of House Martins with birds missing from many regular sites. To find out the situation on Arran, through the “Arran Banner”, information was sought on the number of occupied nests this year compared to last year. There were around twenty responses with 25% reporting nest numbers were down, 5% reporting nest numbers up and 70% reporting the same number of nests as last year. This year there seemed to be plenty of House Martins around for people to enjoy.

Reports on some of Arran's less common summer visitors included: on 2nd Tree Pipit singing in Glen Rosa, on 7th Wood Warbler singing in Merkland Wood; on 12th Garden Warbler seen in Glenashdale. By the end of June there had been no reports of Common Tern, Lesser Whitethroat or Redstart and only two sightings of Swifts, one in Glen Rosa on 5th and two over the Boguillie on 21st.

July

The amount of rain in July was similar to June but it was warmer.

On Sunday 13th July, as well as the more usual sightings of groups of Common Guillemot and Razorbill, a solitary Puffin was seen from the Brodick to Ardrossan ferry. With the removal of rats from Ailsa Craig, the breeding colony there has been increasing and hopefully this will result in more sightings of Puffins in Arran waters.

As in June, raising young continued to be a priority in July. Reports of breeding included: a Red-breasted Merganser with seven young in Lamlash bay on 1st; a Song Thrush with two fledged young at the Dyemill on 2nd; two juvenile Kestrels at Imachar on 4th; a Spotted Flycatcher nest with five young in East Maynish on 6th; twenty five Long-tailed Tit in a Margnaheglish garden on 12th; two fledged Wheatear on Cleats Shore also on 12th;

Oystercatchers with young at Dougarie and a Stonechat with two fledged young on Clauchlands on 14th; a young Hen Harrier on the wing over Machrie Moor on 29th.

Other signs of summer included: one hundred and five Swallows at Sliddery on 21st; a Grasshopper Warbler reeling in Shiskine on 22nd; seven reports of Swifts during the month, the last one in Whiting Bay on 29th.

July marks the end of the breeding season for certain birds. Some birds, which have been breeding further north, appeared again on their migration south including: three Knot in summer plumage at Drumadoon on 11th; a Great Skua and two Arctic Skua from the "Caledonian Isles" on 12th; a male Common Scoter in Machrie Bay on 26th; five Dunlin including two juveniles in Blackwaterfoot on 27th; a Greenshank and a Whimbrel on Cleats Shore on 29th.

Other observations received included: fourteen Kittiwake at the mouth of the Glenashdale burn on 1st; a Red Kite in Brodick Country Park on 4th; more than twenty Gannets in Brodick Bay on 9th; five Red Grouse in Glenree on 15th; fifteen Rooks in Sliddery on 21st; four Great Crested Grebes in breeding plumage on the sea off Machriewaterfoot on 29th.

Finally in July there were two unusual reports. The first one on 20th was of a Blackbird killing and eating a lizard on Holy Isle. The second one was of a Twite visiting a garden feeder in Lamlash on 21st. To date, despite searches, I have not come across any similar records of either of these types of behaviour.

August

In August with some rain almost every day there was a hint of the approach of autumn.

The Magpie in Brodick continued to be reported. This year the bird first reported in April became a long staying bird being regularly reported from Brodick Golf Course and gardens in the adjacent area until the end of the year.

Birding highlights this month included a Green Sandpiper at Thunderguy on 1st. This is the first record since 2003, which also was on 1st August. Other observations received included: a Great Skua off Corriecravie on 3rd; thirteen Canada Geese at Pirnmill on 9th; sixteen Puffin off Lochranza on 10th; three Red Grouse on Meall nan Damh on 13th; a juvenile Little Grebe on Port na Lochan on 22nd. This is an early record for a species that normally over winters.

Summer visitors were still around including: two Willow Warblers at Dhunan on 3rd; a Garden Warbler at Corrie on 6th; three fledged Spotted Flycatchers at Cladach on 15th; a Swift over High Kildonan on the 18th.

In August, breeding is coming to an end and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: seven Common Tern off Lochranza on 10th; four Sandwich Tern at Kilpatrick on 17th; over one thousand Manx Shearwater passing Rubha Airigh Bheirg on 24th; one hundred and eighty Kittiwake at Whiting Bay on 28th.

Shore birds on migration included: twenty three Dunlin at Kildonan on 1st; a Greenshank at Glenashdale burn mouth on 1st; two Knots in summer plumage on the shore by Shiskine Golf Course on 18th; twenty six Golden Plover at Machriewaterfoot on 24th.

September

With over 120mm of rain over twenty two days, September was wet, although the last week was sunnier.

This month, migration was well underway. Highlights included: six Sooty Shearwater off Machrie on 8th; a Knot on 14th at Drumadoon; a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 25th.

Sooty Shearwater were last reported off the Arran coast in August 1996.

With the approach of winter some birds move to the milder coast. On 1st there was a Kingfisher at Arranton burn mouth and a Dipper at Glenashdale burn mouth. On 2nd there was a Little Grebe at Port na Lochan. At this time of year, small birds begin to flock together, with eleven Twite at South Feorline on 2nd and thirty four Linnet with sixty Goldfinch at Clauchlands on 9th. Other birds, more associated with winter included three Rook at Kilpatrick on 2nd.

Some summer visitors were still around including: three Sandwich Terns in Whiting Bay on 1st and five Spotted Flycatchers in Machrie on 8th.

Also there was a male Blackcap in East Mayish on 8th. These birds used to be considered as summer visitors to the UK, but over the last twenty years or so, increasing numbers of Blackcaps have been seen in winter. From the results of ringed birds, the Blackcaps that summer here, move south to the Mediterranean area, and substantial numbers of central European birds have taken to wintering here. So the birds seen in summer are not necessarily the same birds that are seen in winter.

Other sightings this month included: a Goosander at South Feorline on 2nd; a Goshawk sparring with two Raven over Kildonan on 29th; on 30th a number of coveys of Red Grouse on high ground with more than ten birds in each covey and three Golden Eagles including an immature bird over Lochranza.

October

The first snow of the winter covered the mountain tops on 26th October, marking the start of a cold settled spell to end a rather unsettled month that had over 200mm of rain in twenty five days.

The latest reports for summer visitors in October were a Wheatear in Blackwaterfoot on 8th and five Swallows in Sandbraes on 26th.

In October migration continued. The first reports for some winter visitors included: fifteen Greylag geese in South Feorline on 14th; two Brent Geese briefly on Margnaheglish shore on 15th; three Wigeon in Kildonan on 28th; on 31st, three Pink-footed Geese were with the flock of Greylags in the Shiskine Valley.

Also in the Shiskine Valley from the 14th to 30th October, was an increasing flock of Whooper Swans with forty seven present on the 29th. The flock was using the lower pond and the barley stubble fields. Having spoken to previous Arran bird recorders and other interested locals about these swans on migration from their breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland, none can recall their presence in this area in such numbers for such a length a time. All can certainly attest to the loudness of their 'bugling' or 'honking' call.

With the hedge rows heavy with haws and other berries, the wintering thrushes, the Redwings and Fieldfares from the north, have plenty to feed on. There were widespread reports, with the first reports of twelve Redwing at Machrie on 11th and fifty Fieldfare at High Kildonan on 20th.

Groups of that delightful bird the Coal Tit were reported from many gardens throughout the island, including Pirnmill, Brodick, Shiskine, Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot and High Kildonan, with the largest group of twelve in Margnaheglish on 30th. Their numbers may have been increased by birds moving in from the colder continent.

Other sightings included a Merlin at Kilmory on 1st and five Crossbills at High Kildonan.

Finally, on Thursday 30 October a Great Skua was seen on rocks on the shore by the car park at Shiskine Golf Course. These birds breed in the northernmost isles of the UK and usually winter off the coasts of Spain and Africa. The best time to see them off Arran is in late summer and early autumn when they migrate along western and eastern shores of the UK. The attraction of Blackwaterfoot shore for this late bird was a decaying sheep's carcass above the tide line, and this bird gave good views into early November.

November

November started with a cold spell and ended with a cold spell with snow, even at sea level.

Despite this, there were still reports of birds considered to be summer visitors, including a Wheatear at Clauchlands on 2 November, a Chiffchaff in High Kildonan on 8th, a Swallow over Sandbraes on 19th, plus reports of over wintering Blackcaps in gardens in Lamlash on 17th and in Whiting Bay on 30th.

The first returning Shelduck report was from Merkland Point and the first returning Goldeneye was from Clauchlands, both on 16th.

The Great Skua remained on the shore by the car park at Shiskine Golf Course until 2nd November. Also on that stretch of shore on that date was a Snow Bunting.

Other winter visitors included: nine Twite on Cleats Shore on 2nd; around one hundred and fifty Redwing in Shiskine on 5th; a Brambling in a Whiting Bay garden on 9th; a Greenshank at Clauchlands on 16th; two Rooks on the shore in Blackwaterfoot on 18th; a Yellowhammer in a garden in Machrie on 20th; over two hundred Fieldfare in Lamlash on 29th.

From the range of winter visitors reported in November, the highlight was undoubtedly the Waxwings. Waxwings nest in remote parts of northern Europe, including Siberia. Food shortages in their usual Scandinavian wintering grounds occasionally drive Waxwings across the sea to Britain. This winter has been such a year. Last reported in Arran in January 2007, this November groups were reported from Kilmory, Whiting Bay, Brodick, and Corrie, with the first report on 12th and the last report on 22nd. The largest group was up to one hundred in Whiting Bay on 17th.

December

December ended with a welcome spell of nine dry cold settled days.

In November, the highlight had been undoubtedly the Waxwings. Particularly in Whiting Bay, ample opportunity was provided to appreciate these stunning birds. On 25th December, the pleasure was shared with the west of the island, when two were reported in Shiskine.

Also in Shiskine, there were reports of Great Spotted Woodpecker at bird feeders. These birds were first confirmed to be breeding in Merkland Wood on Arran as recently as 2003. The spread from Brodick continues and in 2007 there were records from Corrie in the north to Kildonan in the south. In 2008 they spread west into the Shiskine Valley.

Another striking bird that turned up in December was a male Mandarin Duck. It was first reported on the Rosa Burn on 3rd December, and remained throughout the month. This is the third winter that this has happened. Cowal is the nearest reported breeding colony, but with this regular exploring male, we may yet get a colony established on Arran.

On Saturday 13th December, a Red-necked Grebe was seen towards the south end of Whiting Bay. Around Arran, Red-necked Grebes are occasional winter and passage migrants. There were no records in 2007 and the last record was also in Whiting Bay on 23-24 October 2006.

Other winter visitors included: seven Whooper Swans at Sandbraes on 2nd; four hundred Greylags at Kilmory on 10th; and a male Goldeneye on Sannox Burn on 12th. Other bird sightings in December included: a male Merlin at Machrie on 4th; a Blackcap in Brodick on 6th; a Golden Eagle being mobbed by two Ravens over the String on 9th; five Black-throated Divers and one Great Northern Diver off Drumadoon on 13th; a male Goosander on Machriewater on 14th; a Moorhen on Port na Lochan on 20th; two Red Grouse on the east ridge of Goat Fell on 26th; twenty Purple Sandpipers at Kildonan on 29th; an over-wintering Greenshank at Clauchlands throughout December.

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

Finally, as part of the re-introduction of Black Grouse on Arran, further breeding birds were brought onto Arran in 2008. Once the breeding programme is established the intention is to release birds into the wild. If you would like to find out more, including how you could help, contact arranbgg@fwi.co.uk. Financial support is welcome and you can send a cheque, made payable to the Arran Black Grouse Group, to The Arran Black Grouse Group, Broomhill Croft, North Kiscadale, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RH.

Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

	<i>"Earliest" Recorded Date</i>	Recorded Arrival Date for 2008
Wheatear	<i>13-Mar-05</i>	25 March
Chiffchaff	<i>17-Mar-05</i>	04 April
Willow Warbler	<i>20-Mar-94</i>	12 April
Sand Martin	<i>22-Mar-05</i>	29 March
Swallow	<i>23-Mar-05</i>	06 April
House Martin	<i>28-Mar-05</i>	04 April
Common Sandpiper	<i>29-Mar-98</i>	13 April
White Wagtail	<i>24-Mar-08</i>	24 March
Whinchat	<i>01-Apr-88</i>	19 April
Sandwich Tern	<i>03-Apr-05</i>	03 April
Tree Pipit	<i>07-Apr-90</i>	09 May
Cuckoo	<i>10-Apr-01</i>	20 April
Garden Warbler	<i>12-Apr-95</i>	21 April
Whitethroat	<i>17-Apr-06</i>	27 April
Arctic Tern	<i>18-Apr-99</i>	22 April
Manx Shearwater	<i>18-Apr-06</i>	25 April
Sedge Warbler	<i>19-Apr-02</i>	27 April
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>19-Apr-89</i>	27 April
Corncrake	<i>20-Apr-90</i>	07 May only one record
Common Tern	<i>21-Apr-93</i>	10 Aug only date recorded
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>24-Apr-87</i>	06 May
Wood Warbler	<i>26-Apr-96</i>	06 May
Pied Flycatcher	<i>28-Apr-98</i>	None recorded in 2008
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>30-Apr-02</i>	None recorded in 2008
Swift	<i>01-May-07</i>	11 May
Redstart	<i>03-May-02</i>	None recorded in 2008
Nightjar	<i>23-May-94</i>	None recorded in 2008

Bird Surveys on Arran

Wetland Bird Survey

On one designated Sunday each month all the waterbirds at identified sites across the UK are counted as part of the Wetland Bird Survey. This is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK.

The survey is dependent on the thousands of volunteers. Six sites are on Arran, the coastlines at Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot and Machrie.

What kind of information comes from this survey? The size of waterbird populations, the trends in numbers and the importance of individual sites. For example, Arran is a site of national importance for Black-throated Divers in autumn and it is a site of national importance for Red-breasted Merganser. National importance means it regularly holds 1% or more of the British population.

This is the summary of the results for the six sites in Arran in 2008.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red-throated Diver	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Black-throated Diver	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Great Northern Diver	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cormorant	2	11	6	5	3	6	2	8	10	5	19	11
Shag	30	101	34	76	62	22	88	59	120	45	74	69
Grey Heron	5	7	4	4	4	5	3	2	6	2	7	6
Mute Swan	17	17	17	16	25	20	21	17	20	15	17	27
Shelduck	8	14	26	32	32	18	7	0	0	0	1	1
Wigeon	5	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	17
Teal	0	16	20	6	1	0	0	8	12	24	23	120
Mallard	84	106	76	35	61	83	57	111	152	117	125	131
Eider	46	125	49	80	41	24	24	29	26	14	35	108
Goldeneye	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Red-breasted Merganser	27	29	31	59	27	48	28	16	22	27	40	37
Oystercatcher	418	397	355	388	277	309	240	163	263	244	294	297
Ringed Plover	118	133	63	50	43	15	21	180	111	88	157	104
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	7	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Curlew	57	89	32	23	7	50	73	51	52	56	86	74
Redshank	24	31	26	27	3	2	14	28	30	8	40	34
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	13	7	5	0	0	0	0
Turnstone	82	56	97	15	14	0	0	37	36	23	60	43

For more information on the Wetland Bird Survey visit www.bto.org/survey/webs

Bird Atlas 2007-2011

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

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

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

Two methods of recording are being used.

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

In 2007 all bird sighting records submitted to me were added to the Bird Atlas records for Arran.

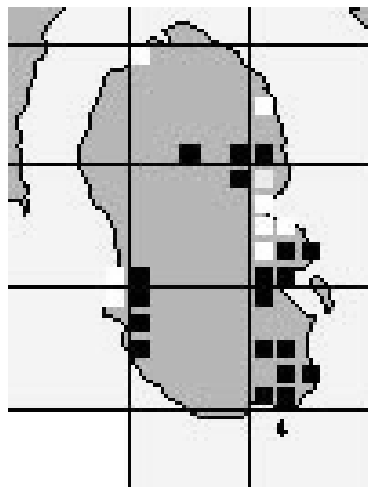
2. Timed Tetrad Visits – concentrating on an area

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

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

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

Over the four years of the Atlas, volunteers are hoping to give sufficient coverage to Arran that an Arran Bird Atlas can be produced. The map below shows the areas surveyed in winter 07/08. Areas in black had two timed visits, and the areas in white one.



If you would like more information, check out the website www.birdatlas.net

Systematic List 2008



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Two adults with 2 juveniles off Drumadoon on 15 August, 2 adults with one juvenile in Machrie Bay on 4 September. Groups included 3 off Brodick Pier on 26 March, 7 off Dhunan on 8 September and 3 in Whiting Bay on 16 November.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Passage migrant with records from every month in 2008. Arran is a site of national importance for birds in autumn.

Groups included 5 in Whiting Bay on 13 March, 11 in Machrie Bay on 26 March (some in breeding plumage) and 7 off Drumadoon on 13 December.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Passage migrant. Records from January to June and September to December 2008.

Groups included 4 in Auchenhew Bay on 17 February, 3 off Pirnmill on 19 April, 12 off Dougarie on 1 November and 8 off Machriewaterfoot and Cosyden on 2 November.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

One in Lamlash Bay on 10 February. One Port na Lochan from 22 August until end of year. In Lochranza Bay, one on 16 February, 2 on 2 April, one 31 May and 2 on 30 October.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

Four off Machriewaterfoot on 29 July (JR/JRTC).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

One in Whiting Bay on 13 December (MHD/AW).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one off Drumadoon Bay 24 October 2007.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Occasional winter and passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one Whiting Bay 15 December 2003.

Fulmar (Northern Fulmar) *Fulmarus glacialis*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nest areas included 7 pairs Cleiteadh Buidhe 20 February, 30 Drumadoon 25 May, 8 Catacol 21 June and 4 Imachar 21 June. There were no reports of fledged young.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one off Porta Leacach 18 January 1997.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rare vagrant.

One passing Kildonan on 19 August and 6 in Machrie Bay on 8 September.
These are all the records for 2008.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Passage migrant with records from 25 April to 24 August.

Large groups included over 300 from Ardrossan ferry on 6 July, over 350 in an hour passing Whiting Bay on 23 August and over 1,000 off Rubha Airigh Bheirg on 24 August.

Mediterranean Shearwater (Balearic Shearwater) *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare vagrant.

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

Storm Petrel (European Storm Petrel) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Rare vagrant.

From Ardrossan ferry, one on each of 20 May, 27 July and 30 August. Three north of Cock of Arran on 10 August. These are all the records for 2008.

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

Rare vagrant.

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

Gannet (Northern Gannet) *Morus bassanus*

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year, but much more common in summer with records from 8 January to 30 October.

Groups included 45 in Brodick Bay on 10 May, 30 off Kildonan on 12 June, 100 in Machrie Bay on 16 August and 70 off Rubha Airigh Bheirg on 24 August.

Cormorant (Great Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Groups included 4 Clauchlands on 27 February, 6 Dougarie on 3 August, 20 Whiting Bay on 21 August and 3 Drumadoon on 13 December.



Shag (European Shag) *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nest area on Pladda in July, 70-80 pairs with good numbers of young. Groups included 27 in Whiting Bay on 11 February, 27 at Drumadoon Point on 21 June, 43 off Rubha Airigh Dhughail on 1 November and 35 in Whiting Bay on 28 November.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2007. Last record was one found dead in Shiskine on 10 March 1996.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

One record of this American species.

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

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Nest areas in 2008 included 3 at Whitehouse Lamlash on 7 April and one at Lagg on 1 May. Groups included 4 Cleats Shore on 19 March, 4 Blackwaterfoot shore on 18 May, 3 Machrie on 23 July and 7 in a Kilmory field on 28 December.

Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill) *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare vagrant.

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

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Pairs with young included 7 young at South Feorline on 18 May, 2 young Sannox on 8 June and 3 young Whiting Bay on 10 June. Winter groups included 10 adults and 3 juveniles at Sandbraes on 8 December.

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

Rare winter visitor.

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

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

Up to 6 adults in Whiting Bay between 1 January and 15 April. Also in Whiting Bay there were 2 adults with 2 young on 1 November and 5 adults with 2 young on 7 December. Passage groups included 10 Pirnmill on 22 October, from 14 October to 5 December up to 47 in the Shiskine Valley and 30 in Lamlash Bay on 27 December.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

Three with Greylags in Shiskine Valley on 13 January increased to 28 by 6 March.

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

Occasional winter visitor.

One with Greylags in Shiskine Valley from 13 January to 20 March.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Winter visitor with small feral population in Lamlash Bay

Up to 450 in Shiskine Valley between 1 January and 7 April. Up to 400 in fields Sliddery and Lagg from 31 October to 10 December. 123 on Loch Cnoc an Loch on 6 November.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Occasional visitor.

One Port na Lochan on 22 April, one Largymore on 28 and 13 Pirnmill on 9 August. These are all the records for 2008.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

Occasional winter visitor.

With Greylags, 2 at High Clachaig from 14 to 16 January, one Kilmory 27 February and up to two in Shiskine Valley from 11 January to 7 April.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Occasional winter visitor.

Two, one adult and one juvenile, Margnaheglish shore on 15 October. (MHD/AW)

Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Pairs with various numbers of young including 8 at Carlo on 4 June, 8 at Clachlands on 22 June, 4 at Drumadoon on 23 June and 2 flying young Cleats Shore on 12 July.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

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

Male reported in Monamore burn on 24 May, in east Bennan on 4 June and in Rosa and Cloy burns by Brodick Golf Course from 3 December to end of year.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

Groups included 18 Cleats Shore on 19 January, 17 at Auchenhew Bay on 17 February, 13 Kilmory on 25 March, 24 Cosyden on 2 November and 8 Clauchlands on 27 November.

Teal (Common Teal) *Anas crecca*

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

Groups included 32 on Torr Righ Beag on 30 January, 11 at Port na Feannaiche, 102 at Cosyden on 2 November and 120 on Kilpatrick shore on 13 December.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Females with young included 2 Clauchlands on 11 May, 12 Corriecravie ponds on 15 May, 2 Machrie pond on 27 May and 2 Port na Lochan on 21 June. Groups included 42 Brodick on 10 February, 91 Kilpatrick shore on 14 September and 31 Cosyden on 2 November.

Pintail (Northern Pintail) *Anas acuta*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one on Machrie pond on 14 August 1994.

Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 males at Machrie on 18 August 1996.

Pochard (Common Pochard) *Aythya ferina*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Lamlash on 21 March 1984.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record one male on Port na Lochan from 21 April to 4 May 2006.

Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record a pair on Port na Lochan on 2 January 2003.



Eider (Common Eider) *Somateria mollissima*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Breeding included females with 5 young in Brodick Bay on 10 May, 4 young Kildonan 11 June, 2 young Pirmill 21 June, and one young Cleats Shore on 12 July. Groups included 17 Thunderguy on 8 April, 150 Lamash Bay on 2 May, 74 Cosyden on 2 November and 25 Sandbraes on 3 December.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was a long staying drake in Lochranza with no records after 26 April 1980.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Blackwaterfoot on 27 April 1998.

Common Scoter (Black Scoter) *Melanitta nigra*

Occasional visitor.

In Machrie Bay a male on 26 July and again on 29 July. These are all the records for 2008.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 off Catacol on 5 April 1998.

Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

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

Groups included 3 Sannox Bay on 12 January and 8 off Cordon on 10 February. Latest spring record a male in Lochranza on 28 March and first autumn record a female at Clachlands on 16 November.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Occasional winter visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record a male off Pirmill on 28 November 2004.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

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

Breeding included female with 14 young in Brodick Bay on 30 June, 7 young Lamlash on 1 July, and 5 young Machrie Bay on 11 July. Groups included 106 in Machrie Bay on 26 July, 51 off Pirnmill on 5 September and 12 in Whiting Bay on 16 November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding. Localised.

No confirmed breeding in 2008. Sightings included a female in Rosa burn on 6 June, 5 at Machriewaterfoot on 7 June, 2 females at Lagg on 24 June and a female in the Machriewater on 14 December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Introduced species which first bred in Ayrshire in 2001.

No records for 2008. Male on Port na Lochan on 21 April 2007 was a first for Arran.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Occasional visitor from British reintroduction projects.

A single bird on summit of the String on 3 July and a single in Brodick Country Park on 4 July. These are all the records for 2008.

Marsh Harrier (Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was a juvenile in Lamlash 19 August 2004.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

A poorer season than 2007 with a minimum of 23 chicks fledged. This may be linked to a perceived decrease in voles in the south of their range. Numerous widespread sightings including male on Boguillie on 27 January, male by the String on 27 February, 2 males in Kilmory on 14 April, a female by the Ross Road on 9 July and a pair on Machrie Moor on 16 November.

Goshawk (Northern Goshawk) *Accipiter gentilis*

No confirmed breeding.

Among the sightings of single birds was Penrioch on 2 February, Machrie on 18 August, Kildonan on 29 September and Kilpatrick 6 November.

Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

Resident. Breeding widespread.

A mixed breeding season with 11 young fledged from 5 successful nests but birds were not present at 50% of sites checked. One nest fledged 4 young. An interesting item at a plucking post was a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Numerous sightings throughout the year.

Buzzard (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 4 in Dougarie on 18 March, 4 in Strathwillan on 17 May, 9 along length of Ross Road on 3 November and 3 Machrie on 26 November.

Rough-legged buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last recorded Cleats Shore 10 November 1974.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Rare vagrant.

Two records of a bird fishing in Lochranza one on 11 May and one on 13 May. These are all the records for 2008.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Resident. Breeding.

All territories occupied. At least 2 young fledged. Sightings included a pair in Dougarie on 18 March, one over String on 21 April and one in Glen Rosa on 5 May. Immature birds sighted in Glen Catacol on 13 August, over Lochranza on 21 August, in Glen Chalmadale on 24 August and by Carn Mor on 30 September.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Occasional passage migrant.

A single in Brodick Bay on 26 May. (JMCM)

Kestrel (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident. Breeding widespread.

Numerous widespread sightings throughout the year including 2 North Newton on 18 March, 2 on the Holy Isle on 19 May, a family of 4 in Glen Rosa on 20 August, 5 along the Ross Road on 17 October and 2 Urie Loch ridge on 28 December.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Singles recorded included a female at the Dyemill on 16 February, a female in Glen Rosa on 27 March, a male in Glen Catacol on 6 May, a female on Machrie Moor on 1 September and a male in Kilmory on 31 December.

Hobby (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last recorded Largymore on 24 May 2002.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Resident. Breeding widespread at inland and coastal sites.

All territories occupied. At least four young fledged. Numerous sightings throughout the year including male on Cleats shore on 2 January, a female over Pirnmill on 27 July, a male in Kildonan on 22 August and a male in Machrie on 29 October.

Red Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan) *Lagopus scoticus*

Resident. Breeding. Underreported.

Groups included 5 on Corriecravie Moor 15 July, 10 on Beinn Bharainn 1 August, several coveys of ten on Muileann Gaoithe 14 September and 4 by Loch na Leirg 14 September.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Very localised.

Calling on Beinn Tarsuinn on 25 September (AC).

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

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record a female in High Glen Cloy on 18 February 2000.

Breeding programme for future release and reintroduction was started in 2007.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Scarce and local introduced resident.

Groups included 4 at Auchencar on 10 February, 2 at Balmichael on 11 June and an adult with eleven chicks at Cladach on 15 June.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record, excluding released birds in the 1990s, was 4 at Clauchlands on 15 November 1989.

Quail (Common Quail) *Coturnix coturnix*

Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Kilpatrick plantation on 30 May 1995.

Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident

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

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Localised breeding Resident,

One calling Corriecravie on 12 February and one calling at the Lakin on 12 March. These are all the records for 2008.

Spotted Crane *Porzana Porzana*

One historical record.

One found dead by Pladda lighthouse on 24 October 1895.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Rare summer visitor. Previously bred.

One calling Port na Lochan from 7 to 9 May is the only record for 2008. (GB)

Moorhen (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

Localised breeding resident.

Two birds on Port na Lochan pond on 6 February with further sightings in March, November and December. One Machrie pond on 6 and 14 March.

These are all the records for 2008.

Coot (Common Coot) *Fulica atra*

Occasional visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record one Machrie pond on 21 April 2002.

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 in Shiskine valley on 26 September 1989.

Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

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

Groups included 80 at Blackwaterfoot on 12 January, 88 at Machrie on 27 March, 35 at Brodick on 31 March, 33 Whiting Bay on 1 April and 130 at Kildonan on 9 December.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Resident. Breeding. Common round coast all year.

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

Groups included 15 in Lamlash on 22 August, 60 at Drumadoon on 30 September, 36 in Kildonan on 5 October and 126 at Sandbraes on 26 November.

Golden Plover (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

Four successful territories in north western moorland.

Groups included 150 at Machriewaterfoot on 4 March and 125 on 28 December and 40 in Shiskine on 30 November.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

Two males and one female Beinn Bharrain on 5 May. (JF).

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record two at Machriewaterfoot on 25 October 2007.

Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

Breeding and winter visitor.

One nest area Shiskine Valley with up to twenty birds. Groups included 16 at Kilpatrick on 12 January, one in Mayish on 5 June and 12 in Shiskine on 12 November.

Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

Passage migrant.

Sightings included one at Machrie 10 March, 3 at Drumadoon 11 July, one in Kildonan on 1 September, one in Sannox on 3 September and 3 in Blackwaterfoot on 14 September.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Passage migrant.

Groups included 3 in Whiting Bay on 5 June, 10 in Dougarie on 13 August and 7 in Blackwaterfoot on 7 September.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 3 Machriewaterfoot on 8 September 2002.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one on Kildonan shore on 27 August 2006.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Groups included 19 in Kildonan on 24 March, 5 at Drumadoon on 27 March, 2 in Port na Feannaiche on 27 March and 10 in Kildonan on 29 December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

Groups included 2 on Cleats Shore on 12 July, 4 in Brodick on 27 July, 23 in Kildonan on 1 August, 16 in Kilpatrick on 17 August and 12 in Blackwaterfoot on 30 September.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 Kildonan on 26 August 1987.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

One Muileann Gaoithe on 3 April. (AnWh)

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Resident but underreported breeder.

No breeding records although several calling A'Chruach on 9 July.

Groups included 5 on Corriecravie shore on 28 September, 3 at Auchareoch on 9 October and 2 on Cleats Shore on 2 November.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

One record of this American species.

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

Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock) *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident but underreported breeder.

Nest with four eggs in Machrie on 26 May.

Pairs flying at dusk at Cladach on 3 February, in Brodick Country Park on 13 April and Machrie Moor on 15 May. One sitting by roadside Balnacoole on 6 December.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one at Kildonan on 27 September 2005.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon passage migrant.

One at Drumadoon on 30 September. (BTom)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Groups included 3 at Clauchlands on 23 April, 21 at Auchenhew Bay on 27 April, 4 at Port na Feannaiche on 28 April and 8 in South Feorline on 11 May.

Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

Resident but unreported breeder.

No breeding records. One hundred at Clauchlands on 8 January, 50 in Brodick Country Park on 5 March, 13 at Kilpatrick Point on 4 April, 25 at Machriewater on 28 December and 32 at Kildonan on 29 December.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one at Lamlash on 21 August 2004.

Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

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

Groups included 14 on Cleats Shore on 19 January, 3 at Pirnmill on 31 May, 40 in Whiting Bay on 18 August and 6 at Kilpatrick Point on 13 December.



Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

One on Cleats Shore on 29 July, one Glenashdale burn mouth on 1 August, one Whiting Bay on 18 October and an over wintering bird at Clauchlands from 14 September to end of year. These are all the records for 2008.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Uncommon passage migrant.

One in High Thunderguy by track to Coire Fhionn Lochan on 1 August. (JDC)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Summer visitor with records from April to August. Breeding.

Breeding records included three pairs each with young at Fallen Rocks on 2 June, nesting pair North Newton on 10 June and a family group of 5 on South Feorline shore on 23 June.

Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*

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

Groups included 30 in Blackwaterfoot on 11 January, 20 at Sandbraes on 6 February, 38 in Kildonan on 19 March, 15 at Glenashdale burn mouth on 30 October and 30 in Clauchlands on 16 November.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 in Wineport area of Brodick Bay on 28 August 1983.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 23 March 1989.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one off Pirnmill on 3 October 1991.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

One from Ardrossan ferry on 11, 12, and 15 July and on 3 November.

These are all the records for 2008.



Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*.

Uncommon passage migrant.

One from Ardrossan ferry on 12 July, one off Corriecravie on 3 August, one off Rhubha Glas on 13 August and one on shore by Shiskine Golf Course from 30 October to 2 November feeding on sheep carcass. These are all the records for 2008.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one at Catacol on 30 December 1992.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Uncommon irregular visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Whiting Bay on 27 June 2005.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

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

Groups included 10 in Whiting Bay on 21 February, 20 in Cordon on 10 March, 2 adults and 3 young Kilpatrick on 23 July and 6 in Pirnmill on 6 October.

Common Gull (Mew Gull) *Larus canus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Around 50 nests at Dougarie on 5 June, many later destroyed by high tide. Groups included 120 Dougarie shore on 10 April, 60 at Clauchlands on 19 May, 1,000 off Pirnmill on 2 November and 400 in South Feorline on 13 December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Breeding. Common round coast from February to October.

Two hundred plus pairs with some flying young on Pladda in July. Other groups included 12 in Shiskine on 30 March, 18 in Brodick Bay on 31 March, 19 in Whiting Bay on 15 May and 27 at the mouth of Lorsa on 3 July.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Groups included 70 Cleats Shore on 18 February, 38 in Whiting Bay on 1 April, 200 in Sannox Bay on 23 May and 240 in South Feorline on 13 December.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

One long staying second winter gull in Kilpatrick area from 27 February to 11 May. (JRTC)

This is the only record for 2008.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Uncommon winter visitor.

One first winter gull dead on South Feorline shore on 4 February. This is the only record for 2008. Last living report, first winter bird in Whiting Bay on 30 March 2006.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Breeding. Common round coast all year.

Six pairs on Pladda in July. Four fledged young with 10 adults in Brodick Bay on 14 August. Other groups included 14 at Cordon on 27 February, 8 in Shiskine on 30 March and 8 in Cosyden on 2 November.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 31 December 1994.

Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla*

Nearest breeding colony Ailsa Craig. Round coast all year.

Groups included 25 from Ardrossan ferry on 2 August, 22 north of Cock of Arran on 10 August, 120 in Catacol on 24 August and 280 in Whiting Bay on 28 August.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

One historical record.

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

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one at Kildonan on 21 November 1995.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one Pirnmill on 12 September 1992.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Rare summer visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 at Dougarie on 5 May 1984.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon summer visitor.

Seven north of the Cock of Arran on 10 August (JTow).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer visitor. Breeding.

On Pladda 10 pairs on 1 August. Other sightings included 3 in Brodick Bay on 23 April, 2 in Kildonan on 29 April, one in Whiting Bay on 13 August, and one Drumadoon on 7 October.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Uncommon summer visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record one in Brodick Bay on 11 August in 2007.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Summer visitor. Non breeding.

Groups included 6 in Kildonan on 24 April, 2 at Machrie on 19 May, 4 including one juvenile at Kilpatrick on 17 August and 3 including one juvenile in Whiting Bay on 28 August.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

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

One in Brodick Bay on 31 March (AnWh).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

Groups included 6 in Whiting Bay on 26 July, 100 from Ardrossan ferry on 3 August and 200 off Pirnmill on 21 October.

Guillemot (Common Guillemot) *Uria aalge*

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

Groups included over 200 off Carlo on 11 May, over 500 from Ardrossan ferry on 3 August, over 700 north of Cock of Arran on 10 August and over 1,000 off Pirnmill on 22 October.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Breeding. Round coast all year.

Breeding included two nests Kilpatrick on 20 April, 3 nests Brodick Pier on 5 July and 3 nests Imachar on 7 July. Numbers and sightings are increasing. Groups included over 70 between Imachar and Pirnmill on 1 April, 14 off Kilpatrick Point on 16 May and 25 in Machrie Bay on 26 July.

Puffin (Atlantic Puffin) *Fratercula arctica*

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

From Ardrossan ferry, 3 on 12 April, one on 17 May and 13 July, two on 26 and 27 July. North of Cock of Arran, 16 on 10 August and a juvenile on 13 September.

These are all the records for 2008, and are an increase on previous years.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrhaptus paradoxus*

One historical record.

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

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Resident. Breeding.

Groups included 5 Cleiteadh Buidhe on 20 January and 8 at Brown Head on 24 February.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Very scarce.

No records for 2008. Last record one on footpath to Fallen Rocks on 14 June 1989.

Woodpigeon (Common Woodpigeon) *Columba palumbus*

Resident. Breeding.

Groups included 2 adults and one juvenile Marnaheglish on 15 September, over 50 in Shiskine on 8 February, 26 in Glen Chalmadale on 8 April and 50 by the Greanan Hotel, Blackwaterfoot on 16 November.

Collared Dove (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Resident. Breeding. First bred in Britain in 1955.

Present around all villages. Groups included 5 in Lamlash on 27 January, 11 in Dippen on 14 February, 8 in Blackwaterfoot on 09 August and 15 in Brodick on 27 October.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Occasional passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one with a group of Collared Doves in Brodick from 25 October to 8 November 2006.

Cuckoo(Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

First one reported calling in Lochranza on 20 April. Later reports from around the island. The last one reported was seen at Tormore on 31 July.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Most territories occupied. Poor breeding season with lots of pairs failing to raise young or having small broods. Sightings from Balmichael, Corrie, Brodick, Cladach, Dougarie, Kilmory, Lamlash, Lochranza, Ross Road, Shiskine, String, Glenkiln and Whiting Bay.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

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

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Resident possibly underreported. Breeding.

Young birds seen in Glen Craigag on 22 June and Stronach Wood on 20 July. Other reports included singles at Machrie on 26 March, on Machrie Moor on 18 August and in Dougarie on 28 November.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Resident. Breeding.

Poor year with few breeding records.

Sightings included a pair Loch Cnoc an Loch on 25 March, a pair on the Boguillie on 4 June, singles in Glen Rosa on 9 June, on Machrie Moor on 16 June, Clauchan Glen on 7 November and a fledgling with adult on Windmill Hill on 7 July.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer visitor. Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record Maol Donn on 24 May 1998.

Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

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

Groups included 2 in Corriecravie on 18 May, 2 over the Boguillie on 21 June, 5 over High Kildonan on 5 July, one over Pirnmill on 7 July and 10 over High Kildonan on 2 August.

Kingfisher (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

Resident. No confirmed breeding.

Single birds reported from Fisherman's Walk, Brodick from 3 February to 2 March, by Roddin bridge Torbeg on 1 January, opposite baker's in Brodick on 13 January and in Cordon on 27 March, 1 September and 2 November.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one photographed in a garden in Thunderguy on 25 June 2006.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Resident. Breeding. Localised but spreading.

Regularly heard drumming in Brodick Country Park and Merkland Wood from January to April. From this stronghold, birds now spreading with sightings from Lamlash on 15 February, Sannox on 19 February, Corrie on 20 April, Glen Shurig on 21 April, Glenkiln on 8 June, Balnacoole on 17 November and a Shiskine garden on 9 December.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record in Sannox on 25 September 1997.

Skylark (Sky Lark) *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeding territories occupied in Kilmory. Kilpatrick, Machrie, Cnoc Dubh, Coire na Ciche, Drumadoon and Sannox. Groups included 28 High Kildonan 10 February, 50 in Shiskine on 10 March, 4 Glen Rosa on 5 May and 10 on Cleats Shore on 20 September.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised.

Breeding territories occupied in Strabane, Sannox, Auchencar and Kilpatrick with up to 40 birds in Sannox on 14 May. Other sightings included 3 at Strabane on 3 April, 18 at Auchencar on 23 April, 8 at Machrie pond on 19 May, 30 in Glen Sannox on 20 May, 8 in Kilpatrick on 23 June and 10 on Brodick Golf Course on 30 June.

Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

Twenty occupied nests in Kilpatrick in August. First report was in Lamlash on 6 April. Groups included 25 in Auchenheugh Bay on 14 May, 105 in Slidery on 21 July, 92 in Kilpatrick on 24 July and 50 in Torbeg on 4 August. Last one Sandbraes on 19 November.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread.

Numbers of occupied nests included 11 at Corriecravie from April to September, some had second broods. Groups included 24 in Auchenhew Bay on 14 May, 30 in Brodick Country Park on 11 July and 150 at Port na Lochan on 25 July. Last record Sandbraes 26 October.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

Birds holding territories in Brodick Country Park, Glen Sannox, Kilmory and Glen Rosa. One in Brodick Country Park on 9, 11, and 13 May and 8 June, one Glen Sannox on 20 May, 3 in Glen Rosa on 2 June and 2 in Kilmory on 6 June. These are all the 2008 records.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding resident, widespread, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Groups included 21 Kilpatrick on 10 February, 90 in Corrie on 31 March, 50 Machrie Golf Course on 21 April, 75 Beinn Bharainn on 28 July and 50 on Cleats Shore on 20 September.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

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

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

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record two Cleats Shore on 23 April 2006.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Fledged young included reports from Kilpatrick on 12 June, Lagg on 23 June and Glenashdale on 26 July. Other groups included 2 at Clauchlands on 28 January, 2 at Sannox on 2 April, 2 at Balmichael on 13 April, 2 in Kilmory on 14 April and 8 in Kilpatrick on 23 August.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Breeding resident, widespread, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fledged young included reports from Kilpatrick on 3 June, Whiting Bay on 4 June, Corrie on 15 June, and Cleats Shore on 12 July. Other groups included 40 in Kildonan on 8 June, 100 Auchenhew Bay on 18 July, and 40 in Blackwaterfoot on 15 November.

White Wagtail *Montacilla alba*

Regular passage migrant.

Groups included 2 on Cleats Shore on 6 April, 8 on Kilpatrick shore on 16 April, and 8 on Kildonan shore on 25 April, 2 on Kilpatrick shore on 2 September and 2 in Whiting Bay on 4 September.



Waxwing (Bohemian Waxwing) *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor.

A good year for this species with the first report from Kilmory on 12 November and the last report from Shiskine on 25 December. Group in Whiting Bay grew from 23 on 13 November to 100 on 17 November. Other groups included 30 in Brodick on 18 November, 13 in Brodick Country Park on 20 November and 14 in Mayish on 21 November.

Dipper (White-throated Dipper) *Cinclus cinclus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

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

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Records from varied habitats through out the island including one foraging in snow in Devil's Punch Bowl on 2 February. Groups included 6 in Clachands on 27 February, 6 in Dhunan on 15 June and 13 sharing a roost pouch in Blackwaterfoot on 28 December.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Brodick on 17 June, Kilpatrick on 23 June and Dyemill on 1 July. Other groups included 3 in Sannox on 4 February, 3 in Dippen on 14 February, 4 in Shiskine on 17 February and 2 in Whiting Bay on 25 July.

Robin (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Dhunan on 3 June, Lagg on 10 June, Pirmill on 20 June and Whiting Bay on 21 June. Other groups included 4 South Feorline on 9 February, 5 in Glenashdale on 22 February, 4 in North Sannox on 3 April, 30 in Kildonan on 12 June and 8 in Cosyden on 2 November.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant.

One male in Kilmory on 19 April and a female at the Lakin on 8 and 9 November. These are all the records for 2008.

Redstart (Common Redstart) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported. Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record a female ringed at Porta Leacach on 17 June 2007.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

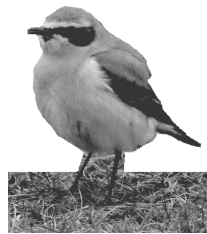
Summer visitor. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Glen Rosa on 13 June, Ross Road on 14 June, Corriecravie Moor on 18 June and Machrie Moor on 21 June. Other sightings included 10 in Glen Rosa on 2 June, 5 on Machrie Moor on 2 August, 3 in Kildonan on 9 August and one in North Newton on 14 October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Glen Rosa on 6 June, Dhunan on 15 June, Machrie Moor on 21 June and Clauchlands on 14 July. Other sightings included a pair on Cleats Shore on 6 April, a pair in Glen Chalmadale on 19 May, a pair on the Ross Road on 22 June, two pairs in Glen Catacol on 13 August and 4 in South Feorline on 15 November.



Wheatear (Northern Wheatear) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Summer visitor. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

First reported was a male on Torrylinn shore on 25 March. Fledged young included reports from Cleats Shore on 12 July, Auchenhew Bay on 21 July and Sliderrywater on 28 July. Other sightings included 3 on Machrie Golf Course on 17 April, 4 in Glen Sannox on 29 April and 3 in South Feorline on 2 September.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

Male singing on Garbh Allt on 5 May and on Beinn Tarsuinn on 6 May. Other sightings of single birds on Suide Fheargas on 25 May, Cir Mhor on 9 June and Beinn Bharrain on 29 September. These are all the records for 2008.

Blackbird (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Large groups included 9 in South Feorline on 9 February, 10 in Sannox on 16 February, 6 Auchencar on 10 March and 7 Dougarie on 1 November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

Groups, sometimes with Redwings, included 30 in Sannox on 18 March, 150 in High Kildonan on 5 April, 150 in Shiskine on 5 November and 200 in Lamlash on 27 October.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Pairs reported from all villages. Largest group 10 at Dippen on 9 April.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Groups, sometimes with Fieldfares included 30 Balmichael on 28 March, 50 High Kildonan on 20 October, 200 in Shiskine on 26 October and 70 in Lochranza on 27 October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included reports from Machrie Golf Course on 21 May and Balmichael on 15 June. Groups included 2 at the Dyemill on 27 February, 2 at South Newton on 18 May, 3 in Lamlash on 9 September and 30 Cnoc na Dail on 30 October.

Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella naevia*

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

Records included one reeling Corrie cravie Moor on 27 April, Machrie Moor and Clauchan Glen on 29 April, High Kildonan on 1 May and Shiskine on 22 July.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Records included 2 at Port Dearg on 27 April, 5 in Auchenhew Bay on 14 May, 4 in Clauchan Glen on 14 May and 3 on Shiskine Golf Course on 31 May.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce summer visitor. No breeding records.

No records for 2008. Last record was one at Auchenhew Bay on 2 May 2007.

Whitethroat (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

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

Records included 2 in South Feorline on 9 May, 6 in Kildonan on 14 May, 2 in Corrie on 18 May and 3 Clauchlands on 7 July.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Scarce summer visitor, possibly underreported.

One in High Thurgary on 21 April, one in Glenashdale on 12 June and one in Corrie on 6 August. These are all the records for 2008.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

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

Records included males singing in Kildonan on 27 April, Knockinkelly on 29 April, Brodick Country Park on 30 April and Cordon on 6 May. Winter records included singles in Lamlash on 14 January, Whiting Bay on 30 November and Brodick on 6 December.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one in Whiting Bay from 4 to 6 December 2007.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

Records included pair feeding young in nest in Glen Rosa on 7 June, one in Auchenhew on 11 June and in Merkland Wood records from 6 May to 6 June.

Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff) *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Records included on 5 April one in Kilmory and one Brodick Country Park, one Whiting Bay on 6 April, one Whitehouse Woods on 9 April and one High Kildonan on 8 November.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

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

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Groups included pair nest building Monamore Glen 23 April, family group Glenashdale 21 June, 6 including young birds King's Cave walk 11 August and 6 Strabane on 6 October.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Very rare and irregular passage migrant.

No records for 2008. Last and only record was one in Whiting Bay on 17 November 2007.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Nests with 5 young East Mayish on 6 July, 3 young Pirnmill 8 July, 2 young High Kildonan on 2 August and 3 fledged young Cladach on 15 August.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Irregular summer visitor.

No records for 2008. Last record one on Newton Shore on 28 April 1998.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Records included 12 Lamlash on 6 January, 20 Merkland Wood on 22 January, 5 Catacol on 24 February, 11 Rosa Burn on 28 August and 10 Sandbraes on 2 December.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one North Sannox on 13 May 2004.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Largest group was 12 in Margnaheglish on 30 October.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Reports of fledged young included 3 in Lamlash on 11 June, 4 in Whiting Bay on 17 June, 3 in Pirnmill on 20 June and 3 in Kilpatrick on 23 June.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Reports from all villages of birds visiting garden feeders. Reports of fledged young included 3 at Dhunan on 3 June, 2 in Kilpatrick on 13 June, 3 in Brodick on 17 June and 2 in Lamlash on 25 June.

Nuthatch (Wood Nuthatch) *Sitta europea*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one Corrie on 25 June 2002.

Treecreeper (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Reported nests included High Kildonan on 26 May, Cladach on 12 April, Knockinkelly on 29 April and Merkland Wood on 26 May.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record a female in Lochranza on 7 June 1979.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record a male at Kildonan on 27 September 1997.

Great Grey shrike *Lanius excubiter*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record was one in Fairy Glen, Lochranza, on 24 October 2007.

Jay (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one Brodick Country Park on 24 October 1985.



Magpie (Black-billed Magpie) *Pica pica*

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

One long staying bird was first reported from Corriegills on 20 April. Reports continued until the end of the year mainly from the Brodick area. In addition 2 were reported from North Sannox on 26 October.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record 5 in Lochranza on 5 July 2001.

Jackdaw (Eurasian Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Groups included 81 at Cleiteadh Buidhe on 15 January, 100 in Blackwaterfoot on 15 January, 16 in Lochranza on 1 April and 50 including young birds in Machrie on 12 June.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Winter visitor.

Groups included 5 in Kilmory on 14 January, 4 in Corriecravie on 9 March, 15 in Slidery on 21 July, 4 in North Newton on 14 October and 2 in Blackwaterfoot on 18 November.

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

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

Groups included 19 in South Feorline on 9 February, 7 in Clauchlands on 27 February, 80 Lamlash on 7 March and 30 Cleats Shore on 6 April

Raven (Common Raven) *Corvus corax*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Pairs at Brown Head on 12 February, Glen Chalmadale on 8 April, Corriecravie on 15 May and Clauchlands on 15 May. Largest group 22 on Cleats Shore on 16 January.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one adult in Brodick on 28 June 2002.

Starling (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Groups included 100 in Kilpatrick on 4 April, 36 on Cleats Shore on 6 April, 76 in Kildonan on 12 October and 300 in Blackwaterfoot on 18 November.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread.

Adults feeding 3 young in Brodick on 17 June, 4 in Pirnmill on 20 June, and 4 in Kilpatrick on 23 June. Other groups included 12 in Shiskine on 27 January, 12 in Whiting Bay on 22 February 20 in Kildonan on 8 June and 24 in Machrie on 3 November.

Tree Sparrow (Eurasian Tree Sparrow) *Passer montanus*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 in Brodick on 17 June 1997.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young included 3 in Corrie on 15 June, 3 in Brodick on 17 June and 3 in Pirnmill on 20 June. Groups included 25 Corriecravie on 26 January, 72 Drumaghinier on 9 February, and 500 in Shiskine on 24 October.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

Male in breeding plumage in Whiting Bay on 7 March, a female in Catacol on 25 April and a female in Whiting Bay on 9 November. These are all the records for 2008.

Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Carduelis chloris*

Common resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young in gardens in High Kildonan on 1 May, Glen Cloy on 2 June, Dhunan on 3 June and Whiting Bay on 21 June. Groups included 6 in Lamlash on 27 January, 8 in Whiting Bay on 13 February and 70 in Kilpatrick on 13 December.

Goldfinch (European Goldfinch) *Carduelis carduelis*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Fledged young in gardens in Brodick on 19 June, in Dhunan on 21 June and Kilpatrick on 23 June. Groups included 12 in Shiskine on 27 January, 50 in Glenree on 15 July, 50 in Kildonan on 22 August and 60 in Clachlands on 1 October.

Siskin (Eurasian Siskin) *Carduelis spinus*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrant.

Most records between January and June.

Fledged young reported Whiting Bay 17 June, Brodick 19 June and Pirmill 20 June. Groups included 16 at the Dyemill on 17 January and 15 in Shiskine on 3 March.

Linnet (Common Linnet) *Carduelis cannabina*

Resident. Breeding. Widespread. Passage migrants.

Most records between April and November.

Male feeding young on Shiskine Golf Course on 13 June. Groups included 12 Auchenhew on 27 April, 200 on Cleats Shore on 11 August and 40 Clachlands on 17 August.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

No breeding records. Groups included 8 in South Feorline on 10 February and 11 on 2 September, 9 on Cleats Shore on 2 November and 2 in Kildonan on 16 November.

Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll) *Carduelis cabaret*

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

No breeding records. Groups included 6 on Machrie Moor on 14 April, 2 in Cladach on 31 May, 2 in Kilmory on 6 June and 2 in Corrie cravie on 3 August

Crossbill (Common Crossbill) *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Female feeding one fledged young in forest at Machrie 7 April. Other records included 4 in forest by the Dyemill 17 January, 5 in Merkland Wood on 23 March, 5 in Glenashdale on 26 March, 2 in Kilmory on 6 June and 5 in High Kildonan on 13 October.

Scarlet Rosefinch (Common Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one juvenile at High Kildonan on 24 October 1999.

Bullfinch (Common Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Resident. Breeding. Localised.

Fledged young in Mayish on 27 June, in Cordon on 30 June and in Lochranza on 5 July. Groups included 14 Clachan Glen on 7 November and 4 on Maol Donn on 14 November.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare vagrant.

No records for 2008. Last record one Margnaheglish on 26 April 2000.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Varying numbers on passage and in winter.

Singles reported from Cir Mhor on 12 January, Cleats Shore on 1 November and shore by Shiskine Golf Course on 2 November. These are all the records for 2008.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

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

No breeding records for 2008. Records included 4 in Whiting Bay on 7 February, 3 males and a female in Dippen on 14 February, 2 males in Corrie on 20 February and 15 in Kilmory on 24 February.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident. Breeding. Localised. Passage migrant.

Pairs in breeding territories included Machrie pond on 19 May, Glen Sannox on 20 May, Kildonan on 12 June. Other records included 4 at Clauchlands on 27 February, 10 in Glen Cloy on 18 April and 4 on Corriecravie Moor on 18 June.

Corn bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Rare vagrant. Previously bred.

No records for 2008. Last record 2 in Brodick area on 7 October 1984.

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