

The Arran Bird Report

for
1998

The Isle of Arran
Natural History Society
1999

THE ARRAN BIRD REPORT 1998

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**The Isle of Arran Natural History Society
1999**

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INTRODUCTION

The Arran Bird Report has come of age. This is our 21st year of publication, and our third desk-top production, a far cry from the days when our first bird recorder Maggie Dunn laboured for months sorting out the information, and writing it out by hand.

1998 was perhaps less successful than recent years, with fewer breeding records than usual, especially the raptors who were affected by a crash in the vole population, and a cold wet spell during the second half of May which may have affected many other breeding species. The list of species which failed to show was longer; barnacle and brent goose, water rail, corncrake, sanderling, greenshank, long-eared owl, waxwing, lesser whitethroat and tree sparrow. On the brighter side however, three species reappeared after a long absence; black-tailed godwit, black grouse and great spotted woodpecker. Black grouse were thought to be extinct here and were last seen nine years ago, although it is not impossible that they have been present throughout the intervening years in the more remote parts of Arran.

The landscape has seen a big change since last year as clear felling of the forestry continues apace, and ever larger open spaces on the hillsides have been opened up, creating new habitats. Much of the woodland was devastated by the storm on Boxing Day which brought down about 300 mature trees in

Brodict Country Park alone, and many of the forestry walks are still closed at the time of writing. A huge effort to clear them is going on, and it is hoped that the greater part of the debris will be removed by Easter. Forest Enterprise has also built many new roads to extract timber, allowing access to new areas, while the flooded marshes they created in recent years have continued to attract wildlife - ducks and geese in particular.

In January, a group of 10 volunteers did a coastal survey of Arran as part of a nationwide survey for WeBs. The results proved what had been suspected for some time - that the numbers of lapwing, ringed plover, curlew and wigeon have fallen in recent years. In the case of lapwing, the fall is dramatic - from 71 in 1985 to none (on the day of counting) in 1998; ringed plover from 204 in 1985 to 126 in 1998; curlew from 466 in 1985 to 341 in 1998, and although no figure is given for wigeon in 1985, in 1995 there were 148, falling to 70 in 1998. Oystercatchers on the other hand have shown a dramatic increase, with 376 in 1985, 675 in 1995 and 1007 in 1998, the population almost doubling in three years!

Once again, very many thanks to everyone who wrote to me or phoned with information. Your help is very much appreciated, and I welcome news from both old and new correspondents. Thanks are also due to John Rhead who helped with the preparation of this report. As I have said before, all I need to know is how many, where, and the date. I understand how difficult it can be to count a large flock of birds, and even a rough estimate is better than "lots of"! The date is important too, especially where rarer species are concerned, as it can be used to cross-reference sightings, and can sometimes be vital in deciding whether a sighting is possible or very unlikely. Again I would stress, please check the status of species given in the check list at the back of the report. Rooks are a good example, and one correspondent was astonished to hear that his sighting in Lochranza was important as it was a new area. Rooks don't breed here, so summer sightings are unusual. From their original stronghold in the Shiskine Valley, they have gradually spread out to other areas, and they are now being seen in other parts of the island. Many birds which are common on the mainland are rare here, so be on the lookout!. Beware too of hybrid mallard, and the three geese that are often seen with the mute swans - they too are hybrids.

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CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

A wild start to **JANUARY** with gale force winds and torrential rain, and not many people braved the elements for a New Year's Day walk! It remained cold and wet until the 16th, a glorious sunny day, and thereafter stayed dry and sunny although bitterly cold till the end of the month.

The first gannet of the year was seen at Kildonan on the 1st. The following day a walker at Whitefarland reported c20 razorbills and a great northern diver, while 2 Manx shearwaters were seen in Brodick Bay and pairs of shelduck arrived back at Carlo, Clauchlands and Merkland Point. There were also reports of goldfinches, a single at Clauchlands and two at Kings Cave, seldom recorded in winter. A whooper swan was seen with the mute swans at Whiting Bay on the 12th, probably the same one as last year. Four scaup were at Imachar on the 16th. A rare Slavonian grebe was recorded at the Cock of Arran on the 24th during the WeBs survey, and an equally rare kingfisher was glimpsed at the Rosa burn on the same day. More divers at Imachar on the 25th, with 2 red-throated and a great northern, while 2 black-throated were at Lamlash on the 26th. On the 27th there was the welcome sight of 5 yellowhammers at Clauchlands, a species which has been in decline for many years now.

The first part of **FEBRUARY** was extraordinarily mild, especially the middle two weeks, but right at the end of the month, temperatures suddenly dropped sharply and a blanket of snow covered the island although it didn't lie for long.

Hardly surprising then that there were no reports of waxwings, and only a single male brambling back in the same garden in Lamlash as last year on the 10th. It was a good month to see grey herons, with a group of 10 round the gravel pit at Strabane on the 8th, and six back at the White House colony on the 12th. Up to 20 teal were making good use of the flooded marsh in the Kilpatrick plantation on the 13th, while eight lapwings were seen unusually at Shiskine on the 14th, another species which has declined in recent years. On the 18th, four purple sandpipers turned up at Glenashdalewaterfoot, although there was no sign of the ones which overwinter at Drumadoon Point. A pair of short-eared owls were seen hunting over Kilbride Hill on the 18th. Two unusual sightings on the 23rd, with a pair of golden eagles over Lagg, and a black-tailed godwit at Blackwaterfoot, the first sighting since 1989. Finally, on the 28th there was a group of 23 red-breasted mergansers at Lamlash giving a fine courtship display, with the males constantly saluting their females, and aquaplaning over the water in clouds of spray.

The very cold weather at the end of February continued into **MARCH** with prevailing north easterly winds bringing snow and sleet during the first week. A milder spell followed, but it remained overcast and surprisingly dry for the rest of the month.

A small group of carrion crows seemed to be enjoying their snow bath on Lamash green on the 1st. One was watched as it walked a short distance with one shoulder in the snow before taking a few sideways steps and returning in the other direction with the other shoulder down. Then there was the unusual sight of 3 hares surrounded by about 300 greylag geese at Shiskine on the 3rd - were they using them as early warning signals? Also on the 3rd a scarce ring ouzel was seen at the String road. On the 7th came the first report for the year of ptarmigan, two on Coire Nam Meann. A female black redstart was seen on the 12th in the same garden at Blackwaterfoot as previously. A second member of the crow family made news on the 13th, when a raven at Kilmory was seen fluttering upside down from a branch. Thought to be trapped at first, it soon became evident that it was a male putting on a special display to impress his mate. A pair of goosanders was seen at Machriewaterfoot on the 16th, the only sighting of the year. By the middle of the month the wigeon had left, the mute swans were back at their nesting site at the Fish Farm, and a pair of dippers were nesting at Benlister Falls. By the end of the month, the first summer migrants had arrived, starting with two chiffchaffs at Pirnmill and a wheatear at Drumadoon on the 25th, three swallows at Sannox and a single at Brodick on the 28th, and a pair of common sandpipers at Merkland Point on the 29th. Last sighting for the month was of 41 golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot on the 31st.

Unlike 1997, the first fortnight in **APRIL** had very little sunshine, and temperatures were kept very low by continuing strong north easterly winds, hail and sleet showers. Despite this the next batch of summer migrants arrived more or less on time, with willow warbler on the 7th, sandwich tern on the 8th, white wagtail on the 12th, house martin on the 22nd (late), cuckoo on the 26th (also late), sand martin on the 27th and tree pipit on the 28th.

A month full of interest, starting with a kingfisher flying along a water channel outside the Lochranza Outdoor Centre on the 1st, a first record for this area. Reed buntings were seen, a male at Glen Cloy on the 1st, one at Shiskine Golf Course on the 5th, and lastly a pair at the Cleat on the 13th. A solitary magpie turned up at Kildonan on the 3rd, again in the same garden as in 1995. By the 4th the number of golden plovers at Machriewaterfoot had risen to over 80, and there were still about 27 there on the 19th. Two rare

velvet scoters were seen at Catacol on the 5th, and a further five scaup at Brodick on the 8th. The first four whimbrels appeared at the Cleat on the 13th. By mid-April the eagles were carrying food to their young. A long-tailed duck, only an occasional visitor to Arran, was at Blackwaterfoot on the 17th and again on the 27th, while a female pied flycatcher was noted on the north Newton shore on the 28th, the only sighting of the year.

MAY is usually the loveliest month of the year, and so it proved with a prolonged dry sunny spell from the 7th to the 19th. At the end of the month however it became much cooler and there were heavy showers of rain. The next wave of migrants arrived, starting with a tree pipit on the 1st on the String road, followed by a sedge warbler at Kildonan and a wood warbler at Brodick Country Park on the 2nd, and a whitethroat at Clauchlands on the 8th. The first of several merlin sightings was at Corriecravie on the 8th. More migrants arrived with 2 swifts at the String summit and a spotted flycatcher at BCP on the 9th, and 2 common terns at Dougarie on the 11th. By the middle of the month, the Fish Farm pair of mute swans had eight cygnets, while a second pair had a nest at Clauchlands. On several occasions the two cobs were seen in furious combat over territory, and eventually the second pair abandoned their nest, leaving 5 addled eggs. The two pairs of shelducks at Clauchlands were also in dispute. For the first time an attack was witnessed when the second pair was seen pecking and shaking the first pair's nine young. The following day the first pair were seen with five young and the second pair with four, and it looked as if the second pair had successfully abducted the other pair's young.

A common scoter turned up at Machrie on the 15th, and on the 22nd a pair of arctic terns were courtship feeding at Dougarie, but they were gone again by the end of the month. A grasshopper warbler was heard near Machrie Moor on the same day. A nightjar was heard near Maol Donn on the 24th, the only record of the year, and the first whinchats were seen at Machrie Moor on the 25th. Last two sightings of note were of two storm petrels off the Fallen Rocks on the 29th, and a peregrine mobbing a golden eagle at Glen Catacol on the 30th.

The inclement weather at the end of May was just a foretaste of what was to come in **JUNE**, and it remained cool and very wet for most of the month, affecting many breeding birds. The last two migrants arrived, with a garden warbler at Glenashdale on the 5th and a female redstart at Catacol on the 26th. First breeding notes for the month came on the 1st, when a long legged curlew chick was seen running along the road near Machrie Farm. A golden plover was calling at An Tunna on the 17th, indicating possible breeding.

JULY started with three warm sunny days, but thereafter it remained overcast with the sun only emerging for short periods. Towards the end of the month the weather worsened and there were several days of continuous rain.

A group of six to seven crossbills was seen at Auchencairn on the 2nd, not the first time they have been recorded there. Another sighting of merlins at Glen Diomhan on the 3rd, then there was the unusual sight of a woodcock airlifting its young to safety at Brodick Country Park on the 7th, and again at Merkland Wood on the 16th. A juvenile cuckoo was being fed by a pair of unfortunate meadow pipits at Torr Righ on the 17th, while a pair of scarce redpolls was seen at North Kiscadale on the same day. By the middle of the month, the Clachlands shelducks had gone with their five fully grown young, the only ones to survive in that area for more than five years. A pair of buzzards with two fledged young were near Trareoch on the 20th. A grasshopper warbler was heard reeling at Clachlands on the 25th, and three turnstones in their striking black and tan summer plumage were in the same area on the 27th.

Any hopes of an improvement in the weather in **AUGUST** were soon dashed, and the rain continued to pour down, making it one of the wettest summers on record. Many ground nesting birds suffered, and the red grouse in particular had a disastrous breeding season.

More ptarmigan were seen, with four at the Saddle on the 9th. Then came one of the most important sightings of the year, with a great spotted woodpecker heard and seen at Machrie Farm on the 10th, the first record since 1989. Two peregrines calling over Blackwaterfoot Riding Centre on the 11th was an unusual location. Small numbers of passage waders began to arrive with a little stint at Whiting Bay on the 15th and five at Kildonan on the 16th, then two knots at Kildonan on the 22nd, and finally a black-tailed godwit overflying High Kildonan on the 24th. No records however of greenshank or sanderling, both of which were recorded last year. A sandwich tern was seen feeding a juvenile with large sand eels at Kildonan on the 18th. There was a large passage of Manx shearwaters at Largiemore on the 26th, with about 300 in one hour. A pair of mute swans with four well grown cygnets were at Machriewaterfoot on the 26th, but it proved impossible to establish whether this was another pair breeding locally or incomers.

Sunshine and showers predominated for the first fortnight in **SEPTEMBER**, but this was followed by a fortnight of dry weather, a rare occurrence on Arran!

A month of movement as the records show, both passage migrants, and small birds gathering into flocks. Knots arrived, with 25 at Machriewaterfoot on the 5th, the largest number ever recorded here, and four at Kildonan on the

7th. A flock of about 50 goldcrests was at the Fallen Rocks on the 12th. A single bar-tailed godwit turned up at Whiting Bay on the 19th and was last seen there on the 16th October, an unusually long stay. The kittiwakes started to come in, with over 200 at Whiting Bay on the 5th, rising to about 1,000 by the 20th. Returning wigeon were noted, with a single female at Auchenhew on the 20th, and three in eclipse at the Cleat on the 25th. On the 19th there were about 40 linnets including juveniles at South Feorline, and two scarce twite at Machrie. A large movement of skylarks involving more than 1,000 birds at Kilmory began the last week of September and continued into the first week of October. Final notes for the month were a grey plover at Kildonan on the 25th, and again at the Cleat on the 30 (almost certainly the same bird), and 30 dunlin at Whiting Bay on the 30th, an unusually high number for Arran.

The prolonged dry spell which began in the middle of September continued for the first ten days of **OCTOBER** but then as if to compensate there was continuous rain until the end of the month, with severe flooding at the weekends of the 16th and 23rd. Some bad news to start the month, when two immature barn owls were found apparently drowned in a disused water tank outside a derelict church in Lamlash. They were sent for forensic examination and the subsequent report found no other cause of death. The second accident of the month had a happier ending, when a sparrowhawk chasing a song thrush on the village green at Lamlash crashed into a passing lorry. The thrush was killed outright, but the sparrowhawk survived and after being taken into care was later released.

Three wheatears ringed at Blackwaterfoot on the 8th proved to be of the Greenland race. Returning redwings and fieldfares appeared, with 52 of the former at High Kildonan on the 9th and about six of the latter at Machrie Farm a week later. Two groups of black-throated divers, two and 11 respectively, were seen at Blackwaterfoot, and 11 wigeon at Torrylinnwaterfoot on the 10th. Also on the 10th white-fronted geese were heard overflying Machrie Golf Course, but not seen because of poor visibility. Two days later, the first of the migrating whooper swans was seen at Machriewaterfoot, building to 16 in the Shiskine Valley on the 16th. Large coveys of pheasants gathered during the flooding, about 100 at Auchencar on the 22nd, and up to 300 at Glenkiln Farm on the 24th. A further two ptarmigan were on Beinn Bharrain on the 26th. There were two sightings of note on the 28th - three pairs of bullfinches at Brodick, and more importantly, 25 little gulls at Dougarie, the largest number ever recorded here, and the first record since 1991.

NOVEMBER is usually the duller month of the year, and 1998 was no

exception, although there were a few surprises.

The flooded marsh continued to attract wildfowl, and there were 20 teal and a wisp of seven snipe there on the 4th. A fall of snow buntings started on the 5th, with 10 at the Sailor's Grave, a pair at Brodick on the 6th, singles at Kings Cave and Lochranza, and the last four seen at Imachar on the 19th. A pair of returning goldeneye were back at Clauchlands on the 8th, a month later than last year. There was the unusual sight of a first winter knot at Blackwaterfoot on the 11th, and like the bar-tailed godwit at Whiting Bay, it too stayed for more than a month. A short-eared owl was involved in a three-way dispute with a carrion crow and a sparrowhawk on Kilpatrick Hill on the 18th. A song thrush was in full song at Whiting Bay on the 25th, an unusual time to hear one, while a pair of blackcaps more often seen at bird tables during the winter months were busy feeding on kelp flies on the Kildonan shore on the 29th.

DECEMBER started with a bitterly cold snap, but by the second week it was back to milder windy and very wet weather, culminating in the worst gale we have had for many years on Boxing Day.

The first pair of shelduck to return were at Kildonan on the 1st. There was cause for concern about the Clauchlands wigeon however, and a single female was last seen on the 23rd November. It looks as if they may have gone for good from this area. A peregrine chasing a group of redshanks along the water's edge in Lamlash on the 7th missed her chance as they dived for cover into the piled up seaweed on shore. Ten golden plovers were back at Machriewaterfoot on the 11th, and a pair of tufted duck turned up at Cordon on the 13th. A barn owl was found dead in its nest box after the tree was blown down on the 26th, the third one known to have been lost this year. A great spotted woodpecker was heard then seen at Merkland Wood on the 28th, almost certainly the same bird recorded in August at Machrie. A late (or perhaps early?) gannet was diving in Lamlash Bay on the 29th, and on the 31st, a record 18 mute swans were at their feeding station in Whiting Bay. Final note for the year came from an observer taking a Hogmanay walk from Glenree Farm to Bailemargaidh. Three crossbills were seen in the forestry, and more importantly two black grouse, the first definite sighting since 1991.

SUMMER MIGRANT ARRIVAL DATES

Chiffchaff 25 Mar
 Wheatear 25 Mar
 Swallow 28 Mar
 Common Sandpiper 29 Mar
 Lesser black-backed gull 31 Mar
 Willow Warbler 7 Apr
 Sandwich tern 8 Apr
 White Wagtail 12 Apr
 House Martin 22 Apr
 Cuckoo 26 Apr
 Sand Martin 27 Apr
 Tree Pipit 28 Apr
 Pied Flycatcher 28 Apr
 Wood Warbler 2 May
 Sedge Warbler 2 May
 Whitethroat 5 May
 Spotted Flycatcher 9 May
 Arctic Tern 9 May
 Swift 11 May
 Common Tern 11 May
 Grasshopper Warbler 22 May
 Whinchat 25 May
 Garden Warbler 5 Jun
 Manx Shearwater 13 Jun
 Redstart 26 Jun
 (NB Whimbrel and Blackcap
 sometimes overwinter)

ABBREVIATIONS

sp = species
 no/nos = number(s)
 m = male
 f = female
 yng = young
 juv = juvenile
 imm = immature
 max = maximum
 min = minimum
 cf = compare
 Pt = Point
 Fm = Farm
 nr = near
 N,S,E,W = direction of flight etc.
 Jan, etc. = all months abbreviated
 incl = including
 inc = increase
 beg = beginning
 pr(s) = pair(s)
 arr = arrival
 BCP = Brodick Country Park
 yr = year
 wk = week

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver

Breeding: bred successfully at min 2 inland lochans. Singles and prs seen all yr round the coast, with max 5 Largiebeg 15 Oct.

Black-throated Diver

Less common than red-throated. Singles and prs seen between Pirnmill and Lamlash Jan/May and Oct/Dec; 2 Sailor's Grave in Jul unusual summer sighting; max 13 Blackwaterfoot 10 Oct.

Great Northern Diver

Singles seen Jan/May between Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza; 1 Blackwaterfoot 30 Nov, with max 6+ Dougarie 13 and 15 May.

White-billed Diver

Possible at Porta Leacach last wk Apr, but insufficient evidence for a record.

Little Grebe

4-5 overwintered at Fish Farm, and 2 Lochranza Jan/Feb; min 1 returned to Fish Fm in Oct (no report from Lochranza); no report from Port-na-Lochan where recorded 1997.

Slavonian Grebe

1 Cock of Arran 24 Jan (D.Stevenson).

Fulmar

Breeding: nested at Cleiteadh Buidhe, Catacol/Lochranza, Kings Cross and Drumadoon (no report from Holy Isle), with 3 yng fledged at Cleiteadh Buidhe, and 6 at Drumadoon 15 Aug (no yng last yr). Other records incl pr Kilpatrick 18 Mar and a single Brodick Bay 13 Jun; max c60/12hr flying past Largiemore 8 Feb.

Manx Shearwater

2 Brodick Bay 2 Jan was unusual; most sightings from Ardrossan/Brodick ferry Jun/Sep, with max c300/1hr Largiemore 26 Aug; last 1 Kilbrannan Sound 27 Oct.

Storm Petrel

2 Fallen Rocks 29 May (J.Barnard).

Gannet

1 Kildonan 1 Jan; 4 Whiting Bay 18 Jan, rising to max 100+
Machrie/Dougarie 23 May. Common round the coast during summer
months, last single Lamlash 29-31 Dec.

Cormorant

No breeding records, although Pladda still to be investigated. Groups of up
to 12 seen round the coast all yr, with max 22 Hamilton Rock 7 Dec.

Shag

Breeding: bred on Holy Isle and Pladda, but success unknown. Very
common round the coast all yr, with max c200 Pladda/Kildonan 27 Aug,
rising to 350 29 Aug.

Grey Heron

Breeding: 5 nest occupied White House woods 14 Mar, 2 nests Lagg wood
7 Apr; 4 yng fledged Lagg 25 Jun, min 1 yng White House wood end of
Jun; 2 adults + 3 yng Cleat 29 Aug; Merkland colony now extinct. Up to 6
seen at Fish Fm, Machriewaterfoot, Loch a Mhuilinn, Auchenhew and
Cordon, with max 10 Strabane gravel pit 8 Feb.

Chilean Flamingo

1 Kildonan (probably escaped) 6 Jun (P.Tupman and D.Goldsbrough).

Mute Swan

Breeding: pr back at nest site at Fish Fm 14 Mar, 8 cygnets 13 May, all
survived; nest with 5 eggs Clachlands 20 May, but subsequently deserted;
pr with 4 well grown yng Machriewaterfoot 29 Aug, but local breeding not
proven. Further inc with prs seen at Lochranza, Sannox, Kildonan and
Torrylinnwaterfoot all yr, 5 Dougarie 23 Sep, and max 18 Whiting Bay 31
Dec.

Whooper Swan

1 accompanying mute swans Whiting Bay 12 Jan; 1 Machriewaterfoot 12
Oct; 2 Whiting Bay 18 Oct; 1 overflying Brodick Golf Course 15 Nov; 4
Lamlash beg Dec; max 16 Shiskine Valley 16 Oct;

White-fronted Goose

Heard overflying Machrie Golf Course 10 Oct, but not seen owing to poor visibility (M.Betts).

Greylag Goose

1 Kildonan 12 Jan thought to be same one recorded last yr; c400 Shiskine Valley 8 Feb, c150 18 Mar; last 80 flying N Porta Leacach 16 Apr; return 17 Kilmory, 45 Shiskine Valley 17 Oct, rising to c200 by end of yr.

Barnacle Goose

No records

Brent Goose

No records

Shelduck

Breeding: pr + 9 yng Clauchlands 18 May, 5 survived, the first ones to do so in that area for more than 5 yrs; pr + 11 yng Cleat 29 May; pr + 10 yng Carlo 5 Jun; pr + 4 yng Kildonan 4 Jul. Common round the coast Jan/Jul, with max 5 prs Clauchlands 15 Mar; return 2 prs Kildonan 1 Dec, pr Carlo 10 Dec; 3 Corrie 25 Dec.

Wigeon

WeBs survey in Jan confirmed a further reduction in nos, from 148 in 1995 to 70 in 1998. 7 Clauchlands 2 Jan; 6 prs Kildonan 14 Jan; pr Whiting Bay 19 Jan; 20 Tormore/Machriewaterfoot 30 Jan (cf 50 in 1997); c25 Whiting Bay late Feb; no summer records, return f Auchenhew 20 Sep; 3 Cleat 25 Sep; 2m 1f Kilmory shore 4 Oct; 2m 1f Clauchlands 8 Oct (gone by Nov); 11 Torrylinnwaterfoot 10 Oct; max 46 Kildonan 29 Nov.

Teal

No breeding records. Reduction in nos, with c18 Torr Righ flooded marsh 13 Feb; 4 Cleat 29 Mar; pr on Bennecarrigan pond 14 Jun; pr Kilmory shore 25 Jun; 4 Tormore 10 Oct; max 20 Kilpatrick plantation flooded marsh 4 Nov.

Mallard

Breeding: 4m 1f with 7 yng Torr Righ flooded marsh 8 May; f + 4 yng Machrie pond 22 May; pr + 5 yng Bennecarrigan pond 14 Jun; f + 3 yng BCP 3 Jul; f + 2 yng Arranton 4Jul. Common round the coast during winter months with max c100 Tormore 25 Sep.

Tufted Duck

Pr Cordon 13 Dec (A.Duncan) was only record.

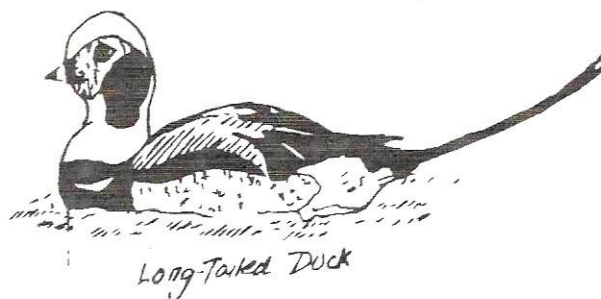
Scaup

4 Imachar 16 Jan; 1m 3f Brodick 8 Apr.

Eider

Breeding: 10 yng Corrie 7 Jun; f + 7 yng Brodick Pier 10 Jun; 3f + 2 yng Lamlash 14 Jun; 7f + 6 yng Kildonan 4 Jul. WeBs survey in Jan showed nos almost halved since 1995 (1036 in 1995 to 625 in 1998). Common round the coast all yr, with max c200 Pirnmill 14 Jan.

Long-tailed Duck



1 Blackwaterfoot 17 and 27 Apr (T.Malin).

Common Scoter

1 Machrie 15 May; 11f Largiemore 12 Nov.

Velvet Scoter

2 Catacol 5 Apr (S.Marshall).

Goldeneye

Small groups of up to 5 seen round the coast Jan/Apr, with max 2m 5f Brodick 28 Mar; late return pr Clauchlands 8 Nov, with max 8 Lamlash 7 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser

Breeding: 5 + 5 yng Blackwaterfoot 18 Jun; f + 5 yng Lamlash 19 Jun; f + 10 yng Lochranza 20 Jun; pr + 7 yng Cordon 5 Jul; f + 12 yng Torrylinnwaterfoot Jul/Aug; f + 3 juvs Drumadoon Pt 5 Aug. Very common round the coast all yr, with max 89 Whitefarland 31 Aug.

Goosander

Pr Machriewaterfoot 16 Mar (D.Stevenson).

Hen Harrier:

Bred successfully in several locations. Prs and singles seen mainly in the Machrie Moor and Boguille areas, and also at Kings Cross, String road, Ross road, Urie Loch, Corriecravie and Kilpatrick.

Sparrowhawk

Breeding: pr fledged 3 yng, but 1 found dead below nest Benlister in Jul. Common and widespread all yr.

Buzzard

Breeding: 2 yng fledged nr Trareoch. Common and widespread, with max 5 Whitefarland 24 Mar.

Golden Eagle

Breeding: N and S prs successfully fledged yng. Seen all yr mainly in the Lochranza and String road areas, but singles also seen at Lagg and Glen Rosa.

Osprey

No records.

Kestrel

Breeding: nested at Benlister and Creag Rosa, but success unknown; pr + 3 juvs Boguille summit 19 Jun; 2 prs with 1 and 2 yng respectively Imachar/Whitefarland 20 Jun; pr with 3 imms Ross road 20 Jul. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Glen Rosa 16 Sep.

Merlin

No breeding records. 1 Corriecravie 8 May; 2 Glen Diomhan 3 Jul; 1 Boguille 12 Sep.

Peregrine

Bred successfully at several locations. Most records of singles came from coastal areas at the N end, but also seen at Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan and Largybeg all yr.

Red Grouse

Breeding: disastrous season. No records of any large coveys, with max 4 Correin Lochain 28 Nov.

Ptarmigan

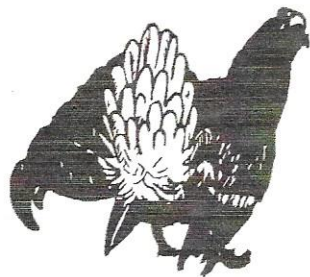
No breeding records. 2 Coire Nam Meann 7 Mar; 4 the Saddle 9 Aug; 1 Goatfell 23 Oct; 2 Beinn Bharrain 26 Oct; 1 above Coirein Lochan 28 Nov;.

Black Grouse

2 N of Glenree 31 Dec (Dr.N.Branson), first report since 1991.

Red-legged Partridge x Chukar

Breeding: bred at Knowe Fm, but success unknown. Few records compared to recent yrs. Pr Kings Cross 20 Mar; 3 Auchencar 28 May; also seen in the Glen Cloy area, with max 2 prs Auchrannie Hotel 23 Aug.



Black Grouse

Pheasant

Breeding: disastrous season, with few broods surviving the cold wet spring. Common and widespread, with c100 Auchencar 22 Oct and max 200-300 Glenkiln Fm 24 Oct during flooding.

Water Rail

No records

Corncrake

No records

Moorhen

1 Machrie pond all yr; Cloy burn pr not seen.

Oystercatcher

Breeding: 2 nests Cleat 3 May; min 10 prs nesting Machrie/Dougarie 23 May; f sitting on 4 eggs Shiskine Golf Course late May. Our most prolific wader, and very common all yr. The WeBs Jan survey revealed that the population has almost doubled in 3 yrs, from 675 in 1995 to 1007 in 1998.

Ringed Plover

Breeding: pr with yng Lochranza 27 May; nest with 3 eggs Sliderrywaterfoot/Cleat 29 May; c 3 prs nested Machriewaterfoot 1 Jun; nest with 4 eggs Blackwaterfoot 23 Jun. WeBs survey showed a slight decrease in nos from 183 in 1995 to 126 in 1998. Common round the coast all yr with max 70+ Blackwaterfoot 5 Sep.

Golden Plover

41 Machriewaterfoot 31 Mar, rising to 80+ 4 Apr, 27 still present 10 Apr; 5 Loch Dubh 13 Apr; 1 calling An Tunna 18 Jun; 2 overflying Torrylinnwaterfoot 21 Aug; 10 Machriewaterfoot 11 Dec.

Grey Plover

1 Kildonan 25 Sep (M.Giles); 1 Cleat 30 Sep (C. & S.Crosslands) probably same bird.

Lapwing

Breeding: pr nesting Shannochie 17 Apr; pr + 1 yng Ballegra 21 May; adult with 2 yng Machrie Fm May. WeBs survey showed none (cf 71 in 1985, falling to 2 in 1995). Nos remain low, with max 8 Shiskine 14 Feb.

Knot

Inc in sightings, with 2 Kildonan 22 Aug; 1 Clauchlands 29 Aug; 4 Kildonan 7 Sep; 1st winter imm Blackwaterfoot 11 Nov/18 Dec; max 25 Machriewaterfoot 5 Sep.

Sanderling

No records

Purple Sandpiper

4 Glenashdalewaterfoot 18 Feb; 3 Drumadoon Pt 2 May; overwintering 3 Drumadoon Pt 7 Nov.

Little Stint

1 Whiting Bay 15 Aug; 2 Kildonan 15 Aug rising to 5 on 16 Aug, still 1 remaining 7 Sep.

Dunlin

Small nos Mar/May and Aug/Dec mainly in the Blackwaterfoot, Kildonan, Machriewaterfoot and Whiting Bay areas, with max 30+ Whiting Bay 28 Sep, the largest no ever recorded.

Jack Snipe

No records

Snipe

No breeding records. Nos remain low with 1 White House wood 12 Feb; 1 Devil's Punch Bowl 3 May; 1 Glenshant 17 Oct. Max 7 Kilpatrick plantation flooded marsh 4 Nov.

Woodcock

Breeding: more records than usual; 2 nests each with 3 eggs N Sannox mid May; 2 yng Strabane 22 Jun; pr with 2 yng, adult airlifted one BCP 7 Jul; adult also carrying yng Merkland Wood 16 Jul; juv Machrie Forestry 24 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat, with max 3 Benlister 17 Apr.

Black-tailed Godwit

1 Blackwaterfoot 23 Feb; 1 overflying High
Kildonan 24 Aug. Last recorded 1989.

Bar-tailed Godwit

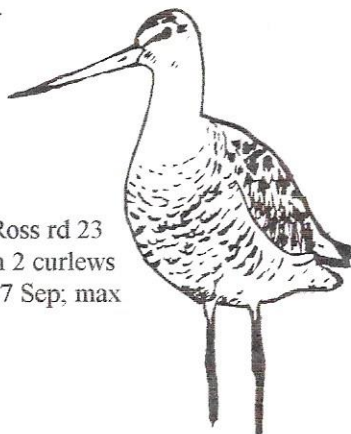
1 Whiting Bay 19 Sep, still present
16 Oct (M.Giles)

Whimbrel

4 Cleat 13 Apr, 3 still there 3 May; 1 Ross rd 23
May; 1 Shiskine Valley 15 Aug; 1 with 2 curlews
flying E Kildonan 18 Aug; 1 Cordon 17 Sep; max
6 Clauchlands 7 May.

Curlew

Breeding: 1 chick running along
the road nr Machrie Fm 1 Jun; also
bred at Shannochie. Common
round the coast all yr with max 45 Clauchlands 14 Aug.



Black-tailed Godwit

Redshank

Common round the coast all yr, but absent May/Jun. Max c40 Whiting
Bay 14 Jan.

Greenshank

No records.

Common Sandpiper

Breeding: only 1 record of nesting at Clauchlands, success unknown (cf 7
records in 1997). Common round the coast Mar/Aug, with max 3 prs
Clauchlands 17 May.

Turnstone

Common round the coast except in Jun. All records came from between
Lamlash/Machrie, with max 30 Kildonan 29 Aug.

Little Gull

25 Dougairie 28 Oct (per T.Southall), largest no ever recorded and last
recorded 1991.

Black-headed Gull

Common round the coast all yr excepting May/Jun. Small nos, with up to 6 recorded at Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick and Blackwaterfoot, with max 9 Brodick 21 Aug.

Common Gull

Breeding: c10 prs nesting Dougarie 23 May; also nested Pladda, Holy Isle and Imachar, but no figures available. Common round the coast all yr with max 115 Blackwaterfoot 6 Sep.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Breeding: bred on Pladda and Holy Isle, but again no figures available. Arr 3-4 Shiskine 3rd wk in Mar, with max c150 Machriewaterfoot 31 Mar.

Herring Gull

Breeding: bred Holy Isle and Pladda, but again no figures available. Very common all yr, with max 750 Clauchlands 28 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull

Breeding: bred Holy Isle but success not known. Common all yr round the coast with max 32 Auchenhew 20 Sep.

Kittiwake

71 Whiting Bay 18 Jan; 6 Ardrossan/Brodick 6 Feb, rising to 10 10 Apr; autumn passage: 10 Glenashdalewaterfoot 14 Aug, rising to c1,000 Whiting Bay 20 Sep; other records incl 30 Brodick 21 Aug; c35 Machriewaterfoot 15 Sep; 160 Torrylinn 18 Sep; 200+ Catacol 14 Oct.

Sandwich Tern

Arr 2 Lamlash 8 Apr; all records came from Lamlash/Machrie, with max 4 Whiting Bay 19 Sep (last record).

Common Tern

Arr 1 Dougarie 11 May; 2 "comics" Largiemore 9 Aug; pr Brodick 15 Aug.

Arctic Tern

Breeding: probably bred on Pladda, but no confirmation; pr back at former nesting site Dougarie seen courtship feeding 22 May, but breeding not confirmed. 3 Dougarie 12 and 30 May, last seen 30 Jun; 1 Kildonan 24 Jun.

Guillemot

Singles seen Whiting Bay, Fallen Rocks and Pirnmill Mar/Jun; larger nos Aug/Nov, with 15 Largiemore 9 Aug; 58 Ardrossan.Brodick 3 Sep; c50 Largiemore 11 Nov.

Razorbill

Small nos seen Imachar, Clauchlands and Largiemore Jan/Jun, with max c20 Whitefarland Pt 2 Jan.

Black Guillemot

Breeding: nested at Brodick Pier, Kings Cave and Imachar, but success unknown. Common round the coast Jan/Oct, with max 7 Kings Cave 6 Jul.

Rock Dove

Very local all yr, with 5 Kilpatrick shore 18 Mar; 6 Cleiteadh Buidhe 18 Jun; 8 Torr nan Uain 18 Nov; max 27 Machrie 18 Oct.

Woodpigeon

No breeding records, but must have bred in many locations. Common on farmland all yr, with max c60 Clauchlands Fm 26 Aug.

Collared Dove

Breeding: nesting at Whiting Bay 6 Jun, success unknown. Common round the villages all yr, with max 18 Whiting Bay Jan/Mar.

Cuckoo

Breeding: juv being fed by meadow pipits Torr Righ 17 Jul. Arr 1 Catacol, 1 Glen Shant 26 Apr; widespread by May with max 7 singles Machrie Moor 22 May.

Barn Owl

Breeding: poor yr, with only 7 yng known to have fledged due to scarcity of voles, especially in the northern half of the island; pr of fully fledged yng found drowned in a disused water tank outside derelict church in Lamlash. Subsequent forensic examination found no other cause of death. Common all yr, with singles at Lochranza, Pirnmill, Whitefarland, Blackwaterfoot, N Corrie, N Sannox picnic site, Bennecarrigan and Brodick. 1 found dead in its nest box at BCP after the tree was blown down in Boxing Day gale.

Tawny Owl

Only 2 records; 1 BCP 8 Aug and 1 calling High Kildonan 18 Aug.

Short-eared Owl

Breeding: pr feeding juv Boguille summit 25 Jun; no confirmation from other sites. Common, with singles recorded at String rd, S Feorline, Benlister, High Glen Cloy, Loch na Leirg, Coire a Bhradain, Machrie Moor, Garbh Allt and Kilpatrick all yr.

Long-eared Owl

No records.

Nightjar

1 heard nr Maol Donn 24 May (D.McNicol), the only record although may have gone unrecorded in more remote areas.

Swift

More records than usual, with arr 2 String summit 11 May; up to 3 seen at Clachaig, Corriecravie, Dougarie, Slidery, Lagg, Blackwaterfoot, Lamlash Golf Course, Pirnmill and Whiting Bay Golf Course May/Aug. max 4 Glen Chalmadale 8 Jun, last 1 Dunfion 9 Sep.

Kingfisher

1 Rosa burn 24 Jan; 1 Cloy burn 10 Feb (same bird); 1 Lochranza 1 Apr is first record for this area.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

1 Machrie Fm 10 Aug (per P.Emslie); seen and heard again Merkland Wood 28 Dec. Last recorded 1987.



*Great Spotted
Woodpecker*

Skylark

No breeding records. Mainly singles seen at Lenamhor, Machrie Golf Course, Moss Fm, Machrie Moor, Kilbride Hill and String summit Feb/Jul, with max 6 Shiskine Golf Course 28 Mar. Autumn passage started at Kilmory shore, with 14 on 27 Sep, rising to 70 on 8 Oct, an estimated 1,000+ passing through in 2 weeks (per T.Southall).

Sand Martin

Breeding: may have bred at Auchencar and Whitefarland, but not confirmed. Arr 1 Lochranza mid Apr; 2 Auchencar, 2 Dougarie 23 May; prs Sannox and Shiskine Golf Course end of May/beg Jun; max 10-12 Torr Righ flooded marsh 28 Jun.

Swallow

Breeding: nest Auchencar 24 May; nest Auchencairn 7 Jun; 3 successful nests Lamlash, 1st brood predated by cat, 2nd brood of 6 yng successful; yng hatched BCP 12 Jun; nest with 1 yng Whiting Bay 30 Jun. Arr 3 Sannox, 1 Brodick 28 Mar; widespread by May with max 30-40 Clauchlands Fm 28 Apr; last 1 imm Blackwaterfoot 20 Oct.

House Martin

Breeding: 6 nests Whiting Bay, 3 yng seen; 2 nests BCP 14 Jun; 13 nests occupied Lamlash Hospital 24 Jun. Arr 1 Lochranza 22 Apr, widespread by May with max 36 Kildonan 22 Aug. Last 1 Kildonan 30 Sep.

Tree Pipit

Further improvement in nos, with arr 1m displaying String rd 1 May; 1 BCP 2 May; 1 Monyquil 18 May; 1 Machrie Moor 22 May; 1 Glenree 24 May; 1 Thunderguy 27 May; 2 Port-na-Lochan 28-30 Jun; max 3 Kildonan 24 Aug.

Meadow Pipit

Breeding: nest with 3 yng Shiskine Golf Course 7 May; adult with 2 yng Drumadoon Pt 18 Jun. Improvement in nos, with 10 Pirnmill 3 Aug and 10 Machrie 18 Oct. Max 8 prs Coire a' Bhradain 29 Apr.

Rock Pipit

No breeding records, but must have bred at several locations. Very common round the coast all yr, but under recorded, with max 12 Lamlash 6 Dec.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding: nested Glen Eason Biorach; 2 yng Sliderywaterfoot 21 Jun; m with juv Cnocan burn 29 Jun; pr feeding 2 yng Dunan beg Jul; min 2 prs with yng Clauchlands 5 Jul; adult with 2 imms Largiemore 10 Aug. Prs and singles seen all yr in suitable habitat.

Pied Wagtail

Breeding: pr feeding yng Shiskine Golf Course 28 May; nested Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; adult + juv BCP 15 Jun; min 3 prs with juvs Clauchlands 5 Jul; juvs Dereneneach end Jun; pr with 3 juvs Whiting Bay 30 Jul. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 150 Kildonan 10 Aug.

White Wagtail

Arr 1 Clauchlands 12 Apr; 1 Cleat 10 Apr; 1 Kildonan 11 May; max 4 singles Cleat 17 Apr; last 1 Whiting Bay 31 Aug.

Waxwing

No records.

Dipper

Breeding: pr at nest Benlister Falls 22 Mar; nest under road bridge nr Kings Cross junction 4 Apr; nest with 4 eggs Lochranza 12 Apr; pr with 2 yng Benlister Falls mid May; 2 yng High Glenashdale 14 Jun. Common all yr in suitable habitat, with max 3 Glenashdalewaterfoot 31 Dec.

Wren

Breeding: 3 nests Mount Pleasant, Lamlash, 1 successful brood; 1 successful nest Whitehouse Woods 16 May; adult + 3 juvs BCP 11 Jun. Common and wide ranging all yr.

Dunnoek

Breeding: 2 juvs Dereneneach end of Jun. Common and widespread, but under recorded. Max 4 Lakin 1 Mar.

Robin

Breeding: 2 nests Whitehouse Woods, 1 successful, other abandoned and yng died; 1 ground nest Arranton, 5 yng fledged. Very common and widespread.

Black Redstart

f Blackwaterfoot 12 Mar (J.Delaney).

Redstart

f possibly feeding yng Catacol 26 Jun (per I.McCallum).

Whinchat

Breeding: 2f + yng Glen Rosa 27 Jun; pr + 1 juv Cleat, pr + 1 juv Machriewaterfoot 5 Aug. Arr pr Machrie Moor 25 May; prs and singles seen at Garbh Allt, Auchencar, Glen Rosa, Ross rd, Boguille, Sannox, Glen Catacol, Lochranza, Cleat, Clauchlands and Drumadoon May/Aug. Last 1 Trareoch 13 Sep.

Stonechat

Breeding: pr with 3 yng Drumadoon/Kings Cave 3 May. Common all yr in suitable habitat, with max 3 prs Glen Rosa/Coire Bhradain 1 Dec.

Wheatear

Breeding: pr + 2 juvs Drumadoon Pt 18 Jun; pr with yng Kildonan 4 Jul. Arr 1 Drumadoon 25 Mar, widespread by Apr, with max 5 prs Lochranza/N Sannox picnic site 11 Apr; 3 ringed at Blackwaterfoot 8 Oct proved to be Greenland race (per T.Southall); last 1 Blackwaterfoot 10 Oct.

Ring Ouzel

1 String rd 3 Mar; 1 Glen Rosa 9 Apr; m Beinn a Chliabhain 28 Apr; 1 Catacol mid Oct.

Blackbird

3 eggs hatched Bailemargaidh 12 Apr; pr nested High Kilmory, 3 yng fledged late Apr; nest Glenkiln, eggs and f predated; nest with 3 dead yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; nest with 2 eggs Lochranza 12 Apr; 3 successful nests Whitehouse Woods 20 Apr. Very common and widespread, with max 12 Brodick shore 31 May.

Fieldfare

Low nos, with c100 Torbeg 14 Jan; 16 Blackwaterfoot 26 Feb; return 6 with redwings Machrie Fm 18 Oct; c10 BCP 12 Nov; 14 High Kildonan 12 Dec. Max c200 Pirnmill beg Dec.

Song Thrush

Breeding: nesting Sannox Golf Course 14 Apr; 4 yng fledged at Mount Pleasant, Lamlash; pr with 2 yng High Kildonan late Apr; juvs at BCP 9 Jun. Contrary to national trends, common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Kings Cross 4 Jun and 4 Blackwaterfoot 22 Jun.

Redwing

Low nos with 21 Blackwaterfoot 26 Feb; 1 with mistle thrushes Bailemargaidh 12 Oct; 50 Machrie Fm 18 Oct; 28 Brodick 28 Oct; 7 BCP 31 Oct; 7 Strabane 1 Nov; c50 BCP 12 Nov; 2 Margnaheglish garden 29 Nov. Max return 52 High Kildonan 9 Oct.

Mistle Thrush

Breeding: juv BCP 18 Jun; pr with 3 imms Glen Cloy 15-16 Aug. Prs and singles seen at Dougarie, Glen Rosa, Lochranza, The Heights and Ross rd Jan/Jun. Larger nos Aug/Dec with 10 Bailemargaidh 5 Sep; 10 Balmichael 9 Sep; 9 Machrie Moor 15 Sep; 8 Monamore Forestry 24 Sep; 5 BCP 12 Nov; 12 Glenkiln Fm 12 Dec. Max 13 Machrie 15 Aug.

Grasshopper Warbler

Scarce, with arr 1 reeling Machrie Moor 22 May and 2-5 Jul; 1 the Lakin 18 Jun; 1 Clauchlands 25 Jul.

Sedge Warbler

Breeding: nest nr Machrie Fm Jun; juv Brodick 18 Jun; adult with juvs Sandbraes 23 Jun; nest Clauchlands 27 Jul. Arr 1 Kildonan 2 May, widespread by late May Brodick/Machrie, with max 5 holding territory Kildonan 14 Jun.



Lesser Whitethroat

No records.

Whitethroat

Breeding: no records, but probably bred in several locations. Arr 1 Clauchlands 5 May. All records came from Brodick/Blackwaterfoot, with max 3m 1f Clauchlands 11 May. Last 1 Clauchlands 26 Aug.

Garden Warbler

Breeding: pr nesting Brodick 6 Jun. Only 1 other record of 1 Glenashdale 5 Jun.

Blackcap

Breeding: no records, but probably bred in several locations. Singles and prs at bird tables in Lamlash and Whiting Bay during winter months, and at BCP, Merkland Wood, Glenashdale, Brodick and Kildonan Apr/Dec.

Wood Warbler

No breeding records. Arr 1 BCP 2 May, thereafter singles at Gorton Wood, Glenashdale, Thurgary, Glen Shurig and Glen Rosa May/Jul.

Chiffchaff

Breeding: adult with juv BCP 25 Jun. Arr 2 Pirmill 25 Mar, thereafter singles and prs between Brodick/Machrie Mar/Jul. Max 3 BCP 30 May, last 1 Auchenhew 24 Sep.

Willow Warbler

Breeding: nest with 7 eggs Whitehouse Woods, later predated; adult + yng Kings Cross 14 Jun; adult + 3 yng Whiting Bay 30 Jun; pr + 5 yng Clauchlands 8 Jul. Common and widespread with arr 1 Lagg, 1 Kilmory 7 Apr. Max 3 N Sannox picnic site 12 Apr, Machriewaterfoot 28 Apr and Fallen Rocks 15 Aug. Last 1 High Kildonan 17 Sep.

Goldcrest

Breeding: 10-12 incl juvs BCP 25 Jun; adult feeding 2 yng Torbeg 12 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat all yr, and a further inc in nos with max c60 Glenashdale mid Jun.

Spotted Flycatcher

Breeding: inc in records, with 5 eggs in nestbox Bailemargaidh 30 May, deserted 20 Jun; pr + 3 yng Dunan beg Jul; adult feeding 4 yng Shiskine Valley 15 Jul; pr feeding yng Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 3 Aug; pr + 1 juv BCP 4 Aug; pr with yng Kilmory 9 Aug. Arr 1 BCP 9 May, widespread by late May with max 4 Kings Cross 11 Aug. Last 1 High Kildonan 11 Sep.

Pied Flycatcher

f N Newton shore 28 Apr (J.Slowey).

Long-tailed Tit

Breeding: pr with yng Lochranza 3 Jun; 9 incl juvs Whiting Bay 11 Aug. Widespread in suitable habitat with very few records Jan/Jul, larger nos Aug/Dec; 8-10 BCP 26 Aug; c20 Monamore Forestry 9 Sep; c20 Kings Cross 15 Sep; c20 Lagg 23 Sep; 15-20 Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 23 Oct; max 22 Pirmill 19 Jul.

Nuthatch

Possible 1 Kildonan 28 May, but insufficient evidence for a record.

Coal Tit

Breeding: bred at Bailemargaidh; adult with 2 juvs BCP 3 Jul. Common and widespread in suitable habitat, and at bird tables during winter months, with max 7 Margnaheglis 2 Jan.

Blue Tit

Breeding: 1 nestbox at Mount Pleasant occupied, but later ousted by queen wasp; successful nestboxes at Mount Pleasant, Arranton and Whitehouse Woods to name but a few, also bred at Bailemargaidh; adult with 3 yng Corrie; pr with 5 yng Whiting Bay 14 Jun. Very common and widespread all yr with max 5 Blackwaterfoot 26 Feb.

Great Tit

Breeding: successful nest boxes at Mount Pleasant (f found dead in 1 box, but yng had already fledged); also successful in Whitehouse Woods and Bailemargaidh; pr + 2 juvs Margnahegligh 25 Jun; adult with 1 juv Fallen Rocks 15 Aug. Common and widespread all yr, with max 4 Margnahegligh during winter months.

Treecreeper

Breeding: nest with 3 yng Dunan beg Jun; adult with 4 yng Glenkiln Wood 12 Jun. Singles seen in suitable habitat all yr, with max 3 Clauchlands 21 May.

Magpie

1 Kildonan 3 Apr (T.Ross-Bain).

Jackdaw

Breeding: colony nesting N Newton Apr; no reports from other breeding colonies. Common and widespread all yr, with max 180 Blackwaterfoot 10 Aug.

Rook

Still no breeding records, and fewer records than last yr. No report from the Roddin. Other records incl c15-20 Corriecravie Jan; c5 Lochranza Jan/Feb (first record for this area); 1 Blackwaterfoot 23 Mar; 1 Machrie 29 May.

Carriion Crow /Hooded Crow

Breeding: 4 yng fledged Benlister Falls. Very common and widespread all yr.

Raven

Breeding: pr at nest Kilpatrick 18 Mar; nest Cleiteadh Buidhe 4 Apr; pr with 1 yng BCP 13 Jun. Common and widespread all yr, especially on higher ground, with max 25+ Brodick 26 Aug.

Starling

Breeding: bred in every village, but no figures available. Very common and widespread, with max 270 Blackwaterfoot 19 Jul.

House Sparrow

Breeding: bred in every village except Lochranza; sample pr with 5 yng Clauchlands 27 Jul. Common all yr, with max 37 Blackwaterfoot 27 Nov.

Tree Sparrow

No records.

Chaffinch

Breeding sample: nest at Mount Pleasant with 2 eggs later abandoned; successful nest Arranton 30 Apr. Very common and widespread all yr, with max 30+ Bailemargaidh 13 Apr.

Brambling

Only 2 records, with m Lamlash 10 Feb, seen occasionally until 21 Mar; f High Kildonan 28 Apr.

Greenfinch

Breeding: nested Arranton, Bailemargaidh and Kings Cross (success unknown); nested successfully Mount Pleasant May; 4 juvs Lagg 24 Jun; pr + 4 juvs Clauchlands 13 Jul; m feeding juv Cordon 18 Jul. Common and widespread all yr, with max 30+ Bailemargaidh 13 Apr and 30+ Drumadoon Fm 15 Aug.

Goldfinch

Breeding: pr with 4 yng Clauchlands 15 Aug. Inc in sightings, with more winter records than usual, with 1 Clauchlands, 2 Kings Cave 2 Jan; 1 Glen Rosa 14 Nov; and 5 Mount Pleasant 27 Nov. Common and widespread, with max c50 Cleat 30 Sep.

Siskin

Breeding: pr carrying nesting material High Kildonan 20 Apr; adults with juvs Corrie 13 Jun; f with 1 juv Lagg 20 Jul. Common in suitable habitat all yr, with max c40 Glenashdale 29 Dec.

Linnet

No breeding records. Common and widespread Mar/Oct, with up to 8 at Kerrs Port, Cleat, Blackwaterfoot, Auchencar and Machrie Mar/Aug; larger flocks in autumn with c45 Cleat 4 Sep, 10 Blackwaterfoot 10 Sep c30 Clauchlands 13 Sep; c30 Torrylinnwaterfoot 17 Sep; 70 Kilmory 8 Oct; c25 Corrie cravie 10 Oct; max c100 Cleat 25 Sep.

Twite

Low nos, with 2 Machrie 19 Sep; 2 with a flock of goldfinches Mount Pleasant, Lamlash 27 Nov.

Redpoll

No breeding records. Low nos, with 1 Ballegra 21 May; 2 South Bank Fm Pk 17 Jun; 3+ Dereneneach 28 Jun; pr N Kiscadale 17 Jul.

Crossbill

No breeding records. 15-20 Kilmory 11 Jun, up to 10 present Lagg Wood all summer; m BCP 11 Jun, small flock 25 Jun and 5 Aug; 6-7 Auchencairn 17-18 Jun and again 2 Jul; 7-10 Whitehouse Woods 19 Aug; 3 High Kildonan 26 Sep, m singing 31 Oct (new area); 3 Glenree Forestry 31 Dec, also new area.

Bullfinch

Breeding: juv Brodick 15 Jun; pr feeding juv BCP 19 Jun. Further inc in sightings in gardens and woodland all round the island Mar/Dec, with max 3 prs Brodick 28 Oct.

Snow Bunting

Good yr, with 2 Brodick 6 Nov; f Kings Cave 11 Nov; f Lochranza 13 Nov; 4 Imachar 19 Nov. Max 10 Sailor's Grave 5 Nov.

Yellowhammer

Breeding: pr nesting Blackwaterfoot 22 May, adult carrying food 28 May. Very local with most records coming from Shiskine Golf Course. Other records incl m S Feorline 2 May; m Cleat 3 May; 1 Lagg 24 Jun; 1 Kildonan 2 Jul; f Kings Cave 14 Aug; max 2m 3f Lamlash 27 Jan.

Reed Bunting

No breeding records. Nos remain low, and only 1 pr seen Cleat 13 Apr; singles incl 1 Machrie Moor 11 Mar; 1 Drumadoon Pt 20 Mar; m Glen Cloy 1 Apr; m Shiskine Golf Course 5 Apr; m nr Dippen 10 Aug.

Additions to 1997 Bird Report

Coot: 1 Sannox burn Nov (Dr.J.Gillies).

Great Skua: 1 Merkland Pt 27 Aug.

Puffin: 3 N Sannox picnic site Jun.

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Great Northern Diver	11	Red-legged Partridge x Chukar	16	Woodpigeon	21
Great Skua	32	Red-throated Diver	11	Wren	24
Great Spotted Woodpecker	23	Redpoll	31	Yellowhammer	31
Great Tit	29	Redshank	19		
Greenfinch	30	Redstart	25		
Greenshank	19				

KEY TO CHECKLIST:

R = resident (breeds)	P = passage migrants
R* = resident (no recent breeding records)	I = introduced
R** (no breeding records)	C = common
S = summer visitor (breeds)	U = uncommon
S* = summer visitor (no recent breeding records)	B* = formerly bred
S** = summer visitor (no breeding records)	O = occasional
W = winter visitor	V = vagrant
	X = pre 1956 records
	E = escaped

CHECK LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Red-throated Diver RC | 23. Mute Swan RC |
| 2. Black-throated Diver R*/PC | 24. Bewick's Swan V |
| 3. Great Northern Diver WU/PU | 25. Whooper Swan WU/PC |
| 4. Little Grebe WU | 26. Pink-footed Goose WO |
| 5. Great Crested Grebe V | 27. White-fronted Goose WO |
| 6. Red-necked Grebe WO | 28. Greylag Goose WC/PC |
| 7. Slavonian Grebe WO | 29. Canada Goose PO |
| 8. Black-necked Grebe WO | 30. Barnacle Goose WO |
| 9. Fulmar SC/WU | 31. Brent Goose WO |
| 10. Cory's Shearwater V | 32. Shelduck RC |
| 11. Sooty Shearwater V | 33. Wigeon WC |
| 12. Manx Shearwater SC/PC | 34. Teal SU/WC |
| 13. Mediterranean Shearwater V | 35. Mallard RC |
| 14. Storm Petrel PU | 36. Pintail PO |
| 15. Leach's Petrel V | 37. Shoveler B*/O |
| 16. Gannet S**/WU | 38. Pochard WO |
| 17. Cormorant RC | 39. Tufted Duck WU |
| 18. Shag RC | 40. Scaup WO |
| 19. Bittern V | 41. Eider RC |
| 20. Grey Heron RC | 42. King Eider V |
| 21. Spoonbill V | 43. Long-tailed Duck SO/WO |
| 22. Chilean Flamingo VE | 44. Common Scoter SO/WO |

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 45. Velvet Scoter WO | 85. Curlew Sandpiper V |
| 46. Goldeneye WC | 86. Purple Sandpiper WU |
| 47. Smew WO | 87. Little Stint PO |
| 48. Red-breasted Merganser RC | 88. Dunlin SU/WC |
| 49. Goosander WO | 89. Ruff V |
| 50. Red Kite X | 90. Jack Snipe WO |
| 51. White-tailed Eagle B*/V | 91. Snipe RC |
| 52. Marsh Harrier V | 92. Long-billed Dowitcher V |
| 53. Hen Harrier RC | 93. Woodcock RC |
| 54. Goshawk O | 94. Black-tailed Godwit PO |
| 55. Sparrowhawk RC | 95. Bar-tailed Godwit PU |
| 56. Buzzard RC | 96. Whimbrel PC |
| 57. Rough-legged Buzzard V | 97. Curlew RC |
| 58. Golden Eagle RC | 98. Spotted Redshank PO |
| 59. Osprey B*/PO | 99. Redshank RC |
| 60. Hobby V | 100. Greenshank PO |
| 61. Kestrel RC | 101. Green Sandpiper V |
| 62. Merlin R*/U | 102. Common Sandpiper SC |
| 63. Peregrine RC | 103. Turnstone S**U/WC |
| 64. Red Grouse RC | 104. Grey Phalarope VX |
| 65. Ptarmigan RU | 105. Red-necked Phalarope V |
| 66. Black Grouse B* | 106. Pomarine Skua V |
| 67. Capercaillie B*/X | 107. Arctic Skua SU |
| 68. Red-legged Partridge I | 108. Great Skua SU |
| 69. Grey Partridge B*/O | 109. Little Gull PO |
| 70. Quail B*/O | 110. Sabine's Gull V |
| 71. Pheasant RC | 111. Black-headed Gull R*/C |
| 72. Water Rail RU | 112. Common Gull RC |
| 73. Spotted Crake X | 113. Lesser Black-backed Gull SC/WU |
| 74. Moorhen RU | 114. Herring Gull RC |
| 75. Coot WO | 115. Glaucous Gull V |
| 76. Crane V | 116. Iceland Gull PO |
| 77. Oystercatcher RC | 117. Great Black-backed Gull RC |
| 78. Ringed Plover RC | 118. Kittiwake B*/PC |
| 79. Dotterel PO | 119. Ivory Gull VX |
| 80. Golden Plover SU/WU | 120. Sandwich Tern S**C/PC |
| 81. Grey Plover WO | 121. Roseate Tern B* |
| 82. Lapwing RU | 122. Common Tern SU |
| 83. Knot PO | 123. Arctic Tern SU |
| 84. Sanderling PO | 124. Little Tern PO |

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 125. Black Tern V | 165. Redstart SU |
| 126. Guillemot R**/C | 166. Whinchat SC |
| 127. Razorbill R**/C | 167. Stonechat RC |
| 128. Black Guillemot RC | 168. Wheatear SC |
| 129. Little Auk PO | 169. Ring Ouzel SU |
| 130. Puffin PO | 170. Blackbird RC |
| 131. Pallas's Sandgrouse VX | 171. Fieldfare WC |
| 132. Rock Dove RC | 172. Song Thrush RC |
| 133. Stock Dove O | 173. Redwing WC |
| 134. Woodpigeon RC | 174. Mistle Thrush RC |
| 135. Collared Dove RC | 175. Grasshopper Warbler SU |
| 136. Turtle Dove V | 176. Sedge Warbler SC |
| 137. Cuckoo SC | 177. Lesser Whitethroat SU |
| 138. Barn Owl RC | 178. Whitethroat SC |
| 139. Tawny Owl RU | 179. Garden Warbler SU |
| 140. Long-eared Owl RU | 180. Blackcap SC/WU |
| 141. Short-eared Owl RC | 181. Wood Warbler SC |
| 142. Nightjar SU | 182. Chiffchaff SC |
| 143. Swift S*/PU | 183. Willow Warbler SC |
| 144. Kingfisher R*U | 184. Yellow-browed Warbler V |
| 145. Hoopoe V | 185. Goldcrest RC |
| 146. Great Spotted Woodpecker O | 186. Spotted Flycatcher SC |
| 147. Wryneck V | 187. Pied Flycatcher S*/U |
| 148. Skylark RC | 188. Long-tailed Tit RC |
| 149. Sand Martin SC | 189. Willow Tit O |
| 150. Swallow SC | 190. Coal Tit RC |
| 151. House Martin SC | 191. Blue Tit RC |
| 152. Tree Pipit SU | 192. Great Tit RC |
| 153. Meadow Pipit RC | 193. Treecreeper RC |
| 154. Rock Pipit RC | 194. Golden Oriole V |
| 155. Yellow Wagtail B* | 195. Red-backed Shrike V |
| 156. Grey Wagtail RC | 196. Great Grey Shrike V |
| 157. Pied Wagtail RC | 197. Jay B*/X 209. Greenfinch RC |
| 158. White Wagtail B*/PC | 198. Magpie B*/O |
| 159. Waxwing WO | 199. Chough B*/X |
| 160. Dipper RC | 200. Jackdaw RC |
| 161. Wren RC | 201. Rook B*/WC/SU |
| 162. Dunnock RC | 202. Carrion/Hooded Crow RC |
| 163. Robin RC | 203. Raven RC |
| 164. Black Redstart PU | 204. Starling RC |

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205. House Sparrow RC	214. Redpoll RU
206. Tree Sparrow B*/U	215. Crossbill RU
207. Chaffinch RC	216. Bullfinch RC
208. Brambling WO	217. Hawfinch V
209. Greenfinch RC	218. Snow Bunting WO
210. Goldfinch RCWU	219. Yellowhammer RU
211. Siskin RC	220. Reed Bunting RU
212. Linnet SC/WU	221. Corn Bunting B*
213. Twite RU	222. Red-headed Bunting VE

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