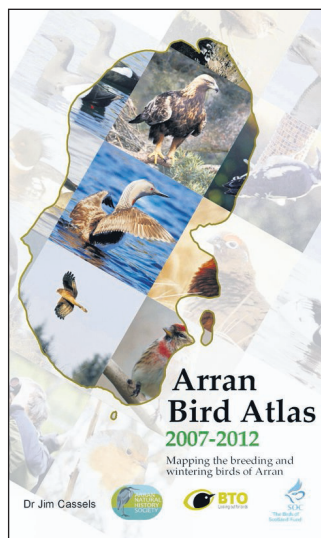


New guide to Arran bird life will fly off the bookshelves

Nearly 180 different species of birds have been recorded on Arran in the first ever comprehensive guide to bird life on the island.

And it has been dedicated to



The cover of the first ever Arran Bird Atlas

the first ever bird recorder on Arran, Maggie Dunn.

The Arran Bird Atlas maps all the breeding and wintering birds of Arran over a five-year period from 2007 and 2012 for the first time.

Under the direction of Dr Jim Cassels, the bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society, over 30 volunteers conducted fieldwork over the five years covering the whole of the island. In addition almost 700 people contributed bird sightings during these five breeding seasons and five winters.

The data collected contains over 36,000 records on 177 species and is an outstanding effort by residents and visitors, who share a passion for the birds of Arran.

Over 30 photographers got into the spirit of the publication and provided a wonderful range of images.

The work involved in this project was recognised nationally when the Marsh Local Ornithology Award was presented to the society in October 2013 by the Marsh Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology.

Photographs

The resulting full-colour publication has 168 pages containing more than 400 maps and more than 200 photographs and is aimed at the casual birdwatcher as well as scientists and conservationists.

With the support of funds from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Arran Trust, the society has kept the cost to an affordable £8.

Dr Cassels said: 'The publication gives an insight into the distribution of Arran's birds and provides a source of information for future land management. It is a must for

all with an interest in Arran.'

Mrs Dunn was a founder member of the Arran Natural History Society, which was formed in 1977, and as its first bird recorder produced the annual bird report until 1991.

A former local primary school teacher Mrs Dunn, who is now 90, is still an active bird watcher.

In his dedication to Mrs Dunn author Dr Cassels states: 'Both as a teacher and as a member of the society Maggie was and is an inspiration. Through her, many developed and shared her passion for the birds of Arran. In her role as a bird recorder she coordinated the Arran contribution to previous national bird atlases. In the year of this publication Maggie is 90 years young. Her enthusiasm for Arran and its birds continues.'



Maggie Dunn with a copy of the book which is dedicated to her. 20_b28atlas02

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