

Ayrshire Bird Report

2021

Edited by Angus Hogg and Dave Grant



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Front cover: Ayrshire's first Pallas's Warbler at Boswell House, Auchinleck Estate (*Dave Grant*)

Editorial

Welcome to the 2021 Ayrshire Bird Report. Another report finished, and another year “caught up.” The aim is to get the Ayrshire Bird Report back on track by the end of next year, but none of this would be possible without help from a great number of people, and particular thanks must go to our local recorder, Fraser Simpson, for his assistance with numerous queries regarding records. Please remember to keep sending your records to him at recorder@ayrshire-birding.org.uk or on any of the alternative recording systems e.g. BirdTrack.

For anyone who has submitted records and is wondering why they do not appear in the report, they still exist on the “master” spreadsheet held by the local recorder. This forms the base for the bird report, and these records are important in offering a more complete picture of events in Ayrshire for any given year, while the bird report concentrates on features like trends and highlights. Either way, one important aspect of SOC recording remains – verification. All records which appear within the report have been checked, and while occasional errors will occur from time to time, every effort is made to provide a totally accurate publication.

With the issue of verification in mind, it’s perhaps worth saying something about record submission. Occasionally, you might be lucky enough to find a bird which is scarce in the county, or even a national rarity. Recorders will usually ask the observer to submit anything from a few notes on the sighting, to writing up a description on an online form. Photographs of the bird taken at the time can also be a particularly useful addition.

It’s particularly important to help with this, since records of rare birds can’t be accepted by the recorder unless they’ve been verified. Normally, this task is undertaken by a body like the Scottish Birds Records Committee (SBRC) or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Your attention is drawn to a list of scarce or rare species appearing at the end of the report.

One or two other tips when submitting records:

- Location. Try to give the location of the nearest town or village to where you saw the bird. Many farms in Ayrshire share the same name, so it’s helpful if a nearby settlement is given. Additionally, if you have a map handy at the time, a six-figure grid reference is good.
- Counts. It is useful to have some idea of how many birds are present – even for low numbers of birds. A rough estimate would be adequate for large groups e.g. a flock of geese.

2021 was, in many ways, quite a remarkable year, with as many as 3 “new” birds added to the county list. Both Cetti’s Warbler and Pallas’s Warbler have already been accepted by the relevant assessment panels, while the Ross’s Goose is currently with the BBRC. In all these cases, photographs were available, helping to make the verification job that bit easier.

The report uses the systematic order currently adopted by both the British Ornithologists’ Union and the SOC. Some important changes to scientific names have appeared and we’ve adopted these too, along with the commonly used vernacular names. This is a constantly changing scene and one which we hope we’ve managed to keep up with. Also in the process of change are the species status symbols. This is still a work in progress, and we’re always looking for volunteers to help with bird report work.

Finally, our thanks are due to Kevin Waite for his continued help with the online provision of this report on the Ayrshire Birding website, Tom Byars for his annual Lesser Whitethroat report, and Dougie Edmond and Hayden Fripp for their photographic contributions.

Angus Hogg and Dave Grant

The Lesser Whitethroat in Ayrshire – 2021 by Tom Byars

Due to family health issues, field work was limited mainly to my I.C.I. study site in Ardeer. Four territories were found in Ayrshire, three in I.C.I. Ardeer, North Ayrshire, and the other at Bower Hill, South Ayrshire. The scarcity of Lesser Whitethroat records elsewhere in Ayrshire may reflect a low number of returning spring birds.

Arrival

The first bird to arrive was located on the west side of the study site, at Ardeer boundary Fence on 26th April.

Territories

A territorial male at Ardeer Boundary Fence on 28th April was probably the same bird as that on 26th April. Later, on 1st May, a pair was located roving between Ardeer boundary fence and Ardeer Fen. By 14th May, 3 territories had been located at:

- Ardeer Fen (West)
- Ardeer boundary fence
- Ardeer Fen (East)

In South Ayrshire, another male was found to be holding territory at a second study site, on Bower Hill on 7th May.

Breeding Summary

Two pairs located at Ardeer boundary Fence, had contiguous territories, both pairs visibly agitated by their proximity to each other on 22nd May. On 28th May two pairs in the same area were displaying vigorously to each other, with erect postures, raised crown feathers and shivering wings. They were also heard giving Blue Tit-like “chirrit” calls to each other. One of the breeding males here was caught on 29th May and ringed on the left leg with a BTO ring.

On 5th June, a pair was watched making long food forays into Ardeer Fen (East), 200m away from the hidden nest location at Ardeer boundary fence – maybe to avoid challenges from other breeding pairs? This pair (including the ringed male) was seen taking caterpillars and *tipulidae* from hawthorn canopy and flying 200m back to the nest site. The other (unringed) pair collected food from hawthorn canopy in Ardeer boundary fence on 9th June avoiding any interaction with its neighbours.

By 12th June, the pair (including the ringed male) was feeding three recently fledged young, hidden in dense gorse & bramble scrub, giving “neigh” begging food calls. At this stage they would be just a day out of nest. On 18th June, it was a hive of activity at Ardeer boundary fence as seven individuals were present within a ten square metre area. The breeding pair (including the ringed male) was feeding three fledged young, approximately seven days out of nest, with the other breeding pair in close proximity, but not interacting with the feeding party.

I found the nest of one of the breeding pairs at **Ardeer boundary fence** on 21st June. It was in a dense patch of rosebay willowherb, gorse & bramble. The nest was anchored to three bramble stems running horizontally underneath the nest base, using the tiny spines running longitudinally on the bramble stems (1-3mm in length) to hook and fasten the nest base, Velcro-like, very securely. This is the first time I’ve seen this form of adherence of the nest to bramble spines. Normally the nest is woven around three vertical branches with the nest rim having three points of contact. The nest’s height was only 66.5cm from the ground, also making it one of the lowest nest placements recorded in the long-term study (this observation was submitted as a short note to *Scottish Birds* and has been accepted).

The unringed male at Ardeer boundary fence was still singing on territory on 21st June, indicating that this pair may have failed to breed successfully. By 27th June, the successful family party of two adults and three juveniles were still at Ardeer boundary fence, and the unringed male was still singing. Two birds were also mist netted, an adult female and a juvenile – both BTO ringed on the right leg.

Ringling

In total, three birds were caught in the I.C.I. study site at Ardeer boundary fence (probably from the same family party).

Key to Symbols and Abbreviations in the Systematic List

Each species entry has a header giving the species name, its scientific name, and an indication of its status. Species are now arranged in the currently accepted IOC order which has been adopted by the SOC. The following symbols are used:

♂ = male(s). ♀ = female(s). C/5 = clutch of 5. B/4 = brood of 4.

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
A	Accidental (5 records or less)	B	Breeds (≥ 25 pairs/territories reported/year)
R	Rare (20 records or less)	b	Breeds (<25 pairs/territories reported/year)
U	Uncommon (20 records or less/year)	(B)	Casual or occasional breeder
C	Common (≥ 20 records/year)	FB	Former breeder
S	Summer visitor (s if less regular)	R	Resident
W	Winter visitor (w if less regular)	E	Introduced or escaped
P	Passage migrant (p if less regular)	*	Record is subject to acceptance by the relevant records committee.

List of Contributors:

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With apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

Systematic List 2021

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* U w P

Pale-bellied race *B. b. hrota*: the small, but increasing, wintering group was again present at Maidens (and Croy) in both winter periods.

Dark-bellied race *B. b. bernicla*: ad Ballantrae 26 Apr (RHH)

Winter-Spring: 17 Maidens 21 Jan – 25 Feb, 20 Maidens 13 – 15 Mar, 20 Croy 15 Mar, 20 Maidens 17 Mar, 16 on 20 Mar, 17 on 22 Mar, 4 on 12 Apr, 7 on 15 Apr.

Autumn-Winter: 4 Maidens 11 Sep, 7 Stevenston Point 12 Sep, 8 on 14-20 Sep, 4 Maidens 23 Sep, 60 Ardrossan on 29 Sep, 11 Maidens 1 Oct, 10 on 2 Oct, 2 on 3-4 Oct, 5 on 5 Oct, 24 Noddsdale Water 14 Oct, 1 Hunterston 24-29 Oct, 3 Maidens 12-15 Nov, 10 on 17 Nov, 13 on 1-9 Dec, 15 (inc 7 juvs) on 20 Dec.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* C B P

Breeding pairs were located at Auchincross (B/4 noted), Loch Macaterick (B/4 noted), Outerwards Res (B/3 noted), Loch Riecawr (B/2 noted),

Counts at main sites	
Kerse Bridge	200 on 10 Dec.
Martnaham Loch	120 on 1 Jan, 260 on 6 Jan, 284 on 12 Jan, 148 on 22 Jan, 300 on 12 Feb, 160 on 24 Jul, 354 on 13 Aug, 233 on 10 Sep, 258 on 9 Nov.
Bogside	334 on 18 Sep.
Fail	540 on 2 Oct, 1200 on 3 Oct, 1254 on 12 Oct, 883 on 13 Oct.
Elsewhere	170 Barcraigs Res on 8 Feb, 125 on 11 Feb, 180 Auchincross 18 Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* U w P

Winter-spring: 2 Hunterston 3 Jan, 1 Martnaham 12 Jan – 15 Apr, 2 Fail 18 Jan, 40 flew N Ness Glan on 24 Apr.

Autumn-winter: 1 Hunterston 14 Aug, 21 on 5 Nov, 7 on 28 Nov, 80 on 26 Dec, 56 on 30 Dec, 3 Garnock Floods 15 Sep, 1 Bogside on 29 Sep, 24 Annbank 9 Oct, 200 Bogside 12 Oct, 680 on 12 Oct, 545 on 14 Oct, 190 Crosshill 12 Oct, 120 Martnaham on 12 Oct, 855 Patna 12 Oct, 700 Saltcoats 12 Oct, 56 Fail 15 Oct, 86 on 19 Oct, 58 on 20 Oct, 60 on 21 Oct, 67 on 25 Oct, 120 on 3 Nov, 84 on 5 Nov, 106 on 7 Nov, 20 on 21 Nov, 166 Irvine Harbour 20 Oct.



Barnacle Geese at Fail (*Angus Hogg*)

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* C b W

Breeding pairs included: Auchincross (B/4 noted).

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston/Southannan	100 on 6 Jan, 280 on 6 Jan, 126 on 21 Mar, 100 on 6 Apr.
Tarbolton-Martnaham	250 on 2 Jan, 145 28 Feb, 200 on 6 Apr, 273 on 9 Apr, 160 on 13 Apr.
Fail	152 on 19 Jan, 118 on 20 Feb, 136 on 27 Mar, 150 on 9 Apr.
Auchincross	154 on 25 Feb, 309 on 6-7 Mar.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston/Southannan	500 on 9 Aug, 260 on 18 Aug, 350 on 26 Sep, 250 on 26 Dec.
Tarbolton-Martnaham	259 on 10 Sep, 239 on 14 Sep, 276 on 10 Dec.
Fail	141 on 12 Oct, 155 on 19 Oct.
Elsewhere	195 Dalmaca 6 Oct, 165 Blairbowie 21 Nov, 400 East Kerse Farm 2 Dec, 300 Burn Gill 9 Dec.



Greylag Goose at Martnaham (Dave Grant)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* C W P

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Loans	1000 on 2 Jan, 1633 on 8 Feb, 2811 on 13 Feb.
Martnaham Loch	1000 on 2 Jan, 2350 on 5-6 Jan, 1000 on 22 Jan, 800 on 21 Jan, 1150 on 12 Feb, 450 on 5-9 Apr, 650 on 15 Apr, 400 on 16 Apr.
Blairbowie	1000 on 22 Jan, 750 on 15 Mar, 350 on 6 Apr.
Fail	340 on 16 Jan, 2300 on 17 Jan, 250 on 19 Jan, 3000 on 6 Mar, 1600 on 15 Mar, 600 on 3 Apr, 400 on 6 Apr, 1100 on 9 Apr.
Elsewhere	1262 Ochiltree 9 Feb, 1250 Lochlea 6 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Loans	4000 on 18 Oct, 500 on 29 Oct, 1000 on 3 Nov.
Fail	300 on 2 Oct, 760 on 3 Oct, 1500 on 11 Oct, 4022 on 12 Oct, 1236 on 13 Oct, 4000 on 18 Oct, 1311 on 19 Oct, 1700 on 20 Oct, 300 on 3 Nov, 5000 on 4 Nov, 1500 on 6 Nov, 830 on 21 Nov.
Martnaham Loch	11 on 5 Oct, 3 on 3 Nov.
Elsewhere	250 Kileekie 21 Oct, 131 Hunterston 5 Dec, 180 on 8 Dec, 145 on 9 Dec, 100 on 26 Dec.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* A / E

An ad was present with a flock of Pink-footed Geese at Fail from 4 – 11 Nov DGr/HF et al), then at Hunterston from 28 Nov – 17 Dec.

** Note: Following the acceptance by BOURC of a Ross's Goose in eastern Scotland a few weeks prior to the Ayrshire sighting, a report has been submitted on 24 Nov 2023. Outcome pending.



Adult Ross's Goose at Fail (*Dougie Edmond*)

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* R w P

Greenland race <i>flavirostris</i> U w P
5 ads Fail 19-22 Jan, then Martnaham 12 Feb. 4 Ochiltree 30 Jan, 5 Raith Res 3 Mar, 2 Troon 13 Mar, 2 Fail 21-24 Dec, 5 Nith floodplain 26 Dec. A flock of 165 reported flying S over Ayr 12 Oct & 30 on 13 Oct.
Russian race <i>albifrons</i> U w P
2 x 1 st w River Nith floodplain 17-28 Feb.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* C B

Breeding results:

Site	Result	Site	Result
Auchenharvie	B/8	Ladyton Loch	B/2 > B/1
Common Loch	B/3	Lands of Turnberry	B/5
Culzean CP	pr	Largs	B/6
Dipple	pr – no young	Martnaham Loch	B/4
Garnock lagoons	B/8	Pinbraid	B/8
Girvan	B/6	Rozelle	B/2
Kay Park	B/2	Seamill	B/8
Kilbirnie Loch	B/3	Trabboch Loch	2 prs – no young
Kirkbride pond	pr failed		

** A pair seen at Maidens had B/6 on 1 Jun, but soon lost 5 juvs. The nest location was unknown.

Counts at main sites	
Saltcoats	39 on 17 Apr.
Martnaham	32 on 6 Jan, 37 on 9 Jan, 38 on 12 Jan.
Ayr-Doonfoot	34 on 21 Apr, 100 on 8 May, 55 on 7 Jun, 47 on 10 Jul, 141 on 18 Jul, 140 on 8 Aug, 90 on 12 Aug, 70 on 16 Aug.
Elsewhere	55 Auchenharvie 24 Feb, 40 Auchincross 28 Nov, 37 on 2 Dec.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* C W

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Bogton Loch	2 on 25 Jan, 3 on 7 Feb, 4 on 12 Feb, 14 on 15 Feb, 6 on 6 Mar, 28 on 31 Mar.
Martnaham-Loch Fergus -Fail	13 on 12 Feb, 1 on 24 Feb.
Elsewhere	26 Little Foulton 3 Feb, 36 Maybole 5-11 Feb, 23 Chapeldonan 6 Feb, 31 on 20 Mar, 23 Dipple 8 Feb, 50 Ayr 22 Mar, 61 Nith floodplain 22-23 Mar, 26 Raith Res 24 Mar, 1 still on 30 Apr, 24 Kilbirnie 1 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Garnock	53 on 15 Oct, 40 on 16 Oct.
Martnaham Loch-Fergus-Broomhill	18 on 21 Oct, 12 on 12 Nov.
Fail	The first autumn arrivals were 28 on 11 Oct, 14 on 26 Oct, 21 on 31 Oct, 40 on 1-3 Nov, 12 on 21 Nov.
Elsewhere	50 Girvan on 15 Oct, 55 Newton on 15 Oct, 23 Doonfoot 19 Oct, 31 Craigdow 3 Nov, 24 Noth floodplain 12 Nov, 17 on 26 Dec.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* C b

Breeding results from N Ayrshire southwards: Hunterston (B/1), Ardrossan (B/5), Maidens (creche of 15), Baltersan, Maybole (B/1). Other prs noted at Hallowshean, Heronsford.

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston Sands	66 on 12 Jan, 100 on 14 Feb, 58 on 20 Mar, 52 on 8 May, 24-31 Oct, 50 On 7 Nov, 70 on 26 Dec.
Croy	9 on 11 Feb, 12 on 20 Mar.
Maidens	17 on 24 Jan, 19 on 27 Jan, 17 on 11 Mar.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* E

♀ Martnaham 1-8 Jan, also at Burnhead 5 Apr, possibly same between Fail/Martnaham/Dalmaca 11 Oct-9 Nov.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata* E

2 ♂♂ reported Dumfries House 9 May.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* R (B)

♀ Garnock Floods 27-27 Apr (SMcM), ♂ Garnock Floods 29 Apr (FMcC), ♂ Outerwards Res 27 May (RH), 1 Hunterston 14 Aug (SMcM), 2 juv ♂♂ flew S Maidens 13 Sep (RHH).

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* U b w P

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Garnock Floods	♂ 29 Mar – 1 Apr, pair 4-16 Apr.
Fail	♂ 27 Feb, ♂ 2 – 3 Apr.
Martnaham	♂ 5 Jan-7 Feb, 2 ♂♂ 8 Feb, pair 26 Feb – 29 Apr, ♂ 26 May.
Elsewhere	1 Troon 3-4 Jan, ♂ Blairbowie 25 Mar, ♂ Trabboch 26-27 Mar, ♂ Auchincross 15 May, pair on 27 May.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Garnock floods	2 on 25 Aug, 2 on 29 Aug, 3 on 31 Aug, 2 on 5 Sep, 4 on 6 Sep, 2 on 11 Sep, 7 on 17 Sep, 3 on 22 Sep, 4 on 26 Sep.
Elsewhere	3 Capringstone on 29 Aug, 2 flew N Kileekie 29 Sep, 1 Trabboch on 6 Oct, ♀ Fail 30-31 Oct.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* U (B)

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston	4 on 17 Jan, 2 on 20 Mar, 2 on 18 Apr.
Irvine-Bogside-Garnock	4 on 21 Feb, 10 on 11 Mar, 10 on 16 Mar, 6 on 27 Mar, 8 on 1 Apr, 10 on 5 Apr, 2 on 9 Apr, 8 on 12 Apr, 2 on 5 May, 2 on 6 Jun, 5 on 25 Nov.
Culzean	3 on 22 Jan, 2 on 11 Feb, 2 on 7 Oct, 4 on 16 Nov, 3 on 21 Nov, 2 on 27 Nov, 8 on 28 Nov.
Auchincross	11 on 28 Nov, 10 on 30 Nov, 5 on 2 Dec, 7 on 18 Dec.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* C (B) W

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston	560 on 12 Jan, 400 on 26 Sep, 500 on 24 Oct, 300 on 31 Oct, 600 on 5 Nov, 625 on 4 Dec, 300 on 16 Dec.
Ardrossan-Farland Head	8 on 2 Apr, 12 on 1 Oct, 43 on 19 Nov.
Capringstone	1 on 17 Jul, 20 on 29 Oct, 371 on 1 Dec.
Irvine-Bogside-Garnock	260 On 30 Jan, 35 on 10 Feb, 100 on 11 Feb, 36 on 16 Sep, 20 on 25 Oct, 200 on 14 Nov, 50 on 22 Nov, 13 on 24 Dec.
Pow Burn	500 on 17 Feb, 130 on 23 Nov, 141 on 2 Dec.
Blairbowie	180 on 14 Jan, 134 on 22 Jan, 130 on 24 Feb, 160 on 1 Nov, 140 on 21 Nov, 300 on 1 Dec, 207 on 10 Dec, 100 on 27 Dec.
Elsewhere	134 Loans on 22 Jan, 221 on 4 Feb, 338 on 6 Feb.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* C B W

In the breeding season 12 sites reported broods totalling 91 juvs. First brood out on 24 Apr.

Counts at main sites	
Kay Park	140 on 24 Jan, 145 on 11 Feb, 65 on 23 Oct.
Barassie-Loans	78 on 4 Feb, 107 on 12 Feb, 91 on 19 Dec, 105 on 20 Dec.
Fail	200 On 30 Oct.
Newton-on -Ayr	55 on 15 Jul, 82 on 13 Aug, 54 on 11 Sep.
Trabboch	151 on 8 Aug, 80 on 26 Sep, 130 on 4 Oct, 92 on 2 Dec, 150 on 27 Dec.
Martnaham	125 on 1 Jan, 115 on 2 Jan, 51 on 10 Feb, 68 on 24 Jul, 87 on 10 Sep.
Doonfoot	102 on 9 Jan, 80 on 12 Aug.
Blairbowie	138 on 20 Oct, 138 on 30 Oct.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* U w P

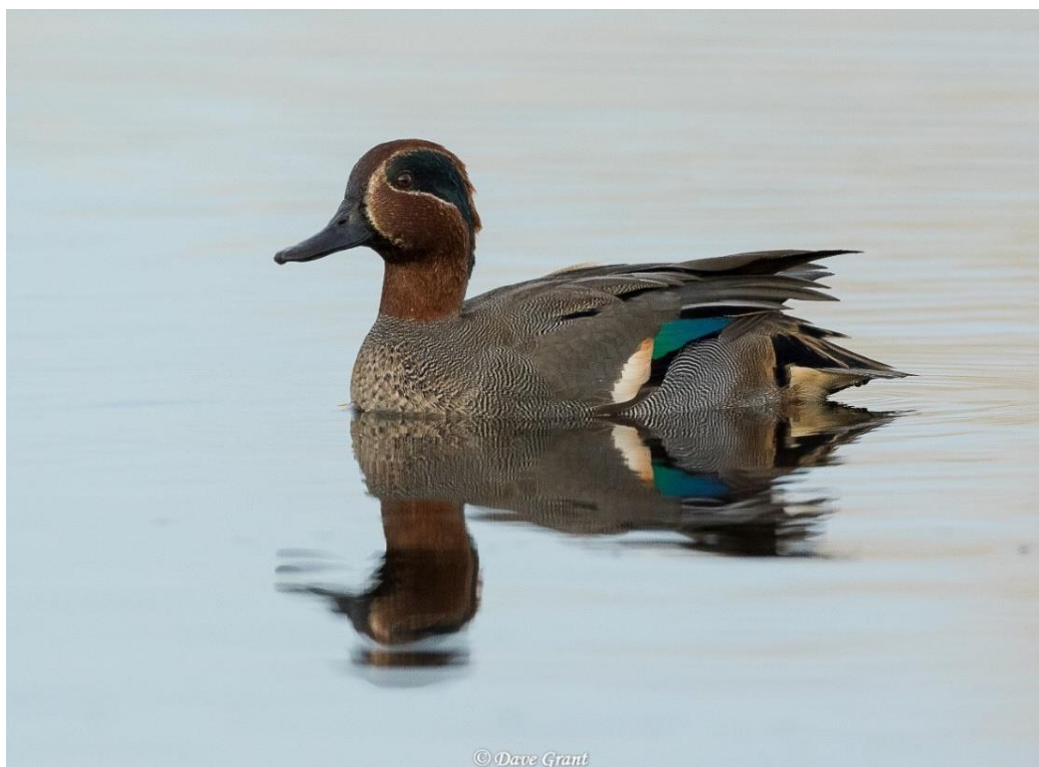
In spring: 3 (2♂♂, ♀) Hunterston 12 Jan, 2♂♂ Loans 11 Jan-4 Feb, 4 (3♂♂, ♀) Raith Res 17 Feb.

In autumn: 2 (pr) Martnaham 10-14 Sep, 3 Eglinton on 16 Sep, 7 Hunterston 27 Sep, 4♂♂ Southannan Sands 9 Dec, 3 (2 ♂♂, ♀) on 17 Dec.

Common Teal *Anas crecca* C b W

No breeding records were reported.

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston-Southannan	200 on 6 Jan, 280 on 12 Jan, 200 on 14 Oct, 174 on 5 Nov, 100 on 15 Nov.
Fail	172 on 27 Feb, 106 on 13 Mar, 114 on 17 Oct, 146 on 19 Oct.
Auchincross	116 on 9 Nov, 185 on 13 Nov.
Blairbowie	120 on 20 Jan, 120 on 25 Feb, 154 on 3 Mar, 535 on 30 Oct, 200 on 10 Dec.



Drake Teal at Doonfoot (Dave Grant)

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* R w

A ♂ was present at Blairbowie from 7-15 Apr (AAM et al).



Green-winged Teal at Blairbowie (Angus Hogg)

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* C (B) W

Counts at main sites	
Kilbirnie Loch	♂ on 14-18 Nov.
Trabboch Loch	♂ on 22 Feb – 30 Mar, ♂ on 6 Oct.
Martnaham	♂ on 10-11 Sep.
Elsewhere	♂ Creoch Loch on 12 Mar, ♂ Auchincross on 23 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* R w p

A single, long staying ♂ Martnaham 1 Jan - 17 Apr (DGr *et al.*). Probably the same, returning ♂ was also at Martnaham from 21-29 Dec.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* C b W

Counts at main sites	
Trabboch Loch	26 on 5 Feb, 26 on 15 Mar, 23 on 15 Apr.
Martnaham Loch	115 on 1 Jan, 108 on 7 Feb, 138 on 17 Apr, 109 on 22 Nov, 122 on 10 Dec, 160 on 26 Dec.
Auchincross	55 on 18 Dec.
Elsewhere	80 Loch o' the Lowes on 27 Feb, 75 Blairbowie on 2 Nov.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* U W

Counts at main sites	
Auchenharvie GC	2 on 31 Jan, 5 on 24 Feb, 4 on 15 Mar, 5 on 22-27 Mar, 3 on 5-11 Apr, 1 on 21 Nov.
Rowbank & Barcraigs Res	3 on 16-22 Feb.
Kilbirnie Loch	7 on 7 Nov, 8 on 14-18 Nov, 2 on 1 Dec.
Martnaham	1 on 26 May, 2 on 23 Sep, 1 on 12-13 Oct, 6 on 21 Oct, 2 on 30 Oct, 1 on 10-31 Dec.
Auchincross	1 on 25 Feb, 1 on 6-7 Mar, 1 on 6 Apr 1 on 27 Sep, 1 on 28-31 Dec.
Elsewhere	3 Troon on 21 Oct, 1 Maidens on 1 Nov.



Greater Scaup at Auchenharvie (Dougie Edmond)

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* A

An ad ♂ was at Auchincross from 28-31 Dec (MH et al).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* C B

Breeding was reported at Horse Isle where 177 nests were recorded, with 103 recorded clutches. Other broods and creches included a creche of 40 Saltcoats harbour 30 May, B/6 Stevenston Point 5 Jun, creche of 20 Troon S beach 5 Jun, B/1 Balkenna 16 Jun, 5 broods totalled 12 juvs Fairlie 17 Jun, B/3 Maidens 18 Jul. First B/7 was out at Garnock estuary on 22 May.

Counts at main sites	
Stevenston Point - Farland Head	50 on 20 Feb, 77 on 1 Mar, 61 on 10 May, 56 on 7 Aug, 64 on 4 Sep.
Troon-Gailes	200 on 4 Mar, 172 on 28 Oct, 200 on 9 Dec.
Turnberry Point-Dipple	300 on 2 Jan, 60 on 22 Feb, 230 on 13 Apr, 350 on 16 Jun, 220 on 28 Jul, 87 on 27 Aug.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* U W

In spring: ♂ flew S Chapeldonan 31 Mar, ♂ flew N Ballantrae 14 May.

In autumn: 1 flew N Dunure 17 Sep, ♀ Stevenston Point 1 Oct, 2 ♂♂ flew S Maidens 11 Oct, juv Saltcoats 17 Oct.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* C W P

Counts at main sites	
Stevenston Point-Irvine Bay	41 on 3 Jan, 60-95 on 15-27 Dec.
Croy-Dipple	34 on 25 Apr, 45 on 14 May, 32 on 13 Sep.
Elsewhere	45 Ballantrae 14 May, 59 Prestwick 11 Jul.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* U W

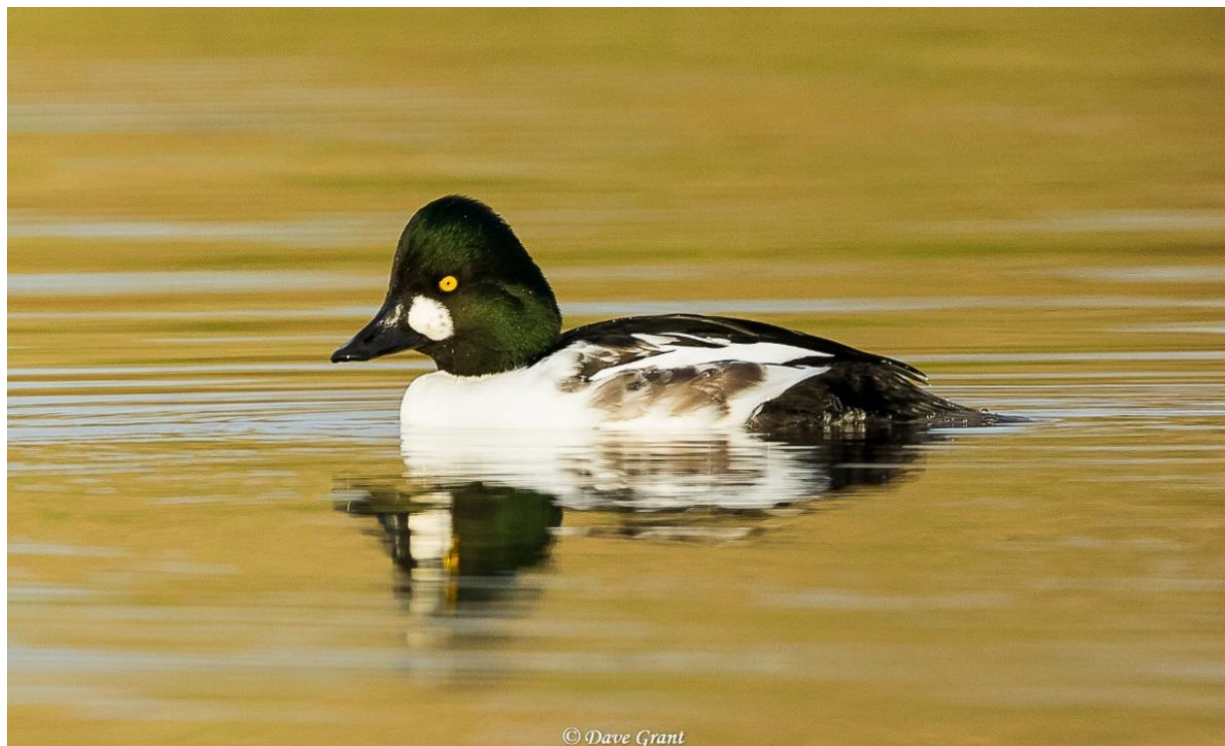
Counts at main sites	
Stevenston Point	1 on 4 Jan, 3 on 15 Mar, 9 on 23 Mar, 10 on 1 Oct, 2 on 6 Nov, 1 on 21-22 Nov.
Ayr-Prestwick	8 on 1 Jan-23 Mar, 1 on 30 Dec.
Croy-Girvan	5 Dipple 8-12 Jan, 6 on 24 Jan-20 Apr, 2 on 20 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Loch o' th' Lowes 21-26 Oct, 1 Martnaham 20-27 Dec.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* C W

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Bogside	20 on 5 Apr, 4 on 9 Apr.
Rowbank/Barcraigs Res	20 on 22 Jan, 20 on 17 Feb, 15 on 11 Mar, 10 on 15 Apr.
Martnaham Loch	32 on 2 Jan, 77 on 12 Feb, 52 on 17 Mar, 41 on 6 Apr, 2 on 2 May.
Elsewhere	25 Doonfoot on 9 Jan, 16 on 27 Jan, 11 on 15 Mar,

Summering birds: 1 Irvine harbour 6 Jul, ♀ Martnaham Loch 2-11 Sep.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Bogside	4 on 16 Nov, 9 on 21 Nov, 6 on 16 Dec, 5 on 28 Dec.
Martnaham Loch	8 on 30 Oct, 26 on 22 Nov, 44 on 21 Dec.
Auchincross	14 on 13 Nov, 18 on 28 Nov, 41 on 2 Dec, 51 on 18 Dec.
Elsewhere	First of autumn - imm ♂ Maidens 25 Oct. 13 Culzean 17 Dec.



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Goldeneye male (Dave Grant)

Smew *Mergellus albellus* U W

A pr was present at Auchincross 11-12 May (DGr).

Goosander *Mergus merganser* C b w

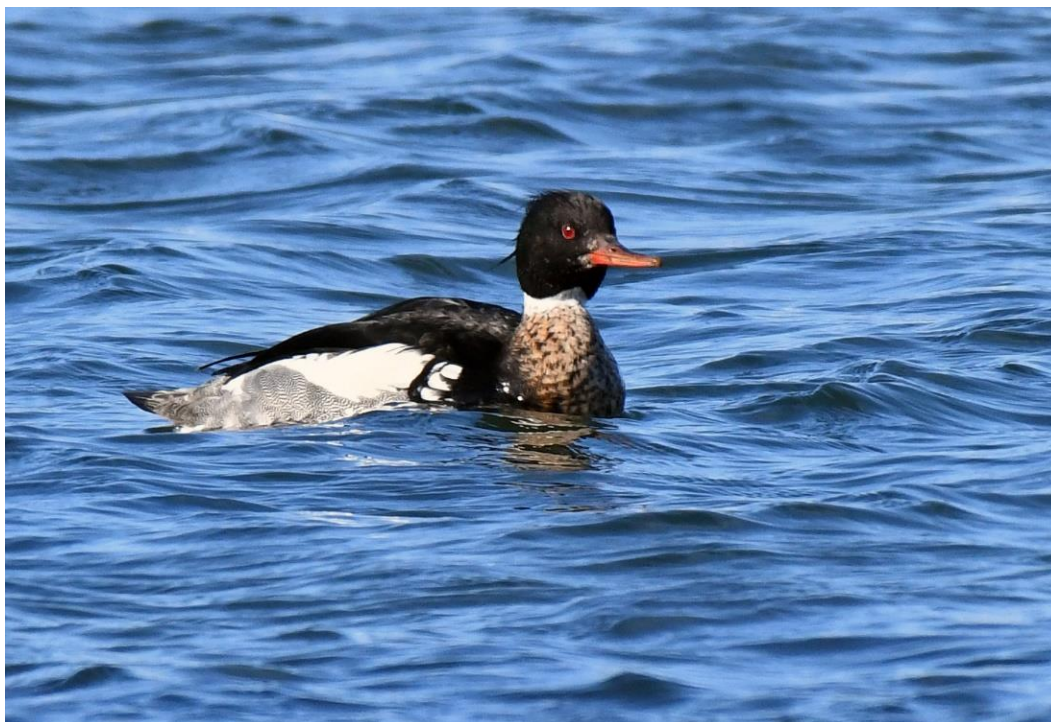
Breeding reports included B/6 Annbank 18 May, B/6 Bogton Loch 4 Jun, B/5 Doonfoot 22 May, B/4 Garnock estuary 24 May.

Counts at main sites	
Bogside	4 on 2 Jan, 2 on 30 Mar, 5 on 24 May, 18 on 6 Sep, 10 on 28 Oct.
Martnaham Loch	10 on 14 Jan, 4 on 7 Feb, 3 on 29 Dec.
Ayr-Doonfoot	6 on 18 Apr, 45 on 9 Jul, 67 on 28 Aug, 48 on 7 Sep, 5 on 7 Nov.
Other sites	22 Kilbirnie 16 Feb, 76 Prestwick Bay 14 Sep.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* C b p

No reports were received from former breeding sites.

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston	14 on 30 Mar, 7 on 19 Apr, 13 on 10 Sep, 42 on 18 Sep, 9 on 24 Oct.
Ayr-Prestwick-Troon	2 on 14 Feb, 3 on 1 Jun, 26 on 18 Oct, 4 on 8 Dec.
Maidens-Dipple	4 on 2 Jan, 3 on 20 Mar, 9 on 27 Aug, 3 on 3 Oct, 6 on 20 Dec.



Red-breasted Merganser at Maidens (Angus Hogg)

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* U b

Very few records, with most coming from breeding areas: 1 Loch Bradan 6 Mar, 2 Stinchar Bridge 6 Mar, 2 Blackcraig Hill 13 May, 1 Wardlaw Hill 18 Sep, 1 Cairnadoch 27 Dec.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix* U b

Submitted details are scant, but 3 ♂♂ reported from one lek site in the south during Mar and Nov represents a further decline in numbers there.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* U b

No breeding records of this rapidly declining species, but still present in former breeding areas at Sandyford (2 on 30 Apr, and Croy (2 on 14 Apr).

Counts: 9 Sandyford 3 Jan, 1 Gypsy Pool 12 Jun, 5 Girvan Mains 2 Dec.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* C B

Although breeding in the wild is widespread, the only breeding records came from Dupin (8 juvs noted), Brisbane Mains, Hillhouse, and Killoch Mauchline where 30+ juvs may have been introduced for shooting.

Widespread reports from the following areas: Barrmill, Kelburn CP, Outerwards Bridge, Fairlie, Hunterston, Stevenston, Ardeer Fen, Garnock Floods, Bogside, Dean Castle CP, Sorn, Fail, Annbank, Trabboch, Doonfoot, Doonside, Martnaham, Brown Carrick, Croy, Brunston Castle, Turnberry-Dipple, Lendalfoot.

Noteworthy reports included "a few" Cairn Table 27 Feb, 110 Culzean 7 May, 52 on 18 Sep.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* R (B)

A good year, with at least 3 singing birds reported. The first ♂ was heard at Watsonburn on 26 May (PM).

2 ♂♂ were present over a wide area in the Caldrongill-Fail-Tarbolton area from 5 Jun-17 Aug (DG/MMcG/FMcC *et al.*).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* E (B)

Few records received, including 10 Burton Farm 6 Jan, singles at Doonfoot 8 Jan, Balchriston 24 Mar, 1 Apr, Fisherton 5 Apr, 2 Greenan 17 Apr, 2 Heads of Ayr 7 May.

Common Swift *Apus apus* C B S p

No estimates on breeding numbers, but breeding birds were seen at the following locations: Largs, Beith, Saltcoats, Kilmarnock, Troon, Culzean CP, Dailly and Crosshill where at least 1 juv on 11 Aug.

Arrival was from 27 Apr when 1 was at Girvan. A party of 8 flew past Balnawlar on 2 May, 2 were at Martnaham Loch on 2 May, followed by 4 singles at Dalry, Shawfarm ind est, Dean Castle CP and Hunterston between 4 and 8 May.

Feeding flocks or departing parties included 30+ Auchincross 22 Jun, 60 Gogo Burn Largs 3 Jul, 42 Culzean 7 Jul, 16 Dailly 19 Jul, 45 New Farm Loch 3 Aug, 21 Sharpill Rd Saltcoats 4 Aug, 15 Crosshouse 8 Aug.

Most departed by mid Aug, the last birds being singles at Collennan and Sharpill Rd Saltcoats on 21 Aug and 2 at Hurlford on 31 Aug.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* C B S p

During the breeding season territorial ♂♂ included birds at Cowan's Law-Hareshawmuir (6), Craigenrae (3), Dupin (3), Outerwards (2), Fairlie (2), Wellwood Bridge (2), Corsencon (2), Auchincross (2), Upper Glen App (2), Laigh Middleton, Blairpark Largs, Poteath, Hillhouse, Knock Castle, Drumboy Hill, Muirkirk, Burns' Cairn, Craigfin, Loch William, Dalnean Hill, Eriff plantation, Garpel Bridge, Craigfad, Balbeg, Loch Bradan water treatment works, Linfern Loch, Ballochbeatties, Barr, Dobbingstone Burn, Craigdow Hill, Craigens Kirkoswald, Brown Carrick, Daltippan Girvan, Pinbraid, Bellamore, Mark Pinwherry, Reuchal, Wheeb, Kirriereoch, Maggie Osborne's Bridge, Darnaconnar, Knockycoid, Arnshean, Laigh Drumlamford, Lochend, Loch Dornal.

Arrival was from 15 Apr when 1 was at Loch Doon. This was followed by singles at Ness Glen on 22 Apr, Benwhat on 24 Apr, Glenburn Res and Craigens Kirkoswald on 25 Apr, and Kirkleegreen Res on 28 Apr.

Departing juvs were noted at North Rottenburn on 23 Jul and Ballochling Loch on 24 Jul.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* C B

Counts included 68 Prestwick 29 Jan, 64 Muirhead 30 Jan, 165 on 4 Jun, 35 Dunure 30 May, 40 Culzean 28 Jul, 45 Ayr (S) 8 Aug, 30+ Seamill 1 Oct, 36 Mochrum Loch 4 Oct, 24 Maybole Castle 16 Oct.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* C B w

Breeding pairs or territorial ♂♂ were reported from Hunterston-Portencross (5+), Kelburn CP, Newfield, Loans, Martnaham, Rozelle, Culzean, Segganwell, Auchincross, Grimmet Dalmellington, Craigengillan, Dalcairney, Craigfad, Glenauchie, St John's Cottage Maybole, Barcully, Drumgirnan, Bargany, Craigencallie, Oaknowe.

Counts included 8 Fail 6 Feb, c30 on 13 Oct, 7 Rozelle 1 Mar, 10 Hunterston PS 18 Mar,

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* C B W

Very few flocks > 30 recorded: 113 Troon South Woods 1 Feb, 50 Hillhouse 13 Feb, 199 Loans 19 May, 138 Collennan 15 Sep, 40 Sorn 19 Sep, c500 Fail 13 Oct, 60 Garnock Floods 17 Nov, 63 Ardeer 21 Nov, 220 Southannan Sands 10 Dec.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* C B

Breeding birds were recorded from most of lowland Ayrshire, mostly in or near urban areas.

13 Muirhead 13 Aug was the highest count, suggesting that, in most areas, numbers have now stabilised.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* C b W

Birds seen or heard in suitable breeding habitat included Ardeer Fen (6), Ardeer boundary fence (3), Trabboch (3), Garnock Floods (2), Bogton Loch NE (2), Doonfoot (juv noted), Bogside, Gales marsh, Martnaham Loch, Pinbraid.

Outside the breeding season: 1 Doonfoot 4 Jan, 1 Culzean 23 Jan, 1 Shewalton 30 Oct, c5 Martnaham Loch 2 Dec, 1 Ardeer quarry LNR 3 Dec, 2 on 16 Dec, 1 Craig Tara waste treatment plant 30 Dec.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* C B

Pairs in suitable breeding habitat included Kay Park (4+), Trabboch (3+), Auchincross (2+), Lands of Turnberry (2 – 2 x B/3), Gypsy Pool (2 – B/2 noted), Auchenharvie pond (2), Trabboch (2), Culzean (2), Kirkleegreen Res, Cuffhill Res, Ardeer quarry LNR, Ardeer Fen, Dean Castle CP, Garnock Floods, Oldhall ponds, Auchencloigh, Martnaham Loch.

Counts included 18 Kay Park 1 Jan, 12 on 17 Nov, 34 Culzean CP 11 Feb, 11 Tarbolton fishery 27 Oct.

Common Coot *Fulica atra* C B

Pairs in suitable breeding habitat included Kay Park (7+ - B/2 and B/3 noted), Trabboch (5), Garnock Floods (2), Auchenharvie pond.

Counts included 22 Martnaham Loch 2 Jan, 10 Auchenharvie pond 1 Feb, 14 Trabboch 15 Mar, 21 Kay Park 7 Apr, 18 on 17 Nov, 10 Common Loch 17 Apr, 7 Auchincross 14 Oct, 1 Fail 27 Oct.



Coot at Kay Park (Angus Hogg)

Common Crane *Grus grus* A

A party of 3 was seen flying S at Loch Doon on 5 May (JMcl). This is the 5th Ayrshire record, and the first since 2006.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* C B

At least 17 pairs were present 16 at sites.

Site	Result	Site	Result
Auchenharvie Pond	pr	Kay Park	pr
Auchincross	pr – B/2 noted	Kirkbride Pond	2 prs
Balbeg	pr	Kirkleegreen Res	pr
Catrine LNR	pr bred	Ladyton Loch	pr – B/2 noted
Common Loch	pr	Lands of Turnberry	pr – B/2 noted
Culzean CP	pr	Martnaham Loch	pr
Garnock Floods	pr	Oldhall ponds	pr
Garnock lagoons	pr	Pinbraid	pr

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston lagoon	17 on 18 Sep.
Auchenharvie pond	2 on 1 Feb, 19 Dec.
Bogside	10 on 21 Nov-5 Dec.
Pow Burn	9 on 31 Jan, 8 on 7 Feb.
Martnaham Loch	7 on 31 Jan.
Doonfoot	4 on 28 Jan, 3 on 10 Nov,
Maidens	5 on 21 Jan, 6 on 27 Jan-6 Feb, 7 on 1 Feb, 2 on 4 Nov, 5 on 9 Dec, 4 on 20 Dec.
Elsewhere	5 Martnaham Loch 10 Jan, 3 Saltcoats harbour 14 Jan, 8 Turnberry Point 27 Jan, 16 Auchincross 8 Sep.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* U W

The returning individual was at Bracken Bay from 2020 until 1 Feb, and was also seen at Maidens on 17 Feb. It had returned to Bracken Bay by 11 Nov and was present there until at least 2 Dec.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* C b p

Results from breeding sites:

Site	Result
Camphill Res	pr B/2 on 27 May.
Tarryholme pond	pr B/3 on 28 Jun.
Martnaham Loch	2 on 28 Feb, 4 on 13 Mar-23 Apr, pr formed 5 Apr (no breeding observed.)

Winter-spring counts included 1 Stevenston Point 3 Jan, 3 on 8 Jan.

Autumn counts included 1 Balkenna 7 Sep, 1 Eglinton CP 12 Nov, 1 Pow Burn 23 Nov, 1 Stevenston Point 19-22 Dec, 2 Turnberry Bay 20 Dec.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* U W

Four individuals were recorded during the year: 2 Balkenna 22 Feb (DGr), 1 Stevenston Point 5 Oct (DGi), 1 Bogton Loch 24-25 Oct (RHH *et al.*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* A

One was found on Martnaham Loch on 31 Dec (DGr/RGV *et al.*). This is the 14th Ayrshire record.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* C B W P

Breeding pairs included: Hunterston lagoon (B/1 noted), Auchincross (B/1 noted), Hawking Craig, Loch Derclach.
Early arrival back inland from 16 Feb when 5 at Kilbirnie Loch.

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	370 on 12 Jan, 122 on 30 Mar.
Ardrossan-Stevenston	100 on 29 Jan, 18 Feb.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	100+ on 2 Jan.
Barassie	136 on 1 Jan, 120 on 27 Feb.
Doonfoot	43 on 17 Jan, 38 on 14 Feb, 41 on 15 Mar, 20 on 18 Apr.
Elsewhere	46 Newton shore 2 Jan, 33 Martnaham Loch 28 Feb. 45 on 20 Mar, 55 Creoch Loch 3 Mar.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	400+ on 29 Jul, 120+ on 17 Sep, 202 on 5 Nov, 160 on 9 Dec.
Ardrossan-Stevenston	19 on 9 Aug, 82 on 28 Oct, 23 on 7 Nov, 240 on 31 Dec.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	60 on 26 Jul, 173 on 6 Sep, 198 on 21 Sep, 113 on 3 Nov.
Barassie	272 on 9 Aug, 119 on 7 Sep, 259 on 17 Sep, 136 on 18 Oct, 218 on 10 Nov, 231 on 25 Dec.
Doonfoot	38 on 27 Aug, 49 on 20 Oct, 30 on 20 Dec.
Turnberry-Dipple	125 on 27 Aug, 122 on 10 Oct, 127 on 7 Nov, 98 on 20 Dec.
Elsewhere	40 Seamill 24 Oct.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* C B W P

Few breeding reports: 4 prs reared 12 juvs Fail, 3+prs reared 1 juv Hallowshean, 2 prs reared 4 juvs Auchincross pr reared 2 juvs Munnoch Res, pr Blairbowie – no breeding

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Fail	190 on 27 Feb, 125 on 9 Mar, 75 on 11 Apr.
Martnaham Loch	185 on 1 Jan.
Blairbowie	160 on 14 Jan.
Elsewhere	18 Auchincross 17 Jan, c200 over Cassillis View 18 Jan, 16 Darnhay 6 Feb.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	24 on 11 Jul, 46 on 18 Sep, 80 on 17 Dec.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	34 on 19 Jun, 130 on 17 Jul, 134 on 31 Aug, 328 on 17 Sep, 250 on 5 Oct, 150 on 14 Nov.
Auchincross	75 on 4 Oct, 88 on 30 Nov, 130 on 18 Dec.
Fail	154 on 2 Oct, 263 on 30 Oct, 252 on 14 Nov, 215 on 12 Dec.
Loans	150+ on 1 Nov.
Doonfoot	18 on 12 Aug, 39 on 15 Sep.
Blairbowie	79 on 30 Oct, 85 on 1 Nov, 120 on 21 Nov.
Elsewhere	41 Dalmaca 30 Oct, 88 Chapelton Loch 13 Nov, 55 Martnaham Loch 20 Dec.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* C B w P

No breeding records were submitted.

Counts at main sites	
Barassie-Troon	150 on 1 Jan, 60 on 12 Apr, 2 on 30 Jul, 43 on 19 Sep, 200 on 26 Oct, 280 on 3 Nov, 156 on 20 Dec.
Fail	28 on 2 Mar, 20 on 27 Sep.
Newton shore	80 on 3 Jan.
Maidens	100 on 8 Feb, 13 on 25 Apr, 6 on 28 Sep.
Balkenna-Dipple	90 <i>P.a. altifrons</i> on 15 Apr.
Elsewhere	120 Auchincross 11 Apr, 18 Bogside 25 Apr.



European Golden Plovers (*ssp altifrons*) at Dowhill Port (Angus Hogg)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* C w P

Counts at main sites	
Barassie	1 on 21 Nov.
Newton shore	1 on 21 Sep.
Dipple-Maidens	1 from 21 Feb-26 Apr, and 1 from 17 Aug-29 Sep.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* C B W P

A nest with C/4 was seen at Culzean on 13 May, and attempted breeding noted at Lendalfoot, Loch Bradan and Auchincross.

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Stevenston	51 on 4, 13 May.
Barassie-Troon	45 on 1 Jan, 70 on 13 May, 22 on 1 Jun.
Pow Burn	110 on 18 Apr.
Maidens	25 on 24 Jan, 29 on 26 Apr, 30 on 3 Jun.
Balkenna-Dipple	76 on 22 Feb.
Elsewhere	40 Irvine Bay 30 Apr.

A leucistic, white-naped bird, first seen in 2020, was present at Maidens on 16 Feb, and again from 1 Nov.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	44 on 9 Aug.
Stevenston-Ardrossan	72 on 12 Aug, 48 on 9 Sep, 100 on 10 Oct, 149 on 17 Dec.
Barassie-Troon	20 on 31 Jul, 104 on 21 Aug, 97 on 19 Sep, 53 on 3 Nov, 100 on 17 Dec.
Maidens	80 on 20 Aug, 50 on 12 Sep, 70 on 21 Oct, 35 on 9 Dec.
Balkenna-Dipple	31 on 27 Aug, 50 on 7 Nov.
Elsewhere	3 Auchincross 22 Jun, 4 Lendalfoot 29 Jun, 1 Loch Bradan 9 Jul, 30 Girvan 14 Sep, 70 on 7 Oct, 43 West Kilbride 23 Sep, 47 Doonfoot 10 Nov.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* R P

2 sites were each occupied by 1 pr, with both prs successfully rearing B/3 and B/2.

Spring arrival was from 2 Apr when 2 had returned to a breeding site and 1 was at Fail. This was followed by singles at Auchincross and Munnoch Res on 5 Apr. Other arrivals included 1 at Pow Burn on 15 Apr, 2 at Kilbirnie Loch on 16 Apr, 1 at Fail on 23 Apr-4 May, 2 on 30 Apr, 1 at Auchincross on 30 Apr, 1 at Capringstone on 3 May, and 1 at Longbar pool on 6 Jun.

No departure date was noted.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* U (B) s P

1 on Blackcraig Hill 10 May, 2 on 11 May, 3 on 12 May (HF/DG/JM).



Dotterel on Blackcraig Hill (Dougie Edmond)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* U P

The first spring records involved singles at Maidens on 29 Mar and Blackneuk on 30 Mar. These were followed by singles at Meigle Bay on 6 Apr and Dowhill Port on 13 Apr.

Spring passage counts at main sites	
Hunterston	1 on 17-18, 25 Apr, 2 on 26 Apr, 1 on 2 May, 2 on 4 May.
Kilbirnie Loch	3 on 16 Apr, 74 on 6 May.
Munnoch Res	2 on 5 May.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	3 on 6 May.
Barassie-Troon	1 on 18 Apr, 2 on 23 Apr, 3 on 25-27 Apr, 9 May.
Martnaham Loch	1 on 17-20 Apr, 3 on 21 Apr, 7 on 22 Apr, 10 on 23-24 Apr, 15 on 26 Apr, 19 on 27 Apr, 2 on 29 Apr, 1 on 2, 5 May, 5 on 9 May, 2 on 12 May.
Doonfoot-Bracken Bay	1 on 17 Apr.
Culzean Bay	2 on 14 Apr, 10 on 20 Apr, 12 on 23 Apr, 19 on 1 May, 33 on 2 May.
Dipple-Maidens	3 on 20, 24 Apr, 10 on 25 Apr, 3 on 30 Apr.
Elsewhere	1 Dowhill Port 15 Apr, 5 Pow Burn 17 Apr, 2 on 20 Apr, 3 on 18 May, 1 Portencross 23 Apr, 1 Ballantrae 26-28 Apr, 2 Carleton Port 26-28 Apr, 1 Seamill 30 Apr, 24 Trabboch 1 May, 2 Pow Burn 1 May, 1 Saltcoats harbour 4 May, 4 Boydston Braes 5 May, 4 Lendalfoot 5 May, 2 Ardmillan 6 May, 1 Dunure 15 May.

Autumn passage counts at main sites	
Barassie-Troon	8 on 14 Jul, 1 on 27-30 Jul, 9, 20 Aug.
Doonfoot-Bracken Bay	1 on 17 Aug.
Dipple-Maidens	1 on 21-22 Jul, 28 Jul-8 Aug.
Elsewhere	1 Seamill 8-10 Aug, 2 on 12 Aug, 1 Portencross 11 Aug, 1 Carleton Port 8 Aug, 1 Pow Burn 20 Aug.



Whimbrel at Martnaham (Dave Grant)

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* C B W P

Breeding pairs or territorial ♂♂ included: Auchigee-Lanemark (3), Clauchanton Hill-Moak Hill (2), Craigdow Loch, Mossgavel, Craigdullyearl, Beoch Farm, Loch Derclach, Knockdaw Hill, Balsalloch, Reuchal.

Returned inland by 25 Feb when 12 present at New Cumnock.

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	140 on 23 Jan, 84 on 20 Mar, 21 on 26 Apr.
Loans-Collennan	58 on 13 Jan, 128 on 6 Feb, 87 on 9 Mar.
Doonfoot-Greenan	20 on 13 Feb.
Maidens	52 on 27 Jan.
Dipple-Balkenna	56 on 22 Feb.
Elsewhere	35 Eglinton CP 17 Jan, 27 Martnaham Loch 28 Feb, 29 on 2 Apr, 61 Creoch Loch 3 Mar, 60 Whitehirst Kilwinning 9 Apr, 36 Auchincross 14 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	22 on 11 Jul, 51 on 29 Jul, 50 on 17 Sep, 100 on 24 Oct, 77 on 5 Nov, 225 on 9 Dec.
Stevenston-Auchenharvie	73 on 27 Oct, 76 on 7 Nov, 68 on 19 Dec.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	50 on 12 Jul, 51 on 6 Sep, 143 on 21 Sep, 93 on 3 Nov, 50 on 22 Nov.
Loans	102 on 13 Oct, 47 on 18 Dec.
Barassie-Troon	80 on 17 Jul.
Doonfoot-Greenan	15 on 10 Jul, 20 on 15 Aug, 14 on 20 Dec.
Maidens	13 on 9 Aug.
Dipple-Balkenna	50 on 12 Oct.
Elsewhere	107 Dundonald Camp 4 Aug, 48 Seamill 9 Aug, 30 on 27 Oct, 25 Eglinton CP 5 Nov.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* C W P

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston-Fairlie	11 on 20 Mar, 8 on 30 Mar.
Barassie-Troon	1 on 2 Jan, 31 Mar.
Maidens	3 on 18-25 Feb, 1 on 13 Mar.
Elsewhere	1 Pow Burn 29 Mar, 2 on 10-24 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston-Fairlie	2 on 30 Jul, 3 on 14 Aug, 1 on 18 Aug, 2 on 17-18 Sep, 1 on 7 Nov, 32 on 24 Dec.
Barassie-Troon	1 on 11 Jul, 2 on 24-27 Aug, 4 on 30 Aug, 1 on 1-12 Sep, 2 on 13-17 Sep, 6 on 13 Oct. 5 on 21 Oct, 1 on 23 Oct-30 Dec.
Doonfoot	1 on 13 Jul, 21 Aug, 2 on 1 Sep, 1 on 10-15 Sep.
Maidens	3 on 5 Jul, 1 on 9-12 Aug, 2 on 13-20 Aug, 1 on 27 Aug-23 Sep, 3 on 28 Sep, 4 on 29 Sep. 3 on 1 Oct-3 Nov, 5 on 7 Nov, 2 on 15-17 Nov.
Elsewhere	10 Garnock estuary 20 Sep, 3 on 21 Sep, 1 on 22 Nov, 1 Saltcoats harbour 29-31 Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* U w P

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Bogside-Garnock Floods	2 on 24 Mar.
Fail	2 on 3 Apr, 4 on 9 Apr, 1 on 10-11 Apr, 9 on 15-18 Apr, 4 on 20 Apr, 1 (injured) until 25 May.
Elsewhere	2 Pow Burn 26 Mar, 1 on 29 Mar, 1 Martnaham Loch 2 Apr, 1 Dowhill Port 15 Apr, 5 Loch o' the Lowes 15 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	3 on 14 Aug, 1 on 18 Aug, 5 on 4 Sep, 3 on 10 Sep, 6 on 26 Sep, 4 on 1 Oct, 1 on 4, 24 Oct.
Bogside-Garnock Floods	1 on 6-14 Jul, 2 on 19-25 Aug, 12 on 29 Aug, 20 on 31 Aug, 17 on 2 Sep, 5 on 3 Sep, 2 on 5 Sep, 17 on 7 Sep, 24 on 8 Sep, 3 on 9 Sep, 18 on 11 Sep, 9 on 14 Sep, 46 on 17 Sep, 30 on 18 Sep, 52 on 20 Sep, 40+ on 21 Sep, 21 on 22 Sep, 17 on 26 Sep, 2 on 5 Oct, 1 on 15 Nov.
Barassie-Troon-Loans	1 on 9 Aug, 24 Aug, 16 Sep, 2 on 14-15 Aug, 18-29 Oct.
Fail	1 on 25-31 Oct.
Pow Burn	1 on 30 Jul, 20-25 Aug, 2 on 22 Aug, 1 on 19 Sep.
Doonfoot	8 on 9 Aug, 1 on 19, 30 Aug, 4 on 1 Sep.
Maidens	6 on 4 Aug, 3 on 13 Aug, 5 on 16 Aug, 8 on 17-18 Aug, 4 on 19-28 Aug, 1 on 3-5 Sep, 2 on 6-7 Sep, 6 on 10 Sep, 8 on 12 Sep, 9 on 15 Sep, 12 on 16-23 Sep, 18 on 28 Sep, 17 on 29 Sep, 6 on 1 Oct, 8 on 3-7 Oct, 2 on 10-11 Oct, 1 on 14 Oct.
Elsewhere	2 Baltersan 13-15 Jul, 1 Turnberry 20 Jul, 1 Turnberry Point 5 Aug, 1 Martnaham Loch 9 Aug, 2, 10-11 Sep, 3 on 14 Sep, 1 Loch o' the Lowes 18 Aug, 2 Auchenharvie pond 21 Aug, 3 on 28 Aug, 1 Dipple 6, 15 Sep, 5 on 23 Oct, 1 on 10 Nov, 4 Milton Burn 6 Sep, 12 Oct, 10 Dipple-Balkenna 7 Sep, 9 Irvine beach park 17 Sep, 5 Holmsford Bridge 5 Oct, 1 Capringstone 29 Oct.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* C W s P

	Counts at main sites
Skelmorlie	30 on 21 Apr.
Hunterston	40 on 9 Dec.
Saltcoats	25 on 11 Feb, 8 on 26 Apr, 13 on 10 May, 13 on 9 Aug, 25 on 31 Oct, 14 on 7 Nov, 12 on 17 Dec.
Stevenston Point	10 on 31 Oct.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	14 on 2 Jan, 24 on 26 Jul.
Barassie-Troon	31 on 12 Jan, 10 Feb, 60 on 11 Mar, 35 on 24 May, 12 on 26 Jul, 44 on 23 Sep, 60 on 29 Oct, 50 on 8 Dec, 78 on 24 Dec.
Doonfoot	16 on 11 Feb, 9 on 18 Apr, 23 on 27 Aug, 28 on 2 Sep.
Maidens	20 on 11 Feb.
Balkenna-Dipple	25 on 22 Feb, 2 on 16 Jun, 5 on 27 Aug, 25 on 23 Oct.
Elsewhere	14 Prestwick 2 Jan, 27 Lady Isle 16 Sep, 33 Girvan harbour 30 Sep, 25 Pow Burn 6 Dec.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* C W P

Counts at main sites	
Hunterston	130 on 20 Mar, 1 on 14 Aug, 2 on 18 Aug. 1 on 10, 18 Sep, 2 on 17 Dec.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	5 on 14 Sep, 10 on 20 Sep.
Barassie-Troon	6 on 24 Jan, 16 on 27 Feb, 53 on 25 Mar, 2 on 12 Jul, 9 Aug, 1 on 19 Aug-16 Dec, 2 on 16 Sep, 6 Dec, 4 on 15 Dec.
Doonfoot	3 on 9 Aug, 8 on 15 Aug, 5 on 7 Sep.
Maidens-Turnberry Pt	5 on 10 May, 2 on 22 Jul, 1 on 3, 9 Aug, 27-29 Sep.
Elsewhere	40 Seamill 13 Feb, 5 Pow Burn 10 May, 5 Prestwick 30 Aug, 1 Stevenston Point 15 Nov.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* C P

No spring records.

In the autumn:

Counts at main sites	
Bogside-Garnock Floods	1 on 26 Aug, 2 on 27 Aug-8 Sep, 1 on 9-17 Sep.
Martnaham Loch	1 on 9 Aug.
Doonfoot	1 on 21-31 Aug, another on 10-15 Sep, 3 on 13 Sep.
Maidens	1 on 7 Sep.
Elsewhere	1 Irvine beach Park 17 Sep.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* R P

One at Seamill on 25 Aug (JM). This is the 13th Ayrshire record, and the first since 1994.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* C w P

Counts at main sites	
Stevenston	76 on 30 Jan, 187 on 13 Mar, 70 on 26 Apr, 41 on 7 Jun, 8 on 5 Aug, 70 on 19 Aug, 101 on 1 Oct, 123 on 22 Oct, c300 on 15 Dec.
Barassie-Troon	4 on 9 Jan, 7 on 3 Feb, 6 on 11 Apr, 4 on 15 May, 50 on 23 May, 109 on 3 Jun, 2 on 14 Aug, 26 on 19 Sep, 3 on 10-14 Nov, 10 on 6 Dec, 1 on 24 Dec.
Meikle Craigs	4 on 12 Jul, 40 on 14 Jul.
Pow Burn	6 on 14 Feb, 8 on 10 Aug, 6 on 6 Dec.
Maidens	1 on 10 May, 2 on 22 May, 1 on 16 Aug, 4 Sep, 3-23 Oct.
Balkenna	1 on 22 Feb, 3 on 13 Apr, 5 on 27 Jul.
Elsewhere	6 Prestwick 11 Jul, 9 Saltcoats harbour 9 Aug, 21 Lady Isle 16 Sep, 1 Girvan 7 Oct.



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Sanderling Stevenston Beach (Dave Grant)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* C b W P

In former breeding area,

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	3 on 26 Apr.
Saltcoats-Stevenston	120 on 14 Jan, 50 on 6 Mar, 21 on 4 May.
Barassie-Troon	248 on 8 Jan, 230 on 13 May, 10 on 2 Jun.
Doonfoot	25 on 14 Feb.
Maidens	81 on 2 Jan, 74 on 17 Feb, 80 on 11 Mar, 25 on 30 Apr, 5 on 22 May.
Dipple-Balkenna	254 on 22 Feb.
Elsewhere	1 Fail 2 May, 4 on 9 May, 6 Auchincross 12 May, 20 Ballantrae 14 May.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	4 on 9 Aug, 8 on 14 Aug, 120 on 9 Dec.
Saltcoats-Stevenston	4 on 9 Aug, 20 on 17 Sep, 26 on 5 Nov, 140 on 9 Dec.
Bogside	61 on 18 Sep.
Barassie-Troon	8 on 5 Jul, 30 on 12 Jul, 72 on 21 Aug, 108 on 6 Sep,
Doonfoot	14 on 9 Jul, 6 on 27 Aug, 20 on 7 Sep.
Maidens	9 on 14 Jul, 82 on 6 Aug, 32 on 23 Sep, 25 on 14 Oct, 70 on 17 Nov.
Dipple-Balkenna	23 on 28 Jul, 28 on 27 Aug.
Elsewhere	19 Turnberry Point 22 Jul, 1 Martnaham Loch 23 Jul.



Dunlin at Ballantrae (Angus Hogg)

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* C W P

Counts at main sites	
Seamill	10 on 3 Jan, 5 on 19 Nov.
Saltcoats	22 on 26 Apr, 4 on 29 Oct, 14 on 7 Nov, 26 on 17 Dec.
Stevenston	7 on 1 Feb, 1 on 7 Oct, 2 on 29 Oct, 4 on 29 Nov, 6 on 27 Dec.
Barassie-Troon	20 on 1 Jan, 21 on 12 Feb, 41 on 25 Apr, 2 on 15 May, 6 on 28 Oct, 7 on 24 Nov, 14 on 30 Dec.
Ayr harbour	4 on 6 Jan, 1 on 21 Nov, 9 on 18 Dec.
Maidens-Turnberry	20 on 8 Jan, 1 on 11 Feb, 8 on 11 Sep, 1 on 27 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Prestwick 2 Jan, 5 Ardmillan-Ardwell 4 Jan, 20 Dipple 22 Feb, 5 Hunterston 1 Dec, 4 Prestwick 5 Dec, 1 Newton shore 8 Dec.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* U P

An extremely poor autumn with only 1 record: 2 Garnock Floods 11 Sep (GMcA).

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* C B W

No breeding records were received.

Counts and migrants – Spring: 1 Sandyford 3 Jan, 1 Loans 8 Jan, 2 Craigengillan 8 Jan, 2 Doonside 9 Jan, 2 Symington 11 Jan, 1 Lugar 14, 16 Jan, 16 Feb, 1 Martnaham Loch 22, 24, 30 Jan, 7, 21, 28 Feb, 1 Pow Burn 25, 28 Jan, 1 Trabboch 5 Feb, 1 Dunlop 7 Feb, 1 Annbank 8 Feb, 1 Sorn 10 Feb, 1 Gypsy Pool 11, 14 Jan, 4 Hunterston 12 Feb, 1 Shewalton Wood 13 Feb, 1 Gypsy Pool 13 Feb, 1 Barclaugh Wood 14 Feb, 1 Outerwards Res 1 Mar, 1 Craighens Kirkoswald 2 Mar, 1 Eglinton CP 5 Mar, 1 Ardeer 11 Mar, 1 Beith 12 Mar, 2 Ardmillan 12 Mar.

Counts and migrants – Autumn: 1 Bogton Loch 28 Nov, 2 Beith 6 Dec, 1 Auchinleck House 12 Dec, 1 Tallaminnoch 13 Dec, 1 Dreghorn 31 Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* C w P

In the winter-spring period: 2 Doonfoot 4 Jan, 1 on 27-30 Jan, 1 Gypsy Pool 15 Jan, 2 on 25 Jan, 1 on 1-8 Feb, 3 on 25 Feb, 1 on 7 Mar, 2 Maidens 24 Jan, 1 Martnaham Loch 12 Feb, 3 Northcraig Res 21 Feb, 12 Seamill 21 Feb, 13 on 24 Mar, 1 Stevenston LNR 13 Mar.

In the autumn: 3 Seamill 14 Nov, 1 Dunure 28 Nov.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* C B w P

Birds observed during the breeding season in known breeding areas included Ardeer (6+), Bogton Loch (6+), Martnaham Loch (2), Trabboch (2), Northcraig Res, Fail, Airds Moss, Auchincross, Corrn Roy, Beoch, Garpel Bridge, Cairnadloch, Pinbraid, Ford Hill, Balsalloch.

Counts and migrants: 5 Maidens 6 Jan, 18 Martnaham Loch 22 Jan, 35 Seamill 21 Feb, 27 Stevenston LNR 13 Mar, 9 Trabboch 26 Mar, 11 Garnock Floods 31 Aug, 31 Martnaham Loch 11 Sep, 27 on 26 Sep, 12 on 22 Nov, 52 Garnock Floods 19 Sep, 35 on 5 Oct, 9 on 17 Nov, 26 Stevenston LNR 7 Nov.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* C B S P

Territorial or breeding birds were recorded at Airds Moss R. Ayr Way (6+), Loch Doon (min 3), Outerwards Res, Muirhead Res, Dalgarnen, Munnoch Res, Ardeer, Shewalton Wood, Auchincross, Garnock estuary, Stair, Annbank, Gadgirth, Martnaham Loch, Bogton Loch (NE), Loch Riecawr, Dailly, Finnarts Bay, Ardmillan, Laggan Bridge.

First arrivals were singles at Ochiltree on 1 Apr and Pow Burn on 6 Apr. These were soon followed by 3 at Martnaham Loch on 10 Apr, with singles at Bogside and Gadgirth on 11 Apr. Present over much of the county by 15-17 Apr.

Autumn counts/departure: 12 Munnoch Res 11 Jul, 6 Martnaham Loch 9 Aug, 1 Loch Riecawr 15 Aug, with the last singles at Martnaham Loch and Annbank on 14 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* A

The over-wintering bird from 2020 remained faithful to the Goats Green-Segganwell stretch of Culzean Bay until 22 Apr and was seen well by many observers due to its confiding nature.



Spotted Sandpiper at Goats Green (Angus Hogg)

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* U w P

Winter-spring records involved 1 on the Garnock estuary on 24 Jan and probably also on 11 Apr. Perhaps a different bird at Eglinton CP on 21 Apr.

Autumn records involved 1 at Capringstone-Eglinton CP-Garnock estuary 6 Jul, possibly another on 25 Jul-at least 2 Dec, 2 on 29 Aug, 1 over Saltcoats 9 Jul, 1 Auchincross 3-4 Aug, 1 Martnaham Loch 10, 31 Aug, 1 Gypsy Pool 10 Aug, 2 Corsehouse Res 26 Sep-4 Oct, 1 Troon 5 Dec.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* C b W P

Birds were observed in potential breeding areas at Airds Moss and Auchincross.

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	200 on 12 Jan, 45 on 3 Apr, 13 on 19 Apr.
Ardrossan-Saltcoats	40 on 11 Feb.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	30 on 2 Jan.
Barassie-Troon	48 on 12 Jan
Doonfoot	60 on 31 Jan, 46 on 14 Feb, 101 on 15 Mar, 95 on 1 Apr, 60+ on 18 Apr.
Maidens	77 on 27 Jan, 84 on 5 Feb, 20 Mar.
Elsewhere	30 Girvan harbour 2 Jan, 40 Pow Burn 8 Mar.

Site	Count
Hunterston	75 on 9 Aug, 60+ on 17 Sep, 50+ on 29 Oct, 70 on 9,16 Dec.
Ardrossan-Saltcoats	20 on 21 Sep, 60+ on 29 Oct. 90 on 18 Nov, 30 on 29 Dec.
Bogside-Irvine hbr	75 on 18 Sep, 50 on 22 Nov.
Barassie-Troon	36 on 27 Aug, 44 on 30 Sep, 66 on 19 Oct, 29 Nov, 94 on 25 Dec.
Pow Burn	19 on 21 Sep.
Doonfoot	30 on 10 Jul, 58 on 22 Aug, 67 on 15 Sep, 50+ on 20 Oct, 54 on 7 Nov, 45 on 20 Dec.
Maidens	3 on 5 Jul, 35 on 2 Aug, 58 on 23 Sep, 72 on 23 Oct, 61 on 9 Dec.
Elsewhere	23 Girvan harbour 30 Sep.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* U P

In spring: 3 Fail 2 May, 1 on 5 May, 1 flew N over Blanefield Kirkoswald 2 May. 1 Garnock Floods 4 Jun.

In autumn: juv Baltersan 19 Jul, 1 Capringstone 19 Jul, 1 Maidens 21 Jul, 1 flew S Lugar 13 Aug.



Wood Sandpiper at Baltersan (Angus Hogg)

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* U w P

Three autumn records of this increasingly scarce wader: juv at Bogside 3 Sep (DGi), juv at Dunure 16 Sep (HF), ad at Bogside 18 Sep (TB).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* C w P

Winter-spring	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	16 on 12 Jan, 15 on 2 Mar, 23 on 20 Mar, 1 on 19 Apr.
Bogside-Capringstone	1 on 2-14 Jan, 5 on 5 Apr.
Pow Burn	1 on 1 Jan-21 Feb.
Doonfoot-Heads of Ayr	2 on 2-30 Jan, 1 on 27 Feb, 17 Apr.
Elsewhere	1 Barassie 2 Jan, 2 Seamill 13 Feb.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Hunterston	1 on 11 Jul, 7 on 29 Jul, 15 on 18 Aug, 25 on 18 Sep, 13 on 9 Dec
Bogside-Capringstone	4 on 29 Jun, 17 on 25 Aug, 12 on 15 Sep, 9 on 16 Oct, 1 Dec, 5 on 22 Dec.
Pow Burn	1 on 20 Aug-at least 9 Dec, 3 on 3 Sep.
Doonfoot-Heads of Ayr	1 on 9 Jul, 2 on 17 Aug, 3 on 25 Aug, 4 on 7 Sep, 1 on 4 Oct-at least 25 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Meikle Craigs 14 Jul, 11 Oct, 1 Maidens 18 Jul, 10 Aug, 10 Sep, 1 Martnaham Loch 18-24 Jul, 9 Aug, 4 Sep, 1 Auchincruive 20 Aug, 1 Seamill 16 Sep, 1 Barassie 28 Oct.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* C B w P

	Passage Counts
Stevenston Point	22 on 25 May, 910 on 7 Nov.
Troon	15 on 16 Jan, 9 on 17 Aug, 10 on 30 Sep.
Maidens	304 on 21 Jan, 100 on 17 Feb, 67 on 11 Mar, 28 on 22 May, 40 on 17 Aug, 130 on 13 Sep, 381 on 23 Sep, 830 on 1 Oct, 443 on 11 Oct, 148 on 1 Nov, 272 on 7 Nov.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* U P

A juv flew S past Maidens on 29 Sep (RHH).

Black-headed Gull *Croicocephalus ridibundus* C B W

The only breeding report came from Hunterston Lagoon where 25+ were observed on a nesting island.

Counts: 331 Loans 15 Jan, 663 Barassie 12 Feb, 150 Rowbank and Barcraigs Lochs 30 Mar-25 Apr, 100 Southannan Sands 29 Jul, 75 Hunterston 24 Aug, 394 Barassie 6 Sep, 653 on 13 Dec, 145 Irvine 16 Sep, 100 Stevenston 29 Oct, 166 Turnberry-Dipple 7 Nov, 77 on 20 Dec.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* U P

Up to 9 birds were seen during the year.

In winter-spring: 1 ad Maidens 17 Feb, 1 1st w Auchenharvie Pond 24 Feb, 1 Garnock Estuary 27 Jun.

In autumn: 1 Barassie 19 Aug, 1 1st w Maidens 10 Sep, 1 1st w Stevenston Point 14 Sep, 1 Maidens 23 Sep, 1 1st w Troon 18 Oct, 1 ad Stevenston Point 29 Oct-16 Nov.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus* R P

In the winter-spring period: 1 Barassie 1-14 Jan, 2 Powburn 20 Jan, 1 Maidens 27 Jan-8 Feb, 1 Powburn 14-21 Feb, 1 Blairbowie 25 Feb, 1 Kay Park 12 Mar, 1 Capringstone 5 Apr.

Autumn-winter	Counts at main sites
Barassie-Troon (inc Meikle Craigs)	3 on 13 Jul, 8 on 17 Jul, 9 on 26 Jul, 10 on 27 Jul (7 ads, 2 x 2 nd w, 1 st w), 17 on 30 Jul, 12 on 14 Aug, 31 on 26 Aug, 18 on 29 Aug (12 ads, 3 x 2 nd w, 3 x 1 st w), 28 on 31 Aug (18 ads, 4 x 2 nd w, 6 x 1 st w), 20 on 13 Sep, 20 on 11 Oct, 9 on 11 Nov, 3 on 21-22 Dec.
Pow Burn-Prestwick	4 on 10 Aug, 1 on 30 Aug.
Doonfoot	1 on 15-17 Dec, 4 on 25 Dec, 3 on 30 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Maidens 27 Jan-8 Feb, 1 on 27 Aug, 1 Blairbowie 25 Feb, 1 on 24 Mar, 1 Kay Park 12 Mar, 1 on 24 Jul, 1 Capringstone on 5 Apr, 1 Stevenston on 10 Jul, 1 on 5 Aug, 2 Bogside on 12 Jul, 1 Girvan on 19 Jul, 2 on 31 Aug, 2 Balkenna on 27 Jul, 1 Magnum Pond, Irvine 15 Dec.

Common Gull *Larus canus* C B W

3 prs Loch Riecawr – no young seen, at least 1 pr with nest Hunterston lagoon.

Counts: 737 Loans 6 Feb, 161 Martnaham 20 Feb, 120 on 13 Mar, 85 on 17 Mar, 230 Blairbowie 30 Oct, 50 Southannan 24 Aug, 182 on 17 Dec, 78 Fail 27 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* C B W P

Breeding: 100+ prs Lady Isle.

Counts: 8 Maidens 21 Jan, 8 on 12 Jun, 10 on 9 Aug, 12 on 6 Sep, 12 on 15 Sep, 10 Stevenston Point 17 Oct, 9 Auchenharvie Pond 27 Oct, 15 on 19 Dec.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* U W P

Up to 4 birds were seen during the year.

In winter-spring: 1st w Troon 26 Feb, 1 ad Blairbowie 11-30 Mar, 1 ad Low Coyllton 11 Apr.

In autumn: 1st w Stevenston Point 19 Nov.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* U W P

Up to 6 birds were seen during the year.

In winter-spring: 1 juv Doonfoot 27 Jan-6 Feb, 1 juv Magnum Pond, Irvine 29 Jan, 1 juv Troon south beach 6 Feb (possibly the same bird seen at Magnum), 1st s Lendalfoot 18 Jun.

In autumn: 2nd yr Kay Park 24 Sep, 1 Skares 1 Oct, 1st w Lendalfoot 20 Oct, 2nd w on 9-17 Dec.st



Glaucous Gull on Troon south beach (Dougie Edmond)

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* C B W

Breeding: 800+ prs Lady Isle.

Counts: 1500 Lugar 19 Jan, 1500 Lendalfoot 27 Jan, 350 Fail 5 Apr, 1050 on 2 Oct, 1750 on 3 Oct, 1010 on 12 Dec, 250 Doonfoot 7-9 Jun.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* C B S p

Breeding: 300+ prs Lady Isle.

Spring arrival was from 22 Feb when 12 ads were in Kay Park and 8 were at Barassie, followed by 8 ads at New Cumnock and 16 at Blairbowie on 25 Feb, with 18 at Ballochmyle on 28 Feb. Other counts included 170 were at Martnaham Loch on 5 Mar, and 190 at Fail on 5 Apr.

In the autumn: 25 Doonfoot 12 Aug, 30 Stevenston Point 17 Sep, 30 Garnock estuary 21 Sep, 121 Martnaham 14 Sep, 50 Fail 2 Oct, 65 on 3 Oct, 50 on 4 Oct, 47 on 12 Oct.

Wintering adults included: 2 Rowbank & Barcraigs Res 17-22 Jan, 1 Doonfoot 27 Jan, 2 on 29 Jan, 3 Turnberry-Dipple 20 Dec, 6 Barassie 27 Dec, 1 Bogside 28 Dec.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* C (B) S P

Arrival was from 27 Mar when 1 were at Saltcoats followed by 3 at Hunterston and 2 Powburn on 30 Mar.

Site	Count
Hunterston Sands	3 on 30 Mar, 8 on 2 Apr, 10 on 3 Apr, 9 on 26 Apr, 18 on 10 Sep.
Stevenston Point	4 on 1 Apr, 7 on 26 Apr, 24 on 5 Aug, 14 on 24 Aug, 15 on 7 Oct, 5 on 10 Oct, 1 on 22 Oct.
Irvine-Bogside	2 on 17 Apr, 2 on 6 May, 26 on 12 Jul, 3 on 21 Sep, 10 on 13 Oct.
Barassie-Troon	8 on 6 Apr, 3 on 17 Apr, 59 on 17 Jul (41 ads, 18 juvs), 38 on 27 Jul, 22 on 31 Jul, 20 on 14 Aug, 30 on 26 Aug, 9 on 30 Sep, 1 on 23 Oct.
Ayr-Doonfoot	6 on 10 Jul, 2 on 12 Aug, 5 on 7 Sep, 44 on 15 Sep.
Maidens-Turnberry Point	4 on 1 Apr, 6 on 14 Apr, 10 on 25 Apr, 20 on 22 Jul, 50 on 27 Jul, 18 on 3 Aug, 130 on 9 Aug (inc 24+ juvs), 54 on 10 Aug, 20 on 17 Aug, 19 on 29 Sep, 69 flew S/2hrs on 1 Oct, 2 on 11 Oct.
Elsewhere	1 Saltcoats 27 Mar, 1 Ballantrae 31 Mar, 1 Girvan 1 Apr, 1 Finnarts Bay 15 Apr, 8 Portencross 16 Apr, 50 Dunure 22 Aug, 75 on 29 Sep, 1 Seamill 24 Oct.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* U (b) S p

A slightly better showing with 2 at Meikle Craigs on 5 Jun, and again on 15-16 Jul, and a family party of 2 ads and juv at Maidens on 9 Aug.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* C B S P

There were no spring records.

In the autumn: 6 Prestwick 11 Jul, 6 Meikle Craigs 16 Jul, 3 on 26 Aug, 1 Balkenna 27 Jul, 2 Troon 14 Aug, 2 Stevenston Point 12 Sep, 1 on 14 Sep.



Common Tern hunting Troon (*Dave Grant*)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* C B S P

Arrival was from 24 Apr when 40 flew N/2hrs at Maidens, followed by 73 flying N on 25 Apr.

In the autumn: 14 Meikle Craigs 17 Jul, 12 on 27 Jul, 15 on 30 Jul, 2 Maidens 9 Aug, 4 Dunure 12 Aug, and the last departing juv at Hunterston on 10 Sep.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* U S w P

Spring passage: 1 Maidens 22 May was the only reported passage bird.

Autumn passage counts	
Troon	2 on 27 Sep.
Dunure	1 on 3 Aug, 1 on 13 Aug, 1 on 16 Aug, 2 on 17 Aug, 2 on 19 Aug, 1 on 22 Aug, 1 on 16 Sep.
Maidens-Turnberry	1 flew N on 22 May, 2 on 5 Aug, and 12 Sep, 1 on 23 Sep.
Elsewhere	1 Stevenston Point 3 Oct.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* U P

Two spring records involved singles flying N at Stevenston Point on 9 May, and Saltcoats on 25 May.

Four autumn records: ad Maidens 10 Aug, 1 on 23 Sep, juv flew S on 1 Oct, 1 flew S Troon 25 Oct.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* U S P

Three spring records: 1 Maidens 25 May, 2 on 14 Jun, 2 Saltcoats 25 May.

Three autumn records: 1 Maidens 23 Sep, 3 on 1 Oct, 3 Stevenston Point 22 Oct.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* C B w p

No report from breeding site on Ailsa Craig.

Counts/passage:

Site	Count
Ardrossan-Saltcoats	30 on 1 May, 109 on 24 May, 15 on 23 Jul, 250 on 7 Sep, 12 on 7 Nov.
Troon	3 on 27 Feb.
Maidens	15 on 21 Jan, 10 on 17 Feb, 49 on 11 Mar, 48 on 25 Apr, 4 on 27 Aug, 7 on 13 Sep.
Auk sp Guillemot/Razorbill	130 Maidens 21 Jan, 240 on 23 Sep, 1500 (c80% Razorbills) flew S/hr on 11 Oct, 450 (c70% Razorbills) flew S/hr on 1 Nov, 300 from Ardrossan-Brodick ferry 29 Sep, 53 Troon on 30 Sep.

Razorbill *Alca torda* C B w p

No reports from breeding sites.

Counts/passage:

Site	Count
Maidens	40 on 21 Jan, 10 on 17 Feb, 51 on 11 Mar, 45 on 24 Apr, 35 on 25 Apr, 11 on 13 Sep.
Elsewhere	10 Hunterston 27 Jan, 15 Stevenston Point 24 May.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* C B W p

At breeding sites (from N southwards): Hunterston PS pier (4 prs), breeding birds also noted at Ardrossan harbour, Saltcoats, Troon harbour, Ayr harbour.

Counts: 18 Dipple 8 Jan, 27 on 24 Jan, 17 on 27 Aug, 22 (inc 9 juvs) on 15 Sep, 23 Troon 15 Mar, 16 on 17 Apr, 13 on 30 Sep, 40 Ayr harbour 15 Apr.



Black Guillemot in Troon Harbour (Dave Grant)

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* U b S p

No reports received from Ailsa Craig.

Birds seen from mainland:

Site	Count
Maidens	2 on 24 Apr, 1 on 25 Apr, 1 on 26 Apr, 1 on 28 Apr, 1 on 5 May, 5 on 22 May, 11 on 13 Sep.
Elsewhere	6 Stevenston Point 24 May, 5 on 2 Jun, 6 on 10 Jul, 2 Ballantrae 24 May, 4 Troon 25 May, 5 on 3 Jun.

Little Auk *Alle alle* U W

Two autumn reports: 1 Troon 1 Nov, 2 Stevenston Point 5 Nov.



Little Auk at Stevenston Point (Doug Edmond)

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* C FB W P

Monthly peaks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Skelmorlie-Ardrossan	5	0	6	3	2	0	0	1	1	7	4	8
Ardrossan-Troon	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	2
Troon-Turnberry Point	14	7	6	10	5	0	1	10	37	23	8	21
Turnberry Point-Finnarts Bay	12	2	2	2	5	0	0	0	19	8	15	9

Highest counts/movements: 37 flew S/hr Maidens 28 Sep, 19 flew S/hr 4 Oct, 23 Prestwick Bay 15 Oct.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* C (B) W P

Monthly peaks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Skelmorlie-Ardrossan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ardrossan-Troon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Troon-Turnberry Point	8	6	2	3	8	0	0	0	2	0	3	3
Turnberry Point-Finnarts Bay	21	2	18	6	8	0	0	0	1	2	14	9

The spring maximum was 18 Dipple on 31 Mar.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* U W P

Monthly peaks	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Skelmorlie-Ardrossan	1	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ardrossan-Troon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Troon-Turnberry Point	2	3	0	3	39	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Turnberry Point-Finnarts Bay	20	24	71	14	39	0	0	0	0	1	19	8

Highest counts/movements: 48 Ballantrae-Lendalfoot 5 Mar, 71 Dipple 31 Mar, 39 Maidens 14 May.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* C FB S p

No spring records.

Autumn records: 3 caught/ringed at Portencross 14 Jul (PB), 1 Maidens 18 Jul (RHH), 1 on 14 Aug (DGr/RHH), 1 Stevenston Point 27 Sep (DE).

Leach's Storm Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhoa* U P

No spring records.

Autumn records: 1 Maidens 23 Sep (DGr), singles flew S Troon 24 Sep (DGi), and 30 Sep (RHH).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* C B P

Continued decline in breeding numbers: 2 prs reported on Bennane Head.

Passage and counts: 2 Maidens 17 Feb, 1 on 11 Mar, 1 on 24 Apr, 2 on 25 Apr, 1 on 30 Apr, 11 on 22 May, 6 (including one blue morph – DGr) on 25 May, 3 on 31 Jul, 6 Bennane Head 22 Feb, 4 on 10 Apr, 2 on 13 May, 3 Stevenston Point 23 Mar, 5 on 26 Apr, 3 on 20 May, 8 on 24 May, 10 Culzean on 1 May 4 on 10 Jun, 2 on 6 Jul, 5 Currarie Port 14 Jun, 3 Pinbain 24 Jun.



Fulmar in South Ayrshire (Dave Grant)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* C S P

The earliest noted spring birds were 4 at Maidens on 22 Mar, 11 on 27 Mar. This was followed by “large numbers” seen off Croy shore (50+) on 15 Apr, and 25 off Maidens on 25 April.

Counts at main sites.

Site	Count
Saltcoats-Stevenston	2 on 20 May, 56 on 24 May, 400 on 10 Jul, 10 on 7 Aug, 1 on 1 Oct.
Troon	1 on 6 Apr, 48 on 25 May, 210 on 17 Aug, 1 on 30 Sep.
Maidens	4 on 22 Mar, 10 on 1 Apr, 25 on 25 Apr, 117/hr on 4 May, 222 on 25 May, 593 on 10 Jul, 300 on 18 Jul, 900 on 29 Jul, 720 31 Jul, 863 on 2 Aug, 853 on 4 Aug, 250 on 14 Aug, 350 on 17 Aug, 100 on 23 Sep, 51 on 1 Oct, 12 on 5 Oct.
Elsewhere	200 Bogside 12 Jul, 12 Meikle Craigs 17 Jul, 230 Dunure 22 Aug.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* U S P

One individual was reported flying S past Saltcoats on 12 Aug (HF).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* C B p

Winter/spring arrival back in outer Clyde: ad Troon 14 Jan, ad flew N Maidens 5 Feb.

Counts: 50 Hunterston 10 Apr, 135 Maidens 23 Sep, 150 on 10 Aug, 135 on 23 Sep, 106 Barassie 18 Oct, 127 Troon 20 Oct, 346 on 25 Oct, 160 Stevenston Point 23 Oct.

Departure from Clyde and winter records included 20 Ballantrae-Kennedy's Pass 15 Nov, 7 Maidens 17 Nov, 1 Stevenston Point 15 Dec, 5 Apr 16 Dec.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* C B p

Breeding reports included 80+ prs Lady Isle, 3 AON Brest Rocks.

Coastal Counts	
Hunterston-Portencross	8 on 19 Jun, 4 on 9 Aug, 16 on 10 Sep, 5 on 2 Oct, 5 on 5 Nov, 11 on 13 Dec.
Stevenston Point	6 on 20 Jun, 5 on 7 Aug, 8 on 4 Oct, 10 on 29 Oct, 4 on 7 Nov.
Irvine hbr mouth	2 on 2 Jan, 11 on 12 Jul, 7 on 21 Sep, 12 on 25 Oct, 2 on 25 Nov.
Troon-Barassie	11 on 21 Apr, 9 on 15 Aug, 7 on 19 Sep, 11 on 11 Oct, 6 on 21 Nov, 5 on 8 Dec.
Elsewhere	9 Maidens 30 Jul, 13 on 18 Aug, 12 5 Sep, 9 15 Sep, 9 Doonfoot 15 Aug, 6 Girvan 30 Sep.

Inland Counts	
Martnaham	5 on 19 Jan, 6 on 8 Feb, 9 on 20 Feb, 15 on 13 Mar, 16 on 24 Mar, 14 on 16 Apr, 1 on 10 Sep, 2 on 9 Nov, 7 on 21 Dec.
Kilbirnie	3 on 16 Feb, 1 on 23 Mar, 5 on 13 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Trabboch 20 Feb, 2 on 27 Mar, 2 Auchenhavie 11 Apr, 1 Garnock Floods 2 Jun, 1 Loch Bradon 13 Aug, 1 Capringstone 29 Oct, 2 Auchincross 13 Nov.

European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis* C B w

Breeding reports included 80+ prs Lady Isle.

Counts	
Hunterston-Portencross	17 on 29 Jul, 14 on 24 Aug, 21 on 10 Sep, 38 on 17 Sep, 20 on 1 Oct, 50 on 5 Nov.
Stevenston Point	15 on 3 Jan, 40 on 8 Jan, 12 on 6 Mar, 44 on 24 Aug, 15 on 4 Sep.
Irvine hbr mouth	2 on 17 Apr, 3 on 4 Jul, 6 on 21 Sep.
Troon-Barassie	20 on 11 Jul, 63 on 14 Aug, 30 on 28 Oct, 34 on 15 Nov.
Elsewhere	80 Lendalfoot 10 Jun, 48 Turnberry-Dipple 20 Dec.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* C B w

There were no confirmed reports of breeding, although casual records suggest that several traditional sites were occupied.

Counts and migrants: 12 Bogside 4 Jul, 9 Stinking Rocks 31 Aug, 13 Troon 19 Sep, 15 Fairlie 5 Nov, 20 on 29 Dec, 12 Hunterston 4 Dec.



© Dave Grant
Grey Heron in flight at Maidens (Dave Grant)

Great Egret *Ardea alba* R P

This species has recently become a more regular visitor with four records possibly involving the same bird this year: 1 Garnock estuary 2-8 Sep (GMcA), 1 Kilbirnie Loch 13 Sep (MH), 1 flew N Barassie 15 Sep (DR), 1 flew SE St Quivox 3 Nov (MH).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* U S p

Precise totals for this rapidly expanding species are difficult, but at least 20 individuals were present during the year, involving the following:

Counts	
Fairlie-Seamill	4 on 3 Jan, 2 on 4 Feb, 3 on 30 Mar, 4 on 19 Jun, 3 on 14 Aug, 3 on 27 Sep, 3 on 24 Oct, 3 on 5 Nov, 2 on 9 Dec.
Bogside-Garnock Floods	2 on 17 Feb, 3 on 17 Apr, 4 on 19 Apr, 4 on 24 May, 4 on 5 Jul, 4 on 15 Sep, 4 on 15 Oct.
Pow Burn	2 on 25-26 Aug.
Barassie-Troon	1 on 31 Jan, 1 on 30 Mar, 1 16 Aug, 5 on 14 Sep, 1 on 31 Oct, 2 on 21 Nov, 2 on 20 Dec.
Elsewhere	1 Greenan 2 Jan, 1 Doonfoot 29 Jan, 1 Ardeer Quarry 14 Feb, 1 Balkenna 18 Jul, 1 Ochiltree 17 Aug, 1 Craig Tara 30 Dec.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* R FB P

Breeding: 4 sites were occupied and a total of 9 juveniles fledged (SSRSG).

In spring: the Loch Doon ♂ (FK4) was the earliest return on 30 Mar, with the ♀ returning on 31 Mar. Elsewhere 1 flew east at Skelmorlie on 31 Mar, a pair had returned to another breeding site on 3 Apr, and 1 was at Knockendon Res on 10 Apr. Other singles appeared at Knockshinnoch lagoons on 11 Apr, Munnoch Res on 14 Apr, Martnaham Loch on 24 May, and Ardmillan on 6 Jun.

In the autumn, singles were observed at Hunterston from 14 Aug-4 Sep, Bogside on 21 Sep and Culzean on 28 Sep.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* U (B)

An imm, possibly from the current re-introduction scheme, was watched over Eldrick Hill on 18 Mar (RHH), while another imm (satellite-tagged) flew N over Carlock Hill on 12 Apr (RHH).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* C B

Breeding: reported widely within the county with examples from suitable areas at Dean Castle CP (min B/2), Hunterston, Ardeer, Saltcoats, Blackburn Farm, Birkhill Farm, Cumnock, Culzean, Kilcase Wood, and Loch Macaterick.



Sparrowhawk at Crosshill (Angus Hogg)

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* U (B)

3 breeding sites were occupied by adult pairs, and there was a single adult at another. At least one egg was laid at 1 site, but the outcome was unknown. Another pair of adults was present at a site in Glen App on 12 Apr, but no further details were obtained.

A single calling bird was heard at Macherquhat on 10 Apr.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* R P (B)

Up to 5 individuals were reported, involving a ♂ at Fail on 19 Jun (FMcC), a juv at Bogside/Garnock Floods from 25-29 Aug (DG *et al.*), a ♀ at Bogside from 2-8 Sep (GMcA *et al.*), a ♀ at Auchincross on 7 Sep (MH), and another juv at Bogside from 10-12 Sep (TB).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* U b p

No reports were received from breeding areas.

Migrants and wintering birds were reported from Hunterston, Glengarnock, Barrmill, Garnock Floods, Ashgrove Loch, Bogside, Fail, Auchincross, Belston Loch, Martnaham Loch, Maidens (in off sea), and Garnaburn Bridge.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* FB A

Observations of 1-3 birds continued throughout the year in the Patna-Loch Doon area. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Corsencon 27 Mar, Straiton 31 Mar, Skares 6 Apr, Hollybush 15 Apr, Darnhay 19 Jun, New Cumnock 20 Jun, Kelburn 24 Jul. and Culzean 28 Sep. An ad and 2 juvs were seen at roadkill near New Cumnock on 6 Oct. Two more singles were seen at Crosshands on 14 Oct, and Stevenston Point on 22 Oct.

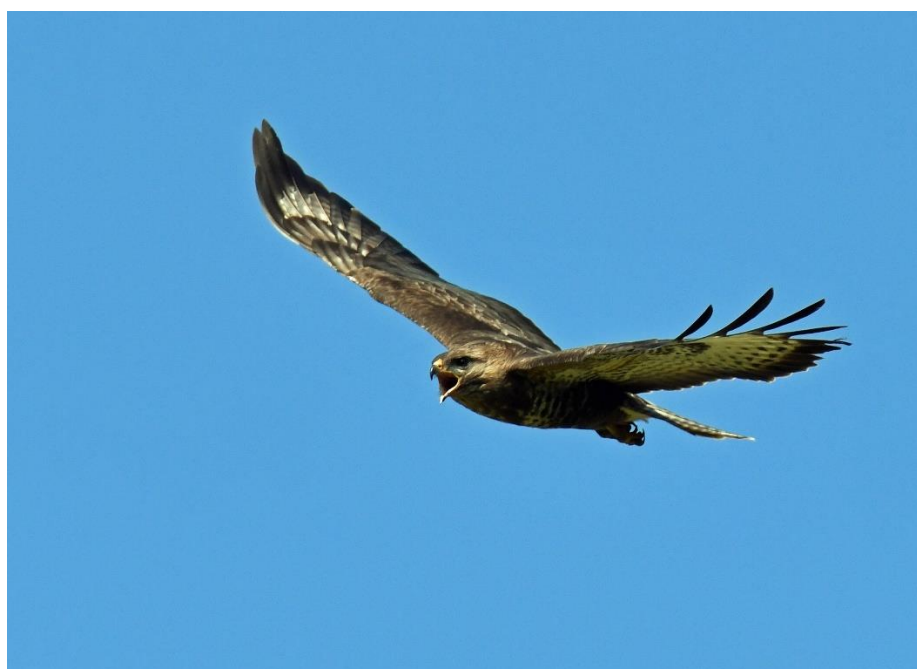
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* C B

A widespread and common breeding raptor.

Pairs or territories reported included the following: Portencross-Fairlie (7+). Dupin (B/2 noted), Campbelton Hill (B/1 noted), Kelburn CP, Brisbane Glen, Outerwards, Hillhouse, Blackburn Farm, Ardeer, Pogiven Bridge, Dean Castle CP, Loudoun Hill, Fail, Sorn, Ballochmyle, Auchincross, Craigdullyear, Auchincruive, Adamton House, Annbank, Shewalton Wood, Troon South Woods, Martnaham Loch, Hollybush, Craigengillan, Kilcase Wood, Craighens Kirkoswald, Brunston Castle, Culzean, South Balloch, Stinchar Falls, and Finnarts Bay.

Migration/counts: 12 Auchincross/Dalgig 12 Sep, 10 Fail 31 Oct.

One was watched excavating a Mole hill at Lugar on 16 Feb – apparently with some success.



Common Buzzard at Auchincross (Angus Hogg)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* C B

Only 2 breeding results involved a pair B/3, and a pair seen at a nest site – both in N Ayrshire.

Sightings of singles were reported from the following areas: Martnaham Loch on 12 Jan, Auchengarth on 7 Feb, Blairbowie on 2 Mar, and West Lochridge on 3 Jul.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* U b

Only 1 record of this elusive species: 1 heard calling near Dailly on 12 Jul.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* C B W p

No reports were received from breeding areas.

Counts/migrants: 1 Blackcraig Hill 13 May was the only spring record.

In the autumn-winter period: present at Bogside from 10 Oct-end Dec, with a peak count of 5 on 12 Oct, 1 Airds Moss 22 Oct, 1 Barassie 17 Nov.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* C B

Breeding pairs or territorial birds were noted at Craigens Kirkoswald (2), Ardeer Fen, Shewalton Wood, Annbank, Martnaham, Kilcase Wood, Drumgirnan.

In winter, singles were reported from Auchincruive, Fencefoot and Tallaminnoch.



Tawny Owl at Moss Mulloch (Dougie Edmond)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* U b

During the breeding season, birds or pairs in suitable breeding habitat were seen at Ladyton Loch, Ardeer, Bourtrees Hill, Annbank, Catrine LNR, and Doonfoot.

In the autumn dispersing singles were seen at the following locations: Hunterston 2 Aug, 18 Sep, Pow Burn 29 Aug, Auchincruive 4-5 Sep, and Bogside 25 Oct.

Winter records included 1 Dipple 2 Jan, 2 Fullarton Woods 7 Feb, singles Sorn 25 Mar, Annbank 25 Apr, Ardeer 21 Nov, Barassie 2 Dec, Doonfoot 15, 20 Dec, Annbank 30 Dec and Dreghorn 31 Dec.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* C B

During the breeding season, birds or pairs in suitable breeding habitat were seen at Largs Avenue Largs, Hawking Craig, Hunterston House, Ardeer, Newfield woodland, Sorn, Lugar, Dean Castle CP, Eglinton CP, Fullarton Woods, Afton water treatment works, Auchincruive, Martnaham, Rozelle, Doonside, Craigengillan, Bellsbank plantation, Eriff plantation, Rowantree Toll, Loch Macaterick, Loch Riecawr, Balbeg, Glenauchie, Culzean, Burnton, Ladyburn Glen, Hamilton Bridge, Wallacetown Dailly, Laigh Drumlamford, Pinvalley, Dalreoch, Oaknowe, Craigneil, Knockdolian, Whidana Wood, Finnarts Bay.

The first drumming bird was heard at Fullarton Woods on 17 Jan.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* U (B)

An increase in records, with 1 flying E Bellamore 5 Mar, 1 heard Knockdolian 10 Mar, 1 Ness Glen 16-24 Apr, plus singles heard Bogside 13 Oct and Shewalton Wood 24 Dec.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* C B

No confirmed breeding reports, but territorial prs or singles noted at Loanhead quarry, Glenburn Res, Bogside, Dundonald Camp, Craigdullyear, Ballochmyle, South Craig, Sandyford, and Drumshang.

Outside the breeding season, notable records included 3 Brisbane Glen 14 Jan, 3 High Mains Dailly 26 Feb,

♀ flew N Troon 25 May, 2 Darnhay 19 Jun, ♂ flew N Maidens 4 Nov, 3 Auchincross 28 Nov, 3 Fail 18 Dec.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* C b W

No reports were received from breeding areas

Wintering birds/ or migrants were noted as follows: ♂ Fail 17, 19 Jan, 20 Feb, ♂ Chapeldonan 24 Jan, 1 Loch Breckbowie 30 Jan, ♂ Martnaham 31 Jan, ♀ Gypsy Pool 24 Feb, ♂ Sorn 4 Mar, ♀ Auchincross 6 Mar, ♂ Delamford 18 Mar, ♀ Craighens Kirkoswald 24 Apr, ♀ Dunure 30 May.

1 flew S Dunure 16 Sep, juv West Auchenlongford 15 Oct, pr Middlefield Law 15 Oct, ♂ Fail 17 Oct, 1 Ardmillan 19 Oct, 1 Maidens 20 Oct, juv Fail 30 Oct, 1 Barassie 21 Nov, ♂ Fail 23 Dec.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco Subbuteo* U P

A juv flew S at Stevenston Point on 8 Sep (DE). This, or another juv was seen at nearby Bogside on 18 Sep (TB), and then another (or possibly the same) juv at Turnberry 28 Sep (HF).



Eurasian Hobby at Stevenston Point (Dougie Edmond)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* C b w

Of the 47 sites which were checked, 21 were occupied by pairs by single birds. 16 pairs reared 42+ young to fledging stage (SSRSG).

Winter sightings were widespread and mostly from coastal locations.



Peregrine in South Ayrshire (*Angus Hogg*)

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* E

Up to 8 birds were present in Kay Park throughout the year. Elsewhere, 1 was feeding on ash keys at Middleyard on 9 Jul, and 2 were at Longbar from 14-18 Nov.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* U w P

A single bird was reported in Benbeoch area 5 Dec (CJR/GC).

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* C B

Birds seen in suitable areas during the breeding season included the following: Ballochmyle (pr B/3 noted), Ardeer, Auchincruive, Martnaham, Hollybush, Culzean, Brunston Castle, Mossgennoch Wood, Knockinculloch.

Outside breeding season 1-2 birds were noted at Newhouse of Threepwood, Law Brae, Beith, Auchenlongford, West Auchenlongford, Sorn, Bent Farm, Oldhall ponds, Shewalton Wood, Nith Lodge, Auchinleck House, Woodroad Park, Annbank, Auchincruive, Rozelle, Blawearie House, Dyke Farm, Culzean, Bogton Loch, Drumgirnan, Wallacetown Dailly, Waterhead on Minnoch, with 3 Martnaham 28 Mar, 3 Culzean 1, 8 Apr, 15 Black Hill of Garleffin 15 Aug, 3 Craigengillan 6, Oct, 18 Finnarts Bay 10 Oct, 4 Barclaugh Wood 25 Oct.



Jay at Rozelle (Doug Edmond)

Black-billed Magpie *Pica pica* C B

Now a widespread breeding bird throughout most of Ayrshire.

Counts included 10 Dean Castle CP 21 Mar, 11 Loans 18 Aug, 10 Newton on Ayr 10 Sep, 10 Troon cemetery 31 Dec.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* C B w

No significant breeding records were received.

High counts, frequently in association with Rooks: 160 Fairlie 9 Jan, 350 Muirhead 17 Jan, 500 Coynton 23 Jan, 208 Sharpill Road Saltcoats 18 Feb, 100 Maybole Castle 16 Oct, 270 Hunterston 30 Dec.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* C B

Counts of nests at established Rookeries included 155-160 AON Maybole study area, 34 AON Baidland Mains, 30 AON NW Dalry.

No large winter flock counts noted, but 100 Dean Castle CP 1 Jan, 164 Loans 21 Jan, 200 on 6 Mar, 100 Stevenston Point 1 Feb.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* C B

No significant breeding reports were received.

Counts: 50 Brown Carrick Hill 7 Jun, 56 Doonfoot 7 Aug, 38 Milton Sorn 19 Sep, 100 Hunterston/Southannan Sands 8 Oct

Hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow: 1-2 Hunterston 30 Mar-7 Nov, 1 Stevenston Point 24 Feb-28 Dec, 1 Fullarton Woods 23 Jul, 1 Craigie Ayr 30 Jul, 1 Craig Tara 12 Aug, 1 Newton on Ayr 28 Sep.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* U (b) p

Pure Hooded Crows are very scarce in Ayrshire and care should be taken with their identification.

Only 1 was noted at Hunterston 3 Apr-end Dec. Several hybrids seem to frequent the Hunterston area.



Hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow at Hunterston (*Dave Grant*)

Common Raven *Corvus corax* U b

52 sites were checked, of which 37 were occupied. 28 pairs laid eggs and 27 pairs reared 70 young where the outcome was known. (SSRSG).

Counts: 36 Knoweside 27 Feb, 25+ Craighs Kirkoswald 2 Mar, 15 Auchincross 18 Oct, 64 Carskeoch Hill 2 Nov



Common Raven in South Ayrshire (*Angus Hogg*)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* C B

Counts and post-breeding groups included 13 Auchincruive 12 Feb, 12 Mossgetnoch Wood 12 Jun, 11 Shewalton Wood 13 Jul, 12 Fullarton Woods 29 Aug, 42 Culzean 6 Sep.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* U b

The species continues its tenuous hold within Ayrshire, with at least 1 at Bogton Loch between 2 and 22 Jan, and 2 Craigengillan 3 Apr.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* C B

Counts and post-breeding groups included 23 Annbank 6 Feb, 28 Milton Sorn 10 Feb, 32 Auchincruive 12 Feb, 21 Shewalton Wood 26 Feb, 26 on 13 Jul, 19 Fullarton Woods 14 Jun, 48 Culzean 14 Sep, c30 Benbeoch area 9 Dec.

Great Tit *Parus major* C B

Counts included 12 Milton Sorn 10 Feb, 25 Mar, 14 Auchincruive 12 Feb, 32 Culzean 14 Sep.

Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis* C B W P

No estimates on numbers but breeding or territorial ♂♂ noted at Whitelee windfarm, Bogside, Airds Moss, Craigmilly Hill, Darnhay, Gales, Dundonald Camp, Royal Troon GC, Collennan, Pow Burn, Sandyford Toll, Brown Carrick Hill, Mossgetnoch, Gass-Keir's Hill, Benquhat-Lethanhill.

Autumn passage: 50 Fail 30 Oct, 12 S/hr Maidens 1 Nov.

Winter and autumn counts included 60 Knoweside 1 Jan, 50 Girvan Mains 2 Jan, 95 Sandyford 3 Jan, 38 Bracken Bay 8 Jan, 56 Gypsy Pool 8 Feb, 80+ Delamford 24 Mar, 62 Auchincross 27 Mar.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* C B S p

Breeding was reported from Gales (48 AON), Stevenston Point (15+ birds at colony), Maidens (min 4 prs in breakwater wall).

Arrival was from 2 Mar when 3 flew N at Saltcoats. These were followed by singles at Mochrum Loch and Kilbirnie Loch on 20 Mar, and Barcully on 21 Mar.

Spring counts included 150 Ladyton Loch 31 Mar, 20 Gales marsh 31 Mar, 80 Martnaham Loch 5 Apr, 120 on 7 Apr, 200+ on 27-28 Apr, 300 on 4 May, 80 Trabboch Loch 7 Apr, 100 on 11 Apr, 60 Auchincross 14 Apr.

Autumn departure: the last birds were noted at Maidens on 14 Sep.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* C B S p

No significant breeding records were received.

Arrival was from 30 Mar when 1 was at Lendalfoot. 9 more arrived on 31 Mar, with 3 at Raith Res, 2 at Ladyton Loch, and singles at Largs, Ochiltree, Patna, and Pow Burn.

Spring counts: 20 Trabboch Loch 11 Apr, 50 Martnaham Loch 26 Apr, 150 on 4 May.

Counts and autumn departure: 40 Culzean 7 Jul, 26 Barr 19 Jul, 30 St Inan's Well Beith 2 Aug, c70 flew S Maidens 22 Aug, 65 Craigs Kirkoswald 5 Sep, 200 Meikle 7 Sep.

Most had left by end Oct, but the following late birds were seen: 1 Irvine 10 Nov, 1 Pow Burn and 2 Doonfoot 20 Nov, 1 Doonfoot 2 Dec.



Barn Swallow at Crosshill (*Angus Hogg*)

House Martin *Delichon urbica* CB S p

No breeding reports were received.

Arrival was from 31 Mar when 2 were at Coylton. These were followed by 2+ at Ochiltree on 4 Apr, and 1 at Ardmillan on 15 Apr.

Spring counts: c30 Martnaham Loch 4 May, 30 Culzean 10 Jun.

Counts and autumn departure: 40 Culzean 11 Jul, 45 on 6 Sep, last birds were noted at Girvan on 25 Sep, and 1 at Greenan on 23 Nov.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* A

An excellent discovery at Ardeer quarry LNR on 2 Dec (IH), This somewhat secretive bird remained in the area into 2022, giving many birders a chance to add it to their Scottish list. This is the 1st Ayrshire record.



Cetti's Warbler at Ardeer quarry LNR (*Hayden Fripp*)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* C B

Counts included 19 Marr College Troon 21 Jan, 10 Airds Moss (R Ayr Way) 30 May, 21 Hunterston 10 Jun, 10 Fairlie 12 Jun, 14 Trabboch 13 Jun, 25 Culzean 23 Jun, 11 Bogside 18 Sep, 12 Netherhall Largs 26 Nov, 10 Barrmill 27 Nov, 15+ Bogton Loch 2 Dec, 11 Martnaham Loch 2 Dec, 12 Hunterston 14 Dec, 11 Milton Sorn 31 Dec.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* U B S p

Arrival was on 28 Apr when single ♂♂ were singing at Knockdolian and Craigengillan. Although the Craigengillan ♂ was observed on 29 Apr, there were no further records.

Another ♂ was heard at Kelburn CP on 11 May.



Wood Warbler near Bellsbank (*Dave Grant*)

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* A

A totally unexpected discovery by a visiting Australian birder, in a totally unexpected location. This little gem was found in the grounds of Auchinleck House on 12 Dec (GT) and stayed for only 2 days, last being seen on 13 Dec. This was, of course, the first Ayrshire record for this Siberian sprite.



Pallas's Warbler at Auchinleck House (*Angus Hogg*)

The whole amazing episode has been posted on the Ayrshire Birding website (January2022).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* C B S P

Breeding birds or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Ardeer-Garnock Floods (min 70), Shewalton Wood (32), Heads of Ayr-Bracken Bay (16), Dreghorn (11), Whitehill woodland (10), Outerwards (9), Hunterston area (9), Mossgeton Wood (9), Kelburn CP (8), Eglinton CP (8), Ladyton Loch (7), Currarie Port (7), Merkland Wood (6), Oldhall ponds (5), Mainholm (5), Fairlie (4), Hillhouse quarry (S) (4), Auchincross (4), Brown Carrick (4), Culzean CP (min 3), Boydston Braes (3), Lochingerloch (3), Tarbert Hill (2), Collennan (3), Shawfarm ind est (3), Brunston Castle (3), Brisbane Mains (2), Netherhall Largs (2), Kirkleegreen Res (2), Gypsy Pool (2), Craigdullyear Hill (2), Ness Glen (2), Dunure (2), Stevenston Point, Dumfries House, Connelburn Rig, Pow Burn

Arrival was from 26 Mar when 1 was at Martnaham Loch. Following this came 1 at Girvan on 29 Mar, 3 at Ladyton Loch and 1 at Barcraigs Res on 31 Mar. Numbers increased between 15-19 Apr with 29 singing ♂♂ at Shewalton Wood on 15 Apr and 40 in the Ardeer area on 19 Apr.

In the autumn, the last birds were 1 at Gypsy Pool 25 Sep, and 2 at Finnarts Bay 10 Oct.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* C B S w p

At least 198 territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded including Ardeer-Garnock Floods (12), Shewalton Wood (9), Hunterston area (8), Barassie GC (7), Ladyburn Glen (7), Finnarts Bay (6+), Heads of Ayr-Bracken Bay (6), Martnaham Loch (6), Eglinton CP (5), Fullarton Woods (5), Culzean (5), Mossgeton Wood (5), Shewalton (4), Annbank (4), Bargany (4), Dupin (4), Kelburn CP (3), Fairlie (3), Portencross (3), Ladyton Loch (3), Lugar (2+), Fairlie (2), Kirkleegreen Res (2), Capringstone (2), Dundonald Camp (2), Sorn (2), Craigs of Kyle (2), Aught Wood (2), Whitehill woodland (2), Prestwick (2), Rozelle (2), Dunure (2), Croy (2), Goats Green (2), Kirkbride pond (2), Deil's Elbow (2), Ness Glen (2), Garnaburn (2), Knockdolian (2), Currarie Port (2), Netherhall Largs, Hawkhill retail park, Brisbane Mains, Kilruskin Wood, Ardrossan, Ashcraig, Kerelaw, Sharphill Road Saltcoats, West Kilbride, Tarbert Hill, Lynn Glen, Kay Park, Towns Moor Irvine, Auchencloigh, Meikleyard Mount, Gales marsh, Hillhouse quarry (S), Collennan, Dutch House rdbt, Kings Drive Cumnock, Dumfries House, Trabboch, Stair, Auchincruive, Mainholm, Cambusdoon, Brown Carrick, Craigfad, Corphin Hill, Parkfairn, Cloyntie, Hamilton Bridge, Black Glen, Cosy Glen, Brunston Castle, Craighead quarry, Bargany, Craighens Kirkoswald, Barr, Dalquhairn Bridge, Ardmillan, Asselfoot, Bellamore, Hallowchapel, Craigneil, Pyet Glen, Oaknowe, Balnowlart, Drumlamford.

Early, perhaps over-wintering birds, were heard singing or calling at Symington on 25 Feb, Hunterston (2 singing ♂♂) on 28 Feb, and Craigdow Hill on 2 Mar.

Arrival was from 15 Mar when 1 was at Kirkmichael, followed by singles at Knockshinnoch lagoons and Ardeer on 16 Mar. Many had arrived within the county by end Mar.

Departure: the last singles were 1 Fullarton Woods 28 Sep, and 1 Saltcoats 30 Oct.

Wintering singles were noted at Doonfoot on 5 Dec, Slaphouse Burn on 9 Dec, 2 Craig Tara on 16-30 Dec, and 1 Troon South Wood on 18 Dec.

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* A

One individual was at Craig Tara sewage plant between 28-31 Dec, along with two *collybita*.



‘Siberian’ Chiffchaff at Craig Tara (Dave Grant)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* C B S p

Up to 108 territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Ardeer-Garnock Floods (17), Kilbirnie Loch (9), Shewalton Wood (7), Trabboch Loch (6), Munnoch Res (5+), Auchincross (5+), Doonfoot (5), Martnaham Loch (5), Gypsy Pool (3), Bogton Loch SW (3), Balsalloch (3), Fergusson Road Largs (2), Hawking Craig (2), Collennan (2), Dundonald Camp (2), Meadowhead Farm (2), Royal Troon GC (2), Craigengillan (2), Bogton Loch NE (2), Hallowshean (2), Fairlie, Hunterston Sands, Connelston, Fencefoot, Tarbert Hill, Seamill, Stevenston Point, Bogside, Middleyard, Lilylaw Bridge, Gailes marsh, Prestwick, Merkland Wood, Bogton Loch (NW), Bracken Bay, Maidens, Craigens Kirkoswald, Barbae Wood, Laggan Bridge, Liggetcheek, Carleton Port, The Whilk.

Arrival was from 19 Apr when 1 was at Trabboch Loch. Another followed at Croy on 20 Apr, with further singles at Greenan and Pow Burn on 21 Apr.

The last autumn bird was seen at Gypsy Pool on 31 Aug.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A single, un-mated ♂ was present at Gypsy Pool from 29 May-29 Jun (BDK).

Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* C B S

At least 48 territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded including Ardeer Fen (7), Shewalton Wood (7), Bogton Loch and Moss (7), Dunlop (4), Busbiemuir Res (3), Dundonald Camp (2), Trabboch Loch (2), Greenan (2), Hawking Craig, Glenside Wood, Kirkleegreen Res, Ardeer quarry, Munnoch Res, Eglinton CP, Shewalton, Bogside, Gypsy Pool, Auchincross, Martnaham Loch, Loch Doon, Craigens Kirkoswald, Ballantrae.

Arrival was from 18 Apr when 1 was at Ardeer Fen. This was followed by singles at Dunure, Greenan and Pow Burn on 21 Apr.

Departure was noted, with at 2 Spier's school Beith on 10 Aug.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* C B S w p

Territorial or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Ardeer-Garnock Floods (13), Fullarton Woods (12), Kilkerran N (10), Bargany (8+), Finnarts Bay (8), Hunterston (7), Merkland Wood (7), Shewalton Wood (6), Ladyburn Glen (6), Feoch Burn (6), Craigengillan (5+), Martnaham Loch (5), Dupin-Mark (5), Culzean (min 4), Ardeer quarry LNR (4), Ladyton Loch (4), Whitehill woodland (4), Heads of Ayr-Bracken Bay (4), Brown Carrick (4), Hawking Craig (3), Hallyards quarry (3), Hallowchapel (3), Boydston Braes (2), Dalgarn (2), Rozelle (2), Gaw Glen (2), Bogton Loch (2), Blairquhan Approach Loch (2), Tallaminnoch (2), Dalquhairn Bridge (2), Daljarrock (2), Macherquhat (2), Docherneil (2), Loch Nahinie (2), Drumlamford (2), Laigh Drumlamford (2), Outerwards, Noddsdale cottages, Netherhall Largs, Fairlie, Portencross, East Grassyards, Ardrossan, Sharphill Road Saltcoats, Kerelaw, Glengarnock Pool, Kilbirnie House, Tarbert Hill, Dean Castle CP, Aught Wood, Hillhouse quarry S, Killoch, Sorn, Trabboch, Auchingee, Auchincross, Burns' Cairn, Stair, Auchincruive, Annbank, Gadgirth, Ballochbeatties, Sally Pollock's Bridge, Croy, Goats Green, Segganwell, Dunure, Balkenna, Townhead Dipple, Carleton Mains, Cloyntie, Barcully, Roan of Craigoach, Wallacetown Dailly, Lindsayston Dailly, Chapelton Burn, Newlands, Kirkoswald ford, Glendoune Girvan, Tormitchell, Barbae Wood, Asselfoot, Barr, Pinwherry, Bents, Kildonan, Ligartrie, Bellamore, Poundland, Liggetcheek, Oaknowe, Balnowlart, Bougang, Pyet Glen, Knockdolian, Carlock House.

Arrival was from 31 Mar when 2 were at Ardmillan. Following this came singles at Coylton and Shewalton on 2 Apr, and Culzean on 6 Apr.

Autumn departure saw singles at Annbank on 14 Sep, Garnock Floods on 18 Sep, and Sorn on 19 Sep, with a late bird at Catrine Voes on 20 Oct.

Wintering birds in Jan-Mar included singles at ♂ Troon 6, 12 Jan, 19 Mar, Kilmarnock 22 Jan, Hunterston 27 Jan, Greenan 24 Feb, and Ardrossan 6 Mar.

Wintering birds in Oct-Dec included singles at Doonfoot on 17 Dec and Ardmillan on 21 Dec.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* C B S p

Territorial or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Whitehill woodland (4), Auchencross-Lanemark (4), Ayr Gorge (4), Hunterston (2), Gadgirth (2), Sillyhole Moss (2), Stinchar Falls (2), Finnarts Bay (2), Garnock N, Oldhall ponds, Shewalton Wood, Hillhouse quarry S, Fullarton Woods, Troon South Wood, High Clews Mauchline, Martnaham Loch, Dalcairney, Craigengillan, Heads of Ayr, Bracken Bay, Balbeg, Kirkbride pond, Dobbingsstone Burn, Tallaminnoch, Tarfessock, Whiterow, Dalquhairn Bridge, Barr, Bellamore, Loch Nahinie, Laigh Drumlamford, Drumlamford, Crow Wood Ardmillan, Dupin

Arrival was from 25 Apr when 1 was at Dreghorn. This was followed by another at Barr on 26 Apr.

No departure date was noted.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* U b

Four territories were recorded at Ayrshire study sites, with up to 7 birds seen at one time. Away from these study sites, further singing ♂♂ were reported from Bracken Bay (2), Barassie, Dundonald, Ayr Premier Inn, Croyburnfoot, Finnarts Bay. An ad and juv were observed on Darly GC on 10 Jul.

Arrival was from 26 Apr when 1 was at the Ardeer study site. This was followed by 2 in Stevenston 1 May.

The last departing bird was seen at Martnaham 9 Jul.

Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis* C B S p

Territorial or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Ardeer- Garnock Floods (11), Hunterston area (8), Currarie Port (6), Shewalton Wood (5), Bracken Bay (5), Finnarts Bay (4), Pinbraid (3), Dupin (3), Largs N (2), Oldhall ponds (2), Collennan (2), Gypsy Pool (2), Annbank (2), Pow Burn (2), Doonfoot (2), Dunure (2), Chapelton Burn-Glenhead (2), Deil's Elbow (2), Chapeldonan (2), Bennane Lea (2), Routenburn, East Grassyards, Fairlie, Portencross, Stevenston Point, Munnoch Res, Tarbert Hill, Gailes. Dundonald, Hillhouse quarry S, Knowehead, Fail, High Clews Mauchline, Sandyford Toll, Auchincruive, Merkland Wood, Shawfarm ind est, Bower Hill, Loch Riecawr, Craigfionn, Tallaminnoch, Craigencallie, Brown Carrick, Brunston Castle, Craigens Kirkoswald, Blanefield, Kirkoswald ford, Barcully, Culzean, Maidens, Chapeldonan, Barbae Wood, Laggan Bridge, Pinwherry, Hallowchapel, Garnaburn, Pinbain, Loch Dornal, Darnaconnar, Wheeb, The Whilk, Balcreuchan Port, Bennane Head, Ballantrae, Craigantear. Arrival was from 21 Apr when the first bird appeared at Pow Burn. This was followed by 2 at Gypsy pool on 22 Apr, and singles at Finnarts Bay, Bennane Head, Greenan, Seafield Ayr, Shewalton and Eglinton CP on 23 Apr.

In the autumn, the last birds were at Darnhay on 27 Aug, Fail on 29 Aug, and Gypsy Pool on 8 Sep.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* C B p

During the breeding season singing ♂♂ were recorded at Outerwards, Netherhall Largs, Kelburn CP, Fairlie, Hunterston, Ardeer quarry LNR, Ardeer, Hillhouse quarry S, Fullarton Woods, Culzean, Loch Bradan. Counts included 8 Pogiven Bridge 3 Jan.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* C B

Territorial or singing ♂♂ were heard at Mossgetnoch Wood (22), Culzean (16), Shewalton Wood (14), Fullarton Woods (12), Kelburn CP (8), Outerwards (6), Auchincruive (6), Hunterston (5), Garnock Floods (5), Dean Castle CP (5), Brown Carrick (5), Ardeer (4), Garnock Floods (4), Dunure (4), Fairlie (3), Portencross (3), Whitehill woodland (3).

Counts included 10 Milton Sorn 25 Mar, 10 Auchincruive 5 Sep.



Wren at Crosshill (*Angus Hogg*)

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* C B

Singing ♂♂ or birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season were reported from Craufurdland-Dean Castle CP (5), Culzean (4), Sorn (2), Fullarton Woods (2), Rozelle (2), Hawking Craig, Hunterston House, Beith, Lainshaw, Kay Park, Capringstone, Sorn, Dumfries House, Annbank, Gadgirth, Auchincruive, Martnaham Loch, Belleisle, Cambusdoon, Doonside, Craigengillan, Bogton Loch, Merkland Kirkmichael, Balbeg, Craig Farm Straiton, Craigfad, Drumginnan, Kilkerran Station, Dalquhairn Bridge, Hallowchapel Bridge, Oaknowe, Knockdolian, Aughtshillin Wood, Finnarts Bay.

Singles at Meigle on 28 Oct and Auchinleck House on 13 Dec, although outwith the breeding season, show the species' continued range expansion within the county.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* C B

Birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season were reported from Culzean (10+), Spier's school Beith, Hillhouse, Kerelaw, Kay Park, Shewalton Wood, Fullarton Woods, Annbank, Doonfoot, Rozelle, Straiton.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* C B W

First 2 juvs seen at Loans on 28 May.

Post-breeding flocks included the following: 100 Springside 10 Jun, 100 Doonfoot 10 Jul, 100+ Stevenston Point 4 Sep, 258 Irvine 16 Sep, 101 Troon 19 Sep.

Winter flocks/migrants included 1400 Troon 6 Feb, 750 on 5 Mar, 200 Hunterston 27 Jan, 100 South Balloch 6 Feb, 200 Bogside 21 Sep, 350 Newton on 25 Sep, 750 Barassie 2 Dec, 400 Bruntwood Farm 2 Dec, 500 Troon harbour 10 Dec, 200 Ardrossan 30 Dec.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* C B w P

No significant breeding reports.

Counts and migrants included 12 Bracken Bay 8 Jan.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* C B W

Birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season were noted at Culzean (4), Hunterston (c3), Shewalton Wood (2), Outerwards, Largs, Kelburn CP, Whitelee windfarm, Lugar, Sorn, Marr College Troon, Brown Carrick, Loch Doon.

Counts and post-breeding groups: 15 Fullarton Woods 16 Jan, 15 Culzean 6 Jun, 10 Brown Carrick, 20 Drumboy Hill-Soame Burn 20 Aug, 10 Craigengillan 6 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* C W P

In the winter-spring period: 40 Cassillis View Maybole 16 Jan, 40 Hunterston 17 Jan, 30 Burn Gill 23 Jan, 17 Fail 28 Mar, with the last departing birds being 10 Largs 3 Apr, 10 Martnaham Loch 13 Apr, 1 Largs 16 Apr.

Autumn arrival was from 2 Oct when 1 was at Fail. This was followed by, 1 Corsehouse Res on 4 Oct, 2 Martnaham Loch on 6 Oct and 4 Saltcoats on 9 Oct, before a larger arrival between 14 and 25 Oct, with 100 Apr 14 Oct, 40 Auchenroy 21 Oct, 90 Barclaugh Wood 25 Oct. Further arrivals included 40 Shawfarm ind est 31 Oct, 50 Blairbowie 2 Nov, 60 Dalvennan 3 Nov, 92 Capringstone 8 Nov, 56 Garnock Floods 17 Nov, 49 Shewalton Wood 18 Nov, 140+ Ballochmyle 20 Nov, 55 Ardeer Fen 17, 70 Eglinton CP 24 Dec.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* C B W p

No significant breeding reports.

Counts and migrants: 10 Bracken Bay 8 Jan, 11 Annbank 6 Feb, 24 Culzean 13 May, 18 Fullarton Woods 2 Jun, 15 Ardeer Fen 17 Dec.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* C W P

In the winter-spring period: 100 Cassillis View Maybole 18 Jan, 60 Burn Gill 23 Jan, 90+ Craigens Kirkoswald 23 Jan-2 Mar, 200 South Balloch 26 Feb, 120 Martnaham Loch 1 Mar, 200 on 15 Apr, 50 Loch Duisk 16 Mar, 58 Fail 28 Mar, the last spring departures involved 2 Largs 16 Apr, 125 Martnaham Loch 19 Apr, with the final 20 there on 22 Apr.

Autumn arrival was from 5 Oct when 1 was present at Martnaham Loch. Larger numbers followed on 4-5 Nov with 200 Fail 4 Nov, 70 Adamton 5 Nov, 58 Shewalton Wood 10 Nov, 54 Bogside 14 Nov, 62 on 2 Dec, 110 Sharphill Road Saltcoats 19 Nov, 100+ Knockdon 22 Nov, 60 Newlands Dailly 27 Dec.



Fieldfare visiting a Coylton garden (Dave Grant)

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* U b S p

Spring arrivals: 1 Spout of the Garnock 4 Apr (DH), ♂ Nick of the Balloch 10 Apr (HF/FMcC).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* C B S p

Under-recorded, with territories or singing ♂♂ at Hawking Craig, Goldenberry Hill, Loudoun Hill, Cunninghamhead, Annbank, Merkland Wood, Gadgirth, Ness Glen, Craigengillan, Barr, Tallaminnock, Pyet Glen, Finnarts Hill.

Arrival was from 11 May when 1 was in Glen Afton.

In the autumn, the last birds seen were 4 at Ladyton Loch on 7 Sep.



Spotted Flycatcher at Pyet Glen (*Angus Hogg*)

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* C B W p

No significant breeding records were received.

Counts and migrants included 10 Martnaham Loch 6 Jan, 11 Milton Sorn 25 Mar, 10 Kelburn CP 11 May, 20 Culzean 1 Jun, 21 on 27 Sep.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* U b P

Only one record of a pair, at Ness Glen-Craigengillan on 26-26 Apr (I&MH *et al.*).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* R W p

A ♂ was present at Troon S beach from 6-21 Jan (DE *et al.*).



Black Redstart at Troon (*Dave Grant*)

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* C B S p

At least 21 territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Craigengillan (6), Ness Glen (3), Merkland Wood (2), Ballochmyle, Glen Afton, Connelburn Rig, Bogton Loch, Gaw Glen, Bargany, Glenuchie, Knockdon, Craigenallie, Loch Riecawr

Arrival was from 19 Apr when singles were at Glen Afton and Ness Glen.

Autumn singles were noted at Saltcoats and Dalgig on 14 Aug, with the last being at Failford on 20 Aug.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* C B S p

19 territories or singing ♂♂ reported Carcow Burn (2), Whitefell plantation (2), Craigdarroch (2), Rigg Hill (B/2 noted), Outerwards, Ballochmyle, Darnhay, Connel Burn, White Hill, Garpel Bridge, Loch Derclach, Milton Hill, Doughty, Dalquhairn Bridge, Delamford, Laggan Bridge, Pinbraid.

Arrival was from 20 Apr when singles were at Darnhay and Munnoch Res. These were followed by 2 ♂♂ at Craigen Kirkoswald on 24 Apr and 1 at Dundonald Camp on 28 Apr.

The last autumn birds were 2 at Drumboy Hill on 6 Aug and 1 at Hunterston on 9 Aug.



Whinchat at Barrhill (Angus Hogg)

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* C B

At least 32 territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Seamill (4 juvs noted), High Newlands (2 juvs noted), Drumboy Hill (juv noted), Craigen Kirkoswald (FY noted), Dalquhairn Bridge (FY noted), Loch Duisk (FY noted), Kelburn windfarm track, Outerwards, Glenburn Res, Hunterston PS, Hawking Craig, Little Brigurd, Kaim Hill, Knowes Farm Beith, Stevenston, Bogside, Kirkleegreen, Garnock N, Northcraig Res, Darnhay, Gales, Dundonald Camp, Shewalton Wood, Pow Burn, Doonfoot, Carcow Burn, Loch Doon, Whitefell plantation, Balkenna, Lendalfoot, Kilrenzie, Craigantzeart.

Wintering birds (Jan-Mar) were reported from Outerwards (4), Maidens (4), Highfield Farm (3), West Kilbride-Portencross (2), Ardrossan N beach (2), Doonfoot (2), Turnberry Point (2), Lendalfoot (2), Hunterston, Willowyard, Auchenhavie pond, Troon, Dipple.

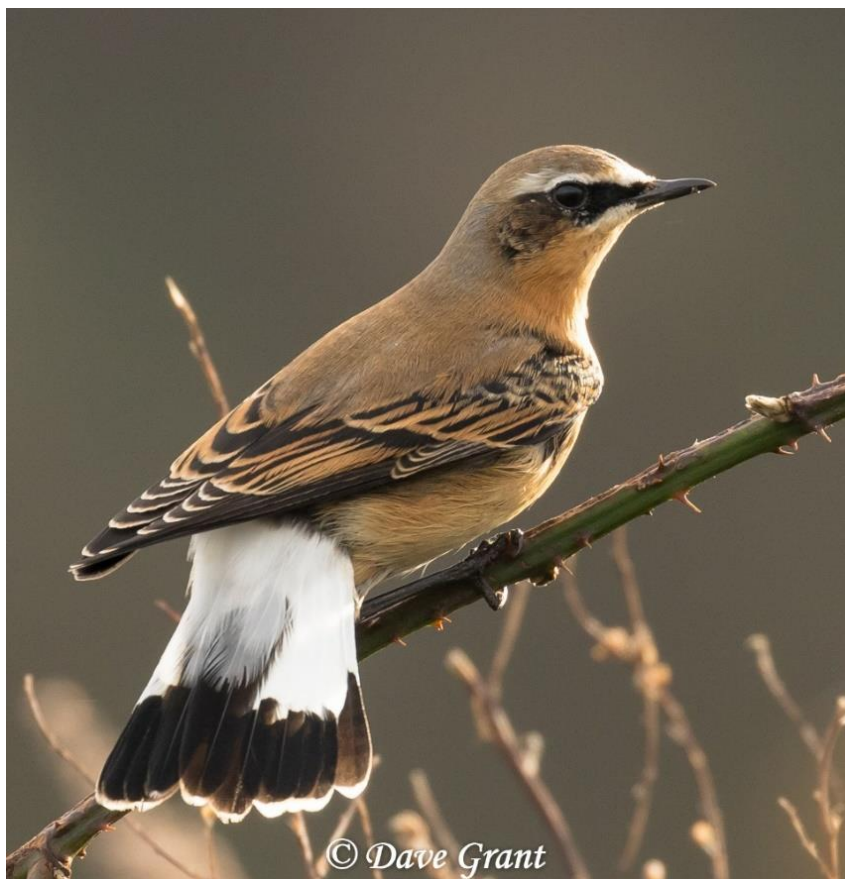
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* C B S P

Territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Beoch-Garpel Bridge (up to 7 - 5 juvs noted), Ashmark Hill (2 juvs noted), Loch Doon dam (juv noted), Tormitchell (juv noted), Carrick Hills (3), Glen Afton (2), Kelburn windfarm track, Loudoun Hill, Airds Moss, Craigdullyear Hill, Dalfarsan, Trees Farm, Bower Hill, Loch Derclach, Balsalloch, Currarie Port.

Arrival was from 24 Mar when a ♂ was on Byne Hill, Girvan. This was followed by 1 at Loch Doon on 29 Mar – 6 there on 30 Mar, 3 at Greenan and 1 at Troon on 31 Mar. Other notable spring arrivals were 7+ Darnhay 20 Apr, 7 Pow Burn 20, 24 Apr, 8 Dundonald Camp 29 Apr.

Spring passage of Greenland *O o leucorrhoa*: ♀ Maidens 26 Apr, 3 ♀♀ Blairbowie 27 Apr, 8 ♂♂ on 5 May, pr Maidens 30 Apr, 4 on 10 May, 2 ♀♀ Fail 11 May.

Late autumn passage of Greenland *O o leucorrhoa*: singles Dipple 10 Oct, Bogside 20 Oct, with the last at Dipple on 23 Oct.



Late autumn Wheatear near Dipple (Dave Grant)

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* C B

Birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season were noted at Slaphouse Burn (2 juvs noted), Outerwards, Noddsdale Burn, Kelburn CP, Fairlie, Seamill, Dalgarnen, Dean Castle CP, Wellwood Bridge, Sorn, Stair, Annbank, Gadgirth, Ness Glen, Colmonell.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* C B

Although the core breeding population appears to remain within the Tarbolton/Kilmarnock/Stewarton area, smaller outlying populations may be being missed e.g. single prs Drumginan, Burnton.

Breeding records: pr reared 2-3 juvs Crosshill, pr Knowehead Fail.

Counts included: 4 Doonfoot 8 Jan, 3 Ardmillan 25 Jan, 1 Lugar 7 Feb, 4 Fail 20 Feb, 1 Maidens 22 Feb, 2 Kilmaurs 14 Mar, 1 Middledyrd 4 May, 1 Blanefield 16 May, 1 Stair 16 May, 12 Fail 24 Jul, 25 on 22 Aug, 35 on 29 Aug, 70+ on 19 Oct, 3 Croy 27 Aug, 1 Culzean CP 24 Nov, 40 Heathfield 30 Dec.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* C B

A notable breeding record involves 30 prs Meigle where none in 1990.

Counts and post-breeding flocks included 114 Kerr Avenue Saltcoats 9 Jan, 141 on 24 Feb, 40 Ayr harbour 25 Mar, 100 Doonfoot 10 Jul, 100 Maidens 9 Aug, 60 Irvine beach park 10 Aug, 200+ Killoch 20 Aug, 100 Barassie 10 Nov.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* C B

No significant counts or breeding reports of this widespread species.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* U (b) S p

Spring records of *M.f.flavissima*: ♂ Pow Burn 19 Apr (DE), ♂ flew N Maidens 24 Apr (RHH), ♂ Munnoch Res 24 Apr (GM).

M.f.flava: ♂ Fail 23 Apr (DC), ♂ Fail 5 Jun (DGr).

M.f.thunbergi: a ♂ probably of this sub-species, flew N at Maidens on 22 May (DGr/RHH).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* C B S w P

Territories or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Stair-Enterkine R Ayr (6), Hareshawmuir (2 juvs noted), Outerwards, Hunterston PS, Dalgarnen, Kirkleegreen Res, Lynn Glen, Dreghorn, Catrine, Milton Sorn, Glen Afton, Loch Doon dam, Ness Glen, Annbank, Gadgirth, Doonfoot, Straiton, Croy, Goats Green.

Counts and migrants included 2 flew N Loch Doon 17 Mar, 3 Seamill 14 Nov.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* C B

No significant information received on breeding birds.

First juvs noted were 2 at Kilwinning Road Irvine on 6 Jun.

Counts and migrants included 30 West Kilbride-Portencross 24 Jan, 12 Auchenharvie GC 11 Apr, 11 Troon S beach 17 Apr, 10 Munnoch Res 26 Apr, 10 Fail 30 Apr, 10 Seamill 30 Apr, 13 Hunterston 4 May, 12 Munnoch Res 11 Jul, 14 Fail 8 Aug, 12 Martnaham Loch 11 Sep, 10 Hunterston 26 Sep, 25 Dipple 23 Oct, 14 Bogside 25 Oct, 25+ Stevenston Point 31 Oct, 10 Seamill 14 Nov.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba* Migration and counts: arrival appeared to be from 23 Mar when 1 was at Troon.

Peak counts appear below.

Date	Count	Location	Date	Count	Location
2 Apr	9	Troon	26 Apr	64	Munnoch Res
5 Apr	9	Fail	28 Apr	14	Martnaham Loch
16 Apr	12+	Kilbirnie Loch	28 Apr	18	Fail
17 Apr	15	Fail	30 Apr	20	Seamill
24 Apr	18	flew N Maidens	5 May	12	Martnaham Loch
24 Apr	80+	Munnoch Res	5 May	20	Fail
25 Apr	47	Hunterston	16 May	1	Fail

In the autumn: 6 Fail 8 Aug, 2 Dalmaca 22 Aug, 2 Dipple 27 Aug, 2 Ardrossan N beach 2 Sep, 7 Martnaham Loch 4 Sep, 3 on 14 Sep, 4+ Milton Burn 6 Sep, 3 Stevenston Point 12 Sep, 4 Lady Isle 16 Sep, 11 Maidens 16 Sep.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* C B P

Breeding was widespread once more, with no significant comments on distribution.

Winter: inland records are scarce, but singles at New Cumnock 25 Feb and Cairn Table on 27 Feb were probably early migrants.

Spring passage counts included 21 Loans 3 Mar, 20 Bridgehousehill Kilmarnock 6 Mar, 46 flew N/3hrs Loch Doon 17 Mar, 75 Fail 6 Apr.

Autumn migrants/post-breeding flocks included 20 Fail 2 Oct, but no large flocks reported.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* C B S p

Under-recorded, with territorial or singing ♂♂ at Ness Glen (2), Rowantree Toll (2), Corsencon, Merkland Wood, Gaw Glen, Maggie Osborne's Bridge, Loch Macaterick.

Arrival was from 15 Apr when 2 were at Glenbuck. This was followed by 2 at Garnock E on 18 Apr and 1 at Loch Doon on 19 Apr.

An autumn migrant was observed at Maidens on 4 Sep.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* R w P

Only 1 individual was recorded (although details are awaited on two autumn birds): recorded: 1 was at Rancleugh Burn from 12 Feb-5 Mar (HF *et al.*).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* C B p

Territorial or singing ♂♂ were recorded at Hunterston, Hawking Craig, Portencross, Seamill, Ardrossan N beach, Saltcoats harbour, Irvine beach park, Barassie, Troon harbour, Prestwick, Dunure, Maidens, Lendalfoot, The Whilk, Ballantrae.

Counts: 10 Seamill 3 Jan, 15 on 21 Feb, 14 West Kilbride-Portencross 24 Jan, 10+ Stevenston Point 31 Oct.



Rock Pipit at Croy (Angus Hogg)

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* C B W

No significant breeding records were received.

Counts were up on previous year with 40 Doonside 3 Jan, 50 Irvine 4 Jan, 60 Hunterston 23 Jan, 80 Fail 6 Feb, 100 on 2 Oct, 50 Culzean 9 Apr, 45 on 23 Jun, 50 on 11 Jul, 100 Martnaham 15 Nov.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* U W p

There were no records from the winter-spring period.

In the autumn: 3 Crosshill 30 Oct, 1 ♀ on 28 Nov-5 Dec, 1 on 9 Dec, 1 Fail 30 Oct, 1 on 11 Nov, 1 Dalvennan 3 Nov, 2 Martnaham Loch 15 Nov, 25 Loch Doon 19 Nov, 1 Shankston Loch 8 Dec.



Brambling at Crosshill (*Angus Hogg*)

Common Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* C B

No breeding records were submitted this year.

Counts: 5 Lugar 2 Jan, 6 on 11 Feb, 12 Craigdow Hill 2 Jan, 12 Fairlie 3 Jan, 5 Hunterston 17 Jan, 4 Fail 20 Feb, 4 Garnock 10 Sep, 4 Culzean 28 Sep, 12 Barclaugh Wood 25 Oct, 7 Martnaham 15 Nov, 6 on 2 Dec, 4 Shewalton Wood 24 Nov, 5 Annbank 30 Dec.



Bullfinch at Martnaham (*Dave Grant*)

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* C B W

No breeding records were submitted this year.

Counts: 30 Largs 14 Jan, 20 Bogside 25 Oct, 30 Barassie 28 Oct, 100 Stevenston Point 29 Oct, 30 on 5 Nov, 40 on 7 Nov, 30 on 17 Dec, 40 Doonfoot 7 Nov, 61 Gailles 18 Nov, 74 on 21 Nov, 30 Pow Burn 6 Dec, 27 Troon south beach 19 Dec.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris* C (B) W

Breeding birds in S Ayrshire, S of Ballantrae included 6+ on 14 May and 2 on 12 Jun.

Winter-spring	Counts
Hunterston-Portencross	20 on 12 Mar.
Turnberry-Girvan Mains	50 on 2 Jan, 20 on 27 Jan.
Elsewhere	100 Hillhouse 13 Feb, 60 Troon 8 Mar.

Autumn-winter	Counts
Dipple-Girvan Mains	2 on 1 Sep, 3 on 23 Oct, 2 on 30 Oct.
Elsewhere	40 Ardrossan 16 Oct, 50 Rowbank and Barcraigs Loch 3 Nov.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina* C B

No breeding records were submitted this year.

Counts: 30 Hunterston 27 Jan, 20 on 2 Apr, 15 on 1 Oct, 25 Girvan Mains 27 Jan, 27 Milton 10 Feb, 50 Currarie Farm 14 May, 52 Dipple 23 Oct, 20 Stevenston 5 Nov, 30 Portencross 4 Dec, 20 Po Burn 6 Dec, 20 Royal Troon GC 6 Dec.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* R p

One record of this recently “split” species: 2 Finnarts Bay 23 Apr (RHH).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* C B S p

At least 7 territories or singing ♂♂ included Auchincross, Benbeoch, Linfern Loch, Craigens, Garpel Bridge, Dalquhairin Bridge, Loch Slochy.

Few large flocks were reported: 10 Garnock Lagoons 27 Apr, 17 Shewalton Wood 13 Nov, 16 on 18 Nov.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* U B w

Numbers appeared low once more and scattered over a wide area in S Ayrshire.

Birds in suitable breeding habitat were noted at Stinchar Bridge, and Loch Doon.

Counts and post-breeding groups: 4 Rozelle 6 Jan, 13 Bogside 11 Feb, 8 Culzean 14-19 May, 6 on 11 Jun, 6 on 2 Jul, 4 on 6 Jul, 4 on 17 Aug.



Common Crossbill at Rozelle (Dougie Edmond)

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* C B

Now a widespread breeding species.

Counts: 40 Meikle-Largs 16 May, 200 Pow Burn 25 Aug, 80 Middleyard 31 Aug, 100 Millrig 31 Aug, 60 Hallowshean 5 Sep, 35 Culzean 9 Sep, 57 on 14 Sep, 49 on 18 Sep, 39 on 19 Sep, 100 Shieldhill 12 Sep, 150 Stevenston Point 12 Sep, 40 Mochrum Loch 4 Oct, 50 Common Loch 15 Oct, 42 Largs 26 Nov, 60 Pennyvenie 2 Dec.

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* C B W p

No significant breeding information was received.

Counts: 24 Shewalton Sandpits 7 Apr, 14 Martnaham 5 Oct, 20 Catrine Voes 20 Oct, 31 Shewalton Wood 18 Nov, 65 on 24 Nov, 22 Fullarton Woods 12 Dec, 48 Ardeer Quarry 19 Dec, 98 Fullarton 31 Dec.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* U W p

There were no winter-spring records reported.

In the autumn: 1 Ailsa Craig 16 Oct (KG), 1 Bogside 22 Oct (MW), 1 flew overhead Bogton Loch (JM) 10 Nov, 1 Irvine Beach 15-17 Nov (BS), 1 Gaiies 18 Nov (DGi), 1 long staying bird at Stevenston Point 8-28 Dec (SB).



Snow Bunting at Stevenston Point (*Dave Grant*)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* C B

Territorial ♂♂ were noted at Knockentiber-Springside cycle path (3-4), Bower Hill (3), Greenan (2), Fardale Hill Kilmarnock, Craig Cottages Crosshouse, Troon South Wood, Sandyford Toll, Mainholm, Bracken Bay Croy, Glengennet.

Counts: 5 Doonfoot 8 Jan, 8 on 9 Jan, 17 Symington 24 Jan, 5 Martnaham 15 Apr, 6 Croy Beach 8 Jul, 35 Barmuir 5 Nov.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* C B

At least 27 territories or singing ♂♂ were noted at Ardeer Fen (3), Garnock Floods (3), Trabboch Loch (3), Munnoch Res (2), Auchincross (2), Bogton Loch NE (2), Outerwards, Hunterston, Little Brigurd, Seamill, Whitelee windfarm, Northcraig Res, Wellwood Bridge, Darnhay, Craigdullyear, Beoch, Craigs Kirkoswald, Penwhapple.

Counts: 6 Bracken Bay 8 Jan, 15 Girvan Mains 27 Jan, 6 Fail 20 Feb, 15 on 2 Oct, 15 Auchincross 6-7 Mar, 5 Garnock Floods 18 Mar, 10 on 31 Aug, 5 on 19 Sep, 6 Kirklee-green 23 Mar, 6 Rowbank and Barcraigs Lochs 3 Apr, 5 Garnock Lagoons 16 May, 5 Maich Burn 4 Jul, 6 Doonfoot 10 Jul, 14 Bogton Loch 2 Dec.

Ayrshire Birding - Rarities and Descriptions.

Species which may require a written description are listed below, and an abbreviation indicates the relevant records committee:

A = Ayrshire Birds Records Committee.

S = Scottish Birds Records Committee.

B = British Birds Rarities Committee.

Photographic evidence is always welcome.

Report to	Common Name
A	Brent Goose (Dark-bellied race)
A	Snow Goose
A	Taiga Bean Goose
A	Tundra Bean Goose
A	White-fronted Goose (Eurasian race)
A	Bewick's Swan
A	Garganey
A	American Wigeon
A	Green-winged Teal
A	Red-crested Pochard
A	Ferruginous Duck
A	Ring-necked Duck
A	Lesser Scaup
B	King Eider
B	Harlequin Duck
B	Surf Scoter
A	Velvet Scoter
B	Barrow's Goldeneye
A	Smew
B	Hooded Merganser
A	Ptarmigan
A	Capercaillie
A	Common Quail
A	European Nightjar
S	Alpine Swift
B	Great Bustard
B	Pallas's Sandgrouse
A	Turtle Dove

A	Corncrake
A	Spotted Crake
B	Little Crake
A	Common Crane
A	Red-necked Grebe
A	Slavonian Grebe
A	Black-necked Grebe
A	Avocet
A	American Golden Plover
A	Little Ringed Plover
B	Killdeer
A	Eurasian Dotterel
A	Temminck's Stint
S	White-rumped Sandpiper
A	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
A	Pectoral Sandpiper
B	Long-billed Dowitcher
B	Great Snipe
B	Wilson's Phalarope
A	Red-Necked Phalarope
A	Grey Phalarope
B	Spotted Sandpiper
A	Green Sandpiper
A	Lesser Yellowlegs
B	Marsh Sandpiper
A	Wood Sandpiper
A	Spotted Redshank
B	Ivory Gull
A	Sabine's Gull
A	Little Gull
B	Ross's Gull
B	Laughing Gull
B	Franklin's Gull
A	Ring-billed Gull
A	Iceland Gull (Kumlien's)
S	Yellow-legged Gull
B	Caspian Tern
B	Sooty Tern
A	Roseate tern
A	Black Tern
A	Pomarine Skua (immatures only)
A	Long-tailed Skua

A	Little Auk
A	White-billed Diver
A	Leach's Storm Petrel
S	Cory's Shearwater
A	Sooty Shearwater
S	Great Shearwater
A	Balearic Shearwater
A	White Stork
A	Glossy Ibis
A	Eurasian Spoonbill
A	Eurasian Bittern
B	Little Bittern
S	Black-crowned Night Heron
S	Purple heron
A	Great Egret
B	Snowy Egret
A	Osprey
A	European Honey Buzzard
A	Golden Eagle
A	Northern Goshawk
A	Western Marsh Harrier
B	Pallid Harrier
S	Montagu's Harrier
A	Red Kite
S	Black Kite
A	White-tailed Eagle
A	Rough-legged Buzzard
A	Little Owl
B	Snowy Owl
A	European Hoopoe
B	European Roller
A	European Bee-eater
A	Eurasian Wryneck
S	Red-footed Falcon
A	Eurasian Hobby
B	Gyr Falcon
A	Red-backed Shrike
B	Lesser Grey Shrike
A	Great Grey Shrike
S	Woodchat Shrike
A	Golden Oriole
A	Red-billed Chough

A	Waxwing
A	Marsh Tit
A	Willow Tit
A	Shore Lark
S	Cetti's Warbler
A	Yellow-browed Warbler
S	Pallas's Warbler
A	Common (Siberian) Chiffchaff
A	Eurasian Reed Warbler
A	Firecrest
A	Rosy Starling
A	Ring Ouzel
A	Bluethroat
A	Black Redstart
B	Eastern Black Redstart
B	Siberian Stonechat
A	Yellow Wagtail (British race)
A	Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed race)
A	Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed race)
A	Richard's Pipit
A	Water Pipit
A	(Scandinavian) Rock Pipit
A	Hawfinch
A	Common Rosefinch
A	Common Redpoll
A	Lapland Bunting
A	Corn Bunting
S	Cirl Bunting
A	Little Bunting
B	Black-headed Bunting