

Checklist of Lochalsh Birds

Brian Neath, Sep 2013

Lochalsh Status

Mute Swan	Has bred. Now an occasional visitor.
Whooper Swan	Winter visitor and passage migrant. Has summered.
Pink-footed Goose	Regular passage migrant. Small numbers have wintered.
White-fronted Goose	Former winter visitor but now scarce migrant.
Greylag Goose	Common breeding resident.
Canada Goose	Scarce passage migrant.
Barnacle Goose	Rare winter visitor.
Brent Goose	Rare passage migrant.
Shelduck	Rare summer visitor. Has bred.
Mandarin	One at head of Loch Long on 17 February 2005.
Wigeon	Common winter visitor.
Teal	Breeding resident and winter visitor..
Mallard	Common breeding resident.
Pintail	One on Loch a'Bhealaich, near Auchtertyre on 29 May 1988.
Shoveler	One on Croe Saltings on 1st March 2011.
Tufted Duck	Rare passage migrant.
Scaup	Irregular passage migrant.
Eider	Common breeding resident.
Long-tailed Duck	Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.
Common Scoter	Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.
Goldeneye	Winter visitor in small numbers around the coast and inland, especially at Loch Achaidh na h-Inich.
Red-breasted Merganser	Common breeding resident.
Goosander	Breeding resident in small numbers. Regular post-breeding flock occurs at head of Loch Duich.
Red Grouse	Breeding resident.
Ptarmigan	Breeding resident.
Black Grouse	Possibly now breeding in the Cluanie area.
Red-legged Partridge	Released birds occasionally seen.
Pheasant	Breeding resident.
Red-throated Diver	Breeding resident.
Black-throated Diver	Breeding resident.
Great Northern Diver	Regular winter visitor, especially around the Kyle to Plockton coast.
Little Grebe	A few pairs breed on freshwater lochs. Common around the coast in winter months.
Great Crested Grebe	One at Ardelve Feb/Mar 1996 & Mar 1997 & at Bagh an t'Srathaidh Feb/Mar 1997.
Slavonian Grebe	Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Mainly seen round coast between Kyle and Plockto
Fulmar	Rarely seen in recent years although breeds around Skye.
Manx Shearwater	Occasional visitor to the sea lochs. Stranded juveniles occur during autumn gales.
Storm Petrel	Rare passage migrant.
Leach's Petrel	Rare passage migrant.
Gannet	Regular autumn visitor to the sea lochs.
Cormorant	Non-breeding resident, more numerous in winter months.
Shag	Common non-breeding resident.
Grey Heron	Common breeding resident.
Black Stork	One seen in Kyle on 9 September 2010.
Red Kite	Occasional wanderer from new Scottish population.
White-tailed Eagle	Regular wanderer from the Skye population. At least one pair now breeding.
Hen Harrier	Has become a less regular visitor in recent years but a pair bred successfully during 2011.
Sparrowhawk	Common breeding resident.
Buzzard	Common breeding resident.
Golden Eagle	Breeding resident.
Osprey	Occasional wanderer from Scottish breeding population.
Kestrel	Uncommon breeding resident.
Merlin	Breeding resident which has become scarce in recent years.
Peregrine Falcon	Rare breeding resident.
Water Rail	Uncommon winter visitor.
Corncrake	Bred historically. No recent confirmed records.

Moorhen	Two records at Nostie in March and October 1994.
Coot	One at head of Loch Long on 23 March 2012.
Oystercatcher	Common breeding resident.
Ringed Plover	Breeding resident.
Dotterel	Scarce breeding summer visitor
Golden Plover	Breeding summer visitor, decreasing. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.
Lapwing	Former breeder. Now a rare visitor.
Knot	Scarce passage migrant.
Sanderling	Scarce passage migrant.
Purple Sandpiper	Regular winter visitor in small numbers to rocky islands between Kyle and Plockton.
Dunlin	Uncommon breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Ruff	Rare passage migrant. One probable on Eilean Tioram 7 October 1996.
Jack Snipe	A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.
Snipe	Breeding resident.
Woodcock	Common winter visitor. May breed.
Black-tailed Godwit	Scarce passage migrant.
Bar-tailed Godwit	Scarce passage migrant.
Whimbrel	Spring passage migrant in small numbers, less frequent in autumn.
Curlew	Common passage migrant and winter visitor.
Common Sandpiper	Common summer visitor.
Green Sandpiper	Rare passage migrant. One in Kirkton Bay 12 August 1996.
Greenshank	Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Redshank	Common passage migrant and winter visitor.
Turnstone	Winter visitor and passage migrant.
Pomarine Skua	Rare passage migrant.
Arctic Skua	Uncommon passage migrant.
Long-tailed Skua	Rare passage migrant.
Great Skua	Regular passage migrant.
Kittiwake	Erratic visitor to the sea lochs, occasionally in large flocks.
Black-headed Gull	Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred.
Little Gull	Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.
Common Gull	Common breeding resident.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Uncommon summer visitor.
Herring Gull	Very common breeding resident.
Iceland Gull	A winter visitor in small numbers.
Glaucous Gull	Winter visitor in small numbers. Has summered.
Great Black-backed Gull	Common breeding resident.
Black Tern	One at Glas Eilean off Avernish on 21 July 2007.
Sandwich Tern	Rare passage migrant.
Common Tern	Breeding summer visitor in varying numbers.
Arctic Tern	Breeding summer visitor in varying numbers.
Guillemot	Frequent visitor to the sea lochs.
Razorbill	Frequent visitor to the sea lochs.
Black Guillemot	Common breeding resident around the coast between Kyle and Plockton.
Little Auk	Regular winter visitor in small numbers.
Puffin	Non-breeding summer visitor to the sea lochs.
Rock Dove	Uncommon resident. May breed.
Stock Dove	A scarce vagrant. One with Woodpigeons at Balmacara on 16th March 1991.
Woodpigeon	Breeding resident and autumn visitor.
Collared Dove	Common breeding resident.
Turtle Dove	Rare migrant.
Cuckoo	Common summer visitor. Four males radio-tagged in 2013.
Barn Owl	Breeding resident in small numbers.
Tawny Owl	Breeding resident.
Short-eared Owl	Rare visitor. Has bred. Winter roost near Morvich Jan. to Mar. 2011.
Swift	Scarce passage migrant.
Kingfisher	A scarce vagrant.
Roller	A rare vagrant. One near Erbusaig 25 July 1995.
Hoopoe	A rare vagrant.

Green Woodpecker	A rare vagrant.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Common breeding resident.
Skylark	Common breeding summer visitor but declining in some areas.
Sand Martin	Breeding summer visitor with colonies at Gleann Beag, Glen Bernera and the Morvich area.
Swallow	Very common breeding summer visitor.
House Martin	Common breeding summer visitor.
Tree Pipit	Common breeding summer visitor.
Meadow Pipit	Very common breeder and passage migrant. Scarce during winter months.
Rock Pipit	Common breeding resident around the coast.
Grey Wagtail	Formerly bred commonly but has become scarce following the two hard winters 2009/10 & 2010/11
Pied Wagtail	Breeds commonly. A few birds occasionally winter.
Waxwing	Regular winter visitor during irruption years. Exceptional numbers in autumn 2012.
Dipper	Breeding resident.
Wren	Common breeding resident.
Dunnock	Common breeding resident.
Robin	Common breeding resident.
Black Redstart	A rare vagrant.
Redstart	Breeding summer visitor in small numbers.
Whinchat	Breeding summer visitor.
Stonechat	Common breeding resident but became scarce following 2 hard winters 2009/10 and 2010/2011.
Wheatear	Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
Ring Ouzel	Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant in declining numbers.
Blackbird	Common breeding resident and winter visitor.
Fieldfare	Winter visitor and passage migrant.
Song Thrush	Common breeding resident.
Redwing	Common winter visitor and passage migrant.
Mistle Thrush	Common breeding resident.
Grasshopper Warbler	Breeding summer visitor.
Sedge Warbler	Breeding summer visitor.
Blackcap	Common breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Garden Warbler	Breeding summer visitor in varying numbers.
Lesser Whitethroat	Rare passage migrant. Recorded in June 1996, May 1997 and May 2010.
Whitethroat	Breeding summer visitor.
Pallas's Warbler	One on Carr Brae on 29 October 1990.
Wood Warbler	Breeding summer visitor.
Chiffchaff	Passage migrant and summer visitor which may breed.
Willow Warbler	Very common breeding summer visitor.
Goldcrest	Common breeding resident. Scarce during 2011 following two cold winters.
Spotted Flycatcher	Breeding summer visitor.
Pied Flycatcher	Very rare summer visitor.
Long-tailed Tit	Common breeding resident.
Blue Tit	Common breeding resident.
Great Tit	Common breeding resident.
Coal Tit	Common breeding resident.
Nuthatch	One possible record at Allt nan Sugh. One on Carr Brae Sept./Dec. 2010 and again on 4 May 2011
Treecreeper	Breeding resident.
Great Grey Shrike	One at Nostie on 21 November 1989 and at Ardelve on 17 February 1990.
Jay	Recorded near Coille Mhor in 2009 during a Breeding Bird Survey for the NTS.
Magpie	Scarce vagrant.
Chough	One at Dubh-aird, Plockton on 12 August 2010.
Jackdaw	Former breeder, now occasional winter visitor.
Rook	Former breeder, now occasional winter visitor.
Carrion Crow	Occasional vagrant.
Hooded Crow	Common breeding resident.
Raven	Common breeding resident.
Starling	Local breeding resident.
Rose-coloured Starling	One possible record near Killilan in June 1995. One at Erbusaig on 15 June 2013.
House Sparrow	Common breeding resident.
Chaffinch	Common breeding resident.

Brambling	An irregular winter visitor in small numbers.
Greenfinch	Common breeding resident.
Goldfinch	Increasing resident and winter visitor.
Siskin	Common breeding resident.
Linnet	Local breeding summer visitor. Rare in winter.
Twite	Breeds commonly - main population absent in winter.
Lesser Redpoll	Common breeder, less frequent in winter.
Common Crossbill	Breeding resident in small numbers.
Common Rosefinch	A male on Carr Brae June 1994. One at Ardelve for several years in late 1980s.
Bullfinch	Common breeding resident.
Hawfinch	Scarce vagrant.
Lapland Bunting	One in Kirkton Bay on 28 March 2011.
Snow Bunting	A winter visitor in small numbers. Possible breeder in Kintail hills.
Yellowhammer	Breeding resident.
Reed Bunting	Breeding resident.
Red-headed Bunting	One at Glenelg on 12 July 1999. Probably an escape.