

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie Assistant Warden - Jason Brown

Photo of the month

Male Blackcap

The Blackcap is a distinctive greyish warbler. The top of the male's head is black while the female's is chestnut brown.

Primarily a summer visiting bird they only pass through by the observatory so I was lucky to catch this one on the 20th.

Photo

Jo Goudie



April Report 2025

It feels so good having the spring birds arriving. More sunlight and longer evenings make us all feel better. I start to look in the usual places to see if the spring migrants have arrived. I am constantly listening for familiar calls.

I love to look out for the first Common Sandpiper or the first Whitethroat, hearing the first Sedge Warbler or seeing the first Sand Martin flash past.

We are so lucky to have so much wonderful wildlife on our doorstep. Hopefully, you will come and visit and share the experience.

We try to be open most mornings but if you want us to be there a specific day or time please email or message and we will do our best to be there.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



Contact the Observatory

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Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)

Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Canada Goose

Canada Goose – 2 seen flying past on the 1st.

Greylag Goose – 2 seen flying past on the 23rd.

Guillemot – 4th – 3, 10th – 2, 11th – 3, 13th – 1.

Razorbill – 5th – 4, 10th – 9, 13th – 1, 28th – 1, 30th – 1.

Shelduck – up to 9 seen regularly around the observatory coastline.

Mute Swan – our regular pair have been checking out nesting sites. Hoping for cygnets soon.

Teal – a pair of Teal dropped in by the observatory for a short while on the 9th.

White Wagtail – 2nd – 1, 3rd – 6, 9th – 3, 10th – 1, 11th – 1, 13th – 7, 19th – 1, 20th – 9, 22nd – 14, 23rd – 4, 26th – 3, 28th – 4, 29th – 1.



Fulmar

Fulmar – sighting of 1 on the 13th.



Sandwich Tern

Sandwich Tern – 4th – 2, 8th – 6, 9th – 4, 10th – 2, 11th – 3, 12th – 1, 22nd – 10, 23rd – 8,
26th – 7, 28th – 4, 29th – 8, 30th – 4.



Blackcap

Blackcap – one seen in brambles by the stream on the 20th. Passing through.

Sedge warbler – 2 setting up territory by the stream as usual. First heard on the 22nd.

Good to see **Sand Martin**, **Swallow** and, towards the end of the month, **House Martin**.



Kestrel with a snake

Kestrel – seen flying over on the 22nd. Unusual to see. Seems to be holding a snake.



Common Sandpiper

Common Sandpiper – 20th – 7, 22nd – 1, 23rd – 2, 26th – 2, 28th – 2.

Sanderling – one seen on the 5th.

Redshank – 2nd – 3, 4th – 5, 5th – 1, 8th – 1, 9th – 3, 10th – 7, 12th – 2, 22nd – 1.

Ringed Plover – 3rd – 1, 4th – 3, 5th – 1, 8th – 5, 9th – 7, 13th – 6, 19th – 7, 22nd – 2, 23rd – 4, 26th – 4,
27th – 1, 28th – 2, 30th – 6.

Purple Sandpiper – 5th – 3, 13th – 2.



Whinchat

Whinchat – 2 birds seen together on the 20th, probably passing through.
Never seen one by the observatory before.



Wheatear

Wheatear – 1st – 4, 2nd – 4, 3rd – 4, 4th – 3, 8th – 2, 9th – 1, 19th – 4, 20th – 6, 22nd – 1, 26th – 1, 28th – 1, 29th – 1.



Red Breasted Merganser

Red Breasted Merganser – 1st – 2, 2nd – 2, 4th – 1, 9th – 2, 13th – 3, 20th – 1, 22nd – 2, 23rd – 1.

Great Northern Diver – 1st – 3, 2nd – 8, 4th – 5, 5th – 5, 8th – 3, 9th – 4, 10th – 9, 11th – 6, 12th – 4, 13th – 2, 19th – 2, 20th – 5, 22nd – 1, 26th – 1, 27th – 1, 28th – 2.

Common Scoter – 8th – 1, 30th – flock of 7, 6 male 1 female.



Whimbrel

Whimbrel – 19th – 1, 20th – 10, 22nd – 1, 23rd – 7, 26th – 1, 28th – 13, 29th – 1, 30th – 2.
Good to see them back

Curlew – 1st – 1, 5th – 1, 9th – 2, 13th – 3, 19th – 1, 26th – 2, 28th – 1, 29th – 1.

Reed Bunting – one seen in front of the hide on the 11th.

Grey Wagtail – 4th – 1, 20th – 1, 22nd – 1, 23rd – 1.



Female Otter



Female Otter with kit in tow



Dolphin



Male Mute Swan chasing an Eider



Grey Seal with large fish