

Machrihanish Bird Observatory

A visible migration station

Founded September **1993**

(occasional visits during winter)



Supplementary Report February 2021

Compiled by **Eddie Maguire**

For Updates / Enquiries...Contact the Observatory

Mobile - 07895 952640

E-mail – msbowarden@gmail.com

Website – machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk

'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'

Photo of the Month...



Common Buzzard – Machrihanish Airbase 28th February / Photo **David Millward**

List of Selected Species for February

Whooper Swan

Machrihanish: 14 by Kilkivan Quarry on 15th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*) and 8 on Killypole Loch (Lossit Estate) on 21st (Elizabeth McTaggart *pers. comm.*).
Campbeltown: one >W on 18th (Charlie Robertson *pers. comm.*).



Whoopers – adults at Kilkivan 8th February / Photo **David Millward**

MSBO February Report 2021

Greenland White-fronted Goose

The Laggan: 100+ by the Airport on 3rd and 8th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



White-fronts – adults by the Airport 3rd February / Photo **David Millward**

Greater Canada Goose

The Laggan: 150 by the Airport on 8th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Canada Geese – by the Airport 3rd February / Photo **David Millward**

Common Shelduck

MSBO: max was 20 on 8th.

Eurasian Wigeon

Campbeltown Loch: 50+ at the Stinky Hole on 2nd and 10th (Brian Morton & Family / Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

The Laggan: 50+ on flood at West Parkfergus on 21st (Warden / Jo Goudie).



Wigeon and a Curlew – 10th January / Photo Jo Goudie

Eurasian Teal

Campbeltown Loch: 8 at Stinky Hole on 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Common Goldeneye

Machrihanish: max was 12 on 15th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Goldeneye – 8th February / Photo David Millward

Common Eider

Campbeltown: 100+ inner harbour on 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Eider – Campbeltown 26th February / Photo **David Millward**

Red-throated Diver

One photographed (breeding plumage) on 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Red-throated Diver - 26th February / Photo **Jo Goudie**

Great Northern Diver

The commonest diver off Machrihanish at this time of year but only 7 were found on 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Hen Harrier

Machrihanish Airbase: a ringtail on 3rd and a male on 15th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk

Campbeltown: 2 displaying high over the edge of town (High St) on 17th and 3 displaying there on 21st then 6 birds were interacting high over the same area on 24th (Charlie Robertson *pers. comm.*).

MSBO February Report 2021

Peregrine Falcon

Campbeltown: one over Dalintober on 24th (Charlie Robertson *pers. comm.*).

Merlin

One by the Airport on 26th (Warden) and one on the Airbase on 28th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Common Kestrel

Machrihanish Airbase: a male on 21st and 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Northern Lapwing

Southend: 2 at Dunaverty Golf Course on 23rd (Errol Crutchfield *pers. comm.*).

Machrihanish Airbase: 40+ on 15th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Eurasian Oystercatcher

Campbeltown: 100+ at the Stinky Hole on 27th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Oystercatchers – roost at Stinky Hole 10th February / Photo **Jo Goudie**

Golden Plover

Stewarton: 70+ on 11th 'in the field above the house this morning and again in the evening' (Errol Crutchfield *pers. comm.*).

Machrihanish Airbase: 200+ on 15th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Sanderling

MSBO: 20 on 8th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

Red Knot

MSBO: 13 on 8th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).

A rare wintering species on Kintyre so an exceptional Obs record.

Ruddy Turnstone

Campbeltown: 80 at usual high tide roost (sloping sea wall by freshwater outlet) just east of the New Quay on 22nd (Rab Morton *pers. comm.*).

MSBO February Report 2021

Common Greenshank

Campbeltown Loch: one, 'a fresh-looking bird, was showing well at the Stinky Hole on 2nd and a possible second bird was nearby. Confirmed bird was in with good numbers of Mallard and Wigeon' (Brian Morton / Family pers. comm.).

Common Redshank

Campbeltown Loch: max was 20 at the Stinky Hole on 26th (Jo Goudie pers. comm.).



Redshank – MSBO 2nd February / Photo Jo Goudie

Eurasian Curlew

Campbeltown Loch: 8 on 26th (Jo Goudie pers. comm.).



Curlew – 10th February / Photo Jo Goudie

MSBO February Report 2021

Eurasian Skylark

Machrihanish Airbase: first bird (singing) on 15th then arrival / passage of 50+ (many singing) on 22nd and 30+ on 26th (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Skylark – 15th February / Photo David Millward

Eurasian Magpie

Campbeltown: one on 28th (Brian Cook per David Millward).

Machrihanish: 2 frequent all month (Campbell Keyte *pers. comm.*).

Stewarton: single bird frequent all month (Margaretanne Green / Agnes Stewart) and seen there on 15 dates 1st – 25th (Errol Crutchfield *pers. comm.*).

European Stonechat

Machrihanish Airbase: several pairs present all month (Jo Goudie *pers. comm.*).



Stonechat – 22nd February / Photo David Millward

MSBO February Report 2021

A Selection of Photos taken during February



Goldcrest – Campbeltown 10th January / Photo JG



Northern Fulmars – Southend 28th February / Photo Errol Crutchfield



Oystercatcher – Campbeltown Loch 10th February / Photo **JG**



Davaar Island from Kildalloig Bay with snow-caps on Arran beyond / Photo **JG**

MSBO February Report 2021



Greylags – over the Airbase 22nd February / Photo JG



House Sparrow – male at the Airbase 22nd February / Photo JG



Song Thrush – Airbase 22nd February / Photo JG



Skylark – 22nd February / Photo DM

MSBO February Report 2021



Meadow Pipit – 22nd February / Photo DM



MSBO – 20th February / Photo Brian Morton

'Eddie, this scene made me wonder if you were inside!' (Brian)

MSBO February Report 2021

Machrihanish Airbase

February Report 2021

By Jo Goudie

February started like winter but finished with Spring thank goodness. By the end of the month birds were beginning to pair up, nest build and sing on their territories.

03/02/21

Cold, wet and windy day but a ringtail was quartering the rough ground at the back of our house on the Airbase.

08/02/21

Airbase - Stonechat, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and 6 Roe deer. Geese in the farm fields seen from the airbase included 60+ Greylag and 50+ White-fronted. Moss Road - 150+ Canada Geese with 4 Greylag. 100+ White-fronted. Fields opposite Machrihanish Quarry - 14 Whooper Swan. Machrihanish, 1 Curlew, 4 Redshank, 20 Sanderling, 13 Red Knot, 20 Shelduck, 4 Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, 3 pair Goldeneye, Eider, Heron, Rock Pipit, Dunnock and Starling.

10/02/21

Stinky Hole - 50+ Wigeon feeding in the grass clumps, sleeping flock of around 100 Oystercatcher, 4 Teal, 4 Mallard, 1 pair Shelduck, 1 Curlew and 2 Redshank. Also, popped into the Campbeltown Cemetery and saw several Goldcrest feeding on pine trees at the back of the plot.

15/02/21

Saw the first Skylark of the year on the airbase. Also saw male Hen Harrier quartering the ground at the end of the airstrip. Stonechat pair by farm, 15+ Meadow Pipit and flock of 40+ Lapwing flying toward Machrihanish and 200+ Golden Plover.

On farmland, 200+ Greylags and 150+ Canada.

Machrihanish - Whooper Swan 14, Shelduck 6 and Goldeneye 12.

21/02/21

Male Kestrel on fence by solar panel enclosure, 50+ Wigeon on waterlogged fields and 2 Buzzard.

22/02/21 – Tour round airfield, 50+ Skylark seen mostly at top end of strip, 4 Stonechat and Song Thrush in garden.

25/02/21

3 Buzzard, generally quiet on airfield.

26/02/21

Airfield - Stonechat, Meadow pipit 20+, Skylark 30+, Kestrel on bottom corner by farm. Observatory - 1 Red-throated Diver which looked like a Black-throated. This can be caused by light on their metallic looking throat feathers so identification was made on the sloping forehead and uptilted bill. 2 Great Northern Diver in winter plumage, 10+ Goldeneye and a Curlew.

100+ Eider with males displaying at Campbeltown inner harbour.

Stinky Hole - 20+ Redshank, 6 Teal, 8 Curlew and 4 Mallard.

MSBO February Report 2021

28/02/21

Airfield - Buzzard, Stonechat pair, Skylark 40+, Meadow Pipit 100+, a Merlin and 8 Redwing.



Chaffinch - Machrihanish Airbase 26th February / Photo DM