

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month



Common Sandpiper

Photo Jo Goudie

July Report 2022

This will be a short report due to us moving house and not being able to spend much time observing.

July has been a tough month for the seabird populations in this area. We are sad to report hundreds of dead birds on the beautiful beaches of Kintyre.

Large numbers of dead and dying Guillemots and some other seabirds have been washing up on Westport beach and also Machrihanish Bay. DEFRA received many reports from here and a team were sent down to collect bodies for testing. Bird flu was confirmed as the cause.

We will be manning the observatory as much as possible through 2022 but we cannot always be there. If you would like to visit on a specific date please let me know and we will try to have a warden there to open up for you. If you would like to volunteer to do some wardening please let us know. We are looking for volunteers.

Best regards

Jo Goudie

Contact the Observatory
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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated

List of Selected Species for July 2022



Sedge Warbler - still only one or two seen in the vicinity. No youngsters seen.

Manx Shearwater - 50+ per hour >S on 13/07/22,
200+ per hour >S on 18/07/22
100+ >S on 19/7/22
2>S on 22/07/22

Guillemot - seen flying with Manx Shearwaters but in odd ones or two's.

Dunlin - 2 on 13th 1 on 18th, 1 on 19th and 3 on 22nd.



Redshank - 8 on 18/07/22.



Goldfinch - flocks of adults and youngsters seen feeding on the thistles.
They seem to have done well along with the **Linnet**.



Gannet - Still large numbers seen.



The **Mute Swan** pair are still in the area though they seem to have given up on the nesting idea.



Great black Back gull



Wheatear feeding a youngster.

DON'T RISK SPREADING BIRD FLU!

Keep to the footpath

Keep dogs on leads

Do not pick up or touch dead or sick wild birds

Do not touch wild bird feathers or surfaces contaminated with wild bird droppings

If you keep poultry or other birds, wash your hands and clean and disinfect your footwear before tending to your birds

Please report dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey to Defra's GB helpline: 03459 335577

Find out more at [GOV.SCOT/avianinfluenza](https://www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza)

