

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Ruby Tailed Wasp

With the hot, still weather we had an unusual visitor to the observatory. This is a Ruby Tailed Wasp. This tiny 10mm glittering, metallic wasp is one of many species of solitary bee and wasp that can be spotted in a number of habitats in the UK .

It was busy in the garden around the observatory and liked to sit where the sun was warmest.

Photo

Jo Goudie



June Report 2023

What a hot month June has been for us. It's about time we had the sun. This has enabled the Mute Swans to have 4 cygnets as last year their nest was washed out.

We also enjoyed the good weather by having a busman's holiday to Islay and Jura. The observatory overlooks these islands, so it was nice to look the other way for a change. It was fascinating to see how different these islands were as they do not have a lot of agriculture, mostly cattle and sheep. Less disturbance of land means more Hen Harrier and Cuckoo, never seen so many. It is a beautiful place I would definitely visit again.

Best regards

Jo Goudie

Contact the Observatory

Mobile – 07737 985874

E-mail – jomitzi@yahoo.co.uk

Website – www.machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk

Facebook – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated

List of Selected Species for June 2023



Ringed Plover with Dunlin

Ringed Plover – 2nd – 8, 4th – 15, 5th – 10, 7th – 3, 8th – 4, 16th – 1, 18th – 7, 20th – 3, 21st – 7, 22nd – 10, 29th – 9.

Dunlin – 2nd – 12, 4th – 33, 5th – 23, 21st – 8, 22nd – 5, 29th – 1.



Black Headed Gull – around 10 regularly hanging around the observatory coastline.



Oystercatchers – busy mating.



Result – a chick



Sedge Warbler – Display flying – 2nd – 4.



Swallow – regular visitors as they come to feed on the swarms of seaweed flies we get.

Sand Martin – 18th – 1.

Swift – 8th – 1, 16th – 1.

Song Thrush – 2nd – 1, 15th – 1.

Twite – 2nd – 2, 5th – 4.



Mute Swans – Successfully hatched 4 cygnets this year.



Wheatear – Several fledglings seen.

Buzzard – 2nd – 1.

Heron – 29th – 1.

Shelduck – several pairs seen with ducklings from 4 up to 10.



Arctic tern – 20th – 5, 22nd – 2.

Common Tern – 2nd – 1, 18th – 1.

Sandwich Tern – 4th – 1, 8th – 10, 20th – 1, 22nd – 8.



Goldfinch – feeding fledgling.



Young Starling showing their dull brown plumage.



Arctic skua – brief fly past – 20th – 1>N

Red Throated Diver – 5th – 1>S.

Greylag Goose – 7th – 1.

Sanderling – 2nd – 5, 4th – 76, 5th – 80+.

Gannet – some small groups and individuals but no large strings as I would expect.

Guillemot – 20th – 30+, 29th – 2.

Redshank – 20th – 2.

Curlew – 22nd – 1.

Sandpiper – 2nd – 1, 5th – 318th – 5, 21st – 3, 29th – 7.

Linnet – 4th – 5, 18th – 6, 20th – 2.

House Sparrow – unexpected flock flew in. 20th – 23.

Lapwing – 5th – 2 flew over.

Islay Photos



Cuckoo – saw many on Islay and Jura. In total, over 20 I would say.



Marsh Fritillary – Seen on Jura. Never seen one before so a new one to my list.



Red Deer – Apparently many on Jura.



Strange **Oystercatcher** with unusual plumage colouring.



Sedge Warbler



Swallow – picking insects off the flower umbles.



Not always successful.



Chough – Fabulous member of the corvid family. Great aerial acrobats.



Beautiful Demoiselle - Large metallic damselfly with fluttering, butterfly-like wings.