

# **Machrihanish Bird Observatory**

*A Visible Migration Station*

Founded September **1993**



## **March Report 2021**

Compiled by ***Eddie Maguire***

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*'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'.*

## MSBO March Report 2021

### Photo of the Month...



**Eurasian Teal** – Campbeltown Loch 21<sup>st</sup> March / Photo **David Millward**

### List of Selected Species for March

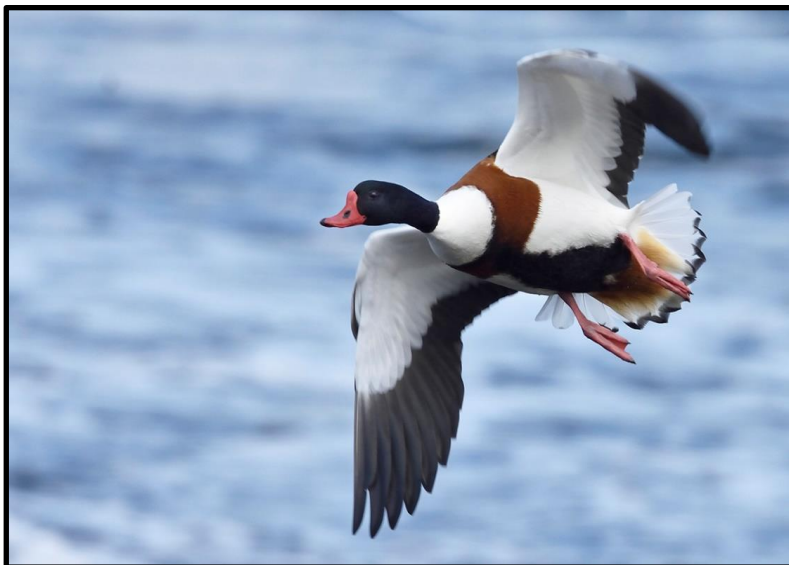
#### **Whooper Swan**

Drumlemble: 12 by the school on 20<sup>th</sup> (JG).

Campbeltown: c. 30 >NW over the town at 10:32hrs on 31<sup>st</sup> (CR).

#### **Common Shelduck**

Twenty pairs by MSBO on 6<sup>th</sup> (JG).



**Shelduck** – 6<sup>th</sup> March / Photo **JG**

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### Eurasian Teal

Campbeltown Loch: 4 at the Stinky Hole on 24<sup>th</sup> (JG).



**Teal - 24<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**

### Eurasian Wigeon

Campbeltown Loch: 42 at the Stinky Hole on 5<sup>th</sup> (BM et al.).

### Goosander

One was photographed >S during a westerly gale event on 11<sup>th</sup> (DM / JG / VC).  
A scarce passage visitor at MSBO / rare elsewhere in Kintyre.



**Goosander – >S 11<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**

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### Manx Shearwater

One >S on 11<sup>th</sup> was first this year (DM / JG).

### Northern Gannet

The first adult of the year seen crossing west over the peninsula from Campbeltown to Machrihanish was at 14:29hrs on 11<sup>th</sup>. Later, another single adult also crossed overland at 14:40hrs on 20<sup>th</sup> followed by 2 adults at 12:18hrs on 27<sup>th</sup> (CR / **Northern Gannet Overland Project Coordinator 2017-2021**).

### Hen Harrier

Airbase: a high-flying ringtail on 1<sup>st</sup> (JG).

Moss Road: a male was near the Airport on 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (JG).

North Kintyre: a ringtail was watched ranging low over *juncus* from the Kennacraig / Claonaig road on 12<sup>th</sup> (BM *et al.*).



**Hen Harrier** – Ringtail high over Airbase 1<sup>st</sup> March / Photo **JG**



**Merlin** – Airbase 1<sup>st</sup> March / Photo **DM**

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### Merlin

Airbase: one on 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (DM).

### Ringed Plover

Machrihanish: 30 in the bay on 7<sup>th</sup> (JG).

### Sanderling

Machrihanish: 5 in the bay on 7<sup>th</sup> and 30 >S off MSBO on 11<sup>th</sup> (JG).  
Southend: 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> (EC).



**Sanderling** – 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo EC



**Purple Sandpiper** – Southend 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo EC

### Purple Sandpiper

Southend: 7 on 7<sup>th</sup> (EC).

MSBO: 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> (JG).

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### **Ruddy Turnstone**

Southend: 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> (EC).

Campbeltown: **97** at high tide roost on seawall by New Quay on 17<sup>th</sup> (RM).

### **Common Redshank**

Campbeltown: roost 20+ at the Stinky Hole on 1<sup>st</sup> (EC).

### **Black-legged Kittiwake**

Flock of 48 adults >S on 20<sup>th</sup> (JG).



**Black-legged Kittiwakes – 20<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**

### **Razorbill / Common Guillemot**

Three mixed flocks totalling 250 >S / 1.5hrs on 20<sup>th</sup> (JG / DM).



A 'train' of **Razorbills** >S off MSBO 20<sup>th</sup> March / Photo **JG**

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### **Eurasian Woodcock**

Southend: regular sightings in Glen Breakerie, mostly near Amod (BM et al.).

### **Barn Owl**

Southend: seen regularly in Glen Breakerie (near Ormsary / BM et al.).

### **Barn Swallow**

Migrant arrival. Stewarton: one on 30<sup>th</sup> (JG)

### **Sand Martin**

Migrant arrival. Campbeltown: 3 at Calliburn on 25<sup>th</sup> (*per* JD).

### **Eurasian Skylark**

Airbase: 100-150 birds on 30<sup>th</sup> (JG)



**Skylark – 7<sup>th</sup> March / photo DM**

### **White Wagtail**

Migrant. Carradale: one on 6<sup>th</sup> (AP *per* JD).

### **European Stonechat**

Airbase: 7 pairs on territory + a single female – 6 pairs last year (JG).

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**Stonechat** – 21<sup>st</sup> March / Photo **DM**



**Stonechat** – Nest-builder at Airbase 21<sup>st</sup> March / Photo **DM**

### **Northern Wheatear**

Migrant arrivals. Airbase: one on 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> (DM / JG).  
Southend: one at Keil shore on 31<sup>st</sup> (EC).

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**Northern Wheatear** – 29<sup>th</sup> March / Photo **DM**

### **Willow Warbler**

Migrant arrival. NW Kintyre: one at Escart on 5<sup>th</sup> (BU *per* JD).

### **Chiffchaff**

Migrant arrival. Airbase: one on 30<sup>th</sup> (JG).

### **Goldcrest**

Airbase: 2 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (JG / DM).



**Goldcrest** – 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo **DM**

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**Goldcrest – 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo DM**

### **Eurasian Magpie**

Machrihanish: the two regular birds were seen on / by Lossit Estate all month (CM<sup>c</sup>M / JG *et al.*).

A total of 4 new birds were reported in S Kintyre during March.

SE Kintyre: 'Saw 2 by the Learside Road, a mile short of Glenahervie on 6<sup>th</sup>' (EM<sup>c</sup>T). New site for this species so may well be the start of another spring influx. This location is not too far from Southend.

Stewarton: the regular single bird was seen on 19 dates 3<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> and was joined by a new bird on 27<sup>th</sup> (E/FC / JG / AS / MG / DR *et al.*). Likely recently arrived from N Ireland.

Southend: one between Cattadale and Dalabhraddan on 30<sup>th</sup> (EC). A more definite indication that, as last year, another spring influx from N Ireland could be underway.

Of interest, re spring influxes of Magpies to West Scotland: On Skye, 2 were seen at Loch Bay, Waternish on 29<sup>th</sup> – 'Very unusual for us to get two together and I suspect they have recently arrived' (BM<sup>c</sup>M).

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**Magpie – Machrihanish 23<sup>rd</sup> March / Photo JG**

**Carrion Crow**

Campbeltown: 4 at the Stinky Hole on 24<sup>th</sup> – the hotspot for this species locally.



**Carrion Crow – 24<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**

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**Additional photos taken during March**



**Eurasian Sparrowhawk – Airbase 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo DM**



**Common Eider – MSBO 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**

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**European Shag – MSBO 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**



**Goldcrest – Airbase 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo DM**

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**Storm event - MSBO 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**



**Northern Wheatear – Airbase 29<sup>th</sup> March / Photo DM**

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**Northern Fulmar – Machrihanish 15<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JB**

Taken into care after storm event / readily accepted food & slightly salted water but succumbed a few days later.

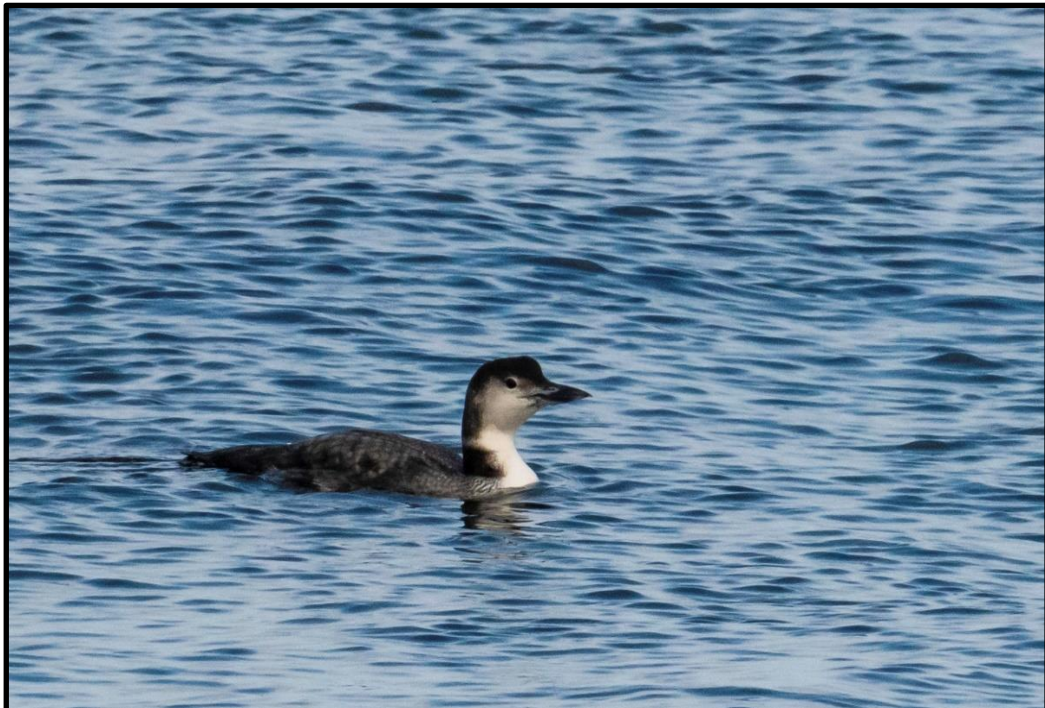


**Eurasian Curlew – Campbeltown Loch 21<sup>st</sup> March / Photo DM**

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**Bottle-nosed Dolphin – off MSBO 20<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**



**Great Northern Diver – off MSBO 7<sup>th</sup> March / Photo DM**

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### Sound of Gigha WEBS...

D/JJ carried out the Sound of Gigha WEBS counts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Some interesting highlights from Tayinloan north to the top of Rhunahaorine Point included...

Great Northern Diver – 51 + an additional 8 at Ronachan  
Slavonian Grebe – 33 + an additional 5 at Ronachan  
Common Scoter – 109  
Eider – 217  
Long-tailed Duck – 12  
Gannet – 1 >S

### Acknowledgements...

Eddie Maguire is especially grateful to the following friends who kindly contributed many records and photographs which have greatly enhanced this March Report...

JB – Johnny Beveridge  
E/FC – Errol / Fiona Crutchfield  
JD – Jim Dickson (SOC Recorder / Argyll)  
JG – Jo Goudie (MSBO Assistant)  
MG – Margaretanne Green  
D/JJ - David / Janet Jardine  
BM<sup>c</sup>M – Bob M<sup>c</sup>Millan  
BM *et al.* - Brian Morton / Family  
DM – David Millward (MSBO Assistant)  
CM<sup>c</sup>M – Charlie M<sup>c</sup>Millan  
EM<sup>c</sup>T – Elizabeth M<sup>c</sup>Taggart  
RM – Rab Morton  
AP – Alasdair Paterson  
DR – Davie Reid  
CR – Charlie Robertson (MSBO Volunteer)  
VR – Vic Russell (MSBO Volunteer)  
AS – Agnes Stewart  
BU – Blair Urquhart



**Red-breasted Merganser – MSBO 20<sup>th</sup> March / Photo JG**