

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward

Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Assistant Warden - Jason Brown

Photo of the month

Sand Martin

Super quick and rather small, I am amazed I managed to capture this dainty bird in flight.

The tiny, brown-and-white *Sand Martin* is a common summer visitor to the UK, nesting in colonies on rivers, lakes and flooded gravel pits.

Photo

Jo Goudie



June Report 2024

June has been a month of changeable weathers with good days and some cold, windy and miserable ones. It certainly hasn't been as warm as last year when we had a heatwave. Not sure of this affected the birds and their breeding but the Sedge Warblers didn't seem to stay and the Oystercatchers haven't nested. Lots of mating and arguing but no chicks this year.

Our Mute swan pair were successful in hatching 7 cygnets but they were heavily predated by the Great Black Back Gulls and, by the end of the month, they were down to a disappointing 2 cygnets.

The otter has been making regular appearances and thrilling lots of our observatory visitors. Altogether, an interesting month.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Bar Tailed Godwit

Bar tailed Godwit – One was seen on the 1st and the 4th. He was moved on by Ringed Plovers protecting their patch

Curlew – 21st – 3, 22nd – 6, 23rd – 2, 28th – 1, 29th – 1, 30th – 2.

Dunlin – 1st – 3, 2nd – 9, 4th – 3, 21st – 7, 25th – 1.

Black Guillemot – 1 seen on the 21st.

Guillemot – 5th – 6, 7th – 3, 8th – 5, 10th – 2, 11th – 1, 21st – 1, 22nd – 1, 28th – 2, 29th – 3, 30th – 6

Razorbill – 8th – 5, 30th – 2.

Red Throated Diver – 6th – 1, 12th – 1, 22nd – 2, 23rd – 1.

Red Breasted Merganser – 28th – 4.

Common Scoter – Mixed flock of 11 went past on the 18th.

Canada Goose – 2 flew past on the 21st.



Whimbrel

Whimbrel – 2nd – 1, 4th – 1, 19th – 2.



Greenshank

Greenshank – One seen on the 6th showing beautiful summer plumage.



Sanderling

Sanderling – 1st – 8, 4th – 35, 6th – 5, 7th – 13, 8th – 13, 10th – 5, 21st – 2, 24th – 8, 25th – 3.



Common Sandpiper

Common Sandpiper – 2nd – 3, 4th – 1, 7th – 1, 9th – 1, 10th – 2, 11th – 2, 12th – 2, 13th – 1, 14th – 6, 15th – 2, 16th – 2, 19th – 3, 20th – 1, 21st – 1, 22nd – 3, 24th – 1, 28th – 1, 29th – 1, 30th – 3.

Heron – 6th – 2, 12th – 3, 13th – 2, 14th – 1, 30th – 1.

Kittiwake – 2nd – 1, 5th – 1, 6th – 1, 7th – 5, 9th – 2, 14th – 1, 30th – 6.



Common Sandpiper chick



Reed Bunting

Reed Bunting – 2 seen 11th.

Grey Wagtail – One seen on the 2nd feeding by the stream.

Skylark – 2 seen on 11th.

Twite – One seen 2nd.



Linnet

Linnet – Small family of 6 staying around the observatory.



Wheatear male

Wheatear – One pair with fledgling seen by the observatory regularly.

Meadow Pipit – 11th – 4, 28th – 1.

Stonechat – One seen on the 15th.



Wheatear fledgling



Male Chaffinch feeding a fledgling

Peregrine Falcon – One seen on the 1st and 6th.

Sparrowhawk – One seen on the 7th

Shelduck – Couple of pairs on our coast. Some seen with ducklings.

Ringed Plover – 1st – 7, 2nd – 3, 4th – 2, 5th – 3, 6th – 8, 7th – 5, 8th – 2, 9th – 1, 10th – 3, 11th – 2, 12th – 4, 13th – 6, 15th – 2, 16th – 4, 17th – 4, 20th – 8, 21st – 4, 22nd – 4, 23rd – 6, 24th – 3, 28th – 1, 29th – 4, 30th – 2.

Turnstone – One seen on the 4th.



House Sparrow fledgling



Mute Swans and cygnets



Fulmar

Fulmar – Several seen this month, unusual for the observatory.
2nd – 15th – 1, 16th – 1, 17th – 1.



Sandwich Tern with Sand eel

Sandwich Tern - 1st – 1, 2nd – 1, 4th – 1, 6th – 1, 7th – 1, 8th – 2, 9th – 2, 13th – 1, 14th – 1, 15th – 4,
16th – 3, 17th – 1, 20th – 2, 21st – 4, 22nd – 3, 29th – 2.

Common Tern – One seen on 22nd trying to snatch a sand eel from a Sandwich Tern in flight.



Gannet



Gannet with Sand eel

Gannet – The sand Eels were plentiful on a couple of days late in the month and the sight of around 60 to 70 gannets diving in and circling together was fantastic. Quite a few 2 year and 3 year Gannets were in the mix too with their patchy plumage.



3rd year Gannet



Otter x 2



Otter

Still getting regular Otter visits during June, 15 days out of 30. On a few days we witnessed 2 Otter interacting and staying together.



Manx Shearwater

Manx Shearwater – a couple of wild, windy days saw them streaming past the hide at roughly 500+ per hour.

2 **Swift** seen over the Machrihanish Dunes on the 24th.

1 **Whinchat** seen on the Machrihanish Business Park on the 2nd.

Magpie seen in Campbeltown on the 5th, 20th and the 30th.



Male Eider



Hooded Crow



Male Mallard



Shag