

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Ringed Plover

These little waders are not rare where we are, but it is always a pleasure when they return to breed on the shingle by the observatory.

Please be careful when walking on beaches, there could be scrapes with eggs.

Photo

David Millward



March Report 2024

It is so good to have David the warden back on his feet and at the observatory, I have missed him. He is much better but still recovering.

The fundraising is still a big focus but we have had some wonderful donations from Glen scotia, Mowi, Nimble Fingers craft group and Christine and Russell from An Ceardach Garden at Peninver. We have had so many donations from all over the country and abroad it has amazed us.

Once the weather improves and David is a bit fitter we will start the work needed.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



Registered
SCIO
SC052454

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



Greylag Goose

Greylag Goose – 2 seen flying past the observatory on the 1st. Still groups on the surrounding fields but not as many as previous years. I wonder if the farmers putting drainage into their fields is the reason?



Great Northern Diver

Great Northern Diver – Nice to see the rafts gathering. 6th – 13, 10th – 5, 13th – 7, 15th – 3, 19th – 3, 20th – 19, 22nd – 1, 24th – 5, 28th – 2, 29th – 10, 30th – 6, 31st – 4.

Red Throated Diver – 6th – 1, 13th – 3, 20th – 1, 22nd – 1, 27th – 2.

Red Breasted Merganser – 15th – 1.

Common Scoter – 24th – 1.



Razorbill

Razorbill – 15th – 20, 19th – 8, stormy weather on the 22nd gave us 70+ in the space of 3 hours, 29th – 3. Along with **Guillemot** – 13th – 31, 15th – 5, 19th – 1, 20th – 1, 22nd – 80+, 29th – 3, 31st – 1.

Black Guillemot – 15th – 1, 24th – 1, 28th – 3, 29th – 4.



Cormorant



Curlew

Curlew - 1st - 1, 6th - 9, 20th - 9, 22nd - 8, 24th - 12, 28th - 1, 29th - 8, 30th - 7, 31st - 8.



Male Eider

Eider - Rafts of birds a regular sight. More males than females.



Ringed Plover

Ringed Plover – 1st – 2, 6th – 10, 13th – 5, 15th – 3, 19th – 2, 20th – 18, 27th – 2, 29th – 23, 30th – 3, 31st – 12.

Purple Sandpiper – 6th – 20, 13th – 11, 15th – 10, 19th – 3, 20th – 4, 22nd – 8, 27th – 4, 29th – 4, 31st – 6.
These numbers are an increase on last year's peak of 7.

Turnstone – 1st – 1.

Redshank – 1st – 8, 6th – 13, 13th – 2, 15th – 4, 19th – 4, 20th – 2, 22nd – 1, 24th – 4, 28th – 7, 29th – 2, 31st – 3.

Goldeneye – 13th – 2, 15th – 2, 19th – 3.

Gannet – 6th – 7, 10th – 22, 13th – 11, 15th – 5, 22nd – 15, 27th – 6, 28th – 7, 29th – 10, 30th – 3, 31st – 4.
We will have to see if they increase to the numbers we had in previous years.

Kittiwake – 15th – 4, 19th – 5, 22nd stormy day – 30, 24th – 2.

Buzzard – 19th – 1.

Sparrowhawk – 31st – 1.

Meadow Pipit – 6th – 2.

Stonechat – 24th – 1.



Shelduck

Shelduck – 6th – 2, 13th – 2, 15th – 1, 19th – 2, 20th – 2, 24th – 5, 29th – 6.





Otter sightings quite regular.



Grey Seal with Ballan Wrass



Goldcrest

Goldcrest - 1 seen by the stream near the observatory on 31st. First time I have seen Goldcrest in this area.

Linnet – 1 seen on the 31st in front of the observatory.

Twite – 2 seen on the 6th. Didn't feed, flew straight off. Disappointed not have them this year.



Grey Wagtail

Grey Wagtail – One seen feeding along the stream on the 31st. Regularly seen here.



Oystercatcher



Mute Swan

Mute Swan - Looks like our regular pair have returned. Turned up on the 19th. Hope they nest again.



Wheatear

Wheatear – 1st one of the year seen on the 31st.



Chiffchaff

On a visit to Lussa Loch on the 24th we saw the first **Chiffchaff** of the year. Also 250+ **Wigeon**, 200+ **Teal** and 8 **Canada Geese**.

At Drumlemble **Whooper Swans** – 6th – 4, 15th – 9.



Cormorant study



Great Northern Diver