

# Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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## Photo of the month

### Starling

An often overlooked bird but I was just so impressed with the colour in this one. Plus, he does seem to have something interesting to feed on.

Photo  
**Jo Goudie**



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## May Report 2025

May brought us some terrific weather and that brought out the birds. We are starting to see the fledglings as they leave the nest and learn to survive on their own.

We have had some wader flocks passing us by and the dolphins have been seen quite often this month.

We did manage a drive out this month to count Cuckoo and to see if the Sedge Warbler and Willow Warbler were around. We had about 3 cuckoo and a handful of Sedge Warbler but we may have been a week earlier than last year.

Altogether a good month for weather and birds.

Jo

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**Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated**



**Whimbrel**

**Whimbrel – 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2, 4<sup>th</sup> - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> - 4, 8<sup>th</sup> - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> - 8, 11<sup>th</sup> - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> - 2, 24<sup>th</sup> - 1, 26<sup>th</sup> - 2.**

**Curlew – 5<sup>th</sup> - 3, 7<sup>th</sup> - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> - 1.**

**Dunlin – 4<sup>th</sup> - 2, 18<sup>th</sup> - 9, 21<sup>st</sup> - 7, 24<sup>th</sup> - 39, 26<sup>th</sup> - 1.**

**Kittiwake – 1 seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>, quite far out.**

**Lesser Black Back Gull – 26<sup>th</sup> - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> - 1.**

**Red Breasted Merganser – 4<sup>th</sup> - 1, 8<sup>th</sup> - 5.**

**Guillemot – 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2, 8<sup>th</sup> - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> - 11, 13<sup>th</sup> - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> - 5, 20<sup>th</sup> - 3, 21<sup>st</sup> - 2.**

**Razorbill – 13<sup>th</sup> - 1, 26<sup>th</sup> - 1.**

**Teal – 1 dropped in our bay on the 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Turnstone – 9<sup>th</sup> - 1, 11<sup>th</sup> - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> - 3, 24<sup>th</sup> - 1, 26<sup>th</sup> - 4, 27<sup>th</sup> - 2.**

**White Wagtail – 4<sup>th</sup> - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> - 2, 20<sup>th</sup> - 2.**



*Common Sandpiper*

**Common Sandpiper** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 4<sup>th</sup> – 2, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 1, 15<sup>th</sup> – 2, 16<sup>th</sup> – 3, 17<sup>th</sup> – 3, 18<sup>th</sup> – 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1.



*Sanderling*

**Sanderling** – 13<sup>th</sup> – 17, 15<sup>th</sup> – 62, 20<sup>th</sup> – 35, 21<sup>st</sup> – 16, 24<sup>th</sup> – 86, 26<sup>th</sup> – 99, 27<sup>th</sup> – 44, 28<sup>th</sup> – 52.



**Ringed Plover displaying**

**Ringed Plover** – 4<sup>th</sup> – 8, 5<sup>th</sup> – 4, 7<sup>th</sup> – 2, 8<sup>th</sup> – 2, 9<sup>th</sup> – 17, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 12<sup>th</sup> – 5, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 15<sup>th</sup> – 20, 16<sup>th</sup> – 8, 17<sup>th</sup> – 3, 18<sup>th</sup> – 13, 20<sup>th</sup> – 16, 21<sup>st</sup> – 8, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4, 24<sup>th</sup> – 7, 26<sup>th</sup> – 7, 27<sup>th</sup> – 5, 28<sup>th</sup> – 4, 30<sup>th</sup> – 2, 31<sup>st</sup> – 1.



**Great Northern Diver**

**Great Northern Diver** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 5<sup>th</sup> – 4, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 5, 10<sup>th</sup> – 4, 17<sup>th</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3.

**Manx Shearwater** – 6 seen passing the observatory far out on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6, 4<sup>th</sup> – 8, 5<sup>th</sup> – 3, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9, 8<sup>th</sup> – 4, 10<sup>th</sup> – 4, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – 12, 16<sup>th</sup> – 3, 17<sup>th</sup> – 8, 18<sup>th</sup> – 2, 20<sup>th</sup> – 3, 21<sup>st</sup> – 4, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3, 24<sup>th</sup> – 6, 26<sup>th</sup> – 4, 28<sup>th</sup> – 4.



**Twite**



**Female Twite with swollen eye**

**Twite** - We had a pair of Twite visiting for a few weeks. We know it was the same pair as the female had a swollen eye. She was eating well and the male was very attentive and protective.

**Peregrine falcon** seen flying past on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**4 Swift** seen over Campbeltown on the 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Linnet**

Good to see a regular flock of 4 to 6 birds coming to feed on the niger seed we put out.



**Cuckoo**

Seen on the Leaside road heading to Southend.



**Goldcrest**

2 seen feeding by the roadside.



**Shag**

Good to see many nests on the Tangy Rock Stack. Looks like another successful year  
Coming up for them again.



**Mute Swan cygnets**

Our resident Mute Swan pair nested again and at the end of the month she brought them out. She had 4.



**Grey Wagtail feeding a fledgling**

Often seen at the stream and nesting there. Good to see them successful.

Also in the stream area, sightings of Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Wheatear and Skylark.



**Otter on the prowl**

Not as many sightings this month but spotted occasionally.



**One of our passing Dolphin**