

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie Assistant Warden - Jason Brown

Photo of the month

Mute Swan cygnets

Our resident Mute Swans have done well this year with 6 cygnets hatched.

Photo
Jo Goudie



May Report 2026

Unfortunately, we were away for quite a bit of May so there are not as many photos as I would have liked. Mind you, it has been a quiet month again with less birds than expected.

We have lost our Purple Sandpiper who have gone off to breed and we are not seeing many divers.

Once the weather warms up we hope to get more work done on the observatory so this coming summer looks to be busy. Volunteers are welcome.

All the best

Jo

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Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)
Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Oystercatcher – looking for nesting spots



Wheatear feeding on the abundance of flies we have.

Wheatear – 4th – 3, 10th – 1, 20th – 1, 23rd – 2.



Whimbrel

Whimbrel - 2nd - 1, 3rd - 3, 4th - 2, 5th - 1, 20th - 1.

Curlew - 4th - 1, 10th - 1.



Ringed Plover

Ringed Plover – 2nd – 2, 3rd – 3, 4th – 3, 10th – 3, 20th – 6, 23rd – 6.

Great Northern Diver – 2nd – 2, 3rd – 1, 4th – 1.

Common Sandpiper – 3rd – 1, 4th – 1, 23rd – 3.

Dunlin – 3rd – 5, 4th – 1, 20th – 2.

Greylag Goose – one seen on the sea in front of the observatory on the 10th

Guillemot – 3rd – 1, 5th – 8, 10th – 1.

Knot – 5 seen on the 10th.

Sandwich Tern – 2nd – 1, 3rd – 1, 4th – 2, 10th – 1, 20th – 4, 23rd – 5.

Shelduck – 20th – 2, 23rd – 1.



Sedge Warbler

Sedge Warbler – 2 seen by the stream on the 23rd.

Blackcap – 23rd – 1.



Mute Swan family



Painted Lady

Several seen on the short grass around the observatory.