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# "THE OYSTERCATCHER"

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISLE OF MULL BIRD CLUB

Www.mullbirdclub.org.uk

MAY 2006

## ISLE OF MULL BIRD CLUB AGM MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Mull Bird Club took place on the 21st April at the Craignure Village Hall. It was attended by 34 Members of the Bird Club and after the proceedings there was a talk by Alan Spellman on Birds on Mull the previous months. Janet and Peter Hall then gave a short talk called "Mediterranean Magic Part 2". The main event of the evening was of course the Annual General Meeting which was chaired by Cliff Moisey as The IOM Bird Club has not had a chairman for the past year. All members of the committee had resigned and nominations had been taken previously. Also, the Bird Club now has a new constitution which had previously been circulated to all bird club members and was up for approval by the members present. A copy will be sent out to all bird club members. The accounts are in the next column and the following members were elected at the AGM.

President  
 Alan Spellman  
Chairman  
 Arthur Brown  
Secretary  
 Shaun McCullagh  
Treasurer  
 Peter T Hall ACIB  
Vice Chairman  
 John Preston  
Membership Secretary  
 Janet Hall  
Committee Members  
 Sue Dewar  
 Diana Oldacre  
Webmaster Andy Oldacre

### ISLE OF MULL BIRD CLUB ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE Y/E 31.03.06

<u>INCOME</u>	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
Membership	590.00	Hall Rent	195.00
Admission	382.00	Electricity	11.00
Raffles	292.00	Raffle Prizes	189.24
Sale of Stickers	16.00	Postage, Printing, Stationery	167.85
Bank Interest (net)	3.69	Picture	50.00
Sale of Key Rings	2.50	Donations	170.00
Donations	43.00	Refreshments & Wine for Speakers	169.51
Sale of booklets	<u>6.00</u>	Picture Frames 18.00	
Total income	1335.19	Speakers Expenses	<u>12.70</u>
Less total expenditure	<u>983.30</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>983.30</u>
Excess of income Over expenditure	<u>351.89</u>		

### Balances B/F 01.04.05

Bank	577.13
Cash in Hand	<u>54.98</u>
Total	632.11
Add excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>351.89</u>
Total	<u>984.00</u>

### Represented by balances 31.03.06

Bank	955.00
Cash in Hand	<u>29.00</u>
Total	<u>984.00</u>

These accounts have been audited and are correct.  
 Mike Jordan, Tobermory

## A VIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN.....

This is the first edition of the Oystercatcher to be produced since I was elected chairman of the 'Isle of Mull Bird Club' and I would like to go on record to thank the previous committee particularly the three officers, Alan Spellman, Len White and Peter Hall, whose drive and commitment started the Mull Bird Club and helped it to achieve a membership of over 120 which it has today.

At our first committee meeting held before the end of April many new and I think exciting suggestions were put forward as to the future of the club. We are joining the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) more of what this involves and the benefits are in the issue. We want more and varied Field Trips with a New Years day Bird race on Mull, a new and hopefully fun venture. The most important view however was that this small paper will be produced for the membership three times a year, to achieve this we would like input from all members both on and off the island. Any suggestions for the club, notes about birds on Mull or anywhere else that could be of interest to the club are welcomed.

We are a democratic organisation and welcome all views and we will be starting a letters section in this edition so please don't be shy, this is your forum, be heard, either praise or criticism, your views are welcome. Enjoy your birding.

Arthur Brown  
Chairman  
Isle of Mull Bird Club

## POETS CORNER

### *Cailiach Point*

Cailiach Point is a place so rare  
Where you can literally stand and stare  
Or climb the point and look up high  
See Gannets diving from the sky.  
Look across the sea to the Isle of Muck  
And there will surely be some Eider Duck.  
Watch for boats with power or sail  
And you may see a Minkie whale.  
Yes, Cailiach Point's the place for me  
Or any where that's by the sea.

## PROFILE:

### Chairman - Arthur Brown

#### *Why an interest in birds?*

As a farmer in Cheshire I realized that the bird population I took for granted as a child growing up in the 50's was not there for my children in the late 70's. So I started to look for birds and to a lesser extent the reasons for their decline.

#### *Who do you admire in the bird world?*

David Attenborough, of course, and Bill Oddie who I think has brought more people into birds and birding and made it less 'nerdy', we don't mind being seen with binoculars and tripods any more. On a more local level Alan 'mullbirds' Spellman who for years has fought a single handed battle to bring Mull and it's birds to the attention of the public and is probably the main reason I came to Mull in the first place.

#### *What do you like about birding?*

The uncertainty and camaraderie you can go out one day and not see much at all and on another you can see lots and, of course, there is always the chance of a rarity on your patch like the Ross's Gull with Pam, my wife, and Alan Spellman.....what a day that was, still the highlight of my birding life even if the rarities committee failed to ratify it. (We know what we saw)

#### *What do you dislike?*

People that moan 'oh there's nothing about' There is always something to see particularly on Mull, this beautiful island. The other pet moan is the weather 'oh its cold and windy' the worse the weather the better chance that a rarity may get blown in..... get looking.

#### *Why Mull?*

It's beautiful, the landscape, the people including the farmers who have been nothing but helpful to Pam & I since we came to live and work here. Oh and of course, the birds.

#### *Favourite reserve?*

Hard one this, but at the time of going to press it has to be Minsmere in Suffolk – still holds my record for number of birds seen in the day and a magical night watching Nightjars.

#### *Which was your favourite foreign holiday?*

Haven't had many but Finland, land of the midnight sun, has to be it. Owls, Ross's Gull and lots of other firsts and great company thanks to Harri Taavetti from Finnature

#### *How do you see the future?*

On the bird front exciting and sad, as Britain warms up we will have new exciting birds to look out for on Mull, Little Egrets, Pied Flycatchers, Bee Eaters perhaps along with many others. On the flip side we could lose some of the birds we call our own and that is a bit depressing.

#### *Finally what do you see in the future for the bird club?*

I hope for a vigorous, active bird club in which all members feel wanted and wish to contribute in any way they can. We have made a very good start with the Mull bird club now let us move it forward together. Mull is a very big island and vastly under recorded, we need more members out there reporting what they see either in their gardens or anywhere on the Mull no matter how mundane it may appear all sightings and opinions will be welcomed.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

On the front of this newsletter are the accounts which have now been audited. For those of you who attended the AGM there are no changes whatsoever. Please be aware that if you have not already Paid, YOUR SUBS ARE NOW DUE with effect from April 1 2006. The figure remains unchanged at £5 per head.

Peter T Hall ACIB  
Treasurer - Isle of Mull Bird Club

## SUMMARY OF BIRD REPORTS JANUARY—MAY

The female **Kingfisher** at Lochdon bridge pool stayed until 17th March. We occasionally get Kingfishers in the winter months for a day or two only, so this three month stay was a real bonus.

A first record for several years was a **Common Pochard** on Loch Assapol 19th February 2006.

A pair of **Blackcaps** were in a Tobermory garden on 6th Jan. At Killiechronan, an **Iceland Gull** was present on & off during Feb and March. 2 **Black throated Divers** and a **Goosander** were on Loch Scridain 13th Feb and a pair of **Common Scoter** were on the Loch on 27th Feb.

Oban Esplanade produced a 2nd Winter **Ring Billed Gull** which has remained, having spent most of 2005 there and into early May 2006.

A **Drake Gadwall** was at Bunessan during March, joined by a female in April. There are no recent records for Mull. However it does not seem to have stayed to breed. A **Little Gull** was at Loch Beg and Killiechronan in March and a **Moorhen** spent Jan to March on the Loch in Aros Park. A **Magpie** at Calgary in Feb and **Eurasian Jay** at Lochdon on 3rd March. Both of these birds are scarce on Mull whilst being numerous on the mainland, we do seem to be getting regular visits from Magpies throughout the year. A **Water rail** was caught by a cat in Dervaig reed beds and was released unharmed by its owner.

A first winter **Ring billed Gull** was at the Mishnish Lochs on 20th April 2006 & is a new record for Mull (thanks to David Hatfield). There were two very scarce birds on passage visited Mull; being a single **Purple Sandpiper** at Grasspoint on 21st April, and a **Curlew Sandpiper** in summer plumage, which stopped overnight at Lochdon 29th April.

An immature female **Marsh Harrier** at Salen, flying towards Fishnish on 7th May. Possibly the same bird that was seen on Coll on 8th and Tiree on 9th.

During the early days of May, **Great Skua**, a **Pomarine Skua** and **Arctic Skua** were all recorded off the north coast between Treshnish & Cailaich point.

A **Reed Warbler** was observed singing at Ardanish in May 2004, and was the first

record for the species on Mull. A second bird was seen at Calliach Point, September. And now in 2006, on 9th May one was heard on Staffa.

A rare **Turtle Dove** was at Treshnish Farm on 11th May & was also here last year. Iona recorded the first **Corn crake of the year** on 29th April.

Alan Spellman



Purple Sandpiper—picture by Alan Spellman

## A CONGLOBULATION OF SWALLOWS

None other than the esteemed 18th century naturalist, the Rev. Gilbert White, of Selborne, was sympathetic to the notion that birds, like Swallows, Swifts and House Martins, did not migrate at the close of Summer, but conglobulated in the mud of marshy pools, in the masonry of churches, in dry stone walls, and behind crumbling cliff faces. Over 200 years later, we know such thoughts to be fanciful, as millions of migrant birds leave this country to seek the warmer climes of the Mediterranean and Africa each Autumn. And, that they fly unaided, too, and not having hitched a ride on the back of another, larger bird! Swallows are among the most popular of British birds, having long been regarded as harbingers of Spring in this country. However prevailing weather conditions at the time of their arrival in March/April are so-often wintry, giving rise to the warning that 'One Swallow does not a Summer make'. Traditionally, Swallows are a sign of good luck among country folk : a farmer will never destroy a Swallow's nest for fear of the misfortune that might befall him. Swallows have been extremely well-studied down through the ages. The migration of Swallows was first recognised as long ago as 700 BC, when the Greek poet, Anacreon recorded the return of these birds to Egypt, and realised that this was one of their winter retreats. Today, it is known that some 220 million Swallows over-winter each year in Africa, of which German birds account for those wintering in Central Africa, while British and Russian birds fly further south, 'leap-frogging' other European breeders to winter in and around Johannesburg, South Africa. Biannual migrations may offer birds like the Swallow, House Martin and Swift a competitive edge when it comes to breeding, yet many pay the ultimate price for such long distance travel. After a long and demanding breeding season, Swallows undertake a quite extraordinary migrational journey halfway across the globe, linking the continents of Europe and Africa, and collecting some 6,200 air miles into the bargain ! It almost beggars belief that such a tiny bird should be capable of travelling such vast distances across the face of our planet. Swallows and martins are diurnal migrants, preferring to feed as they go, unlike so many migratory birds that travel by the light of the stars, having spent several weeks beforehand laying down fat reserves to help sustain them on their long haul flights. Some small passerine migrants will complete their journeys by dint of huge flights encompassing hundreds of thousands of miles at a time, arriving at their intended destination in days; Swallows flit from place to place in a more relaxed fashion, often taking several weeks or even months to get to where they want to be. Migrating Swallows fly up to 200 miles daily on such marathon journeys, travelling at an average speed of 20 m.p.h. Despite accumulating some fat reserves before crossing large areas such as the Sahara Desert, Swallows are particularly vulnerable during these crossings. Migration is a hazardous time and

many birds die from starvation, exhaustion and in storms as they cross low over the waves of the Mediterranean Sea. Swallow populations fluctuate from year to year (British population : 375,000 pairs) and are affected greatly by weather. They require rain to provide wet mud for nest building and for encouraging an abundance of insect prey, but cold, wet weather prevents them from feeding. Large scale mortality is regularly recorded during and after bad weather, during both breeding and migration. On the other hand, hot and dry weather can result in mortality through dehydration and heat stress. Swallows and martins are great indicators of our weather and, as a result, by simply observing the behaviour of local birds, it may be possible to predict the following day's weather (give or take a shower or two !) During fine, dry and settled days, Swallows and House Martins can be found feeding high in the sky, but during periods of changeable and depressed weather they tend to come lower, following their insect prey, often affording quite spectacular views as they flit or buzz past at eye level. Climatic changes in the Swallows' African winter quarters and on migration routes may be having a serious effect. Research has shown that Swallows are returning to their breeding areas in poor condition and are laying fewer eggs than previously. From 70 to 90% of eggs laid produce fledged young in a good year, although in years of cold, wet weather food shortage can be a major cause of mortality. Nest sites are traditional, and provided the food supply has not changed, the same nests or sites are used from one year to the next, often by the same two birds. Swallows rarely live longer than four years, but one individual was known to survive until the ripe old age of 16 years. During it's life, it would have flown around 200,000 miles, simply flying between Britain and Africa! Sand Martins are the first 'swallows' to arrive back from their sub-Saharan winter quarters in Spring, with many birds being reported by mid-March, as they return to local lochs, riverbanks and sand quarries. Swallows can, and do, turn up during March in Scotland, but the bulk of this species arrive at their northern European breeding haunts during late April and early May, just ahead of local House Martin populations, but considerably earlier than the first returning Swifts. Indeed, there can be as much as six weeks (or more !) between the earliest Sand Martin and the first Swift to be recorded in any Spring in the West Highlands ! Swallows, martins and Swifts are flying hunters, feeding on a variety of airborne insects and spiders, which they scoop up with

their broad, wide bills and enlarged gape. Being insectivores, members of the swallow tribe obtain most of their daily water requirements from the food they consume, and may only have to drink every one or two days. Drinking birds can be particularly vulnerable to an attack by predators, so have to be very wary when they stop to take a sip. Swallows, martins and Swifts drink on the wing, thus greatly reducing the risk of being caught, at least by land-based predators, if not by a marauding Hobby, which specialises in catching and eating aerial prey (not a huge concern for Scottish swallows, however, as Hobbies occur only as rare passage migrants north of the border, and have never previously been recorded on Mull !)

Stuart Gibson

P.S. Annoyed by recent enforced changes to the bird names that we all know and love, I've decided to devise and operate my own bird watching version of Esperanto. So, I won't be adopting the title of 'Barn Swallow' for our familiar Swallow. Instead, I prefer to call these wonderful migrants by my alternative moniker of 'Long-tailed Swit-Swit'. Let me explain. Swallows have long tail streamers, the size of which is dependent on sex and maturity (males have the longest, juveniles the shortest), and they possess a lovely, twittering chatter of a song (call rendered 'swit-swit') I think it sums them up, but others may complain that such a name makes no reference to their obvious beauty. And, while I'm in this state of mind, what about 'A Conglobulation' for a collective noun for this far-travelled migrant ? A conglobulation of Swallows.mmmm.

SG



## MY PATCH

### BIRDING IN & AROUND DERVAIG

By Shaun McCullagh



Two main areas are of special interest, Loch Cuin and the reed bed alongside the Glen Bellart road. The main viewing points for the loch are from the bridge over the river in front of the old chapel (Sea View) especially at low tide when the muddy areas are exposed. It is also possible to walk along the north shore of the loch from the bridge for about half a mile, but only at low tide. Access points to the shore are from the village side of the bridge through a small wicket gate which is marked private, but this refers to the houses, not the shore and also by going through the village and going down a track by the side of the public toilets across the football field and down to the shore, but please no dogs. In winter look for passage waders, snipe, redshank, greenshank, merganser, goldeneye, little grebe, gulls, mallard, teal, whooper swan and otters. In summer redshank, gulls, grey lag geese and otters. A walk along the road above the loch can also be rewarding, here mixed flocks of thrushes are often present in winter, as are wood land birds in the two scots pine plantations. Good views of the loch can also be had from the road. Good views of the reed bed can be had by walking along the glen road for about a quarter of a mile, then turn right across the grass just before the fence starts and you can look down on the reed bed and large pool. In winter look for ducks and in summer grasshopper and sedge warblers, reed bunting and there is always the possibility of a water rail.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I enjoy the field trips arranged by the members and hope that there will be lots more. I was sorry to have missed out on John's trip around Garmony but I was ill at the time. Some of the trips have been in the rain but this has not detracted from the enjoyment. One wet trip we saw double figures of otter and a rare bird (Iceland Gull). Arthur's trip this year I enjoyed was similar to the Grand National. On arriving at Reudle, John was a non starter (due to too much laughter). Duncan refused at the high ridge (fetlock), and I fell at the cliff top above the Whisky Cave - you may draw your own conclusion. It was a lovely day topped off with a meal at the Bellachroy. It took me two days to recover but it was well worth it.



Two photographs taken by Edwin on the Treshnish Isles Trip

## BIRDWATCHING TRIP TO MULL

*By: Edwin Shackleton - Member from Bristol*

I had previously visited Mull in 2001 and 2002 when I stayed with Peter and Janet Hall. I have been a member of the Isle of Mull Bird Club since those days. Now that Easy-jet were operating a service from Bristol to Glasgow I decided to take the plunge once again. I set off at 3.30 in the morning with a drive to the airport. The flight on their new Airbus A319 took only 51 minutes and I was soon over the Erskine Bridge and the first significant bird was a hovering Kestrel but within a few minutes I had a Lesser Black-backed Gull, Carrion Crow, Rook, and Greenfinches. A willow Warbler was heard. I kept my eye open for Wood warbler habitat with an open tree area and this happened at Loch Awe, the call was immediately heard but after a reasonable time I had to give up but did see Mallard and Mute Swan before arriving at Oban. I was pleased to see the local Black Guillemot at Oban and sea logging brought me Fulmar 4 Gannets and Guillemot. The bird feeders at Peter and Janet's were watched on arrival and I soon saw Siskins (which was wanted for my 2006 list). Day 2 dawned and Peter and I went on Turus Mara to the Treshnish Isles. Before that however, I took a walk towards Craignure and heard a Wood Warbler near to Torosay North Lodge and soon I was rewarded with good views together with a pair of Song Thrush feeding young. There was busy activity toward the Church a profusion of swallows and House Martins and even quite a few House Sparrows. On the way to Ulva Ferry we saw Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Grey Heron, Shag, Pied Wagtail and Cormorant and travelling to the Treshnish, Eider, Fulmar, Black Guillemot, Razorbill, and Gannet. Peter and I decided not to disembark at Fingals Cave and Ian Morrison took us a little way out and we sat on the top deck eating our lunch and drifting towards Tiree. We then proceeded on to Lunga, took the unusual disembarking technique and saw a Rock Pipit on our way up to the Puffin burrows. There were a few Puffins but they allowed us our personal approach for those wonderful photographs. At the huge rock the usual congregation of Razorbill and Guillemot were missing Ian explained that they had paid visits on several occasions but then returned to Sea, just one of those worrying trends now occurring in nature. Kittiwakes in small numbers were at nest sites on the low ledges and there was a constant

movement of maybe 30 puffins. Once we returned towards Ulva we were lucky to see 2 fine Great Northern Divers in summer plumage and then just one Red Breasted Merganser. After this wonderful day I spent a very pleasant evening at the Village Hall with a presentation by The President, Alan Spellman with his talk on "a taste of Mull" and then a demonstration from "Wings over Mull" who had brought some of their lovely birds. Purdy flew backwards and forwards to Sue and Richard who gave her small morsels of food an extremely noisy Kestrel, Shadow the Falcon and two owls, A Barn Owl and a Snowy Owl. A good evening was had and the sum of £100 had been raised for the Hospital at "Wings over Mull". Day 3 - having written some postcards on the way to the postbox a tree-creeper flew in front of me and landed on a trunk. I spent the rest of the day with Peter driving round the island. Our first call was to the sand martin colony and then through Lochdon to the Grasspoint road where the presence of a dozen birders showed that the local Sea Eagle were visible. The pair were seen on top of adjacent trees on the ridge. A Cuckoo which had been vocal for a while was at last seen on a distant tree-top whilst a Stonechat pair obliged on fence wires. A nearby Whitethroat, Redshank and Oystercatcher completed the local interest. We drove to Loch Buie where we had a picnic lunch, and then on through Glen More to Loch Scridain where we sighted Wheatear, Pheasant, Lapwing, Buzzard, Whimbrel, Red Throated Diver, Red Breasted Merganser, Ringed Plover and Greylag Geese, unfortunately we had no luck with Merlin or Hen Harrier. Day 4 - I was booked on a visit to the White Tailed Sea Eagle hide at Loch Frisa and went in a convoy of 8 cars down the dusty track for an amazing 4 miles along the loch. Once there we were able to see the female with 2 young on the nest which was approx half a mile away. We were lucky enough to see the male fly off across our view and disappear over the nearby mountains, later the female took a flight across the loch and then landed back on a tree. We had good views of a Golden Eagle being harassed by a Peregrine. A pair of Kestrel spent much time chasing off Hoodies etc., just above the hide area. Day 5 was departure day, I spent time in Oban and saw 4 Black Guillemots and then upstream from Connel Bridge a dozen eider. Much further south at Al-dochnay near Luss a pair of Common Sandpiper were chasing circuits around the moored pleasure boats in an apparent display flight. Then as Glasgow approached

the Crows were no longer Hoodies and groups of Jackdaws were seen. The magic of the north had disappeared!!! Back to Bristol after a wonderful break, my head hit the pillow just before midnight and the memories were lost in deep sleep.

*Edwin Shackleton*

## WHAT IS THE BTO ????



The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is a partnership of bird-watchers and professional ornithologists, all keen to understand what is happening to birds in the UK. Members can support the Trust financially (through membership fees and donations) or actively, by taking part in national surveys and providing valuable information on Britain's birds and their habitats. Thousands of BTO members and other volunteer birdwatchers are involved in this monitoring work which is co-ordinated by local volunteer organisers and scientists based at BTO offices in Norfolk and Stirling. The Trust publishes the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain & Ireland on a regular basis, using the valuable data has gathered from its surveys. Members can also subscribe to Bird Study (published three times a year) and Ringing & Migration, published twice a year, and all members receive copies of the bi-monthly BTO News. Anyone can get involved in survey work, which ranges from simply watching garden birds and recording them (Garden Bird-Watch), to carrying out a full Breeding Bird Survey which involves making three visits, each lasting around one and a half hours, to a one kilometre square selected by the BTO. Mull Bird Club secretary Shaun McCullagh has been involved in this survey for many years. Other surveys include:

- The Nest Record Scheme – this has been running since 1939 and over one and a quarter million nest record cards have been received, helping researchers to investigate the impact of global warming and the causes of population declines.
- The Wetland Bird Survey – over 90% of waders and wildfowl wintering in the UK are counted by WeBS volunteers annually, and data are used in conservation planning as well as research into population

changes and distribution patterns.

- The Winter Gull Roost Survey
- Scarce Woodland Bird Survey
- Tawny Owl Survey, 2005
- Heronries Census (run since 1928)
- Waterways Bird Survey

- Waterways Breeding Bird Survey

Some of these surveys are run in partnership with other organisations such as JNCC, RSPB, WWT etc.

The BTO is also the organisation which runs the bird ringing scheme in Britain and Ireland, with around 800,000 birds ringed each year by just over 2,000 trained ringers (most of whom are volunteers). Why do we ring? We can learn a great deal about birds in general by watching and counting them, but these methods don't allow us to identify individuals. Placing a lightweight, uniquely numbered ring on a bird's leg enables us to find out so much more about migration routes, wintering areas and, of course, allows us to monitor bird populations. We can find out how many young birds fledge and survive to become adults, how many adults survive the stress of breeding, migration and severe weather. All this information helps us to understand the causes of population declines. Ringers are subject to a licence which enables them to visit nests to ring birds and record data such as age, sex, measurements, all of which is collated by the BTO.

You can also log on to [www.birdtrack.net](http://www.birdtrack.net) - an online recording scheme – and increase the personal, local and national value of your sightings.

By joining the BTO Bird Clubs Partnership, the Isle of Mull Bird Club can become more involved in the Trust's valuable work, and learn more about its work through regular mailings. If you would like to get involved in any of the surveys, find out more about them, or join the BTO as an ordinary member, please call me on 01680 812594 or email me – [sue.dewar@btconnect.com](mailto:sue.dewar@btconnect.com), or drop into Wings over Mull where I have plenty of BTO literature and can let you see some of the Trust's journals and reports. I am the BTO's Regional Representative for North Argyll, and co-ordinate their surveys in this area. I'm also a "C" ringer for the BTO, trained to ring owls and other birds of prey.

Sue Dewar, DipRapBiol

## THANK YOU

On behalf of all members of the Bird Club, I would like to express our grateful thanks to Cynthia and her staff at Balmeanach Tearoom for a most welcome and refreshing afternoon tea (and in some cases dinner!!) following our walk from Garmony to Fishnish on Sunday 30th April. In addition, I would also like to send thanks to all staff at the Bellachroy Hotel in Dervaig where we experienced a most delicious meal and warm welcome after our club outing earlier this year. Thanks to all concerned.

*John Preston*

*Vice Chairman - Isle of Mull Bird Club*

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. I really thought that for a minute the newsletter would have to retire as I did not have anything to put in it, but here we are with another packed edition. In future editions there will be a "Letters to the Editor" page so please send your letters to me. There will also be a "My Patch" in which members are encouraged to send in details of the birds in their area or garden, there will also be a "Profile" of existing members of the Bird Club. If you would like to do a "Profile" of yourself, please email me and I will send you the questions. If you have had an interesting holiday or birdwatching experience please send them to me as I will keep them and they can go in future newsletters. Also, please note that we are in the process of setting up a new website. This should be up and running in the next few weeks so PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE.



HAPPY BIRDING  
EDITOR