

UPDATE 30th April 2024

Male curlew standing guard



Curlews have set up their territories and the females are incubating their eggs while the males stand guard looking out for danger. If a threat is detected he gives a warning call before trying to chase off any predators.

Our first **common lizards** for the year were recorded on the wooden stobs at the roadside. These cold blooded reptiles bask on the warm stobs in the sun to warm themselves up before they search for their invertebrate prey. These obliging creatures are great for showing children and for taking photographs of, but watch your shadow doesn't fall across them or they will take cover in

the safety of the grasses.



Common lizard

Our first **little tern** arrived from its wintering grounds on the north-west coast of Africa on the 21st April. The flock of roosting **sandwich tern** at Rue Point has grown over the past couple of weeks and the maximum count so far is 45. Passage **whimbrel** and **bar-tailed godwit** have also been seen at Rue Point. The main passage of **ringed plover** and **sanderling** appears to have passed through. There are still **red-throated divers** around hunting for fish off-shore.



Little tern and sandwich tern



Early purple orchid

Early purple orchids are currently flowering by the lime kiln and approximately 400m east of the MWT Ayres Nature Discovery Centre (at a location marked by a concrete post). The Ayres NNR is the main location for this orchid on the Isle of Man.



Male shoveler on the flooded slacks

The slacks (low lying areas on the NNR) are still very flooded and are attracting **shoveler, teal, coot and moorhen**. There are also plenty of **mallard** ducklings bobbing about on the water.

Raven chicks have already fledged from their large stick nest in the plantation.



Linnets feeding on seed in the former sand pits. This red listed species on the Birds of Conservation Concern nests in small colonies in the gorse. They are also the favourite food of our visiting **merlin**.

Green-tiger beetles have emerged in good numbers and can be seen on the paths across the reserve. These voracious predators have huge jaws to catch their insect prey.



The tern fencing is up at the **Point of Ayre** (privately owned) and **ringed plover, common gull** and **oystercatcher** are already taking advantage of the quiet space. No Arctic tern have been reported yet and they should start to arrive over the next couple of weeks. **Grey seals** are present and signs are in place providing advice on how to view these amazing animals without disturbing them.

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