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Scottish Wildlife &  
Nature Tourism  
Operators Association

# Wild Scotland News

Issue 2

Summer 2007

## Welcome to Wild Scotland's e-newsletter!

There's no doubt that the weather's been strange this year, but we're used to changeable weather here in Scotland - when it's raining in one glen, the sun may be shining in the next.

And our wildlife is certainly not hindered by the summer showers, sightings so far have been

### Summer wildlife sights...

**Common seal pups** are now appearing all around the coast. We've had reports from [Seafari Adventures](#), [Oban](#) that pups have been seen around the Argyll islands.

There are plenty of **puffins** being seen by [Turus Mara](#) on the Treshnish Islands, near Mull as well as [Puffin Cruises](#) at Troup Head near Aberdeen and [Anstruther Pleasure Trips](#) on the Isle of May.

The first **gannet chicks** have been seen on the Bass Rock near Edinburgh by the [Scottish Seabird Centre](#).



**Butterflies and moths** can be seen fluttering in the moorland and meadows and are a great way to engage children with nature. Why not join a moth walk at [Cream o'Galloy near Kirkcudbright?](#)

For more info, visit the [Wild Scotland website](#)

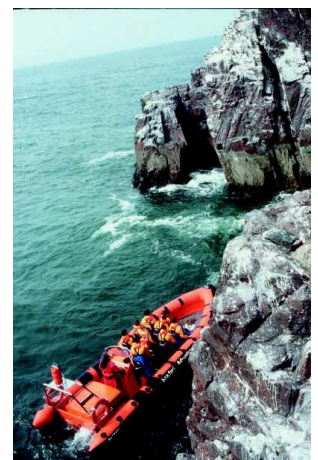
### Did You Enjoy Springwatch? Well don't miss out...

...on visiting the magical island of Islay where Simon King was based for the series and the surrounding area. The Kintyre peninsula and the islands of Islay and Jura are special places, quiet and tranquil but are bustling with wildlife.

**Here are the experts who can help you make the most of your trip to the area:**

**Islay Birding**, situated on the Isle of Islay, offers dawn and dusk tours, customised tours and day long tours around the island. Sixty to eighty different species of bird are regularly sighted on trips, and the island is home to over 100 species year round.

**Craignish Cruises** operates one to four hour cruises from Ardfern south of Oban around the Sound of Jura and Firth of Lorne to Scarba, the Gulf of Corryvreckan and the Garvellach Islands. Regularly sighted species include feral goats, eagles, seals, dolphins, deer and whales.



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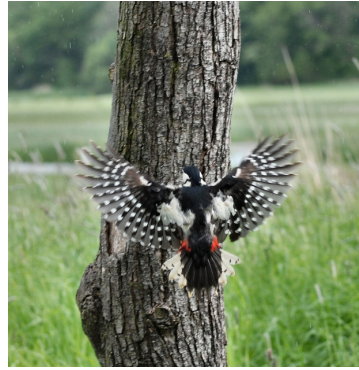
**Seafari Adventures near Oban** offers exhilarating RIB rides around the Argyll coast, complete with island landings and guided walks on Jura, Belnahua, the Garvellach islands, Colonsay, Oronsay and occasionally Islay. Whales and dolphins are regularly sighted, as are sea eagles, golden eagles, deer and numerous species of bird and wild flower.

## And The Winner Is...

...Mr Raymond Watson of Kilmarnock, who submitted the winning photo in our Spring Wildlife Photography Competition. His photograph of a great spotted woodpecker at Lochwinnoch Reserve was published in the Scotsman newsletter and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The competition was judged by wildlife photographer, Pete Cairns and Mr Watson won a wildlife-watching trip for two people with **Gairloch Marine Life Centre and Cruises**.

The competition will continue to run on a seasonal basis in conjunction with the Scotsman and our summer season's prize has been donated by **Cumbræ Voyages, which runs wildlife boat trips from Largs around the Cumbræ and over to Arran**.

The closing date for the competition is **Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007**. If you would like to enter [visit our website](#) for all the details.



The winning photo: great spotted woodpecker at Lochwinnoch

### Aigas Field Centre's Wildlife on the Box

Aigas Field Centre, just outside Inverness is noticing first hand the interest from the media in Scotland's wildlife. The field studies centre has recently been the focus of a 1 hour television programme entitled "Aigas: A Highland Wonder" which was shown on Sky TV's Horse & Country channel 295 and are currently hosting Johnny Kingdom who is filming Christmas special to be shown on BBC2 at the end of the year. Johnny Kingdom rose to fame last year with his BBC2 series about Exmoor's nature. For more information, [click here](#).

## Going to the Bird Fair This Year?

We are, so do come and say hello to us at our stand in marquee 3.

This year we've teamed up with the **Scottish Wildlife Trust** to give you the very best information we can about where to watch wildlife in Scotland. We're running a **prize draw** on the stand where visitors could win one of six excellent wildlife-watching trips in Scotland, including a week's all-inclusive holiday with [Heatherlea](#).

Prize draw cards can be collected at our stand. For more information about the show, see the [official Bird Fair website](#).

## A Great Wildlife Day Out... on foot.

Why not leave the car at home for a day and get out in the countryside.

New for 2007 is a series of walks being offered by Perthshire outdoor operator, [Wildoutdoors](#). The day walks, aimed at people of all abilities, run from the company's base in Dunkeld, near Perth and are led by wildlife expert Adrian Davis.

Other Wild Scotland companies that run day walks are:

- [C N Do Scotland](#): range of day walks across Scotland
- [Walk Deeside](#): wildlife walks in Cairngorms National

## Special Offers

More offers will be available on [www.wild-scotland.co.uk](http://www.wild-scotland.co.uk). Don't forget to mention where you heard about the offer from when you book!

### Highland Adventure Safaris, Aberfeldy, Perthshire

Special Offer for Wild Scotland E-newsletter subscribers: 10% discount on safaris.

### Orcadian Wildlife, Orkney Mainland, Orkney

**Book ahead:** 10% off main season price on ALL holidays during September and October 2007.

### Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick, near Edinburgh

Special offer for Wild Scotland E-newsletter subscribers: 10% off our day admission tickets in association with Wild Scotland.

## About Wild Scotland

Wild Scotland is the Scottish wildlife and nature tourism operators association. Our aim is to promote Scotland as a fantastic place to watch wildlife, as well as encourage responsible behaviour by both tour companies and visitors.

For more information about what we do, [click here](#).

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**Grey seal. Copyright Pete Cairns/Northshots**