

Machrihanish Bird Observatory

A visible migration station

Founded September **1993**

(Now closed for winter)



Supplementary Report December 2020

Compiled by *Eddie Maguire*

For Updates / Enquiries...Contact the Observatory

Mobile - 07895 952640

E-mail – msbowarden@gmail.com

Website – machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk

'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'

Photo of the Month



Hen Harrier – ringtail by Stewarton 15:25hrs / 7th December

List of Selected Species

Whooper Swan

Campbeltown: on 2nd, 12 >W over the town am (Charlie Robertson *pers. comm.*) and 18 >W pm (Gordon McShannon *pers. comm.*), 10 >E am on 4th and 7 >W am on 11th (Charlie Robertson *pers. comm.*).

Machrihanish: 2 adults at Killypole Loch on 3rd (Dee Brodie *pers. comm.*).

Strath: 4 adults on 20th then 8 adults there on 23rd.



Whoopers – at the Laggan / 20th December

Greenland White-fronted Goose

The Laggan: c. 180 at Strath on 3rd, 400+ on 20th and 900+ by Drumlemble School on 20th.

Pink-footed Goose

The Laggan: one at Drumlemble on 20th.



White-front – 3rd December



White-fronts – 3rd December

Common Shelduck

The Laggan: 5 arrived at Strath on 3rd.

Goosander

NW Kintyre: 2 males at Kennacraig on 11th (David Jardine *pers. comm.*).
Very scarce in Kintyre / mainly an infrequent autumn passage visitor at MSBO.



Hen Harrier - ringtail 15:25hrs / 7th December

Hen Harrier

By Stewarton: 2 males regular at roost site all month. Single ringtail(s) there on 3rd, 7th, 12th and 20th.



Hen Harrier - ringtail 15:18hrs / 20th December

Common Kestrel

Strath: one on 20th.

Merlin

The Laggan: one at Bleachfield on 23rd.

Common Kestrel

The Laggan: one Bleachfield on 12th.

Northern Lapwing

The Laggan: 500+ >W over Bleachfield on 12th.



Lapwings – 12th December

MSBO Supplementary Report December 2020

Purple Sandpiper

MSBO: 9 on 22nd.

Ruddy Turnstone

MSBO: 3 on 22nd.

Jack Snipe

Carradale: one flushed on Carradale Golf Course on 15th (*per* Jim Dickson).

European Stonechat

The Laggan: a pair by Bleachfield all month.

Eurasian Magpie

Stewarton: one seen daily 1st – 4th then on 12 dates 14th – 30th (Errol / Fiona Crutchfield / Margaretanne Green / Agnes Stewart *pers. comm.*).

Machrihanish: 2 present all month (Charlie / Jane McMillan *pers. comm.*).

European Greenfinch

Southend: 6 at Keil shore on 6th (Errol / Fiona Crutchfield *pers. comm.*).

Brambling

Glen Breackerie: one at Dalsmeran on 26th (Brian Morton *pers. comm.*).

Snow Bunting

Tayinloan: one, a flyover, at West Coast Salmon, north of Rhunahaorine Point on 5th (David Jardine *pers. comm.*).

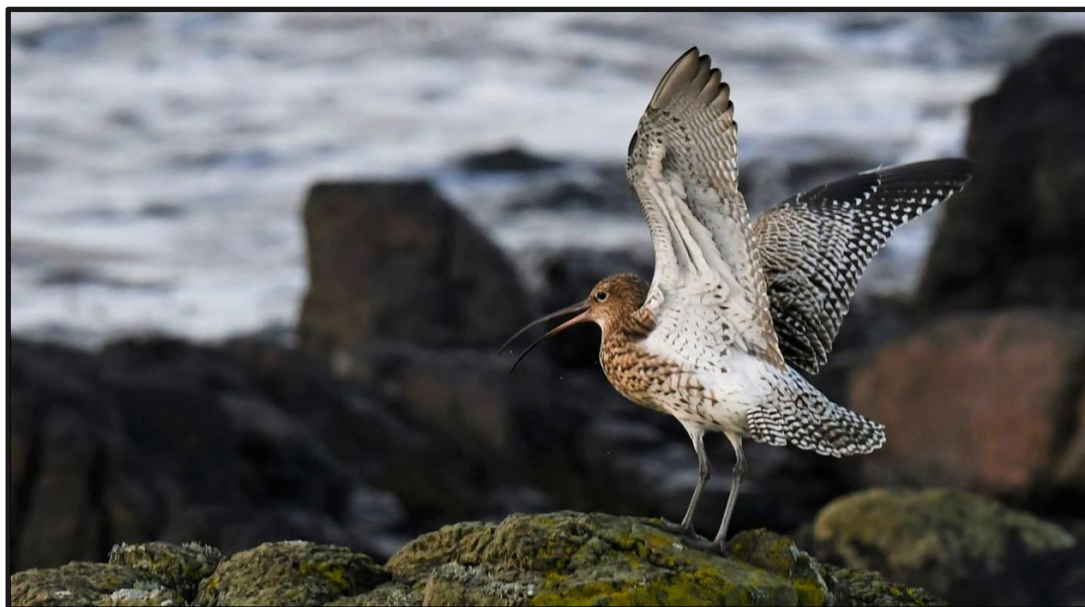
A few more Photos



European Shag – 1cy Campbeltown Loch / loafing on harbour 14th December



Eurasian Teal – Campbeltown Loch / 22nd December



Eurasian Curlew – MSBO / 22nd December



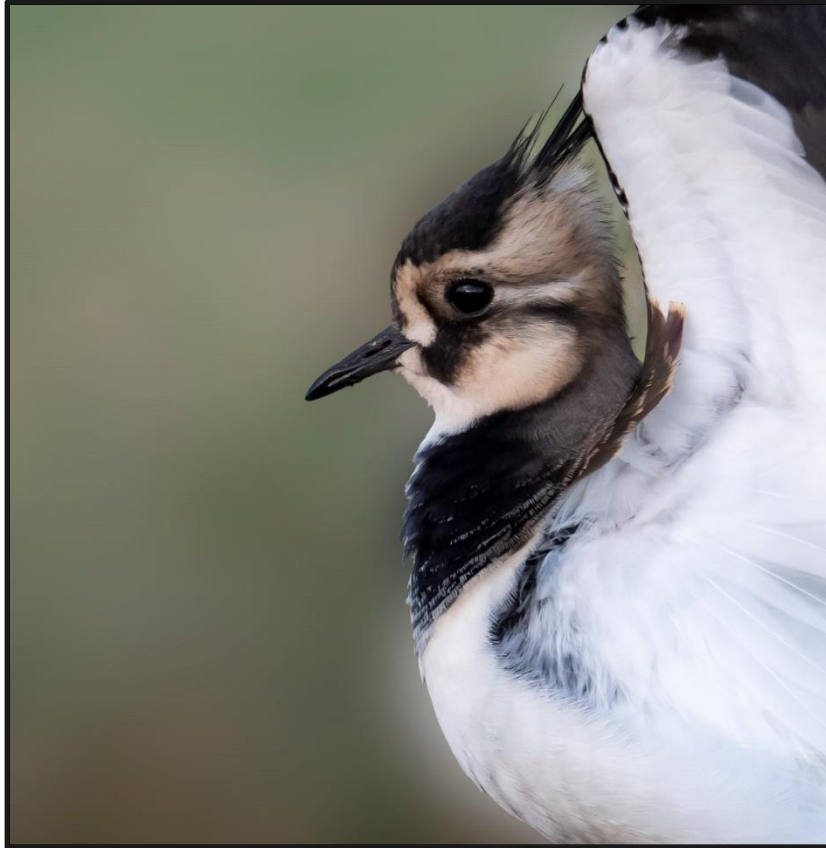
Common Redshank – MSBO 22nd December

Machrihanish Airbase

December Report 2020

Records / Photographs by David Millward / Jo Goudie

Photo of the Month



Lapwing – Airbase 30th December / David Millward

December has again been mild and there has been a noticeable drop in numbers of small birds visiting the feeders. I have had a big influx of **Starlings** visiting and wondered if this is putting them off. Also, there has been no sightings of the **Sparrowhawk** since the **Starlings** started visiting. **Coal Tit** still seen on the feeder. Hooded Crow pair becoming regular visitors.

The airfield is quiet with a couple of pairs of **Stonechat** still visible.

On the 11th a large flock of around 100 **Lapwing** could be seen flying along the coast heading for Machrihanish. 3 **Golden Plover** could be seen among them.

On the 17th a female **Merlin** was seen on the Moss Road. It flew alongside the car for a short while giving great views. **Greylag Geese**, around 50 on the fields feeding. **Redwing** seen in bushes on the Moss Road.

25th showed **Stonechat** and one **Roe Deer**.

30th gave us 3 **Song Thrush** feeding with **Starling** and a lone **Lapwing** was feeding on the edge of the airstrip. A **Buzzard** kept watch on us, soaring over the car.

MSBO Supplementary Report December 2020

Another year over, so here is hoping 2021 is another good year for sightings and photographs.

Jo Goudie

Photos from the Airbase during December



Lapwing – Airbase 30th December / Jo Goudie



Lapwing – Airbase 30th December / David Millward



Lapwing – Airbase 30th December / Jo Goudie



Common Buzzard – Airbase 30th December / David Millward



Stonechat – Airbase 25th December / Warden

Sound of Gigha WEBS 11th December

David Jardine *pers. comm.*

Highlights...

Common Scoter	46
Long-tailed Duck	9
Great Northern Diver	39
Red-throated Diver	4
Slavonian Grebe	19
Ringed Plover	109
Sanderling	11