

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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

Photo of the month

Black Throated Diver

Not a diver we usually see. We normally get Great Northern and Red Throated so this was a rare treat. Flew passed on the 1st.

Photo
Jo Goudie



December Report 2024

A quiet month again. Rough weather at times piled the beaches with lots of seaweed but still no big numbers of waders feeding.

We have seen the geese back on the flooded fields in fairly small numbers, Greylags, White Fronted and a small flock of Canada geese. Also seen a few Whoopers too.

We are now only at observatory on and off as the weather is not as good but if you do want to visit, let us know when through email or messenger and we will try to be there for you.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



Contact the Observatory

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Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)

Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Purple Sandpiper

Purple Sandpiper – 5th – 14, 13th – 4, 16th – 13, 18th – 4, 23rd – 2, 28th – 10.



Turnstone

Turnstone – 1st – 1, 8th – 1, 13th – 1, 16th – 2, 18th – 2, 19th – 1.



Shelduck

Shelduck – Good to see them back again. 5th – 2, 8th – 4, 16th – 2.



Male Eider

Small rafts of Eider are now being regularly seen by the outlet pipe of the MOWI Buildings. We have a few still in eclipse plumage.

Common Scoter – one seen on the 13th.

Goldeneye – we have a raft of between 10 and 16 birds that over winter by the observatory. They tend to stay close to shore and together.

Wigeon – Flock of 4 seen on the 11th.

Great Norther Diver – 1st – 1, 11th – 5, 13th – 3, 23rd – 3, 27th – 4, 28th – 7.

Red Throated Diver – 5th – 1, 11th – 1, 16th – 1, 18th – 1, 28th – 3.

Black Throated Diver – 1 flew past on the 1st.

Little Egret – one passed by on the 18th.

Red Breasted Merganser – 11th – 2, 13th – 3.

Curlew – 8th – 2, 13th – 2, 16th – 1, 19th – 1, 23rd – 1.

Redshank – 1st – 4, 5th – 3, 8th – 1, 11th – 6, 13th – 3, 16th – 3, 18th – 3, 19th – 4, 23rd – 3, 27th – 3, 28th – 4.

Ringed Plover – 16th – 31, 18th – 3, 23rd – 9.

Sanderling – 18th – 69, 23rd – 1.

Gannet – 5th – 8.

Guillemot – 1st – 3, 16th – 1, 18th – 1.

Lesser black Back Gull – 1 on the 16th.



Raven

Raven – shy and difficult to photograph sometimes. 2 feeding on the beach on the 8th.



Redwing

Redwing – A quiet winter this year, not seen the usual big flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare that I would expect. This one seen by the observatory on its own on the 8th.

Song Thrush – 1 seen on the 8th feeding next to the observatory.

Peregrine Falcon – one seen hunting in front of the observatory on the 13th.

Buzzard – 2 seen together on the wall by the white bungalow on the 23rd. Possible food pass.



Otter pair snoring



Purple Sandpiper in flight

Regularly seeing flocks of Greylag and White fronted Geese on the wet fields by the Laggan. Usually see 4 to 6 Whooper feeding there too. On the small pond by the bridge - 2 Teal On the 27th.