

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Sanderling

A flock of 20+ of these dainty waders were feeding in the Machrihanish Bay, scuttling in front of the incoming waves as they fed.

17/02/23

Photo David Millward



Jan/Feb Report 2023

So we start another year and we are both hoping to have more time to explore and record the birds in our area. We have a couple of people now popping in to add to the records too. Big thanks to them.

I am also going to try something different with the records by making my spreadsheets available to download along with the report. Hopefully, this will make it easier to see the trends and numbers easier.

We will be manning the observatory as much as possible through the following months, but we cannot always be there. If you would like to visit on a specific date, please let me know and we will try to have a warden there to open up for you. If you would like to volunteer to do some wardening please let us know. We are looking for volunteers.

Best regards

Jo Goudie

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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated

List of Selected Species for January/February 2023



David Millward

Kittiwake – Observatory Jan 4th – 14, 6th – 14, 9th – 20+, 13th – 19, 14th – 30+, 18th – 1.
Feb – 1st – 3, 2nd – 4, 17th – 17.

Gannet – Observatory – Jan 4th – 2. Feb – 15th – 1, 17th – 1, 19th – 2, 24th – 1.
Feb – 15th – 1, 17th – 1, 19th – 2, 24th – 1.

Razorbill – Observatory – Jan 4th – 2, 6th – 5, 7th – 7, 13th – 2, 14th – 4, 23rd – 3.
Feb – 2nd – 1, 28th – 1

Guillemot – Observatory – Jan 6th – 2, 7th – 2.

Goldeneye – Observatory - Jan 2nd – 6th – 8, 7th – 8, 9th – 8, 14th – 8, 23rd – 2, 26th – 8.
Feb - 8th – 6, 9th – 8, 10th – 8, 12th – 8, 19th – 4, 22nd – 6, 23rd – 6, 24th – 2, 28th – 4.

Mute Swan – Observatory - Jan 2nd – 2, 6th – 2, 26th – 1, 27th – 1, 28th – 1
Feb – 12th – 2.

Dunlin – Observatory – Jan 6th – 12, 14th – 2>S, 23rd – 7>S, 26th – 11>N.

Stinky hole – Jan 22nd – 40+, 24th – 50+.

Observatory – Feb 17th – 6>N.



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Whooper Swans – Usually seen feeding on the flooded fields by the Drumlemble School but on 4th Jan 5 were seen flying past the observatory heading S.

Drumlemble – Jan - 4th – 14, 13th – 12, 17th – 2, 20th – 2, 21st – 9, 26th – 10.

Feb – 1st – 10, 2nd – 10, 10th – 7, 22nd – 4, 24th – 20, 28th – 12.



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Red Breasted Merganser

Machrihanish Bay and by the Observatory – Jan 7th – 4, 14th – 1, , 27th – 1.

Stinky hole – Jan 22nd – 1, 24th – 1.

Machrihanish Bay and by the Observatory – Feb 10th – 1>S, 17th – 8, 19th – 1, 23rd – 1, 24th – 1.

Stinky hole – Feb 3rd – 1, 10th – 5, 16th – 6

Buzzard – Seen flying over the sea in front of the Observatory heading to Westport. 02/02/23.

Dabchick – Ferry port – Jan 22nd – 2, 24th – 3.



Oystercatcher – increasing numbers from 2 or 3 in January to 30+ by the end of February in and around the observatory.



Cormorant – Regularly seen.



Female Hen Harrier – Seen hunting on the fields alongside the Moss Road. 14/01/23



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Curlew – from the Observatory Jan – 2nd – 2, 6th – 2, 7th – 2, 20th – 2, 23rd – 4, 26th – 5, 28th – 3.

Drumlemble fields – 2 seen 04/01/23,

Stinky hole – Jan 23rd – 10, 25th – 30+.

Observatory – Feb 5th – 3, 8th – 1, 9th – 1, 10th – 2, 12th – 3, 13 – 1, 17th – 9, 19th – 1, 22nd – 9, 24th – 1, 27th – 4, 28th – 6.

Stinky hole – Feb 10th – 30+, 16th – 20+.



Great Northern Diver

Seen in Machrihanish Bay and by the Observatory – Jan 2nd – 2, 4th – 1>S, 6th – 1, 7th – 2, 13th – 3, 14th – 3, 18th – 2, 19th – 5, 23rd – 2, 26th – 1, 27th – 4.
Feb – 2nd – 1>N, 5th – 1, 8th – 1, 10th – 1, 12th – 2, 19th – 4, 22nd – 1, 23rd – 1, 27th – 5, 28th – 1.

Red Throated Diver

Seen by the Observatory – Jan 2nd – 1>S, 28th – 1.
Feb – 12th – 1, 17th – 1>N, 19th – 2, 23rd – 4.

Wigeon – Drumlemble pond – Jan 4th – 80+, 13th – 4.

Stinky hole – Jan 22nd – 10.

Observatory – Feb 17th – 6, 22nd – 4, 23rd – 2, 28th – 2.

Drumlemble pond – Feb 2nd – 50+

Stinky hole – Feb 10th – 17, 16th – 20+.

Teal – Stinky hole - Jan 22nd – 8, 24th – 5.

Stinky hole – Feb 10th – 8, 16th – 8.

Black Guillemot – NATO Pier – Jan 24th – 3.

Observatory – Feb 5th – 1, 19th – 2

Campbeltown Harbor – Feb 3rd – 7, 10th – 1, 16th – 20+.

Snipe – Stinky hole – seen with Teal in reeds Jan 24th – 3.



Goldfinch – We regularly get them visiting for the seed we put out in front of the observatory.
Most we have had is about 25 at one time.

Song Thrush – 2 seen by the observatory on Jan 4th.

Twite – Observatory – Jan 28th - 1.
Feb 15th – 1, 17th – 1.

Ringed Plover – Observatory – Jan 26th – 1>S.
Observatory – Feb 8th – 2, 9th – 1>S, 17th - 9>N, 22nd – 2, 23rd – 3>S, 24th – 1, 27th – 9, 28th – 8.
Stinky hole – Feb 16th – 1.

Redshank – Observatory – Jan 14th – 1, 19th – 2, 23rd – 9, 26th – 8, 27th – 2, 28th - 4.

Stinky Hole – 22nd – 2, 24th – 3.
Observatory – Feb 1st – 20, 2nd – 8, 8th – 1, 9th – 1, 10th – 1, 12th – 6, 13th – 1, 15th – 2,
17th – 1, 19th – 8, 24th – 3, 27th – 4, 28th - 5
Stinky Hole – 10th – 3, 16th – 1.

Shelduck – Numbers increasing locally from 1 to 6+ by end of Feb.

White Fronted Geese & Greylag Geese – in local fields in good numbers through Jan and Feb.

Barnacle Geese – Drumlemble – Feb 1st – 3, 2nd – 5.



Purple Sandpiper – Observatory and Machrihanish Bay – Feb 2nd – 2, 22nd – 7, 24th – 3.

Raven – Observatory – Feb 22nd – 1.



Exciting view of a **Peregrine Falcon** hunting down a **Purple Sandpiper**. 22/02/23
Didn't see the final stage but I would hope the Purple Sandpiper got away.



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Male Chaffinch – a regular visitor for the seed we put out.
2 males and 2 females seen regularly.



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Greenshank – NATO Pier – Feb16th – 1.



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Sanderling – Mach Bay – Feb 17th – 20+.



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