

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Long Tailed Duck

This attractive sea duck is not often seen by the observatory. The male has long tail plumes most of the year. This is a female in winter plumage.

They only overwinter here as they breed in the Arctic.

They are, Unfortunately, classified in the UK as Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021).

Photo

Jo Goudie



January Report 2024

January started well with some good sightings but we did get hit very hard by the storms that arrived. We spent a few days shoring up the building and replacing some of the wood that got torn off in the gales. It was hard work as it was so windy.

We are planning on making 2024 a year for fundraising as the buildings will not last another winter like this one. We have ideas for raffles and other events to try to get together the funds. Also we have been offered a chance to buy the land the observatory sits on. We hope we can get enough together to do this and secure the observatory's future once and for all. We would welcome any help from volunteers to do some DIY, please get in touch.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated
List of Selected Species for November 2023



Mute Swans

Mute Swan – 2 seen flying past on the 3rd.

Whooper Swan – 25th – 2.



Kittiwake

Kittiwake – 3rd – 21, 4th – 7, 26th - 9



Turnstone (David Millward)

Turnstone – 4th – 2, 5th – 1, 19th – 1, 28th – 1.



Oystercatcher (David Millward)

The **Oystercatcher** are steadily increasing in number and starting to favour particular areas.



Curlew

Curlew – 3rd – 6, 5th – 2, 6th – 4, 7th – 2, 10th – 2, 11th – 2, 14th – 2, 25th – 2, 26th – 2, 27th – 4, 30th – 9.

Ringed Plover – flock of 21 went through on the 19th.



Redshank, Red Knot & Purple Sandpiper

Red Knot – 6th – 2, 7th – 5.

Purple Sandpiper – 3rd – 4, 6th – 20, 7th – 4, 9th – 16, 10th – 6, 11th – 6, 14th – 7, 19th – 8, 20th – 8, 25th – 3, 28th – 8.



Shelduck

Shelduck – First sighting of the year on 6th – 2, 7th – 6.

Common Scoter – 4th – 1, 10th – 4, 14th – 1, 19th – 4, 27th – 2.

Goldeneye – 3rd – 1, 6th – 6, 9th – 7, 10th – 8, 19th – 6, 25th – 1, 27th – 11.

Wigeon – 10th – 1, 11th – 1.



Buzzard

A very tatty example was seen several times during January being harassed by the gulls.

Buzzard - 6th – 1, 9th – 1, 11th – 1.



Redshank

Redshank – 6th – 35, 7th – 16, 9th – 7, 10th – 8, 11th – 9, 14th – 1, 19th – 1, 20th – 2, 25th – 1, 28th – 1, 30th – 2.



Snipe

Unusual to get **Snipe** in front of the observatory, usually seen by marshy ground and ponds.
2 landed on the rocks on the 9th.



Cormorant

We have lots of both Shag and Cormorant flying past. They are now starting to get their breeding plumage. Both species doing well.



Otter

Nice to see him back again. Visited on the 9th and the 19th at half tide. He was sprainting the rocks in front of the observatory, first time I have seen him do it there.



Sanderling

Sanderling – 19th – 14.

Black Guillemot – 9th – 2, 11th – 1, 14th – 3, 26th – 1, 30th – 2.

Guillemot – 4th – 2, 6th – 1, 7th – 1, 19th – 1, 26th – 3, 30th – 1.

Razorbill – 3rd – 2, 4th – 4, 5th – 9, 6th – 5, 19th – 4, 30th – 12.



Long Tailed Duck

Long tailed Duck – 1 seen feeding in the Machrihanish Bay with a female Goldeneye for company on the 25th.



Great Northern Diver

Great Norther Diver – 3rd – 3, 5th – 1, 6th – 2, 7th – 8, 9th – 2, 10th – 9, 11th – 12, 14th – 2, 20th – 1, 25th – 1, 27th – 11.



Red Throated Diver (David Millward)

Red Throated Diver – 19th – 4, 27th – 1, 30th – 1.

Red Breasted Merganser – 11th – 2, 14th – 2, 19th – 2.

Gannet – 1 seen on 4th.



Great Northern Diver (David Millward)



Black Headed Gull in Winter plumage (David Millward)



Common Gull (David Millward)



Great Black Back Gull (David Millward)



Rock Pipit (David Millward)



Unusual visitor flew in through the backdoor (David Millward)