

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Magpie

In other parts of the UK Magpies are common and often persecuted as vermin but here in Kintyre they are not often seen. Two are known to be nesting near the observatory but it was unusual to see one feeding on someone's lawn on 20/10/22.

Photo David Millward



October Report 2022

We have still been lucky with unseasonably warm weather. At least the wildlife has enjoyed it.

Towards the end of the month, we saw the first groups of Redwing coming through and it wasn't long before they had stripped the berries from the bushes alongside the Moss Road. They are always a delight to see with their beautiful plumage.

This month we were teased with sightings of birds of prey like the Merlin and the Hen Harrier hunting on the low fields around the airport again. Unfortunately, we didn't have cameras present when a Merlin sat on a fence post right on the road. We sat next to it in the car for a few minutes just admiring it.

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

Contact the Observatory

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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated

List of Selected Species for September 2022



Great Black Back Gull and juvenile – seen on several visits to the observatory.



The start of the **Whooper Swan** arrivals this month.
7 seen flying South past the observatory on 11/10/22.

Meadow Pipit – 6 on 11/10/22.

'carrion **Crow** – 6 On 11/10/22 flying over.

Sparrowhawk – one seen hunting the Pipits in front of the observatory 11/10/22.



Brent Goose - 2 seen in Westport Bay 13/10/22

Greylag Geese – Seen on surrounding wet fields throughout this month. 200+

Curlew – 2 on 11/10/22, 2 on 20/10/22 and 1 on 28/10/22.

Red Breasted Merganser – 1 >S 08/10/22, 1>S13/10/22 both female.

Gannet – 3 on 11/10/22, 3 on 13/10/22, 22 on 20/10/22.

Razorbill – 1 on 13/10/22.

Guillemot – 10 on 13/10/22.



Golden Plover – flock of 250+ seen on and over the Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course. 13/10/22





Redshank – 1>s on 13/10/22, 1 on 20/10/22, 5 by observatory on 28/10/22.

Eider – 4 on 20/10/22 & 4 on 28/10/22



Redwing – 200+ seen feeding on bushes along the Moss Road on 15/10/22 & 25/10/22.
Smaller flocks seen by gardens in Machrihanish on these dates too.

Stonechat – 1 seen on 28/10/22.



Great Northern Diver – 1>N on 28/10/22.

Red Throated Diver – 1>S on 11/10/22 & 1>S on 13/10/22.

Wigeon – 2 seen fairly far out in front of the observatory on 20/10/22.

Sanderling – 2 flew past on 20/10/22.

Oystercatcher – 1 visited on 28/10/22

Female Hen Harrier – seen on the 11/10/22 quartering the field by the bungalows on the MACC Business Park.

Great view of a **Merlin** on the Moss Road on 26/10/22.

Also 7 **Snipe** Seen flying across the Moss road on 20/10/22.

Exciting sighting of 4 Dolphin on the 31/10/22. They were swimming very closely together, twining around each other and doing tail slaps frequently.
Two seemed particularly close and stayed very close to each other.



