

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Peregrine Falcon

With split second timing David captured 3 shots of a Peregrine Falcon flying past the observatory.

To get one shot would be amazing as this is not an easy bird to photograph.

Such a powerful bird that is a sleek killing machine.

Photo

David Millward



September Report 2023

September has been another interesting month with the odd surprise, such as the Little Egret. They have been seen on the east coast of the peninsular but rarely over by the observatory. Also had a very distant flyby of 3 Pintail which is an unusual sighting for us.

For some of the days we had a volunteer with a scope called Kev who proved most useful in spotting the very distant flyby's and boosted our sightings quite a lot. Next plan is to get a good scope so we don't miss things. Thanks Kev, great to have you at the observatory.

Another great month for photography, what wonderful opportunities we get at our little observatory.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



Contact the Observatory
Mobile – 07737 985874
E-mail – jomitzi@yahoo.co.uk
Website – www.machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk
Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)
Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated
List of Selected Species for August 2023



Dunlin - 1st - 15, 2nd - 2, 7th - 2, 16th - 3.



Lesser Black Backed Gull – 7th – 4.



Curlew - 1st - 13, 2nd - 9, 3rd - 12, 6th - 5, 7th - 5, 9th - 5, 10th - 5, 12th - 5, 13th - 6, 14th - 3, 16th - 5, 21st - 9, 22nd - 2, 23rd - 7, 24th - 1, 26th - 2, 29th - 1, 30th - 4.

Whimbrel - 12th - 2, 21st - 1, 23rd - 1.



Bar Tailed Godwit - 14th - 2, 29th - 1.



Redshank – 2nd – 1, 13th – 2, 14th – 1, 16th – 3, 22nd – 1, 29th – 8, 30th – 4.



Mute Swan family – still have all 4 cygnets that are nearly as big as their parents now. Have been seen every visit. Just after this photo the other parent swan nearby chased off the Otter who had come looking for food .



Pintail – an unusual duck for the area, 3 went through in the distance on the 4th



Purple Sandpiper – a lone bird flew past on the 26th

Arctic Skua – 21st – 3.

Great Northern Diver – 23rd – 1.

Red Throated Diver – 1st – 1, 3rd – 1, 6th – 1, 14th – 4, 21st – 22, 22nd – 6th – 28th – 1, 29th – 4.

Red Breasted Merganser – 1st – 4, 21st – 3, 23rd – 3, 30th – 1.

Manx Shearwater – 21st – 2, 22nd – 12.

Kittiwake – 21st – 54, 22nd – 9.



Sparrowhawk – often hunting the small birds around the observatory. This time it had caught a starling and ate most of it behind a rock until being flushed by Hooded Crows.



Peregrine Falcon - 14th - 1, 16th - 1.



Brent Geese – 21st – 4, 23rd – 8.



Greylag Geese - around 100 Greylags, along with a large flock of Canada Geese have been seen on the Moss road fields since mid-September but these 3 seemed to be heading somewhere else as they passed the observatory on the 30th.



Little Egret - an unusual sight by the observatory
Seen on the 27th heading inland, possibly heading for stinky hole.

Guillemot - 21st - 1.

Razorbill - 6th - 1, 21st - 1, 23rd - 2.

Red Knot - 21st - 6, 22nd - 1, 23rd - 1, 29th - 3.

Ringed Plover - 1st - 4, 2nd - 5, 16th - 3, 21st - 14, 29th - 4.

Sanderling - 16th - 15.

Turnstone - 2nd - 2, 7th - 2, 21st - 18, 22nd - 1.

Grey Wagtail - 6th - 1, 22nd - 3, 28th - 1, 30th - 1.

White Wagtail - 1st - 2, 9th - 2, 14th - 1.

Wheatear - 2nd - 1, 3rd - 1, 14th - 1, 24th - 1.

Robin - 9th - 1.

Linnet - 7th - 3.

Other Photos



Otter coming in with a lobster. Took him a good 20 minutes to eat it all and still went looking for more. He is an excellent hunter, every time I see him he is eating something



Common (or Harbour seal) relaxing on the rocks by the observatory



Bar tailed Godwits in flight



Cormorant – juvenile showing the white belly



Grey Seals having a bit of a disagreement but don't be alarmed, the red isn't blood, it is just a piece of red seaweed that has been thrown up by the fight. It was more of a shouting match than a full on fight.



Otter



He knows I am there but isn't particularly bothered by me





Starling catching seaweed flies in mid air

Other Sightings

15th - 2 Magpie at Stewarton

25th - female Hen Harrier on the Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse Road

28th - 120+ Golden Plover on the usual field by Machrihanish Dunes Golf House along with 2 Bar tailed Godwit

30th - Sparrowhawk caught a blackbird in front of our house in Campbeltown