

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward

Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Assistant Warden - Jason Brown

Photo of the month

Grey Phalarope

This small and dainty Arctic-breeding wader sometimes comes to the coasts of the UK after storms.

This one turned up after some wild weather and was feeding in the bay. Last time I saw one was 2013.

Photo

Jo Goudie



September Report 2024

I was hoping for the flocks to start coming through this month, but it has been a quiet month overall. I don't know if this year's strange weather has affected the pattern of thing.

The Phalarope was a great spot, and we have had some Red Throated Divers making an appearance too.

We will still try to be open most mornings but please be aware there may be people working on the site and it may restrict viewing. Thanks for your patience.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Peregrine falcon

On the 5th a Peregrine came in with prey only to be challenged by another. I was anticipating a food swap but a bit of a tussle ensued and the first bird kept its prize.



Grey Wagtail

Grey Wagtail – 2 seen by the stream on the 6th.



Wigeon

Wigeon – this female was keeping company with the Mute swans on the 6th & 7th.



Grey Phalarope

Grey Phalarope - The wild and squally weather on the 10th gave us a surprise. We spotted a Grey Phalarope in the Machrihanish Bay. What a stunner, though he looks like he has lost a foot. Last time I saw one was 2013, so it is great to see another.



Brent Geese

Brent Goose – First report of 7 at Westport Beach came in on the 7th from Jimi McCallum. 9th – 2, 10th – 5, 25th – 1.

First year gannet



Sanderling

Sanderling – 9th – 15, 10th – 2, 12th – 8, 21st – 1.

Ringed Plover – 7th – 1, 10th – 5, 13th – 3, 19th – 2.

Redshank – 6th – 7, 10th – 1, 12th – 5, 27th – 1.

Turnstone – 8th – 1, 9th – 3, 10th – 2.

Black Guillemot – 13th – 1, 16th – 1, 22nd – 1.

Curlew – 3rd – 1, 4th – 5, 5th – 1, 6th – 6, 7th – 7, 8th – 3, 9th – 1, 10th – 1, 12th – 4, 13th – 4, 15th – 2, 16th – 3, 18th – 5, 19th – 5, 20th – 10, 21st – 3, 22nd – 3, 24th – 4, 27th – 1.

Whimbrel – 12th – 2, 17th – 1.

Common Sandpiper – 4th – 1, 5th – 1, 6th – 1.

Dunlin – 4th – 2, 6th – 1, 7th – 3, 8th – 12, 9th – 1, 21st – 2.

Guillemot – 4th – 1, 10th – 3, 13th – 3, 15th – 1, 18th – 12, 19th – 20, 20th – 1, 22nd – 7, 24th – 1, 27th – 6.

Razorbill – 18th – 2, 20th – 1, 22nd – 2, 27th – 2.

Common Scoter – 4th – 1, 6th – 1.

Kittiwake – 8th – 7, 10th – 2, 15th – 22, 29th – 4.

Sandwich Tern – 2 passed through on the 15th.



Stonechat

Stonechat – 6th – 1, 16th flock of 6 sticking together.



Linnet

Several seen coming to feed on the seed we put out in front of the observatory.



Wheatear

Wheatear – Still several around. 5th – 12, 14th – 1, 20th – 1, 21st – 4, 22nd – 2, 25th – 2.

Meadow Pipit – 4th – 6, 12th – 7, 13th – 1, 15th – 4, 19th – 1, 20th – 1.

Buzzard – One flew past in front of the obs on the 14th.

Merlin – one seen hunting on the 24th.

Sparrowhawk – One seen hunting by the obs on the 4th 5th and 6th.

Peregrine Falcon – 2 seen in an unsuccessful food pass on the 5th.

Heron – 2 seen regularly feeding around the obs. One adult, one juvenile.

Red Throated Diver – 4th – 1, 6th – 2, 7th – 3, 8th – 1, 12th – 1, 15th – 3, 16th – 1, 19th – 1,
22nd – 2, 24th – 1.

Great Norther Diver – 2 spotted flying past the obs on the 28th.



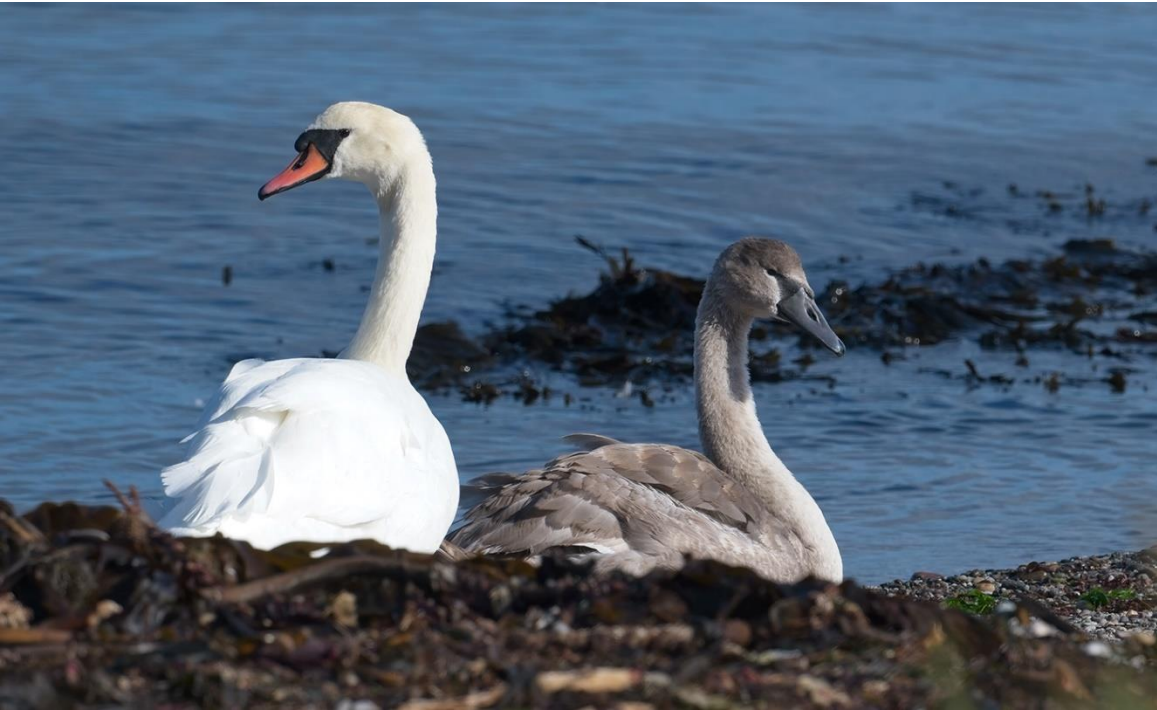
Otter

Still being seen regularly especially the two who seem to be sticking together.





First Year Gannet



Mute Swan and cygnet