

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden – David Millward Assistant Warden – Jo Goudie Assistant Warden – Jason Brown

Photo of the month

Wheatear

This summer visitor is always a pleasure to see with its upright stance and smart appearance.

We usually get several around the observatory, looking for insects to feed on.

Photo
Jo Goudie



August Report 2024

August has been a slow month for both birds and otter sightings. Luckily, we have been busy with the renovations to keep us occupied.

The new building is up and the whole of the observatory has been given a new watertight roof. We are planning further changes and improvements, particularly for wheelchair users. We want the space to be easy to access for everyone.

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



Contact the Observatory

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Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)

Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Golden Plover

Golden Plover - One seen briefly flying through on the 12th.



Sanderling

Sanderling – 9th - 2, 12th – 16, 20th – 15, 22nd – 1, 24th – 21, 26th – 3.



Shelduck

Shelduck – one seen on the 23rd.



Black Tailed Godwit

Black Tailed Godwit – one seen on the 18th.

Sandwich tern – 2 seen on the 9th.

Guillemot – one seen on the 6th.



Gannet

Nice to see some good numbers as they feed.



Turnstone with Red Knot

Turnstone – 20th – 1, 22nd – 7, 23rd – 3, 24th – 1.

Red Knot – 23rd – 6, 27th – 1.

Dunlin – flock of 5 on the 10th, flock of 4 on the 24th.

Redshank – 7th – 5, 12th – 6, 14th – 3, 16th – 1, 18th – 1, 23rd – 2, 26th – 1.



Female Common Scoter

Common Scoter – 24th – 1, 26th – 1, 27th – 8. Good to see them back, one of my favourites.

Teal – one lone female flew past on the 12th.



Peregrine Falcon

Peregrine falcon – Nice adult seen passing the observatory a couple of times on the 24th.

Sparrowhawk – one seen on the 16th hunting by the stream before heading towards the observatory.



Starling

Starling have had a good breeding season this year with the regular flock enlarged by many fledglings.

Wheatear – 4th – 1, 7th – 1, 11th – 1, 12th – 2, 13th – 2, 16th – 1, 31st – 1.

Heron – 3rd – 1, 4th – 1, 9th – 1, 10th – 1, 11th – 1, 31st – 1.

Kittiwake – 9th – 1, 17th – 2, 24th – 1.

Manx Shearwater – 9th – 1, 11th – 1.

Lapwing – one seen flying past the observatory on the 4th. This was followed by seeing a flock of 10 flying towards the flooded farmland at the back of the airfield on the 15th.

Also a **Magpie** has been seen several times at Castleacres in Campbeltown.



Whimbrel

Whimbrel – 11th – 1, 24th – 1.



Curlew eating a crab

Curlew – 3rd – 2, 4th – 5, 6th – 4, 7th – 2, 9th – 11, 10th – 2, 12th – 7, 14th – 4, 16th – 3, 17th – 3, 18th – 2, 20th – 1, 21st – 8, 22nd – 3, 24th – 3, 27th – 1.

Common Sandpiper – 3rd – 6, 4th – 8, 7th – 3, 10th – 1, 14th – 4, 16th – 2, 18th – 1, 20th – 2.

Ringed Plover – 4th – 6, 9th – 3, 11th – 1, 22nd – 3, 24th – 4, 27th – 3.



The otter have not been seen as frequently but I don't know if that is to do with it being noisy and with having more people around the observatory. Several people saw 2 together along the bays and beaches by Machrihanish village and, eventually, we saw them ourselves by the corner bungalow feeding and playing on the rocks.



Work is underway and the new building is now in place. The old building will be clad with the same wood to strengthen it and to make it look the same as the new section. A new roof has been done to make the whole thing weathertight.

There are a few other jobs to be done but we hope the bulk of it will be finished by the end of September.

We are trying to be open most mornings as usual but if you are specifically coming down drop us a message to ensure we don't miss you.