

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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

Photo of the month

Sparrowhawk

The Sparrowhawk was successful at catching a Starling in front of the observatory on the 31/08/25.

Photo
Jo Goudie



August Report 2025

August had a mix of weather. The nice days we did more work on the observatory, the bad ones were watching days.

Our watching was rewarded on the 5th August, just after the big storm, when we were lucky enough to see Storm Petrels dancing on the huge waves. This was a first for me and has made my year. What a stunning bird to watch.

We are still working on the inside but we welcome visitors. Just let us know in advance if you are coming a wee way to visit so we can be there for you.

All the best
Jo

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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Storm Petrel

Storm Petrel – my first ever sighting of this amazing seabird. So small and dainty it is hard to see how it survives out there. 10 seen on the 5th after the big storm.

Arctic Tern – 1 seen on the 10th, quite far out.

Common Tern – 1 on the 8th, 1 on the 9th.

Sandwich Tern – 1st – 2, 2nd – 6, 10th – 2, 17th – 2, 20th – 1.

Black Tailed Godwit – 1 seen on the 16th, 18th & 19th.

Dunlin – 2 seen on the 21st.

Greenshank – 1 seen on the 10th.

Ringed Plover – 1st – 2, 2nd – 4, 7th – 7, 8th – 2, 11th – 25, 13th – 7, 16th – 6, 17th – 11, 20th – 4, 21st – 4, 25th – 7, 31st – 3.

Redshank – 10th – 2, 14th – 9, 16th – 1, 20th – 1, 21st – 2, 23rd – 1, 25th – 1, 28th – 1.

Sanderling – 9th – 1, 11th – 2, 13th – 13, 14th – 7, 25th – 1.



Common Sandpiper

Common Sandpiper – they have bred well this year with one nest having 4 fledglings.
2nd – 3, 7th – 17, 8th – 2, 9th – 1, 10th – 2, 11th – 1, 12th – 1, 13th – 1, 14th – 7, 18th – 3, 21st – 1,
23rd – 1, 25th – 1, 28th – 1.

Black Guillemot – 1 on the 9th.

Canada Goose – 2 flew past on the 23rd.

Guillemot – 7th – 2, 9th – 3, 11th – 2, 28th – 2, 31st – 1.

Razorbill – 7th – 4, 8th – 2, 10th – 2, 11th – 2.

Kittiwake – 7th – 13, 8th – 7, 9th – 3.

Manx Shearwater – 5th – 12, 7th – 4, 8th – 6, 9th – 30, 24th – 4, 25th – 4.

Red Throated Diver – 25th – 1, 28th – 1. Nice to see them back.

Shelduck – 1 flew past on the 25th.

Turnstone – 8th – 1, 9th – 11, 11th – 1, 14th – 2, 16th – 2, 17th – 1.



Grey Wagtail

Grey Wagtail – 7th – 1, 23rd – 1. Not often seen in front of the observatory preferring the area by the Lossit stream.



Whitethroat

Whitethroat – one seen by the stream on the 7th.

Willow Warbler - 2 seen by the stream on the 7th. Also 2 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Wheatear**, a few **Linnet**, **House Sparrow** and a **Wren**.



Curlew

Curlew - 1st - 2, 2nd - 2, 5th - 1, 8th - 4, 9th - 2, 10th - 5, 11th - 4, 12th - 3, 13th - 6, 14th - 3, 16th - 2, 17th - 1, 18th - 1, 20th - 4, 23rd - 7, 25th - 8, 31st - 4.

Whimbrel - one flew in on the 31st.



Mute Swan

Fly past of 2 **Mute Swan**, not our usual pair.



Sparrowhawk

Seen hunting on the 31st.



Little Egret – Photo – Heather Catherine McAdam

Little Egret spotted fishing in the burn next to Dunaverty Golf Course on the 3rd.
First time I have heard of them being seen down this way.
Reported by Heather Catherine McAdam.