

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Purple Sandpiper

This attractive wader is often seen in the winter months by the observatory. It feeds on the rocks right at the sea edge where the waves break on the rocks.

Often the waves will crash over them but they squat down and cling on until the wave has passed. They then grab any food the wave has left behind.

Photo
Jo Goudie



November Report 2023

Quite a busy month considering. It has been great seeing the Great Northern Divers arriving to winter by us again. Also, the Goldeneye are back after their breeding summer.

We have also seen the Whooper Swans and geese back on the waterlogged fields in the surrounding area.

Not so many visitors to the observatory now but we would like to thank anyone who came this year and spent some time with us. It has been a pleasure meeting like-minded people who love nature like we do. Hope you come again sometime.

The observatory will not be open every day of the week now as it is quieter, and we take this time to explore the area. If you do want to visit when we are open, please drop me an email or message through Facebook and we will be there if we can.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)
Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated
List of Selected Species for November 2023



Wheatear

Wheatear – Last one of the year seen on the 2nd, a late leaver.

Black Guillemot – 30th – 1.

Dunlin – 2nd – 4, 11th – 54.

Gannet – 2nd – 2, 14th – 1, 19th – 2, 25th – 1.

Greylag Goose – 3rd – 2.

White Fronted Goose – 25th – 5.

Kittiwake – 3rd – 9, 5th – 1, 8th – 3, 19th – 1.

Red Breasted Merganser – 3rd – 1, 8th – 1, 28th – 1.



Guillemot

Guillemot – 3rd – 40, 8th – 5, 9th – 21, 10th – 3, 11th – 1, 17th – 1, 25th – 1.



Great Northern Diver

Great Northern Diver – 2nd – 6, 3rd – 6, 4th – 2, 5th – 1, 10th – 3, 11th – 2, 12th – 1, 14th – 1, 17th – 4, 21st – 2, 25th – 5, 26th – 2, 28th – 6, 30th – 9.



Red Throated diver

Red Throated Diver – 2nd – 12, 3rd – 8, 4th – 3, 5th – 2, 8th – 2, 10th – 2, 11th – 3, 12th – 1, 14th – 1, 15th – 1, 17th – 1, 20th – 1, 25th – 3, 26th – 2, 28th – 3, 30th – 2.



Wigeon

Wigeon – large flock of 28 passed the observatory on the 3rd.



Common Scoter

Common Scoter – 3rd – 1, 4th – 5, 8th – 5, 14th – 4, 17th – 2, 28th – 5.



Long Tailed Duck

I try to photograph anything flying past the observatory at a distance, it makes it easier to identify. This gave me a pleasant surprise when I zoomed in on the camera to see I had captured a **Long Tailed Duck**. I haven't seen one since 2013 and not from the observatory. Seen on 14th.

Goldeneye – Regularly see a raft of between 6 to 10 by the observatory.

Teal – 3rd – 16.

Razorbill – 3rd – 1, 8th – 3, 11th – 2, 25th – 2.

Red Knot – 2nd – 1, 5th – 2.

Redshank – 2nd – 10, 3rd – 9, 4th – 1, 5th – 8, 8th – 5, 9th – 1, 10th – 14, 11th – 6, 12th – 1, 14th – 2, 17th – 20, 19th – 4, 20th – 1, 21st – 6, 25th – 6, 26th – 5, 28th – 6, 30th – 4.



Purple Sandpiper

Purple sandpiper – 2nd – 5, 3rd – 4, 4th – 4, 8th – 3, 9th – 9, 10th – 3, 11th – 2, 19th – 3, 30th – 5.



Curlew

Curlew – 2nd – 4, 4th – 3, 5th – 2, 8th – 4, 9th – 6, 10th – 5, 11th – 6, 14th – 2, 15th – 1, 17th – 1, 19th – 5, 20th – 2, 21st – 1, 25th – 5, 26th – 1, 28th – 1, 30th – 3.



Merlin

Merlin – 9th – 1, 25th – 1, 28th – 1.



Merlin chasing a Purple Sandpiper. These small waders must be the perfect size for a meal as I have seen Peregrine chasing them too.

Buzzard – 30th – 1.

Hen Harrier – 19th – 1.

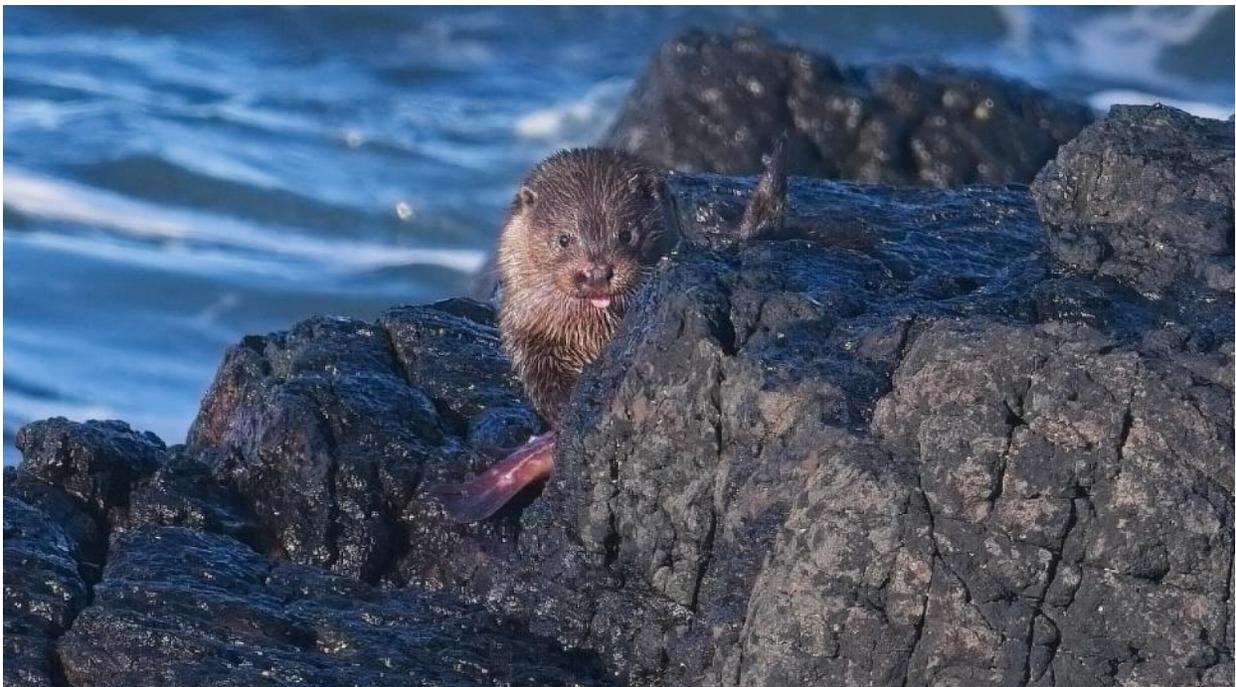
Sparrowhawk – 4th – 1, 8th – 1, 14th – 1.

Peregrine – 19th – 1.



Mink

Mink - Came hunting around the observatory on the 10th.



Otter was seen again on the 8th and the 11th.



Song Thrush

Song Thrush – a couple regularly seen feeding around the observatory.

Blue Tit – 3rd – 4, 11th – 2.

Dunnock – 2nd – 3.

Greenfinch – 19th – 6.

Grey Wagtail – 19th – 1.

House Sparrow – 2nd – 1.

Magpie – 21st – 1.

Stonechat – 2nd – 1, 3rd – 5, 11th – 2.

Ringed Plover – 2nd – 20, 4th – 12, 8th – 18, 9th – 15, 10th 3, 11th – 29, 14th – 35.

Sanderling – 4th – 1, 8th – 19, 10th – 1.

Turnstone – 3rd – 1.



Snow Bunting – Craig McQueen

A visitor to the observatory asked if we could identify a strange bird he had managed to photograph. We were pleased to inform him it was a **Snow Bunting**.

In the area

Barn Owl seen in Sound of Kintyre on the 16th hunting over the grass verge.

Merlin seen on the moss road.

8 **Canada Geese** seen feeding on the fields along the Moss Road.



Around 6 **Dolphin** seen putting on a show on the 14th.

