

# Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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## Photo of the month

### Arctic Skua

Adult Arctic skuas have two colour phases: a light phase, with a white belly and dark back and cap; and a dark phase, which is uniformly dusky brown as this is.

Mostly we see them flying by in the distance. This is the first time I have seen one up close.

Landed by the observatory on the 1st Nov.

Photo  
**Jo Goudie**



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## November Report 2024

Another month gone by but still no big flocks of waders. Things seem very mixed up with no large influx of Fieldfares and redwings appearing as they do usually. The weather has been very strange, and I can only think this is the reason for the odd patterns we have experienced.

One of the oddest sightings was swallows on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

We are now only at observatory on and off as the weather is not as good but if you do want to visit, let us know when through email or messenger and we will try to be there for you.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



**Great Northern Diver**

**Great Northern Diver** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 5<sup>th</sup> – 1, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 10<sup>th</sup> – 3, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 14<sup>th</sup> – 2,  
16<sup>th</sup> – 1, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3.



**Red Throated Diver** – 1<sup>st</sup> – 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> – 2, 16<sup>th</sup> – 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Common Scoter** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 2.

**Long Tailed Duck** – still in Machrihanish Bay on the 3<sup>rd</sup> then gone.



**Goldeneye**

**Goldeneye** – Good to see them back for the Winter. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3, 5<sup>th</sup> – 1, 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 5, 12<sup>th</sup> – 3, 14<sup>th</sup> – 5, 16<sup>th</sup> – 6, 17<sup>th</sup> – 6, 21<sup>st</sup> – 10, 26<sup>th</sup> – 6, 28<sup>th</sup> – 10, 30<sup>th</sup> – 12.

**Greylag Goose** – 4 seen flying past on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Gannet** – 6<sup>th</sup> – 5, 10<sup>th</sup> – 4.

**Dunlin** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 10<sup>th</sup> – 3.

**Guillemot** – 10<sup>th</sup> – 5.

**Kittiwake** – 1<sup>st</sup> – 55, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 40+, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2. High numbers were on rough days.

**Red Knot** – One seen flying past on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Sandpiper** – 10<sup>th</sup> – 2, 17<sup>th</sup> – 8, 21<sup>st</sup> – 3, 26<sup>th</sup> – 6, 30<sup>th</sup> – 2.

**Redshank** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6, 5<sup>th</sup> – 1, 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 3, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 14<sup>th</sup> – 1, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2, 30<sup>th</sup> – 4.

**Turnstone** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 5<sup>th</sup> – 2, 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 17<sup>th</sup> – 2.



**Pochard**

**Pochard** – One seen on Stinky Hole lagoon on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Not a regular visitor.



**Arctic Skua**

**Arctic Skua** – a dark phase bird seen by the observatory on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Landed on rocks nearby after being harassed by hooded crow.



**Curlew**

**Curlew** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 5<sup>th</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 9<sup>th</sup> – 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 2, 17<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 3, 26<sup>th</sup> – 4, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2, 30<sup>th</sup> – 2.



**Song Thrush**

**Song Thrush** – seen in the vicinity of the obs, 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackbird** – 1 seen in front of the obs on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenfinch** – small flock of 5 seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit** – 9<sup>th</sup> – 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1.

**Swallow** – 3 seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Unusual?



**Dabchick**

**Dabchick** – 3 individuals seen feeding in coastal waters by Daavar causeway on the 4<sup>th</sup>.



**David Millward**

**Hen Harrier** – One seen far out to sea on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine Falcon** – one seen on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sparrowhawk** – One seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Little Egret**

**Little Egret – 2 seen on the sea edge by Daavar causeway on the 4<sup>th</sup>.**





**David Millward**

One of our usual Otter on a visit.

**Laggan Pond**

**Teal** – 5<sup>th</sup> – 12, 11<sup>th</sup> – 9, 12<sup>th</sup> – 18.

**Shoveler** – Pair seen on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** – on fields nearby, 26<sup>th</sup> – 6, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2.

**Stinky Hole & Daavar Causeway, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Curlew – 50+, Dabchick – 3, Dunlin – 3, Little Egret – 2, Red Breasted Merganser – 2,  
Redshank – 5, Ringed Plover – 150+, Snipe – 1, Turnstone – 16.