

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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

Photo of the month

Barnacle Geese

These winter visitors usually spend their time on Islay but it is nice to get them flying close to our observatory.

This fly by happened on the 18th.

Photo
Jo Goudie



October Report 2024

Another quiet month where the expected passage of birds didn't happen. I have seen very few waders and no large gatherings of birds going through.

The Otter sightings have been great with a pair staying together, feeding and playing. Also, Dolphins have been seen a few times this month.

On the plus side, the outside work to the observatory is pretty much finished and our viewing platform has been repaired and strengthened and a new picnic bench added.

We will be open most mornings as usual unless the weather is unpleasant. You can come visit.

Best regards

Jo Goudie



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[Facebook – Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)
Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Sparrowhawk

Sparrowhawk – Seen hunting round the observatory on the 2nd, 7th, 9th and 14th. Not successfully.

Buzzard – One seen on the 13th.

Curlew – 2nd – 3, 7th – 1, 8th – 5, 10th – 5, 11th – 1, 12th – 1, 13th – 3, 14th – 1, 17th – 1, 18th – 1, 19th – 1, 21st – 1, 30th – 1, 31st – 1.

Dunlin – 3 on the 11th.

Redshank – 8th – 1, 10th – 3, 11th – 2, 12th – 1, 13th – 2, 14th – 1, 16th – 1, 17th – 2, 30th – 3.

Sanderling – 10th – 2, 12th – 1.

Turnstone – 8th – 1, 9th – 1, 30th – 2.

Great Northern Diver – 11th – 1, 19th – 1, 21st – 1, 30th – 5, 31st – 2. Good to see them back.

Red Throated diver – 8th – 1, 10th – 1, 11th – 5, 13th – 1, 19th – 1, 21st – 3, 31st – 1.

Red Breasted Merganser – 16th – 1, 21st – 1.



Razorbill - brought in by the wild weather

Razorbill – 2nd – 23, 11th – 100+ in 1h, 12th – 60+ in 1h, 19th – 73 in 1h, 21st – 30 in 1h.

Guillemot – 1st – 2, 2nd – 11, 11th – 165 in 1h, 12th – 35+ in 1h, 14th – 2, 19th – 8, 21st – 41, 31st – 1.

Black Guillemot – 2nd – 1, 11th – 2, 13th – 1, 14th – 1, 30th – 1.

Kittiwake – 1st – 2, 2nd – 4, 11th – 42 in 1h, 12th – 12, 20th – 23, 21st – 11.



Twite

Twite – first sighting of the Autumn, 16th – 1, 17th – 4, 19th – 1.

Grey Wagtail – 1 seen on the 8th.



Wigeon

Wigeon – 8th – 2, 10th – 2, 18th – 1.

Common Scoter – one seen on the 1st.

Goldeneye – 30th – 5, 31st – 2. Returned for the Winter.

Carrion Crow – 2nd – 2. Not often seen in the area.

Rook – 2 flew past on the 8th. Again, unusual.

Meadow Pipit – 2nd – 3, 8th – 5, 16th – 1. Feeding on flies from the seaweed.

Stonechat – one seen on the 17th.



Long Tailed Duck – David Millward

Long Tailed Duck – One seen feeding in Machrihanish Bay on the 30th.



Starling – David Millward

Successful breeding summer for these colourful, cheeky birds.



Hooded Crow dropping in



Our Otters



Whooper Swans

Whooper Swans - seen on the fields on the Moss Road. 13 on the 18th.



Canada Geese 50+, White Fronted geese 30+ and a Mallard seen on the 18th

Flocks of Graylags beginning to be seen on the local fields again. Also, 10 Lapwing on the 12th.

1 Merlin seen hunting on the fields on the 18th.