

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward

Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Year 1 (juvenile) Gannet

Lets hope we have lots of these around this year. A success story after the bird flu days.

Photo

Jo Goudie



September Report 2026

It has been a slow year altogether with cold weather right up to mid-May. This has affected our sightings, and we have noticed a distinct drop of birds on our patch.

I have not had enough photos to create reports up to now. The summer didn't give us much worth taking photos of, so I just produced spreadsheets. At least in September we have had some fly bys and the high winds on the 19th and stormy days did throw a few things our way.

We had hoped to get more work done on the observatory, but we never really had enough of a weather window. We did get the kitchen units in so now we can provide hot drinks if required.

Let's hope next year's weather is more normal so we can get more done.

All the best

Jo

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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



Redshank

Redshank – 3rd – 23, 8th – 1, 19th – 5.



Turnstone in their duller winter plumage

Turnstone – 3rd – 24.

Dunlin – 3rd – 8, 5th – 13, 19th – 41.

Sanderling – 5th – 15, 19th – 27.



Brent Geese

Brent Geese – Great to see so many together, flock of 15 in front of the observatory on the 19th.



Gannet - Good to see larger numbers feeding in front of the observatory.

Common Scoter – one flew past on the 19th in the high winds.

Fulmar – 8th – 1.

Leeches Petrel – 7 seen on the 19th in the high winds. Very far out.

Manx Shearwater – 8th – 9, 13th – 2, 19th – 130+ over 3 hours.

Red Throated Diver – 19th – 14, 30th – 2.



Female Red Breasted Merganser

Red Breasted Merganser – one female did a fly by on the 3rd.



Kittiwake

Kittiwake – rough weather always brings out the Kittiwake.
5th – 63, 8th – 12, 13th – 1, 19th – 150+ in 3 hours.

Guillemot – 8th – 5, 13th – 2, 19th – 6, 26th – 2.

Razorbill – 19th – 3.

Artic Skua – possible but not confirmed on the 19th.

Sandwich Tern – 13th – 2.



Whimbrel

Whimbrel – one turned up on the 19th.

Curlew – 3rd – 3, 5th – 2, 6th – 2, 8th – 2, 13th – 1, 19th – 1, 30th – 2.



Twite – looking very bedraggled

Twite – 6th – 1, 13th – 5.



Purple Sandpiper

Purple Sandpiper – first of the Autumn ones. 26th – 1.



Grey Heron

Grey Heron – 3rd – 2, 6th – 1.



Ringed Plover

Ringed Plover – 3rd – 2.