

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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

Photo of the month

Female Hen Harrier

Seen hunting the rough ground by the Laggan on 11/09/25.

Photo
Jo Goudie



September Report 2025

We thought things would be a bit quieter on the visitor front this month but we had record numbers of visitors instead. It was so nice to meet so many new people and share their stories as we all sat and watched.

It has been great seeing some of the migratory species coming through, I love seeing the flocks of waders coming past. Nice to add Greater Scaup to our list this year.

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



Bar Tailed and Black tailed Godwit

Bar Tailed Godwit – 1st – 3, 4th – 1.

Black tailed Godwit – 1st – 4.



Greater Scaup female

Greater Scaup - One seen hanging around with a small flock of Eider Duck on the 18th.

Brent Goose – 2nd – 2, 12th – 1, 20th – 1.

Common Scoter – 17th – 2, 18th – 1.

Gadwall – 5 seen flying past on the 20th.

Kittiwake – 8th – 1, 9th – 1, 12th – 2, 15th – 7, 17th – 3, 28th – 6.

Manx Shearwater – 2 seen far out on the 20th.



Red Knot

Red Knot – 2nd – 1, 8th – 3, 9th – 1, 11th – 7, 12th – 1, 13th – 3, 26th – 2.



Greenshank

Greenshank - One seen flying past the observatory on the 8th.

Common Sandpiper – One seen on the 3rd.

Dunlin – 20th – 5.

Redshank – 8th – 1, 13th – 1, 16th – 6, 18th – 1.

Turnstone – 2nd – 3, 4th – 1, 5th – 3, 12th – 4, 13th – 3, 15th – 4, 19th – 1, 22nd – 1.



Golden Plover

Golden Plover – 2 landed at the end of the point on the 11th.



Curlew

Curlew – 1st – 1, 2nd – 3, 3rd – 2, 4th – 2, 5th – 1, 7th – 4, 8th – 4, 9th – 1, 12th – 7, 13th – 5, 15th – 1, 16th – 2, 17th – 7, 18th – 2, 20th – 2, 22nd – 4, 24th – 5, 25th – 6, 26th – 2, 28th – 4, 30th – 2.



Ringed Plover with Sanderling

Sanderling – 2nd – 5, 4th – 12, 5th – 1, 13th – 4, 15th – 36, 18th – 10, 25th – 1, 28th – 18.

Ringed Plover – 1st – 9, 4th – 7, 5th – 2, 8th – 2, 12th – 3, 13th – 1, 15th – 1, 16th – 1, 18th – 7, 26th – 2, 28th – 5.



Red Throated Diver

Red Throated Diver – 1st – 2, 2nd – 1, 9th – 1, 12th – 5, 13th – 4, 15th – 3, 16th – 4, 17th – 1, 18th – 1, 20th – 2.

Red Breasted Merganser – 3 seen on the 18th.

Guillemot – 11th – 10, 12th – 3, 15th – 1, 17th – 1, 20th – 2, 28th – 6, 30th – 1.

Razorbill – 11th – 6, 18th – 1, 22nd – 2, 28th – 1.



Sandwich Tern

Sandwich Tern – 7th – 1, 8th – 1.



Twite

Twite – 1st – 1, 3rd – 1.

Grey Wagtail – 8th – 1, 17th – 3.



Meadow Pipit

Meadow Pipit – 2nd – 4, 3rd – 1, 9th – 2, 11th – 2, 17th – 1, 18th – 1, 22nd – 5.



Fledgling Goldfinch

Greenfinch – 4 seen on the 24th, unusual for us to see them out at the observatory.

Swallow – last of the year, 3 seen on the 12th and 3 on the 13th.

Sparrowhawk – seen hunting the area on the 3rd, 17th and 20th.



Wheatear

Wheatear – Still one hanging around the observatory, seen most days.



Otter

Still a fairly regular visitor.



Sika Deer

Seen regularly in a field of cows by the Machrihanish Golf Course. Seems to like the company.

Hen Harrier – Female seen hunting over the Laggan on the 11th. Report of a male hunting by the airport on the 26th

Report of 1 **Little Grebe** by the Peninver campsite and also 3 **Little Egret**.