

Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Photo of the month

Dunlin

Seen feeding with Curlew along the shore near the observatory. Flock of around 40.
9th September 2022

Photo Jo Goudie



September Report 2022

September has been a month of 2 halves. It started off with good weather but ended with sure signs that autumn is on its way. It has been enjoyable hearing the Robins sing their autumn song before hopping across the lawn looking for insects.

The observatory was well visited and new friends were made. The birds are slowly starting to come back with an increase in Oystercatcher, Eider, Dunlin and the sight of the red Throated Diver flying past.

We will be manning the observatory as much as possible through the following months but we cannot always be there. If you would like to visit on a specific date please let me know and we will try to have a warden there to open up for you. If you would like to volunteer to do some wardening please let us know. We are looking for volunteers.

Best regards

Jo Goudie

Contact the Observatory

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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated

List of Selected Species for September 2022



Curlew – 2 on 08/09/22, 1 on 15/09/22, 2 on 16/09/22, 3 on 19/09/22 and 1 on 22/09/22



Dunlin – Large flock of 40+ seen feeding with curlew on the beach by the stream outlet.



Guillemot – 1 on 09/09/22, 3 on 16/09/22, 8 on 19/09/22 seen in a raft feeding in Machrihanish Bay.



Heron – seen regularly around the observatory.

Common Scoter – 1 heading north 09/09/22, 1 on 15/09/22 and 1 on 16/09/22

Bar Tailed Godwit – 2 seen feeding by the stream outlet on 15/09/22

Red Throated Diver – 1 seen flying north on 16/09/22 1 seen heading south on 22/09/22.



Kittiwakes – 1 seen 19/09/22 >S



Sandwich Terns – 3 seen together on 19/09/22 before heading S

Sanderling – 2 on 16/09/22

Gannet – 1 seen 09/09/22, 6 on 15/09/22, 10 on 16/09/22, 20 on 19/09/22, 6 on 22/09/22

Lesser Black Back Gull – 1 on 09/09/22 & 1 on 15/09/22



Good to see the **Eider** back, 4 seen on 22/09/22



Odd to see a rabbit out on the beach by the seaweed.

Merlin – 1 seen 09/09/22, 1 seen carrying prey on 15/09/22 & 1 seen in front of the observatory on 16/09/22

Mute swan - usual pair seen every visit this month.

Swallow – 8 seen >N on 09/09/22 then 2 on 15/09/22

House Martin – 6 seen on 15/09/22 by the Ugadale Cottages

Greenshank – 3 seen feeding around the NATO pier and stinky hole on 21/09/22

Dabchick – 1 seen feeding among the seaweed by the NATO pier 21/09/22

Redshank – 8 seen feeding by Stinky Hole on 21/09/22

Teal – 8 on the Stinky Hole bank On 21/09/22

Oystercatcher – just 1 seen on most visits.

Female Adder – this was photographed on the MACC Business Park where there is known to be a large population of them. I have seen a few but this was the first one happy to remain still while I photographed it. It was around 8 “ in length and those ruby eyes were fabulous.



