

Visitors to Oban Harbour were able to get up close to one of Scotland's most stunning seabirds thanks to a new project from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The *Aren't Birds Brilliant* project saw RSPB staff with the latest binoculars and telescopes at the harbour allowing people to view the Black Guillemots which nest in the harbour wall.

The guillemot is a visitor to a handful of islands and west coast harbours in the summer months, and Oban is one of the best places to see them.

Normally nesting along rocky shores in the northern isles, the harbour walls of Argyll, the Clyde and Ayrshire make an ideal substitute.

During May, June and July the guillemots make their nests along the Esplanade and ferry terminal in Oban, and the adult birds can often be seen diving for fish in the harbour.

RSPB officer Tom Marshall said: 'There really is no better time to head to the Argyll islands and see what Scotland has to offer for the wildlife watcher. With so many people passing through Oban we hope everyone, young and old alike, will come and meet us on the harbour and enjoy seeing the amaz-

# Stunning seabirds view in

ing black guillemots.

'These dapper little characters are easily overlooked in the bigger seabird colonies, but in Oban you can really appreciate how impressive they are, and how fast they can fly.'

If the trial project is successful RSPB Scotland hopes to create a summer-long viewing project next year with the possibility of using new technology to bring live pictures from a guillemot's nest to a location in Oban.



*Andrew Walmsley, volunteer, Nicola Race, events officer and Tom Marshall, public affairs officer, all from the RSPB, outside the Oban ferry terminal on Saturday.*