

# Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

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

## Photo of the month

### Willow Warbler

A photo of behavior I haven't seen before. This young Willow Warbler took advantage of the hot sand to sunbath.

Photo  
**Jo Goudie**



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## July Report 2024

July has been a quiet month on the bird front. At least we had the dolphin and Otter to watch.

Lots of fledglings have been seen which is good news. Our Swans sadly lost all but one of their cygnets which is a disappointment.

Fundraising has been going really well and next month should see workmen starting on the new building. We are hoping to get some good weather to enable work to progress quickly.

We still need to keep going on the fundraising as this is just the start. Watch this space.

**Best regards**

**Jo Goudie**



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Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated



**Curlew**

**Curlew** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7, 4<sup>th</sup> – 8, 5<sup>th</sup> – 4, 6<sup>th</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 4, 8<sup>th</sup> – 4, 9<sup>th</sup> – 4, 11<sup>th</sup> – 2, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 14<sup>th</sup> – 1, 17<sup>th</sup> – 1, 19<sup>th</sup> – 5, 21<sup>st</sup> – 5, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 24<sup>th</sup> – 4, 25<sup>th</sup> – 5, 28<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 3, 30<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Black Guillemot** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1.

**Black Tailed Godwit** – one seen on the beach on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 4<sup>th</sup> – 1, 5<sup>th</sup> – 5, 6<sup>th</sup> – 4, 7<sup>th</sup> – 2, 8<sup>th</sup> – 6, 9<sup>th</sup> – 5, 11<sup>th</sup> – 2, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 9, 14<sup>th</sup> – 5, 17<sup>th</sup> – 1, 18<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 3, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 25<sup>th</sup> – 3, 28<sup>th</sup> – 3, 29<sup>th</sup> – 5, 30<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Ringed Plover** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4, 4<sup>th</sup> – 1, 5<sup>th</sup> – 3, 6<sup>th</sup> – 11, 7<sup>th</sup> – 4, 8<sup>th</sup> – 3, 9<sup>th</sup> – 6, 11<sup>th</sup> – 7, 12<sup>th</sup> – 5, 13<sup>th</sup> – 7, 14<sup>th</sup> – 6, 17<sup>th</sup> – 1, 18<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 24<sup>th</sup> – 13, 25<sup>th</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 4, 28<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Dunlin** – 1 passed through on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** – flock of 7 went through on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Redshank** – 19<sup>th</sup> – 1, 21<sup>st</sup> – 4, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5, 24<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Manx Shearwater** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 80, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11, 4<sup>th</sup> – 5, 6<sup>th</sup> – 150 per hour for the 3 hours we were there. 9<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 18, 14<sup>th</sup> – 42, 19<sup>th</sup> – 16, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1.



**Willow Warbler**

**Willow warbler** – at least 6 seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> hunting around the Meadow Sweet for insects. Seem to be both adult birds and fledglings.



**Lesser Black Backed Gull**

**Lesser Black Backed Gulls** – An irregular visitor, 3 seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> resting on the point for a short while.

**Fulmar** – 1 seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>.



**Juvenile Sandwich Tern**

**Sandwich Tern** – Adult bird seen feeding a lone juvenile with sand eel by the observatory on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> – 2, 6<sup>th</sup> – 3, 13<sup>th</sup> – 2.



**Red Breasted Merganser**

**Red Breasted Merganser** – One seen flying past on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Red Throated Diver** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 25<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Guillemot** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6, 6<sup>th</sup> – 4, 7<sup>th</sup> – 3, 9<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 2, 14<sup>th</sup> – 7, 17<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2.

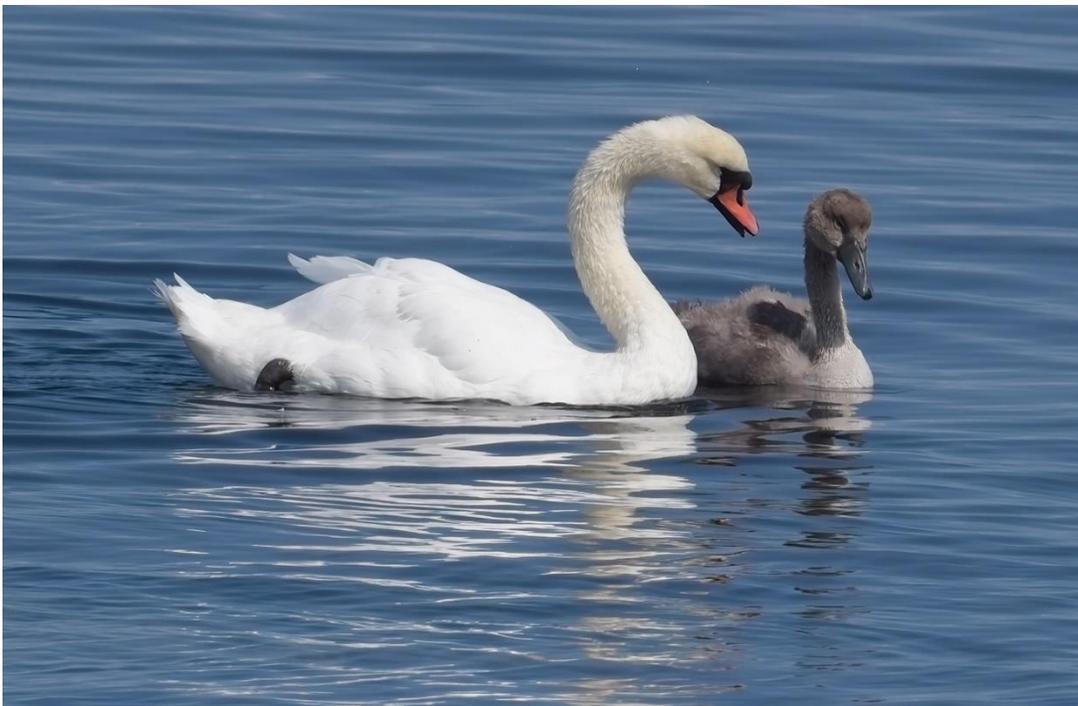
**Razorbill** – 1 seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Kittiwake** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5, 4<sup>th</sup> – 3, 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 19<sup>th</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 24<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Kingfisher** – on the 28<sup>th</sup> I saw the distinctive flash of intense blue of a Kingfisher passing the observatory. Unfortunately, it was too quick and caught me by surprise. I didn't get a photo.

**Heron** – juvenile seen feeding by the observatory regularly through July.

**Peregrine Falcon** – One seen zipping over the top of the observatory on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



**Mute Swan and cygnet**

**Grey Wagtail** – One seen by the stream on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnet** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5, 26<sup>th</sup> – 3, 28<sup>th</sup> – 10, 29<sup>th</sup> – 6.

**Meadow pipit** – One seen feeding with Rock Pipit on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

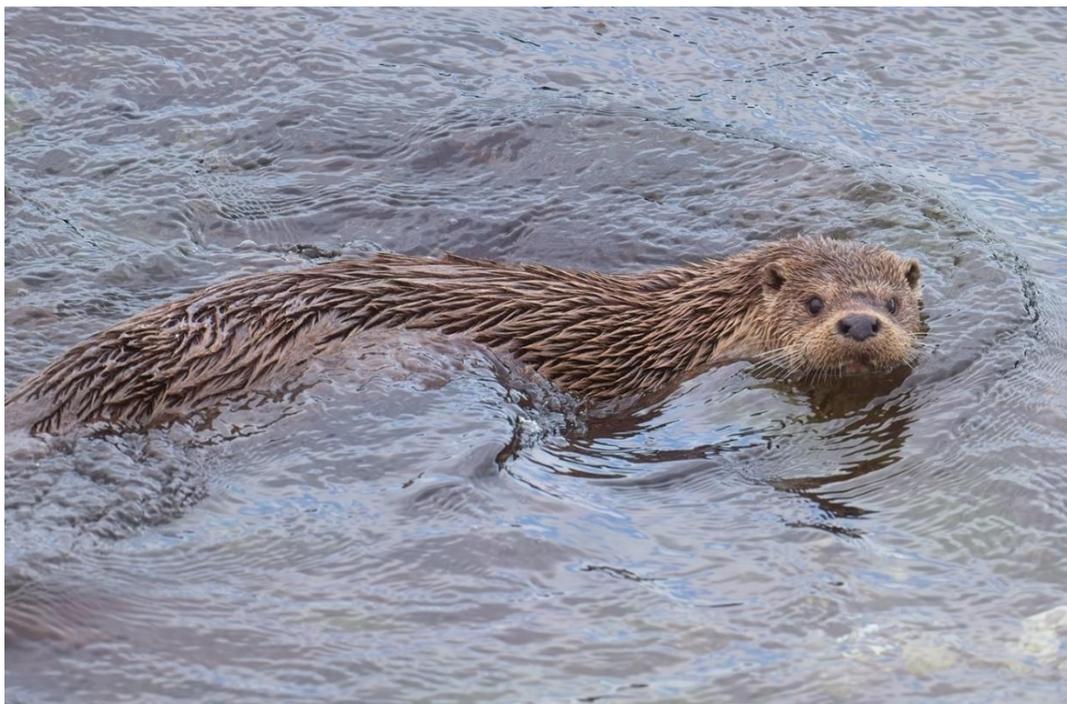
**Wheatear** – 8<sup>th</sup> – 4, 11<sup>th</sup> – 2, 13<sup>th</sup> – 2, 14<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 1, 24<sup>th</sup> – 3, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1, 28<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 1.

2 **Swift** seen in front of the observatory on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.  
We often get Swallows and Sand Martins feeding over the point but not Swift.

**Magpie** – One seen in front of our house in Campbeltown several times.



**Otter**



**Otter**

**The Otter was sighted several times, and, on one occasion, he came up the rocks to just a couple of feet away from me until he suddenly spotted me and bolted back to the water. As you can see from the photo, he kept checking to see if I was going to chase him. We have also had a pair hanging around together hunting and playing but staying more towards Machrihanish Bay and the White Bungalow.**

**Dolphins spotted on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.**



**Mink**

**This cheeky Mink visited on the 24<sup>th</sup> and was seen again by the observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup>. It came again on the 26<sup>th</sup> with a companion that was very gingery in colour and they play tussled in front of the observatory. Unfortunately, no camera for that.**



**Mink**



**Grey Seal**



**Male Common Blue Butterfly**