

30th October: Back to busy with counts of 40 **Wigeon**, 7 **Teal**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Goosander**, 2 **Sparrowhawks**, **Kestrel**, 8 **Purple Sandpipers**, 5 **Jack Snipe**, 130 **Snipe**, 200+ **Woodcock**, 2 **Great Skuas**, 24 **Wood Pigeons**, 10 **Short-eared Owls**, 11 **Waxwings**, 43 **Robins**, the **Bluethroat**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Whinchats**, **Ring Ouzel**, 570 **Blackbirds**, 500 **Fieldfare**, 100 **Song Thrushes**, 630 **Redwing**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 25 **Blackcaps**, 11 **Chiffchaffs**, 22 **Goldcrests**, **Jackdaw**, 39 **Brambling**, 9 **Greenfinches**, 78 **Bullfinches**, 80 **Snow Buntings**, 3 **Yellowhammers** and 6 **Reed Buntings**! The **Little Grebe** is still at South Light!

29th October: Slightly busier with 40 **Wigeon**, 54 **Teal**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 5 **Goldeneye**, **Sparrowhawk**, 2 **Moorhens**, 21 **Lapwings**, 3 **Curlew**, 10 **Wood Pigeons**, **Long-eared Owl**, 2 **Short-eared Owls**, 16 **Waxwings**, 34 **Robins**, 2 **Black Redstarts**, 440 **Blackbirds**, 350 **Fieldfare**, 60 **Song Thrushes**, 500 **Redwing**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 30 **Blackcaps**, 9 **Chiffchaffs**, 13 **Goldcrests**, **Jackdaw**, 7 **Brambling**, 3 **Greenfinches**, 107 **Bullfinches** and 4 **Reed Buntings**.

28th October: Today's highlight was a dead **Little Auk**! Counts included 2 **Sparrowhawks**, the **Moorhen**, 131 **Turnstone**, a **Great Skua**, 4 **Wood Pigeons**, a **Long-eared Owl**, 36 **Waxwings**, 36 **Robins**, 540 **Blackbirds**, 440 **Fieldfare**, 65 **Song Thrushes**, 530 **Redwing**, 29 **Blackcaps**, 7 **Chiffchaffs**, 30 **Goldcrests**, **Jackdaw**, 53 **Brambling** and 110 **Bullfinches**. The **Little Grebe** is still at South Light.

27th October: Scarce migrants included the ringed **Great Grey Shrike**, the **Short-toed Lark**, what is presumably the same **Pallas's Warbler** and a **Little Grebe**. Numbers remain the same as yesterday with 4 **Cormorants**, the **Moorhen**, 62 **Redshank**, **Wood Pigeon**, 45 **Waxwings**, 27 **Robins**, the **Bluethroat**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Whinchats**, **Ring Ouzel**, 220 **Blackbirds**, 320 **Fieldfare**, 110 **Song Thrushes**, 450 **Redwing**, 7 **Blackcaps**, 11 **Chiffchaffs**, 4 **Goldcrests**, the **Jackdaw** and 140 **Bullfinches**.

26th October: Two **Great Grey Shrikes** (trapped in double dyke and Springfield) and a **Little Bunting** were found this afternoon. The morning's counts included 5 **Whooper Swans**, 4 **Greenland White-fronted Geese**, the **Slavonian Grebe**, ring-tail **Hen Harrier**, 5 **Merlins**, 3 **Water Rails**, 5 **Curlew**, first-winter **Glaucous Gull**, 2 **Wood Pigeons**, 3 **Waxwings**, 37 **Robins**, 300 **Blackbirds**, 270 **Fieldfare**, 160 **Song Thrushes**, 550 **Redwing**, the **Lesser Whitethroat**, a **Garden Warbler**, 12 **Blackcaps**, 6 **Siskin**, 110 **Bullfinches** and 7 **Lapland Buntings**.

25th October: The **Short-toed Lark** and **Pallas's Warbler** remain. Census produced the **Slavonian Grebe**, 11 **Woodcock**, **Curlew**, 2 **Glaucous Gulls** (adult and 1w), **Wood Pigeon**, **Long-eared Owl**, 60 **Waxwings**, 25 **Robins**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Ring Ouzels**, 450 **Blackbirds**, 700 **Fieldfare**, 100 **Song Thrushes**, 800 **Redwing**, 25 **Blackcaps**, a few **Chiffchaffs**, 75 **Brambling** and 115+ **Bullfinches**.



Rufous-tailed Robin
Photo Alan Bull



Rufous-tailed Robin Photo Alan Bull



Rufous-tailed Robin
Photo Hugh Harrop

24th October: No sign of the **Rufous-tailed Robin**, but skies were clear last night. New birds included a **Pallas's Warbler** in Gilly Burn and a **Short-toed Lark** at Busta, but rarer for Fair Isle, was a **Little Grebe** in South Harbour!! Late in the day, 150 **Waxwings** passed along the west cliffs in small parties. Census was otherwise quiet with 2 **Short-eared Owls**, 180 **Blackbirds**, 300 **Fieldfare**, 140 **Song Thrushes**, 600 **Redwing**, 16 **Blackcaps**, **Jackdaw**, 5 **Chaffinches**, 55 **Brambling**, 3 **Greenfinches**, 94 **Bullfinches**, 3 **Lapland Buntings**, 3 **Yellowhammers** and 80 **Snow Buntings**.

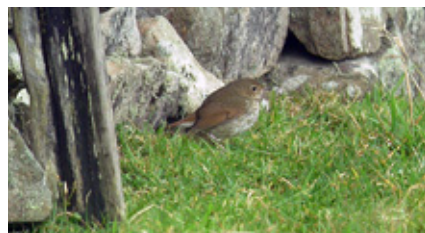


Rufous-tailed Robin

23rd October: Another mega: A **RUFUS-TAILED ROBIN** was found in Bulls Park this morning although its identity was only confirmed mid afternoon. Other counts in a minimal census included 4 **Whooper Swans**, 3 **Short-eared Owls**, 13 **Waxwings**, 20 **Robins**, **Black Redstart**, 700 **Redwing**, 500 each of **Blackbird** and **Fieldfare**,

100 Song Thrushes, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 15 Blackcaps, Jackdaw, Chaffinch, 70 Brambling and 50 Bullfinches.

Photos Rebecca Nason



Rufous-tailed Robin
Photos Deryk Shaw



22nd October: Today's highlights were a Slavonian Grebe in North Haven and a Richard's Pipit in the Wirvie! Other counts included 7 Short-eared Owls, 6 Waxwings, 39 Robins, a new Bluethroat, 2 Black Redstarts, 15 Ring Ouzels, 1500 Blackbirds, 1300 Fieldfares, 340 Song Thrushes, 1700 Redwing, Mistle Thrush, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 24 Blackcaps, 2 Jackdaws, 72 Brambling, 56 Bullfinches and the possible Arctic Redpoll.

21st October: No sign of the Chestnut-eared Bunting today although conditions were terrible with very heavy rain and low cloud forcing an abandonment of census mid-morning! However, a flyover Shorelark at Busta was a nice find! Fewer birds around, mainly grounded from yesterday's fall with a Moorhen, 27 Common Gulls, Long-eared Owl, 2 Short-eared Owls, the Richard's Pipit, 4 Waxwings, a new Stonechat, 2 Ring Ouzels, 700 Blackbirds, 700 Fieldfare, 60 Song Thrushes, 800 Redwing, 10 Blackcaps, 4 Goldcrests, 8 Chiffchaffs, 120 Brambling, 3 Greenfinches, 2 Siskin, 45 Bullfinches and 3 Yellowhammers.



Ring Ouzel Photo Alan Bull

20th October: An excellent day today with an Olive-backed Pipit at Naaversgill and a possible Arctic Redpoll at the school. However, the day will long live in the memory for the numbers of thrushes with estimated counts of 3 Ring Ouzels, 1200 Blackbirds, 15,000 Fieldfare, 200 Song Thrushes and 7,000 Redwing! Other counts included 9 Long-tailed Ducks, Common Scoter, 4 Water Rails, 40 Woodcock, Wood Pigeon, Long-eared Owl, 90 Waxwings, 6 Dunnocks, 7 Robins, Redstart, a Garden Warbler, 28 Blackcaps, 28 Goldcrests, 9 Chiffchaffs, Rook, 4 Chaffinches, 442 Brambling, 8 Greenfinches, 5 Siskin, 80 Bullfinches, 3 Mealy Redpolls, 5 Yellowhammers and 5 Reed Buntings. The Chestnut-eared Bunting is still showing well.

19th October: A slightly better day today, with a few more thrushes around, numbering 100 Blackbirds, 160 Fieldfare, 32 Song Thrushes, 720 Redwing and a Ring Ouzel. Other counts included 2 Woodcock, Long-eared Owl, 25 Waxwings, Ring Ouzel, 8 Blackcaps, 35 Goldcrests, 19 Brambling and 58 Northern Bullfinches. The Chestnut-eared Bunting and Dusky Warbler are still present.

18th October: A Dusky Warbler was found in Field Ditch mid-morning and although initially giving good views, it soon proved elusive! The Chestnut-eared Bunting is also still showing in the Skadan Crop. Otherwise, fairly quiet with typical autumn migrants including a Long-tailed Duck, 3 Peregrines, 2 Collared Doves, 2 Long-eared Owls, the Richard's Pipit, the Bluethroat, 30 Waxwings, a similar number of thrushes (80 Blackbirds, 60 Fieldfare, 35 Song Thrush, 210 Redwing), Mealy Redpoll, 100 Northern Bullfinches and 10 Lapland Buntings.



Female Bullfinch

Photos Deryk Shaw



Male Bullfinch

17th October: Much quieter today, although the **Chestnut-eared Bunting** is still showing well to the gathering crowds. Counts included 5 **Long-tailed Ducks**, **Common Scoter**, the **Bluethroat**, 22 **Waxwings**, half of yesterday's total of **thrushes**, 37 **Bramblings**, 7 **Siskin**, 77 **Northern Bullfinches** and 10 **Lapland Buntings**.

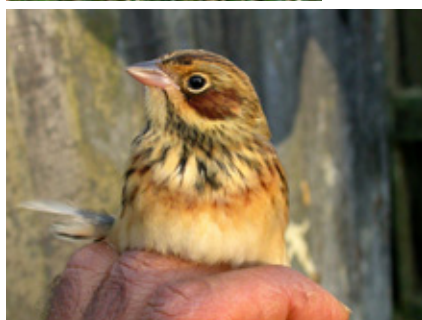


Chestnut-eared Bunting
Photo Deryk Shaw

16th October: Mid-October strikes again. The presumed Little Bunting was trapped during the afternoon and appears to be a **Chestnut-eared Bunting!** – an east Asian species and the first for Europe!! This bird was aged as a first-winter due to the dark grey-brown iris, unmoulted alula feather and pointed tail (although adults of this species also have pointed tails, they are usually broader and more glossy) and sexed as a male on measurements. It shows absolutely NO signs of captivity with immaculate bare parts and no obvious nicks out of the feathers. Other counts include 11 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 **Bluethroats**, good numbers of **thrushes**, 60 **Goldcrests** and an impressive 115 **Northern Bullfinches**.



Chestnut-eared Bunting
All photos Deryk Shaw



15th October: A good fall of **thrushes**, **Blackcaps** and **Goldcrests** on the west cliffs during the morning with 40 **Waxwings** and at least 55 **Northern Bullfinches** for company! The **Brent Goose** and **Corncrake** remain as does one **Richard's Pipit** and the **Little Gull**. Two **Arctic Terns** and a **Reed Warbler** were new. A presumed **Little Bunting** is in the Skadan crop.

14th October: Numbers of thrushes etc remain the same, but a **Little Gull** in Dutfield was a good rarity. A **Little Bunting** in the Meadow Burn was also new. Otherwise, the **Brent Goose**, 2 **Richard's Pipits**, 2 **Bluethroats** and 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** are also note-worthy.

13th October: Much the same as yesterday regarding numbers of migrants, with the **Brent Goose**, **Goldeneye**, a **Corncrake**, 2 **Richard's Pipits** and 2 **Bluethroats** the highlights.

12th October: A good day, with new arrivals including a **Short-toed Lark** at Naaversgill, a **Little Bunting** in Hjukni Geo, a **Great Northern Diver** in Furse and a **Yellowhammer**. The **Great Grey Shrike** was unfortunately found dead at Skerryholm. Counts included 2 **Sparrowhawks**, 11 **Jack Snipe**, 11 **Woodcock**, single **Long** and **Short-eared Owls**, 2 **Black Redstarts**, 4 **Whinchats**, 86 **Blackbirds**, 120 **Fieldfare**, 30 **Song Thrushes**, 280 **Redwing**, 2 **Mistle Thrushes**, the **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 45 **Blackcaps**, a **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 10 **Chiffchaffs**, **Willow Warbler**, 40 **Goldcrests**, 19 **Brambling** and 6 **Bullfinches**.

11th October: More migrants today, especially thrushes with counts of 190 **Blackbirds**, 190 **Fieldfare**, 53 **Song Thrushes**, 400 **Redwing** and a **Mistle Thrush**. Scarce migrants included the year's first **Great Grey Shrike** at Guidicum, a **Brent Goose**, 3 **Yellow-browed Warblers**, the **Turtle Dove**, the two **Bluethroats** and 5 'Northern' **Bullfinches**. Other census counts included 13 **Jack Snipe**, 77 **Snipe**, 6 **Woodcock**, **Long-eared Owl**, **House Martin**, 5 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Dunnocks**, 7 **Robins**, 3 **Whinchats**, 4 **Ring Ouzels**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroats**, **Whitethroat**, 3 **Garden Warblers**, 50 **Blackcaps**, 24 **Chiffchaffs** (inc. 19 '*abietinus/tristis*' types), 62 **Goldcrests**, **Pied Flycatcher** and 115 **Brambling**.

10th October: A light south-easterly wind produced a good crop of late migrants with a **Marsh Warbler**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** and a **Turtle Dove** the highlights. Other counts included 3 **Water Rails**, 13 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Woodcock**, **Long-eared Owl**, 3 **House Martins**, 4 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Grey Wagtails**, 5 **Robins**, the two **Bluethroats**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Redstarts**, 3 **Whinchats**, 25 **Blackbirds**, 19 **Fieldfare**, 23 **Song Thrushes**, 82 **Redwings**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 6 **Blackcaps**, 9 **Brambling** and 122 **Snow Buntings**. Highlights on the sea were a **Little Auk** and **Puffin**.

9th October: Flat calm conditions on the sea made ideal sea-watching weather and a **Grey Phalarope** flew past Bunes in the morning (over a **Basking Shark**!). Over and on land, 3 **Whooper Swans**, 4 **Woodcock**, **Tree Pipit**, 4 **Robins**, the 2 **Bluethroats**, 11 **Blackbirds**, 10 **Fieldfare**, 18 **Song Thrushes**, 38 **Redwings**, 2 **Blackcaps** and 21 **Goldcrests** were counted.

8th October: The **Waxwing** and **Red-backed Shrike** remain. New birds included a ring-tail **Hen Harrier**, a first-winter **Glaucous Gull**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Lesser Whitethroat**, a **Garden Warbler** and a **Willow Warbler**. Over-flying migrants included 7 **Whooper Swans**, 80 **Barnacle Geese** and a **Great Northern Diver**. Counts included 2 **Wood Pigeons**, 7 **Robins**, 2 **Bluethroats**, 2 **Dunnocks**, 14 **Blackbirds**, 13 **Fieldfare**, 30 **Song Thrushes**, 61 **Redwing**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 25 **Goldcrests**, a **Lesser Redpoll**, 2 **Mealy Redpolls**, 4 '*rostrata/islandica*' **Redpolls** and 13 **Lapland Buntings**.

7th October: Today's highlights were a **Waxwing** at the Shop and a juvenile **Red-backed Shrike** on the Skadan crop. Visible migration over land and sea included 9 **Whooper Swans**, 4 **White-fronted Geese**, 2 **Common Scoter**, 3 **Red-throated Divers** and a **Great Northern Diver**. Census counts included 3 **Peregrines**, a **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Bluethroats**, 2 **Stonechats**, **Ring Ouzel**, 51 **Song Thrushes**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers**, 9 **Blackcaps** and 25 **Goldcrests**.

6th October: A day for wildfowl with 3 **White-fronted Geese** being the highlight. Forty-five **Pink-footed Geese**, 80 **Greylags**, 51 **Barnacles**, 66 **Wigeon** and 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also seen. Twenty-two **Jack Snipe**, 7 **Short-eared Owls**, the 2 **Bluethroats**, a late **Grasshopper Warbler**, 10 **Blackcaps**, 20 **Goldcrests**, a **Crossbill**, 4 **Common Rosefinches**, 10 **Lapland Buntings** and 125 **Snow Buntings** were also found.

5th October: A **Booted Warbler** was trapped on the early morning trap round. The **Corncrake** was seen again and there are now two **Bluethroats**. **Sanderling**, 17 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Short-eared Owls**, 3 **Redstarts**, another **Reed Warbler**, 24 **Bramblings**, 8 **Linnets**, 3 **Common Rosefinches**, 5 **Lapland Buntings**, the **Ortolan** and 4 **Reed Buntings** were also seen.



Booted Warbler
Photos Deryk Shaw



**Lanceolated Warbler****Ortolan Bunting***Photos Deryk Shaw*

4th October: Despite westerly winds, a **Lanceolated Warbler** was found and trapped in the Gully! A **Spotted Crake** was in Meadow Burn. Much the same otherwise with 3 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 3 **Merlins**, 2 **Water Rails**, 3 **Wood Pigeons**, a **Reed Warbler** and 14 **Lapland Buntings**.

3rd October: A **Grey Plover** was a nice addition to the year list. A **Pintail**, juv **Arctic Tern** and **Crossbill** were also new. Otherwise, the 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 3 **Sparrowhawks**, **Knot**, **Ruff**, 3 **Short-eared Owls**, the **Richard's Pipit**, **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Bluethroats**, 6 **Redstarts** and 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** were notable.

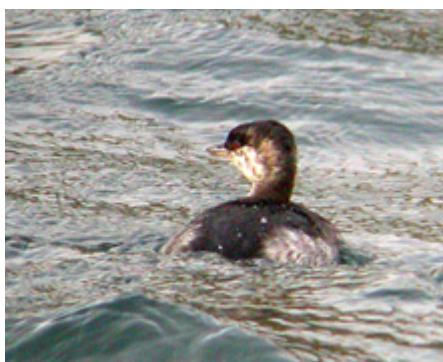
2nd October: Most birds seen today were from yesterday, with the **Richard's Pipit**, 2 **Bluethroats** and 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** found. Otherwise, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, a **Quail**, 2 **Woodcock**, 20 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Short-eared Owls**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers** and a **Lesser Redpoll** were seen.

2004 - SEPTEMBER SIGHTINGS

29th September, late evening update: An adult **Red-flanked Bluetail** is in Gunnawark! At least three **Yellow-browed Warblers**, three **Common Rosefinch** and a **Little Bunting** have also been seen. The **Corncrake** and **Dotterel** remain. A scattering of common migrants included a handful of **Willow Warblers** and **Chiffchaffs** and a couple of **Redstarts** and **Pied Flycatchers**. **Lapland Buntings** reached 16!

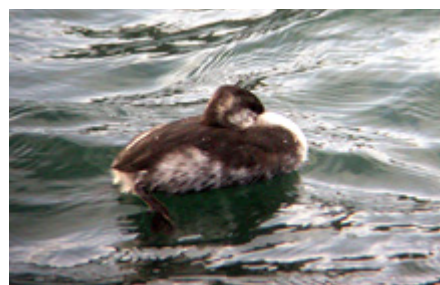
28th September: A day of light winds and a Fair Isle rarity in the form of a **Black-throated Diver** that flew over the Obs early morning. A **Dotterel** was on Ward Hill and a ringed **Common Rosefinch** was in Klingsers Geo. Otherwise, the **Slavonian Grebe**, 15 **Cormorants**, **Common Sandpiper**, 4 **Whinchats**, 2 **Redwing**, 7 **Goldcrests**, 7 **Common Redpolls** and 12 **Lapland Buntings** were seen.

25th – 27th September: Much the same, weather and bird wise! **Geese** and **ducks** are still trickling through in small numbers, with highlights being 8 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on 26th. A **Slavonian Grebe** was in North Haven (26th – 27th) and the **Corncrake** is still in Gilsetter. **Skylarks** peaked at 330 birds (27th) and single **Robins** were seen on 25th and 27th, with **Stonechat**, 2 **Blackbirds** and 5 **Redwing** on the latter date. Another **Common Rosefinch** was trapped on 26th and the following day 10 **Lapland Buntings** were seen along with 145 **Snow Buntings**.



Slavonian Grebe

Photo Alan Bull



24th September: A slightly busier day with autumn/winter migrants including 140 **Pink-footed Geese**, 3 **Tufted Ducks**, **Water Rail**, **Jack Snipe**, **Mealy Redpoll**, 4 **Lapland Buntings** and 110 **Snow Buntings**. Two **Common Rosefinches** and 3 **Blackcaps** were also new.

23rd September: Another quiet day. A **Whooper Swan** and **Whimbrel** flew over the Obs, the **Corncrake** was re-trapped in the Gully, the **Short-eared Owl** was at Pund and 85 **Snow Buntings** were in the north.

21st – 22nd September: Much the same. A trickle of **geese** and **ducks** passed through, a **Sooty Shearwater** was off South Light (22nd) and 6 **Cormorants** were in South Harbour (21st). The **Dotterel** was last seen on 21st and a **Sanderling** was new on 22nd. The **Short-eared Owl** re-appeared at Pund. A **Sedge** and **Willow Warbler** were both new on 21st as was a **Pied Flycatcher**. Nine **Lapland Buntings** and 220 **Snow Buntings** were found on 21st with 6 **Lapland** and 180 **Snow** the following day.

20th September: New arrivals included 200 **Pink-footed Geese**, **Tufted Duck**, **Sparrowhawk** and a **Whimbrel**. Other counts included 23 **Dunlin**, 63 **Wheatears**, **Fieldfare**, **Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcaps**, a **Redpoll**, 8 **Lapland Buntings** and 130 **Snow Buntings**. A **Common Rosefinch**, the **Corncrake** and **Dotterel** all remain.



19th September: The **Dotterel**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Corncrake**, **Little Stint**, 2 **Common Rosefinches** and the long-staying **Reed Bunting** all remain. Otherwise 17 **Wigeon**, a **Sooty Shearwater**, 9 **Lapland Buntings** and 89 **Snow Buntings** were seen.

Sooty Shearwater seen from Good Shepherd IV. Fitful Head in distance. *Photo Glen Tyler*

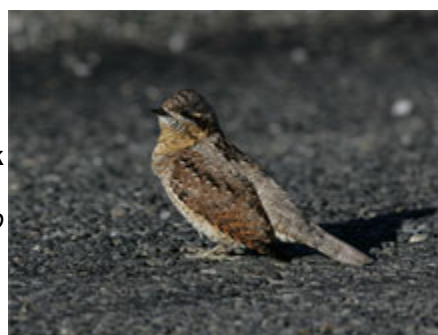
18th September: More of the same weather! A **Curlew Sandpiper** at the Puffinn and a **Glaucous Gull** were the two highlights. The **Dotterel** and 2 **Common Rosefinches** are still present. Counts included the **Barnacle Goose** (trapped in the evening), 38 **Wigeon**, **Water Rail**, **Little Stint**, 14 **Purple Sandpipers**, **Ruff**, 2 **Jack Snipe**, 65 **Redshank**, **Common Sandpiper**, 110 **Turnstone**, 160 **Skylark**, 5 **Lapland Buntings** and 75 **Snow Buntings**. A morning sea-watch produced a **Red-throated Diver**, a **Diver sp**, 2 'blue' **Fulmars**, 2 **Manx Shearwaters**, 36 **Guillemots** and 2 **Razorbills**.

17th September: Windy again! A **Corncrake** was seen and then trapped in Field Ditch. The **Dotterel** re-appeared on Ward Hill and a **Common Rosefinch** and **Barred Warbler** were seen. Counts included 10 **Pink-footed Geese**, **Barnacle Goose**, **Water Rail**, 9 **Goldcrests**, 5 **Lapland Buntings** and 49 **Snow Buntings**. Sea-watches from land and from the Good Shepherd produced **Red-throated** and **Great Northern Diver**, a **Diver sp**, 7 **Sooty Shearwaters**, **Manx Shearwater**, 20 **Storm Petrels**, **Pomarine Skua** and 4 **Puffins**.

16th September: Another day of strong SW winds! **Geese** were on the move, with 46 **Pink-footed**, 11 **Greylag** and a **Barnacle** seen. Highlights included a **Wryneck**, **Little Stint** and a **Common Rosefinch**. Counts included 3 **Knot**, **Ruff**, **Jack Snipe**, the **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 3 **Garden Warblers**, 7 **Goldcrests**, 2 **Pied Flycatchers**, 2 **Lapland Buntings** and 26 **Snow Buntings**.



Barred warbler



Wryneck

Photos Simon Stirrup

15th September: A cold north-westerly wind made conditions difficult but a **Slavonian Grebe** in South Harbour and a **Dotterel** on the Swey were the main highlights with the **Barred warbler** at Barkland and 2 **Common Rosefinches**. A **Greylag Goose** was a sign that the season is nearing its end and 45 **Snow Buntings** added to this.



Dotterel *Photos Deryk Shaw*



Dotterel

Little Stint

Photos Simon Stirrup



14th September: Very little wind meant that conditions were ideal for finding migrants. The day had a very autumnal feel and the 6 **Lapland Buntings** and 40 **Snow Buntings** re-enforced that feeling. Counts included 22 **Wigeon**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, 2 **Red-throated Divers**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Little Stint**, 2 **Collared Doves**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Wrynecks**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, 3 **Whinchats**, a new **Barred Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 5 **Garden Warblers**, 18 **Goldcrests**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 2 **Common Rosefinches**, the **Reed Bunting** and the 2 **Canada Geese**.



Sparrowhawk

Photo Deryk Shaw



Sparrowhawk

Photo Deryk Shaw



Wood Warbler

Photo Deryk Shaw

12th September: A very windy day with near gale-force westerly winds and driving rain making bird-watching almost impossible! However, what we did manage to count included 2 **Tufted Ducks**, **Kestrel**, 2 **Merlins**, **Peregrine**, 2 **Water Rails**, 62 **Golden Plovers**, 3 **Knot**, **Greenshank**, 78 **Turnstone**, **Tree Pipit**, **Barred Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, 2 each of **Garden Warbler** and **Blackcap**, 3 **Lapland Buntings** and the autumn's first 2 **Snow Buntings** on Buness.



Common Rosefinch

Photo Rebecca Nason

11th September: A touch of SE wind brought the inevitable fog for the morning, which had cleared by lunch-time. Some rarity action was provided with 2 **Curlew Sandpipers** in Kirki Geo – a welcome year-tick! Otherwise the sea produced 3 **Sooty Shearwaters** and a **Manx Shearwater** and 15 **Storm Petrels** from the Good Shepherd. Census counts included 2 **Sparrowhawks**, 2 **Merlins**, 60 **Golden Plover**, **Tree Pipit**, 450 **Meadow Pipits**, 2 **Song Thrushes**, **Barred Warbler**, 2 each of **Garden Warbler** and **Blackcap**, 3 **Pied Flycatchers** and 2 **Lapland Buntings**.

10th September: Much the same with 2 **Barred Warblers** and 3 **Common Rosefinches** the highlight. A **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Water Rail**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Redstart** were all new. Otherwise, counts included 29 **Golden Plovers**, **Common Sandpiper**, 3 **Whitethroats**, 2 **Garden Warblers**, 8 **Willow Warblers**, 3 **Goldcrests**, the 4 **Lapland Buntings** and the two **Canada Geese**.

9th September: The 3 **Barred Warblers** and 2 **Common Rosefinches** remain. New birds included a **Song Thrush** and **Reed Bunting**. Otherwise, census counts included 15 **Wigeon**, 4 **Merlins**, the **Short-eared Owl** (from the 6th), single **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Whitethroat** and **Garden Warbler**, 8 **Willow Warblers**, 4 **Lapland Buntings** and of course, the 2 **Canada Geese**.

8th September: Another quiet day. The sea produced a **Great Northern Diver** and 2 **Red-throated Divers**, while the land produced 5 **Merlins**, the ringed **Icterine Warbler**, 2 **Barred Warblers**, a new **Whitethroat**, 5 **Willow Warblers**, 3 **Pied Flycatchers**, 4 **Common Rosefinches**, 2 **Lapland Buntings** and the two **Canada Geese**.

Common Rosefinch

Photo Deryk Shaw



7th September: The embarrassment of no rarities continues! However, scarce migrants included 3 **Barred Warblers**, 6 **Common Rosefinches** and an **Icterine Warbler** (sporting a ring on its left leg!). Common migrants included 4 **Merlins**, **Peregrine**, **Sanderling**, 320 **Meadow Pipits**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroats**, the **Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warblers**, **Blackcap**, 15 **Willow Warblers**, 8 **Goldcrests**, **Pied Flycatcher**, a **Lapland Bunting** and the now resident **Canada Geese**

Barred Warbler
Photo by Alan Bull



6th September: Another sunny day, but the rarity drought continues. An increase of **Common Rosefinches** to 8 birds and the 3 **Barred Warblers** were the highlights. Otherwise, a **Red-throated Diver**, 2 **Merlins**, 4 **Knot**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 7 **Garden Warblers**, 9 **Willow Warblers** and 6 **Lapland Buntings** were found.

A **Dragonfly spp.** was flushed from Da Water but could not be re-found – it is the third Fair Isle record of a dragonfly, all of which have been un-identified!

5th September: Back to westerly winds (although light) and a cracking sunny, summer's day! Very few birds though, with 3 **Barred Warblers**, 4 **Common Rosefinches** and 8 **Lapland Buntings** the main attractions. Other counts included 15 **Teal**, **Pintail**, **Merlin** (trapped), **Peregrine**, 54 **Golden Plover**, 18 **Dunlin**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 9 **Garden Warblers**, 16 **Willow Warblers** and the 2 **Canada Geese**.

4th September: Today's highlights were 3 **Barred Warblers** (Plantation, Chalet, Leogh) and 3 **Common Rosefinches** together at Quoy. Otherwise, census counts included a **Little Stint**, **Swift**, 3 **Whinchats**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, 7 **Garden Warblers** and the two **Canada Geese**.



Tree Pipit Willow-Warbler
Photos by Alan Bull

3rd September: Another quiet day in a strengthening southerly wind – although a **Red-backed Shrike** was trapped in the Vaadal mid-morning. An influx of ducks included a **Pintail**, 14 **Teal** and 3 **Wigeon**. Waders included 4 **Knot**, the **Little Stint** (trapped in the evening), 8 **Dunlin** and a **Ruff**. Both **Green** and **Common Sandpiper** were in the Gully. Other sightings included the 2 **Tree Sparrows**, 2 **Common Rosefinch**, 4 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Fieldfare**, a **Sedge Warbler** and the **Barred Warbler**. The long-staying **Canada Geese** are still in Walli Burn.

**Kestrel***Photo by Alan Bull*

2nd September: A quieter day with just a thin scattering of common warblers, including two **Goldcrests**. Highlights were provided by a **Wryneck** at South Light, **Barred Warbler** at Haa, two **Common Rosefinches** in the Skadan crop and a **Lapland Bunting** over the Obs. Other sightings included four **Grey Heron**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine**, four **Whinchats** and a **Pied Flycatcher**.

**Risso's Dolphin off Maver's Geo***Photo Alan Bull***Risso's Dolphin off Maver's Geo***Photo Rebecca Nason*

1st September: A new month kicked off with a **Barred Warbler** trapped at the Obs, with another at Lower Stoneybrek, a **Common Rosefinch** in the Skadan crop and the first **Lapland Bunting** of the autumn. Other sightings included **Little Stint**, **Ruff** and **Short-eared Owl** plus 380 **Meadow Pipits** and one **Tree Pipit**, a **Redstart**, ten **Garden Warblers**, seven **Willow Warblers** and two **Goldcrests**.

**Barred Warbler** *Photo Deryk Shaw*

31st August: A probable **Great Snipe** seen briefly in Homisdale livened things up for a while, but otherwise much the same with 5 **Teal**, **Peregrine**, **Little Stint**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Long-eared Owl**, 9 **Garden Warblers**, 3 **Willow Warblers**, **Goldcrest** and **Reed Bunting** the highlights.

30th August: More arrivals included 2 **Tree Sparrows**, 3 **Teal**, 2 **Little Stints**, 7 **Whinchats**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Barred Warbler** and 4 **Whitethroats**. Other counts included 9 **Garden Warblers**, 14 **Willow Warblers**, 6 **Goldcrests**, the **Cuckoo** and the **Long-eared Owl**. The 2 **Canada Geese** are still in the Walli Burn.

29th August: Much the same, but a **Tree Sparrow** in the heavens was very unusual for this time of year. Other new arrivals included 2 **Wood Warblers**, 3 **Whinchats**, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 5 **Goldcrests**, 16 **Garden Warblers**, 20 **Willow Warblers** and 2 **Pied Flycatchers**. A **Little Stint** remains and the **Wryneck** and **Cuckoo** re-appeared.

28th August: Much the same with strong north-westerly winds. Another sea-watch included 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** and a **Manx Shearwater**. Otherwise, a **Blackcap** was a first for the autumn and a **Wood Warbler** was new. Counts included 2 **Wigeon**, **Teal**, **Kestrel**, 2 **Peregrines**, 2 **Little Stints**, 13 **Dunlin**, 2 **Ruff**, 6 **Tree Pipts**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 5 **Whitethroats**, 14 **Garden Warblers** and 11 **Willow Warblers**.

27th August: Wind picking up from the north-west hampered most census counts, but a brief sea-watch produced a **Sooty Shearwater** from South Light. Counts we did manage included 10 **Wigeon**, 14 **Teal**, 5 **Little Stints**, 22 **Dunlin**, 130 **Redshank**, 3 **Greenshank**, **Wryneck**, **Tree Pipit**, **Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warblers** and 19 **Willow Warblers**.

26th August: A change in wind direction did nothing to help find migrants, but new birds included a **Kestrel**, 2 **Peregrines**, a **Swift**, **Long-eared Owl**, a new **Black Redstart** and a **Redwing**. Counts included 7 **Knot**, 5 **Sanderling**, 3 **Little Stints**, 19 **Dunlin**, 4 **Ruff**, 125 **Redshank**, 2 **Greenshank**, **Green** and **Common Sandpiper**, a **Wryneck**, 6 **Reed Warblers**, **Barred Warbler**, 18 **Garden Warblers**, 20 **Willow Warblers**, 6 **Pied Flycatchers** and the two **Canada Geese**.



Sanderling

Photos Deryk Shaw

Little Stint



25th August: Quieter today, but **Wrynecks** increased to 6 birds, a **Juv Red-backed Shrike** was at Schoolton, a **Little Stint** remains, as do the two **Barred Warblers**. Counts included 10 **Grey Herons**, **Knot**, 2 **Sanderling**, 5 **Ruff**, 5 **Tree Pipts**, 650 **Meadow Pipts**, 3 **Fieldfare**, 6 **Whitethroats**, 40 **Garden Warblers**, 29 **Willow Warblers** and 7 **Pied Flycatchers**.



Grey Heron



Knot



Purple Sandpiper

Photos Deryk Shaw

24th August: A good fall of migrants today which included the year's first **Little Stints** (3). Other scarce migrants included 5 **Wrynecks**, 2 **Barred Warblers**, 2 **Wood Warblers** and a **Common Rosefinch**. Counts of migrants included 23 **Lapwing**, 5 **Knot**, 5 **Purple Sandpipers**, 5 **Ruff**, 11 **Whimbrel**, 3 **Greenshank**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Tree Pipit**, 1000 **Meadow Pipts**, 2 **Redstarts**, 6 **Whinchats**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 36 **Garden Warblers**, 6 **Chiffchaffs**, 66 **Willow Warblers** and 16 **Pied Flycatchers**.

**Green Sandpiper***Photos Deryk Shaw*

23rd August: A day of visible migration with a **Turtle Dove** passing through, 17 **Swallows** over-head and an impressive 1300 **Meadow Pipits** on the hill! Otherwise, 19 **Storm Petrels** were trapped over-night and census during the morning produced 61 **Ringed Plovers**, 5 **Knot**, **Ruff**, **Redstart**, 10 **Garden Warblers**, **Wood Warbler**, 20 **Willow Warblers** and 2 **Common Rosefinches**. A **Green Sandpiper** was trapped in the Vaadal.

22nd August: Much the same with counts of 8 **Golden Plovers**, 11 **Knot**, 3 **Sanderling**, 2 **Ruff**, 76 **Redshank**, a **Wood Sandpiper**, **Tree Pipit**, **Black Redstart**, 7 **Fieldfare**, **Barred Warbler** and yesterday's **Common Rosefinch**.

21st August: Migrants today included 3 **Wigeon**, 9 **Teal**, 3 **Grey Herons**, 45 **Ringed Plovers**, 11 **Knot**, 2 **Sanderling**, 13 **Dunlin**, 62 **Redshank**, 2 **Green Sandpipers**, **Common Sandpiper**, the **Cuckoo**, 3 **Whinchats**, 5 **Reed Warblers**, **Icterine Warbler**, 5 **Garden Warblers**, 8 **Willow Warblers**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and a new **Common Rosefinch**.

20th August: A small arrival of migrants today included a **Short-eared Owl**, two **Barred Warblers**, a male **Red-backed Shrike** and the male **Reed Bunting**. Census produced 5 **Wigeon**, 4 **Grey Herons**, 8 **Purple Sandpipers**, 75 **Redshank**, 3 **Greenshank**, 60 **Turnstone**, **Cuckoo**, 220 **Meadow Pipits**, 6 **Whinchat**, 8 **Garden Warblers** and 13 **Willow Warblers**.

19th August: Much the same as yesterday. The **Wood Sandpiper** of the 14th was re-trapped in the Vaadal and a **Tree Pipit** was a first of the autumn. Scarce migrants included the **Icterine Warbler**, **Barred Warbler** and a juvenile **Red-backed Shrike**. **Kestrel**, 3 **Knot**, **Dunlin**, **Cuckoo**, 200 **Meadow Pipits** and 3 **Ravens** made up the bulk of the other sightings.

18th August: A quieter day for numbers of migrants, but an **Icterine Warbler**, **Barred Warbler** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** provided interest. Otherwise a **Kestrel**, 19 **Golden Plovers**, 3 **Knot**, 18 **Dunlin**, 4 **Ruff**, **Greenshank**, **Cuckoo**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Wood Warbler** were seen.

17th August: More migrants today that included a **Wryneck**, two **Barred Warblers**, 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**, 10 **Ruff** and 3 **Wood Sandpipers**. Other counts included **Kestrel**, 49 **Redshank**, **Greenshank**, 42 **Turnstone**, **Cuckoo**, 325 **Meadow Pipits**, 11 '*alba*' **Wagtails**, 3 **White Wagtails**, 5 **Pied Wagtails**, 2 **Whinchats**, 9 **Fieldfare**, 7 **Reed Warblers**, 4 **Whitethroats**, 15 **Garden Warblers**, **Wood Warbler**, 16 **Willow Warblers**, 7 **Pied Flycatchers** and the two **Canada Geese**.

16th August: Another extremely busy day for migrants that started with the discovery of another **Aquatic Warbler** – this one in the Walli Burn. A **Spotted Crake** was running around Gilsetter (first of the year) and **Barred Warbler**, **Red-backed Shrike** and **Common Rosefinch** were also new arrivals. The first 6 **White Wagtails** of the autumn were seen (with a further 8 '*albas*' and 6 **Pied**) but more notable (given the poor seabird season) was that of a fledged **Common Tern**. Census counts included 38 **Lapwing**, 31 **Golden Plover**, 27 **Ringed Plovers**, 3 **Knot**, 19 **Dunlin**, 24 **Snipe**, 48 **Redshank**, 2 **Greenshank**, 2 **Green Sandpipers**, **Cuckoo**, 35 **Swallows**, **Sand Martin**, 300 **Meadow Pipits**, 3 **Redstarts**, 2 **Whinchats**, 12 **Reed Warblers**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroats**, 13 **Garden Warblers**, 6 **Pied Flycatchers** and the two **Canada Geese**.

**Aquatic Warbler** Photo Deryk Shaw

15th August: A quieter day today. Migrant counts included a **Knot**, 16 **Dunlin**, **Cuckoo**, 8 **Fieldfare**, 10 **Reed Warblers**, 17 **Garden Warblers**, 8 **Willow Warblers**, 5 **Pied Flycatchers** and 88 **Twite**. The two **Canada Geese** remain.

14th August: Another wave of autumn migrants. A **Wryneck**, **Icterine Warbler**, **Barred Warbler** and 4 **Red-backed Shrikes** were all new and a **Wood Sandpiper** was trapped in the Vaadal. Counts included 13 **Greylag Geese**, 57 **Turnstone**, 4 **Whinchats**, 5 **Fieldfares**, 9 **Reed Warblers**, 3 **Whitethroats**, 35 **Garden Warblers**, 26 **Willow Warblers** and 9 **Pied Flycatchers**.



Wood Sandpiper Photo Deryk Shaw

13th August: The **Pectoral Sandpiper** remains on Easter Lothar Water. A **Water Rail** was new for the autumn as were two **Red-backed Shrikes**. Census counts included 3 **Icterine Warblers**, 28 **Lapwings**, **Greenshank**, **Cuckoo**, **Redstart**, 3 **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers**, 4 **Reed Warblers**, 2 **Whitethroats**, 15 **Garden Warblers**, 2 **Wood Warblers**, 18 **Willow Warblers**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and 15 **Pied Flycatchers**.

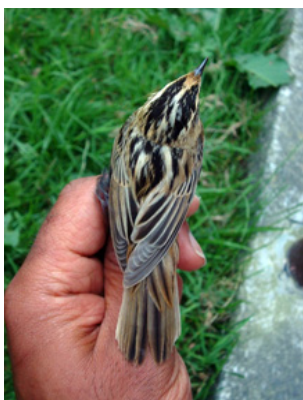
12th August: The **Pectoral Sandpiper** was still present on Easter Lothar in the company of a **Ruff** (with three other **Ruff** at Setter). The **Cuckoo** and a ringed **Icterine Warbler** were seen again and a **Wryneck** was flushed near the ringing hut. A **Short-eared Owl** frequented the Rippack whilst waders included 2 **Greenshank** and singles of **Common** and **Green Sandpiper**. The flock of **Grey Herons** at South Light was reduced to nine. Most small passerines were in lesser numbers with counts of 16 **Garden Warbler**, 20 **Willow Warbler** and 7 **Pied Flycatcher** but the disappointment was dispelled with the discovery of an **AQUATIC WARBLER** at Hegri Burn – only the second record in the past ten years (following one in 1997) and the 35th island record.



Aquatic Warbler Photo Deryk Shaw



Aquatic Warbler Photos Glen Tyler



11th August: Another good days birding with a fresh north-easterly wind keeping the heat at a comfortable temperature - until the fog rolled in late afternoon! Birds were similar to yesterday with 3 **Wrynecks** and 2 **Barred Warblers** leading the way, joined by a good number of common migrants; 4 **Ruff**, **Cuckoo**, 4 **Fieldfare**, 6 **Reed Warbler**, 43 **Garden Warbler**, 7 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 36 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Wood Warbler**, 22 **Pied Flycatcher** and a single **Spotted Flycatcher**.

Wryneck Photo Deryk Shaw

10th August: An excellent day's birding today, with a moderate easterly wind and warm, sunny skies. Birds of the day were a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on Easter Lothar, 2 **Wrynecks** (earliest autumn records - one trapped, one at Midway), 2 **Icterine Warblers** (one trapped, one at Gunnawark) and a **Barred Warbler**. Census counts produced 3 **Teal**, 13 **Grey Herons**, 18 **Golden Plovers**, 2 **Knot**, 9 **Sanderling**, 19 **Dunlin**, 6 **Ruff**, 4 **Common Sandpiper**, 2 **Sandwich Terns**, a **Cuckoo**, 4 **Sand Martins**, 2 **Redstarts**, 2 **Whinchat**, the **Fieldfare**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers** (earliest autumn records), 9 **Reed Warblers**, 2 **Whitethroats**, 26 **Garden Warblers**, 6 **Wood Warblers**, 32 **Willow Warblers** and 28 **Pied Flycatchers**!



Pectoral Sandpiper
Photo Deryk Shaw

9th August: More sunshine and more migrants. Firsts for the autumn included 2 **Greenshank**, 6 **Sand Martins**, **Fieldfare**, **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Garden Warblers** and **Pied Flycatcher**. Other notable sightings included 3 **Teal**, 13 **Grey Herons**, 10 **Golden Plovers**, 2 **Ruff**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Sandpiper**, 580 **Common Gulls**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, 2 **Garden Warblers** and 5 **Willow Warblers**.

8th August: A sunny day with a SE wind produced a sprinkle of migrants that included 3 **Grey Herons**, 4 **Golden Plovers**, 3 **Knot**, 8 **Sanderling**, a **Ruff**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Whinchat**, 5 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Whitethroat** and 4 **Willow Warblers**. The **Canada Geese** remain!

7th August: Another extremely foggy day meant that counts were extremely low. Sightings of note included a **Teal**, 35 **Turnstone**, 3 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Barred Warbler** and a **Willow Warbler**.

6th August: The thick fog returns, but a **Common Rosefinch** trapped in the Gully and 2 **Barred Warblers** (South Raeva and Meadow Burn) provided interest. Another day of wader counts with 13 **Golden Plovers**, 8 **Sanderling**, 28 **Purple Sandpipers**, the **Ruff**, 38 **Redshank**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Sandpiper** and 72 **Turnstone**. Other sightings included 12 **Swallows**, 4 **Sedge Warblers**, 4 **Chiffchaffs** and a **Willow Warbler**.



Rosefinch
Photo Deryk Shaw

5th August: A day of 'proper' census in glorious sun-shine! A **Ruff** at Midway was an addition to the year-list and autumn warblers included 7 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Whitethroat**, 5 **Chiffchaffs** and 2 **Willow Warblers**. Otherwise, a **Cormorant**, 20 **Lapwing**, 5 **Sanderling**, 13 **Purple Sandpipers**, 87 **Redshank** and 150 **Wheatears** were counted. The **Reed Bunting** was re-found at Setter.

1st – 4th August: Autumn migration is now underway and daily census is now underway following the seabird monitoring of July. However, fog is hampering efforts and the only birds of note are non-passerines that have struggled through! Waders are very much on the move and peak counts include 3 **Green Sandpipers** (1st), 6 **Dunlin** and 39 **Redshank** (3rd), 14 **Sanderling** and 12 **Golden Plover** (4th). A **Wood Sandpiper** was on Golden Water on the 3rd. Gulls are also moving with 64 **Common Gulls** and 6 **Black-headed Gulls** on the 3rd and an unusual sighting of a **Glaucous Gull** on the 4th.

The two **Canada Geese** remain and **Storm Petrel** ringing sessions (2) resulted in another 18 birds trapped.

22nd – 31st July: Not much to report in this period, although a first-summer **Rosy Starling** near the school on the 30th finished the month quite nicely! A **Marsh Harrier** in Gilsetter on the 22nd was a welcome addition to the year-list and was extremely unusual at this time of year. A **Wood Sandpiper** (another year-tick was more expected and remained until the 27th). The 23rd was a good day as Fair Isle's third summer record of **Hobby** (a first-summer bird) was found on the Rippack. Counts of birds included 231 **Oystercatcher**, 3 **Golden Plover**, 6 **Sanderling**, 6 **Dunlin**, 21 **Redshank**, 4 **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Sandpiper**, 11 **Turnstone**, 23 **Black-headed Gull** and 133 **Common Gulls**. A **Sedge Warbler** was trapped on the 26th and the next day saw a **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Chiffchaffs** and 7 **Swift**.

Storm Petrel sessions during the period resulted in approximately 25 birds trapped – very poor.

16th – 21st July: A census on the 19th produced counts of 24 **Lapwing**, 2 **Sanderling**, 14 **Purple Sandpipers**, 2 **Whimbrel**, 56 **Redshank**, 38 **Turnstone**, 70 **Black-headed Gulls**, 50 **Common Gulls**, 19 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 25 **Swift**. Otherwise, a **Long-eared Owl** remained in Field Ditch (18th-19th) and a **Short-eared Owl** was at Field (18th). The **Blackbird**, 2 **Chiffchaffs**, 2 **Canada Geese** (all from May/June) and the **Reed Bunting** all remain.



Storm Petrel ringing - one of the most popular activities with summer visitors.

photo Phil Harris



Puffins, one with pipefish
photos Rebecca Nason

11th – 15th July: Another quiet period! The 14th was the best day with a **Quail** near Ward Hill (the same place as a month ago hinting at a possible breeding attempt) and a **Long-eared Owl** on Bully's Pallets in Field Ditch. Three **Chiffchaffs** remain in the Observatory garden. The **Canada Geese** are still disappearing and re-appearing. The odd **Common Swift** has been seen. A **Common Redpoll** (probably a Mealy) was in the Obs garden on 15th and a very un-seasonal **Reed Bunting** was trapped in the Plantation. A **Storm Petrel** ringing session on the night of 15th/16th produced 15 birds in an hours trapping.



Killer Whales off Bunes 4th July
photos Rebecca Nason

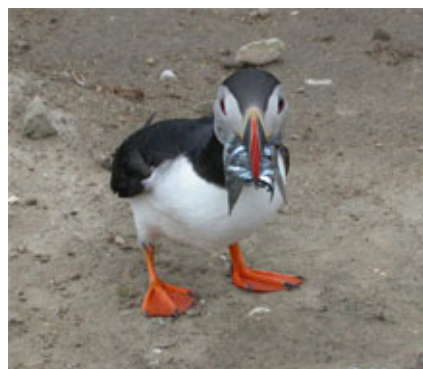


Puffin Ringing - the Warden demonstrates colour-ringing Puffins to visitors.
photo Rebecca Nason

4th – 10th July: The highlights of this period were a **Common Rosefinch** and **Long-tailed Duck** (4th), **Long-eared Owl**, **Reed Warbler** and **Redpoll** (probably of one of the Greenland/Icelandic races) on the 7th. Daily **Red-throated Divers** have been seen flying north and the occasional **Swift** has been seen. South-bound waders are now more evident with small flocks of **Redshank**, **Turnstone**, **Dunlin** and **Curlew** seen. Small parties of **Crossbills** (max 5 birds) have been seen on the cliffs.



Puffin photos Deryk Shaw



A pod of 4-5 **Killer Whales** were seen on the 4th. First seen off South Light, then in North Haven and finally off North Light heading to Shetland.

1st - 3rd July: The 1st produced a **Red-throated Diver**, **Sanderling**, **Swift** and **Spotted Flycatcher**. Three **Golden Plovers** were at Barkland (3rd), another **Long-eared Owl** was found on Bunes (June's bird still remains) and a **Common Rosefinch** was at the Obs. The **Canada Geese** are still in the south of the island.

30th June: A **Red-throated Diver** flew north, a **Sanderling** was in Muckle Uri Geo, a **Swift** flew north over the Obs and 2 **Chiffchaffs** remain in the Obs garden.

27th – 29th June: Not much to report with most sightings from the 29th, with a **Red-throated Diver**, **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel** from the Good Shepherd and on land, 2 **Grey Herons**, a **Blackcap**, **Red-backed Shrike** and **Mealy Redpoll**. Three **Swifts** were seen on the 28th, the last day that the **Icterine Warbler** was at Barkland and a new **Red-backed Shrike** was trapped.

25th-26th June: Not much to report from the 25th, although a **Short-eared Owl** flew north in the evening, but a small arrival of scarce migrants on the 26th (in a moderate SE wind) included an **Icterine Warbler** and **Common Rosefinch** at Barkland, 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** at the Chalet and a **Quail** near Ward Hill. Other note-worthy migrants included a **Blackcap**, 2 **Whitethroats**, a handful of **Chiffchaffs** and a **Willow Warbler**.

Honey Buzzard

photo Deryk Shaw



Honey Buzzard

photo Deryk Shaw



Icterine Warbler

photo Glen Tyler



24th June: With a strong northerly wind and rain, expectation wasn't high, but seabirds took the back seat today (due to weather) and the day started well with a **Honey Buzzard** loafing around the island. A female **Red-backed Shrike** was trapped in the Plantation. Otherwise it was quiet with a couple of **Whitethroats**, a **Garden Warbler** and the **Long-eared Owl** making other note-worthy sightings.

19th – 23rd June: Much the same bird-wise and as 'Seabird season' begins, census takes a back seat. The highlight was a late report of an adult **Long-tailed Skua** (18th). Small numbers of non-breeding waders are passing through, including **Dunlin** and **Whimbrel**. Single **Whitethroat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Garden Warbler**, **Blackcap** and **Willow Warbler** were seen. Three **Chiffchaffs** remain at the Observatory and two **Spotted Flycatchers** were in the Plantation (22nd). A juvenile **Siskin** was at the Obs (20th – 23rd). The two **Canada Geese** and the **Long-eared Owl** remain.

16th–18th June: Two **Storm Petrels** were seen from the Good Shepherd (16th), the **Long-eared Owl** remains and a **Short-eared Owl** was seen on the 18th. A female **Blackbird** was trapped and a male **Red-backed Shrike** was seen on the 16th, with a new **Marsh Warbler** and **Pied Flycatcher** (17th) and a female **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** on the 18th. A **Garden Warbler**, 5 **Chiffchaffs** and a **Willow Warbler** were seen on the 17th. The two **Canada Geese** re-appeared in the south of the island (17th).



Rock Pipit photo Alan Bull



Puffin on Thrift photo Rebecca Nason



House Martins photo Alan Bull

15th June: Extremely strong westerly winds made census very difficult again, but a **Quail** at the Chalet was a welcome year-tick. Otherwise, 9 **Dunlin**, a **Whimbrel**, the **Long-eared Owl** and the Observatory **Marsh Warbler** were note-worthy.



Double-Dyke Eider
photo Deryk Shaw



Bonxie in fog
photo Deryk Shaw



Bonxie photo Deryk Shaw

14th June: Low cloud and mist hampered census, but a **Pink-footed Goose** at Utra was an odd June sight. Counts included a **Dunlin**, 12 **Collared Doves**, the **Long-eared Owl**, 4 **House Martins**, 2 **Swallows**, 2 **Marsh Warblers** and a **Whitethroat**.



13th June: More encouragement today with new arrivals including a female **Red-backed Shrike** trapped on the early morning round and 2 **Marsh Warblers** (Chalet and Obs). Otherwise quiet with just the 4 **Tufted Ducks** and **Long-eared Owl** of note.

12th June: Another quality spring arrival in the form of two **Canada Geese** in South Harbour late in the day. A quiet census produced 4 **Tufted Ducks**, 4 **Golden Plover**, 7 **Black-headed Gulls**, 15 **Collared Doves**, **Long-eared Owl**, **House Martin**, female **Blackcap**, 7 **Chiffchaffs**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and the **Siskin**.

Long-eared Owl *photo Alan Bull*

11th June: Quieter today with no sign of yesterday's star birds. Late migrants included a male **Redstart** and 2 **Tree Pipits**. Otherwise 5 **Tufted Ducks**, 2 **Golden Plovers**, 21 **Collared Doves**, the **Cuckoo**, a **Long-eared Owl**, 2 **Whitethroats**, **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Spotted Flycatchers** and the **Siskin** were seen.

Wheatear fledgling *photo Deryk Shaw*



Nightjar (male)

photos Rebecca Nason

Cuckoo



10th June: An excellent day today with a slight SE breeze producing a **Nightjar** at Setter. An adult **Hobby** was in Homisdale, a **Reed Warbler** was in the Obs plantation (with a **Marsh Warbler**!) and 2 female **Black Redstarts** were seen. Other sightings included 7 **Greylag Geese**, 4 **Tufted Ducks**, a **Manx Shearwater** from the Good Shepherd, 18 **Collared Doves**, **Cuckoo**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Song Thrush**, 2 **Willow Warblers**, 4 **Spotted Flycatchers**, **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**, a **Siskin** and the re-appearance of the **Rosy Starling** at the Mast.



Nightjar
photo Deryk Shaw

Tufted Duck
photo Alan Bull



photo Deryk Shaw

Long-eared Owls



photo Alan Bull

9th June: A very quiet, foggy day today with the highlights being a male **Tufted Duck**, 12 **Collared Doves**, the **Cuckoo**, 2 **Long-eared Owls**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**.



Bonxie photo Alan Bull



Arctic Tern photo Alan Bull



Swallow photo Alan Bull

8th June: Today's highlight were 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** seen on the Good Shepherd crossing – only the 16th FI record and the first since 2000. An easterly blow produced an **Icterine Warbler**, another **Bluethroat** and 8 **Red-backed Shrikes**. Otherwise, a male **Tufted Duck**, **Wood Pigeon**, 10 **Collared Doves**, 3 **Long-eared Owls**, **Dunnock**, **Robin**, **Redwing** and **Linnet** were seen. The **Rosy Starling** is still at the Mast.



Long-eared Owl
photo Deryk Shaw

7th June: An excellent morning's census produced a **Hobby** on Vaasetter, **Common Buzzard** in Wirvie, a male **Bluethroat** singing at the Obs and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** trapped in the Vaadal. Other migrants included a male **Tufted Duck**, female **Goldeneye**, **Kestrel**, the **Cuckoo**, 3 **Long-eared Owls**, **Whinchat**, **Red-backed Shrike**, 2 **Common Rosefinches** and the **Rosy Starling**. A few *Phylloscopus* and *Sylvia* Warblers were also seen.

6th June: Better conditions today and new birds included a **Black-tailed Godwit**, 2 **Long-eared Owls** (1 new) and another singing **Common Rosefinch**. Counts included 3 **Tufted Ducks**, female **Merlin**, 3 **Sanderling**, 4 **Swift**, the **Cuckoo**, 11

Swallows, 12 House Martins, the Marsh Warbler, Whitethroat, 3 Chiffchaffs, Willow Warbler, 2 Red-backed Shrikes and the Rosy Starling.



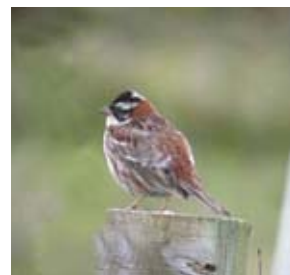
Cuckoo
photo Deryk Shaw



Marsh Warbler
photo Alan Bull



Long-eared Owl
photo Deryk Shaw



Rustic Bunting
photo Alan Bull

5th June: Not much to report today in almost impossible conditions. The **Rustic Bunting** has re-located to South Haven beach and the Obs garden and was even heard singing! Three **Red-backed Shrikes** have been seen, a **Marsh Warbler** was re-trapped and the **Common Rosefinch** is still in the Obs garden. The **Long-eared Owl** is still at Midway and the **Cuckoo** is still in the Raevass. A **Dunnock** was in the Obs garden.

4th June: A smart male **Rustic Bunting** was found at lunch-time on the beach of South Harbour. It showed well and even burst into song at times! Other arrivals included a **Cuckoo**, female **Goldeneye**, male **Kestrel**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Whinchat** and **Yellowhammer**. Counts included 3 **Tufted Ducks**, 3 **Sanderling**, 8 **Collared Doves**, yesterday's **Long-eared Owl**, 12 **House Martins**, 2 **Marsh Warblers**, yesterday's **Icterine Warbler**, 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Rosy Starling** and 2 **Common Rosefinches**.



Rustic Bunting
photo Deryk Shaw

3rd June: An extremely miserable day today, with soaking wet weather hampering all birding efforts. However, through foggy binoculars we managed to find a new **Icterine Warbler**, a **Long-eared Owl**, **Marsh Warbler**, 2 **Common Rosefinches**, 4 **Tufted Ducks**, female **Merlin**, 11 **Collared Doves** and a sprinkling of warblers. The **Rosy Starling** remains faithful to the mast area at Ward Hill.



Golden Oriole
photo Alan Bull

2nd June: Today's highlight was a **Golden Oriole** at Wirvie. It was seen briefly in the morning and then re-found feeding on Mopul during the evening. Other scarce migrants included 2 **Marsh Warblers**, the ringed **Icterine Warbler**, 10 **Red-backed Shrikes** and 2 **Common Rosefinches** (including one of May's ringed birds). Counts of commoner migrants included 6 **Dunlin**, 2 **Wood Pigeons**, 5 **Collared Doves**, 5 **Swift**, 41 **Swallows**, **Robin**, the **Nightingale**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, 8 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 4 **Whitethroats**, 5 **Garden Warblers**, 5 **Blackcaps**, 4 **Chiffchaffs**, 4 **Willow Warblers** and 5 **Spotted Flycatchers**. The **Rosy Starling** is still at the Mast.

1st June: Another day of scarce migrants, mostly birds which remained from May. These included 8 **Red-backed Shrikes**, the **Rosy Starling** and a **Common Rosefinch**. New scarce migrants included a female **Bluethroat**, 5 **Marsh Warblers** and 2 **Icterine Warblers** (1 from May). Census included 16 **Dunlin**, **Sand Martin**, 22 **Swallows**, 9 **House Martins**, 16 **House Martins**, **Whinchat**, 4 **Sedge Warblers**, 7 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 4 **Whitethroats**, 3 **Garden Warblers**, 3 **Blackcaps**, 5 **Chiffchaffs**, 3 **Willow Warblers** and a **Spotted Flycatcher**.



Red-backed Shrikes
photo Alan Bull

31st May: Yet another excellent day. The highlight was a **Red-throated Pipit** at Furse which showed well to its admiring crowd. Scarce migrants included 3 **Marsh Warblers** (2 new birds), yesterday's **Icterine Warbler**, a male **Bluethroat**, at least 9 **Red-backed Shrikes** (4 trapped), 3 **Common Rosefinches** and the **Rosy Starling**. Common migrants included 2 **Teal**, **Tufted Duck**, **Knot** (year-tick), **Sanderling**, 36 **Swallows**, 14 **House Martins**, **Nightingale**, 4 **Sedge Warblers**, 7 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 5 **Whitethroats**, 3 **Garden Warblers**, 3 **Blackcaps**, 4 **Chiffchaffs** and 5 **Spotted Flycatchers**.



Red-throated Pipit

*photo
Deryk Shaw*



Bluethroat
photo Rebecca Nason

**Marsh Warbler
& Icterine Warbler**
photo by Alan Bull



30th May: The fog cleared to leave another day of overcast conditions and a SE wind. An **Icterine Warbler** (year-tick) was found at the Chalet before lunch and 2 **Marsh Warblers** were also year-ticks. Other scarce migrants included another female **Bluethroat** and 3 **Red-backed Shrikes**. Census counts included **Teal**, 2 **Merlin**, **Swift**, 42 **Swallows**, 5 **House Martins**, 6 **Sedge Warblers**, 5 **Whitethroats**, **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaffs** and 5 **Spotted Flycatchers**.

29th May: The down side to a day of SE winds on Fair Isle during the spring is that it is closely followed by fog! Today was that day an census was made difficult as a result. However, a new female **Bluethroat** was found along with 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** and a male **Hen Harrier** floated north. Other notable counts included 2 **Teal**, 14 **Swallows**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, **Robin**, 6 **Sedge Warblers** and 3 **Chiffchaffs**. The **Rosy Starling** is still at the mast.

28th May: Another good day. The highlight was a **Golden Oriole** on Meoness that unfortunately disappeared before island-listers could get there! Ward Hill was site of the day with the **Rosy Starling**, a **Dotterel** and a **Lapland Bunting**. Census produced 2 **Sparrowhawks**, **Merlin**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Sand Martin**, 16 **Swallows**, 23 **House Martins**, **Grey Wagtail**, female **Bluethroat**, female **Redstart**, **Whinchat**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Sedge Warblers**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, **Garden Warbler**, 6 **Chiffchaffs**, 3 **Spotted Flycatcher**, male **Pied Flycatcher** and 2 **Mealy Redpolls**.

Sedge Warbler
*photo
by Alan Bull*



27th May: The wind finally switched to the south-east this morning (the first time since the 6th May!), with almost instant results. A **Rosy Starling** flew past the Obs after breakfast, a red male **Common Rosefinch** was at the Obs at lunch-time and an **Osprey** flew north over the Obs at 22:00! Elsewhere on the island, counts included 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 2 **Sanderling**, 2 **Wood Pigeon**, 30 **Swallows**, 20 **House Martins**, 2 **Grey Wagtails**, the **Nightingale**, 2 **Whinchats**, female **Ring Ouzel**, **Song Thrush**, 3 **Sedge Warblers**, **Reed Warbler** (year-tick), 4 **Whitethroats**, male **Blackcap**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Siskin**. The Good Shepherd crossing produced 2 **Storm Petrels** and a **Pomarine Skua**.

26th May: A better day today with some visible migration. *Hirundines* were moving through with a **Sand Martin**, 17 **Swallows** and 3 **House Martins**. Census produced a **Common Sandpiper**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, **Yellow Wagtail**, the **Nightingale**, 100 **Wheatears**, 3 **Redwings**, **Sedge Warbler**, female **Blackcap**, 4 **Willow Warblers**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, the female **Pied Flycatcher**, 3 **Tree Sparrows** and a different **Crossbill**.

25th May: Another quiet day with new arrivals including a **Barnacle Goose**, a female **Pied Flycatcher** and **Crossbill**. Otherwise, the **Iceland Gull**, **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Yellow Wagtails**, **Sedge Warbler** and 4 **Tree Sparrows** were noteworthy.

24th May: The **Subalpine Warbler** was still present today, but doing a grand tour of the south of the island! Otherwise, a pleasant sunny day with birds including 12 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, 2 **Yellow Wagtails**, **Sedge Warbler**, 4 **Chiffchaffs**, 3 **Willow Warblers** and **Brambling**. The **Nightingale**, 4 **Tree Sparrows**, **Goldfinch** and **Iceland Gull** all remain.

23rd May: Despite there being no change in the weather, an arrival of scarce migrants included a male **Subalpine Warbler** (of the eastern race *albistriata*), a **Wryneck**, female **Bluethroat**, a **Turtle Dove** (year-tick) and the re-appearance of the **Nightingale** at Leogh (apparently it has been living in the chicken shed at Midway!). Counts included 2 **Teal**, 21 **Swallows**, **Redwing**, 2 **Whitethroats**, 3 **Chiffchaffs**, 4 **Willow Warblers**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Mealy Redpoll** and 2 **Snow Buntings**.



Wryneck
photo
Glen Tyler

22nd May: Very quiet. No sign of the **Dotterel** again, but census counts included 2 **Wigeon**, a **Sanderling**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Swifts**, 14 **Swallows**, 2 **Blackcaps** and a **Chiffchaff**.

21st May: Today's highlight was a **Dotterel** seen by the only non-birdwatchers staying at the Observatory! It was seen on Hoini and described perfectly – viewable down to 3ft! Otherwise, a **Merlin** and 6 **Tree Sparrows** were new. The **Brambling**, **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Goldfinch**, **Iceland Gull** and **Crossbill** all seem reluctant to leave!_

Dunlin

photos
by Alan Bull



Arctic tern



20th May: Much the same. Remaining birds included the 2 **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Goldfinch**, **Iceland Gull** and **Short-eared Owl**. 'New' birds were represented by 20 **Whimbrel**, 21 **Swallows**, a female **Blackcap**, a male **Brambling**, a **Chaffinch** and 3 **Linnets**. Appropriate to the weather, a **Snow Bunting** was on Ward Hill.

19th May: Another very quiet morning meant that some attention switched to the sea – it was equally as quiet there with just a 'blue' **Fulmar** the highlight. Land sightings picked up in the afternoon and included a **Sparrowhawk**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Redwing**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroats**, a **Greenfinch**, **Siskin** and a female **Crossbill**.

-

Greenland
Wheatear

photo
Alan Bull



18th May: A wet and windy day as a strong south-westerly and rain hampered birding but the **Nightingale** was relocated at Lower Stoneybrek and a **Sandwich Tern** flew past North and South Lights. The two **Black-tailed Godwits**, two **Ring Ouzels**, two **Tree Sparrows**, the **Iceland Gull** and **Goldfinch** all remain.

17th May: A much better day today, despite the increasing SW wind. An **Osprey** circled Bunes during lunch-time before drifting north and a **Nightingale** was typically elusive at Leogh. Two **Black-tailed Godwits** were at Setter and on the sea, a **Long-tailed Skua** flew past Bunes. Other migrants included a **Peregrine**, 6 **Wood Pigeons**, 10 **Collared Doves**, **Swift**, 17 **Swallows**, 5 **House Martins**, 5 **Tree Pipits**, 2 **Ring Ouzels**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Garden Warbler**, 3 **Willow Warblers**, **Chaffinch** and a **Snow Bunting**. The **Pintail** and **Hawfinch** were both re-located and the 2 **Tree Sparrows**, **Goldfinch** and **Iceland Gull** remain.

16th May: Another quiet morning meant attention switched to the sea in the afternoon where a **Manx Shearwater** flew south. On land during the afternoon things picked up as a band of rain moved through with notable migrants moving ahead of the rain including 24 **Black-headed Gulls**, **Cuckoo**, 11 **Swift**, 100 **Swallows** and 5 **House Martins**. Other sightings included 4 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Whitethroats**, **Blackcap**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and 2 **Mealy Redpoll**. Just 2 **Tree Sparrows** remain!

15th May: Today's highlights were a female **Crossbill** and **Swift** (year-tick) in the north of the island. Otherwise, it was another quiet day with just a **Red-throated Diver** and counts of 22 **Whimbrel**, 40 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 4 **Common Terns**, 140 **Arctic Terns**, 6 **Swallows** and 3 **House Martins**. Four **Tree Sparrows** remain at the Observatory along with the **Goldfinch** and **Iceland Gull**.

Wheatear

photo
Rebecca Nason



14th May: Again a fairly quiet day. The **Pintail** re-appeared in the south and a **Short-eared Owl** was at the Airstrip. Census produced a **Red-throated Diver**, 11 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Common Sandpipers**, 15 **Collared Doves**, 9 **Swallows**, **Bluethroat**, **Sedge Warbler**, 8 **Tree Sparrows** and a **Chaffinch**. The **Goldfinch**, **Hawfinch** and **Iceland Gull** are all still here!

13th May: Today's highlight was a summer-plumaged male **Snow Bunting** at the Peat Cuttings. Otherwise, much quieter with counts including a **Grey Heron**, **Sparrowhawk**, 19 **Whimbrel**, 12 **Collared Doves**, 9 **Swallows**, one **Bluethroat**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, **Wood Warbler**, 4 **Chiffchaffs**, 12 **Tree Sparrows** and 3 **Chaffinches**.

12th May: A glorious day and another raptor heading north – this time a **Rough-legged Buzzard**. Another highlight was a **probable Red-rumped Swallow** seen extremely briefly by two observers at the Observatory. Census counts included 2 **Teal**, 2 **Goosander**, **Grey Heron**, 3 **Sparrowhawks**, **Kestrel**, 21 **Whimbrel**, 4 **Common Sandpipers**, 6 **Wood Pigeons**, 3 **Sand Martins**, 30 **Swallows**, **House Martin**, **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 6 **Whitethroats** and a **Chaffinch**. Two **Bluethroats**, 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** and 12 **Tree Sparrows** were the scarce migrants.

11th May: The **Collared Flycatcher** is still in Sma' Trinket Geo. An **Osprey** flew north over the isle at 21:00 and headed out to sea. Two **Black Redstarts**, 3 **Red-backed Shrikes**, a **Bluethroat** and **Wood Warbler** were all seen, but it was an even quieter day for common migrants. On the sea, a **Sooty Shearwater** and **Pomarine Skua** were reported from the Good Shepherd. Back on land, a **Red-throated Diver** flew north and counts included 12 **Tree Pipits**, 4 **Redstarts**, **Ring Ouzel**, a **Grasshopper Warbler**, 5 **Blackcaps**, **Goldcrest**, 15 **Spotted Flycatchers**, 2 **Pied Flycatchers**, 12 **Tree Sparrows**, 8 **Siskin** and 5 **Reed Buntings**.



Bluethroat

*photos
Rebecca Nason*



10th May: A very foggy start to the day meant that the census was conducted in the afternoon. The **Collared Flycatcher** was not seen in the morning but re-appeared when the fog had lifted in the afternoon. Otherwise it was a quieter day for common migrants. Four **Bluethroats**, 5 **Red-backed Shrikes**, a **Corncrake**, 2 **Grey-headed Wagtails** and 2 **Wood Warblers** were the highlights. Counts included a **Merlin**, 40 **Arctic Terns**, 6 **Swallows**, a **House Martin**, a **Black Redstart**, 8 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 6 **Whitethroats**, 3 **Blackcaps**, 10 **Spotted Flycatchers**, a **Pied Flycatcher**, 10 **Tree Sparrows** and 10 **Brambling**. The **Iceland Gull**, **Goldfinch** and **Hawfinch** all remain.

Spotted Flycatcher

*photo
Deryk Shaw*



**Red-backed Shrike
in hand
photo
Rebecca Nason**

**Red-backed Shrike
on fence
photo**



Deryk Shaw



9th May: After much working of the island looking for migrants, the work finally paid off today as a first-summer male **Collared Flycatcher** was found in Sma' Trinket Geo. It is the third F.I. record, the last being an adult male in May 1998. Supporting cast included a **Bluethroat**, 7 **Red-backed Shrikes**, 12 **Tree Sparrows** and a new **Hawfinch** joining the other bird. Census counts included 70 **Barnacle Geese** (year-tick), 4 **Teal**, 3 **Grey Herons**, 8 **Tree Pipits**, female **Yellow Wagtail**, 4 **Grasshopper Warblers**, 14 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 2 **Wood Warblers** (year-tick), 25 **Spotted Flycatchers** and 5 female **Pied Flycatchers**.



Male Collared Flycatcher

photos
Deryk Shaw



8th May: The good weather continues. The morning census produced very little, but a wander in the afternoon revealed birds were starting to arrive. Another walk after dinner produced more birds which included 3 **Wrynecks**, 5 **Bluethroats**, 17 **Spotted Flycatchers** (year-tick) and 7 **Red-backed Shrikes**. Other counts included 3 **Common Sandpipers**, 2 **Common Terns**, 28 **Arctic Terns**, a **Cuckoo** (year-tick), **Short-eared Owl**, 21 **Tree Pipits**, 5 **Whinchats**, 11 **Blackbirds**, 10 **Sedge Warblers**, 11 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 10 **Whitethroats**, 2 **Pied Flycatchers** and 2 **Tree Sparrows**.

7th May: Another pulse of migrants in glorious weather! A **Wryneck** was at Midway, a female **Red-backed Shrike** (year-tick) was at Field and a **Tree Sparrow** was at the Obs. Two other year-ticks included a **Common Tern** in the havens and a **Lesser Redpoll** at Midway. Census produced 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Sparrowhawk**, 2 **Common Sandpipers**, 10 **Black-headed Gulls**, 78 **Common Gulls**, 23 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 25 **Arctic Terns**, 4 **Sand Martins**, 40 **Swallows**, 4 **House Martins**, 21 **Tree Pipits**, female **Yellow Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, 11 **Blackcaps**, male **Pied Flycatcher**, 13 **Bramblings**, 4 **Greenfinches**, 8 **Mealy Redpolls**, 2 **Yellowhammers** and 9 **Reed Buntings**.



Starling

Whinchat

photos
Rebecca Nason

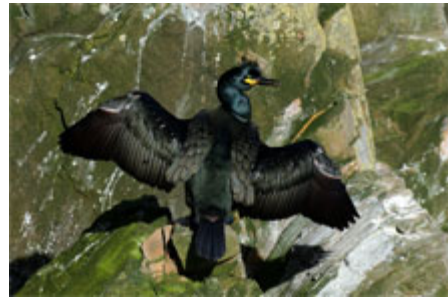


6th May: Slightly quieter today following yesterday's fall. The highlights were a fly-over

Shag

Red-throated Diver and a **Merlin**. Census counts included 2 **Sparrowhawks**, 4 **Common Sandpipers**, 10 **Arctic Terns**, 5 **Wood Pigeons**, 20 **Tree Pipits**, male **Yellow Wagtail**, 5 **Ring Ouzels**, 2 **Garden Warblers**, 10 **Chiffchaffs**, 15 **Willow Warblers** and a **Goldcrest**.

*photo
Rebecca Nason*



5th May: More common migrants around today. Year-ticks included 2 **Yellow Wagtails**, a **Garden Warbler** and a **Lesser Whitethroat**. Census counts included a **Tufted Duck**, **Kestrel**, 11 **Dunlin**, **Green** and **Common Sandpiper**, **Short-eared Owl**, 12 **Swallows**, a **Sand Martin**, **House Martin**, a '*littoralis*' **Rock Pipit**, 12 **Robins**, 10 **Redstarts**, 3 **Whinchats**, 5 **Ring Ouzels**, 3 **Sedge Warblers**, 5 **Whitethroats**, 7 **Chiffchaffs**, 11 **Willow Warblers**, **Pied Flycatcher** and 2 **Siskin**. The **Hawfinch**, **Goldfinch** and **Iceland Gull** remain.

4th May: A slightly better day than yesterday, but a strong south-easterly wind made census difficult. A **Wryneck** was at Midway and what we did manage to count included 2 **Dunlin**, 28 **Purple Sandpipers**, 3 **Wood Pigeons**, 29 **Tree Pipits**, 7 **Redstarts**, 2 new **Grasshopper Warblers**, a **Whitethroat**, 5 **Willow Warblers** and a **Linnet**.

Grasshopper Warbler

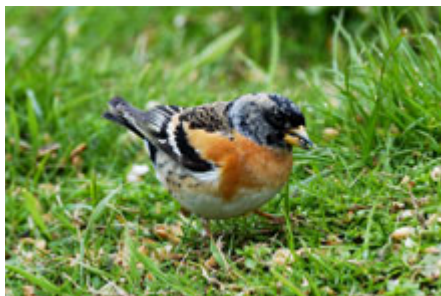
photo Rebecca Nason



House Sparrows

*photo
Rebecca Nason*

3rd May: A male **Bluethroat** at Leogh was an unexpected early arrival. Otherwise, an *intermedius* **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was in the south, an **Arctic Tern** flew past South Light and census produced 9 **Swallows**, 8 **Tree Pipits**, 13 **Redstarts**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, a **Whitethroat**, 7 **Willow Warblers**, 3 **Bramblings** and a **Lapland Bunting**.



Brambling

*photos
Rebecca Nason*



2nd May: The female **Subalpine Warbler** remains in the Observatory garden. Otherwise a quieter day with 29 **Black-headed Gulls**, 250 **Meadow Pipits**, 17 **Redstarts**, 6 **Whinchats**, 14 **Willow Warblers** and 7 **Bramblings** being the only birds of note.

Hawfinch

*photo
Rebecca Nason*



1st May: A female **Subalpine Warbler** was trapped today in Double Dyke. On measurements it was probably of the eastern race '*albistriata*'. Other birds of note included a **Wryneck** at Busta, a **Green Sandpiper**, 5 **House Martins**, 25 **Tree Pipits**, 22 **Redstarts**, a **Stonechat**, 5 **Ring Ouzels**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers**, a **Sedge Warbler**, 28 **Willow**

Warblers, 4 Pied Flycatchers and 12 Bramblings.



Subalpine Warbler

photo
Deryk Shaw



Twite

photo
Rebecca Nason

20th – 30th April: A good spell of birds in the last week of the month, including some small ‘falls’ ensured that spring arrived in the northern isles. Highlights of this period were an early **Short-toed Lark** at Naaversgill (23rd-25th), a **Goldfinch** (24th-month’s end), **Hawfinch** (25th-28th), **Corncrake** (25th), **Common Crane** (28th) and 2 **Wrynecks** on the 30th. **Tree Pipit** and **Grasshopper Warbler** were new in on the 21st, a **Common Redstart** was at Furse on the 23rd, followed by another year-tick the next day with a **Common Sandpiper**. The 25th was a better day when **House Martin** was added to the year-list, associating with 11 **Swallows** and a **Sand Martin**. A **Mistle Thrush** was a late sighting at Guidicum. An **Arctic Tern** and a **Sanderling** visited the isle briefly on the 26th, but census was hampered by thick fog. Three **Pintail** in the south was a good spring count on 27th, as slight increases saw 3 **Common Sandpipers**, 15 **Arctic Skuas**, 2 **Ring Ouzels** and 2 **Arctic Terns**. Three year-ticks on the 29th included **Green Sandpiper**, **Sedge Warbler** and **Crossbill**. A ‘*littoralis*’ **Rock Pipit** was also seen. The 30th was the best day of the spring so far with counts of 11 **Whimbrel**, 9 **Tree Pipits**, 9 **Robins**, 13 **Redstarts**, 122 **Wheatears**, 55 **Fieldfare**, 4 **Grasshopper Warblers**, 8 **Blackcaps**, 8 **Chiffchaffs** and 26 **Willow Warblers**. Year-ticks were provided by 5 **Whinchats**, 3 **Whitethroats** and 2 **Pied Flycatchers**.

April 19th: A force 8-9 SE wind hampered bird finding & viewing somewhat but the **Pintail** was seen again and a **Stonechat** was at North Light. The **Iceland Gull** still remains outside the Observatory.



Iceland Gull
photo Rebecca Nason



April 18th: A splendid day with four additions to the yearlist; **Pintail**, **Whimbrel**, **Stock Dove** and **Sand Martin**. A fantastic **Long-eared Owl** sat in full view outside the Observatory in the morning, whilst the **Short-eared Owl** was also seen again. A **Peregrine** scared the increased number of migrants, which included **Wood Pigeon** (6), **Collared Dove** (4), **Meadow Pipit** (200), **Wheatear** (59 - several Greenland), slightly more thrushes, including **Ring Ouzel** (2) and finches. Also a **Willow Warbler** and **Blackcap** (3).



Long-eared Owl
photo Rebecca Nason



April 17th: A **Short-eared Owl** in Gilsetter was a good start to the morning census, but that was as good as it got! Best sighting was probably 80+ **Guillemots** at Lericum (but none anywhere else) - the first for several weeks!! With **Kittiwakes** already departing, this looks like it is going to be the worst year on record for the seabirds. Very, very depressing!!! A male **Tufted Duck** graced Golden Water and two **Goldeneye** were seen in several places. Other counts included 12 **Purple Sandpipers**, 23 **Common Gull**, 12 **Pied wagtail** and 53 **Wheatear** (including the first Greenland race birds).

April 16th: A bright sunny day and southerly to south-westerly winds induced our first **Swallow** of the year to arrive - the 100th species of the year! Three **Lapland Buntings** were also added to the year list before lunch and a **Woodcock** was flushed at Barkland. A small passage of corvids included a **Rook** and there was a smattering of thrushes and finches also. The final trap round of the day produced another year tick - a **Willow Warbler**.

Meally Redpoll
photo Deryk Shaw



April 15th: Strong south-easterly winds did not bring the hoped for fall of migrants but **Arctic Skuas** increased to two (one of each morph) and a female **Sparrowhawk** was trapped in the Gully. The overwintering **Iceland Gull** has remained throughout.



Iceland Gull
photo Alan Bull

April 14th: A foggy day but the first **Arctic Skua** (dark morph) was spotted near the airstrip and a male **Blackcap** was in Busta Geo.

April 13th: Three **Wigeon** were the highlight and five **Snow Buntings** were the only other thing (vaguely) of note.

April 12th: A **White-tailed Eagle** flew south at 1230hrs but was only seen by one lucky person and every gull and Fulmar on Fair Isle. Other sightings included **4 Teal**, **56 Curlew** (including an impressive flock of 42), **13 Wood Pigeon**, **14 Dunnock**, **5 Chiffchaff**, **7 Goldcrest** and **5 Brambling**.

Wheatear
photo Alan Bull



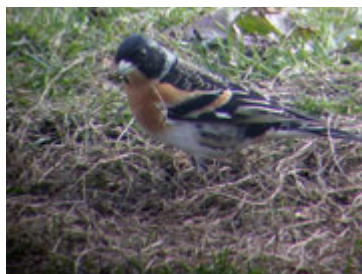
April 11th: A fine blue and orange male **Merlin** graced the hill whilst a **Collared Dove** toured the south along with **6 Wood Pigeon**, **95 Skylark**, **2 Black Redstart**, **15 Redwing** (including one bird singing) and **6 Reed Bunting**.

April 10th: A few counts of note; **Goldeneye(2)**, **Common Snipe(47)**, **Common Gull(36)**, **Wood Pigeon (3)**, **Black Redstart**, **Chiffchaff** and **Snow Bunting(14)**. Best of all was the male **Goosander** which flew over the Obs – the first of the year.

April 9th: A **Water Rail** was the first since the wintering birds departed in early March.

April 8th: A male **Peregrine** was the highlight but **31 Bonxies**, **13 Purple Sandpipers** and a **Wood Pigeon** were also noted.

April 7th: A **Teal** was the first since early January and the **Blackcap** was seen again. **Two Kestrels** and a **Sparrowhawk** annoyed the **153 Oystercatchers**, **19 Ringed Plovers**, **149 Turnstones**, **12 Chaffinch** and **6 Reed Buntings**.



Brambling
photo Alan Bull

April 6th: The overwintering **Greylag** flock decreased from 45 to 23 whilst **Bonxies** increased to eleven and **Blackcap** and **Moorhen** were new for the year. Other sightings of note were; male **Tufted Duck**, **Jack Snipe**, **Grey Wagtail(2)**, **Robin(28)**, **Goldcrest(15)** and **Raven(15)**.

April 5th: Things quietened down again today but **two Black Redstarts**, **Fieldfare (70)**, **Tree Sparrow** and **Reed Bunting (6)** were seen.

Tree Sparrow
photo Deryk Shaw



April 4th: A very good day with lots of birds around. **Ring Ouzel**, **Hawfinch** and **Yellowhammer** were the highlights – and all additions to the year list, but other counts included; **Grey Heron**, **Turnstone (101)**, **Bonxie (5)**, **Wood pigeon (5)**, **Meadow Pipit (146)**, **Pied Wagtail (23)**, **White Wagtail**, **Dunnock (14)**, **Robin (39)**, **Black redstart (2)**, **Stonechat(4)**, **Wheatear(19)**, **Blackbird(68)**, **Fieldfare (200)**, **Song Thrush(23)**, **Redwing(25)**, **Chiffchaff(10)**, **Goldcrest(55)**, **Jackdaw(3)**, **Raven(7 migrants)**, **Chaffinch(27)**, **Brambling(4)**, **Greenfinch(2)**, **Siskin(3)**, **Linnet(6)**, **Twite(40)**, **Redpoll(3)** and **Snow Bunting(12)**.

Yellowhammer
photo Alan Bull



April 3rd: A female **Tufted Duck** was the only sighting of note.



April 2nd: The female **Sparrowhawk** was seen again as were two Stonechats but a Greenfinch was new and Siskins rose to two.

April 1st: Strong south-easterlies today produced a few more year ticks; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in the Havens, **Grey wagtail** at Wirvie, **Chiffchaff (4)** and **Brambling**. A few more **Wheatears (16)** were noted, **27 Common Gull**, one **Bonxie**, nine **Golden Plover**, six **Pied Wagtail**, four **Stonechat**, five **Fieldfare**, and a **Siskin**.. A **Woodcock** was flushed from the hill and the **Sparrowhawk** was trapped whilst the **Iceland Gull** remained in the Havens. The year list has reached 90.



Iceland Gull
photo Deryk Shaw



March: The overwintering **Iceland Gull** remained all month and others were seen on 2nd and 15th. **Stonechats** from 15th peaked at five (21st). **Tree Sparrows** (18th & 27th) were good March records.

Nice calm weather induced the first few **auks** back onto ledges on 2nd when the first **Curlews** were noted displaying and the first **Skylarks** singing. Migration picked up from 4th when 50 **Oystercatchers**, 27 **Ringed Plover** and 50 **Skylark** were counted. The wind veered to a more northerly or westerly direction from 5th – 29th but **Oystercatchers**, **Lapwings**, **Ringed Plovers** and **Skylarks** trickled through with **Tufted Duck** (6th), **Rook** (9th), **Stonechat** & **Collared Dove** (15th), **Mistle Thrush** & **Reed Bunting** (17th), **Goldcrest**, **Jackdaw** & **Tree Sparrow** (18th), **Puffin** (21st) all additions to the year list. Peak counts of 125 **Lapwing** and 35 **Ringed Plover** (9th), 75 **Oystercatchers** (17th) and 285 **Skylark** (25th). South-east winds for the final two days produced **Sparrowhawk**, **Peregrine**, **Black Redstart** and **Linnet** on 30th and our first **Bonxies** (3), **Wheatears** (3), **Dunnock** and **Siskin** and 15 **Goldcrest** and **Alan Bull** (returning once more to the same territory to see if he can successfully attract a mate!!) on 31st.

March 2nd: Pleasant weather and a wander around the north of the isle produced 34 **Oystercatchers** and three **Ringed Plover** with the two long-staying **Goldeneye** in still in Furse. Just a handful of **Gannets** and **Guillemots** were noted on the stacks and cliffs. Occasional **Skylarks** were noted moving overhead and a **Jack Snipe** was flushed from Wirvie. The first territorial **Curlews** were noted at Pund where there was a flock of 19 **Lapwing**.

February 11th-29th: The remainder of the month was also quiet with the wind predominantly from a northerly direction. The **Pied Wagtail** remained until 13th and a **Long-eared Owl** trapped in the Obs Plantation on 15th was an obvious highlight. Good weather on 12th produced peak monthly counts of **Ringed Plover** (5), **Curlew** (13), **Redshank** (70), **Turnstone** (210), **Blackbird** (32), **Redwing** (12), **Twite** (42) and **Snow Bunting** (100). Two **Goldeneye**, the **Kestrel**, 1-2 **Merlins**, at least three **Water Rails** and the 1st Winter **Iceland Gull** were all seen periodically throughout and the **Greylag Goose** flock with a sole **Pink-footed Goose** also remained. Small numbers of **Oystercatchers** trickled through (peak of 24 on 21st). **Jack Snipe** were flushed on two dates and a **Woodcock** on 27th. The female **Chaffinch** in the Obs garden was joined by a male on 14th and another on 21st and **Skylarks** began to move at the end of the month with 30 counted on 28th.

1st-10th February: The month started with snow still covering the isle but it had all gone by 4th. Very little of note was seen in the first week although 17 **Lapwing** with a **Golden Plover**, 3 **Ringed Plover** and the first returning **Oystercatchers** (2) were noted on 7th, along with 10 **Curlew** and 40 **Snow Buntings**. More snow overnight meant that we awoke to a white island again on 9th but this did not deter the first **Slavonian Grebe** and **Pied Wagtail** of the year. The latter bird may be the earliest ever record. The overwintering **Common Redpoll** was also seen on 9th. The **Slavonian grebe** was still present on 10th, when **Little Auk** and **Oystercatcher** also frequented the Havens. A **Merlin** was seen and counts of 120 **Turnstone**, 14 **Purple Sandiper**, 7 **Lapwing**, 20 **Redshank**, 55 **Greylag** and one **Pinkfoot** were also made.

14th-31st January: **Gannets** were noted back on Yellow Head on 16th but not on the large Stacks o' Scroo. The 16th also produced a few **Little Auks** and **Guillemots** past South Light, four **Teal** and two **Goldeneye**. A good thrash around on 20th saw the goose collection (67 **Greylag**, 5 **European Whitefronts**, two **Pinkfeet**) still present with counts of 87 **Turnstone**, 47 **Snipe**, 22 **Redshank**, 26 **Curlew**,

5 **Purple Sandpiper**, 38 **Blackbird**, 42 **Redwing**, 6 **Song Thrush**, two **Fieldfare**, and highlights of a **Grey Heron** and a **Great Northern Diver**. The 22nd saw the (re) appearance of a 1stW **Iceland Gull** in the Havens. The first **Ringed Plover** of the year was found on 23rd - an early date and a **Dunlin** the following day, when two 1stW **Glaucous Gulls**, **Kittiwake**, 8 **Curlew** and a **Kestrel** were also seen but the **Whitefronted** geese had departed and the Obs **Chaffinches** were reduced to one! Snow and strong winds towards the end of the month resulted in a **Jack Snipe** being forced to show itself and a **Little Auk** crash landing in the Obs garden whilst the majority of thrushes cleared out!

7th - 13th January: A small number of **Redwings** and **Blackbirds** remained throughout with the odd sighting of **Song Thrush** and **Fieldfare**. The **Brent Goose** was last seen on the 7th. A breezy day on the 8th produced 2 **Iceland Gulls** (a first-winter (remaining until the 10th) and a second-winter), with 10 **Little Auks** past South Light, along with the year's first **Guillemots**. The Obs **Chaffinch** was joined by a second bird on the 9th. An adult **Wood Pigeon** was outside the Observatory the following day, as a **Long-tailed Duck** visited the Havens with a pair of **Goldeneye** and a **Little Auk** was at Wirvie. Another five **Little Auks** flew past South Light on the 11th and 60 **Snow Buntings** were counted. **Robins** increased to 10 birds on the 12th and the 13th produced 42 **Greylag Geese**, 2 **Pink-footed Geese** and the re-appearance of the 5 **European White-fronted Geese**.

1st - 6th January: The first week of January is often quiet, but a blast of cold winds grounded some wildfowl, with 4 **White-fronted Geese** accompanying 40 **Greylags** on the 2nd (joined by a fifth bird on the 4th and all remaining until the 6th), a **pale-bellied Brent Goose** with 2 '**rossicus**' **Bean Geese** and a good winter count of 18 **Wigeon** and 7 **Teal**. A **Greenland/Icelandic Redpoll** was trapped in the Gully (2nd), a **Little Auk** was in the Havens on the 3rd and a **Long-tailed Duck** was off South Harbour on the 4th. A male **Chaffinch** was in the Observatory garden on the 6th and a **Golden Plover** was at Barkland, while 3 **Woodcock** were in the Gully. The year list so far stands at 54 species - not bad for a small island in the first week of January!



Iceland Gull, Havens

