

## 2006 - NOVEMBER SIGHTINGS

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Little change in numbers of migrants. The male **Black Duck** and male **Bluethroat** both remain.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** A **Little Grebe** was seen in South Harbour during the morning and the **Black Duck** and **Bluethroat** both remain. Other counts included 149 **Greylag Geese**, **Sparrowhawk**, 2 **Merlin**, 2 **Water Rail**, 7 **Purple Sandpiper**, 3 **Jack Snipe**, 152 **Turnstone**, 3 **Little Auk**, 2 **Duncock**, 10 **Robin**, 71 **Blackbird**, 25 **Fieldfare**, 12 **Songthrush**, 150 **Redwing**, singles of **Chiffchaff**, **Blackcap** and **Goldcrest**, 9 **Chaffinch** and 90 **Snow Bunting**.



*Black Duck Photo Paul Baxter*

**November 1<sup>st</sup>:** Another windy day with wintry showers. Morning census produced a surprise arrival in the form of a **Black Duck**, a first for the island! Also present were the **Shoveler**, 2 **Merlin**, **Sparrowhawk**, 5 **Woodcock**, 3 **Glaucous Gull**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Waxwing**, **Bluethroat**, 48 **Fieldfare**, 71 **Blackbird**, a single **Lapland Bunting** and 66 **Snow Bunting**.

## 2006 - OCTOBER SIGHTINGS

**October 31<sup>st</sup>:** A very windy day! Census produced counts of 2 **Glaucous Gull**, 2500 **Herring Gull**, 1500 **Great Black-backed Gull**, 22 **Purple Sandpiper**, 5 **Jack Snipe**, **Long-eared Owl**, 2 **Waxwing**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Merlin**, **Bluethroat**, **Goldcrest**, **Mealy Redpoll** and 14 **Snow Bunting**. The '*borealis*' **Eider** is still present in the Havens.

**October 30<sup>th</sup>:** A new '*hornemanni*' **Arctic Redpoll** was seen in the north as were 3 **Glaucous Gulls**. Also present were the **Shoveler**, 2 **Waxwing**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Goldcrest**, **Redpoll sp.**, **Tree Sparrow** and 30 **Snow Bunting**.

**October 29<sup>th</sup>:** The **Bluethroat**, **Slavonian Grebe**, **Waxwing** and **Northern Eider** were still present.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>:** A **Black-throated Diver** off South Light was only the 6th island record. A **Slavonian Grebe**, the '*borealis*' **Eider** and 50 **Little Auk** were also seen from the island. Also present were the **Thrush Nightingale**, 650 **Fieldfare**, 4 **Whooper Swan**, **Shoveler**, 2 **Peregrine**, **Merlin**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Hen Harrier**, **Bluethroat**, the first **Waxwing** of the autumn, a single **Tree Sparrow**, 32 **Snow Bunting** and the **Long-eared Owl** was trapped.



Thrush Nightingale  
Photos Rebecca Nason



**October 27<sup>th</sup>:** A productive day for sea-watching with an unseasonal pod of 5 **Orcas** the highlight! Also seen were a **Velvet Scoter** and **Common Scoter**, **Manx Shearwater**, 29 **Little Auk**, 50 **Kittiwake**, 3 **Great Northern Diver** and 4 **Harbour Porpoise**. 4 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Glaucous Gull**, a **Long-eared Owl**, **Waxwing**, **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Tree Sparrow**, a **Redpoll sp.**, **Reed Bunting** and 60 **Snow Bunting** were recorded on census. The **Thrush Nightingale**, **Bluethroat**, '*borealis*' **Eider**, **Hen Harrier** and **Shoveler** were all still present.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>:** A quiet day in the way of common migrants. However, a '*hornemanni*' **Arctic Redpoll** was found early morning at Lower Stonybreck and later trapped at Barkland. Another surprise in the afternoon was a **Thrush Nightingale** in the Havens, the latest island record by 3 weeks! Other birds of note included 2 **Whooper Swan**, 2 each of **Merlin** and **Peregrine**, 7 **Woodcock**, **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owl**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Mealy Redpoll** and 135 **Snow Bunting**. Seawatching from the island and *Good Shepherd IV* produced 2 **Great Northern Diver**, 18 **Little Auk**, 20 **Kittiwake** and a 'blue' **Fulmar**.



Arctic Redpoll  
Photo Rebecca Nason



Arctic Redpoll  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Thrush Nightingale**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Thrush Nightingale**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Thrush Nightingale**  
Photo Deryk Shaw



**Arctic Redpoll**  
Photo Deryk Shaw



**Thrush Nightingale**  
Photo Deryk Shaw

**October 24<sup>th</sup>:** A clear but cold day with a brisk wind from the northeast. The **Blyth's Pipit** was seen again at Midway and the **Bluethroat**, '*borealis*' **Eider** and **Hen Harrier** are all still around.

Other counts of note included 1 **Long-eared** and 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 3 **Ring Ouzel**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 12 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Jackdaw**, '*islandica*' **Common Redpoll**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 120 **Snow Bunting**.

A **Great Northern Diver**, **Little Auk** and 'blue' **Fulmar** were seen from the island.

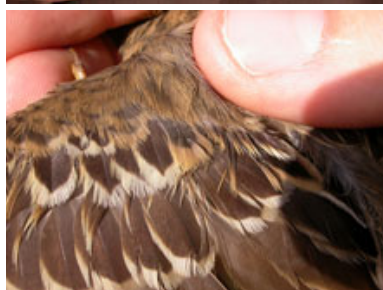
**October 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Yesterday's Pipit was relocated mid-morning at Quoy and was thought to be definitely a **Blyth's Pipit**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> island record, but was trapped to remove any doubt. The **Olive-backed Pipit** was seen again at Quoy and a **Bluethroat**, **Shoveler**, the '*borealis*' **Eider** and **Hen Harrier** all remain.

Also notable were 2 **Long-eared** and 2 **Short-eared Owl**, 6 **Little Auk**, **Great Northern Diver**, **Grey Wagtail**, 4 **Ring Ouzel**, 27 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Jackdaw**, a single **Lapland Bunting** and 46 **Snow Bunting**.



**Blyth's Pipit**  
Photos Deryk Shaw

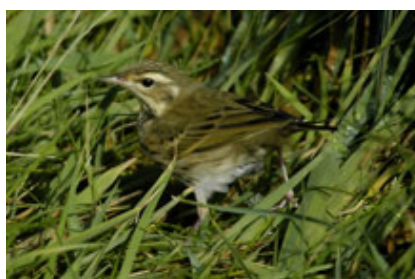




**October 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Clear and calm weather was a pleasant change in birding conditions. Mid-afternoon a probable **Blyth's Pipit** was found at Burkle while 100yards north the **Olive-backed Pipit** was again seen at Quoy. New in were 7 **Short-eared Owls**, 8 **Ring Ouzels**, 70 **Goldcrests** and **Black Redstart**. Remaining were **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 2 **Bluethroat**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Jackdaw** and '*borealis*' **Eider**. Also of note were 3 **Little Auk**, 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Grey Wagtail**, 8 **Chiffchaffs**, 2 **Lapland Buntings** and 62 **Snow Buntings**.



**Olive-backed Pipit** Photo Paul Baxter



**Olive-backed Pipit** Photo Paul Baxter



**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Blyth's Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



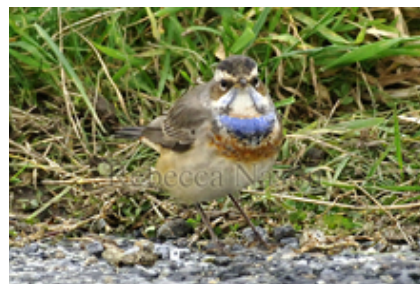
**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Yesterday's fog had cleared by morning but was replaced by strong winds and rain. A late afternoon **Richard's Pipit** and **Glaucous Gull** were the only notable new arrivals. The **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 2 **Bluethroat**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Hen Harrier**, **Jackdaw** and '*borealis*' Eider all remain. Other counts included a single **Great Northern Diver**, 3 **Ring Ouzel**, 130 **Blackbird**, 57 **Fieldfare**, 2000+ **Redwing**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 36 **Goldcrest**, 40 **Chaffinch**, 11 **Siskin**, **Redpoll sp.** and 19 **Snow Bunting**.

**October 20<sup>th</sup>:** Census was hindered by thick fog throughout the day. There were, however, two new birds of note in the form of a **Jackdaw** on Bunes and a single **Bean Goose**.

Still present were a **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Shoveler**, **Mistle Thrush**, 2 **Bluethroat**, **Yellowhammer**, the '*borealis*' Eider and **Olive-backed Pipit** while other counts of note included 1000 **Greylag Geese**, 1 **Long-eared** and 2 **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Ring Ouzel**, thousands of thrushes including 60+ **Fieldfare**, 40 **Goldcrest** and 12 **Siskin**.

A 'blue' **Northern Fulmar** was also seen from the island.



**Bluethroat** Photo Rebecca Nason

**October 19<sup>th</sup>:** Migrant counts remained fairly stable with 950 **Greylag Geese**, 7 **Woodcock**, 6 **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Peregrine**, 4 **Stonechat**, 42 **Dunnock**, 50 **Fieldfare**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 55 **Chaffinch**, 46 **Snow Bunting** and a **Yellowhammer** the only notable changes.

Remaining birds included a **Shoveler**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, 2 **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Bluethroat**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Mistle Thrush** and a **Yellow-browed Warbler**.

Seawatching produced a **Common Scoter**, 5 **Little Auk** and 2 **Great Northern Diver**.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>:** Notable counts included an island record of at least 2100 **Greylag Geese**, **Shoveler**, 4 **Short-eared Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Hen Harrier**, 5 **Ring Ouzel**, 34 **Fieldfare**, **Mistle Thrush**, possibly 2 **Bluethroat**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, a single **Mealy Redpoll**, a long overdue **Richard's Pipit** and the **Olive-backed Pipit**, still showing well in the south.

Seawatching was productive with counts of 2 **Common Scoter**, 4 **Red-throated Diver**, 5 **Great Northern Diver**, 13 **Kittiwake**, 4 **Little Auk**, the '*borealis*' Eider and 10 **Harbour Porpoise**.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>:** A noticeable increase was seen in the number of commoner migrants with 3 each of **Woodcock**, **Black Redstart** and **Stonechat**, 24 **Blackcap**, 22 **Goldcrest**, 46 **Chaffinch**, 17 **Brambling** and 5 **Siskin** present.

Notable new arrivals included a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** trapped in the Gully, a **Little Bunting**, 2 **Redpoll sp.**, a single **Lesser Redpoll** and another **Yellow-browed Warbler** bringing the total to 4. Remaining birds were the **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Bluethroat**, **Mistle Thrush**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, **Shoveler** and the **Northern Eider**.





**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Yellow-browed Warbler**  
Photo Rebecca Nason

**October 16<sup>th</sup>:** The **Olive-backed Pipit** was still present and showing well in the south. Census produced a single **Shoveler**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, **Bluethroat**, 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Common Rosefinch**, 47 **Dunnock**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 3 **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Mistle Thrush**, 21 **Hooded Crow**, 4 **Reed Bunting**, a single **Lapland Bunting**, 55 **Snow Bunting** and the '*borealis*' **Eider**.

Seawatching produced 12 **Common Scoter** and good numbers of auks including 15 **Guillemot** and 2 **Little Auk**.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>:** The 4th **Olive-backed Pipit** of the autumn was the best bird of the day with a single **Little Stint** the only other notable arrival. The **Bluethroat**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Red-throated Pipit**, **Common Rosefinch** and '*borealis*' **Eider** all remain.

Also present were 3 **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, **Turtle Dove**, 6 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Tree Pipit**, 40 **Dunnock**, 48 **Robin**, 3 **Stonechat**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Whitethroat**, 9 **Goldcrest**, 4 **Lapland Bunting** and singles of **Mistle Thrush** and **Ring Ouzel**.



**Red-throated Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Red-throated Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Red-throated Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Little Stint**  
Photo Deryk Shaw

**October 14<sup>th</sup>:** Common migrant counts remained reasonably stable but it was a good day for new scarce migrants with singles of **Short-toed Lark**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and the first **Bluethroat** of the autumn, whilst remaining were 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 2 **Common Rosefinch** and the highly mobile **Red-throated Pipit**.

Also notable were a **Peregrine**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, **Turtle Dove**, 2 **Short-eared Owl**, 10 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Black Redstart**, a single **Ring Ouzel**, **Whitethroat**, 5 **Reed Bunting**, 3 **Lapland Bunting** and 27 **Snow Bunting**.

**October 13<sup>th</sup>:** More south-easterly winds but with little change in migrant numbers. Notable non-passerines were 4 **Goldeneye**, single **Merlin** and **Peregrine**, 2 **Hen Harrier**, 9 **Jack Snipe**, 12 **Woodcock**, **Turtle Dove** and 2 **Short-eared Owl**.

Other counts included 2 **Grey** and a single **Yellow Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, 3 **Stonechat**, **Reed Warbler**, 26 **Blackcap**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 39 **Brambling**, **Common Rosefinch**, 4 **Reed**, 3 **Lapland** and 19 **Snow**

**Bunting.** Thrush numbers were down on yesterday's with 6 **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Fieldfare**, 285 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Mistle Thrush** and 69 **Blackbird** present. The '*borealis*' **Eider** was seen again in the Havens.

**October 12<sup>th</sup>:** Bird of the day was a **Red-throated Pipit**, found late afternoon in the north. Other notable arrivals were a late **Wryneck**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Turtle Dove**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Grasshopper Warbler** and a year tick in the form of a **Common Scoter** past the south light.

Also present were 120 **Blackcap**, 24 **Jack Snipe**, 12 **Woodcock**, 92 **Common Gull**, **Short-eared Owl**, 26 **Dunnock**, 60 **Robin**, singles of **Black Redstart** and **Common Redstart**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 29 **Goldcrest**, 27 **Brambling**, 2 **Common Rosefinch**, 2 **Lapland Bunting**, 24 **Snow Bunting**, 3 **Reed Bunting**, and thrush counts of 17 **Ring Ouzel**, 115 **Blackbird**, 400 **Song Thrush** and 4400 **Redwing**.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>:** Strong south-easterly winds brought with them good counts of migrants. Most notable were a **Little Bunting**, 5 **Goldeneye**, 50 **Jack Snipe**, 65 **Common Gull**, 3 **Wood Pigeon**, 18 **Robin**, 35 **Blackcap**, 30 **Goldcrest**, **Pied Flycatcher** and good numbers of thrushes with 7000+ **Redwing**, 270 **Song Thrush**, 70 **Blackbird** and a **Ring Ouzel**.

Also present were 5 **Woodcock**, **Short-eared Owl**, a single **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Stonechat**, **Grey Wagtail**, 4 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 12 **Snow Bunting** and the **Common Rosefinch** and '*borealis*' **Eider**.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** Despite relatively low numbers of new arrivals there were two new birds of note. The first, a **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, was trapped in the Vaadal on early morning trap-round. A stunning **Olive-backed Pipit** was then seen briefly before lunch and relocated on the west cliffs late afternoon. Also present were a **Great Northern Diver**, **Hen Harrier**, 9 **Jack Snipe**, 4 **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow & Grey Wagtails**, 3 **Whinchat**, **Stonechat**, 11 **Blackcap**, 4 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 4 **Goldcrest**, 15 **Brambling**, 53 **Snow Bunting**, a single **Lapland Bunting** and the first **Greenfinch** of the autumn.

The **Common Rosefinch**, **White-rumped Sandpiper** and '*borealis*' **Eider** all remain.



**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Olive-backed Pipit**  
Photo Rebecca Nason



**Red-breasted Flycatcher**  
Photo Rebecca Nason

**October 9<sup>th</sup>:** Noticeable increases included 10 **Robin**, 2 **Woodcock**, 13 **Lapwing**, 15 **Song Thrush**, 435 **Redwing**, 35 **Blackcap**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Grey Wagtail**, 4 **Chiffchaff**, 10 **Chaffinch**, 8 **Brambling** and 51 **Snow Bunting**.

Remaining birds were the **White-rumped Sandpiper** and '*borealis*' **Eider**, 2 **Merlin**, **Hen Harrier**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Tree Pipit**, **Goldcrest**, **Stonechat**, 3 **Whinchat** and singles of **Lapland Bunting** and **Reed Bunting**.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Migrant numbers were similar to yesterday with counts of 3 **Merlin**, singles of **Peregrine**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Hen Harrier**, 8 **Jack Snipe**, **Wood Pigeon**, 2 **Short-eared Owl**, **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, 4 **Whinchat**, **Stonechat**, 6 **Fieldfare**, 200 **Redwing**, 5 **Blackcap**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Reed Bunting**, 28 **Snow Bunting** and 4 **Lapland Bunting**. The **White-rumped Sandpiper** and '*borealis*' **Eider** were both present in the Havens and the **Common Rosefinch** was seen again in the south.



**White-rumped Sandpiper  
with Turnstone**  
Photo Deryk Shaw



**White-rumped Sandpiper**  
Photo Deryk Shaw





**White-rumped Sandpiper**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

A 'blue' Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Red-throated Diver and 3 Harbour Porpoise were seen from the island.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Migrant counts were again low due to strong westerly winds. However, the afternoon brought a welcome addition to the year list in the form of only our 4<sup>th</sup> ever **White-rumped Sandpiper**, the first 'rarity' on the new scrape at Utra. Other birds included the adult **Glaucous Gull**, 4 **Merlin**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Hen Harrier**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Yellow** and **Grey Wagtails**, **Stonechat**, 7 **Fieldfare**, 8 **Song Thrush**, 280 **Redwing**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, a single **Lapland Bunting** and 18 **Snow Bunting**. The '*borealis*' **Eider** was seen again outside North Haven.



**White-rumped Sandpiper**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**October 6<sup>th</sup>:** A beautiful sunny day but with very few new arrivals. Non-passerines included **Hen Harrier**, **Gadwall**, 2 **Water Rail**, 13 **Jack Snipe**, **Whimbrel**, **Glaucous Gull** and 3 **Short-eared Owl**. Passerine counts were 2 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, 7 **Fieldfare**, 580 **Redwing**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 3 **Goldcrest**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Linnet**, a hybrid **Tree x House Sparrow**, 48 **Snow Bunting**, 3 **Lapland Bunting**, 1 **Reed Bunting** and the first **Blackbird** of the autumn.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>:** New arrivals included 3 **Woodcock**, **Whimbrel**, **Stonechat**, 2 more **Hen Harrier** and another 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler** bringing the total to 4. Other birds included **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Gadwall**, **Water Rail**, 100 **Golden Plover**, **Ruff**, 12 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 200 **Redwing**, **Common Rosefinch**, 4 **Linnet**, **Reed Bunting**, 3 **Lapland Bunting**, 17 **Snow Bunting** and the **Rustic Bunting** was seen in the morning whilst the *borealis* **Eider** frequented the Havens.

11 **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Great Northern Diver**, 7 **Kittiwake** and singles of **Red-throated Diver** and **Sooty Shearwater** were also seen from the island.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>:** An increase in common migrants was noted with counts of 76 **Snow Bunting**, 95 **Greylag Geese**, 3 **Merlin**, **Peregrine**, 85 **Golden Plover**, 5 **Jack Snipe**, 7 **Fieldfare**, 19 **Song Thrush**, 500 **Redwing**, 25 **Chaffinch**, 6 **Brambling** and 7 **Lapland Bunting**. Census also produced counts of 2 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, **Common Redstart**, **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Yellow-browed Warbler**. The probable '*borealis*' **Northern Eider**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Hen Harrier** and **Rustic Bunting** are all still present.

Seawatching from the island and *Good Shepherd IV* produced 7 **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Sooty Shearwater**, a blue **Northern Fulmar**, 16 **Guillemot**, 24 **Kittiwake** and the first 2 **Little Auk** of the year.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Northerly winds brought only a few new birds and a partial clearout of yesterday's migrants was noted. A flighty **Rustic Bunting**, seen around the Vaadal trap, was bird of the day while other new arrivals were an adult **Glaucous Gull**, 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler** and a single **Turtle Dove**. The **Hen Harrier**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Gadwall** and probable '*borealis*' **Northern Eider** all remain. Other counts included a **Tufted Duck**,



2 **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Merlin**, 2 **Kestrel**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, **Common Redstart**, 250 **Redwing**, 15 **Chaffinch**, 2 **Reed Bunting**, 5 **Lapland Bunting** and 7 **Snow Bunting**.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Heavy rain showers throughout the morning made census difficult but there were still several new birds and good counts of common migrants. Most notable arrivals were a **Ring Ouzel** in the north and a juvenile **Hen Harrier** seen in the south in the afternoon. Also present were 18 **Grey Heron**, 16 **Jack Snipe**, 6 **Wood Pigeon**, 2 **Short-eared** and 1 **Long-eared Owl**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, 35 **Song Thrush**, 350 **Redwing**, 18 **Blackcap**, 7 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher**, 50 **Chaffinch**, a single **Common Rosefinch**, 5 **Reed**, 8 **Lapland** & 6 **Snow Bunting**.

The probable '*borealis*' **Northern Eider** spent much of the day in the havens and the male **Gadwall** is still present in the south.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**: Uncommon migrants today included 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers**, **Corncrake**, and 2 **Lapland Buntings**. Also present on the island were the drake **Gadwall** still, the presumed '*borealis*' Northern Eider, 15 **Blackcaps**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Chiffchaffs**, **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Garden Warblers**, 4 **Goldcrests**, single **Yellow** and **Grey Wagtails**, **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 11 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Merlin** and 3 **Grey Lag**, 30 **Barnacle** and 18 **Pink-footed Geese**. A small fall of 100 **Redwings** late in the day and cool North-easterly winds gave a distinct feel of autumn.



**Yellow-browed Warbler**  
*Photo Rory Tallack*



**A probable '*borealis*' Northern Eider**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*

## 2006 - SEPTEMBER SIGHTINGS

**September 30<sup>th</sup>:** Good numbers of common migrants were recorded with counts of 317 **Skylark**, 11 **Grey Heron**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, 8 **Dunnock**, 19 **Robin**, 13 **Song Thrush**, 9 **Redwing**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Stonechat**, 34 **Blackcap**, 8 **Garden Warbler**, 7 **Chiffchaff**, 6 **Willow Warbler**, 7 **Goldcrest**, 85 **Chaffinch**, 16 **Siskin**, 5 **Lapland Bunting** and singles of **Linnet**, **Reed Warbler**, **Redpoll sp.**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Common Whitethroat**. Also present were a drake **Gadwall** (our first since 2000), 72 **Wigeon**, 7 **Ruff**, 4 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 2 **Collared Dove**, 4 **Wood Pigeon**, 4 **Short-eared Owl**, 13 **Jack Snipe**, 7 **Kestrel** and singles of **Merlin** and **Sparrowhawk**.

Seawatching both from the island and *Good Shepherd IV* produced 2 **Long-tailed Duck**, **Tufted Duck**, 5 **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Great Northern Diver**, 14 **Sooty Shearwater**, a single **Harbour Porpoise** and 15 **White-sided Dolphin** from Bunness, where 3 **Orca** were also reported.

**September 29<sup>th</sup>:** A good day for seawatching produced counts of 3 **Sooty Shearwater**, **Slavonian Grebe**, 2 **Tufted Duck**, 2 **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Iceland Gull**, 50+ **Guillemot**, a single **Osprey** and 5 **Harbour Porpoise**. Passerines included a single **Ortolan Bunting** at the North Light, **Sand Martin**, 8 **Tree Pipit**, 5 **Dunnock**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Stonechat**, **Reed Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 7 **Tree Sparrow**, 53 **Chaffinch**, **Brambling**, 65 **Siskin**, **Redpoll sp.**, **Linnet**, **Common Rosefinch**, 2 **Lapland** and 12 **Snow Bunting**. The **Short-toed Lark** remains at Meoness. Other notable sightings were 50 **Pink-footed Geese**, 106 **Barnacle Geese**, 4 **Merlin**, 6 **Kestrel**, **Turtle Dove**, 8 **Jack Snipe** and 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**.

**September 28<sup>th</sup>:** The **Short-toed Lark** was seen again on Meoness but remained flighty, as was the **Common Rosefinch** seen again at Midway. New in were 2 **Common Redstarts**, 3 **Pied Flycatchers** and 4 **Merlin**. Seawatching from both lighthouses and the *Good Shepherd IV* produced single **Great Northern** and **Red-throated Divers**, 1 juvenile **Arctic Tern**, 4 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 8 **Storm Petrels**, 2 **Puffin** and 2 **Arctic Skuas**. Also around the island were 110 **Barnacle Geese** and a similar number of **Pink-footed geese**, single **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Tufted Duck**, **Little Stint**, 8 **Jack Snipe**, **Long-eared Owl**, 14 **Swallows**, 4 **Tree Pipits**, 2 **Grey Wagtails**, 8 **Dunnock**, 4 **Whinchats**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 4 **Goldcrests**, **Brambling** and 1 **Lapland** and 10 **Snow Buntings**.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>:** The day's highlights were a **Short-toed Lark** on Meoness and **Honey Buzzard** in the south. High counts of non-passerines included 7 **Kestrel**, 190 **Pink-footed Geese**, 160 **Barnacle Geese** and 85 **Golden Plover**. The **Grey Plover**, **Little Stint**, 6 **Ruff**, 12 **Jack Snipe**, 3 **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Red-throated Diver**, 8 **Cormorant**, **Turtle Dove**, 2 **Sparrowhawk** and 2 **Merlin** were also present. Census also produced a single **Grey Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, **Common Redstart**, 8 **Song Thrush**, 5 **Redwing**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 11 **Blackcap**, 5 **Goldcrest**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 74 **Chaffinch**, 26 **Siskin**, 2 **Brambling**, 2 **Common Rosefinch**, **Linnet** and 3 **Lapland Bunting**.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Another day of blanket fog meant that migrant counts were again reasonably low. New arrivals included 55 **Barnacle Geese**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Common Buzzard**, **Redwing**, 3 **Red-throated Diver** and a year tick in the form of a single **Grey Plover**. Non-passerine counts remained much the same with counts of 4 **Kestrel**, 34 **Golden Plover**, **Little Stint**, 5 **Ruff**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Long-eared Owl** and the **Dotterel** is still present. Passerines included **Black Redstart**, 2 **Common Redstart**, 9 **Song Thrush**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 9 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 5 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Goldcrest**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 6 **Tree Sparrow**, 110 **Chaffinch**, 3 **Brambling**, 50 **Siskin**, 2 **Common Rosefinch**, and 3 **Snow Bunting**.



Jack Snipe

*Photos Rory Tallack*



Jack Snipe and Common Snipe

**September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Census was hindered by thick fog throughout the day. One notable new arrival, however, was a **Dotterel** at Tarryfield. Other counts included 4 **Kestrel**, singles of **Merlin**, **Peregrine** and **Sparrowhawk**, 6 **Ruff**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Wryneck**, 3 **Tree Pipit**, 12 **Dunnock**, 4

Robin, Reed Warbler, Common Whitethroat, 4 Lesser Whitethroat, 12 Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, 6 Tree Sparrow, 100 Chaffinch, Brambling, 21 Siskin and 2 **Common Rosefinch**.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**: A fairly quiet day with only 2 new birds of note in the form of a **Red-backed Shrike** and **Moorhen**. There were a few new arrivals though with passerine counts including 4 **Tree Pipit**, a **Yellow Wagtail**, 12 **Dunnock**, 4 **Robin**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Common Redstart**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 4 each of **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Common Whitethroat**, 29 **Blackcap**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher**, 121 **Chaffinch**, 13 **Brambling**, 43 **Siskin**, 3 **Common Rosefinch**, 15 **Snow Bunting** and a single **Lapland Bunting**. Also present were 46 **Barnacle Geese**, **Corncrake**, **Little Stint**, 6 **Ruff**, 6 **Jack Snipe**, singles of **Bar-tailed** and **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Long-eared Owl**, 6 **Kestrel**, **Sparrowhawk**, and a **Merlin**.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**: A beautiful sunny day with mixed migrant counts. New arrivals were a fly-over **Short-toed Lark**, singles of **Short-eared** and **Long-eared Owl**, **Redwing**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and **Barred Warbler**. Notable increases included 34 **Barnacle Geese**, 7 **Ruff**, 2 **Wryneck**, 14 **Whinchat**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 23 **Blackcap**, 9 **Garden Warbler**, 39 **Chaffinch**, 6 **Brambling**, 40 **Siskin**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 11 **Snow Bunting**. Other sightings included the **Pechora Pipit**, **Little Stint**, 6 **Dunnock**, **Black Redstart**, 23 **Song Thrush**, **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat** and 3 **Whitethroat**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Common Rosefinch**.

**Pechora Pipit**  
*Photo Paul Baxter*



**September 22<sup>nd</sup>**: Favourable conditions meant that several new migrants were present today. Bird of the day was an **Olive-backed Pipit** found mid-morning in South Raeva. Also new were **Little Bunting**, **Wryneck**, 2 **Siskin**, 8 **Barnacle Geese**, **Shelduck**, **Greenshank**, **Merlin**, **Fieldfare**, **Reed Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, singles of **Reed** and **Lapland Bunting** and 8 **Snow Bunting**, while numbers of scarce migrants increased with 7 **Yellow-browed Warbler** and 4 **Common Rosefinch** noted. Other birds of note included the **Pechora Pipit**, 60 **Golden Plover**, 2 **Little Stint**, 6 **Ruff**, 6 **Jack Snipe**, 8 **Dunnock**, 2 **Robin**, 27 **Song Thrush**, **Sedge Warbler**, 3 each of **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Whitethroat**, 5 **Chiffchaff**, **Barred Warbler**, 21 **Blackcap**, 2 **Goldcrest**, 27 **Chaffinch** and the **Corncrake** was trapped at Barkland.

A good island record was a **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** found at Schoolton.



**Corncrake** *Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Convolvulus Hawkmoth** *Photo Deryk Shaw*

**September 21<sup>st</sup>**: A fairly quiet day as far as new migrants are concerned with **Corncrake** and **Barred Warbler** the only arrivals of note. Remaining birds included **Pechora Pipit**, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Garganey**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Sedge Warbler**. Census also produced counts of 7 **Kestrel**, 5 **Ruff**, 2 **Short-eared Owl**, 4 **Tree Pipit**, 480 **Meadow Pipit**, 9 **Dunnock**, **Black Redstart**, **Redstart**, 11 **Whinchat**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Goldcrest**, 17 **Chaffinch** and 3 **Common Rosefinch**. Hopes were raised by a late afternoon report of an **Aquatic Warbler** in Boini Mire but trapping confirmed the bird to be the one that was caught and ringed there on 16<sup>th</sup> - the first sighting since then!

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**





Photo Deryk Shaw



Photo Paul Baxter

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Late in the afternoon the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was relocated on Vaasetter. New in were **Wood Warbler**, **Snow Bunting**, **Peregrine** and **Goldcrest**. Numbers of a few common migrants increased slightly: 15 **Whinchat**, 22 **Chaffinch**, 128 **Wheatear** and 7 **Blackcap**. Remaining birds included the **Pechora Pipit**, 2 **Little Stint**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Turtle Dove**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, 9 **Dunnock**, **Robin**, **Redstart**, 8 **Song Thrush**, **Sedge Warbler**, 4 **Jack Snipe** and single **Common Rosefinch**.

**September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Census was hindered by strong winds and rain showers so migrant counts were fairly low. One new bird of note was a flighty **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in the south – our 9<sup>th</sup> record and first since 2002. Remaining birds included the **Pechora Pipit**, 2 **Little Stint**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Turtle Dove**, **Wryneck**, 4 **Tree Pipit**, 9 **Dunnock**, **Robin**, **Black Redstart**, **Redstart**, 5 **Whinchat**, 24 **Song Thrush**, **Sedge Warbler**, 10 **Chaffinch** and a single **Common Rosefinch**.

Seawatching produced counts of 8 **Storm Petrel**, 2 **Leach's Petrel**, 2 **Common Tern** and a single **Arctic Tern**.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** A good day's birding with 3 rare pipits present including the **Pechora Pipit**, an **Olive-backed Pipit** in the north and a fly-over **Red-throated Pipit** at the Meadow Burn. Scarce birds included 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Common Rosefinch**, 2 **Barred Warbler** and **Wryneck**. Other notable sightings were 77 **Cormorant**, 2 **Red-Throated Diver**, 25 **Chaffinch**, 2 **Little Stint**, **Garganey**, 44 **Golden Plover**, **Swift**, 4 **Ruff**, 34 **Dunlin**, 7 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Turtle Dove**, **Short-eared Owl**, 9 **Dunnock**, 6 **Redstart**, 31 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 9 **Blackcap**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, **Linnet**, 4 **Lesser Redpoll**.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>:** Of the recent rarities only the **Pechora Pipit** remains. Notable non-passerines were 8 **Grey Heron**, 41 **Golden Plover**, 3 **Little Stint**, 9 **Jack Snipe**, **Common Sandpiper**, 6 **Kestrel**, **Peregrine** and **Turtle Dove**. Other birds included 5 **Redstart**, 8 **Dunnock**, 11 **Whinchat**, 13 **Song Thrush**, 3 **Sedge Warbler**, **Barred Warbler**, 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 10 **Chaffinch**, a single **Common Rosefinch**, 10 **Tree Sparrow**, 3 **Reed Bunting**, and 6 **Lapland Bunting**.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**  
Photo Mark Warren



**September 16<sup>th</sup>:** Both the **Pechora Pipit** and **Yellow-breasted Bunting** were still present in the south. Scarce birds included 3 **Common Rosefinch**, 2 **Wryneck**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and singles of **Barred Warbler** and **Yellow-browed Warbler**. Also present were the **Garganey**, 5 **Little Stint**, 3 **Common Sandpiper**, **Turtle Dove**, 8 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Dunnock**, 3 **Robin**, 11 **Whinchat**, **Redstart**, 6 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Sedge** and 2 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 8 **Chaffinch**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and a single **Reed Bunting**. Bird of the day, however, was undoubtedly a stunning **Aquatic Warbler** found late morning in Boini Mire.



**Aquatic Warbler**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Aquatic Warbler**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Red-breasted Flycatcher**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:** Several days of SE winds finally paid off with an amazing day's birding. The excitement kicked off mid-morning when a **Lanceolated Warbler** was found near Bull's Park. Despite showing well, the bird was wet and was trapped to confirm its identity. Hopes were high in the afternoon and were rewarded soon after lunch with a **Pechora Pipit**, closely followed by a **Yellow-breasted Bunting**. Late afternoon produced a second **Lanceolated Warbler**, this time easily identified in the field. Wader counts were high with 30 **Dunlin**, 100+ **Common Snipe**, 22 **Golden Plover**, 12 **Ruff**, 4 **Little Stint** and a single **Spotted Redshank**. Warblers included 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 12 **Garden Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Common Whitethroat**, 2 **Reed Warbler** and singles of **Sedge** and **Barred Warbler**. Other notable passerines were **Ortolan Bunting**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, 6 **Pied** and 3 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 5 **Chaffinch**, **Brambling**, 4 **Common Rosefinch**, **Fieldfare**, 3 **Song Thrush**, 9 **Whinchat**, 4 each of **Dunnock** and **Robin**, 3 **Redstart**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and a single **Snow Bunting**. Non-passerines of note included 22 **Cormorant**, 11 **Grey Heron**, 2 **Shoveler**, 38 **Teal**, 200 **Common Gull**, **Turtle Dove**, 2 **Sparrowhawk**, **Peregrine**, and 7 **Kestrel**.



**Red-breasted Flycatcher**  
*Photo Paul Baxter*



**Pechora Pipit**  
*Photo Paul Baxter*



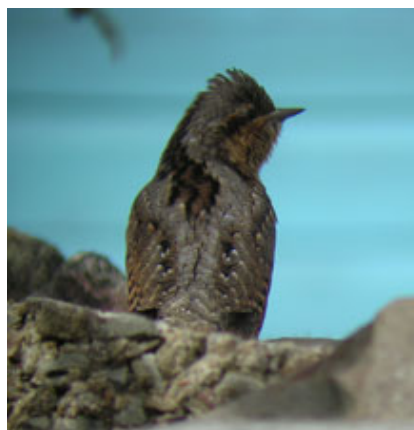
**Lanceolated Warbler**  
*Photo Paul Baxter*

**September 14<sup>th</sup>:** A full day of blanket fog meant that migrant counts were low. There were, however, 2 birds of note in the form a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and **Garganey**, the 1<sup>st</sup> autumn record and only the 17<sup>th</sup> record for the island. Other birds included 2 **Whitethroat**, **Turtle Dove**, **Chaffinch**, 12 **Willow Warbler**, a single **Bar-tailed Godwit** and 2 each of **Barred Warbler**, **Wryneck** and **Common Rosefinch**. Sightings from the *Good Shepherd IV* included 2 **Sooty Shearwater**, 4 **Storm Petrel** and 3 **Risso's Dolphin**.



**Red-breasted Flycatcher**

*Photo Mark Warren*



**Wryneck** *Photo Mark Warren*

**September 13<sup>th</sup>:** Despite promising conditions, a partial clearout was noted. Census produced counts of 2 **Redstart**, a single **Black Redstart**, 6 **Whinchat**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 4 **Barred Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Common Rosefinch** and the **Woodchat Shrike**. There was excitement after lunch when a small and elusive *Locustella* warbler was located in Da Water but after a long chase the bird was finally trapped and identified as a **Common Grasshopper Warbler**.

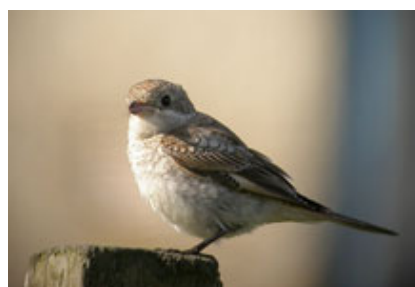
**September 12<sup>th</sup>:** Favourable winds produced an excellent day for scarce species with counts of 7 **Barred Warbler**, 2 **Wryneck**, 8 **Common Rosefinch**, **Icterine Warbler** and an early **Yellow-browed Warbler**. Other new birds included **Sedge Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Swift**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Linnet** and **Song Thrush**. Census also produced counts of 13 **Wigeon**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Robin**, 2 **Redstart**, 6 **Whinchat**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Whitethroat**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Blackcap**, 3 **Garden Warbler**, 42 **Willow Warbler** and the flock of 11 **Tree Sparrow**. 2 **Risso's Dolphin** were seen from the west cliffs and the **Woodchat Shrike** and **Citrine Wagtail** remain in the south.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>:** The 'red flag' was flown for a second time this autumn after a probable **Great Snipe** was reported in Sukka Mire. A mass flush was organised but unfortunately the bird could not be relocated. Other new birds of note included a **Long-eared Owl**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Wood Pigeon** and a flock of 6 **Pink-footed Geese**. Census produced passerine counts of 4 **Whinchat**, 2 **Redstart**, **Turtle Dove**, **Reed** and **Marsh Warbler**, 3 **Barred Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Common Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 34 **Willow Warbler**, **Wryneck**, 2 **Rosefinch** and the first thrush of the autumn in the form of a **Redwing**. The **Peregrine** and 2 **Kestrel** remain in the south and both the **Citrine Wagtail** and **Woodchat Shrike** are still around.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>:** Despite the promising SE winds, there were relatively few new migrants to be found. Wader numbers were up with counts of 9 **Dunlin**, 25 **Golden Plover**, 42 **Redshank** and a single **Ruff**, while yesterday's raptors remained. Other non-passerines of note included 3 **Cormorant**, a single **Turtle Dove** and 2 **Sooty Shearwater**. The **Citrine Wagtail** gave good views outside the Observatory and the **Woodchat Shrike** is still in the south. Other sightings included **Wryneck**, 4 each of **Tree Pipit** and **Whinchat**, **Whitethroat**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Blackcap**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 22 **Willow Warbler**, **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Barred Warbler**, 11 **Tree Sparrow**, 2 **Rosefinch** and 2 **Lapland Bunting**.

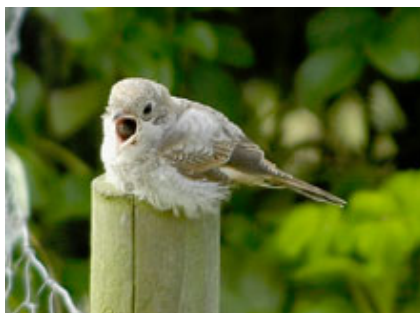


**Woodchat Shrike**  
*photos Deryk Shaw*



**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** A beautiful sunny day produced a fair few new migrants. Passerine counts included 6 **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Wryneck**, **Black Redstart**, 4 **Whinchat**, 2 each of **Whitethroat** and **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Blackcap**, 10 **Garden Warbler**, 3 **Barred Warbler**, 28 **Willow Warbler**, **Marsh Warbler**, 10 **Tree Sparrow**, and a single **Rosefinch** and **Lapland Bunting**. The **Woodchat Shrike** is still showing well around Quoy. Raptors included 2 **Kestrel** and a single **Peregrine** and **Merlin**. Other notable sightings were 6 **Purple Sandpiper** and singles of both **Ruff**, **Cormorant**. Seawatching from the *Good Shepherd IV* produced a **Sooty Shearwater** and 4 **Storm Petrels**.





**Woodchat Shrike**  
photos Paul Baxter



**September 8<sup>th</sup>:** The **Citrine Wagtail** was seen briefly in the morning at Setter. Remaining scarce birds included 2 **Rosefinch**, 1 **Ortolan Bunting**, **Barred Warbler**, **Woodchat Shrike** and **Wryneck**. Morning census also produced a single **Pied Flycatcher**, 4 **Whinchat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 7 **Garden Warbler**, 22 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Redstart**, **Yellow Wagtail**, 5 **Tree Pipit** and the first **Blackcap** of the autumn. Non-passerines included 11 **Golden Plover**, 7 **Dunlin**, **Sanderling**, **Knot**, 6 **Grey Heron**, 2 **Greylag Geese**, and singles of **Peregrine**, **Kestrel** and **Merlin**. A **Sooty Shearwater** was seen from the north of the island.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>:** The day got off to a promising start with one of the day's 3 **Redstart** caught on morning traps along with 3 **Willow Warbler**. Census produced good numbers of scarce passerines including 2 **Ortolan Bunting**, 2 **Wryneck**, 4 **Barred Warbler**, 4 **Common Rosefinch** and 2 **Wood Warbler**, while the **Woodchat Shrike** and **Citrine Wagtail** remained in the south. Other notable passerines included 5 **Tree Pipit**, singles of both **Yellow** and **Grey Wagtails**, 4 **Whinchat**, 5 **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Sedge Warbler**, 13 **Garden Warbler**, **Chiffchaff**, 42 **Willow Warbler**, 4 **Pied Flycatcher** and a single **Lapland Bunting**. **Tree Sparrow** numbers increased to 9. The raptor count was back up with 2 **Merlin**, and singles of both **Kestrel** and **Peregrine**, while wader numbers saw little change with counts of 16 **Ringed Plover**, 5 each of **Knot** and **Sanderling**, 7 **Dunlin** and a single **Common Sandpiper** and **Woodcock**. A **Sooty Shearwater** was seen from the *Good Shepherd IV* along with 16 **Storm Petrels**.



**Common Rosefinch**



**Citrine Wagtail**  
Three photos Paul Baxter



**Ortolan**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>:** After another brief sighting in the morning, the **Citrine Wagtail** was finally tracked down on Da Water after lunch, where it remained long enough to give everyone good views. A **Long-eared Owl** was a nice surprise as it flew out of the Gully on morning trap round. Both the **Woodchat** and **Red-backed Shrikes** remain in the south of the island, as do 3 **Barred Warbler** and 2 **Rosefinch**. Other passerines of note included a single **Lapland Bunting**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher**, 105 **Wheatear**, **Whinchat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, 9 **Willow Warbler** and 3 **Goldcrest**, while the flock of **Tree Sparrows** has been reduced to 7. Raptor numbers were down with only 1 **Kestrel** noted. Other non-passerines included 3 **Grey Heron**, 3 **Knot**, 12 **Golden Plover**, 5 **Sanderling** and singles of both **Lapwing** and **Ruff**. Sea-watches from various points on the island produced a single **Sooty Shearwater**, 2 **Manx Shearwater**, 2 **Common Tern** and small numbers of **Puffin**, **Razorbill** and **Guillemot**, while cetaceans included 3 **Risso's Dolphin** and 6 **Harbour Porpoise**.



**Citrine Wagtail**  
Photos Deryk Shaw



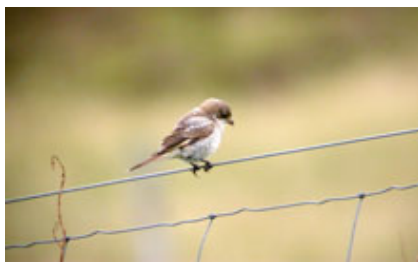
**September 5<sup>th</sup>:** The **Citrine Wagtail** was relocated at Shirva, but proved elusive and quickly disappeared south. The **Woodchat Shrike** is still around as are 3 **Barred Warbler**, **Wryneck**, 2 **Common Rosefinch** and the **Red-backed Shrike**. Passerines seen included a **Sedge Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Goldcrest**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, 12 **Tree Sparrow** and an influx of over 600 **Meadow Pipit**, 165 **Twite** and 105 **Wheatear**. Non-passerines included 3 **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine**, 6 **Sanderling**, 7 **Knot** and the first **Turtle Dove** of the autumn. Seawatching produced 9 **Harbour Porpoise**, 9+ **Risso's Dolphin** and a **Sooty Shearwater**.

**September 4<sup>th</sup>:** The **Citrine Wagtail** was heard calling again over Gilsetter and Dutfield, and we again have to pin hopes on it showing tomorrow. The **Woodchat Shrike** and **Red-backed Shrike** remain down south, as does the flock of 12 **Tree Sparrow** and single **Common Rosefinch** and **Barred Warbler**.

Census also produced 16 **Teal**, 3 **Wigeon**, 7 **Cormorant**, **Merlin**, **Kestrel**, 3 **Knot**, **House Martin**, **Black Redstart**, **Whinchat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** and a **Mealy Redpoll**. Meanwhile a seawatch produced 6 **Sooty Shearwater** and single **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel**.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The **Woodchat Shrike** remains around the south, still frequenting the Schoolton and Quoy area, along with the **Red-backed Shrike**. There is still plenty to see, despite the clear conditions last night. This included a **Wryneck**, 4 **Barred Warbler**, **Common Rosefinch** and a flock of 12 **Tree Sparrows**. Frustratingly, a probable **Citrine Wagtail** flushed away from the Shirva area and was not seen again, and we will have to hope it is still around tomorrow. Elsewhere there were 6 **Greylag Geese**, 12 **Teal**, **Merlin**, 4 **Knot**, 64 **Common Snipe**, 3 **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Short-eared Owl**, 43 **Skylark**, **House Martin**, **Robin**, **Whinchat**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Garden Warbler**, 15 **Willow Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Redpoll** sp. and the first **Goldcrest** of the autumn. 5 **Harbour Porpoise** were also recorded off the north and east side.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>:** It was a case of autumnal *déjà vu* as another juvenile **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** was located at Quoy late morning. Coupled with the **Melodious Warbler** which was trapped this morning, it turned out to be a good start to the month. Other top birds included the **Red-backed Shrike**, 5 **Barred Warbler**, 3 **Common Rosefinch** and a **Tree Sparrow**. Other birds recorded included 4 **Ruff**, the **Common Buzzard** (now Fulmar oiled), 18 **Teal**, 13 **Ringed Plover**, 30 **Common Snipe**, 16 **Redshank**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Collared Dove**, 300 **Meadow Pipit**, **Whinchat**, 50 **Wheatear**, **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, 14 **Willow Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and 2 **Redpoll**, one being a **Lesser Redpoll**. 4 **Risso's Dolphin** were also seen off of Bunness late afternoon, breaching close into the shore.



**Woodchat Shrike**  
Photo Deryk Shaw

## 2006 - AUGUST SIGHTINGS

**August 31<sup>st</sup>:** The **Melodious Warbler** has returned, perhaps from a holiday in the bottom of a *Rosa* bush. There are still several interesting birds around, as well as a few new arrivals. Birds seen included 2 **Red-backed Shrike**, 2 **Barred Warbler**, **Wryneck** and 2 **Common Rosefinch**; while there were also 6 **Grey Heron**, **Peregrine**, **Kestrel**, 13 **Golden Plover**, 7 **Dunlin**, 20 **Redshank**, 136 **Meadow Pipit**, 2 **Robin**, **Black Redstart**, **Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Whitethroat**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, 20 **Willow Warbler** and a **Spotted Flycatcher**. A sea-watch also produced good views of at least 6 **Risso's Dolphin** and 15 **White-beaked Dolphin** off the North Light.



**Melodious Warbler**

*Photo Paul Baxter*

**August 30<sup>th</sup>:** Highlight of the day was yet another **Basking Shark**, seen off North Light with at least 5 **Harbour Porpoise**. 5 **Sooty** and a **Manx Shearwater** were also recorded. Scarce birds seen included 5 **Common Rosefinch** and 3 **Barred Warbler** while census also produced 20 **Teal**, 4 **Wigeon**, , **Merlin**, **Peregrine**, **Common Sandpiper**, 34 **Turnstone**, **Collared Dove**, 2 **Whinchat**, 5 **Garden Warbler** and a **Spotted Flycatcher**.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>:** A strong westerly wind has set in on the Island, and coupled with the fact that it was a quiet census today, we expect it to be a quiet few days. There are still several exciting migrants around, but there was no sign of last week's star birds. Still present is the flock of 5 **Common Rosefinch**, 3 **Barred Warbler**, a **Wryneck** and the **Red-backed Shrike**. Other migrants included 10 **Teal**, 3 **Wigeon**, 9 **Ringed Plover**, 3 **Purple Sandpiper**, 19 **Redshank**, **Green Sandpiper**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Whinchat** and single **Reed Warbler**, **Garden Warbler** and only 6 **Willow Warbler**. Seawatches resulted in 4 **Sooty Shearwater** off the south and east coast.



**Barred Warbler**

*Photos*

*Paul Baxter*



**August 28<sup>th</sup>:** Despite being a day of few arrivals, there was still plenty to see around the Island. The highlight was the **Melodious Warbler**, still present in the rigs around Setter. There was no sign of the **Greenish Warbler**, but there were still 5 **Barred Warbler**, 5 **Common Rosefinch**, a **Marsh Warbler** and a **Red-backed Shrike** providing entertainment. There was a mini raptor-fest with **Common Buzzard**, **Merlin**, **Kestrel** and **Peregrine**, while there was also a **Collared Dove**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Robin**, **Redstart**, **Whinchat**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Reed Warbler** and **Whitethroat**.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>:** Optimism was rewarded with a **MELODIOUS WARBLER** at Setter mid-afternoon. Although a common bird on Portland, it is a rare bird up here and is the 15<sup>th</sup> Island record and first since August 2002. The **Greenish Warbler** is also still around, showing wonderfully (and calling!) around the new plantation at Stackhoull. The supporting cast was also impressive with a **Wryneck**, 2 **Marsh Warbler**, 5 **Barred Warbler**, 4 **Wood Warbler**, 2 **Red-backed Shrike** and 6 **Common Rosefinch**. Other birds seen today included 8 **Teal**, 2 **Peregrine**, **Kestrel**, 9 **Golden Plover**, **Ruff**, **Greenshank**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, **Robin**, **Redstart**, **Reed Warbler**, 12 **Garden Warbler** and 2 **Pied Flycatcher**.





**Greenish Warbler**



**Melodious Warbler**



**Melodious Warbler**



**Wood Warbler**

**August 26<sup>th</sup>:** The **Greenish Warbler** was rediscovered again early morning and continued to show around Lower Stoneybreck all day. Scarce birds are still all over the island with 5 **Wryneck**, 6 **Barred Warbler**, 5 **Common Rosefinch**, 2 **Wood Warbler**, **Marsh Warbler** and a **Red-backed Shrike**, while there was a **Leach's Petrel** trapped amongst 58 **Storm Petrel** last night. Other sightings included 12 **Garden Warbler**, 30 **Willow Warbler**, a **Green Sandpiper**, 3 **Common Tern**, 2 **Kestrel**, **Peregrine**, **Sand Martin**, **Tree Pipit**, **Redstart**, 2 **Whinchat**, 122 **Wheatear**, **Reed Warbler** and 3 **Pied Flycatcher**. A strong easterly wind closed the day bringing hope for an even better (!) day tomorrow.

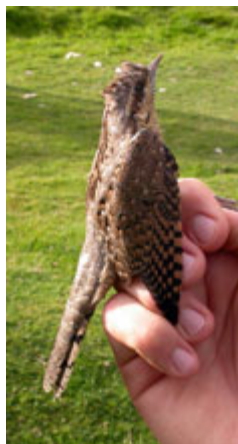


**Barred Warbler**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**August 25<sup>th</sup>:** A brilliant day from start to finish. The omens were good from morning traps, when the only birds caught were a **Wryneck** and a **Common Rosefinch**. By the end of the day, 4 more **Wryneck** had been seen, while 3 more **Rosefinches** were trapped! The day also ended very well, with the autumn's second **GREENISH WARBLER** found at Lower Stoneybreck. Morning census also turned up some corking birds, with a year tick in the form of a **Corncrake**, 3 **Wood Warbler**, 6 **Barred Warbler**, **Marsh Warbler** and a **Red-backed Shrike**. Other birds of note included the **Peregrine**, **Kestrel**, 4 **Knot**, 23 **Curlew**, 2 **Greenshank**, **Green Sandpiper** and 3 **Cormorant**. Passerines included 46 **Willow Warbler**, 21 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and single **Redstart** and **Reed Warbler**. Despite the amazing variety of scarce migrants, the highlight for some people was the cetaceans seen late afternoon and into the evening. The Island's seventh **BASKING SHARK** (4<sup>th</sup> of the year) was seen down the east side, shortly before a pod of 15+ **Risso's Dolphins** was seen close inshore, with several tiny calves visible. At least 10 more **Risso's** were seen on an evening cetacean watch, with over 25 **Harbour Porpoise**. The conditions were so good that 4 **Storm Petrels** were also seen at very long range. And finally...a **Sooty Shearwater** approached a local fishing boat earlier in the day, taking scraps from the surprised Islander!

**August 24<sup>th</sup>:** Several scarce birds are still present, as there was little migrant movement both in and out. Census produced 3 **Wryneck**, 2 **Common Rosefinch** and a **Wood Warbler** amongst 48 **Willow Warbler**, 23 **Garden Warbler**, 12 **White Wagtail**, 3 **Whinchat**, 3 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Tree Pipit** and single **Black Redstart**, **Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Chiffchaff**. Other migrants included 3 **Grey Heron**, 2 **Swift** and single **Common Sandpiper**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Greenshank** and **Peregrine**. Before the wind picked up, the calm seas enabled over 20 **Harbour Porpoise** to be seen, along with a **Minke Whale** and a single Dolphin sp.



Wryneck Photos Deryk Shaw



**August 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Another good day's birding, with several typical early autumn scarcities. This included 2 **Wryneck**, 3 **Common Rosefinch**, 4 **Wood Warbler** and a **Barred Warbler**. Non-passerines of note included a **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel**, **Peregrine**, 5 **Knot**, 3 **Sanderling**, 10 **Dunlin**, **Ruff**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Sandpiper** and 2 **Swift**. While there was also a **Black Redstart**, **Redstart**, 3 **Whinchat**, **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 16 **Garden Warbler**, **Chiffchaff**, 50 **Willow Warbler**, 6 **Pied Flycatcher** and a flyover **Redpoll** sp.

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Highlights of the day were the **Wryneck** and **Common Rosefinch** caught on different trap rounds throughout the day. Another **Rosefinch** was also seen on census. Elsewhere, commoner passerines were reduced again, with 40 **Willow Warbler** and 15 **Garden Warbler**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Whinchat**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Wood Warbler** and single **Tree Pipit**, **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Redstart**. Non-passerines included 23 **Teal**, 15 **Lapwing**, 5 **Sanderling**, 5 **Dunlin** and single **Greenshank**, **Swift**, **Peregrine** and **Ruff**.



Common Rosefinch Photo Josep Rost

**August 21<sup>st</sup>:** The northerly wind and breaks in the cloud heralded a partial clear out of the previous week's migrants. However, there was still plenty to be seen, with several scarce migrants at various points around the Isle. This included 2 **Barred Warbler**, **Wryneck**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Wood Warbler** and the female **Red-backed Shrike**. Commoner passerines were thinned out, but there were still over 100 **Willow Warbler** and 30 **Garden Warbler** as well as 12 **White Wagtail**, 4 **Whinchat**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Linnet**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and single **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Tree Pipit** and **Redstart**. Non-passerines of note included 88 **Oystercatcher**, 5 **Grey Heron**, 5 **Teal**, 2 **Sanderling**, 3 **Swift** and single **Common Sandpiper**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Greenshank**, **Common Tern** and **Peregrine**.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>:** Foggy weather grounded migrants for the day, meaning there were few departures and few arrivals. The **Woodchat Shrike** remains elusive around Pund, as do 2 **Wryneck**, 3 **Barred Warbler**, 2 **Red-backed Shrike** and 7 **Wood Warbler**. A scattering of commoner migrants included 2 **Tree Pipit**, 10 **White Wagtail**, 2 **Redstart**, 9 **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher** and 2 **Linnet** mixed in with 60 **Garden Warbler** and 120 **Willow Warblers**. Other birds of note included a **Kestrel**, an island record flock of 19 **Black-tailed Godwit**, 10 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Greenshank** and 2 **Green Sandpiper**.

Photos  
James Bradley



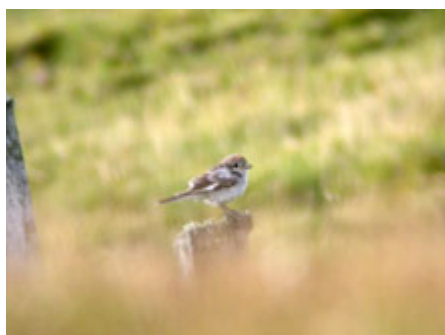
Wryneck



Barred Warbler

**August 19<sup>th</sup>:** Yesterday's birds remain, (except the **Greenish Warbler**) and were added to by another wave of migrants. The **Woodchat Shrike** was only seen once, flushed out of the Pond nettles. Before the weather closed in there were several more scarce birds found, including a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** in South Naversgill, 2 **Wryneck**, 5 **Barred Warbler**, **Red-backed Shrike** and 7 **Wood Warbler**. Commoner migrants were also greatly increased, with 160 **Willow Warbler**, 75 **Garden Warbler**, 5 **Pied Flycatcher**, 4 **Whinchat** and singles of **Whitethroat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Redstart** and **Tree Pipit**. Non-passerines of note included the **Peregrine** and **Short-eared Owl**, while waders included 17 **Lapwing**, 3 **Knot**, 7 **Dunlin**, 2 **Green Sandpiper** and **Common Sandpiper**. The South Raeva **Robin** is still present and alarm calling, while the loitering **Rook** is still around the Obs!

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** Morning census was deathly quiet, but just after lunch it was clear that a fall of migrants was on – classic Fair Isle! A full census was only resumed after a **GREENISH WARBLER** was found at Field. It is the first record since 2002. Shortly after, a **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** was located at Gorson's Geo and promptly moved up to the base of Hoini. It is the first since 1992 and constitutes the 27<sup>th</sup> island record. Census continued into the evening and turned up 4 **Barred Warbler**, **Wood Warbler**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler** and a **Grasshopper Warbler** amongst over 100 **Willow Warbler** and 25 **Garden Warbler**. Other new birds included a **Green Sandpiper**, 2 **Whinchat** and an increase in **Northern Wheatear** to over 200. Lingered birds included 4 **Grey Heron**, 8 **Purple Sandpiper**, **Black Redstart**, **Greenshank**, **Short-eared Owl** and at least one **Peregrine**.



Woodchat Shrike Photo Deryk Shaw



Woodchat Shrike Photo Paul Baxter



Greenish warbler Photo Paul Baxter

**August 17<sup>th</sup>:** There were several competitors for the day's best bird, with a **Barred Warbler** still present, a **Cuckoo**, 3 **Wood Warbler** and the year's first **Sooty Shearwater** from the *Good Shepherd IV*. Other migrants of note included 9 **Greylag Geese**, 4 **Grey Heron**, 31 **Golden Plover**, 12 **Redshank**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, 15 **Willow Warbler** and a large influx of over 200 **Twite**. Last night over 140 **Storm Petrels** were trapped at South Light.





**Barred-Warbler at Pund**

*Photos Paul Baxter*



**Wood Warbler**

LATE REPORT FROM YESTERDAY: **BASKING SHARK** seen by a local fisherman around South Light.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Today's star birds were 2 **Barred Warbler** seen at Pund and Utra, while other interesting migrants consisted of the lingering **Peregrine**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Woodcock** and **Grey Heron**. New in were 2 **Greenshank** and 5 **Purple Sandpiper**, while passerines included 99 **Northern Wheatear**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 13 **Willow Warbler** and 49 **Twite**.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>:** New in today were a **Grasshopper Warbler** and a **Short-eared Owl**, while there were autumnal high counts of 9 **Curlew** and 44 **Snipe**. Elsewhere there were the lingering **Teal**, **Grey Heron**, **Greenshank**, **Peregrine**, 10 **Lapwing**, 3 **Knot**, **Sanderling**, 10 **Dunlin** and the **Woodcock**. The only passerines of note were a few warblers, reduced from last week to 17 **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Garden Warbler**. Last night 41 **Storm Petrels** were caught at 2 different sites, 6 were also seen from the *Good Shepherd IV* along with 3 **Harbour Porpoise**.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>:** The day's best bird turned up late – a **Wood Warbler** caught on evening trap round. It certainly gives hope for the next few days as there was also a slight increase in the number of commoner warblers, with 25 **Willow** and 6 **Garden**. The **Barred** and **Sedge Warbler** are also still present. Also recorded were a **Teal**, **Grey Heron**, **Sanderling**, 19 **Ringed Plover**, 3 **Knot** and a **Harbour Porpoise** off the South end. A **Robin** was also seen loafing down in South Raeva, 2½ months after it was first seen there!

**August 13<sup>th</sup>:** A far busier day today, with a good mixture of species. Highlight was the **Barred Warbler**, still skulking in the Busta crop. There were a few other warblers, with singles of **Sedge** and **Reed** and autumnal high counts of **Garden** (4) and **Willow Warbler** (21). Other migrants were typical of the time of year and included single **Grey Heron**, **Greenshank**, **Sanderling**, **Whimbrel** and **Purple Sandpiper**, with additional counts of 18 **Ringed Plover**, 2 **Teal** and 2 **Peregrine Falcon**.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** The first **Common Rosefinch** of the autumn was the day's best bird, with only a few new arrivals in. Waders were up though, with 15 **Golden Plover**, 17 **Redshank**, 38 **Turnstone** and a **Greenshank**. Census also went on to produce 20 **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Garden Warbler** and 64 **Twite**. The long-staying **Rook** is also still here. Perhaps we should give it a name, as our last "pet" bird, Edwina the duck, was found dead recently. She will be missed!

**August 11<sup>th</sup>:** Autumn is finally here! Although there weren't huge numbers of migrants, there was a fair scattering of commoner birds, and a few classic August scarcities. It is hard to pick a bird of the day from the single **Marsh Warbler**, **Icterine Warbler** and year's first **Barred Warbler** present! Elsewhere there were single **Sedge Warbler**, **Garden Warbler** and **Black Redstart**, accompanied all over the isle by more than 20 **Willow Warbler**. A large increase in the number of **Wheatear** (200+) and the first 2 **Whinchat** of the autumn also made census far more interesting. Non-passerine migrants

included 3 **Teal**, 2 **Greylag Geese**, 6 **Grey Heron**, a **Whimbrel**, 32 **Turnstone**, 11 **Redshank** and the lingering **Woodcock** and **Peregrine**.



**Marsh warbler** Photo Deryk Shaw

**August 10<sup>th</sup>**: A year tick in the form of a **Ruff** was the days highlight, on another wet and windy day. Other migrants included a **Teal**, **Whimbrel**, 102 **Oystercatcher**, 43 **Common Gull**, 51 **Twite** and 2 **Willow Warbler**. Elsewhere the **Short-eared Owl** was seen again, while the early **Woodcock** was caught on morning traps.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**: The unseasonal grim weather meant census was severely restricted. The only birds of note were a **Short-eared Owl** at Pund, 72 **Oystercatcher**, 22 **Golden Plover** and 11 **Lapwing**.

**August 8<sup>th</sup>**: The highlight of the day was a very early **Woodcock**, flushed out of the Vaadal on morning census. Elsewhere there were a few migrants in, though the horrendous afternoon and evening weather ended hopes of a late census following a strong south-easterly. Waders included 42 **Golden Plover**, 24 **Turnstone** and 3 **Grey Heron**. The only other birds of note were 4 **Willow Warbler** and 5 **Swallow**. An hour's cetacean watch in the morning produced 6+ **Harbour Porpoise** off the east side of Bunness.

**August 7<sup>th</sup>**: A quiet day with only a few new birds in. There were high counts for the week of 140 **Oystercatcher**, 22 **Redshank** and 3 **Knot**. A **Whimbrel** and a **Collared Dove** were new, while the **Garden Warbler** remains from last week.

**August 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**: A single **Leach's Petrel** (5<sup>th</sup>) caught during a productive Storm Petrel session was the most notable record. The **Peregrine** remains as does the **Green Sandpiper** and **Garden Warbler**, while **Willow Warbler** numbers increased to a peak of 6 (6<sup>th</sup>). Waders included a **Common Sandpiper** (6<sup>th</sup>) as well as peaks of 1-5 each of **Golden Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Whimbrel**, **Redshank**, **Turnstone**, **Grey Heron**. Other sightings included a **Common Tern** seen at the South Harbour (4<sup>th</sup>) while the **Robin** remains in South Raeva and the **Rook** remains outside the Observatory! A cetacean watch from Bunness (4<sup>th</sup>) produced 2 **Harbour Porpoise**.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>**: Autumn has still to get underway with a handful of waders (5 each of **Knot** & **Sanderling**, a **Green Sandpiper** and a **Whimbrel**) plus **Wood Pigeon** a couple of **Willow Warblers** and a **Garden Warbler** the only migrants of any note.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>**: A quiet few days, with 2 fly-by **Velvet Scoter** being the undoubted highlight. Unfortunately they were only seen by Roy Dennis! With this addition to the year-list, we stand at 174 species, with 3 full months of the season to go. Only 42 more species to beat the record!

## 2006 - JUNE & JULY

Due to seabird commitments the web updates were weekly for this month.

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>:** The only scarce birds present this week were trapped; the first was a **Quail**, courtesy of a crofter's cat! Fortunately it was saved and released into a safer meadow. The second was the year's first **Leach's Petrel** caught with 45 **Storm Petrels** – a total from 3 separate nights of trapping. As is usual for the time of year waders predominated, with good counts of common migrants. They included 3 **Grey Heron**, 18 **Lapwing**, 31 **Sanderling** and a **Greenshank** (all 29<sup>th</sup>). Elsewhere there were a handful of **Knot**, a **Green Sandpiper**, a **Purple Sandpiper**, a **Whimbrel** and 21 **Dunlin** (25<sup>th</sup>). Other highlights of the week included a **Teal** and **Tufted Duck** (25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>), a **Peregrine** (29<sup>th</sup>) and 28 **Common Gull**. The only passerines of note were a **Willow Warbler** and a **Garden Warbler** (25<sup>th</sup>).

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Highlight of the period was undoubtedly the 2 **Basking Shark** seen off of north Bunes on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Despite an increase in sightings in Shetland, these were only the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> records for Fair Isle, with 2 of those previous records in the last 2 years. A **Porpoise** was also seen close inshore on the same guided walk! On the bird front, there was an expected increase in waders, with numbers peaking at 78 **Turnstone** (23<sup>rd</sup>), 30 **Redshank** (23<sup>rd</sup>), 2 **Knot** (23<sup>rd</sup>), 4 **Sanderling** (22<sup>nd</sup>), 15 **Dunlin** (23<sup>rd</sup>), 2 **Bar-tailed Godwit** (20<sup>th</sup>), 2 **Whimbrel** (20<sup>th</sup>) and a **Purple Sandpiper** (20<sup>th</sup>). Other birds of note included a **Tufted Duck** (22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>), 4 **Crossbill** (19<sup>th</sup>), a **Kestrel** (18<sup>th</sup>), **Chaffinch** and **Willow Warbler** (15<sup>th</sup>), a **Song Thrush** (22<sup>nd</sup>) and a **White Wagtail** (20<sup>th</sup>). Meanwhile the lonely **Rook** remains in a bedraggled state outside the Obs! On the seabird front we are delighted to announce the first fledged **Arctic Terns** in over 4 years. At the last count there were nearly 100 fledged, with plenty nearby there! Skua numbers are also up, and we have already broken a record for **Great Skua** pulli ringing!

**July 4<sup>th</sup> – July 13<sup>th</sup>:** There were no scarce birds recorded in this traditionally quiet period, but typical early autumn migrants have started to appear. These included **Redshank** increasing to 60+ (11<sup>th</sup>), **Turnstone** up to 13 (11<sup>th</sup>) and singles of summer plumaged **Knot** and **Purple Sandpiper**. Meanwhile there were single **Golden Plover** (9<sup>th</sup>) & (12<sup>th</sup>), **Whimbrel** (11<sup>th</sup>) and **Teal** (9<sup>th</sup>). **Black-headed Gulls** also peaked at 26 (12<sup>th</sup>). The only other birds of note were 2 **Swift** (10<sup>th</sup>), 2 **Common Crossbill** (9<sup>th</sup>) and a male **Chaffinch** (12<sup>th</sup>).

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Despite it being early July, it was an excellent day that deserved a full write-up! An adult **Glaucous Gull** was a good mid-summer record, flying around the south. Whilst watching the gull the **Common Rosefinch** burst into song at Burkle, although it was never actually seen! Elsewhere there was a **Teal**, **Sandwich Tern**, **Red-throated Diver**, **Black-headed Gull**, a male **White Wagtail** and the **Rook**. Waders are now picking up in number, with 4 **Dunlin**, a **Whimbrel**, 7 **Redshank** and 11 **Curlew**. Meanwhile a **Robin** was seen sitting outside the old nest hole, so we assume the other **Robin** is inside incubating (again!). Reports of Orca's heading south from Shetland had us racing to the north cliffs, although we had to make do with 2+ **White-sided Dolphins** and 8+ **Porpoise** as the large Killer Whale pod didn't arrive!

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** As expected it was a quiet week, although there were a few birds trickling through. As "stormie" season begins, a few attempts were made to catch them, but only a few **Storm Petrels** were actually seen, although some at a nesting colony in the Kìrn o'Scroo were excellent sightings. Daytime sightings comprised a **Kestrel** (30<sup>th</sup>), **Bar-tailed Godwit** (29-30<sup>th</sup>), 8 **Curlew** (27<sup>th</sup>), a **Black-headed Gull**, 8 **Swift** (28<sup>th</sup>), a **Short-eared Owl** (1<sup>st</sup> July), **Black Redstart** (27<sup>th</sup>), **Spotted Flycatcher** (30<sup>th</sup>), **Tree Sparrow** (1-2<sup>nd</sup> July) and a **Common Rosefinch** (2<sup>nd</sup>).

**June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Highlights of the day were the 5+ **Minke Whale** seen from 3 different vantage points around the Isle. On the ornithological front there was a **Dunlin**, 4 **Redshank**, a **Black-headed Gull**, 4 **Collared Dove**, a **House Martin** and the **Dunnock**, with a few corvids making up the rest of the sightings, with 2 **Hooded Crow**, 2 **Carrion Crow** and the long-staying **Rook**.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>:** The **Brent Goose** remains, while there were more geese in the form of 6 **Greylag** flying over. The only other birds of note were 30 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 4 **Swallow**.



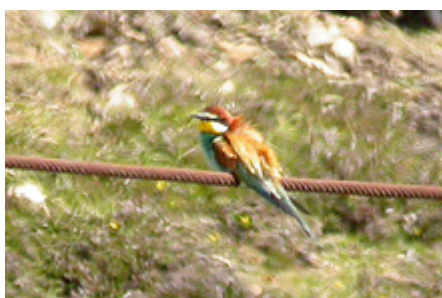
**June 24<sup>th</sup>:** As summer begins, the bird census continues to get quieter and quieter, although there are still some surprises turning up! A single dark bellied **Brent Goose** on Meoness was a welcome year tick, if quite unexpected! Elsewhere there were 2 calling **Quail** around the south, a single **Song Thrush**, a **Rook** and 4 **Collared Dove**.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** A much quieter day today, following a calm and clear night. However, there were still a few of the long staying birds around, with the **Red-backed Shrike** around Barkland, a **Quail** calling below Schoolton and 2 **Sandwich Tern** and a **Common Tern** down in South Harbour. Common migrants included a **Redshank**, 5 **Turnstone**, a **Chiffchaff** and a **Chaffinch**. Cetacean watching produced a single **Minke Whale** off the east side.

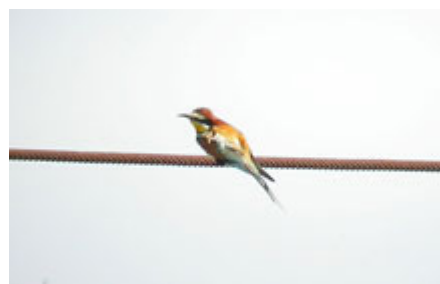
**June 22<sup>nd</sup>:** A cracking day's birding in glorious conditions! The day had started well with a **Marsh Warbler** singing at Barkland, and it was the centre of the island that was to have the rest of the day's best birds too! Highlight was undoubtedly the **European Bee-eater** first seen near Pund, and later found just up the road from the Observatory on the wires at Dutfield. It is the first island record in **24 years**. Also seen was the **Red-backed Shrike**, a **Quail** and another year tick in the form of a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Common migrants included a **Carrion Crow**, **House Martin**, **Siskin** and **Chaffinch**.



**Marsh warbler**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**European Bee-eater** *Photo Deryk Shaw*



**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** There were only 2 new arrivals noted on the island today, a **Woodpigeon** and a **Common Rosefinch**! The **Rosefinch** was another brown bird, making it (at least) the 4<sup>th</sup> of the spring so far. Elsewhere, the **Red-backed Shrike** remains around the centre of the island, the **Iceland Gull** continues to roost in the large gull flock at the base of Meoness, while the **Long-eared Owl** again provided morning entertainment for the visitors enjoying their pre-breakfast cuppa in the lounge. Other birds of note included a **Swift**, a **Chaffinch** and a **Mealy Redpoll**. A **Robin** was also seen carrying food in South Raeva, we assume they are perhaps trying again after an unsuccessful first attempt.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>:** A very quiet and sunny day became quiet animated when a possible **Bee-eater** was reported flying past the Observatory. Unfortunately the fleeting glimpses through the window, and lack of any subsequent sightings means it will probably go down as "one that got away". Elsewhere, there were a few scarce birds doing their best to avoid detection, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> summer **Iceland Gull** hidden amongst the large gull flock above the Walli Burn, which contained at least 95 **Lesser Black-backed** and 1 **Black-headed**. A **Sandwich Tern** was also seen on morning trap rounds, lingering near the Double Dyke tirrick colony. Other migrant birds included 2 **Dunlin**, 2 **Swallow**, 1 **Swift**, 1 **Dunnock** and 1 **Rook**. In other news, it also seems that the South Raeva **Robin's** have failed in their breeding attempt, as neither they, nor any offspring have been seen for 4 days.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>:** The male **Red-backed Shrike** still remains, favouring the fences around Barkland. Whilst watching the Shrike, a **Quail** was heard from the direction of Pund. Meanwhile, the 26 (not 27) **Canada Geese** remain, although it seems that they have lost one from their skein en route from Sumburgh, and it

has been replaced with a **Greylag**! Other sightings included the **Long-eared Owl** in the garden, 3 **Redshank**, 1 **Golden Plover**, 4 **Dunlin**, 8 **Collared Dove**, a **Sedge Warbler**, the **Mealy Redpoll** and the **Bullfinch**. This week has also seen the first hatched chicks of **Eider**, **Great Skua** and **Arctic Skua**.



**Bullfinch**  
Photo Mark Warren

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**: A day where very little was seen until after Bird Log, when a record flock of 27 **Canada Geese** flew past the Observatory window! These are presumably the same birds seen at Sumburgh in the last few days. Elsewhere, the **Hobby** was seen again near the School, the **Long-eared Owl** was in the Obs garden and the male **Bullfinch** was seen in the Plantation. The supporting cast for the day included 7 **Collared Dove**, 4 **Swallow**, 2 **House Martin**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, a **Willow Warbler** and a **Chaffinch**. In a brief cetacean watch, one **Minke Whale** was seen far off to the east.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**: Another foggy day meant census was severely restricted, although it was still clear enough to pick out the male **Red-backed Shrike**, the **Marsh Warbler** and the **Short-toed Lark**. Also noted were 2 **Swift**, 8 **Swallow**, the **Long-eared Owl**, a **Black Redstart**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, a **Reed Bunting**, 11 migrant **Curlew**, 2 **Redshank** and 6 **Turnstone**, while non-resident gulls totalled 10 **Black-headed** and 149 **Lesser Black-backed**. Another interesting record was of a singing (screeching!) **Water Rail** in the Boini Mire just after midnight.



The 'bright' Chiffchaff  
Photo Deryk Shaw

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**: An interesting, if frustrating day's birding. An unusual **Chiffchaff** that was first trapped on the 15<sup>th</sup> was re-trapped and had full biometrics taken, leading us to believe it is possibly a **Willow**

**Warbler/Chiffchaff** hybrid. The bird's wing formula points to **Common Chiffchaff** but it has many features of a **Willow Warbler**. Possibility that it could be **Iberian Chiffchaff** is unlikely, but being investigated. Another interesting bird was a probable **River Warbler** heard singing (and taped) from the Rosa bushes at Schoolton. Hours of waiting were not rewarded though, and we have to pin our hopes on tomorrow. Other sightings of the day included a **Marsh Warbler**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Black Redstart**, 4 **Blackcap**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Kestrel**, 2 **Rook**, **Siskin**, **Bullfinch** and a flyover **Redpoll sp.**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** There was plenty to hold the attention today, although the sightings were largely made up of yesterday's birds. Still present are a **Common Rosefinch**, **Marsh Warbler**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Bullfinch**, **Siskin**, **Dunnock**, 4 **Whimbrel** and 6 **Greylag Geese**. New in were 2 **Sandwich Tern**, 2 **Red-throated Diver** and 3 **Spotted Flycatcher**, while 2 **Minke Whale** were seen from land.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** A cracking days birding, with plenty to hold the attention of a full Obs. Highlights were numerous, with 2 **Marsh Warbler**, the male **Red-backed Shrike**, the singing **Common Rosefinch** in the Obs Garden, a male **Bullfinch** and a **Robin** still loitering with intent near the nest site. There was also a fair scattering of commoner migrants, with 12 **Greylag Geese**, 5 **Whimbrel**, 41 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 6 **Collared Dove**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Long-eared Owl**, 5 **Swift**, 2 **White Wagtail**, **Black Redstart**, **Redwing**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcap**, **Siskin** and a single **Storm Petrel**, seen from the *Good Shepherd IV*.

**June 12<sup>th</sup>:** Strong south-easterlies continue and this time the optimism turned into birds, with another **Common Rosefinch** singing in the garden, which was joined after breakfast by an **Icterine Warbler**. Census went onto produce another **Common Rosefinch**, the season's 4<sup>th</sup> **Short-toed Lark** and a roosting **Long-eared Owl** in Busta Geo. Common migrants included a **Kestrel**, **Whimbrel**, **Redshank**, **Song Thrush**, **Swift** and 30 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

**Icterine Warbler**  
Photo Deryk Shaw



**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** With a south-easterly wind and low cloud, there was a fair degree of optimism around the Observatory regarding the day ahead. However, these optimistic thoughts did not turn into reality, as we recorded one of the quietest days of the season so far. The only new bird of a note was a welcome, if expected, addition to the year-list in the form of a **Marsh Warbler** at Bulls Park late afternoon. Meanwhile, the male **Red-backed Shrike** remains at nearby Barkland, and there was **Short-eared Owl**, **Kestrel** and **Dunnock** recorded elsewhere.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>:** As expected, the fog remains. Census is proving quite difficult, but still rewarding, with the beautiful male **Red-backed Shrike** showing very well at various points around the Isle. Still present is the **Sandwich Tern** down south, the female (probably "*thunbergi*") **Yellow Wagtail**, 3 **Whimbrel**, 3 **Purple Sandpiper**, 11 **Dunlin**, 2 **Rook**, a **Sedge Warbler** and a **Dunnock**. New in were a **Cormorant**, 2 **Chaffinch**, 5 **Common Tern** and 26 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>:** Another day of fog that only lifted for a period in the evening, before descending again. The male **Red-backed Shrike** remains, as does the **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Sedge Warbler**, 5 **Whimbrel** and a single **Minke Whale** off the south. New in was a pair of **Teal**, a female **Kestrel**, 2 **Woodpigeon**, a **Short-eared Owl**, a **White Wagtail** and 3 **Willow Warbler**.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>:** The warm weather southern Britain has enjoyed for the last week has resulted in the inevitable low cloud and thick fog for Fair Isle, though it did clear towards the end of the day. Despite this, a few new birds had turned up, with a pair of **Red-backed Shrikes** (including yesterday's male), a **Sandwich Tern** and a female **Yellow Wagtail** being the highlights. Other migrants included 11 **Dunlin**, 5 **Whimbrel**, 13 **Turnstone**, a **Redshank**, 6 **Collared Dove** and 2 **Blackcap**, while the 2 **Rook** still linger around the Obs. A **Minke Whale** and **Porpoise** were also seen from land.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Boredom is setting in as yet another day of sunshine, cetaceans and scarce birds



draws to a close! Sea conditions were perfect, and binoculars were hardly needed to pick out 13 **Minke Whale**, 6 **Porpoise** and 3 **Dolphin** sp from various points around the Isle. On the bird front, common migrants were very thin on the ground, but consolation was provided by the **Common Rosefinch** in the garden, and an "eastern type" male **Red-backed Shrike**, complete with white primary patch. Also of note were 2 fly-over **Red-throated Diver**, a fly-over **Yellow Wagtail** and the welcome site of the **Robins** still carrying food to their nest.



**Red-backed Shrike**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** The day started well with a 1<sup>st</sup> summer male **Common Rosefinch** singing in the Obs garden before trap round had even begun! However, despite the promising wind direction and the fine weather, it was a quiet morning's census with 3 **Spotted Flycatcher**, a **Long-eared Owl** and a **Sanderling** being the highlights. With the afternoons work centred on seabirds, it was left to another FIBO Director, Chris Cox, to find a female **Subalpine Warbler** near Hesti Geo mid-afternoon. At this rate we could lay-off the current ornithological staff and bring in the old guard of directors to do the job! The ensuing surge in coverage well into the evening did not yield any more results though, aside from a couple of **Sedge Warbler** and an unusually large flock of 14 **Collared Dove**.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>:** Like yesterday, there was glorious weather and the late evening arrival of the day's best bird! A fair few hot chocolates were spilt with the news of an **Osprey** heading north towards the Obs at 9.20pm, and the 20 or so guests were delighted as the bird slowly cruised over the Havens and away north. Despite the easterly wind there were few new additions, with highlights made up of the past weeks birds, with the **Red-backed Shrike** and **Great Northern Diver**. A trickle of common birds was recorded, with 2 **Whinchat**, **Sand Martin**, 8 **House Martin**, 3 **Sedge Warbler** and 2 **Purple Sandpiper**. The calm sea also enabled 2 **Minke Whale** to be spotted, continuing a great week for cetaceans!

**June 4<sup>th</sup>:** An exceptionally still day with plenty of sunshine meant eyes were cast to the sea for cetaceans, with a good showing from 6+ **Minke Whale** and 6 **Porpoise**. These were the highlights of the day until Ex-Warden and FIBO Director, Roger Riddington, found a superb 4<sup>th</sup> summer **Long-tailed Skua** very late in the day at Johnnies Peats. The bird posed admirably for everyone, and left with an acrobatic flourish chased by 2 **Arctic Skua**. Other highlights included the **Great Northern Diver**, **Kestrel**, **Short-eared Owl** and the 2 breeding **Robin**. Supporting cast was made up of 3 **Tree Pipit**, a **Siskin**, **Redwing**, **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Common Redpoll** and 6 **Chiffchaff**.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** With the majority of the Observatory's directors on the Isle, we hoped that the presence of such ornithological greatness would inspire a flurry of sightings! Bird wise this was not the case, but we thank Roy Dennis for finding a pod of 6+ **Killer Whales** which quickly flashed down the east coast! Another good Fair Isle record (spotted by another Director, Jane Reid) was a **Bat**, flying about the geos in broad daylight, however the brief views meant it will have to go down as a "small brown Bat sp." but is most likely to be a *Nathusius' Pipistrelle*. Bird highlights were made up of May's remnants, with the **Red-backed Shrike**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Whinchat**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Reed Warbler** and **Lesser Whitethroat**. New birds included a **Great Northern Diver**, **Cuckoo**, **Linnet** and 2 **Common Redpoll**.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Low cloud again predominated, but brief breaks did allow for a partial census, turning up considerably more than yesterday. However, it seems very few new birds have found the Isle in the last 2 days. Highlights included the **Red-backed Shrike**, 4 **Teal**, 3 **Whimbrel**, a **Knot**, and 62 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. Passerines were scarce, with singles of **Sedge Warbler**, **Whinchat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, and an extremely flighty unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warbler which eluded us on numerous occasions. Elsewhere there were 2 **Short-eared Owl** and an oiled **Long-eared Owl**, while the **Robins** continued to carry food to their nest!

**June 1<sup>st</sup>:** Visibility and general weather conditions were terrible today, and unsurprisingly very few migrants were recorded. The female **Red-backed Shrike** remains in the Pund and Upper Stoneybreck area, a **Barnacle Goose** was on Buness, 17 **Turnstone** were in South Harbour while there were new arrivals in 3 **Tree Pipit** and a **Reed Bunting**, whilst a June **Redwing** was also a good record.

## 2006 - MAY SIGHTINGS

**May 31<sup>st</sup>:** The winds eased today, whilst swinging to the south-west. However, it did not herald an arrival of birds, but did allow good views of some of the scarcer birds of last week. The **Common Rosefinch** remains, as does the female **Bluethroat** and **Red-backed Shrike**. Other highlights included single **Red-throated Diver**, **Barnacle Goose**, **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Whinchat** and 8 "Greenland" **Wheatear**.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>:** Despite the gusty north-westerly, there was a tidy selection box of scarce migrants, from land and sea. A brief seawatch in the evening brought instant results with 2 adult **Pomarine Skua** and 2 **Manx Shearwater**, while on the land there was a **Common Rosefinch**, **Red-backed Shrike** and the **Short-toed Lark**. Elsewhere there was a cracking summer plumaged **Knot**, a **Sandwich Tern**, **Barnacle Goose** and **Greenshank**.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>:** The north-westerly wind prevails, as does the dearth of new migrants. Raptors dominated the highlights, with a **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, and the **Marsh Harrier** being seen at many locations. Meanwhile, the **Short-toed Lark** remains faithful to the ploughed field at Upper Stoneybreck, while a **Greenshank** was new in. Commoner migrants were notable by their absence, with 4 **Collared Dove** and a **Song Thrush** being welcome, if late, arrivals. A major rarity was also detected last week and confirmed today: the island's first **breeding** record of **Robin** – in South Raeva! It is only the 4<sup>th</sup> breeding record for Shetland following previous attempts at Kergord. We will keep you updated on their progress – though suggestions of a web-cam have already been quashed!

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** A good days birding, with migrants arriving at various times throughout the day. There were several highlights, including female **Marsh Harrier** and **Red-backed Shrike**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Sandwich Tern** and the **Short-toed Lark**. There were few commoner migrants, save for a **Kestrel**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Grey Wagtail**, 2 **Redwing** and singles of **Spotted** and **Pied Flycatcher**.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>:** A very quiet day, with strong westerly winds taking what few migrants we had. Remnants from the last week included **Short-toed Lark**, a female **Bluethroat** and the **Corn Bunting**. Also seen were 2 **Sanderling**, a **Whinchat**, a **Fieldfare** and a **Song Thrush**.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Another cracking day of sunshine, with several of the last week's star birds still showing well. These included the **Short-toed Lark**, **Ortolan Bunting** and **Corn Bunting**, while there were 2 female **Bluethroat**. Commoner migrants were low in number, but included a good diversity of species. Of note were a **Great Northern Diver**, **Hen Harrier**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 4 **Rook**. The day ended with optimism following a change of wind direction to south-east and a few showers of rain. Roll on tomorrow!

**May 25<sup>th</sup>:** Still slow on the migrants front, but an adult **Long-tailed Skua** was a welcome addition to the year list. Elsewhere there were the **Corn** and **Ortolan Buntings**, with 2 male **Bluethroat**. Commoner birds included a **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Kestrel**, 189 **Oystercatcher** and a **Pied Flycatcher**.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>:** Another glorious day of sunshine was capped off with sightings of a male **Ortolan Bunting** at the top of Wester Lother, shortly after a **Minke Whale** had been seen around the stacks at the bottom. A new male **Bluethroat** was also seen in Homisdale. Elsewhere there was a **Reed Warbler**, the **Corn Bunting** and a large pipit sp. which flushed away out of sight. Common migrants included 3 **Wigeon**, 4 **Sanderling**, a **Redshank**, a **Cuckoo**, 2 **Long-eared Owl** and a **Short-eared Owl** and a single **Garden Warbler**.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** A change in the wind did occur today, but the switch from north-westerly to southerly did not cue an arrival of migrants, save for a new **Short-toed Lark** located late in the day at Midway, and a male **Sparrowhawk** trapped in the afternoon. The morning census was undertaken in glorious sunshine, but turned up very few birds of note. The **Corn Bunting** remains, as does the **Teal**, **Long-eared Owl**, 29 **Purple Sandpiper**, 5 **Whimbrel**, 131 **Arctic Tern**, and a late **Fieldfare** at the Plantation.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The north-westerly wind all but cleared out the remnants of last week's migrants, leaving only the **Corn Bunting**, **Long-eared Owl** and 2 **Rook** of note. New arrivals were few and far between, with only a drake **Teal** and 2 **Wigeon**. A change in the weather is eagerly awaited!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** The cracking male **Red-backed Shrike** continues to be the popular attraction, after a quiet census. The clearout of commoner migrants continued, with numbers down to 9 **Willow Warbler**, 16 **Tree Pipit**, 11 **Purple Sandpiper**, 2 **Common Sandpiper** and single **Swift** and **Long-eared Owl**. New arrivals totalled a **Kestrel**, **Yellow Wagtail**, and 35 **Common Gull**. The **Corn Bunting** continues to feed at Upper Stoneybreck.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:** A cool north-westerly wind did not produce many new migrants today, although there was a smart, but very mobile **Red-Backed Shrike** flying around the south of the island. Meanwhile the **Corn Bunting** continues to frequent the ploughed field at Upper Stoneybreck, along with the **Stock Dove**. Commoner migrants included a few new additions, with a **Reed Warbler**, 6 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 7 **Whinchat**, 29 **Tree Pipit**, 5 **Spotted Flycatcher** and one each of **Long-eared** and **Short-eared Owl**.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:** The day started well, with a singing **Cuckoo** giving everyone a welcome alarm call at the Obs. Morning census went on to produce a **Turtle Dove**, **Long-eared Owl** and a **Great Northern Diver**, while a trip down to South Harbour in the evening turned up the first **Icterine Warbler** of the year. Commoner migrants included 20 **Ringed Plover**, 18 **Whimbrel**, 130 **Arctic Tern**, 22 **Tree Pipit**, 5 **Sedge Warbler** and a summer plumaged **Knot**. The Good Shepherd IV also turned up its first sightings, with a **Storm Petrel** being new for the year, as well as 2 **White-beaked Dolphins**.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>:** Low cloud and drizzle predominated the day, allowing only a few good hours in the afternoon to census. When it did lift there were plenty of things to see, with a male **Marsh Harrier** quartering all corners of the island, a **Great Northern Diver** off the South Light, a **Green Sandpiper** in Boini Mire, and the **Corn Bunting**, **Bluethroat** and the **Wryneck** in the crofts. New birds in were a **Turtle Dove** and **Long-eared Owl**, as well as an influx of hirundines that included 90 **Swallow**, 50 **House Martin** and 2 **Swift**. Notable numbers of commoner migrants included 30 **Tree Pipit**, 11 **Whinchat** and 20 **Dunlin** while the 47 rather confused **Barnacle Geese** came back for a few more circuits of the island.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Several new birds were found today, despite the low cloud that covered the island for most of the day. Wildfowl dominated the new arrivals with 47 **Barnacle Geese**, 5 **Greylag Geese**, 1 **Canada Goose**, 2 **Shelduck**, 2 **Wigeon** and 1 **Red-breasted Merganser**. Scarcer birds included a **Bluethroat**, **Corn Bunting** and a **Wryneck**. Commoner migrants included 16 **Dunlin**, 22 **Turnstone**, 25 **Purple Sandpiper**, 18 **Tree Pipit**, 9 **Whinchat**, 19 **Willow Warbler**, 9 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 6 **Pied Flycatcher**, 12 **Reed Bunting** and a cracking male **Brambling**.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** A good days birding went into overdrive when a **SCOPS OWL** was caught in the Gully mid-afternoon. It is the second record for Fair Isle, following one on July 30<sup>th</sup> 2003. The day had started well with a **RED-THROATED PIPIT** at Roskillie. It is not clear whether it is a separate bird from the one recorded last week. Scarcer migrants included the long-staying **Corn Bunting** and **Short-toed Lark**, new in were a **Red-backed Shrike** and a **Bluethroat**. Commoner migrants included 21 **Willow Warbler**, 8 **Chiffchaff** (1 eastern type), 7 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 7 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 10 **Redstart**, 6 **Whinchat**, 20 **Tree Pipit**, 12 **Reed Bunting**, 5 **Mealy Redpoll** and 2 **Green Sandpiper**.



**Scops Owl**

*Photos Deryk Shaw*

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** After a quiet morning census, the easterly wind started to deliver late in the afternoon and 12 **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** are hopefully signposts to a promising day tomorrow. Census turned up the **Ortolan Bunting**, **Corn Bunting**, **Short-toed Lark** and a single **Wryneck** - at the shop. Commoner migrants included a **Water Rail**, 14 **Purple Sandpiper**, 8 **Whimbrel**, 7 **Tree Pipit** and a single **Short-eared Owl**.



**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Undoubted highlight today was the “flock” of 3 **Osprey** that flew north over the island at 1345hrs. Elsewhere the **Ortolan Bunting**, **Corn Bunting** and 2 **Bluethroat** still remain while a **Goldfinch** was new in. Commoner migrants included 3 **Whinchat**, 4 **Redstart**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**.



**Ortolan Bunting**  
*Photos Deryk Shaw*



**May 13<sup>th</sup>:** The clearout of commoner migrants continues, with most of the excitement coming from birds which had arrived last week. The only exception to this was the new **Short-toed Lark** which was found in the Wirvie Burn. From plumage details, it is easy to tell that this is not the bird seen last week at the South Light. The remaining scarce birds included 3 **Bluethroat**, 2 **Wryneck**, **Corn Bunting**, **Ortolan Bunting**, **Hen Harrier** and the obliging **Quail** at Lower Stoneybreck. Numbers to note of commoner birds were 12 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll**, 3 each of **Blackcap** and **Sedge Warbler**, 5 **Redstart** and 12 **Reed Bunting**.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** The **Red-throated Pipit** remains, flying over the Plantation at lunchtime. Elsewhere there were few new migrants in, but many of the scarcer birds remain, providing plenty of quality, if not quantity. They include the **Wryneck**, **Wood Warbler**, **Quail**, **Bluethroat** (3), **Corn Bunting** and male **Ortolan Bunting** and **Hen Harrier**. The new birds that did arrive included a **Short-eared Owl**, while a drake **Shoveler** was new for the year.



**Long-eared Owl**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*



**Bluethroat**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*



**Bluethroat**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*



**Ortolan**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*

**May 11<sup>th</sup>:** The best day of the season so far, despite the thinning out of commoner migrants of the last few days. The day started well with a fine **Red-throated Pipit** being found in North Park. It is the seventy first Fair Isle record. Elsewhere there were a cracking adult male **Ortolan Bunting** (the elusive bunting from a few days ago), **Wryneck**, **Short-toed Lark** (still), **Corn Bunting** (still) **Quail**, **Lapland Bunting** and a

male **Hen Harrier**. The supporting cast included 6 **Bluethroat**, 2 **Cuckoo** and only the second **Sanderling** of the year in South Harbour.



**Cuckoo**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*



**Short-toed Lark**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Red-throated Pipit**  
*Photo Rebecca Nason*

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** : Highlight today (aside from the glorious weather) was the 8+ **Minke Whale** seen from Malcolm's Head in the early evening. On the avian front there were single **Quail**, **Corn Bunting**, **Turtle Dove**, **Hawfinch** and **(Siberian) Stonechat**, while a **Cuckoo** was new for the year. Other notable records included 5 each of **Bluethroat** and **Dotterel**, 2 **Red-backed Shrike**, 27 **House Martin**, 22 **Whitethroat**, 13 **Lesser Whitethroat** and 40 **Willow Warbler**.



**Cuckoo**  
*Photos Mark Warren*



**May 9<sup>th</sup>**: A quieter day today, in part due to the thick fog covering the North of the island. There were few new birds around, with a single **Quail** at Lower Stoneybreck being the day's highlight. Despite this, there were still a few of yesterday's birds remaining, including 3 **Red-backed Shrikes**, 3 **Bluethroats**, **Short-toed Lark** at the South Light, **Corn Bunting** at Barkland and the flighty **(Siberian) Stonechat** around Houll. Common migrants included 6 **Common Sandpiper**, a **Greenshank**, 10 **Arctic Tern**, 20 **Tree Pipit**, 25 **Redstart**, 9 **Whinchat**, 10 each of **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Common Whitethroat**, 5 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 10 **Pied Flycatcher**, 17 **Reed Bunting** and a single **Ring Ouzel**.



**Long-eared Owl**  
*Photos Mark Warren*



**8<sup>th</sup> May**: A light North Easterly wind ensured a crazy (and somewhat frustrating!!!) day with migrants flooding in throughout. The madness began with a brief sighting of a flyover bulky Bunting seen poorly at



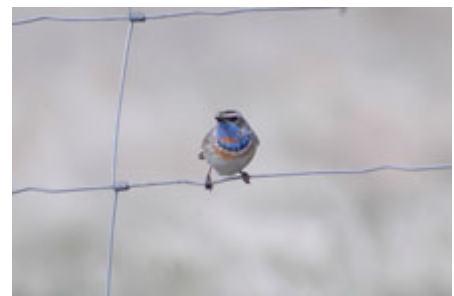
Barkland early on. Subsequent searches for this bird produced a badly seen and brief presumed male **Ortolan** at Field Ditch and Hesswalls. After much confusion (two bird theory etc...) the first Bunting reappeared at Barkland and once sat still was easily identified as only Fair Isles 5<sup>th</sup> **Corn Bunting** in the last thirty years!! More frustration when a mobile large Pipit seen around the slopes of Dronger and Wester Lother mid-morning refused to call, and views were distant and inconclusive, although opinion swayed towards **Tawny Pipit**. To top the frustration was a possible **Siberian Stonechat** (a male) found at the School just before tea, but viewing was difficult as it was incredibly mobile. Hopefully we shall see the underwing tomorrow to clinch the ID. Add to this was an impressive arrival of scarce migrants with 6 **Bluethroat**, 2 male **Red-backed Shrikes**, a **Waxwing**, and a **Wood Warbler**. Common Migrants were numerous with 8 **Sand Martin**, 94 **Swallow**, 24 **House Martin**, 23 **Tree Pipit**, 7 **Robin**, at least 35 **Redstart**, 9 **Whinchat**, 10 **Fieldfare**, 3 **Reed Warbler** (year tick), 15 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 15 **Whitethroat**, 6 **Blackcap**, 7 **Chiffchaff** (including 2 eastern 'types'), 40 **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Spotted** and 17 **Pied Flycatchers**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll** and finally an impressive 18 **Reed Buntings**. 8 **Common Sandpipers** were a good day count and a **Woodcock** was flushed. With all the action a **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Long-Eared Owl** (trapped in the Gully), and the **Lingering Short-toed Lark** barely got a look in. The **Moorhen** also re-appeared at the Obs and the **Tree Sparrow** remains.



Possible **Siberian Stonechat**  
Photo Deryk Shaw



**Bluethroat**  
Photo Paul Baxter



**Bluethroat**  
Photo Paul Baxter



**Blue-headed Wagtail**  
Photo Paul Baxter



**Blue-headed Wagtail**  
Photo Paul Baxter

**7<sup>th</sup> May:** More birds today although news from else-where in Shetland/Orkney suggests we may have missed out somewhat. A male **Bluethroat** found early morning in Da Water got the day off to a good start, while 4 typically tame **Dotterel** in the Parks showed well to their finders, but had done a 'Houdini' act after lunch. The **Short-toed Lark** continues to prevent a 'kick-about' by remaining on the Football Pitch at South Light, and the male 'flava' **Yellow Wagtail** was still in the Havens. The **Wood Sandpiper** moved to Easter Lother, and the **Shelduck** was still in South Harbour. 2 **Wigeon** were new as was a **Woodcock**, **Jackdaw**, 3 **Spotted Flycatchers** and there are now 2 female **Sparrowhawks** patrolling the Isle. Warbler counts were as follows; single **Grasshopper**, 8 **Sedge**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 7 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden**, 8 **Blackcap**, 10 **Chiffchaff** and 21 **Willow**. Hirundines increased slightly, with 10 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Black Redstart** and 7 **Whinchat** the only other passerines of note. 45 **Arctic Skuas** were on the hill, with 44 **Common Gulls** of various ages seen about the place and a **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from Da



Water.

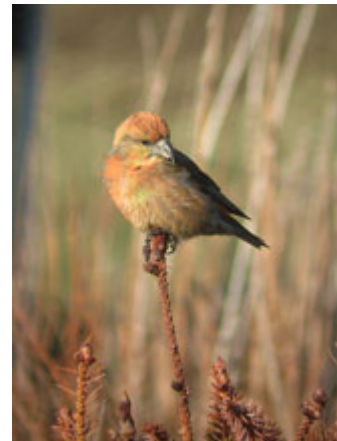
**6<sup>th</sup> May:** The Easterly wind continues to blow and new birds are still arriving daily. A **Short-toed Lark** found at Leogh in the morning had moved to the football pitch at South Light later in the day. A **Lesser Redpoll** was trapped at Barkland early morning with presumably the same in the South Light area later on. A **Shelduck** in South Harbour was our 5<sup>th</sup> individual of the spring, while the **Wood Sandpiper** remains faithful to the muddy margins at Da Water. **Dunlin** numbers had increased to 20 with 2 **Common Sandpiper** also present. A few more Warblers were found with the first 2 **Garden Warblers** of the year in Hjukni and Easter Lother, with 4 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Whitethroat**, 8 **Blackcap**, 14 **Chiffchaff** and 39 **Willow Warbler** also recorded. A fine male 'flava' **Yellow Wagtail** was on the beach at South Haven although a **Stock Dove** in the South was more unusual. Other sightings of note were 2 **Long-eared Owl**, 2 **Sand Martin**, 35 **Swallow**, 6 **House Martin**, 11 **Tree Pipit**, a female **Black Redstart**, 6 **Whinchat**, 159 **Wheatear**, single **Spotted Flycatcher** and at least 3 **Mealy Redpolls**. A few Corvids from last week remain with 19 **Carriion Crow** and 3 **Rook** counted.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** More new arrivals as the Easterly winds continue. A few quality Waders this time with 3 **Dotterel** on Dronger the undoubted highlight, although a **Wood Sandpiper** at Da Water was worthy of second place. Warbler numbers were about half that of yesterday but 2 **Grasshopper Warblers** were new. Hirundines were also much reduced with only 30 **Swallows** and 5 **House Martins** seen. Also of note were a **Kestrel**, 9 **Dunlin**, a **Common Sandpiper**, 9 **Lesser-black backed Gull**, 3 **Arctic Tern**, one each of **Long** and **Short-eared Owls**, 2 **Yellow Wagtail**, 6 **Rook**, the **Tree Sparrow**, and a **Mealy Redpoll**. The **Pink-footed Goose**, **Moorhen** and **Goldfinch** are still here.



**Wood Sandpiper**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**May 4<sup>th</sup>:** A moderate South Easterly wind produced a decent arrival of summer migrants, with the North and West cliffs in particular, well occupied with passerines. Four Year ticks were added today; **Yellow Wagtail** (2), **Lesser Whitethroat** (4), **Spotted Flycatcher** (3) and an early **Turtle Dove** at Wester Lother. 39 **Willow Warblers** were found mainly on the cliffs with 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 11 **Blackcap**, 2 **Whitethroat** and 15 **Chiffchaff** also counted. Hirundines were prominent with 70 **Swallow**, 3 **Sand** and 6 **House Martin** seen. 17 **Tree Pipits** was a good day total, the supporting cast being 9 **Ring Ouzel**, 7 **Robin**, 2 **Dunnock** and an increase in **Wheatears** to 191. Other highlights were 3 **Long-eared** and 2 **Short-eared Owls**, another **Goldfinch** this time at Barkland and a male **Bullfinch** at North Light. Skuas continue to arrive with 50 **Arctic** and 105 **Bonxies** on the hill. A **Common Sandpiper**, 4 **Dunlin** and 10 **Whimbrel** were the only Waders of note. The female **Sparrowhawk**, **Peregrine**, **Moorhen** and **Crossbill** are all still present and a few more **Siskin** arrived with at least 9 on the Isle.



**Common Crossbill**  
*Photos Mark Warren*

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** A **Black-tailed Godwit** was new for the year and a male **Common Crossbill** was trapped at Barkland. A male **Peregrine** was new and there were large increases in **Arctic Skuas** (26), **Swallows** (15) and corvids with 34 **Carriions**, 8 **Hoodies**, 3 'Hoodion' hybrids and 4 **Rook**. Also noted were the **Great Northern Diver**, 3 **Dunlin**, **Common Sandpiper**, 2 **House Martin**, 5 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Black Redstart**, **Whinchat**, **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Blackcap**, 5 **Chiffchaff**, 9 **Willow Warbler** and the **Tree Sparrow**.



**Common Crossbill**



**Common Crossbill**

*Photos Paul Baxter*



**Rook**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** New birds included female **Merlin** seen on Ward Hill, 2 **Dunlin**, 2 **Swallow**, 1 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 3 **Black Redstart**, 1 **Mealy Redpoll**, 1 **Linnet** and a **Grey Wagtail**. A **Sedge Warbler** in the Obs' garden early morning, a male **Whinchat** was at Da Water and a **Tree Sparrow** trapped at Barkland were all new birds for the year. A count of 120 **Wheatear** was high compared to the last few days and a 'fall' of corvids was diligently noted, numbering 3 **Jackdaw**, 20 **Carrions**, 12 **Hoodies**, 5 '**Hoodion**' hybrids and 5 **Rooks**. More appealing migrants were 20 **Brambling**, 5 **Whimbrel**, 7 **Willow Warbler**, 8 **Chiffchaffs**, 4 **Redstart**, 3 **Song Thrush**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Blackcap**, 1 **Yellowhammer**, 2 **Robin**, 1 **Ring Ouzel** and 4 **Tree Pipits**. Remaining from previous days were the first-summer **Great Northern Diver** off South harbour, 1 **Pink-footed Goose**, 2 **Teal** and a **Water Rail** and **Moorhen** at the Obs'.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Moderate to strong South-easterlies with rain produced a small fall of migrants, mostly found sheltering on the north and west cliffs. Year ticks were 1 male **Pied Flycatcher** and 3 **Whitethroat**, but new in were also 8 **Tree Pipit**, 4 **Redstart**, 7 **Ring Ouzel**, 5 **Blackcap**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Robin**, 4 **Song Thrush** and 3 **Reed Bunting**. Other passage of note included 3 **Willow Warbler**, 10 **Chiffchaff**, 8 **Snow Bunting**, 5 **Whimbrel**, 1 **Barnacle Goose** and 3 **Teal**. One **Great Tit** was still around the Obs' garden and **Moorhen**, **Pink-footed Goose** and **Yellowhammer** also remain.

## 2006 - APRIL SIGHTINGS

**30<sup>th</sup> April:** A light passage and arrival of some new birds in glorious sunshine included single **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Bullfinch**, 5 **Barnacle Geese**, 10 **Cormorant**, 12 **Whimbrel**, 20 **Swallows**, **Sand Martin**, 3 **Ring Ouzels**, **Sparrowhawk** and a **Black Redstart**. The 2 **Great Tits** were still present at the Obs' and Barkland. High counts compared to recent days were of 133 **Wheatears**, 12 **Chiffchaffs**, 16 **Purple Sandpipers** and 43 **Twite**. Single **Great Northern Diver**, **Shelduck**, **Rook** and **Water Rail** remain.

**29<sup>th</sup> April:** A beautiful sunny day but winds cold and from the North. New in were a single **Sandwich Tern** past South Lighthouse, a **Mealy Redpoll** trapped in Plantation, 2 **Tree Pipits**, a 'blue' **Fulmar** seen flying around the Havens late afternoon, and another new female **Great Tit**! This second bird was ringed at Barkland, with the first bird from the 27<sup>th</sup> still present at the Obs'. The 1<sup>st</sup> summer **Great Northern Diver** was seen again off South Harbour and a '*littoralis*' **Rock Pipit** was noted there on the beach. **Arctic Skuas** increased to 19 and **Water Rail**, **Moorhen**, 2 **Siskins**, **Snow Bunting** and 2 **Jackdaws** remain from the previous few days.

**Mealy Redpoll** Photo Mark Warren



**28<sup>th</sup> April:** Two year ticks were seen early morning in the Havens when a **Common Sandpiper** was flushed from the North beach and an **Arctic Tern** flew north. Also notable were 2 **Pintail**, a flock of 9 **Whimbrel** north over Hill Dyke, male **Redstart** at the Shop, a female **Blackcap** trapped at Plantation and a **Reed Bunting**. Remaining were the **Great Tit**, as well as single **Shelduck**, **Rook**, **Moorhen** and **Water Rail**.

**27<sup>th</sup> April:** Westerly winds and quite quiet ... with the exception of Fair Isles' 33<sup>rd</sup> record of **Great Tit**! A single bird in the Obs' garden was found by Hollie(!) before Breakfast, it was later trapped and ringed there. Notable on census were single **Sand Martin**, **Knot**, **Black Redstart** and **Wigeon**. Skuas continue to arrive, with Arctics increasing to 10 Arctic and Bonxies to 92. 4 **Dunnock** were seen around the Isle and a small movement of Corvids was noted late afternoon as a flock of 15 **Carrions** and 2 **Jackdaws** flew south. A **Grey Wagtail** was on the beach at South Harbour and the single **Shelduck** remains from the pair present on 25<sup>th</sup>.

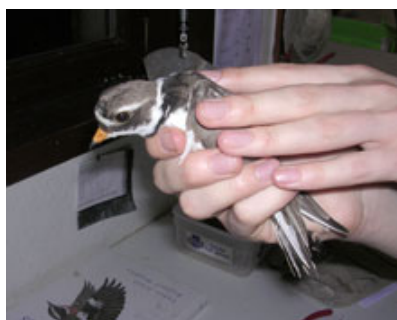


**Great Tit** Photo Mark Warren

**April 26<sup>th</sup>:** Spring continues, with the first **Common Redstart** of the year (male) at Wirvie adding a splash of colour on a wet and windy day. A **Sand Martin** was seen again, with a female **Stonechat** at Schoolton, **Yellowhammer** at Barkland and 2 **Willow Warblers** the main passerine highlights, although a '*littoralis*' **Rock Pipit** in the Obs garden looked good. The **Green Sandpiper** moved to Sukka Mire, and 28 **Common** and 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** represented an increase. The **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel**, **Moorhen**, 2 **Jackdaw** and **Goldfinch** lingered while the **Carrion Crow** flock increased to 8.



**Goldfinch**



**Ringed Plover**

Photos Mark Warren



**Siskin**



**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** New arrivals continue to turn up with a pair of **Shelduck** touring the South and a **Green Sandpiper** on the scrape at Hegri being the most notable. 2 **Rook** were also new, with 32 **Fieldfare** seen and **Meadow Pipit** numbers increasing to 210. The **Goldfinch** re-appeared in the Obs garden where it was trapped, and there are now 2 male **Siskin** present. Wader numbers were up with 47 **Golden Plover** and 27 **Purple Sandpipers** counted, and 3 **Knot** are new. A female **Long-tailed Duck** in South Harbour was probable the same individual from a few days ago, while the **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel**, **Moorhen**, **Tree Pipit** and 2 **Jackdaw** all remain.

**24<sup>th</sup> April:** Most of the activity was in the North of the Island today with the first **Grasshopper Warbler** of the year found on the cliff top at Lericum in the morning and a **House Martin** at North Light in the afternoon. Best of all however were 3 **Shorelark** briefly beside the Airstrip just before lunch. An increase in '*Phylloscopus*' was noted with 14 **Chiffchaff** and 4 **Willow Warbler**, plus 7 **Goldcrest** while a **Blackcap** was at Shirva. **Wheatear** numbers were back up to three figures with 113 recorded including many '*leucorroha*' indicating plenty of new arrivals. 2 **Dunlin** were new, as were 5 **Collared Dove** and a few more **Swallows** appeared during the afternoon with a minimum of 8. 6 **Whimbrel** passed over and 84 **Turnstone** was the highest count for a while. 2 **Ring Ouzel** and 15 **Blackbird** were probable old birds, but **Robins** increased to 11. The **Moorhen** remains, as does the **Sand Martin**, 2 **Dunnock**, and the **Siskin**.

**23<sup>rd</sup> April:** Glorious sunshine and a very light SW wind meant it was too good to be indoor's. An all-day 'thrash' produced a few birds but it was perhaps surprising that more wasn't found. 6 **Barnacle Geese** flying south were the only addition to the year list although a '**Commie**' **Tern** past the Obs was technically also a first for the year. 9 **Pink-footed Geese** passed straight over with the single remaining with the now 30 strong Greylag herd. The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Goldfinch** of the year was seen all over the Island while a **Moorhen** self-trapped in the Gully after lunch was a little unusual. A **Sand Martin** was around the Obs and 4 **Swallows**, 2 **Tree Pipits** and 2 **Ring Ouzels** seen. A female **Black Redstart** was at Burkle with the male still at Hjukni. **Wheatears** were down to 69, with numbers of **Chiffchaff** (9) and **Goldcrest** (3) also continuing to fall, but a **Blackcap** was new. Also of note were 10 **Purple Sandpiper**, 11 **Whimbrel**, 5 **Arctic Skua**, 2 **Jackdaw**, 5 **Carrion Crow** and 15 **Snow Bunting**.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April:** A blustery day with a strong SE wind and showers made birding difficult with only a few new arrivals noted. Highlights included a flyby drake **Tufted Duck**, a pair of **Stonechats** at Skerryholm, 2 **Ring Ouzels** in the north and a single **Whimbrel**. **Wheatear** numbers increased to 103 with the first 'Greenland' birds noted, and **Meadow Pipit** to 160. The 1<sup>st</sup> summer **Great Northern Diver** reappeared off South light, and **Bonxies** continued to arrive with 83 counted. 'Leftovers' from previous days were two **Tree Pipit**, **Black Redstart**, 13 **Chiffchaff**, 5 **Goldcrest** and the **Siskin**.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Morning census produced three year ticks - **Whimbrel**, **Arctic Skua** and **Blackcap** (bringing the year list to 115) plus a **Ring Ouzel** and a fair scattering of *Phylloscopus* warblers.

**Sparrowhawk**  
Photo Mark Warren



**April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Single **Great Northern Diver**, **Cormorant**, **Woodcock**, **Black Redstart**, **Stonechat** and **Brambling** were new whilst **Tree Pipit** (3) and **Siskin** were also year ticks. Other arrivals included 3 **Grey Heron**, 3 **Collared Dove**, 4 **Swallow**, 12 **Robin**, 80 **Wheatear**, 28 **Blackbird**, 18 **Redwing**, 7 **Song Thrush**, 6 **Chiffchaff**, 7 **Willow Warbler** and 14 **Goldcrest**. The **Wood Pigeon** flock is down to 27 and a female **Peregrine** was seen.

**Chiffchaff** Photo Mark Warren

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** At last - a **Ring Ouzel** and our first **Willow Warblers** (3)!! A small 'fall' included a **Swallow**, 92 **Wheatear**, 5 **Robin**, 22 **Blackbird**, a single **Song Thrush**, 31 **Redwing**, 2 **Mistle Thrush**, a **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Goldcrest**, 6 **Rook** and a **Short-eared Owl**. The **Common Buzzard** showed again, **Bonxies** increased to 52 whilst **Snow Bunting** fell to just 3.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Two **Sparrowhawks** were seen plus a male **Merlin**. A **Greenshank**, now 49 **Bonxies**, "just" 67 **Wood Pigeon** plus 2 **Stock Dove**, 130 **Meadow Pipit**, 3 **Linnet** and 21 **Snow Bunting** were other noteables.

**April 17th:** A **Pink-footed Goose** has joined the dwindling **Greylag flock** (45). **Bonxies** are up to 37 and 32 **Common Gulls** includes 10 pairs at the Bunness colony. There are also 14 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 8 **Black-headed Gulls**, a **Linnet**, 34 **Snow Buntings** and a **Reed Bunting**.

**April 16th:** The old saying "one **Swallow** does not a summer make" certainly rang true today as our first one was watched flying around outside the Observatory - in a hail shower!! A 1st winter **Glaucous Gull** also reminded us that we are not out of winter yet! Other highlights were an increase in **Wheatears** (44), a **Chiffchaff**, 3 **Goldcrest** and 21 **Snow Bunting**.

**April 15th:** Year ticks were provided by a pair of **Tufted Duck** and a pair of **Shelduck**. A pair of displaying **Peregrines** loitered along the west cliffs and the **Common Buzzard** remains. A **Sparrowhawk** and **Short-eared Owl** also kept birds on their toes. Other counts of note were; 17 **Purple Sandpiper**, 38 **Bonxie**, 56 **Wood Pigeon**, 18 **Wheatear**, 44 **Snow Bunting** and a single **Goldcrest**.

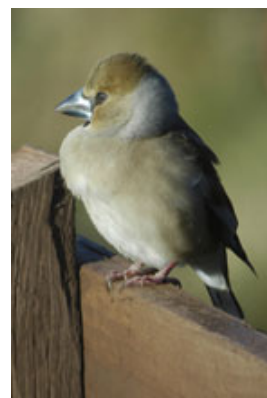
**April 14th:** The **Hawfinch** remains whilst **Wood Pigeons** are down to 62 and thrushes continue to depart with (for example) 90 **Blackbird** and just 4 **Fieldfare**. New in however are 3 **Grey Heron**, a **Stonechat** and a **Goldfinch**. Other counts of note were 162 **Oystercatcher**, 200 **Skylark** and 2 **Wheatear**.

**April 13th:** The **Hawfinch** remains at Barkland and the first 'fall' of **Wheatears** totalled 17 (including the first females). **Bonxies** have risen to 29 and **Turnstone** to 258 with added counts of 5 **Teal**, 10 **Golden Plover**, a **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 245 **Skylark**, 150 **Blackbird**, 6 **Greenfinch** but just 11 **Chaffinch** and a single **Brambling**.



**Turnstone**  
Photo Paul Baxter

**April 12th:** A **Hawfinch** was trapped at Barkland and a **Greenshank** was also new for the year whilst 2 **Jack Snipe** were the first for a while. Three **Wheatear** were seen, a **Linnet** and an increase in **Twite** (36) and **Greenfinch** (5) but **Chaffinch** are down to 16, with a **Brambling**. **Blackbirds** are falling too, with 200 counted - the lowest figure since 24th March.



**Hawfinch**  
Photos Paul Baxter

**April 11th:** A **Sanderling** was new for the year and only the second **Chiffchaff** was seen. Other counts of note included 2 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 20 **Purple Sandpiper**, 315 **Skylark**, 5 **Grey Wagtail**, 2 **Wheatear**, 400 **Blackbird** and 2 **Rook**.

**Purple Sandpiper**  
Photo Paul Baxter



**April 10th:** A four-raptor day with the **Common Buzzard** joined by **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel** and **Peregrine**. Thrushes increased again with 610 **Blackbird**, 67 **Fieldfare**, 75 **Song Thrush**, 60 **Redwing** and 2 **Mistle Thrush**. **Chaffinches** are down to 34 and **Greenfinch** up to 4 with 44 **Snow Bunting**.

The first **Puffins** were noted ashore in the evening.



**Snow Bunting**  
*Photos Paul Baxter*

**April 9th:** **Greylags** increased to 109, **Bonxies** to 12, **Jackdaws** to 3 and **Snow Buntings** to 35 whilst **Blackbirds** decreased to 480. Two **Sparrowhawk** and 3 **Wheatear** were also seen.

**April 8th:** Highlights were an **Iceland Gull**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Wheatear** with counts of 550 **Blackbird**, 300 **Skylark** and 8 migrant **Ravens** causing consternation amongst the resident birds. **Puffins** are arriving en masse now with 300 counted in Finnickoy bay in the evening.

**April 7th:** Another quiet day with 300 **Blackbird** and **Meadow Pipits** reaching 100, for the first time this year, of note.

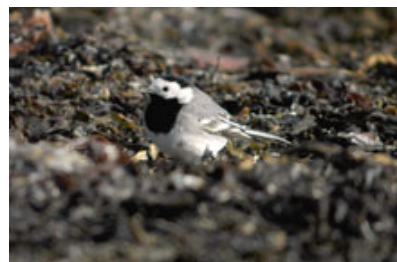
**April 6th:** A much quieter day with thrush numbers of 330 **Blackbird**, 98 **Fieldfare**, 63 **Song Thrush**, 120 **Redwing** and a single **Mistle Thrush**. Counts of 188 **Oystercatcher**, 108 **Wood Pigeon** and 200 **Skylark** made up the bulk of the remainder.

**April 5th:** More **Blackbirds** arrived with 935 counted and intermingled were 85 **Fieldfare**, 60 **Song Thrush**, 130 **Redwing** and 3 **Mistle Thrush**. **Greylags** are moving out with just 55 remaining. Other counts included 115 **Oystercatcher**, 5 **Bonxie**, 3 **Puffin**, 225 **Skylark**,



**Pied Wagtail**

*Photos  
Paul Baxter*



**White Wagtail**

**Long-eared Owl**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 2 **Jackdaw**, 60 **Chaffinch**, 5 **Brambling**, **Greenfinch**, 5 **Reed Bunting** and 4 **Yellowhammer**.

**April 4th:** A raptor-fest with the long-staying **Common Buzzard** joined by **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine**, **Short-eared Owl** and **Long-eared Owl**. Two **Jackdaw** were new for the year and were joined by **Rook**, 12 **Hooded Crow**, **Carrian Crow** and a migrant **Raven**. **Skylarks** (300) and thrushes dominated counts with 500 **Blackbird**, 300 **Fieldfare**, 68 **Song Thrush**, 220 **Redwing** and 3 **Mistle Thrush**. Other counts included 42 **Ringed Plover**, 200 **Turnstone**, 18 **Black-headed Gull**, 21 **Common Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 7 **Goldcrest**.

**April 3rd:** A bit of a clear-out this morning but still several hundred thrushes lingered with counts of 550 **Blackbird**, 390 **Fieldfare**, 102 **Song Thrush**, 470 **Redwing** and 3 **Mistle Thrush**. The **Waxwing** spent most of the day sat next to its apple in the Obs trap whilst the second **Wheatear** of the year was seen near the Plantation. A **Black Redstart**, **Chiffchaff** and 3 **Lapland Bunting** and a pair of apparently displaying **Peregrines** were other highlights. Other counts of note were; 11 **Purple Sandpiper**, 99 **Wood Pigeon**, 240 **Skylark**, 75 **Meadow Pipit**, 5 **Grey Wagtail**, 54 **Robin**, 63 **Chaffinch**, 14 **Snow Bunting** and 7 **Yellowhammer**.



**Brambling**

*Photos (above/below) Deryk Shaw*





**Brambling**

*Photos (above/below) Paul Baxter*



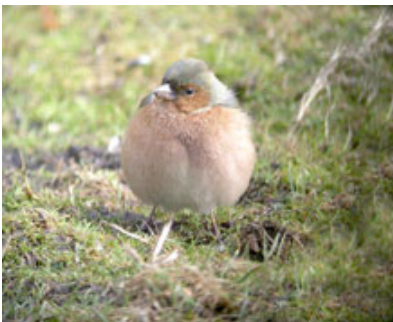
**Waxwing**

*Photo Paul Baxter*



**Chaffinch**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**April 2nd:** Once more thrushes were everywhere with 2,200 **Blackbird**, 670 **Fieldfare**, 170 **Song Thrush** and a record-equalling spring count of 1,000 **Redwing**. Other highlights were our first **Wheatear**, a **Bonxie**, **Long-eared Owl**, the **Waxwing**, 3 **Black Redstarts** and a good count of 9 **Yellowhammer**. Other counts included 107 **Greylag Geese**, 132 **Lapwing**, 16 **Golden Plover**, 141 **Turnstone**, 32 **Black-headed Gull**, 68 **Common Gull**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, just 2 **Puffin**, 2 **Stock Dove**, 107 **Wood Pigeon**, 330 **Skylark**, 54 **Meadow Pipit**, 7 **Grey Wagtail**, 10 **White Wagtail**, 5 **Pied Wagtail**, 6 **Dunnock**, 50 **Robin**, **Stonechat**, 6 **Goldcrest**, **Rook**, 10 **Hooded Crow**, 40 **Chaffinch**, 10 **Brambling**, 10 **Greenfinch** and 4 **Reed Bunting**.

**Chaffinch**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**April 1st:** The 100th species for the year was not the expected **Wheatear** but a **Waxwing**. Two **Bonxies** were seen and 3 **Stock Doves** were amongst the 109 **Wood Pigeons**. Other counts included 12 **Dunlin**, 26 **Black-**

headed Gull, 3 Common Gull, 300 Skylark, 16 Meadow Pipit, 3 Grey Wagtail, 36 Robin, 2 Stonechat, 600 Blackbird, 55 Fieldfare, 160 Song Thrush, 210 Redwing, 2 Mistle Thrush, 9 Goldcrest, a Carrion Crow, 79 Chaffinch, 2 Brambling, 7 Greenfinch, 3 Yellowhammer and 2 Reed Bunting.



**Starling**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

**Greenfinch**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

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## 2006 - JANUARY-MARCH SIGHTINGS

**31st March:** The final day of the month proved to be the most glorious, weather-wise - with a cool but very light NNE'ly wind, a blue sky and bright sunshine. Birding was not too bad either with **Red-throated Diver**, **Carriion Crow** and **Sand Martin** added to the year list before lunch and a fine male **Lapland Bunting**, near the Plantation, in the afternoon being the 99th species of the year. Other sightings and counts of note included **Oystercatcher** (112), **Knot**, **Black-headed Gull** (50), **Stock Dove** (3), **Wood Pigeon** (114), **Grey Wagtail** (5), 'nominate' **Wren** (2), **Robin** (75), **Dunnock** (5), **Blackbird** (400), **Fieldfare** (57), **Song Thrush** (250), **Redwing** (110), **Mistle Thrush** (7), **Goldcrest** (35), **Rook**, **Hooded Crow** (10), **Carriion Crow** (3), 'migrant' **Raven** (5), **Chaffinch** (120), **Brambling** (2), **Greenfinch** (5), **Linnet**, **Snow Bunting** (22), **Yellowhammer** and **Reed Bunting** (3). The **Black-bellied Dipper** remains in the Vaadal. Hopefully, we can make Wheatear the 100th species tomorrow!!!?

**March 30th:** The wind was light and back in the east and with sunshine and blue sky it made for a very pleasant day to be out. The first **Bonxie** of the year before breakfast was a good start. **Thrush** numbers were still reasonably high and two **Black Redstarts** were seen. Without a doubt, the star bird of the day (and the year so far) was an adult male **King Eider** seen flying past South Light and along the west cliffs. This is the first since 1991 but was unfortunately only enjoyed by one person -the happy Warden :-). The first two **Puffins** in Furse after lunch were welcome and by tea time there were at least 40 in Finniequoy. Four **Greenfinches**, a **Yellowhammer**, a **Dunnock** and a **Chiffchaff** appeared in the Obs garden in the evening, indicating some late arrivals. The **Black-bellied Dipper** remains in Gully/Vaadal.

**March 29th:** A fairly quiet day (compared to the most recent past) but **Redwings** had increased to 120 and the **Wood Pigeon** count is now up to 144. A **Common Crossbill** was an early addition to the year list. A **Moorhen** was in the Chalet garden and the **Sandwich Tern** still in Furse.

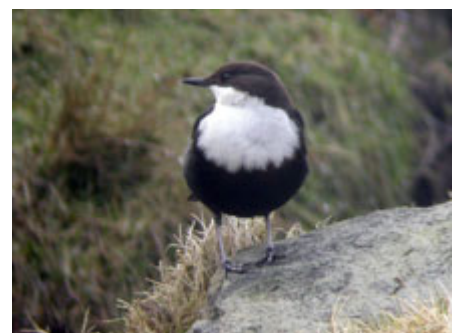
**March 28th:** The wind has moved round to SW but the fog lingered for most of the day. The **Black-bellied Dipper** is now in the Gully and a **Sandwich Tern** lingered in North Haven. The overwintering **Long-eared Owl** was retrapped in the Obs Plantation and another was found at Setter. **Black-headed Gulls** (170) and thrushes were still abundant with 1,000 **Blackbird**, 350 **Song Thrush**, 77 **Fieldfare**, 40 **Redwing** and 17 **Mistle Thrush**. Geese were moving later on with 98 **Greylag** noted whilst the **Wood Pigeons** all remain with 108 counted and **Lapwings** increased to 418. Other counts included **Grey Heron** (8), **Woodcock** (26), **Common Gull** (35), **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Skylark** (300), **Meadow Pipit** (22), **Grey Wagtail** (2), **White Wagtail** (5), **Pied Wagtail** (3), **Robin** (66), **Stonechat**, **Goldcrest** (4), **Chaffinch** (66), **Greenfinch**, **Yellowhammer** (3) and **Reed Bunting** (4).

**March 27th:** With the wind still in the east and the rain continuing to fall, yesterday's big fall continued today.....the **Black-headed Gull** record was obliterated with at least 300 counted today whilst 110 **Wood Pigeon** is over double the previous record. **Knot**, **Black Redstart**, **Chiffchaff** and **Goldcrest** (3) were all new for the year whilst there are now 3 **Sandwich Terns** in the Havens, the **Black-bellied Dipper** remains in the Vaadal stream and a probable 1st winter **Kumlien's Gull** is the first for the isle. Thrushes still dominated counts with 1,200 **Blackbird** and 650 **Song Thrush** leading the way. Other arrivals and counts included **Grey Heron** (8), **Oystercatcher** (141), **Ringed Plover** (27), **Golden Plover** (36), **Lapwing** (205), **Dunlin** (36), **Common Snipe** (143), **Woodcock** (16), **Turnstone** (179), **Common Gull** (72), **Stock Dove** (3), **Skylark** (400), **Meadow Pipit** (16), **Grey Wagtail** (3), **White Wagtail**, **Pied Wagtail** (5), **Dunnock** (3), **Robin** (75), **Stonechat** (2), **Fieldfare** (57), **Redwing** (50), **Mistle Thrush** (8), a **Rook**, **Chaffinch** (135), **Brambling**, a **Greenfinch** 94), a **Linnet**, **Snow Bunting** (60), **Yellowhammer** (3) and **Reed Bunting** (2). With thick fog descending in the afternoon (and forecast to remain) most of the birds should still be present tomorrow!



**Black-bellied Dipper**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*







**Sandwich Tern**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**March 26th:** Spring has arrived at last! A huge fall of birds today brought the isle to life, including spring record numbers of **Black-headed Gull** (163), **Song Thrush** (1,500) and **Mistle Thrush** (26). Our earliest ever **Sandwich Terns** (2), plus **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (2), **Stock Dove**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Black-bellied Dipper**, **Dunnock** (7), **Brambling** (3), **Greenfinch** and **Reed Bunting** (4) were all added to the year list. Other arrivals and counts included **Grey Heron** (3), **Ringed Plover** (39), **Golden Plover** (40), **Lapwing** (192), **Purple Sandpiper** (65), **Dunlin** (9), **Woodcock** (10), **Turnstone** (185), **Common Gull** (34), **Iceland Gull** (3), **Glaucous Gull** (2), **Wood Pigeon** (42), **Skylark** (700), **Meadow Pipit** (9), some very early **White Wagtails** (6) plus **Pied Wagtails** (6), **Robin** (20), a **Stonechat**, **Blackbird** (720), **Fieldfare** (42), **Redwing** (74), **Chaffinch** (220), **Snow Bunting** (60) and **Yellowhammer** (2). A cracking days birding!

**March 24th:** A **Little Grebe** in South Harbour was a good find whilst counts included **Black-headed Gull** (4), **Common Gull** (8), **Lapwing** (106), **Oystercatcher** (125), **Wood Pigeon** (2), **Skylark** (115), **Blackbird** (100) and **Mistle Thrush** (4).

**March 23rd:** A **Wood Pigeon** was seen and a tail-less male **Yellowhammer** joined the year list.

**March 22nd:** **Sparrowhawk** was added to the year list.

**March 19th:** A count of 128 **Lapwing** included the first displaying birds in the Parks and 37 **Ringed Plover** is the highest number so far.

**March 18th:** **Common Buzzard**, **Stonechat**, **Mistle Thrush** and two **Rook** of note.

**March 17th:** **Short-eared owl** was added to the year list and the **Common Buzzard** put in an appearance.

**March 15th:** There are now three **Stonechats** plus a **Linnet** and counts of **Lapwing** (119), **Ringed Plover** (36), **Oystercatcher** (64), **Dunlin** (12)

**March 14th:** The first **Stonechat** appeared.

**March 13th:** Just **Lapwing** (89) and **Iceland Gull** on 13th noteworthy

**March 9th:** The first **Skylarks** were heard singing and the first **Kittiwakes** were ashore. Counts of **Ringed Plover** (17), **Lapwing** (42), **Blackbird** (18), **Fieldfare** (45), **Redwing** (25) and **Song Thrush** (6).

**March 8th:** A ringtailed **Hen Harrier** went through

**March 1st-7th:** The first week was dominated by SNOW!

**February 2006:** Highlights: The **Common Buzzard** remained throughout accompanied by wintering **Kestrel** and **Merlin** (2) and a **Peregrine** (20<sup>th</sup>). Very strong winds (17<sup>th</sup>) caused gulls to seek shelter on the isle, including three each of **Iceland Gull** (adult and two 1stW) and **Glaucous Gull** (all 1stW) – with further birds occasionally to months end. Arrivals included a **Pied Wagtail** (12<sup>th</sup>), **Ringed Plover** (17<sup>th</sup>), **Wood Pigeon** (19<sup>th</sup>), **Rook** (21<sup>st</sup>) and **Mealy Redpoll** (24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>).

**Oystercatchers** trickled through all month (peak of just 40) and **Skylarks** from mid-month. The wintering female **Chaffinch** at the Obs was last seen on 20<sup>th</sup> and a male on 10<sup>th</sup>. Thrush numbers remained fairly high (200 **Fieldfare**, 80 **Redwing**, 30 **Blackbird**, 10 **Song Thrush**) with 55 **Twite** (19<sup>th</sup>), until snow caused a clearout on 26<sup>th</sup>. Other peak counts included **Greylag** (107), **Lapwing** (27), **Common Snipe** (100), **Jack Snipe** (4), **Curlew** (9), **Redshank** (50), **Purple Sandpiper** (27), **Turnstone** (75), **Water Rail** (4) and a **Moorhen**.

**January 2006:** Highlights: A 2<sup>nd</sup> winter **Glaucous Gull** was seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 1<sup>st</sup> winter on 13<sup>th</sup>. A 'small' **Canada Goose** on 9<sup>th</sup> did not stay long enough to be identified to race. A **Common Buzzard** flew through on 29<sup>th</sup>.



The wintering goose flock peaked at 63 **Greylag Geese**, joined by two **Pink-feet** on 26<sup>th</sup>. A lone adult **Whooper Swan** lingered throughout. Small numbers of **Mallard**, **Teal** and **Wigeon** were noted throughout and **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Long-tailed Ducks** and **Goldeneyes** were seen occasionally and a **Goosander** (8<sup>th</sup>). A **Great Northern Diver** was spotted (21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>) and a **Slavonian Grebe** (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>). Peak wader counts were 41 **Lapwing**, 60 **Redshank**, 100 **Turnstone** and 80 **Common Snipe** with **Woodcock**, **Jack Snipe**, **Dunlin** and **Purple Sandpipers** also noted and the first returning **Oystercatchers** (26<sup>th</sup>). Raptors were represented by **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine** and a **Long-eared Owl**. *(Photo Deryk Shaw)*

Passerine highlights included a few **Skylarks** and (unusually) **Meadow Pipits**, a handful of **Robins** plus thrushes, including unusually high numbers of **Fieldfares** (200+) and a **Mistle Thrush** (17<sup>th</sup>). A **Chaffinch**, a good flock of 72 **Twite** but just a maximum of 15 **Snow Buntings** were also noted.