

2008 - November - December

1st – 10th December: The early part of December saw very little of note as cold winter weather really set in. A 'mealy' **Common Redpoll** was seen on 1st. Two dark-bellied **Brent Geese** remain with the **Greylags** and two **Wigeon** and a **Common Scoter** were other wildfowl sightings. An **Oystercatcher** lingers as do the odd **Skylark** and two female **Chaffinches**. A **Waxwing** on 3rd and **Glaucous Gull** (5th & 6th) are the highlights so far.

18th - 30th November: The **Woodlark** was last seen on 18th, just ahead of a few days of snow! Other sightings of note included **Oystercatcher** (24th), **Waxwings** (23rd & 30th), a **Chiffchaff** (18th), **Blackcap** (28th), a couple of **Chaffinches** and single first-winter **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** (27th). The goose flock remains with 180 **Greylag**, three **Brent Geese** and single **Pink-footed** and **Taiga Bean Goose** (the latest addition to the year list). Male **Kestrel** and **Peregrine**, **Long-eared Owl**, five **Teal**, **Common Scoter** and a peak of eight **Meadow Pipits** still and 50+ **Snow Buntings** were also present.

17th November: A male **Yellowhammer** at Auld Haa was the only new sighting.



Eurasian Whitefronted Geese Photograph by Deryk Shaw

16th November: The **Woodlark** still frequents the Lower Stoneybrek crop. A **Stonechat** was at Duffield, where an adult and a juvenile **Whooper Swan** were on the sea. Just four **Brent Geese** were seen but also four **Eurasian Whitefronted Geese** and a **Common Scoter** was in South Harbour. There was a report from an islander of a Crane flying around.

15th November: An improvement in the weather with just showers driven by a gale force southwesterly wind! A wander around the south found that both **Woodlark** and **Shorelark** are still present as are five **Brent**, single **Greenland Whitefronted** and **Barnacle** with **195 Greylag Geese**. **Long-eared Owls** are in the Obs Plantation and Plantation. Thrushes (mainly Blackbird & Redwing) are still very evident and other passerines include around a dozen **Meadow Pipits**, **Chiffchaff** and 60 **Snow Buntings**.

14th November: A truly horrible day with constant rain and a gradually freshening SW'ly wind, reaching gale force by late afternoon. Not much to report but a male **Blackcap** was trapped in the Plantation, a **Chiffchaff** is at Lower Stoneybrek and a **Long-eared Owl** is sheltering in the Obs Plantation. Five **Brent Geese** remain and the **Greenland Whitefront** is with the **185 Greylag Geese**.



Long-eared Owl
Photograph by Deryk Shaw

13th November: A brisk southwesterly with frequent showers kept census to a minimum. There has been some goose movement overnight with **Greylags** down to c90 and only 3 **Barnacles** and 5 **Brent Geese** left. However, new in are 4 **Eurasian Whitefronts** with the **Greenland Whitefront!** A single **Waxwing**, the **Greenfinch** and **mealy Redpoll** were noted. Thrushes seemed much less evident.



Brent Geese *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*



12th November: Lighter winds from a northwesterly direction. A long day in the south produced some good counts with 190 **Greylag Geese** plus the **Greenland Whitefront**, 6 **Barnacles** and 6 **Brent Geese**. Thrush numbers were; 200 **Blackbird**, 130 **Fieldfare**, 300 **Redwing** and 6 **Song Thrush**. Small stuff included; 32 **Skylark**, 10 **Robin**, **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, **Chaffinch**, 2 **Brambling**, **Greenfinch**, 63 **Twite**, **mealy Redpoll** and 190 **Snow Bunting**. Best of all however were the rediscovery of the **Shorelark** (now at Shirva) and the **Woodlark** (now at Lower Stoneybrek).



Woodlark
Photograph by Deryk Shaw

11th November: **Woodcock** are still everywhere with an estimated 400 on the isle. Thrush numbers are a bit less with just 80 **Blackbird**, 100 **Fieldfare** and 200 **Redwing**. Also of note were now 6 **Brent Geese**, 3 **Short-eared owls**, 22 **Skylark** and a **Stonechat**.

10th November: Still hundreds of thrushes around with conservative estimates of 200 **Blackbird**, 320 **Fieldfare** and 450 **Redwing** plus 2-300 **Woodcock**. A **Little Auk** flew past South Light.

9th November: The strong wind continues and birding was pretty much the same as yesterday, with the addition of a **Grey Phalarope** in South Harbour.

8th November: The gale force southeasterly wind continues but thankfully with very little rain today. The day started well with two **Brent Geese** outside the Obs (another was found in the south later) and a **European Stonechat** at Dutfield. A thrash around the south found the **Woodlark** still present at Midway and an adult **Iceland Gull** amongst the 1,000+ **Herring Gulls**. Two 'Mealy' **Common Redpolls** and single **Chiffchaff**, **Chaffinch**, **Brambling** and **Greenfinch** were also noted, but best of all was a (long-awaited) **Olive-backed Pipit** flushed from the Utra bird-crop. After a quick lunch, a stride around the north produced highlights of a **Slavonian Grebe** in North Haven and a **Mistle Thrush** at Dronger. Thrush numbers were still high with several hundred each of **Blackbird**, **Fieldfare** and **Redwing** plus a handful of **Song Thrush**. **Woodcock** too were plentiful with 45 flushed, but the actual number must have been many times more.



Brent Goose *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*



Woodlark *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*

7th November: A gale force southeasterly wind with frequent rain showers meant that birding was virtually impossible although there were still hundreds of **thrushes** and many **Woodcock** around. The **Woodlark** was still at Midway.

6th November: A brisk, cool southeasterly wind brought in a sizeable influx of thrushes and Woodcock. A mad rush around the isle flushed 40 **Woodcock** and produced counts of 290 **Blackbird**, 350 **Fieldfare** and 550 **Redwing**. Lots of gulls were also taking refuge including 2,500 **Herring Gulls** and 800 **Great Black-backed Gulls**. A **Long-eared Owl** was at Pund and a fine adult male **Sparrowhawk** was eating a Redwing at Raeva. Other increased counts included 14 **Lapwing**, 17 **Common Gull**, 33 **Waxwing**, 12 **Robin**, 25 **Goldcrest** and 8 'mealy' **Common Redpoll**. A couple each of **Siberian Chiffchaff** and **Brambling** plus a **Greenfinch** were also noted but the highlight was a **Woodlark** in the field by Midway.



Long-eared owl *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*

5th November: A light easterly wind brought in a few more thrushes with counts of 20 **Blackbird**, 60 **Fieldfare** and 250 **Redwing**. A **Long-eared Owl** was at Skerryholm, three **Siberian Chiffchaffs** and two 'mealy' **Common Redpolls** were logged but best of all was a **Shore Lark** at Leogh!!

4th November: An exodus of birding staff was the most significant movement today!! They managed to see a **Black Redstart** at the Obs before they left and reported five **Little Auk** on the Fair Isle side of the Good Shepherd crossing (plus 64 nearer Sumburgh). A lonely thrash around the isle produced a male **Goldeneye** in Furse, a **Long-eared Owl** in the Plantation, three **Waxwings**, a couple of **Blackcaps** and three **Common Redpolls** (two 'Northwestern' and one 'Mealy').

Waxwings

Photographs by Deryk Shaw



3rd November: A couple of new birds today were 2 **Long-eared Owl** (1 caught on morning traps and the other at Easterhoull) and a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at the Obs. The 6 **Barnacle Geese**, **Grey Phalarope** (South Haven), 2 **Waxwing** (Obs) and the *tristis* **Chiffchaff** were all still present.

2nd November: There was again a **Grey Phalarope** in South Haven, probably not one of the original birds. There were two **Waxwing** in the Obs garden first thing then much of the afternoon, when was trapped for ringing. Other birds seen included 1 **Water Rail**, 1 **Woodcock**, 1 **Dunnock**, 4 **Chiffchaff** (including the *tristis*), 3 **Brambling**, 1 **Greenfinch**, 2 **Common Redpoll** and a high count of 220 **Snow Buntings**.



Waxwing
Photographs by Mark Breaks

1st November: There were 6 **Barnacle Geese** and a **Greenland White-fronted Goose** and the female **Goldeneye** remained in South Harbour. Both **Red-throated** and **Great Northern Divers** were seen during the morning. **Waxwing** numbers had increased to 6. 4 **Woodcock**, 4 **Blackcap**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Greenfinch**, 2 **Common Redpolls** and a **Yellowhammer** were the best of the rest.

OCTOBER

31st October: The final day of October produced very little change with just a female **Goldeneye**, 5 **Woodcock**, 1 **Waxwing**, the *tristis* **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Greenfinch** and an *islandica* **Common Redpoll**.

29th October: A much calmer day with a NNE'ly wind, which made birding much more pleasant. Best arrival was a group of three **Waxwing** seen a few times during the morning. A **Goldeneye** was on Golden Water briefly. There was a good count of **Turnstone** with at least 260 around the Isle. There was a first-year **Glaucous Gull** around the north with an adult through the Havens. Other arrivals included 7 **Blackbird**, 3 **Blackcap**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 8 **Chiffchaff** (including at least three eastern birds), 24 **Goldcrest**, the first **Greenfinch** of the autumn, 3 **Common Redpolls** (probably all *islandica*) and a female **Yellowhammer**.

28th October: With a stiff north-westerly wind blowing and heavy hail and sleet showers few people ventured out. The only sightings of note were a **Grey Phalarope** in South Harbour and an adult **Glaucous Gull** in Furse.

27th October: The wind had switched to a very cold north-westerly but stayed a similar strength. Again fairly few birds seen. One **Grey Phalarope** was still present in the Havens, but there was what seemed to be a different bird in South Harbour during the afternoon and another flew through later on. A second-year **Glaucous Gull** was present at the Obs first thing before disappearing into Maver's Geo. Very quiet otherwise.

26th October: Still quiet apart from the howling wind! The 2 **Grey Phalaropes** were still in the havens first thing but one was later seen flying past Chalet. Very little else with similar numbers of Swans, geese, ducks and waders. 15 **Golden Plover** and 27 **Lapwing** were slight increases. Two **Linnets** were the only passerines of note.

25th October: The wind just gets stronger – over 90mph SW'ly today! There were three **Pink-footed** and two **Greenland White-fronted Geese** with the **Greylag** flock near Upper Stoneybreck. There were obviously more waders today with 2 **Knot**, 13 **Sanderling**, 17 **Purple Sandpiper**, 8 **Dunlin** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. The two **Grey Phalarope** were still in the Havens.

24th October: The two **Grey Phalaropes** were still present in the Havens but best new bird was a **Corncrake** flushed a couple of times near Furse in the evening. A few new arrivals included singles of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Rook** and **Linnet**.

23rd October: Star bird today was a **Little Grebe** in Furse with a **Great Northern Diver** also there. There were again two **Grey Phalarope** in the Havens with the second bird looking like a new individual. There was the first sizeable movement of thrushes with an estimate of 1,000 **Fieldfare** along with 1,300 **Redwing** logged.

22nd October: A calmer day early on unfortunately didn't encourage many new birds out. A **Bluethroat** in the Vaadal in the morning was also present the previous evening but views then were not sufficient to identify it. There were over 700 **Greylag Geese** with 4 **Pink-footed** and 14 **Barnacle**. 455 **Redwing** were seen around the isle today with a **Chiffchaff**, a **Goldcrest**, 4 '**North-western**' **Redpoll** and 2 **Lapland Bunting** being the only other birds of note.

21st October: One possibly two **Little Auk** in North Haven was a nice, if not fairly expected, addition to the year list. The **Grey Phalarope** was still in South Haven. There were 26 **Whooper Swan** and 8 **Pink-footed Geese**. There were now 6 **White-fronted Geese** with an increase to 615 **Greylag Goose**. 63 **Kittiwakes** passed Bunes during a seawatch. A **Chiffchaff**, '**north-western**' **Common Redpoll** and a **Reed Bunting** were the only notable passerines.

20th October: There were at least three **Glaucous Gulls** seen during the day (2 Adults and a 2nd year) an overdue first for the autumn. A **Greenland White-fronted Goose** had joined the 314 **Greylag Geese** and there were 20 **Whooper Swan** around the Isle. One **Grey Phalarope** remained in South Haven. There was a **Moorhen** at Chalet and 2 '**North-western**' **Redpolls** which were new birds in. There were 64 **Redwing**, some of which were obviously exhausted, being very approachable. Hopefully the gale force winds will ease soon.

19th October: The **Grey Phalarope** remain. 12 **Whooper Swan** were seen on a seawatch late morning and there was an increase in **Greylag Geese** to around 400. A **Goldeneye** was new in, seen briefly flying over Spritery Hole. The strong wind and rain made birding on land very difficult with just 3 **Woodcock**, 2 **Brambling**, 2 **Mealy Redpoll** and a **Reed Bunting** of any note.

18th October: The two **Grey Phalaropes** remain in South Haven and another passed south light in the afternoon. Seawatching during the day also produced 4 **Long-tailed Duck** (with 4 more in the Havens), 3 **Great Northern Diver**, 1 **Red-throated Diver**, 3 **Cormorant**, 71 **Kittiwake** and 10 **Guillemot**. Again quiet on land with just 22 **Woodcock**, 3 **Tree Pipit** and 1 **Common Whitethroat** of note.

17th October: Both **Grey Phalaropes** were back in South Haven all day. There were 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** including an adult male in North Haven with the female but wildfowl highlight was a male **Gadwall** in with a flock (6) of **Red-breasted Merganser** in Furse. A **Barred Warbler** was trapped in the Plantation and the **Common Rosefinch** was still present in the south. New birds were 1 **Woodcock**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, a **Common Whitethroat** and 3 **Linnet**.

Of greater interest was 2 **Orca** past Bunes.

16th October: Two **Greenland White-fronted Geese** had joined the 165 **Greylag Geese**. One of the **Grey Phalaropes** remained in South Haven where a **Purple Sandpiper** had joined the Turnstones. A **Storm Petrel** and an **Arctic Tern** passed South Light. Very quiet elsewhere with very few **Redwing** remaining (only 44), there was a **Mealy Redpoll** at the Plantation and the **Common Rosefinch** was still in the south.



Long-tailed Duck Photograph by Mark Breaks



Long-tailed Duck Photograph by Mark Breaks



Grey Phalarope Photograph by Mark Breaks



Grey Phalarope Photograph by Mark Breaks

15th October: A rather pleasant surprise mid morning came in the form of two **Grey Phalarope** in South Haven. They were present for the whole day putting on a great show close inshore. The main feature of the day however was the passage of **Redwing** witnessed during the day with an estimate of 1440 birds counted. Otherwise the only new arrivals were a **Moorhen**, two **Yellow-browed Warbler** and a new **Reed Warbler**. Birds still present were the **Scaup**, the Long-tailed Duck in North Haven, the **Common Redpoll**, a **Common Crossbill** and the **Common Rosefinch**.

14th October: There was no sign of the Pectoral Sandpiper, but the female **Bluethroat** was still present and the **Common Rosefinch** was rediscovered on the beach in South Harbour. A few more ducks today included three **Long-tailed Duck**, plus a **Scaup** with the two **Tufted Duck** in Furse, where there was also a **Red-breasted Merganser**. Very little in the way of migrants with just 1 **Woodcock**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Chiffchaff** (including the eastern bird still), 1 **Common Redpoll** (North-western), 1 **Crossbill** and 4 **Lapland Bunting**.

13th October: The south-westerlies still blow and it remains fairly quiet. A rather unexpected report came in the form of a **Quail** near Setter. The **Pectoral Sandpiper** was still around Field and the female **Bluethroat** was in South Haven. Numbers were made up by a **Great Northern Diver** past Bunes, 1 **Whinchat**, 107 **Redwing** (including a number of Icelandic birds), 1 **Reed Warbler**, a **Redpoll** (probably North-western) and 4 **Lapland Bunting**.



Photograph by Rebecca Nason

Eastern Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita abietinus*

12th October: Birds still remaining were the **Pectoral Sandpiper** near Setter with another flying over. The female **Bluethroat** is still in the Havens, the **Stonechat** is still in the north and the **Yellow-browed Warbler** was still in the Plantation. There was a **Water Rail** and a **Reed Warbler** in Schoolton Ditch with 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 72 **Redwing**, 27 **Brambling**, 1 **Mealy Redpoll** and 5 **Lapland Bunting** being the pick of the rest.

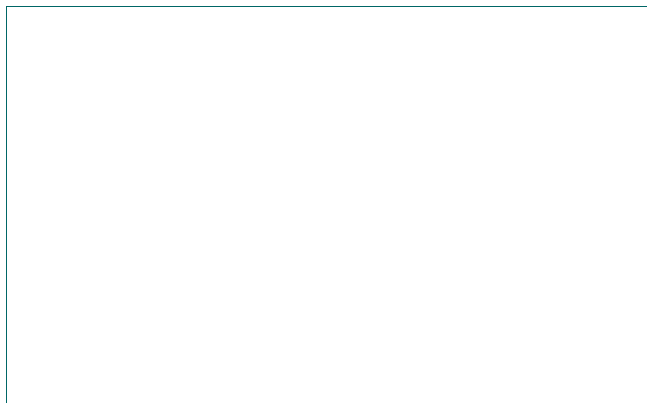
11th October: There was no sign of the White-fronted Goose but there was a new arrival in the form of a **Grey Phalarope** briefly in Klingers Geo before flying north. Fairly quiet otherwise with the **Pectoral Sandpiper** (Parks then Setter) **Bluethroat** (Havens) and **Rosefinch** (Haa) still present. An **Arctic Tern** in North Haven, **Stonechat** (Peat cuttings) and **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Lower Stoneybreck) were all new. Numbers were made up of 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 4 **Chiffchaff** (including 1 *abietinus* still) and 2 **Lapland Bunting**.

10th October: A new bird and a year tick came in the form of a **Greenland White-fronted Goose** which had joined the **Greylag Geese** commuting between Chalet and Sukka Mire. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** on Da Water much of the day was presumably the bird from 8th. The only other birds of any note were a **Long-tailed Duck** (Finniquoy), **Richards Pipit** (Field), the **Bluethroat** (Havens), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Plantation) and a **Common Rosefinch** (South Harbour).

9th October: Another quiet day. A few wildfowl again with 3 **Whooper Swan**, 2 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 1 **Common Scoter** and a **Long-tailed Duck** (Finniquoy). The Havens **Bluethroat** is still present and there was a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Bulls Park and 2 **Common Rosefinch**. The only obvious new arrivals were 4 **Mealy Redpolls** and another bird showing characteristics of a 'North-western' bird.

The small variety of other migrants seen included 1 **Woodcock**, 2 **Grey Wagtail**, 6 **Blackbird**, 50 **Redwing**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 7 **Blackcap**, 5 **Chiffchaff** (including at least 1 Eastern bird), 56 **Brambling**, 7 **Linnet**, 4 **Lapland Bunting**, a **Yellowhammer** and a **Reed Bunting**.

8th October: A calmer day with no rain seemed to encourage birds out at last. Highlight was our THIRD **WHITE'S THRUSH** of the autumn! Initially at Quoy, it soon moved to Houll crop where it put on a brilliant show for part of the morning. No sign of any **Richard's Pipits** but the 3 **Bluethroat** were still present and there are now 3 **Common Rosefinch**. A **Slavonian Grebe**, 1 **Ring Ouzel**, 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler** and a **Yellowhammer** were the pick of the new arrivals. There were obviously fewer geese with only 82 **Greylag Goose**, 18 **Barnacle**



Geese and 1 **Pink-footed Goose**. Thrushes were again fairly well represented with 12 **Blackbird**, 5 **Fieldfare**, 70 **Song Thrush** and 570 **Redwing**. Other migrants included 2 **Short-eared Owl**, 5 **Whinchat**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 17 **Blackcap**, 5 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, 32 **Brambling**, 1 **Linnet**, 1 **Crossbill**, 4 **Lapland Bunting** and 60 **Snow Bunting**.



White's Thrush
Photo by Rebecca Nason

7th October: Heavy rain and wind was again hindering birding and there were again fairly few birds seen. However there are now *three* **Richards Pipit**, with two at the Raevas and the one still near Hesswalls. Also still present were the two **Bluethroat** and the **Common Rosefinch**. There were a few new thrushes on the Isle, 5 **Blackbird**, 2 **Fieldfare**, 15 **Song Thrush** and 290 **Redwing**. The only other migrants from today were 2 **Sparrowhawk**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Chiffchaff** (including one *abietinus*), 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, 15 **Brambling**, 1 **Crossbill** and 23 **Snow Bunting**.

6th October: The wind had gone round to the south-east but birding was still made difficult by the strength of it! The highlight was a reported first-year **Citrine Wagtail** seen briefly in the south in the morning, unfortunately it proved elusive the rest of the day. The **Richards Pipit** was seen again, today in the Field/Bull's Park area. There were 2 **Bluethroat** (Schoolton and Havens), 1 **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Skerryholm) and a **Common Rosefinch** (Wester Lother). Variety was added with; 1 **Woodcock**, 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Grey Wagtail**, 1 **Whinchat**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 3 **Linnet**, 1 **Crossbill**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 108 **Snow Bunting**.

5th October: There was a **Richards Pipit** around Pund and Field at lunchtime. The **Bluethroat** was still in the Havens and the ringed **Common Rosefinch** was still at Field. Wildfowl were again much in evidence today, with the highlight of 2 **Gadwall** (a good bird on Fair Isle) 36 **Pink-footed Goose**, 510 **Greylag Geese**, 58 **Barnacle Geese**, 1 **Scaup**, 13 **Tufted Duck**, 5 **Red-breasted Merganser**. Seawatching today produced 2 **Great Northern Diver**, 1 **Red-throated Diver**, 25 **Kittiwake**, 22 **Guillemot** and 3 **Razorbill**. Some birds braved the wind including; 2 **Whinchat**, 12 **Wheatear**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Linnet**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll**, 1 'North-western' **Redpoll**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 70 **Snow Bunting**.

4th October: Another good day for wildfowl movement with 3 **Whooper Swan**, 29 **Pink-footed Goose**, 370 **Greylag Goose**, 270 **Barnacle Geese**, 43 **Wigeon**, 1 **Pintail**, 1 **Common Scoter**, 1 **Scaup**, 27 **Tufted Duck** and 3 **Red-breasted Merganser**. 4 **Sooty Shearwater** were seen on seawatches.

In the howling wind smaller birds were quite difficult to come across but 1 **Woodcock**, 1 **Swallow**, 1 **Bluethroat**, 1 **Blackcap**, 1 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Brambling**, 2 **Mealy Redpoll**, 1 **Crossbill**, the **Rosefinch**, 45 **Snow Buntings**, the **Little Bunting** and 2 **Lapland Bunting** were all seen.

3rd October: The first **Richards Pipit** of the autumn was seen coming in off the sea at and landing near Auld Haa during the morning but seemed to disappear fairly quickly. There was still a single **Bluethroat** and a **Rosefinch** present. It was a good day for wildfowl, which started off with at least 320 **Greylag Goose** flying around the isle, briefly joined by 34 **Pink-footed Geese**. Ducks consisted of 3 **Pintail**, 5 **Scaup**, 3 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Common Scoter**, 3 **Long-tailed Duck** and 11 **Red-breasted**

Merganser with the majority on seawatches. A couple of **Bar-tailed Godwits** were new arrivals and there were 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 6 **Blackcap**, 2 **Brambling**, 2 **Siskin**, 2 **Mealy Redpoll**, 3 **Lapland Bunting** and at least 70 **Snow Bunting** making up the passerine migrants.

2nd October: It was very much back to normal today. The **Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll** was still present roaming most of the south. Also still holding on were 2 **Bluethroat**, 1 **Barred Warbler** (Schoolton), 3 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 1 **Rosefinch** and the **Little Bunting**. A bit more movement with the northerlies consisted of 145 **Greylag Geese** flying south in the evening, 3 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 11 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Woodcock**, 1 **Brambling** and at least 60 **Snow Bunting**. Of the common passerines there was only 1 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Grey Wagtail**, 4 **Whinchat**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Blackcap**, 2 **Mealy Redpoll** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**.

1st October: With a strong northerly wind blowing most of the day expectations seemed low. Well, it turned into a day of definite quality over quantity. It started off with a not completely unexpected **HORNEMANN'S ARCTIC REDPOLL** near Pund. A stunning bird that put on a good show most of the day moving to Field later in the day. A short while after breakfast, three lucky observers witnessed a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** flying down the middle of the isle, before heading west towards Hjukni Geo, never to be seen again – only the fifth island record. But then, mid-morning a big surprise came in the form of an extremely obliging **PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** near Walli Burn. This bird also put on a good show, for much of the day. Our second of the autumn! Things got even better..... After a report during the morning from one of the islanders of a possible **WHITE'S THRUSH** at Schoolton, just before lunch it was seen again briefly. It proved to be very elusive before finally being refound in Swartzi Geo – at exactly the same time that **ANOTHER** was seen in Sma Trinket Geo. This latter bird disappeared into Hesswalls and could not be found, so everyone descended on Swartzi Geo where all had great flight views of this magnificent thrush. It then made its way across the island before ending up at Malcolm's Head. Other birds encouraged by the northerly wind included 13 **Whooper Swans**, 15 **Jack Snipe** and 340 **Redwing**. Even though much of the day was taken up looking at rarities, other sightings were made including 2 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Bluethroat**, 1 **Redstart**, 8 **Whinchat**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Barred Warbler**, 5 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 7 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 1 **Pied Flycatcher**, 1 **Common Rosefinch**, 1 **Lapland Bunting**, 5 **Snow Bunting** and the **Little Bunting**.



Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll



Photograph by Mark Breaks



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
(above and above right)

Whites Thrush (right)

Photographs by Mark Breaks



Hornemann's Arctic Redpoll
Photographs by Deryk Shaw





Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler
Photographs by Deryk Shaw

SEPTEMBER

30th September: Heavy showers and a north-westerly wind for much of the day meant it was only much the same seen. The 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were still on the scrape, the **Bluethroat** was still in the Havens and 5 **Yellow-browed Warblers** remain. 2 **Great Northern Diver**, 2 **Sooty Shearwater**, 2 **Kittiwake**, 1 **Puffin**, 1 **Guillemot** and a **Razorbill** were seen on a seawatch from Bunes. Similar to previous days there were; 1 **Water Rail**, 1 **Swallow**, 1 **Blue-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Redstart**, 4 **Whinchat**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 5 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Blackcap**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 3 **Willow Warbler**, 4 **Siskin**, 6 **Linnet**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 40 **Snow Bunting**.

29th September: The wind was still in the south west and showers passed through much of the day some heavy, causing people to retreat early. It was a fairly quiet day with a selection of lingering birds but very few new arrivals. The 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were still on the scrape, the **Bluethroat** was in the Havens, 8 **Yellow-browed Warbler** around the isle and the **Little Bunting** at Utra. 1 **Arctic Skua** and an **Arctic Tern** passed south light. Migrants included 1 **Water Rail**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Dunnock**, 5 **Whinchat**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 5 **Blackcap**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Siskin**, 2 **Linnet**, 1 **Lesser Redpoll**, 1 **Mealy Redpoll**, 1 **Lapland Bunting** and 1 **Snow Bunting**.

28th September: Rather frustrating was a very unobliging *Locustella* warbler at Leogh with opinions swayed towards Lanceolated. Hopefully it will be relocated tomorrow. There are now 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** (Scrape) – our first multiple sighting - and the **Bluethroat** (Garage), 6 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, a **Common Rosefinch** (trapped in the Vadaal) and the **Little Bunting** (Utra crop) were all still present. 67 **Pink-footed Goose** and 28 **Greylag Goose** flew south and a **Pintail** and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were new. Again fairly few migrants, consisting of 2 **Tree Pipit**, 4 **Whinchat**, 6 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 7 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 4 **Siskin**, 1 **Linnet**, 1 **Lesser Redpoll**, 1 **Mealy Redpoll**, 1 **Lapland Bunting** and 8 **Snow Bunting**.



Pectoral Sandpipers Photograph by Mark Breaks

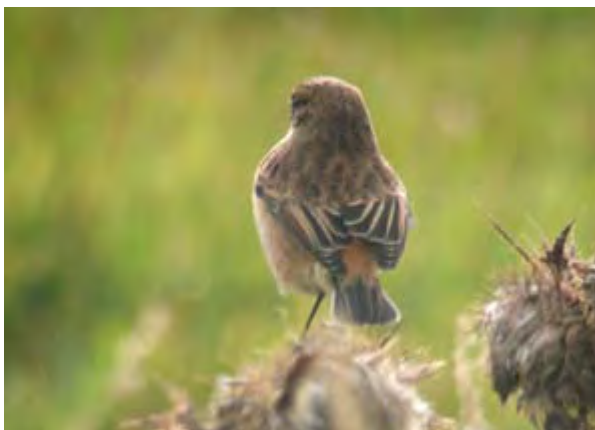


Pectoral Sandpiper Photograph by Mark Breaks

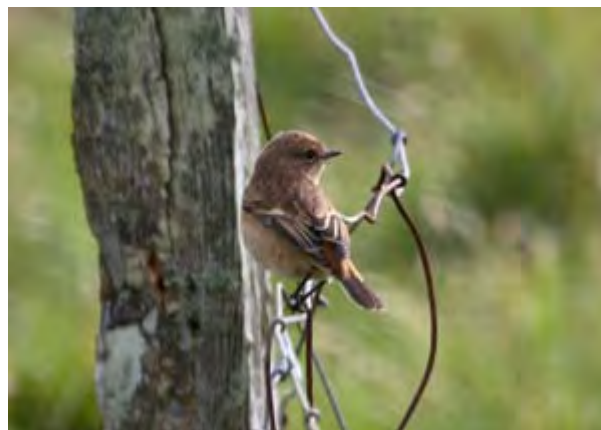
27th September: The **Pectoral Sandpiper** (Skadan), female **Bluethroat** (Havens), 7 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (South Harbour), **Common Rosefinch** (Shop) and **Little Bunting** (Ultra crop) were all still present. A flock of 9 **Greylag Geese** flew south as well as 240 **Pink-footed Goose**. There were fewer common birds than of late but included 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Dunnock**, 2 **Redstart**, 7 **Whinchat**, 18 **Redwing**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 6 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 6 **Willow Warbler** and 4 **Snow Bunting**.

26th September: Although a very quiet day, by recent standards, the day wasn't without its highlight. A **Siberian Stonechat** around School/Da Water area was bird of the day. Although initially flighty it later gave satisfactory enough views to clinch identification. Birds remaining were the **Pectoral Sandpiper**, a **Bluethroat**, 29 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, the **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (Springfield) and the **Little Bunting** (Ultra crop)

420 **Pink-footed Goose** flew south during the day and there was a **Common Scoter** off South Light. There were less common birds than of late but still 1 **Wood Pigeon**, 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 1 **Long-eared Owl**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Redstart**, 13 **Whinchat**, 16 **Wheatear**, 54 **Redwing**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 8 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 8 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 10 **Willow Warbler**, 3 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 1 **Brambling**, 3 **Siskin**, 3 **Redpoll**, 1 **Lapland Bunting** and 3 **Snow Bunting**.



Siberian Stonechat



Photographs by Mark Breaks

25th September: I repeat..... "As if yesterday wasn't good enough....." The red flag came out for the fifth time in the past three days. Today people were hiking to the west cliffs to see a first-year male **SIBERIAN THRUSH** in Guidicum. The **Brown Flycatcher** was present briefly first thing but had gone missing by 8.15am and this bird was found whilst searching for it. The fifth first for the isle of the year, it stayed all day in the gully at Guidicum, which allowed everyone to get good views. Yet another eastern vagrant appeared before lunch when an **Arctic Warbler** was found at the Haa before

relocating to Skerryholm. Other quality new arrivals included a **Honey Buzzard** south before breakfast, a **Long-eared Owl** caught on early morning trap round 3 **Bluethroat**, a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Springfield, 2 **Rosefinch** and a **Little Bunting** at Lower Stoneybreck in the afternoon. There were at least 32 **Yellow-browed Warbler** present and the **Pectoral Sandpiper** seemed to settle near Setter late afternoon.

There was again a fairly good variety of commoner migrants be it in low numbers. The haul was 1 **Mistle Thrush**, 1 **Wood Pigeon**, 3 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 12 **Tree Pipit**, 4 **Grey Wagtail**, 2 **Redstart**, 7 **Whinchat**, 120 **Redwing**, 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 6 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 5 **Garden Warbler**, 9 **Blackcap**, 5 **Chiffchaff**, 15 **Willow Warbler**, 4 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher**, 3 **'North-western' Redpoll**, 1 **Lapland Bunting** and 2 **Snow Bunting**.



Siberian Thrush
Photographs by Deryk Shaw





Little Bunting *Photograph by Mark Breaks*



Arctic Warbler *Photograph by Mark Breaks*

How much longer can this last?!!

24th September: As if yesterday wasn't good enough, today saw a first year **BROWN FLYCATCHER** turn up at the mast. It was initially spotted on Ward Hill but spent much of its time around the Communications mast perimeter fence, putting on a remarkable display. If this wasn't enough, mid afternoon a **RED-FLANKED BLUE TAIL** was found at Kenaby. Although originally fairly mobile it soon settled around the crop. Almost as remarkable was the influx of **Yellow-browed Warblers**, with an estimated 45 birds seen on the isle during the day (including a flock of 10 on top of Ward Hill) smashing the previous day record (16 on 4th October 1988). Supporting cast was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on the Skadan, 1 **Corncrake** near Quoy, a **Bluethroat** at Setter and a **Rosefinch** at the Pier. There was also the first reasonable movement of **Redwing** with at least 200 passing through. **Pink-footed Geese** were seen again with 77 moving south and there was a **Water Rail** and 5 'North-western' **Redpoll**. A good variety of commoner migrants consisted 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 1 **House Martin**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, 1 '*flava*' **Wagtail**, 3 **Redstart**, 11 **Whinchat**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 13 **Blackcap**, 11 **Chiffchaff**, 10 **Willow Warbler**, 7 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 12 **Pied Flycatcher**, 15 **Siskin**, 2 **Lapland Bunting** and 4 **Snow Bunting**.



Brown Flycatcher *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*



Brown Flycatcher *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*



Brown Flycatcher Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Brown Flycatcher Photograph by Mark Breaks



Red-flanked Bluetail Photograph by Mark Breaks



Brown Flycatcher Photograph by Mark Breaks

23rd September: Today was definitely a day of quality. The day kicked off well with a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at North Light before breakfast. It was later seen briefly flying around the south but remained elusive for the rest of the day. There was a brief sighting yesterday of what was thought to be this species so thankfully it showed again. A **Lanceolated Warbler** was found mid-morning in Bulls Park and put on a very good show for most of the day. A **2nd** bird was found late in the day, in Gilsetter. Just after lunch a **Red-throated Pipit** put on a fairly good show, mainly in Boini Mire and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in front of the Haa briefly. The best however waited for late afternoon when a **PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** was found in Busta Geo. Although it would occasionally disappear into a cave at the base of the cliff it did occasionally show fairly well.



Lanceolated Warbler *Photograph by Mark Breaks*



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Photograph by Mark Breaks*

Even though most people were admiring the above, there were other birds to see. There was a good movement of **Pink-footed Geese** during the day with 850 flying through during the day in various sized flocks. There were 6 **Whooper Swans** on Golden Water first thing and the **Tufted Duck** was still present on Easter Lothar. The small haul of migrants included 1 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 9 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 15 **Blackcap**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 9 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 2 **Brambling**, 4 **Siskin**, 3 **Linnet** and 2 **Snow Bunting**. Six 'North-western' **Redpoll** and a **Lesser Redpoll** were present at Setter in the evening.

21st September: Although there were again fairly few birds, there were at least 6 **Yellow-browed Warblers** around the south A **Water Rail** was picked up freshly dead near the shop. The 4 **Whooper Swans** were still present, 3 of which are bearing darvic rings. 1 **Little Stint** and the **Curlew Sandpiper** were seen and 4 'North-western' **Redpoll** and 2 **Common Crossbill** were still present. 1 **Swift**, 1 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 21 **Tree Pipit**, 5 **Grey Wagtail**, 9 **Redstart**, 19 **Whinchat**, 29 **Wheatear**, 36 **Redwing**, 7 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 20 **Blackcap**, 4 **Chiffchaff**, 16 **Willow Warbler**, 13 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 10 **Pied Flycatcher**, 4 **Brambling**, 5 **Siskin** and 1 **Lapland Bunting** were the obvious migrants.

20th September: There were very few birds remaining from previous days with no sign of the Lanceolated Warbler and the only scarce migrant being a **Bluethroat** at Quoy. The first **Snow Bunting** of the autumn appeared in the north. 4 **Whooper Swan** and 30 **Pink-footed Goose** were seen and the male **Scaup** and female **Tufted Duck** were still present. The **Curlew Sandpiper** was also still present around South Light. The 4 'North-western' **Redpoll** were seen around the Obs and the Gully. Common migrants were definitely down on previous days with totals much lower. 2 **Swallow**, 23 **Tree Pipit**, 1 'Flava' **Wagtail**, 10 **Redstart**, 27 **Whinchat**, 36 **Wheatear**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 8 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 13 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 20 **Willow Warbler**, 12 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher**, 1 **Brambling** and 8 **Siskin** was the days haul.

19th September: There was no sign of the Western Bonelli's Warbler but the **Lanceolated Warbler** was seen again near Pund. The **Ortolan Bunting** put in yet another very brief appearance, today near Nedertaft. The most interesting new arrival were 4 'North-western' **Redpolls** caught during the day. There was a bit of wildfowl movement today with flocks of 16 and 4 **Whooper Swan** flying south and the first **Pink-footed Geese** of the autumn with a total of 73 in 3 flocks also going south. The **Barred Warbler** (Da Water/Shop) and **Yellow-browed Warbler** (Utra), **Lapland Bunting** and 2 of the **Common Crossbill** remain. The male **Scaup** was still present, today joined by a female **Tufted Duck**. The 3 **Little Stint** and **Curlew Sandpiper** were still present in the south. Migrants today consisted 2 **Swift**, 36 **Tree Pipit**, 4 **Grey-headed** and 1 **Blue-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Black Redstart**, 23 **Common Redstart**, 30 **Whinchat**, 60 **Wheatear**, 9 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 7 **Pied Flycatcher**. Warblers were 3 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 11 **Reed Warbler**, 7 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Garden Warbler**, 15 **Blackcap**, 4 **Chiffchaff** and 46 **Willow Warbler**.

18th September: The **Lanceolated Warbler** was relocated, today closer to Pund. The **Western Bonelli's Warbler** was again present near Hjukni Geo. There was a **Corncrake** in Kenaby crop and the **Red-backed Shrike** and **Rosefinch** remain. The drake **Scaup** was still present in the north, as were the 2 **Shoveler** in the south and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** flew through. New arrivals included 1 **Short-eared Owl**, 1 **Swift**, 1 **Brambling**, a few more **Siskin** and the first 2 **Reed Bunting** of the autumn. Migrants were present in much lower numbers but included 32 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Blue-headed Wagtail**, 18 **Redstart**, 29 **Whinchat**, 34 **Wheatear**, 13 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 12 **Pied Flycatcher** and 2 **Lapland Bunting**. Best of the warblers were the **Barred Warbler**, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler** and 1 **Wood Warbler** and there were 7 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 6 **Reed Warbler**, 5 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 9 **Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warbler**, 13 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff** and 53 **Willow Warbler**.

17th September: Star bird today was a **WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** found near Hjukni Geo. It showed well to the assembled crowd most of the afternoon. Other new arrivals were an all too brief **Pectoral Sandpiper** on Vaatnagard, 2 **Yellow-browed Warbler** and 2 **Common Rosefinch**. Also, 3 **Wryneck**, 1 **Bluethroat** (Setter), 1 **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (Hoini), 1 **Red-backed Shrike** (Quoy) and 3 **Common Crossbill** all remain. The **Scaup** was still present in the north as were the 2 **Shoveler** in the south. The **Osprey** made an appearance over the obs first thing (on its way to Shetland?). Common migrants included 54 **Tree Pipit**, 2 '**flava**' **Wagtails**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 78 **Common Redstart**, 38 **Whinchat**, 45 **Wheatear**, 35 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 38 **Pied Flycatcher**. Warbler numbers were made up of 5 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 6 **Reed Warbler**, 14 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 10 **Whitethroat**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 14 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and 120 **Willow Warbler**.



Pectoral Sandpiper *Photograph by Mark Breaks*



Yellow-browed Warbler *Photograph by Mark Breaks*



Western Bonelli's Warbler
Photograph by Mark Breaks



Western Bonelli's Warbler
Photograph by Mark Breaks

16th September: A new arrival was a juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** on Skaden but it was seen to fly off west not long after being found. There was also a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and an **Ortolan Bunting** near Gunnawark. The **Bluethroat** was still around Setter, the **Barred Warbler** was still at the Haa and there were 3 **Wryneck** around the south. A male **Scaup** was still present in North Haven and there was a **Red-breasted Merganser** in South Harbour. The **Marsh Harrier** and **Osprey** were still on the Isle and there were 4 **Sparrowhawk**, 10 **Kestrel** and 1 **Merlin**. The **Grey Plover**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and 3 **Little Stint** were all still present.



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling Photographs by Mark Breaks



Warblers present were 7 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 13 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Barred Warbler**, 10 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 27 **Blackcap**, 3 **Garden Warbler**, 12 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and an impressive 135 **Willow Warbler**.

Good counts of other common migrants included 71 **Tree Pipit**, 69 **Redstart**, 37 **Whinchat**, 54 **Wheatear**, 31 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 45 **Pied Flycatcher** and there were also 1 **Turtle Dove**, 1 **Black Redstart**, 4 **Crossbill** and 3 **Lapland Bunting**.

A rather respectable total of **101** species was recorded!!

15th September: The **Lanceolated Warbler** was seen again today and occasionally showed well. The **Thrush Nightingale** was also seen again around Skerryholm and the **Ortolan Bunting** appeared briefly at Chalet. A male **Bluethroat** (Setter), a **Red-backed Shrike** (Setter) and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (Wester Lothar) were new birds for the autumn. Two **Wryneck**, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and a **Corncrake** were probably birds hanging on from previous days. Wildfowl highlight was the appearance of 4 **Scaup** in the north. **Wigeon** numbers were up slightly to 108 and there were 27 **Teal**, 2 **Shoveler** and 1 **Pintail** with a **Red-throated Diver** past. Again the **Osprey** and **Marsh Harrier** were around the isle and there were 5 **Sparrowhawk**, 10 **Kestrel**, 2 **Merlin** and 3 **Peregrine**. The **Grey Plover** had joined a flock of 47 **Golden Plover**, there were now 4 **Little Stint** and the **Curlew Sandpiper** was still near North Light. **Dunlin** numbers had grown to 54. There was now a male **Blue-headed Wagtail** and 5 **Grey-headed Wagtail** around the south. Still good numbers of common migrants with 48 **Tree Pipit**, 44 **Redstart**, 41 **Whinchat**, 87 **Wheatear**, 26 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 33 **Pied Flycatcher**. Warblers comprised 6 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 5 **Sedge Warbler**, 14 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Barred Warbler**, 8 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 9 **Whitethroat**, 8 **Garden Warbler**, 21 **Blackcap**, 1 **Wood Warbler**, 4 **Chiffchaff** and 68 **Willow Warbler**. Birds moving included 7 **Redwing**, 101 **Chaffinch**, 2 **Siskin**, **Redpoll sp.**, 5 **Crossbill** and 2 **Lapland Bunting**.

14th September: Another great day for birds. Thankfully the **Lanceolated Warbler** was relocated after breakfast on Horsti Brekkas and this time it obliged to the assembled group of birders. The supporting cast included the **Two-barred Crossbill** putting in another brief appearance near Kenaby, an **Ortolan Bunting** seen at Upper Stoneybreck, the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the autumn (at North Naversgil) as well as a **Corncrake**, 2 **Wryneck** and 3 **Common Rosefinch**. Equally as interesting to some was a **Great-spotted Woodpecker** seen flying over the shop. **Wigeon** numbers were up with 94 birds otherwise numbers fairly stable with 49 **Teal**, 2 **Shoveler** and 1 **Pintail**. There was a good showing of raptors with both the **Marsh Harrier** and **Osprey** still present as well as 5 **Sparrowhawk**, 8 **Kestrel**, 2 **Merlin**, 4 **Peregrine**. Wader numbers were similar but two new species for the year were a **Grey Plover** over South Light and a **Curlew Sandpiper** near North Light. The 3 **Little Stint** were still present on Da Water. There were still particularly good numbers of some birds including 79 **Tree Pipit**, 48 **Redstart**, 49 **Whinchat**, 114 **Wheatear**, 10 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 24 **Pied Flycatcher**. Thrushes present were 3 **Blackbird**, 1 **Fieldfare**, 236 **Song Thrush** and the first **Redwing** of the autumn. Warblers present consisted high counts of 9 **Grasshopper Warbler** and 19 **Reed Warbler**, as well as 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 2 **Barred Warbler**, 8 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 8 **Whitethroat**, 15 **Garden Warbler**, 24 **Blackcap** and 79 **Willow Warbler**. There were a few birds moving overhead including 109 **Chaffinch**, the first 2 **Brambling** of the autumn, 7 **Crossbill** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**. A long species list also included 10 **Common Tern**, 1 **Sand Martin**, 2 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 3 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 24 **Robin** and 1 **Black Redstart**.



There was a surprise in the evening when a **Bat sp.** (probably *Pipistrelle*) was seen flying around the Plantation. There was also a surprising amount of butterflies seen during the day with 5 **Peacock** and 7 **Red Admiral** seen during the day.

Curlew

Sandpiper

Photograph by Mark Breaks

13th September: A superb days birding. There was an excellent scattering of common migrants plus a few scarcies and rarities. A **Corncrake** was flushed from below Houll before breakfast, then there was a very flighty **Thrush Nightingale** at the Haa not long after breakfast. Census produced huge counts of common migrants but it was not until mid-afternoon when a **PADDYFIELD WARBLER** was found at Setter. It was not too obliging but with patience everybody managed to get views. Unfortunately what would have been the most popular bird did not oblige to the crowds, when a **Lanceolated Warbler** seen in Horsti Brekkas early evening could not be refound. Another **Corncrake** seen while searching was a nice surprise and a male **Marsh Harrier** seen moments earlier was an interesting new arrival. Other unusual birds seen today were the **Osprey** seen at South Light and later Setter, 2 **Wryneck**, 3 **Barred Warbler** and 3 **Common Rosefinch**. Wildfowl numbers were similar with 55 **Wigeon**, 64 **Teal**, 2 **Shoveler** and 1 **Pintail** with a **Red-throated Diver** flying through. The wader numbers were also much the same with 29 **Golden Plover**, 22 **Lapwing**, 1 **Knot**, 3 **Little Stint**, 36 **Dunlin**, 3 **Ruff**, 1 **Whimbrel**, 1 **Green sandpiper** and 2 **Common Sandpiper**. The more impressive counts from today included, 96 **Tree Pipit**, 42 **Robin**, 100 **Common Redstart**, 40 **Whinchat**, 54 **Wheatear**, 142 **Song Thrush**, 80 **Garden Warbler**, 34 **Blackcap**, 69 **Willow Warbler**, 20 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 33 **Pied Flycatcher**. Warblers present today included 6 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Sedge Warbler**, 6 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Barred Warbler**, 7 **Lesser Whitethroat** and 19 **Whitethroat**. Finches starting to pass through comprised 17 **Chaffinch**, 1 **Siskin**, 1 **Mealy Redpoll** and 5 **Common Crossbill**. Other odds and ends were 1 juvenile **Common Tern**, 1 **Swallow**, 5 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Dunnock**, 1 **Blackbird**, 1 **Fieldfare** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**.



Paddyfield Warbler Photograph by Mark Breaks



Little Stint Photograph by Mark Breaks

12th September: The wind had calmed slightly which made birding a lot easier. There had been a very impressive fall of common migrants, as well as a few goodies being seen. An **Ortolan Bunting** near the obs just before lunch was a pleasant surprise and other scarcities included 1 **Osprey** (settled near South Light), 3 **Wryneck**, 2 **Barred Warblers**, 3 **Common Rosefinch** and the **Two-barred Crossbill** putting in a typically brief appearance. Ducks were present in good numbers again with 60 **Wigeon**, 40 **Teal**, 3 **Pintail** and 1 **Shoveler** with a **Red-throated Diver** flying through. A good variety of waders present included the first **Little Stint** of the year on Da Water and later the Scrape. Other waders comprised 36 **Golden Plover**, 1 **Purple Sandpiper**, 45 **Dunlin**, 3 **Ruff**, 1 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Greenshank**, 1 **Green Sandpiper** and 1 **Common Sandpiper**. Passerines present in good numbers were 54 **Tree Pipit**, 365 **Meadow Pipit**, 25 **Robin**, 38 **Common Redstart**, 32 **Whinchat**, 38 **Wheatear**, 29 **Song Thrush**, 11 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 17 **Pied Flycatcher**. Warblers seen during the day were 3 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 6 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 11 **Whitethroat**, 30 **Garden Warbler**, 28 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff** and 52 **Willow Warbler**. Other birds seen were 1 **Cuckoo**, 5 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Dunnock**, 1 **Common Crossbill** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**.

11th September: The strong wind made birding rather difficult and there was certainly some frustration during the day. Firstly was a **Nightingale sp.** at the garages before lunch that disappeared before it could be positively identified. Then there was a **crake sp.** Which ran across the road at Meadow Burn in the afternoon. This disappeared into the roadside ditch not to be seen again. Commoner migrants were present in much lower numbers with just 1 **Swift**, 15 **Tree Pipit**, 8 **Robin**, 9 **Redstart**, 10 **Whinchat**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 4 **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Chaffinch** and 1 **Crossbill**. Warblers comprised 1 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Barred Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Garden Warbler**, 3 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and 22 **Willow Warbler**. The highlight of a seawatch during the morning was a **Minke Whale** with just a **Storm Petrel** as support.

10th September: With the wind in the south east, there was a decent arrival of common migrants. Good counts included 35 **Tree Pipit**, 20 **Robin**, 28 **Common Redstart**, 15 **Whinchat**, 9 **Whitethroat**, 24 **Garden Warbler**, 12 **Blackcap**, 36 **Willow Warbler**, 15 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 19 **Pied Flycatcher**. The **Two-barred Crossbill** was seen again at Barkland briefly during the morning. The only scarce birds around were 1 **Icterine Warbler** (Gully) and 1 **Barred Warbler** (Haa). There were now 28 **Wigeon** on the isle and a **Sooty Shearwater** flew south on an early morning seawatch. Wader numbers stayed constant but for a big increase in **Dunlin**, to 48. There was a good variety of other birds present in smaller numbers. 1 **Turtle Dove**, 1 **Swift**, 1 **'flava' Wagtail**, 1 **Song Thrush**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Chiffchaff** and the **Crossbill**. Four **Chaffinch** seen during the afternoon were the first of the autumn.

9th September: The **Two-barred Crossbill**

was seen again this morning. Originally seen at Barkland, it flew to the school before returning to the Schoolton/Quoy area briefly. No sign of the Citrine Wagtail today but scarcities seen included 1 **Wryneck** (South Harbour), 1 **Barred Warbler**, 1 **Wood Warbler** and 1 **Common Rosefinch**. Wildfowl numbers were slightly up with 14 **Wigeon** and 18 **Teal**. Waders comprised 21 **Golden Plover**, 1 **Knot**, 1 **Sanderling**, 2 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Common Sandpiper** and 1 **Green Sandpiper**. Passerine migrants seen were 3 **Swallow**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Dunnock**, 4 **Whinchat**, 1 **Blackbird**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 7 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 11 **Willow Warbler**, 5 **Pied Flycatcher**, 1 **Common Crossbill** (trapped at the Obs) and 1 **Lapland Bunting** (Ward Hill).



Common Crossbill Photograph by Mark Breaks

8th September: A report of a **TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL** yesterday was confirmed this evening. A juvenile flew from behind Quoy before being seen briefly in Klingers Geo. It has been 20 days since the last bird was seen on Bunes. The first-year **Citrine Wagtail** that had been missing for a day reappeared on the Beach at Finniquoy. Supporting cast included 1 **Wryneck** (school), 1 **Icterine Warbler** (Schoolton), 1 **Barred Warbler** (Stackhoull), 1 **Wood Warbler** (Field Ditch) and 1 **Crossbill**. Waders included 1 **Sanderling**, 1 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Whimbrel** and 1 **Green Sandpiper**. Numbers were made up by 2 **Tree Pipit**, 3 **Whinchat**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 8 **Garden Warbler**, 11 **Blackcap**, 17 **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Goldcrest**. The first **Siskin** of the autumn was seen in the Gully during the morning.

Late news from 4th: A female-type **Marsh Harrier** flew north over the Isle mid morning.

7th September: Another quiet day with the birds hanging on being 2 **Barred Warbler**, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and a **Common Crossbill**. A **Wood Warbler** by South Light was a new arrival. A seawatch early on produced 1 **Sooty Shearwater**, 1 "blue" **Fulmar** and 2 **Razorbill**. Other bits and pieces included 3 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Green Sandpiper**, 1 **Swallow**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Redstart**, 1 **Whinchat**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warbler**, 3 **Blackcap**, 16 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.



Peacock butterfly Photograph by Mark Breaks



Wood Warbler Photograph by Mark Breaks

6th September: The very clear weather of recent days is causing few birds to stay around. There was however another all too brief sighting of the **Ortolan Bunting** in the Parks and the **Citrine Wagtail** was in the south. There were still 2 **Barred Warbler** (Pund and Nedertaft), 1 **Icterine Warbler** (Schoolton) and 1 **Common Rosefinch** (Hesti). A **Wryneck** at southlight was new whilst other birds still present included **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and 1 **Lapland Bunting**. A seawatch off north light produced 1 **Sooty Shearwater** and 5 **Kittiwake**.



Merlin Photograph by Mark Breaks

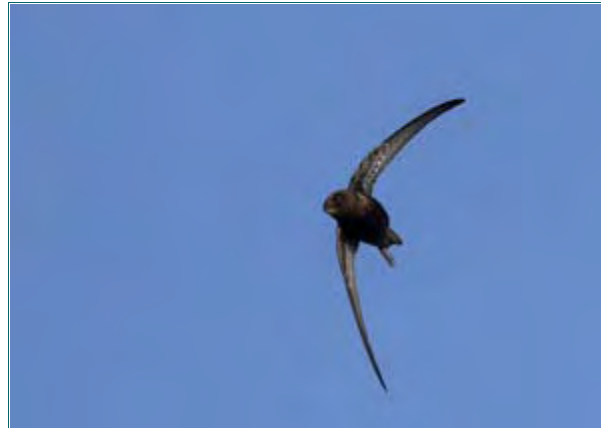
5th September: A quiet day by recent standards. The **Citrine Wagtail** was seen again in the havens first thing and later in the south. Otherwise birds present from previous days included the **Icterine Warbler** and 3 **Barred Warbler**. Wildfowl were present with 4 **Greylag Geese**, 12 **Teal**, 20 **Wigeon** and a **Pintail**. Waders seen included 5 **Ruff**, 1 **Jack Snipe**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Green Sandpiper** and 1 **Common Sandpiper**. Of the regular birds there was only 3 **Swift**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Redstart**, 1 **Whinchat**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 8 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 21 **Willow Warbler**, 4 **Goldcrest**, 6 **Pied Flycatcher**, 1 **Crossbill** and 2 flyover **Lapland Buntings**.



Barred Warbler Photograph by Mark Breaks

4th September: Best new arrival of the day was another **Citrine Wagtail**. First heard flying over Pund, it then flew over the obs before settling in the Havens for a while. The **Ortolan Bunting** appeared briefly again, this time near the Parks but again it could not be refound. The first 2 **Greylag Geese** of the autumn turned up near Pund during the afternoon and there was a **Short-eared Owl** near Hill Dyke. The only other new arrival was 3 different **Lapland Buntings** flying around. 7 **Storm Petrels** and 4 **Sooty Shearwaters** as well as 2 **Harbour Porpoise** were seen from the *Good Shepherd*. Waders included 7 **Golden Plover**, 1 **Knot**, 1 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Common Sandpiper** and 1 **Green Sandpiper**. All other birds were just hanging on from previous days, including 1 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Common Redstart**, 3 **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 5 **Barred Warbler**, 9 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Blackcap**, 1 **Wood Warbler**, 18 **Willow Warbler**, 7 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and 1 **Common Rosefinch**.

3rd September: There had been a big clearout over night, with relatively few birds remaining from previous days. There was no sign of the Citrine Wagtail, Icterine Warbler or Wrynecks and there was less than half the number of Meadow Pipits. However there was a slightly unexpected highlight in the form of an all too brief **Ortolan Bunting** seen before lunch. This species has become reasonably scarce in recent years so it was nice to get it on the year list. The supporting cast was 5 **Barred Warblers**, a **Wood Warbler** (trapped in the evening), 2 **Common Rosefinch** and a flyover **Common Crossbill**. Otherwise, numbers were made up of 7 **Ruff**, 1 **Common Redstart**, 6 **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warblers**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 10 **Garden Warblers**, 10 **Willow Warblers**, 10 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Spotted Flycatchers** and 3 **Pied Flycatchers**.



Swift Photographs by Mark Breaks

2nd September: Another excellent day for birds. With an even greater variety of species. The **Citrine Wagtail** was still on Da Water, while scarcities included 4 **Wryneck**, 1 **Icterine Warbler**, 6 **Barred Warbler** and 2 **Rosefinches**. Wildfowl numbers were down but there were still 20 **Wigeon**, 37 **Teal** and the **Pintail**. The *Good Shepherd* crossing produced 4 **Red-throated Divers**, 1 **Sooty Shearwater**, 1 **Storm Petrel**, 2 **Cormorant**, 1 **Razorbill** and 1 **Puffin** all on our side. Waders were present on land with 11 **Golden Plovers**, 3 **Knot**, 7 **Sanderling**, 27 **Dunlin**, 9 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Whimbrel** and a **Greenshank**. There had been an increase in **Meadow Pipits** during the day with 570 birds present and birds were reported flying our way past the *Good Shepherd* on its outward journey. Warblers were again present in good numbers with 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Sedge Warblers**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 14 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 31 **Willow Warblers** and 15 **Goldcrest**. Other things moving included 7 **Kestrel**, 1 **Swift**, 4 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Black Redstart**, 1 **Common Redstart**, 28 **Whinchat**, 3 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 12 **Pied Flycatcher**.



Wryneck Photograph by Deryk Shaw

1st September: The isle was shrouded in thick fog for much of the day. Even though, there had been a fairly large arrival of birds. The highlight was another first-year **Citrine Wagtail** on Da Water, a fair scattering of scarcities included 3 **Wrynecks** (including 2 trapped and ringed), 2 **Barred Warbler**, a **Wood Warbler** and a **Rosefinch**. There had been a huge arrival of ducks, mainly on the scrape. The totals in the end were 18 **Wigeon**, 81 **Teal** and the first **Pintail** of the year. There was a variety of waders present, again in the south with 6 **Golden Plover**, 4 **Sanderling**, 21 **Dunlin**, 4 **Ruff**, 1 **Bar-tailed Godwit**, 1 **Greenshank** and 3 **Green Sandpiper**. Other migrants scattered around included a **Merlin**, a **Short-eared Owl**, a **Tree Pipit**, 9 **Whinchat**, a **Redstart**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, male **Blackcap**, 28 **Willow Warbler** and 15 **Pied Flycatcher**.

AUGUST

31st August: Much the same as the previous couple of days. Wildfowl numbers are increased slightly with 7 **Wigeon** and 12 **Teal**. A brief seawatch off the south produced a **Sooty Shearwater**. Warblers present included 1 **Icterine Warbler**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler** and 1 **Reed Warbler**. Not a great deal else but there were 2 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Whinchat**, 1 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 2 **Pied Flycatcher** and a **Rosefinch**.

30th August: A fairly quiet day with the only bird of note being a **Barred Warbler** trapped and ringed in the late afternoon. Otherwise it was mainly warblers present with 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warbler**, a male **Blackcap** (first of the autumn), 11 **Willow Warbler**, there was also 6 **Whinchat**, 3 **Goldcrest** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.

29th August: Quite a few of the **Wheatears** had moved on with only 160 birds still present. There were also less **White Wagtails** but there were still 38 birds on the isle. A 'blue' **Fulmar** seen from Bunes was a fairly early occurrence. There was quite a variety of birds around, mainly waders and warblers. There was still at least 6 **Wigeon** present as well as 8 **Teal**. On the wader front there were 2 **Knot**, 1 **Purple Sandpiper**, 21 **Dunlin**, 1 **Ruff**, 1 **Green Sandpiper** and the first **Jack Snipe** of the autumn, in Homisdale. There were still 4 **Swifts** in the north two of which were successfully trapped and ringed in the afternoon. Also present today was 2 **Tree Pipits**, 5 **Whinchat**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 3 **Pied Flycatcher**.

28th August: Main event of the day was the huge arrival of **Wheatears** with at least 400 birds present around the isle - including a high percentage of birds of the Greenland race. It was certainly a surprise to catch 27 on early morning trap round. Also present in high numbers were **White Wagtail** with 61 birds. Of note was the first **Grasshopper Warbler** of the autumn, a **Black-tailed Godwit** in the south, a **Black Redstart** at North Light and 3 **Common Rosefinches** at Leogh. Still present were the 4 **Swift** and now 6 **Wigeon** on Golden Water. There was still a sprinkling of **Whinchats** and **Warblers** in the south.

27th August: A few migrants today; 1 **Common Sandpiper**, 1 **Green Sandpiper**, 4 **Swifts**, 3 **Swallow** and **Tree Pipit** were all seen during the morning. The 4 **Wigeon** were still present on Golden Water but made a brief visit to the south. The **Lapland Bunting** was seen briefly at Wester Lothar and there were 3 **Common Rosefinch** together at Schoolton. Numbers were made up by 9 **Whinchat**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Common Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warblers**, 12 **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Goldcrest**.

26th August: Four **Wigeon** in the north were new birds in as was the first **Goldcrest** of the year in Klingers Geo. The result of another pre-breakfast seawatch was only 1 **Sooty Shearwater**. A few new waders were seen including 9 **Knot**, 1 **Purple Sandpiper** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Warblers present today were 2 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Common Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warbler**, 9 **Willow Warbler**. There was also 4 **Whinchat**, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and the **Lapland Bunting** still present at Wester Lothar.

25th August: Seawatching before and after breakfast produced a total of 11 **Manx Shearwaters**, 1 **Storm Petrel** and 2 **Arctic Tern**. A few birds around today including a **Wryneck** (South Harbour) 2 **Common Rosefinch** (in the Vaadal first thing), a female type **Lapland Bunting** (Wester Lothar then Ward Hill). Other sightings included; 1 **Sanderling**, 6 **Knot**, 1 **Swift**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Whinchat**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Whitethroat**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 13 **Willow Warbler** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.

24th August: A quiet day, with 1 **Sanderling**, 1 **Ruff**, 2 **Common Sandpiper**, 2 **Whinchat**, 5 **Garden Warbler** and 7 **Willow Warbler**. A brief seawatch in the afternoon produced 5 **Arctic Terns**, 5 **Kittiwake** and 1 **Puffin**.

23rd August: Although there were less common migrants present there were a couple of new arrivals in the north. Namely a new **Citrine Wagtail** at Wester Lothar and a **Black Redstart**. The original Citrine Wagtail was still present on the Scrape. Numbers were comprised of; 1 **Knot**, 1 **Common Sandpiper**, 1 **Swift**, 1 **Tree Pipit**, 7 **Whinchat**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 9 **Garden Warbler**, 10 **Willow Warblers** and 2 **Pied Flycatchers**.

22nd August: There was a **Wryneck** at the Puffin briefly in the morning and the **Citrine Wagtail** was seen again on the Scrape. Migrants today included 1 **Tree Pipit**, 17 **Whinchat**, 3 **Reed Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 1 **Wood Warbler**, 27 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.

21st August: New birds in included a **Short-eared Owl**, a **Barred Warbler** (trapped and ringed) and a second **Wood Warbler** (Houll Crop, with the one still present at Barkland). Warblers were again present in good numbers with 5 **Reed Warbler**, 4 **Whitethroat**, 13 **Garden Warbler** and 30 **Willow Warblers**. Also seen were; 14 **Whinchat**, 1 **Spotted Flycatcher**, 3 **Pied Flycatcher** and the **Red-backed Shrike** still present.

20th August: Still plenty of birds around today. Highlights were 2 **Wryneck** (Scrape & Plantation), the juvenile **Turtle Dove** (Gilsetter), 1 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, the **Citrine Wagtail** (still present in the south) and the **Red-backed Shrike**. Waders included a high count of 36 **Ringed Plover**, 7 **Knot**, 1 **Ruff**, 2 **Green Sandpipers** and 4 **Common Sandpipers**. Warblers were well represented with 10 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Whitethroat**, 24 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Wood Warbler**, 1 **Chiffchaff** and 27 **Willow Warbler**. Also, 3 **Tree Pipit**, 19 **Whinchat** and 2 **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen.

19th August: Still present were the **Thrush Nightingale** (Obs) and the **Citrine Wagtail** (Chalet) but there was no sign of the crossbills. Even more birds around today it seemed. There was a **Wryneck** trapped and ringed at Barkland in the afternoon and the ringed **Red-backed Shrike** from yesterday was still present. Warblers were well represented with 2 **Barred Warblers** and 2 **Wood Warblers** as well as 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 2 **Reed Warbler**, 1

Lesser Whitethroat, 5 Common Whitethroat, 20 Garden Warbler and 36 Willow Warbler. There was an increase in **Meadow Pipits** to 205 with 2 **Tree Pipits** also seen. A juvenile **Moorhen** was a surprise catch on early morning trap rounds and a **Grey-headed Wagtail** caught in the evening was also good. Also seen during the day were 3 **Ruff**, 2 **Sand Martin**, 1 **Common Redstart**, 7 **Whinchat**, 1 **Fieldfare**, 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 6 **Pied Flycatcher**.



Thrush Nightingale
Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Wryneck *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*



Grey-headed Wagtail
Photograph by Deryk Shaw

18th August: Best new arrival was another **Thrush Nightingale** in Houll crop. This individual was obviously different to last week's bird, being much more heavily marked on the breast. There were plenty of migrants seen during the day. On the scarce side there were 2 **Wryneck** (Lower Stoneybreck/Plantation), the **Barred Warbler** (Barkland) and 2 **Red-backed Shrike** (School/Gully). The **Citrine Wagtail** was seen flying over South Light. Of the commoner species there were; 2 **Ruff**, 3 **Sand Martin**, 1 **Redstart**, 8 **Whinchat**, 5 **Reed Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Common Whitethroat**, 16 **Garden Warbler**, 31 **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Pied Flycatcher**. There was a surprise in the evening when MTB and RH managed to trap the 4 **Two-barred Crossbills** on Bunes. 3 were new birds but one was already ringed indicating that they are part of the original flock.



Two-barred Crossbills



Photographs by Mark Breaks

17th August: The relocated **Citrine Wagtail** at Da Water was popular with visitors, and a probable **Spotted Crane** was flushed whilst looking for the bird. Unfortunately, it could not be re-found for confirmation. However, the **Barred Warbler** was seen again, as were the 5 **Two-barred Crossbills** on Bunes. A juvenile **Turtle Dove** by the airstrip was a welcome year tick. Wader numbers include 3 **Ruff**, 7 **Dunlin**, 3 **Knot** and a **Sanderling**. Other passerines include a **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Pied Flycatcher**, 12 **Willow Warbler**, 9 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Common Whitethroat**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat** and 2 **Reed Warbler**.



Citrine Wagtail Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Citrine Wagtail Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Ruff Photograph by Deryk Shaw

16th August: Unfortunately, no Two-barred Crossbills were seen today. However, new birds included a **Citrine Wagtail** flying over Barkland, **Barred Warbler** at Quoy, 7 **Whimbrel**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 5 **Willow Warblers** and a **Common Crossbill**.

15th August: More **Two-barred Crossbills** were seen on Meones, with 3 juveniles present. Otherwise, it was wader passage that was most noticeable. The highlight was a **Spotted Redshank**, heard during the morning before being seen flying south off the island. Numbers were made up by 14 **Golden Plover**, 2 **Knot**, 9 **Dunlin**, 1 **Ruff**, 1 **Curlew**, 62 **Redshank**, 3 **Green Sandpiper**, 1 **Common**

Sandpiper and 12 **Turnstone**. Three **Cormorant** flew through the Havens in the morning. There were obviously birds moving with the first **Tree Pipit** and **Spotted Flycatcher** of the autumn among 126 **Meadow Pipit** and 3 **White Wagtails**, as well as 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warbler** and 14 **Willow Warbler**.

14th August: A fairly quiet day. A **Storm Petrel** was seen on an early morning sea watch. There were a few waders present, including 1 **Knot**, 9 **Curlew** and 23 **Turnstone**. The only other birds worth mentioning were 2 **Fieldfare**, 14 **Willow Warbler** and a **Chiffchaff**.

13th August: The day got off with a very good start with a **Thrush Nightingale** spotted on the early morning trap round. Unfortunately it only obliged for a few observers and could not be re-found later. Other than this the isle was surprisingly quite with only a few warblers to make up the numbers; 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Garden Warbler** and 5 **Willow Warbler**. There were also 2 **Fieldfare** around Pund.

12th August: The 8 juvenile **Two-barred Crossbills** were still present on Bunes. Otherwise there was 1 **Ruff**, 1 **Greenshank**, 3 **Green Sandpipers**, 1 **Common Sandpiper** and there was still a **Reed Warbler** still present.

11th August: Yesterday's rain obviously flooded out many **Puffin** burrows and as a result birds were forced to fledge slightly earlier than they would have chosen! Up to 8 juveniles were picked up around the trapping area and released to the sea!! There were still 8 juvenile **Two-barred Crossbills** present on Bunes during the day, while in the evening 2 juveniles were present in Finniquoy. Possibly new birds?? Otherwise the day was dominated by a notable increase in waders, including 8 **Golden Plover**, 5 **Sanderling**, 2 **Dunlin**, 1 **Whimbrel**, 20 **Curlew**, 108 **Redshank**, 5 **Green Sandpiper** and 2 **Common Sandpiper** and 10 **Turnstone**. There were also a few warblers present including **Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and 2 **Garden Warbler**. Also seen during the day were 5 **Teal** and counts of 127 **Common Gull** and 19 **Black-headed Gull**. **Storm Petrel** ringing in the evening produced 68 birds trapped, including 2 **Leach's Petrels**.

10th August: Today saw a record-breaking 24-hour rainfall total of 101.2mm, hence there was very little seen.

Flooding pictures by *Deryk Shaw*





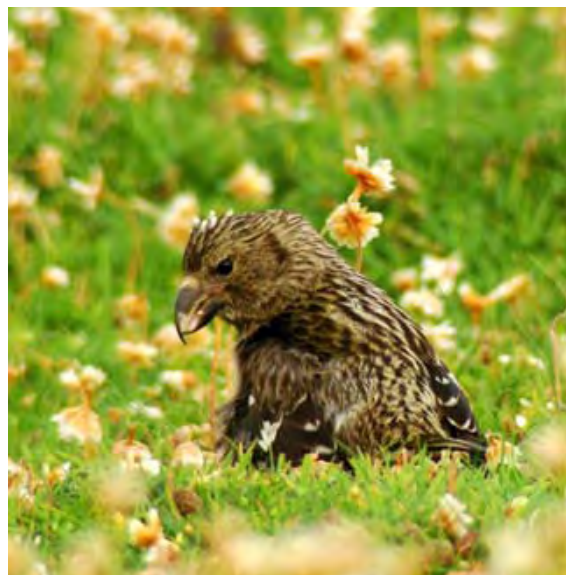


7th – 9th August There were still 9 juvenile **Two-barred Crossbills** present on Bunes. On 9th efforts were made to catch them and 3 were successfully trapped and ringed. The only other birds of note were 4 **Green Sandpipers** on Bunes (9th), the **Mistle Thrush** (until the 8th), a **Reed Warbler** in the Havens (9th) and the usual selection of waders which included a **Whimbrel** flying over on 8th. The local **Peregrines** are also still present.

6th August The most extraordinary sighting today was yet more **Two-barred Crossbills**. A record-breaking flock of **9** juveniles with 4 **Common Crossbill** was found on Bunes late afternoon and showed well during the early evening. They flew south towards Vaasetter around 8pm. Although overshadowed, the first **Icterine Warbler** of the autumn appeared at Skinners Glig and the **Mistle Thrush** was still present in the south west.



Two-barred Crossbills
Photographs by Deryk Shaw

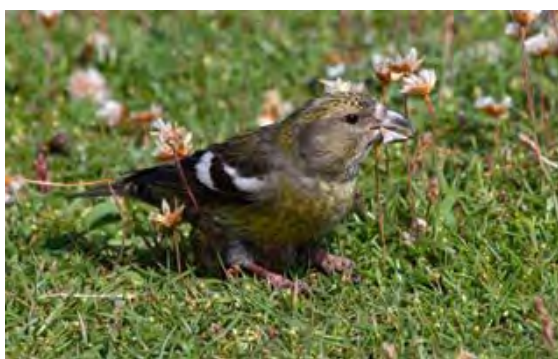
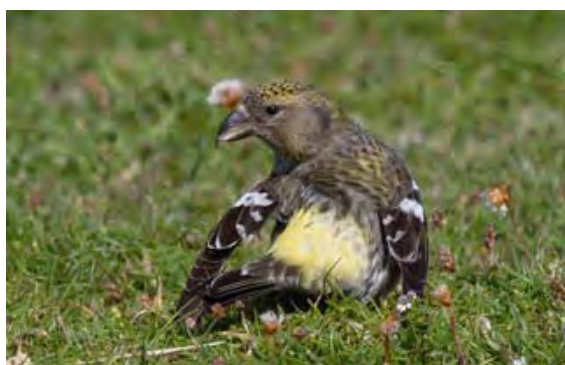


5th August A juvenile **Two-barred Crossbill** was seen briefly behind the observatory first thing and again at the Plantation later in the day. A female type was also seen on Vaasetter during the afternoon. Otherwise, 5 **Purple Sandpiper** and a **Green Sandpiper** were the only other sightings of note.

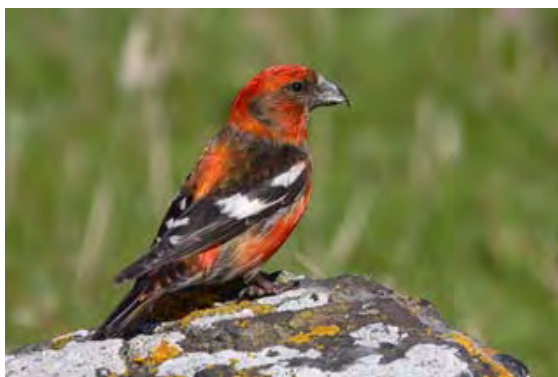
4th August A fairly quiet day with 3 **Red-throated Divers** (south), **Cuckoo**, 2 **Reed Warblers**, 2 **Willow Warblers** and a **Chiffchaff**. A group of 8 **Crossbills** flying over Bunes in the evening may have contained one of the Two-barred Crossbills.

3rd August Rain stopped play

2nd August The male **Two-barred Crossbill** was still present around Hesti Geo but there was no sign of the female types. The best new arrival was a **Wood Sandpiper** on Da Water. Also present was a **Sand Martin**, 1 **Mistle Thrush**, a **Reed Warbler**, a **Pied Flycatcher**. A stormie session during the evening produced an impressive total of 77 birds.



Two-barred Crossbills
Photographs by Mark Breaks



1st August The month got off to a good start with two more **Two-barred Crossbills** being found. Firstly was a male near south light briefly and the second was another female that had joined the pair at Malcolm's Head. Amazingly during the afternoon all four could be found together near Hesti. Waders present included **Knot** (3), **Sanderling**, **Golden Plover**, **Common** and **Green Sandpiper**. Other birds included a juvenile **Cuckoo**, female **Common Redstart**, 2 **Fieldfare**, a **Marsh Warbler** (Hjukni) and a **Common Rosefinch**.

2008 - JULY SIGHTINGS

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22nd – 31st July The highlight of the month appeared on 25th when a female **Two-barred Crossbill** was seen very briefly at Easter Lothar. It couldn't be found the next day but was relocated on 27th when it was in the company of another on the Skaden. Although occasionally elusive they were seen until the months end, favouring the base of Malcolms Head. The last week of the month saw birds starting to slowly move through. The first **Knot** (27th) and **Ruff** (29th) of the year appeared and there were good numbers of other waders seen including **Sanderling** (8), **Dunlin** (14) and **Whimbrel** (10). A few warblers arrived with a **Reed Warbler** (29th – 30th), as well as **Willow Warblers**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Garden Warbler**. The **Marsh Warbler** was still present in the Obs garden until at least 23rd. Other birds seen during the week included **Fieldfare** (26th), **Cuckoo** (29th), **Pied Flycatcher** (31st) and two more **Common Rosefinch** (29th & 31st). **Leach's Petrels** were seen a couple of times during Stormie sessions but unfortunately evaded capture.

15th – 21st July A very quiet week with the only notable species being a **Common Rosefinch** (21st) and another **Leach's Petrel** trapped and ringed (18th). Waders were passing through in small numbers with the first returning **Purple Sandpipers** seen on 19th. Small numbers of Common Crossbills were still present around the isle.

8th – 14th July Highlights of the week went to a **Honey Buzzard** seen flying north on 13th, a **Wood Sandpiper** on Da Water on 11th which was heard flying over the following day and a **Leach's Petrel** caught during a Stormie session on the night of 12th. Other wise the **Hobby** was putting in brief appearances throughout and the **Marsh Warbler** was last seen on 12th. Other bits and pieces seen include a couple of **Manx Shearwaters** (11th & 12th), up to 2 **Green Sandpipers**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Willow Warbler** and occasional **Crossbills** flying around.

1st – 7th July: There were still a few birds being seen in the first week of July. Highlights were a **Hobby** past the Obs (7th) and a **Marsh Warbler** trapped and ringed on 1st and staying in the Obs garden since. Also present during the week was a **Tufted Duck** (6th), a **Red-throated Diver** south (6th), up to 4 **Collared Dove**, **Swift** and a male **Blackcap**. After the arrivals in June, **Crossbills** reached a peak of 42 (3rd). Waders have begun arriving with a **Golden Plover** (1st), a **Bar-tailed Godwit** (2nd) which was joined by a second the next day and a **Common Sandpiper** (4th). There were also **Redshank**, **Whimbrel** and **Green Sandpiper** throughout. Probably the most significant news of the week is the successful fledging of the two **Peregrine** chicks – the first to fledge since 1969!!

Non-avian sightings included a **Minke Whale** on 4th and 2 **Porpoise** on 7th. The 4th was a good day for Butterflies with double figures of **Red admiral** as well as **Painted Ladies** and a single **Small Tortoiseshell**

2008 - JUNE SIGHTINGS

2006 Report now out
Price £7 incl p&p (UK) or £8.50

17th – 30th June The last part of June was very quiet. Highlights were a summer plumage **Slavonian Grebe** in South Haven (25th) and the **Waxwing** still present until at least 19th. Birds of note included up to 2 **Tufted Duck** (21st – 24th), 3 **Sandwich Terns** (30th), 2 **Swift** (18th), **Common Whitethroat** (26th), a female **Red-backed Shrike** (19th) and **Crossbills** seemed to be present most days. **Storm Petrels** and **Manx shearwaters** put in the odd appearance either from Bunes or the *Good Shepherd* crossing.

Probably the best sighting at the end of June was a bull **Killer Whale** seen firstly in Furse, but later off Finniquoy before heading north past Bunes. A **Porpoise** was seen on 22nd. A **Peacock** butterfly on 21st was a good record which accompanied odd reports of **Red Admiral** and **Painted Lady**.

16th June A **Great Northern Diver** flew south first thing and a **Red-throated Diver** flew east in the evening. The **Waxwing** put in another very brief appearance during the morning and there seemed to be a few **Crossbills** moving through including a group of 7. Also seen were four **Greylag Geese** and the **Common Redpoll** still around the south.

15th June Highlight of the day was an **Osprey** heading north just before dinner. Just as surprising was the reappearance of the **Waxwing** briefly in the Obs garden after lunch. Other than this it was quiet again with the **Black-tailed Godwit**, a **Sanderling**, the male **Red backed Shrike** and the **Common Redpoll** of note.

14th June A very quiet day with the only birds of note present being a **Common Redpoll** and a male **Red-backed Shrike**.

13th June The only new arrival was a **Grey Heron** in South Harbour. The **Waxwing** was seen a couple of times during the day including in the Obs garden. Otherwise **Black-tailed Godwit**, male **Red-backed Shrike**, **Common Redpoll** and 5 **Crossbill** were all still present.

12th June No obvious new arrivals but a few birds still present. Surprisingly one of the **Waxwings** appeared a couple of times during the day - firstly at the Haa and then at Barkland again. Also present was the **Black-tailed Godwit**, an **Icterine Warbler**, a male **Red-backed Shrike**, 5 **Crossbill** and the **Common Redpoll**. The **CITRIL FINCH** was not seen during the day, though there was an unconfirmed report late afternoon.

The final breeding **Bonxie** tally is an amazing 294 territories!! Take cover!!!

11th June The strong north westerly winds continue. There were however a few new arrivals. The highlight was a pair of **Waxwings** that appeared at Barkland briefly in the afternoon. This appears to be the first midsummer record for the isle and the latest spring migrant in Shetland (previous latest was one in Lerwick on 2nd June 2001). This overshadowed the female **Pied Flycatcher** and 2 **Common Redpolls** (at least one of which looks to be *islandica*) seen during morning census. The **CITRIL FINCH** is still present being faithful to the Quoy/Schoolton/Aesterhoull area and the male **Black-tailed Godwit** (from 9th), **Red-backed Shrike** and **Icterine Warbler** are still holding on.

10th June The **CITRIL FINCH** was present around Quoy for most of the day but did wander to the Haa at one point. The only other birds of note were a male **Red-backed Shrike** trapped in the morning, an **Icterine Warbler** in the Obs garden and a group of 5 **Crossbill** north in the evening.

9th June **CITRIL FINCH** still present and occasionally showing well around Aester Houll again but was moving around a bit. There seemed to be a complete clearout of birds with only a single **Icterine Warbler** remaining from the list of scarce migrants. However a **Honey Buzzard** came in off the sea from the south and put in a couple of appearances during the afternoon. The only notable counts were of 38 **Wood Pigeon** and 14 **Collared Dove**.



Honey Buzzard Photograph by Mark Breaks

8th June The **CITRIL FINCH** was still present but was extremely flighty, being seen very briefly at Barkland then, a couple of times at Aester Houll during the afternoon before finally reappearing at the Haa in the evening. There was still a sprinkling of **Icterine** and **Marsh Warblers** and the male **Red-backed Shrike** and **Black Redstart** were still present.

7th June The three boat-loads of birders that arrived today went away very happy. Although occasionally going missing for lengthy periods of time, the **CITRIL FINCH** put on a good show when it did appear at Barkland. In the late afternoon it landed right in front of the Barkland heligoland and the bird was trapped and taken back to the Obs where, on examination was found to be in pristine condition with absolutely NO SIGNS OF EVER HAVING BEEN IN CAPTIVITY! The rest of the island was given some attention and birds seen included the **Hobby** again, 2 **Stonechat**, a **Black Redstart**, male **Bluethroat** trapped, 5 **Marsh Warbler**, 3 **Icterine Warbler** and the male **Red-backed Shrike** still around Pund,



Citril Finch Photograph by Rebecca Nason

6th June Another day with the island shrouded in mist, but today there seemed to be several new birds present. This included a **Hobby** over Busta, an **Osprey** north, a **Whinchat** at Pund and a **Stonechat** at Barkland. However these were all overshadowed when one of the islanders rang to tell the obs of a strange finch in his garden. When checked it turned out to be a stunning male **CITRIL FINCH**. It was favouring the garden around the Haa, but would occasionally move around to Skerryholm. It showed well for the rest of the afternoon and most of the evening but disappeared into the fog with two Twite at about 8pm.



CITRIL FINCH at Barkland *Photographs by Mark Breaks*



Basking Shark off Meoness
Photographs by Mark Breaks

CITRIL FINCH - another first for Britain!!!

Photographs by Mark Breaks



5th June Still very quiet because of the fog. There was only 1 **Marsh Warbler**, 2 **Icterine Warbler**, 3 **Red-backed Shrike** and the 2 **Crossbills** still present. A little interest was stirred by a **Marsh/Reed Warbler** trapped in the plantation that had intermediate measurements. Both **Manx Shearwater** (2) and **Storm Petrel** (16) were seen on the *Good Shepherd* crossing but more frustratingly so was a pod of **Orca**.

4th June More fog and not many birds. Still hanging on were male (British) Yellow Wagtail, 3 **Marsh Warbler**, 2 **Icterine Warblers** and 4 **Red-backed Shrike**. There was also a Short-eared Owl in the north and 7 Siskin touring the south.



Yellow Wagtail *Photograph by Deryk Shaw*

3rd June Thick fog was again covering the island. A **Common Scoter** off North Light was a new arrival. Also present today were 4 **Marsh Warbler**, 1 **Icterine Warbler**, 4 **Red-backed Shrike**, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and the 2 **Crossbills** still on the Rippack.

2nd June The island was shrouded in a big blanket of fog for nearly the whole day. This meant there were probably no new arrivals with only the same birds still hanging on. The 2 **Crossbills** were still on the Rippack and there were 3 **Marsh Warbler**, 6 **Red-backed Shrike** and 1 **Common Rosefinch**. A male *flavissima* (British) **Yellow Wagtail** was probably the only new arrival of note.

1st June North easterly winds were back with a few birds to be seen. Most notably was a male **Rustic Bunting** at Lower Leogh. It isn't certain whether this is a new bird or just the same as the one seen at Wirvie on 30th May. Scarcities included 1 **Bluethroat**, 1 **Marsh Warbler**, 2 **Icterine Warbler**, 10 **Red-backed Shrike**, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and 2 **Common Crossbill** which were present on the Rippack during the day.



Bluethroat
Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Icterine Warbler
Photograph by John Towell

2008 - MAY SIGHTINGS

2006 Report
Price £7 incl p&p (UK) or £8.50

now out



Crossbills



Crossbill



Peregrine nest

Peregrine nest and Crossbills
Photographs by Mark Breaks

31st May There had obviously been a big clearout of birds overnight. There was no sign of the two Buntings or Pipit from yesterday. It was only the usual scarce migrants present like **Red-backed Shrike**, **Icterine Warbler** and **Common Rosefinch**. The most notable news of the day was the discovery of the **Peregrine** nest on the west cliffs, containing at least one small chick! – the first nest since 1973, although the last successful attempt was in 1969.



Little Bunting



Nightjar

*Photographs
by
Mark
Breaks*



Redbacked Shrike



Rustic Bunting

30th May The day started well with a male **Rustic Bunting** at Wirvie Burn. While being looked for during the morning a **Little Bunting** was found in the same area. Amazingly they spent much of the day together and were still present in the evening. Wirvie was certainly the place to be when, in the afternoon, a female type **Red-throated Pipit** was found just up the road. Unfortunately it was very flighty and was only seen by a small group before disappearing up the valley. The highlight for many however was a very obliging **Nightjar** that spent most of the morning asleep on one of the fence posts in the Obs plantation, right next to the mist-net! It was therefore easily trapped for ringing, allowing many people to see this nocturnal species in the hand. Scarce migrants present today included 11 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 2 **Bluethroat**, 4 **Marsh Warblers**, 4 **Icterine Warblers**, 10 **Red-backed Shrike** and 6 **Common Rosefinch**. There had obviously been a small fall of



Nightjar Photograph by Deryk Shaw

thrushes as there were 5 **Blackbird**, 3 **Fieldfare**, 3 **Song Thrush** and 4 **Redwing**.



29th May: Although conditions looked ideal for something good, fog rolled in during the early morning and severely hampered viewing. There were a few birds around the obs and havens first thing (before the fog arrived) including a female type **Crossbill**, a **Quail**, a singing **Rosefinch** and an **Icterine Warbler**. New arrivals included an **Osprey** over the obs in the evening (after the fog had cleared), a **Red-throated Diver** flying south, **Common** and **Green Sandpipers** and 2 **Sand Martin**. Otherwise it was most of yesterdays birds holding on; 2 **Bluethroat**, 3 **Marsh Warblers**, 6 **Icterine Warblers**, 8 **Red-backed Shrikes** and 5 **Common Rosefinch** completed the scarce migrant list.

28th May A change to easterly winds triggered a huge fall of birds with some nice highlights and four year ticks. Top of the list would have been a **Tawny Pipit** if it hadn't disappeared without being confirmed. A **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Hjukni in the late afternoon created plenty of interest and thankfully it was still present in the evening. There was an impressive display of some of the scarcer migrants. This included 3 **Bluethroat** (all females), 2 **Marsh Warbler**, 7 **Icterine Warbler**, 10 **Red Backed Shrike** (at last), 4 **Common Rosefinch** and 1 **Hawfinch**. Common Migrants present in good numbers included 1 **Cuckoo**, 8 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Grey-headed Wagtails**, 5 **Common Redstart**, female **Ring Ouzel**, the first **Reed Warbler** of the year, 25 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Whitethroat**, 13 **Garden Warbler**, 23 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.

27th May Compared to recent days it was fairly quiet. The highlights being only singles of **Icterine Warbler** and **Common Rosefinch**. New arrivals were 2 **Teal**, a **Green Sandpiper**, 2 **Short-eared Owls** and a **Linnet**. Census revealed 2 **Common Tern**, 9 **Swallow**, 1 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Blue-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Black Redstart**, 2 **Redwing**, 6 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 6 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 4 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Willow Warbler**, 11 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**. There was no sign of the **Surf Scoter**.

26th May A quieter day for new arrivals but there was now two **Quail** at Schoolton, singing during the morning. Other new arrivals included a female **Bluethroat**, 2 **Icterine Warblers**, a **Black Redstart**, a **Merlin** and a female **Wigeon**. Fewer migrants than previous days but included 1 **Swift**, 14 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 1 'Flava' **Wagtail**, 3 **Common Redstart**, 1 **Whinchat**, 1 **Ring Ouzel**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Garden Warblers**, 1 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 12 **Spotted Flycatchers**, 1 **Pied Flycatcher**. There was a late **Redwing** and the **Surf Scoter** was still around South Light.

25th May New arrivals today included a **Quail** (Schoolton Ditch), a **Cuckoo** (Obs), A **Common Rosefinch** (Skerryholm), a **Swift** and the **Surf Scoter** still present in the south. Counts today were 1 **Common Sandpiper**, 2 **Common Tern**, 17 **Swallow**, 2 **House Martin**, 1 'flava' **Wagtail**, 2 **Redstart**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Garden Warbler**, 5 **Willow Warbler**, 13 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 3 **Pied Flycatcher**.



Photographs
by
Micky
Maher



Bluethroat

Common Rosefinch

24th May Highlight of the day was a female **Rustic Bunting** that spent most of the day around the Raevas. Unfortunately it was very flighty and elusive most of the time. Other birds around included 3 **Icterine Warblers**, a female **Bluethroat** (Pund), another **Wood Warbler** (South Raeva) and the **Surf Scoter** still present. Migrants included 1 **Common Tern**, 19 **Swallow**, 2 **House Martin**, 3 '**flava**' **Wagtails**, 3 **Redstart**, 1 **Whinchat**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 8 **Willow Warbler**, 25 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 5 **Pied Flycatchers**.

23rd May More nice weather and even more nice birds. The highlight of the day was the appearance of a pair of **Common Rosefinch**, which included a stunning red male. They spent much of the day down at Skerryholm and the Haa. The supporting cast included 4 **Bluethroat** (1 male and 3 females), 2 **Icterine Warblers**, 2 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit**, a **Merlin**, **Short-eared Owl** and the **Surf Scoter** still present around South Light. There were even more flycatchers around today including 30 **Spotted** and 8 **Pied**. Counts made were; 22 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Common Redstart**, 2 **Whinchat**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Common Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden Warbler** and 7 **Willow Warbler**.

rf



King Eider

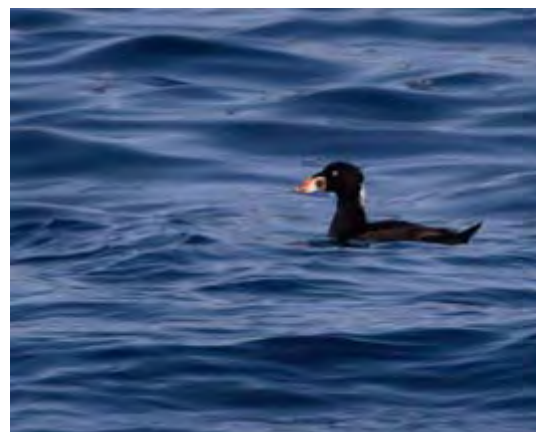


King Eider

Photographs
by Mark
Breaks



Savis Warbler



Surf Scoter

22nd May Good birds are still arriving. During morning census the highlights were 2 **Icterine Warblers**, a female **Bluethroat**, an immature male **Golden Oriole** (briefly at Quoy) and the **Surf Scoter** still present around South Light. Migrants again seemed to become more conspicuous in the

afternoon with especially good numbers of Flycatchers. Today there were up to 21 **Spotted Flycatchers** and 3 **Pied Flycatchers**. The afternoons highlight was two **Common Rosefinches** (Chalet and Shoolton) Today's other counts were 1 **Common Sandpiper**, 1 **Greenshank**, 2 **Common Tern**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 1 **Whinchat**, a female **Ring Ouzel**, 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Common Whitethroat**, 4 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap** and 9 **Willow Warblers**. Bird of the day wasn't found till the evening when a **Savi's Warbler** was found at Chalet pond. It was particularly elusive giving only very brief flight views. Thankfully, attempts to catch it were successful and it was taken back to the Obs to be ringed. Some other odds and ends from today were 2 **Brambling**, the **Tufted Duck** and **Black-tailed Godwit** still present and a notable increase in **Arctic Skuas**.

21st May Another reasonable day for arrivals, again mostly in the afternoon. Apart from the **King Eider**, **Surf Scoter**, **Icterine Warbler** and **Black-tailed Godwit** which were all still present, there was a nice selection of new birds around the island. Highlights included a new **Icterine Warbler** (parks), a **Wryneck** (south) and 2 male **Grey-headed Wagtail** (Gilsetter). Other migrants included a **Woodcock**, 2 **Common Tern**, 25 **Swallow**, 12 **House Martin**, a **Sand Martin**, 3 **Tree Pipit**, a **Redstart**, 3 **Whinchat**, 6 **Spotted Flycatcher** and 4 **Pied Flycatcher**. Other than the Ickys, warblers present were 1 **Sedge Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Common Whitethroat**, 2 **Garden Warbler**, 2 **Blackcap**, 4 **Chiffchaff** and 6 **Willow Warbler**.



King Eider
Photographs (above, right) by Deryk Shaw



King Eider Photograph by Micky Maher



Subalpine Warbler Photograph by Simon Davies

20th May A rather eventful day started well with an **Icterine Warbler** trapped in Double Dyke during the early morning trap round. Both the **King Eider** and **Surf Scoter** were still present in the south, joined by a male **Teal** in South Harbour. There seemed to be a small arrival of birds during the afternoon. The highlight was a female **Bluethroat** at Chalet and the first **Wood Warbler** of the year at the Shop. Also new in were 2 **Barnacle Geese**, 4 **Common Sandpipers**, 2 **Common Tern** and a **Tree Pipit**. Warblers were represented by 2 **Blackcap**, 2 **Garden Warblers**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warblers** as well as the **Subalpine Warbler**.

19th May A fairly quiet day with the only bird of note being the **King Eider** still present in South Harbour. The **Tufted Duck**, **Black Tailed Godwit** and one of the **Subalpine Warblers** were also still present. The only new arrival was a **Redwing**.

18th May Excitement today in the form of a 1st-summer **King Eider** in South Harbour. It spent the whole day drifting in and out of the harbour and at times came quite close to the shore. Amazingly in the afternoon the **Surf Scoter** was relocated in the same place at one point only a few metres from the eider. Both **Subalpine Warblers** were still present as well as the **Tufted Duck**. New arrivals included **Black Tailed Godwit**, female **Redstart** and male **Whinchat**.

17th May There was a new **Subalpine Warbler** trapped in the plantation in the morning. There was no sign of the Surf Scoter in South Harbour but what was presumably the same **Common Buzzard** reappeared in the morning. Also still present was the Subalpine Warbler at the obs and the **Tufted Duck** in the north. A **Swift** first thing was only the second recorded so far this year.

16th May: A very quiet day for common migrants but there was a surprise find in the morning when a 1st year male **Surf Scoter** was found in South Harbour. It showed well most of the day but disappeared in the afternoon. The only other thing of note was a **Common**



Surf Scoter Photograph by Deryk Shaw

Buzzard that was seen around the island a couple of times in the afternoon.

12th-15th May: Weather continues to be sunny and warming with the wind moving from the south east to the north east. The **Subalpine Warbler** was still present in the obs garden. The **Citrine Wagtail** was present at Da Water till the 13th and there were still up to six **Dotterel** on Ward Hill till 14th. There have been a few new arrivals, highlights being another **Common Crane** (12th), **Grey-headed Wagtail** (13th-14th), a brief **Common Crossbill** (14th) and a female **Lapland Bunting** (14th). Other new arrivals included 3 **Shelduck** (14th), 2 **Barnacle Geese** (15th), a male **Tufted Duck** (15th), a **Sanderling** (15th), a **Sandwich Tern** (12th), **Short-eared Owl** (14th) and a **Blue-headed Wagtail** (13th). Summer migrants were still arriving in small numbers. There was a **Redstart**, 2 **Whinchat** and a **Spotted Flycatcher** on 12th, a **Greenshank** on 14th and a **Black Redstart** on 15th. **Arctic Tern** numbers are starting to build up with 400 seen around the island on 14th. There is still the odd **Chaffinch**, **Brambling** and **Common Redpoll** being seen.

11th May: 2 more year ticks today included a nice female **Citrine Wagtail** on Da Water and a flyover **Common Tern**. **Subalpine Warbler** and **Bluethroat** remain on the island, plus a **Wryneck** was trapped in the plantation. 2 **Common Sandpiper** and 5 **Collared Dove** were also new. 'Flava' **Wagtail**, 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcap**, 6 **Chiffchaff**, 2 **Willow Warbler**, 2 **Siskin**, **Linnet** an



Citrine Wagtail Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Wryneck Photograph by Deryk Shaw

10th May: A change in wind direction to South Westerly produce a few more new birds today including the first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year, **Greenshank** and a new male **Bluethroat**. A **Hobby** was also a great surprise find in the afternoon. The **Black Kite**, **Subalpine Warbler**, 6 **Dotterel**, and 3 **Mealy Redpoll** remains. Commoner migrants include 2 **Sedge Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff**, 4 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Sand Martin**, 9 **Swallow** and 5 **House Martin**.

9th May: A similar day weather wise to yesterday. The **Black Kite** remained on the island. New finds include a female **Subalpine Warbler** in the plantation, a male **Bluethroat** and a fly-over **Wood Sandpiper**, **Lesser Redpoll**, 'Flava **Wagtail**', **Whinchat** and **Moorhen**. **Dotterel** numbers increased to 8. Commoner migrants include 2 **Red breasted Merganser**, 1 **Sand Martin**, 2 **House Martin**, 20 **Swallow**, 6 **Tree Pipit**, 6 **Sedge Warbler**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Blackcap**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and 6 **Willow Warbler**.



Citrine Wagtail (above)



Dotterel (right)



Photographs by Mark Breaks

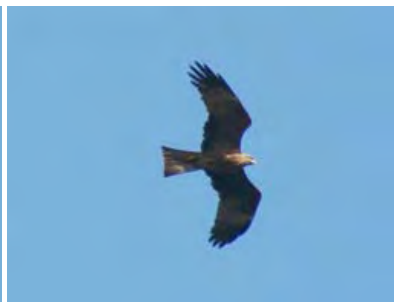
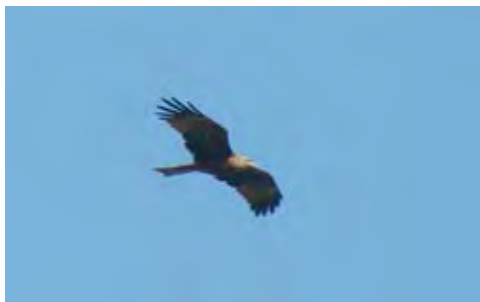
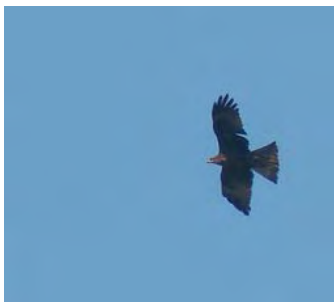


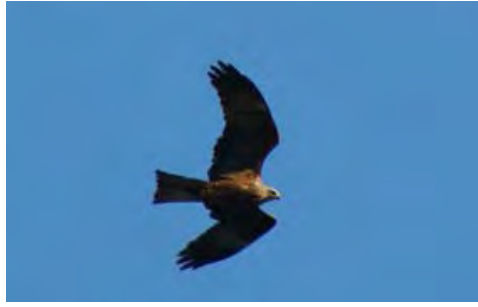
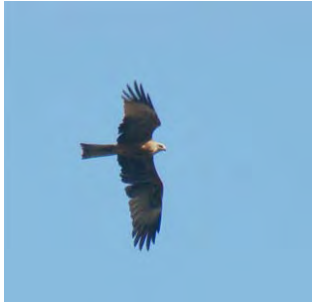
Bluethroat (left)

Photographs by Mark Breaks

8th May: The weather was good enough to keep the **Black Kite** circling the island all day again. **Dotterel** numbers increased to 5 on ward hill and a **Water Rail** was flushed from Gilsetter. Other migrants include 2 **Mealy Redpoll**, **Redwing**, 2 **Tree Pipit**, 33 **Swallow**, 3 **House Martin**, 2 **Sand Martin**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcap**, 3 **Chiffchaff** and 3 **Willow Warbler**.d 3 **Mealy Redpoll** were on the island.

7th May: Another glorious day with a light south easterly wind and bright sunshine perfect for raptors and today they actually came with an **Osprey** through north but this was shadowed by a cracking **Black Kite** that spent all day flying around the island (another first for the Isle!). Migration is still slow but new additions included 3 **Dotterel** on Ward Hill, **Greenshank**, male **Red-breasted Merganser**, 2 **Redstarts** and a **Black Redstart**, **Arctic Terns** increased to 15 and the **Lesser Redpoll** is now present with 2 **Mealy Redpolls**.





Black Kite *Photographs by Deryk Shaw*

6th May: A very quiet day with dense fog all morning that lingered till mid afternoon. No new birds for the year but new arrivals noted were **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Common Sandpipers**, 12 **Purple Sandpipers**, **Arctic Skuas** increased to 8 again and a **Grasshopper Warbler** was in the plantation. Still remaining are the **Lesser** and **Mealy Redpoll**, **Kestrel** and **Sparrowhawk**.

5th May: A glorious day weather wise with no clouds and only a very light wind. There were certainly some birds around with several new in. A **Quail** flushed from Utra, a **Cuckoo** during the afternoon and a **Lesser Redpoll** controlled in the evening were all year ticks. Still lingering from previous days were the **Wood Sandpiper** on the scrape, the **Dotterel** at Setter and the **Kumliens Gull** in Furse. Other new arrivals included 4 **Cormorant**, an adult **Iceland Gull**, 2 **Arctic Terns** and 2 **Sedge Warblers**. Summer migrants included 7 **Whimbrel**, 1 **Common Sandpiper**, 34 **Swallow**, 4 **Sand Martin**, 1 **House Martin**, 3 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Ring Ouzel**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Common Whitethroat**, 5 **Blackcap** and 17 **Willow Warbler** and 1 **Pied Flycatcher**.

4th May: A very overcast day with fewer birds around in general. There were a couple of new arrivals though in the form of a **Wood Sandpiper** first at Golden Water and later at Da Water, a **Moorhen** in Schoolton Ditch and a second-summer **Glaucous Gull** in South Harbour. Numbers were made up by 7 **Whimbrel**, 11 **Swallow**, 1 **House Martin**, 8 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Blackcap**, 8 **Willow Warbler** and a male **Pied Flycatcher**. The **Kumliens Gull** is still present but the **Iceland Gull** seems to have disappeared.



Dotterel



Grey-headed wagtail



Wryneck

Photographs by Mark Breaks

3rd May: A couple of new arrivals today. First was a male **Dotterel** near Kennaby and later on Rippack. A **Shelduck** also did a small tour of the island during the morning. The male **Grey-headed Wagtail** was present at the base of Malcolms Head and the **Wryneck** at Kennaby and later Quoy.

Other migrants present today included 8 **Whimbrel**, 8 **Swallow**, 1 **Sand Martin**, 3 **Tree Pipit**, 1 **Common Redstart**, 4 **Ring Ouzel**, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 4 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 1 **Common Whitethroat**, 6 **Blackcap** and 13 **Willow Warbler**. The **Iceland Gull** and **Kumliens Gull** are still present.

2nd May: The **Caspian Plover** turned up again today for 45 minutes in the morning, before being lost in flight. Unfortunately it went missing before the two-plane loads of twitchers arrived. A male **Grey-headed Wagtail** was at Pund most of the day. The **Wryneck** also remained. There was a noticeable increase in 'hirundines' today with 54 **Barn Swallow**, 6 **Sand Martin** and 5 **House Martin** being logged on census. Warblers included

3 Grasshopper Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Whitethroat, 6 Blackcap, 8 Chiffchaff, 15 Willow Warbler and the first Garden Warbler of the year. Still present were the Whinchat, Pied Flycatcher, 2 Ring Ouzel, Black Redstart, Iceland Gull and Kumlien's Gull.



Caspian Plover

Photographs (above) by Mark Breaks



Caspian Plover
Photographs (left & right) by Paul Baxter.



1st May: Big excitement today as a female **CASPIAN PLOVER** was found at Upper Stoneybreck late morning. Panic ensued as it flew towards Setter but it was not long before it was relocated. Just after breakfast an **Osprey** flew North over the observatory. Other raptors seen include a **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Peregrine**. A **Wryneck** was found at Hjukni Geo. Other year ticks included a **Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Redstarts** and a **Sedge Warbler**. Other migrants include 24 **Golden Plover**, 7 **Tree Pipit**, 'Flava' **Wagtail**, 2 **Black Redstart**, **Whinchat**, 2 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 3 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Whitethroat**, **Blackcap**, 13 **Chiffchaff**, 14 **Willow Warbler** and 8 **Reed Bunting**. Also still present are 2 **Ring Ouzel**, **Iceland Gull** and **Kumlien's Gull**.

2008 - APRIL SIGHTINGS

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30th April: Today's birds include, 4 **Tree Pipit**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 5 **Chiffchaff**, 4 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Blackcap**, 1 **Whitethroat**, 3 **Mealy Redpoll**, 16 **Swallow**, 9 **Whimbrel**, 13 **Arctic Skua**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Grey Heron**. Also still present are 2 **Ring Ouzel**, **Iceland Gull** and **Kumlien's Gull**.

29th April: A much nicer day weatherwise enticed the first **Swift**, **House Martin** and **Common Whitethroat** of the year to the isle. Three **Ring Ouzels** were seen and 2 **Grasshopper Warblers** at the Obs along with the **Great Tit**. Both **Black-tailed** and **Bar-tailed Godwits** remain as do **Iceland Gull** and **Kumlien's Gull**.

28th April: A horrible morning's weather kept everyone indoors while the afternoon, while fairly quiet still produced the year's first **Whinchat** and **Bar-tailed Godwit**, other birds included a **Shelduck**, a **Great-northern Diver**, a **Jack Snipe**, 9 **Whimbrel**, a big increase to 24 **Arctic Skuas**, 8 **Swallow**, a **Grey Wagtail**, 2 **Grasshopper Warbler**, a **Blackcap** while still the **Great Tit**, **Iceland Gull** and **Kumlien's Gull** are at large.

27th April: A fine, sunny day's highlight were 3 **Common Cranes** which circled the north of the isle in the late morning giving everyone the run around, other birds seen included our first **Arctic Tern** of the year, a fine male **Lapland Bunting** out on Dronger, a **Red-throated Diver**, 16 **Golden Plover**, a **Woodcock**, a **Black-tailed Godwit**, 8 **Whimbrel**, 4 **Sand Martin**, 12 **Swallow**, a *littoralis* **Rock Pipit**, a *flavissima* **Yellow Wagtail**, a **Stonechat**, 154 **Wheatears** including many Greenland birds, a **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcap** and a **Yellowhammer**. Whilst the **Great Tit**, **Iceland** and **Kumlien's Gulls** all remain.

26th April: A big clear out of birds overnight made the day very quiet in comparison with the previous couple of days with the only birds of note being the **Great Tit** still at the Obs, a **Sparrowhawk**, a male **Merlin**, a **Black-tailed Godwit**, 7 **Whimbrel**, a **Short-eared owl**, 6 **Swallow**, a **Grasshopper Warbler**, a **Lesser Whitethroat**, 3 **Blackcap**, 18 **Willow Warblers**, 10 **Brambling**, 6 **Linnet**, 4 **Reed Bunting** and the **Iceland** and **Kumlien's Gulls** remained.



Kumlien's Gull
Photographs by Mark Breaks

25th April: There were still plenty of birds present today although it was hard to tell what was new in and what remained from yesterday, the highlight in Fair Isle terms was a female **Great Tit** at the Obs which, when trapped was found to be a British control (subsequently found to have been ringed on North Ronaldsay two days previously!), other firsts for the year were **Dunlin** and **Grasshopper Warbler** (2). Migrants seen today included 2 **Merlin**, a **Jack Snipe**, 6 **Woodcock**, 11 **Whimbrel**, a **Greenshank**, our first proper influx of **Arctic Skua** with 9 seen and heard displaying, 16 **Black-headed Gull**, a **Short-eared Owl**, a **Sand Martin**, 13 **Swallow**, a **Tree Pipit**, 7 **White Wagtail**, 46 **Robin**, a **Black Redstart**, 152 **Wheatear**, 4 **Ring Ouzel**, 145 **Blackbird**, 200 **Fieldfare**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, 2 **Blackcap**, 27 **Chiffchaff**, 36 **Willow Warbler**, 40 **Brambling**, 11 **Siskin**, 5 **Linnet** a flyover **Hawfinch** and a **Yellowhammer**.

24th April: A good arrival of birds in very foggy conditions saw a real mixture of arriving summer migrants and departing winter birds, the highlight for one lucky observer was a **Great Snipe** seen briefly as it came in off the sea at Easter Lother which, despite searching for was never seen again. New birds today included a **Shelduck**, a female **Common Scoter**, a **Kestrel**, 4 **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Woodcock**, 7 **Whimbrel**, 2 **Short-eared Owl**, a **Sand Martin**, 8 **Swallow**, a **Tree Pipit**, a **Grey Wagtail**, 45 **Robin**, a **Black Redstart**, 5 **Ring Ouzel**, 104 **Blackbird**, 240 **Fieldfare**, 41 **Song Thrush**, 63 **Redwing**, 3 **Blackcap**, 23 **Chiffchaff**, 19 **Willow Warbler**, 10 **Goldcrest**, 40 **Brambling**, a **Common Redpoll** and 5 **Reed Bunting**.

Birds remaining from previous days included the **Short-toed Lark** still at Setter, the 2 **Lesser Whitethroats**, the 2 **Sparrowhawk** and the **Iceland** and **Kumlien's Gulls**.

On a sad note the long staying Canada Goose departed and an even sadder note was the discovery of the remains of the Night Heron in Gilsetter.

23rd April: An influx of common summer migrants occurred today but this unfortunately coincided with the departure of the Calandra Lark just as the first twitchers arrived, the lingering **Short-toed Lark** was little compensation. New birds for the year were **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Sand Martin** (3), **Tree Pipit**, a smart male *flavissima* **Yellow Wagtail** and **Blackcap** (2), other birds included 2 **Sparrowhawk**, a **Short-eared Owl**, 5 **Swallow**, 4 **Grey Wagtail**, 7 **White Wagtail**, 2 **Black Redstart**, an increase to 103 **Wheatear**, 3 **Ring Ouzel**, 3 **Mistle Thrush**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroat**, a **Jackdaw** and a **Rook**. The **Iceland** and **Kumlien's Gulls** remain.

22nd April: The main news today was the reappearance of the **Calandra Lark** at Setter, this time in the company of a **Short-toed Lark**. Other firsts for the year were a **Lesser Whitethroat** and a flyover **Greenshank** whilst other migrants included 2 **Wigeon**, 12 **Teal**, 2 **Sparrowhawk**, a **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Swallow**, a **Black Redstart**, 3 **Ring Ouzel** and a **Mistle Thrush**. The **Iceland** and **Kumlien's Gulls** remain.

21st April: A quieter day, although **Swallow**, **Green Sandpiper** (2) and **Showeler** (2) were added to the year list. Other birds seen included the 1st winter **Iceland Gull** and the 3rd winter **Kumlien's Gull** type still, a **Short-eared Owl**, 7 **White Wagtails**, a **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Mistle Thrush**, a **Rook** and a high count of 27 **Purple Sandpipers** in the south. Despite searching the Calandra Lark was not seen.

April 20th: A small arrival today with morning census producing 2 **Iceland Gulls** (one a **Kumliens** type) and counts of 123 **Meadow Pipit**, 5 **Dunnock**, 25 **Robin**, 48 **Wheatear**, 5 **Ring Ouzel**, 63 **Blackbird**, 12 **Song Thrush** and a scattering of finches including 13 **Brambling**, 2 **Goldfinch** and a **mealy Redpoll**. Best however was found in the afternoon when a **Calandra Lark** was found at Barkland. It showed very well but was rather flighty and must have spent a short time in every field in the Setter croft. This was the *fourth* for the isle following records in 1978, 1999 & 2000.



Calandra Lark
Top 3 photos
by Deryk Shaw

Photos left, right and
below
by Mark Breaks





April 19th: A **Shelduck** and **Arctic Skua** arrived today along with more **Meadow Pipits** (104), **Wheatears** (52), a couple of **Willow Warblers** and 7 **Chiffchaff**.

April 18th: A quiet day with counts of 60 **Common Gull**, 36 **Wheatear** and 2 **Ring Ouzel** the only things of note.

April 17th: Two **Sandwich Terns** were a welcome year tick whilst a 3rd-winter **Iceland/Kumliens Gull** was seen briefly. Increases were noted in **Blackbird** (107), **Wheatear** (24), **Song Thrush** (30) and **Chiffchaff** (14). Also were 2 **Peregrine**, 2 **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Willow Warbler** and a **Rook**.

April 16th: Highlights today were our first **Willow Warblers** (2), **Whimbrel** and **Slavonian Grebe**, of the year and a large increase in **Wheatear** (69). Elsewhere were a **Long-tailed Duck**, **Collared Dove**, **Short-eared Owl**, a **Stonechat** and 2 **Black Redstart**.

April 15th: Glorious weather but few birds of note. New in were **Jack Snipe**, 3 **White Wagtail** an influx of **Robin** (38) and **Wheatear** (15) – along with 3 **Wheatear** research students!!

April 14th: A fairly quiet day with a 'blue' **Fulmar**, 2 **Iceland Gulls** and the **Canada Goose** the highlights. **Sparrowhawk** and **Merlin** terrorised the small passerines, namely 62 **Blackbirds**, 26 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Black Redstart**, 5 **Chiffchaff**, 12 **Chaffinch** and 8 **Greenfinch**.



Black-bellied Dipper *Photo by Deryk Shaw*



Raven *Photo by Deryk Shaw*

Stewart Thomson of Quoy reported 2+ **Orcas** off Hesswalls.

April 13th: The **Night Heron** is still present along with at least 2 **Sparrowhawks**. New in were a **Collared Dove** and a **White Wagtail** whilst 100 **Skylark** and 18 **Chaffinch** were notable increases.

April 12th: Both **Night Heron** and **Canada Goose** remain. There was an influx of Sparrowhawks with at least four counted. **Common Gulls** increased to 46 and **Wood Pigeons** to 14 whilst other sightings included **Black Redstart**, 4 **Wheatear**, 2 **Mistle Thrush**, 8 **Greenfinch** and a **Brambling**.

April 11th: Both **Night Heron** and **Canada Goose** remain. A **Long-eared Owl** was flushed from the Plantation and also new in were *mealy* **Redpoll** and 2 **Mistle Thrush** plus a few more **Bonxies** (21), **Common Gulls** (24) and **Wheatears** (6).



Canada Goose Photo by Deryk Shaw

April 10th: Another nice day with a light SE'ly wind. The sea produced a male **Common Scoter**, **Great Nothern Diver**, **Cormorant** and around 90 **Puffins**. On land were a **Moorhen**, **Black Redstart**, a **Ring Ouzel**, 32 **Robin**, 6 **Chiffchaff**, 7 **Greenfinch** and 2 **Reed Bunting**. The **Night Heron** and **Canada Goose** remain.

April 9th: A pleasant bright, sunny day with a ESE breeze. Bird of the day was *another* **Night Heron** – but unfortunately it was a fresh corpse in Klingers Geo!! The first bird continues to show well at Field and Chalet Ponds. A few arrivals today with 4 **Chiffchaff**, 4 **Wheatear**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Black Redstart**, 2 **Stonechat**, **Brambling**, **Linnet** and a **Canada Goose** all new. Sightings of 7 **Wood Pigeon**, a pair of **Peregrine**, **Water Rail** and **Iceland Gull** were also made.

April 8th: The **Night Heron** remained in Field Pond whilst a *hornemanni* **Arctic Redpoll** was found at Barkland. Two **Iceland Gulls**, 16 **Jackdaw** and the **Yellowhammer** were also seen and the first **Puffin** ashore.

April 7th: The **Night Heron** showed incredibly well as it fed in Field Pond. A **Whooper Swan** was on Golden Water and two **Grey Herons** at South Harbour. The male **Peregrine** was seen again as were **Iceland Gull**, **Wheatear** and **Yellowhammer**. Counts included 112 **Turnstone**, 10 **Bonxies**, 3 **Dunnock**, 5 **Robin**, 52 **Blackbird**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 42 **Snow Bunting** and 2 **Reed Bunting**.



Night Heron

*Photos (above and right)
by Deryk Shaw*

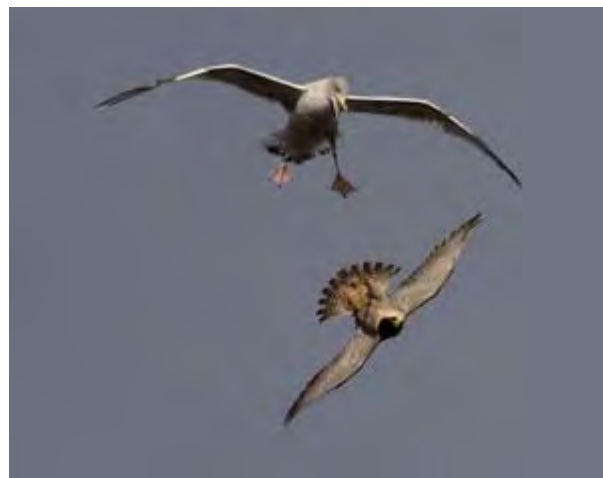


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Night Heron

*Photos (above, below and top right)
by Mark Breaks*



Peregrine fending off a Herring Gull
Photo by Mark Breaks

April 6th: A call at 0830 from Iain Stout at Setter reporting “a strange bird in the garden. Its quite big!” immediately set the pulse racing. It had to be the **Night Heron**! A few minutes later all the Obs birding staff were watching it sheltering against the garden wall. An hour later, the remaining Obs residents and interested islanders had all had excellent views, however none were as good as the views obtained by the Setter cat (see photos)!!! There was little else of note seen in the continuing bitter wintry weather – 2 **Woodcock**, the **Iceland Gull**, 7 **Wood Pigeon**, 200 **Skylark** and a **Wheatear**.



Night Heron

*Photos (above and right)
by Mark Breaks*



Night Heron
(and Setter cat)

*Photos (1 above and 2 right)
by Deryk Shaw*



April 5th: A day of horrible weather – bitterly cold gale-force NW'ly wind with frequent hail and snow showers. Consequently, census was difficult but there were increased counts of **Golden Plover** (17), **Purple Sandpiper** (24), **Skylark** (200) and **Meadow Pipit** (92). Other sightings included a **Woodcock**, the **Iceland Gull**, 9 **Robin**, 3 **Wheatear**, 21 **Jackdaw**, 5 (migrant) **Raven**, **Yellowhammer** and **Reed Bunting**. However, the best was an adult **NIGHT HERON** flushed from South Harbour by AW Mark Breaks. It disappeared around Meoness but despite an extensive search of the east cliffs and geos it could not be relocated.....until (on the way home for lunch) the traps were checked (by other AW Simon Davies) and it was flushed again, from the Vaadal stream next to the Plantation. It flew over the Vaadal trap and disappeared once again, despite another extensive search. The bad weather however means that it is unlikely to depart, so will hopefully be found tomorrow – if it survives the night!

April 4th: Winter is returning as a cold northerly wind sets in. A nice summer plumaged male **Lapland Bunting** was the highlight along with a **Short-eared Owl** and a '*littoralis*' **Rock Pipit**. **Bonxies** were up to 15 and **Meadow Pipits** reached 88. Other sightings of note were a **Jack Snipe**, the **Iceland Gull**, 6 **Pied Wagtail**, **Stonechat**, **Wheatear**, 2 **Chiffchaff**, 21 **Jackdaw**, **Yellowhammer** and **Reed Bunting**.

April 3rd: Much the same today although 20 **Fieldfare** indicated a turnover of thrushes and **Siskins** climbed to 10. A **Cormorant** was new for the year and also on the sea were 4 **Puffins** and fine male **Common Scoter** and **Red-breasted Merganser**. Two **Moorhen** were spotted as were 2 **Water Rail**, a **Jack Snipe**, 2 **Woodcock**, 2 **Stonechat** and a **Wheatear**.

April 2nd: New today were a **Long-eared Owl** at Wirvie and a **Rook** at Setter. Thrush numbers remained high and a collection of finches in the Obs garden included 11 **Chaffinch**, a **Brambling**, 3 **Greenfinch** and 7 **Siskin**.



Common Crane Photos by Mark Breaks



April 1st: The new month opened with our first **Wheatears** (two males), a reported **Ring Ouzel** and the **Common Crane** still present. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was also new whilst an arrival of **Meadow Pipits** (70) was evident. **Blackbird** numbers (120) were also up and with them were 6 **Fieldfare**, 6 **Song Thrush** and 32 **Redwing**. Also in were 2 **Jack Snipe**, 6 **Woodcock**, 8 **Bonxies**, 5 **Wood Pigeon**, 100 **Skylark**, 11 **Robin**, 3 **Chiffchaff** and 35 **Goldcrest**.

2008 - MARCH SIGHTINGS

2006 Report now out
Price £7 incl p&p (UK) or £8.50

March 24th-31st: The final week commenced with two days of heavy snow and appropriate sightings of parties of **Whooper Swan** (5 & 13) and **Iceland Gulls** (1st winter & 2nd winter). After the snow cleared and the wind veered round to the south, a **Brambling** on 27th was followed with **Black Redstart**, **Greenfinch** and two **Stonechat** the following day. The most significant arrival of 29th were the two seasonal AWs, just in time to greet the first **Bonxies** (2) of the year – spring must be here!!! A small fall was evident with counts of 100 **Oystercatcher**, 17 **Golden Plover**, 120 **Skylarks**, 6 **Meadow Pipit**, 7 **Robin**, 50 **Blackbird**, 4 **Song Thrush**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and a few finches (**Greenfinch**, 2 **Chaffinch** and 4 **Siskin**) whilst **Common Scoter** and **Grey Wagtail** were also new for the year.

The 30th witnessed the arrival of our first **Puffins**, in Furse plus the first **Yellowhammer** and an influx of **Jackdaws** (21) along with a couple of **Meadow Pipits**, two **Stonechat**, 17 **Snow Bunting** and a **Reed Bunting**.

The last day of the month saw **Bonxies** increase to four and an influx of **crows** (11 **Hooded**, 3 **Carrion**) but the best was a **Common Crane** which circled around the isle for hours before settling first at Setter, then Vatnagard.

March 14th – 23rd: A fairly quiet period with a **Meadow Pipit** on 16th, the only new species for the year. The **Chiffchaff** (from 12th) remained throughout with single **Pied Wagtail** and **Goldcrest** also noted and counts made of 90 **Oystercatcher**, 6 **Wigeon**, 65 **Common Snipe** and 65 **Skylark**.

March 13th: Another nice day started with a **Duncock** at the Obs, where the **Goldcrest** and at least four **Siskin** linger. Highlights elsewhere were first-winter **Iceland Gull**, the re-appearance of the **Black-bellied Dipper** and three **Stonechat**.



Snow Bunting - Photograph by Deryk Shaw



Iceland Gull - Photograph by Deryk Shaw

March 12th: The nicest day weatherwise for a long time! A good thrash around the south indicated there had been some movement. New for the year were a **Dunnock** at Shirva, **Chiffchaff** at Stackhoull, **Pied Wagtail** at the airstrip and later on a **Reed Bunting** in the Obs garden. The nice weather encouraged a bit of courtship display from **Lapwings** and several territorial **Curlews** and **Oystercatchers** were noted. Thrush numbers were up with 45 **Blackbird**, 38 **Redwing**, five **Fieldfare** and a couple of **Song Thrush** noted. Other counts and sightings included 60 **Oystercatcher**, 14 **Ringed Plover**, 135 **Turnstone**, 70 **Skylark**, three **Robin**, five **Jackdaw**, six **Siskin** and 92 **Snow Bunting** plus a couple of **Wood Pigeon** and singles of **Long-tailed Duck** and **Jack Snipe**.

March 11th: There are now four **Siskins** at the Obs plus a **Goldcrest**.

March 1st – 10th: Little to report in the early part of the month apart from a spell of poor weather!!! Peak counts so far have been 58 **Oystercatcher**, 17 **Ringed Plover** and 60 **Skylark** with a **Wood Pigeon**, a couple of **Siskin** and 15 **Snow Bunting** the only other things of note.

The first **frogspawn** of the year was found in Pund Ditch on 6th.

2008 - January & February Sightings

2006 Report now out
Price £7 incl p&p (UK) or £8.50

February 16th – 29th: The remainder of the month continued in the same vein with the **Black-bellied Dipper** remaining and **Oystercatchers**, **Ringed Plovers** and **Skylarks** trickling through – the latter even heard singing from 24th. **Purple Sandpipers** began to move with 27 counted on 19th. The six **Jackdaws** and **Iceland Gull** lingered whilst new in were three male **Siskins** on 26th.

February 6th - 15th: The **Black-bellied Dipper** remains in the Gully and was trapped and ringed on 10th.

Oystercatchers are slowly building up with 6 on 6th rising to 15 on 9th, 23 on 12th and 39 on 13th. Likewise, 10 **Skylarks** on 12th had risen to 30 two days later. The first **Ringed Plover** was seen on 12th and there were seven by 15th when two 'blue' **Fulmars** were also spotted. A report of a **Stonechat** on 12th was confirmed on 14th. Six **Jackdaws** and the **Mistle Thrush** remain. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** also lingers and another was picked up freshly dead.



Black-bellied Dipper
Photograph by Deryk Shaw

February 1st – 5th: The **Black-bellied Dipper** remains in the Gully and was heard singing! The first **Oystercatcher** appeared on 1st with two on 3rd. Windy weather on 3rd resulted in large numbers of **Great Black-backed** and **Herring Gulls** seeking shelter on the isle and amongst them were **four Iceland Gulls** and **three Glaucous Gulls**. Pleasant weather on 5th encouraged many **Guillemots** ashore but **Razorbills** are very scarce. A tramp around the south produced highlights of; a pair of **Peregrines**, three **Skylark**, a **Mistle Thrush**, seven **Jackdaws** and a **Linnet**.



Black-bellied Dipper
 feeding



Black-bellied Dipper



Black-bellied Dipper

Photographs by Deryk Shaw



Fulmar duet



Iceland Gull
 3rd February



Iceland Gulls, North Haven
 3rd February



Whooper Swans

January 23rd-31st: The **Black-bellied Dipper** has relocated to the Gully and **Goldeneye** and **Common Scoter** are in Furse. Seven **Jackdaws** remain and of two adult **Whooper Swans**, one has died.

January 15th – 22nd: On our return from holiday, the **Black-bellied Dipper** from last December is still present in Wirvie. A **Scaup** frequented South Harbour and a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was with the large flock of **Herring** and Greater **Black-backed Gulls**. A pair of **Whooper Swans**, a few **Water Rails** (3+) and a **Moorhen** (at the Chalet), a **Peregrine**, a couple of **Skylarks**, and 7 **Jackdaws** are the other notables. Counts include 37 **Greylag**, 60 **Common Snipe**, **Goldeneye**, 21 **Mallard**, two

Wigeon, 3 Teal, 13 Curlew, 135 Turnstone, 3 Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, c40 Blackbird, 5 Redwing, single Fieldfare and Song Thrush, 4 Robin, c25 Twite.

A calm morning on 22nd enticed the first **Gannets** (28 on Yellow Head) and a handful of **Guillemots** ashore.