

1st May 2012

Light easterlies. Fine all day

Five Teal appeared for the start of the month, joining the lingering male **Green-winged Teal**, while 2 Goldeneye were in South Harbour. A Sparrowhawk was floating around the isle while Golden Plovers increased to 10 as did Whimbrel to 4.

Two Short-eared Owls were on the isle along with 2 Wrynecks; one in the north and another below Malcolms Head . Hirundines included 7 Swallows and 2 House Martins moving through, while warbler counts included 6 Chiffchaffs, 6 Willow Warblers, 11 Blackcaps, a Grasshopper Warbler and a Sedge Warbler; a general drop in numbers. Thrush numbers also dwindled, though 17 Ring Ouzels and a Mistle Thrush still remained. Robins still lingered in decent numbers while a Redstart and 4 Pied Flycatchers (all males) were also present, the latter being the years first. Other counts included 4 Tree Pipits, 412 Meadow Pipits, 4 Chaffinches, 16 Bramblings, 15 Siskins, a lingering Hawfinch at the Obs, a smart summer plumaged male Snow Bunting, 1 Lapland Bunting and 2 Reed Buntings.

2nd May 2012

Light westerly. Overcast

The highlight of today was the arrival of our first **Bluethroat** of the year; a male red-spotted bird. A welcome sight after last years no show for males!

The Teal flock doubled in number to 10, while a scarce bird on the island was a pair of **Pintail** briefly in South Harbour. A Red-breasted Merganser also arrived while 3 Sparrowhawks, a Kestrel and 2 Merlins arrived in the calm weather. A flock of 70 Purple Sandpipers was a decent count while other notable waders included a Common Sandpiper and Green Sandpiper.

Woodpigeons increased to 7, while a **Wryneck** lingered at the Haa. Other passerine counts included 10 Swallows, 6 Chiffchaffs, 6 Willow Warblers, 5 Blackcaps, 14 Ring Ouzels, 9 Song Thrushes, 55 lingering Robins, a Pied Flycatcher, 6 Tree Pipits, 5 Chaffinches, 28 Siskins, 3 Mealy Redpolls and 2 **Hawfinches**, a male and female at the Obs feeders.

3rd May 2012

Light south-westerly's. Overcast with showers.

Five Wigeon arrived along with 2 Cormorants, while a Moorhen was in Boini Mire. Dunlin increased to 5 and a Woodcock arrived along with 7 Redshank.

Woodpigeons reached a respectable 8, while a Long-eared Owl arrived, joining the lingering 2 Short-eared Owls. One **Wryneck** remains, while other small migrants included 12 Swallows, the first 2 **Wood Warblers** of the year, at Boini Mire and Kennaby, a Sedge Warbler, 3 Ring Ouzels, the first Whinchat of the year at the airstrip, 10 Dunnocks, 7 Chaffinches, 3 Mealy Redpolls and 2 **Hawfinches** still.

4th May 2012

Moderate to strong northerlies. Snow and hail.

A grim day, and not a particularly pleasant census, with few real highlights. Notable sightings included the lingering **Green-winged Teal**, an increase in Whimbrel (11), 4 Ring Ouzels, Whinchat, 4 Tree Pipits, 10 Bramblings, the male **Hawfinch** and a Snow and Lapland Bunting.

5th May 2012

Moderate north-westerlies. Cold with snow in the morning.

A slight improvement in conditions saw little change in the islands birdlife, with the main notables including 8 Dunlin, 2 lingering Jackdaws, a Swallow, 5 Chiffchaffs(all probably lingering birds), 5 Ring Ouzels, a Fieldfare, 5 Tree Pipits, 9 Chaffinches, 2 Snow Buntings and a Lapland Bunting.

6th May 2012

Moderate south-westerlies. Showers, sometimes heavy.

Hmm, it seems that winter is reluctant to relinquish its grip on the northern isles this year. We tried to unearth something of interest, but the best we could come up with was 2 more Ring Ouzels, 7 more Robins and a *littoralis* Rock Pipit. Literally nothing else arrived!

7th May 2012

Fine and bright, with light south-westerly's turning easterly in the afternoon.

A Pink-footed Goose joined the lingering Greylag flock, which were bolstered by an additional 4. A Cormorant also arrived, along with a **Common Buzzard** north over the island and a Merlin. A **Moorhen** was on Da Water with 2 new Short-eared Owls there.

Fifteen Carrion Crows passed through, as did 54 Swallows; the first decent passage of the year. Other small migrants included 4 Chiffchaffs, 6 Willow Warblers, 6 Blackcaps, and the first Lesser Whitethroat of the year at the Haa, 5 Ring Ouzels, a Whinchat, 5 Tree Pipits, 3 Siskins, 6 Linnets and 2 Mealy Redpolls.

8th May 2012

Moderate to strong east/north-easterlies. Rain all day

A great day in promising conditions produced a nice scattering of common migrants, including several first records of the year and an impressive spread of scarcer species. Five **Wrynecks** were spread across the south of the island while a male **Bluethroat** appeared at the obs and a female-type **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was briefly at Wirvy.

A Goldeneye arrived while raptor interest was provided by a newly arrived Sparrowhawk. Wader movement was hinted at by a new Sanderling and increases to 6 Golden Plovers, 4 Dunlin, a Black-tailed Godwit, 20 Whimbrel, 5 Common Sandpipers, the first **Wood Sandpiper** of the year over Pund and 4 Redshanks. Gulls were also on the move with 28 Black-headed Gulls and 26 Lesser Black-backed Gulls logged.

A good spread of other migrants arrived through the day including 4 Collared Doves, a **Long-eared Owl**, Goldcrest, the first Sand Martin of the year, 6 House Martins, a significant influx of 41 Willow Warblers and 23 Blackcaps, 2 Lesser Whitethroats and the first Whitethroats of the year (9 scattered across the island), 3 Sedge Warblers, an impressive 21 **Ring Ouzels**, 6 Blackbirds, a large fall of 212 Fieldfares, 29 Song Thrushes, 16 Redwings, the first Spotted Flycatcher of the year, a little arrival of 24 Robins, 15 Redstarts, 6 Whinchats, 3 Pied Flycatchers, a male **Blue-headed Wagtail**, a nice arrival of 58 Tree Pipits and an increase in Meadow Pipits (to 288), an impressive 118 Bramblings (with 19 ringed in the observatory mist nets in the evening, including a bird bearing a Brussels ring), 39 Siskins, 2 **Hawfinches**, with a male at the Obs and a female at Schoolton, 2 Lapland Buntings and a good spring count of 21 Reed Buntings.

9th May 2012

Moderate south-westerly with showers.

Highlight of the day was a fairly confiding **Ortolan Bunting** along the roadside at Upper Stonybreck. A pretty scarce species on here now, this being the second record since 2008 and it was appreciated by all visiting birders present. Other highlights included

A Kestrel arrived, while notable wader sightings included 11 Common Sandpipers and 2 **Wood Sandpipers** together at Barkland. Also of note were our first Arctic Terns over Bunes in the early morning.

Two Long-eared Owls were on the island, along with the lingering 2 Short-eared Owls, while 3 of yesterdays **Wrynecks** remain. Other small migrants included 45 Swallows and 3 House Martins through, 6 Chiffchaffs and 40 Willow Warblers, 2 Lesser Whitethroats and 6 Whitethroats, 2 Grasshopper Warblers, 2 Sedge Warblers, 16 Ring Ouzels and smaller numbers of Fieldfares than yesterday, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, 27 Robins, the **Bluethroat** at the Obs still, 14 Redstarts, 8 Whinchats, a large influx of 325 Wheatears, 9 Pied Flycatchers, 4 Dunnocks, a Yellow Wagtail, female **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 16 White Wagtails, 59 Tree Pipits, 4 Chaffinches and 51 Bramblings, 14 Siskins, the lingering female **Hawfinch**, a Snow Bunting and 11 Reed Buntings.

10th May 2012

The Goldeneye remained in the Havens, while our first **Osprey** of the year flew north over the island. Both Jack Snipe and Woodcock arrived.

Six Woodpigeons arrived while a Long-eared Owl and 2 Short-eared Owls were lingering birds. Three Wrynecks also remain. Blackcap numbers increased to 18, while other warblers dropped in number. Two **Bluethroats** were present on the isle today, while other migrants included 11 Redstarts, 10 Whinchats, 6 Pied Flycatchers, 38 Tree Pipits, 35 Bramblings, 2 Linnets, a male **Hawfinch** at Schoolton, 3 Snow Buntings, the lingering **Ortolan Bunting** and 17 Reed Buntings.

11th May 2012

Moderate westerly. Overcast but dry.

A pair of Teal arrived, joining the 7 Wigeon on Da Water which also held a **Wood Sandpiper**.

Woodpigeons reached 7, while **Wrynecks** dwindled down to 1 bird. A smart male **Red-backed Shrike** was found at the Chaple while other notable migrant sightings included a Goldcrest, small numbers of the lingering common *phylloscs*, *sylvias* and thrushes, one of the male **Bluethroats**, 6 Redstarts, 7 Whinchats, 6 Pied Flycatchers, 2 *flava*-type Wagtails, 52 Tree Pipits and a Lapland Bunting.

12th May 2012

Light south-westerly. Fine.

Five Common Sandpipers and the lingering **Wood Sandpiper** were of note while an influx of Common Gulls saw 69 arrive.

Most of the commoner migrants tended to decrease in number on the island in the fine weather (though the selection was still good, with birds scattered all over). However **Bluethroats** saw fit to increase in number with 3 males dotted across the island.

13th May 2012

South-westerly gales, up to force 10. Rain and showers all day.

Not a nice day! And, with conditions being near un-birdable, no complete census was performed. However a few bits and pieces of note were picked up in a few optimistic wanders during the day.

Two Knot and a Sanderling arrived in North Haven while 2 Dunlin and a Common Sandpiper were also seen. A Collared Dove was around the Obs while smaller migrants included a House Martin, Sedge Warbler, 2 Dunnocks, 5 Siskins and a Linnet.

14th May 2012

Strong westerly and showers

Four Teal were on Da Water and a Cormorant moved through. Sanderling increased to 4, while 7 Dunlin were present and Whimbrel reached 16. Two Short-eared Owls were on Da Water and a new **Wryneck** was present at the Haa. Small migrant numbers included a Chiffchaff, 2 Willow Warblers, 3 Blackcaps, 3 Ring Ouzels and single figure counts of the other thrushes, 5 Robins, 1 Redstart, 2 Whinchats, 3 Pied Flycatchers, 2 *Flava*-type Wagtails, a male **Blue-headed Wagtail** in the Havens, 33 Tree Pipits, 8 Bramblings, 4 Siskins, 2 Mealy Redpolls, a Snow Bunting and 12 Reed Buntings.

15th May 2012

Strong westerlies and rain

A Red-throated Diver moved through, but that was about it as far as large migrant species went. On the smaller migrant front, 2 **Wrynecks** were in the Obs garden while other counts included 4 Chiffchaffs, 4 Willow Warblers, 2 Blackcaps, 3 Ring Ouzels, 2 Redstarts, 6 Whinchats, 5 White Wagtails, 38 Tree Pipits, 12 Bramblings, 2 Snow Buntings and a Lapland Bunting.

16th May 2012

Moderate north-westerly. Sunny spells and showers.

Two Short-eared Owls were lingering, as was a **Wryneck** at the obs. A small number of Swallows passed through, along with a House Martin. Four Blackcaps were present along with a Sedge Warbler, 3 Ring Ouzels, 2 lingering Fieldfares, 13 Robins and a lingering Redstart and 3 Whinchats, 305 Wheatears (a clear arrival), a *flava*-type Wagtail, the male **Blue-headed Wagtail** still in the havens, 28 Tree Pipits and the Lingering 2 Snow Buntings, Lapland Bunting and 13 Reed Buntings.

17th May 2012

Light north-westerly. Fine and bright.

The number of Wigeon on Da Water dropped to 2 and the Teal departed, but a male and female Tufted Duck did arrive, as did a female Kestrel. A Woodcock dropped in and a late 1st winter **Iceland Gull** was in South Harbour.

Five Woodpigeons were present, as were the lingering Short-eared Owl and **Wryneck**, while 30 Swallows and 2 House Martins moved through. Other small migrants arriving in the calmer weather included 5 Chiffchaffs, 5 Willow Warblers, 6 Blackcaps, 1 Garden Warbler, 1 Whitethroat, 2 Sedge Warblers, 1 Redwing, 2 Redstarts, 361 Wheatears, 2 male **Blue-headed Wagtails**, 9 White Wagtails, 46 Tree Pipits (another wave of arrivals after the influx on the 8th), 2 Linnets, a Mealy Redpoll, 5 Snow Buntings and 2 Lapland Buntings.

18th May 2012

Light to moderate northerly. Overcast with showers.

Surprise of the day was the discovery of a nice and showy **Spotted Crake** in the ditches at Pund in the morning. The bird was available to be twitched for a short while as it ran through the long grass, before heading up to Hill Dyke, running along to the concrete buildings there and jumping through a window, never to be seen again.

The male Tufted Duck remains and a Sparrowhawk arrived, along with 10 Whimbrel and a Common Sandpiper.

The **Wryneck** remained in the Obs Garden while other notable migrants included 6 Willow Warblers, 4 Blackcaps, a Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Song Thrushes, a Pied Flycatcher, 2 male **Grey-headed Wagtails** at Malcolms Head, a male **Blue-headed Wagtail** at Easter Lothar, 27 Tree Pipits, 276 Meadow Pipits, 2 Mealy Redpolls, 5 Snow Buntings, a Lapland Bunting and 11 Reed Buntings.

19th May 2012

Light north to north-east. Fine

A **Shorelark** at Kennaby was the main highlight of a pleasant day that also saw a steady trickle of newly arrived migrants onto the island.

A Red-throated Diver flew through while other migrants included 2 Short-eared Owls, the lingering Wryneck, a Carrion Crow, 6 Chiffchaffs, 7 Willow Warblers, 13 Blackcaps, 2 Whitethroats, a small number of lingering Blackbirds and Robins, 4 Whinchats, 2 Redstarts, the lingering Pied Flycatcher, 25 Tree Pipits and 9 Snow Buntings, most of which were in fine summer dress.

20th May 2012

Light easterly and sunny spells.

A superb days birding on Fair Isle, with the main highlights being a **THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** trapped in the Gulley on the morning trap round and a flighty but (unusually for this species) twitchable **HOOPOE** found on the far slopes of Dronger (what a setting!) A superb supporting cast of migrants also included 5 **Wrynecks** (with 4 in the south-west in addition to the bird at the Obs), a female **Red-backed Shrike** at Pund, the first **Icterine Warbler** of the year at Shalstane, 2 **Bluethroats** (a female at Gilsetter and a male at the Mast) and the lingering **Shorelark** still at Kennaby.

A male Red-breasted Merganser arrived in the Havens while 2 Herons , 2 Sparrowhawks and a Kestrel also appeared. Four Golden Plovers were an increase on recent days and 2 Common Sandpipers arrived, as did the first 2 Common Terns of the year.

Two Collared Doves arrived along with a new Woodpigeon, the first Swift of the spring at Ward Hill, a Jackdaw, 9 Carrion Crows, a good passage of 71 Swallows, 5 House Martins, 6 Chiffchaffs, 13 Willow Warblers, 10 Blackcaps, 4 Garden Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats, 4 Whitethroats, a Sedge Warbler, 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Song Thrushes, 3 Redwings, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, 16 Robins, 12 Redstarts, 5 Pied Flycatchers, 3 **Tree Sparrows** at Schoolton, 2 **Grey-headed Wagtails**, 36 Tree Pipits, a Goldfinch, 18 Siskin, 3 Mealy Redpolls, 6 Snow Buntings, 2 **Yellowhammers** and 17 Reed Buntings.

21st May 2012

Light north-easterly. Fine and cloudless.

Another pleasant day and another good showing of birds, with the highlight being a **Common Nightingale** trapped in the Plantation in the morning (a rarer bird on Fair Isle than Thrush Nightingale, with only 49 records to date!), allowing guests and staff alike the rare opportunity to observe both this and **THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** on the same day. A **Short-toed Lark** was also discovered at Guidicum.

A female Common Scoter arrived in South Harbour while Dunlin totalled 8. A Woodcock also arrived.

Eight Woodpigeons were present on the island along with the Short-eared Owl, 1 **Wryneck** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** (a male at the Chalet and a female trapped at the Obs). A good hirundines passage included 3 Sand Martins, 115 Swallows and 10 House Martins. A **Wood Warbler** was at Barkland while other migrants included 7 Chiffchaffs, 11 Willow Warblers, 9 Blackcaps, a Garden Warbler, 5 Lesser Whitethroats, 9 Whitethroats, the **Icterine Warbler** at Shalstane, 2 Sedge Warblers, 3 Ring Ouzels, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, a Black Redstart at the Mast, 7 Redstarts, 3 Pied Flycatchers, a **Blue-headed Wagtail**, 25 Tree Pipits, the first **Common Rosefinch** of the year and the lingering 6 Snow Buntings.

22nd May 2012

Light to moderate easterly. Fine.

Standout highlight was a smart **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** which was discovered doing feeding circuits around Utra in the morning (virtually the same location as last year's bird). The bird showed exceptionally well to all present. The **THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** remained in the Obs garden where it showed well all day. An excellent arrival of scarcities onto the island included 2 **Wrynecks**, 7 **Red-backed Shrikes** (4 males, 3 females), 4 **Icterine Warblers**, a male **Bluethroat** at the shop and 2 **Common Rosefinches** (a red male and a female).

Two Barnacle Geese arrived into South Harbour while a Sparrowhawk remains and was joined on the island by 2 Kestrels. Six Whimbrel were also present along with a smart summer plumaged Knot.

A Long-eared Owl was present at the Obs and 12 Carrion Crows passed through while other migrants included 2 Sand Martins, 98 Swallows, 7 House Martins, 20 Chiffchaffs, 7 Willow Warblers, 14 Blackcaps, a Garden Warbler, 8 Lesser Whitethroats, 10 Whitethroats, 3 Sedge Warblers, a Ring Ouzel, 14 Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Black Redstarts, 7 Redstarts, 4 Pied Flycatchers, 2 **Grey-headed Wagtails**, 2 Mealy Redpolls, 3 Snow Buntings and a Yellowhammer.

23rd May 2012

Light to moderate easterly. Fine but hazy.

Another superb day on the island with scarce species everywhere! One of the most notable occurrences was the arrival of **10 Icterine Warbler**; the second highest count ever recorded on Fair Isle following counts of 11 on the 27th May and 4th June 1992. Also exceptional was an arrival of **64 Spotted Flycatchers**; again the second highest count ever recorded on Fair Isle, and again following the previous highest count on the 27th May 1992 (although the 350 that arrived that day would have been somewhat more mind-blowing!). The **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** was still present all day, though it was more mobile than yesterday, ranging from North Light (where it possibly roosted), the Obs and Barkland.

A Quail in Bulls Park was the first of the year, as were a male and female **Dotterel** in the same field in the morning. The Knot remained and another late Woodcock arrived along with a Common Sandpiper.

Nine Woodpigeons and 2 Collared Doves were an increase on recent days, while both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls remain. The 2 **Wrynecks** remained at Utra and the Obs while **Red-backed Shrikes** saw an increase to an impressive 9 birds (including 7 stunning males). Hirundines counted included 2 Sand Martins, 46 Swallows and 4 House Martins while small migrants included to increase in number in most areas, with totals including 14 Chiffchaffs, 15 Willow Warblers, 12 Blackcaps, 2 Garden Warblers, 19 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Whitethroats, 5 Sedge Warblers, 12 Robins, 2 **Bluethroats**, a Black Redstart, 8 Common Redstarts, 2 Whinchats, 4 Pied Flycatchers, a male **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 20 Tree Pipits (including a bird singing at Burkle), 3 **Common Rosefinches** (including a red male) and 7 Reed Buntings.

24th May 2012

Light southerly. Fine and hazy.

The **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** remains for its 3rd day, roaming widely across the island while the scattering of scarce species remains excellent.

A Sparrowhawk and a Kestrel were present and the female **Dotterel** remained in Bulls Park. The Long and Short-eared Owls were both still present, although sadly the former appears to be heavily oiled by Fulmars.

Two Swifts arrived and one **Wryneck** and 7 **Red-backed Shrikes** remained scattered across the island. Small numbers of Swallows moved through during the day along with the odd House and Sand Martin while small migrant numbers on the isle tended to be reduced compared to recent days, with counts including 6 Willow Warblers, 8 Blackcaps, 13 Lesser Whitethroats, 4 **Icterine Warblers**, 22 Spotted Flycatchers, 5 Redstarts, 2 Pied Flycatchers, a male **Grey-headed Wagtail**, 11 Tree Pipits, a Lesser Redpoll and 2 Mealy Redpolls, 5 **Common Rosefinches** (including a 'yellow' variant and 2 red males), a Snow Bunting, a Yellowhammer and 3 Reed Buntings.

25th May 2012

Very light easterly and fog. Humid.

Bird of the day goes comfortably to our second **THRUSH NIGHTINGALE** of the year. This bird was initially found along the roadside near Single Dyke where, with a little coaxing it was trapped in Roadside Dyke and ringed at the Obs.

The first 3 Storm Petrels of the summer were trapped in the evening at the Kirn O' Skroo while Kestrel and Peregrine were both sighted. A total of 18 Dunlin were present along with a Golden Plover, lingering Knot and Whimbrel. A total of 117 Arctic Terns were counted, including the first copulation amongst the traditional breeding sites.

Numbers of other migrants on the island tended to dwindle, with the main scarcities including the lingering **Wryneck** and single female **Red-backed Shrike**, 5 **Icterine Warblers** and a red male **Common Rosefinch** (by no means a poor day!). Other small migrants included 9 Swallows, 4 Chiffchaffs, 2 Willow Warblers, 4 Blackcaps, 2 Garden Warblers, 5 Lesser Whitethroats and a Common Whitethroat, a Sedge Warbler, 5 Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Tree Pipits, a Siskin and 2 Mealy Redpolls.

26th May 2012

Light easterly with thick fog.

A very difficult to track female-type **SUBALPINE WARBLER** was seen briefly at Lower Leogh in the late morning before moving across to Taft and then the Haa, where it was lost in the fog. Hopefully that will reveal itself again tomorrow!

A Sparrowhawk and Merlin arrived along with 9 Golden Plovers and a Common Sandpiper.

The Long-and Short-eared Owls remain, including the oiled bird in the Obs garden plus the lingering **Wryneck**. **Red-backed Shrikes** increased again to 4 and 3 Carrion Crows arrived and 30 Swallows and 6 House Martins moved through. A **Wood Warbler** was found in South Harbour and 3 **Icterine Warblers** and 2 **Common Rosefinches** were present while notable counts/increases in common migrants included 5 Chiffchaffs, 3 Whitethroats, 6 Spotted Flycatchers, a Redstart, 5 Tree Pipits, a Brambling, a Linnet,

27th May 2012

Light easterly. Sunny and hot!

Yesterday's female **Subalpine Warbler** did the decent thing and chose to make its way north, to the Observatory garden and finally into a mist net, where the biometrics suggested that it was of the eastern race *Albistriata*.

Three Greylags were present and 2 Teal arrived, while 4 Cormorants and a Grey Heron passed through. Whimbrel and Curlew increased to 7 and 10 respectively and 2 Common Sandpipers arrived. A light gull passage included 48 Common Gulls and 21 Black-headed Gulls.

One each of Long and Short-eared Owl arrived while small migrants continued to trickle steadily through, with counts and sightings including 6 Woodpigeons, 2 Collared Doves and the first **Turtle Dove** of the year in the Gulley (though sadly not in the trap), one lingering **Wryneck** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes** (male and female), 2 Sand Martins, 40 Swallows and 18 House Martins, 11 Chiffchaffs, 6 Willow Warblers, 10 Blackcaps, 3 Garden Warblers, 6 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Whitethroats, 2 **Icterine Warblers**, 6 Sedge Warblers, 17 Spotted Flycatchers, 5 Robins, a Black Redstart at Stackhoull, 2 Redstarts, 2 Whinchats, 101 Wheatears, a female *flava*-type Wagtail, a Tree Pipit, a lingering Chaffinch and Brambling, 3 Siskins, 5 Mealy Redpolls, the first **Crossbill** of the year at the obs, 2 **Common Rosefinches** still and a Reed Bunting.

28th May 2012

Moderate north-easterly. Fine.

An initially elusive **Spotted Crane** was found in the Chalet pond in the afternoon, only giving brief views as it ran between islands of vegetation. However the bird was later caught, to the delight of many, and released back into the Chalet pond.

Dunlin numbers increased to 21 while the Turtle Dove remained, as did the two Long-eared Owls and 2 Red-backed Shrikes. Two Rooks over the Obs were notable while small numbers of hirundines remained on the island. Other small migrants included declining numbers of Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps and Garden Warblers, 2 **Icterine Warblers** and a new Reed Warbler, 13 Spotted Flycatchers, the Black Redstart and a Whinchat, a male Grey Wagtail (trapped in the Vaadal), 2 Chaffinches, 5 Mealy Redpolls still and one male **Common Rosefinch**.

29th May 2012

Light north-north easterly. Fine by the afternoon.

A Cormorant flew through and a male and female Peregrine were floating around over Vasetter (presumably a sign of our resident birds failing to rear chicks again). A new **Wood Sandpiper** was found on Da Water and was easily the highlight of a fairly quiet day.

Passerine migrants included 7 Swallows, 13 House Martins, 6 Chiffchaffs, 2 Garden Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats, 3 **Icterine Warblers**, 2 Sedge Warblers, the lingering Reed Warbler, a late female Ring Ouzel and 4 Blackbirds, 7 Spotted Flycatchers, the Black Redstart at the Shop, 1 Redstart and 1 Whinchat, yesterday's Grey Wagtail, 3 Tree Pipits, a Siskin, 2 Mealy Redpolls and the lingering male **Rosefinch** and, finally, 2 new male Snow Buntings.

30th May 2012

An **Osprey** (probably a female) passing over the island was probably the highlight of another fairly quiet day. The Wood Sandpiper remained on Da Water and Golden Plovers increased to 4.

The **Turtle Dove** reappeared at Schoolton and 5 Carrion Crows passed through while hirundines included 13 Swallows and 14 House Martins. Small migrants included 7 Chiffchaffs, a Willow Warbler, 4 Blackcaps, 4 Garden Warblers, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 3 Whitethroats, 3 **Icterine Warblers**, a Sedge Warbler, the Reed Warbler, an unseasonal Song Thrush and Redwing, 12 Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Siskins, a Linnets and the male **Common Rosefinch** still.

31st May 2012

Light to moderate north-north easterly. Fine but cool.

The last day of the month managed to produce a new scarce species for the island year list in the shape of a female-type **Marsh Harrier** briefly over Wester Loch; one of fewer than 40 records for the island.

Four Storm Petrels were trapped in the Kirn o' Skroo overnight while the Wood Sandpiper was still present on Da Water.

Four Collared Doves arrived while only small numbers of Swallows and House Martins remain. Small migrants included a new Lesser Whitethroat and small numbers of lingering Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps Whitethroats, a Garden Warbler and the lingering Reed Warbler at Schoolton. The Ring Ouzel was still in the Kirn O' Skroo and the Song Thrush remained, along with 7 Spotted Flycatchers, a Whinchat, 2 Robins, 2 Mealy Redpolls and the **Common Rosefinch**.