

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Rufous-tailed Robin**  
Photo Alan Bull



**Rufous-tailed Robin** Photo Alan Bull



**Rufous-tailed Robin**  
Photo Hugh Harrop

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

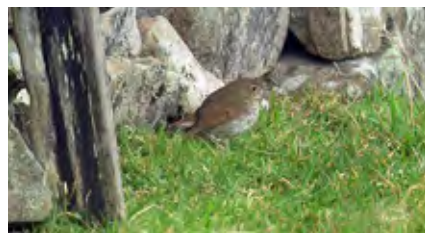


**Rufous-tailed Robin**

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

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

Photos Rebecca Nason



**Rufous-tailed Robin**  
Photos Deryk Shaw

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

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



**Ring Ouzel** Photo Alan Bull

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

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

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





Female Bullfinch

*Photos Deryk Shaw*



Male Bullfinch

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

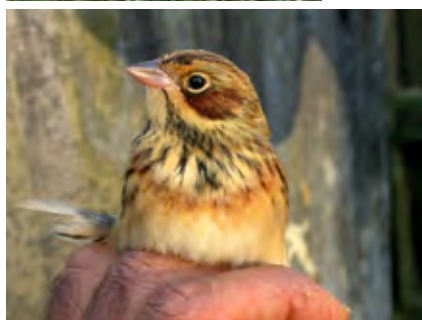


**Chestnut-eared Bunting**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*

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



**Chestnut-eared Bunting**  
*All photos Deryk Shaw*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Booted Warbler**  
Photos Deryk Shaw





Lanceolated Warbler

Ortolan Bunting

*Photos Deryk Shaw*



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

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

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

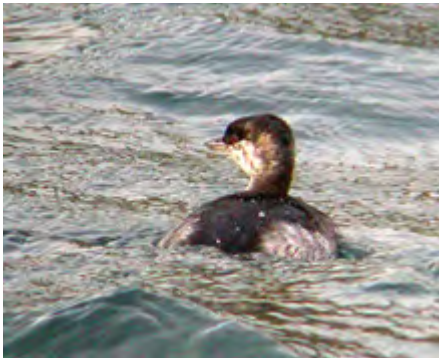


## 2004 - SEPTEMBER SIGHTINGS

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

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

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



**Slavonian Grebe**

*Photo Alan Bull*



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

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

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

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



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

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

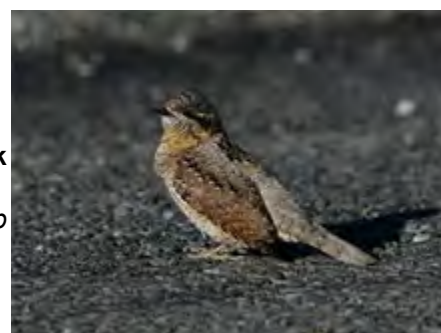
**18<sup>th</sup> September:** More of the same weather! A **Curlew Sandpiper** at the Puffinn and a **Glaucous Gull** were the two highlights. The **Dotterel** and 2 **Common Rosefinches** are still present. Counts included the **Barnacle Goose** (trapped in the evening), 38 **Wigeon**, **Water Rail**,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

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

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



**Barred warbler**



**Wryneck**

*Photos Simon Stirrup*

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



**Dotterel** *Photos Deryk Shaw*



**Little Stint**

*Photos Simon Stirrup*



**Dotterel**



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



**Sparrowhawk**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Sparrowhawk**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*



**Wood Warbler**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*

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



**Common Rosefinch**

*Photo Rebecca Nason*

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

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

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

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

**Common Rosefinch**

*Photo Deryk Shaw*





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

**Barred Warbler**  
*Photo by Alan Bull*

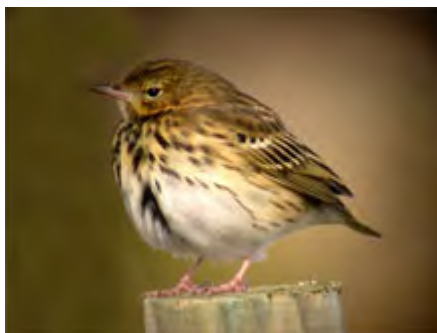


**6<sup>th</sup> September:** Another sunny day, but the rarity drought continues. An increase of **Common Rosefinches** to 8 birds and the 3 **Barred Warblers** were the highlights. Otherwise, a **Red-throated Diver**, 2 **Merlins**, 4 **Knot**, **Short-eared Owl**, 2 **Lesser Whitethroats**, 7 **Garden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

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

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

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



**Tree Pipit Willow-Warbler**  
*Photos by Alan Bull*

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



Kestrel

*Photo by Alan Bull*

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



Risso's Dolphin off Maver's Geo

*Photo Alan Bull*

Risso's Dolphin off Maver's Geo

*Photo Rebecca Nason*

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

Barred Warbler *Photo Deryk Shaw*

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sanderling



*Photos Deryk Shaw*

Little Stint

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



Grey Heron



Knot



Purple Sandpiper

*Photos Deryk Shaw*

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





### Green Sandpiper

*Photos Deryk Shaw*



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

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

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

**20<sup>th</sup> August:** A small arrival of migrants today included a **Short-eared Owl**, two **Barred Warblers**, a male **Red-backed Shrike** and the male **Reed Bunting**. Census produced 5 **Wigeon**, 4 **Grey Herons**, 8 **Purple Sandpipers**, 75 **Redshank**, 3 **Greenshank**, 60 **Turnstone**, **Cuckoo**, 200 **Meadow Pipits**, 6 **Whinchat**, 8 **Garden Warblers** and 13 **Willow Warblers**.

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

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

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

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



*Aquatic Warbler Photo Deryk Shaw*

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

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



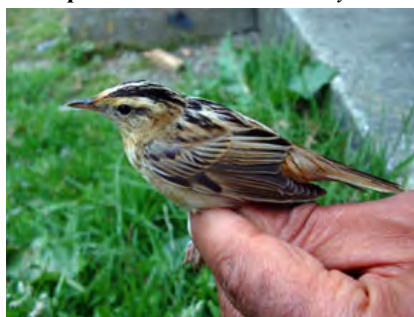
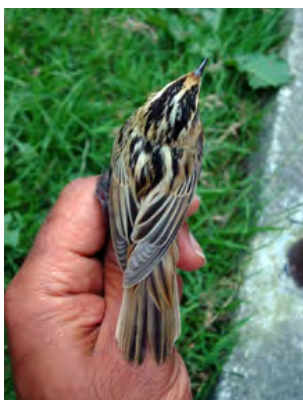
**Wood Sandpiper** Photo Deryk Shaw

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

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



**Aquatic Warbler** Photo Deryk Shaw



**Aquatic Warbler** Photos Glen Tyler



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

**Wryneck** Photo Deryk Shaw

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



**Pectoral Sandpiper**  
Photo Deryk Shaw

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

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

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

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



**Rosefinch**  
*Photo Deryk Shaw*

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

*photo Phil Harris*



**Puffins, one with pipefish**  
*photos Rebecca Nason*

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



**Killer Whales** off Bunes 4th July  
*photos Rebecca Nason*



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

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



**Puffin** photos Deryk Shaw



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

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

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

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

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

**Honey Buzzard**

*photo Deryk Shaw*



**Honey Buzzard**

*photo Deryk Shaw*

**Icterine Warbler**

*photo Glen Tyler*



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

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

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



*Rock Pipit photo Alan Bull*



*Puffin on Thrift photo Rebecca Nason*



*House Martins photo Alan Bull*

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





*Double-Dyke Eider*  
photo Deryk Shaw



*Bonxie in fog*  
photo Deryk Shaw



*Bonxie photo Deryk Shaw*

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



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

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

**Long-eared Owl** photo Alan Bull

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

**Wheatear fledgling** photo  
Deryk Shaw



**Nightjar (male)**

photos  
Rebecca Nason

**Cuckoo**



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



**Nightjar**  
photo Deryk Shaw

**Tufted Duck**  
photo Alan Bull



**Long-eared Owls**

*photo Deryk Shaw*

*photo Alan Bull*



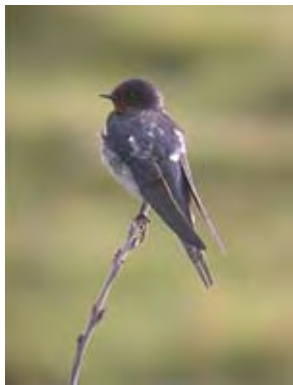
**9<sup>th</sup> June:** A very quiet, foggy day today with the highlights being a male **Tufted Duck**, 12 **Collared Doves**, the **Cuckoo**, 2 **Long-eared Owls**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**.



*Bonxie photo Alan Bull*



*Arctic Tern photo Alan Bull*



*Swallow photo Alan Bull*

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



**Long-eared Owl**  
*photo Deryk Shaw*

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

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

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



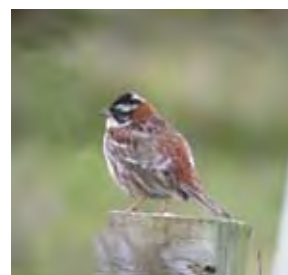
**Cuckoo**  
photo Deryk Shaw



**Marsh Warbler**  
photo Alan Bull



**Long-eared Owl**  
photo Deryk Shaw



**Rustic Bunting**  
photo Alan Bull

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

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



**Rustic Bunting**  
photo Deryk Shaw

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



**Golden Oriole**  
photo Alan Bull

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

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



**Red-backed Shrikes**  
photo Alan Bull



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



**Red-throated Pipit**

*photo*  
*Deryk Shaw*



**Bluethroat**  
*photo Rebecca Nason*

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



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

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

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

**Sedge Warbler**  
*photo*  
*by Alan Bull*



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

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

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

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

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



**Wryneck**  
photo  
Glen Tyler

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

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

#### Dunlin

photos  
by Alan Bull



Arctic tern



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

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

-

### Greenland Wheatear

*photo  
Alan Bull*



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

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

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

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

### Wheatear

*photo  
Rebecca Nason*





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

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

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

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



**Bluethroat**

*photos  
Rebecca Nason*



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

**Spotted Flycatcher**

*photo  
Deryk Shaw*

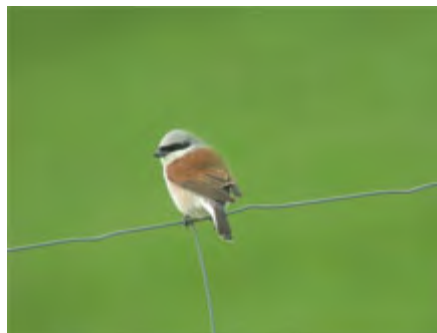


**Red-backed Shrike  
in hand  
photo  
Rebecca Nason**

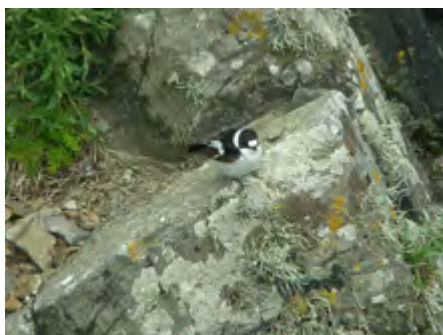
**Red-backed Shrike  
on fence  
photo**



*Deryk Shaw*

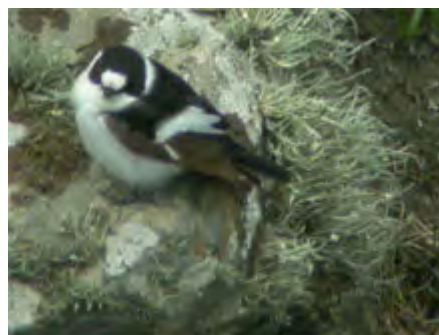


**9<sup>th</sup> May:** After much working of the island looking for migrants, the work finally paid off today as a first-summer male **Collared Flycatcher** was found in Sma' Trinket Geo. It is the third F.I. record, the last being an adult male in May 1998. Supporting cast included a **Bluethroat**,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



**Male Collared Flycatcher**

*photos  
Deryk Shaw*



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

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



**Starling**

**Whinchat**

*photos  
Rebecca Nason*



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

**Shag**

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

*photo  
Rebecca Nason*



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

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

**Grasshopper Warbler**

*photo Rebecca Nason*



**House Sparrows**

*photo  
Rebecca Nason*

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



**Brambling**

*photos  
Rebecca Nason*



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

**Hawfinch**

*photo  
Rebecca Nason*



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



Warblers, 4 Pied Flycatchers and 12 Bramblings.



**Subalpine Warbler**

*photo*  
*Deryk Shaw*



**Twite**

*photo*  
*Rebecca Nason*

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

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



**Iceland Gull**  
*photo Rebecca Nason*



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



**Long-eared Owl**  
*photo Rebecca Nason*



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

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

**Meally Redpoll**  
*photo Deryk Shaw*



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



**Iceland Gull**  
photo Alan Bull

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

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

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

**Wheatear**  
photo Alan Bull



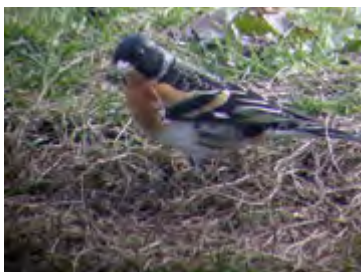
**April 11<sup>th</sup>:** A fine blue and orange male **Merlin** graced the hill whilst a **Collared Dove** toured the south along with **6 Wood Pigeon**, **95 Skylark**, **2 Black Redstart**, **15 Redwing** (including one bird singing) and **6 Reed Bunting**.

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

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

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

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



**Brambling**  
photo Alan Bull

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

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

**Tree Sparrow**  
photo Deryk Shaw



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

**Yellowhammer**  
photo Alan Bull



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





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

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



**Iceland Gull**  
*photo Deryk Shaw*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Iceland Gull, Havens

