

LATEST NEWS – 2024





Sparrowhawk (left) and merlin (right) both David Steel

Monday 11th November

80 Pink-footed Geese, 14 **Whooper Swan** south, 11 Common Scoter, 1 Lapwing, 2 **Little Auk**, 11W Red-throated Diver, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 **Long-eared Owl** in Low trap, 1 Short-eared owl, 1 Merlin, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Chaffinch, 1 Brambling, 1 Twite, 1 **Common Redpoll**, 1 **Snow Bunting** along east side flying north-west.





Sunday 10th November

1 male Goosander south, 2 Lapwing by lighthouse, 10 Woodcock, 2 Puffin, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 2 Chiffchaff, 50 Blackbird, 40 Fieldfare, 80 Redwing, 1 Mistle Thrush high over calling, 1 Chaffinch and 1 Goldfinch

Saturday 9th November

1 Teal, 4 Golden Plover north, 10 Woodcock, 1 Snipe, 1 Black-headed Gull, 3 **Little Auk**, 8 Puffin, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 1 Skylark, 2 Chiffchaff, 300 Blackbird, 170 Fieldfare, 300 Redwing, 1 Brambling, 1 Chaffinch, 1 Twite and 1 Goldfinch





Fieldfare (David Steel)

Friday 8th November

1 Pink-footed Goose on island, 6 Woodcock, 2 Snipe, 1 **Jack Snipe**, 1 Arctic Skua west, 4 **Little Auk**, 6 Puffin, 1 Red-throated Diver, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 2 Chiffchaff, 200 Blackbird, 579 Fieldfare, 177 Redwing, 2 Brambling, 1 Chaffinch

Thursday 7th November

12 Pink-footed Geese, 4 Teal, 1 Woodcock, 1 Puffin, 17W Red-throated Diver, 1W Great Northern Diver, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 1 Skylark, 2 Chiffchaff, 30 Blackbird, 57 Fieldfare, 27 Redwing, 5 Brambling, 1 Chaffinch

Wednesday 6th November

163 Pink-footed Geese, 3 Woodcock, 1 Jack Snipe, 2 Snipe, 1 adult Little Gull, 1 juvenile **Arctic Tern** (very late!), 5 **Little Auk** west, 6 Red-throated Diver, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 2 Chiffchaff, 73 Blackbird, 127 Fieldfare, 228 Redwing, 1 **Black Redstart**, 3 Brambling and 1 Goldfinch



Huge numbers of Thrushes on the move (both David Steel)

Tuesday 5th November

Highlights:

Huge Thrush invasion with most birds flying over west.

Immature **Glaucous Gull** south along the easter edge of the island, first of the year.
19 Woodcock, 1 Snipe, 4 **Little Auk** south, 2 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 4 Chiffchaff, 5,000 Blackbird, 6,900 Fieldfare, 8,500 Redwing, 7 Brambling, 3 Twite.





Monday 4th November

1 Whimbrel (overwintering bird), 3 Woodcock, 1 adult Little Gull, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 2 Chiffchaff, 44 Blackbird, 3 Fieldfare, 198 Redwing, 4 twite and 1 Lesser Redpoll.

Sunday 3rd November

1 Woodcock, 2 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 2 Chiffchaff, 83 Blackbird, 15 Fieldfare, 21 Redwing and 3 Goldfinch

Saturday 2nd November

18 **Whooper Swan** south, 6 Woodcock, 3 Snipe, 1 Sparrowhawk, 2 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 2 Merlin, 3 Chiffchaff, 2 Blackcap, 200 Blackbird, 150 Fieldfare, 150 Redwing, 5 Brambling and 5 Goldfinch.

Thursday 1st November

Westerly 6/7 at times.

Goosander 1f, Woodcock 1, Purple Sandpiper 50, Black Redstart 1, Brambling 4.

Wednesday 30th October

Whooper Swan 22s, Common Scoter 3, Wigeon 1, Goosander 1f, Woodcock 2, Snipe 2, Short-eared Owl 2, Chiffchaff 4, Goldcrest 1, Fieldfare 2, Blackbird 12, Song Thrush 10, Redwing 20, Black Redstart 1, Stonechat 1, Brambling 4, Twite 11, Goldfinch 2.

Tuesday 29th October

Pink-footed Goose 374, Whooper Swan 14s, Teal 10, Goosander 1f, Woodcock 5, Snipe 2, Long-eared Owl 1, Chiffchaff 6, Goldcrest 2, Fieldfare 4, Blackbird 24, Song Thrush 40, Redwing 70, Black Redstart 2, Brambling 7, Twite 20, Goldfinch 2.

Monday 28th October

Whooper Swan 5w, Mallard 5, Golden Plover 1, Snipe 2, Woodcock 3, Common Gull 4, Grey Heron 2, Sparrowhawk 1, Kestrel 1, Merlin 2, Puffin 5, Chiffchaff 3, Redwing 50, Song Thrush 4, Black Redstart 1, Brambling 7, Twite 10, Siskin 1, Bottle-nosed Dolphin 12.

Sunday 27th October

Long-eared Owl 1, Redwing 50, Ring Ouzel 1, Black Redstart 1, Twite 12.

Saturday 26th October

Redwing 4,000, Ring Ouzel 1, Fieldfare 12, Woodcock 2, Brambling 10, Black Redstart 1.





Woodcock (left David Steel) Redwing (right John Nadin)

Friday 25th October

Highlights:

10,000 **Redwings** estimated to have gone west over the island

1 **Black Redstart** newly arrived 2 Brent Goose circled south of island, 3 Wigeon, 1 Woodcock, 2 Jack Snipe, 2 Snipe, 2 Sparrowhawk, 1 Merlin, 1 Ring Ouzel, 1 Chiffchaff and several Song Thrush

Thursday 24th October

Very quiet day with westerly winds and birds lingering from yesterday including 1 Merlin, 1 Woodcock, 70 Redwing, 2 Chiffchaff



Starling (left) and Yellow-browed Warbler (right) both John Nadin

Wednesday 23rd October

Highlights

Yellow-browed Warbler 1 caught and ringed (our 33rd YB Warbler ringed this autumn!)

6 south **Whooper Swan**, 2 Merlin, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Swallow (late individual), 1 Snipe, 3 Chiffchaff, 200 Redwing, 9 Mistle Thrush west together (large count for the island).





Fieldfare (left, John Nadin) and Sparrowhawk being ringed (right, David Steel)

Tuesday 22nd October

Highlights

Raven 2 feeding together on dead rabbit south of the Bird Obs – the number of records has increased in recent years

Female west **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 Greylag Geese, 75 Pink-footed Goose, 1 Golden Plover, 1 Whimbrel, 1 Snipe, 64 Little Gulls off north end, 2 Arctic Skuas, 1 Arctic Tern (late individual off north end), 2 Sparrowhawk including one ringed, 3 Merlin, 1 Kestrel, 1 Fieldfare 10 Redwing, 1 immature Wheatear 9 (late individual), 18 Linner, 14 Twite and 1 Goldfinch

Monday 21st October

1 Short-eared Owl on West braes, 1 Woodcock, 1 S Goosander, 2 Ringed Plover, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Kestrel, 2 Merlin, 6 Chiffchaff, 4 Grey Wagtails together, otherwise quiet in strong westerly winds





Chiffchaff (left) and Goldcrest (right) both John Nadiin

Sunday 20th October

Highlights

*****RADDES WARBLER***** 1 found late afternoon along the high road near St.Andrews Well and seen dropping into vegetation by Ruff Green (our second this year) and sadly no photos

Black Redstart male at Kirhaven

1 Woodcock, 36 Little Gulls, 1 Manx Shearwater, 2 Kestrel, 3 Merlin, 1 Skylark 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Fieldfare, 10 Blackbird, 40 Redwing, female Chaffinch – general quiet during a stormy westerly day.



Brambling on the move (David Steel)

Saturday 19th October

Highlights

3 **Black Redstart** remain 668 south Pink-footed Goose, 61 Common Scoter, 2W Shelduck, 4W Wigeon, 5 Arctic Skua, 1 Whimbrel, 5 Woodcock, 1 Snipe, 40 **Little Gulls** lingering off north end, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 6 Chiffchaff, 4 Goldcrest, 1 **Ring Ouzel**, 70 Redwing, 1 Spotted Flycatcher (late bird), 8 Brambling and 4 Chaffinch

Friday 18th October

48 Common Scoter, 55 Eider, 2 west **Velvet Scoter**, 12 Red-throated Diver, 1 Whimbrel, generally quiet on island 1 Reed Bunting, 2 Brambling, 1 Chaffinch.





Long-eared Owl on the wall at the lighthouse (David Steel)

Thursday 17th October

Highlights:

Long-eared Owl one in top trap and later on wall of Lighthouse (first of autumn)

5 **Black Redstarts** (including 4 caught and ringed!)

5 Woodcock, 11 Skylark, 6 Chiffchaff, 4 Goldcrest, 19 **Twite** (15 at Three Tarn Nick and 4 at Rona), 1 Jackdaw on Rona, 3 Chaffinch, 18 Brambling, 1 **Yellowhammer** at beacon and then South plateau (scarce bird on the island).



Spotted flycatcher (left) and Black Redstart (right) both David Steel

Wednesday 16th October

Highlights:

Water Rail at entrance to three Tarn nick and then ran along road!

3 **Black Redstart** (male at visitor centre, imm/female at Byers and Alterstanes)

3 **Lapland Buntings** south together along west cliffs

1 Jack Snipe, 6 Woodcock – influx across west cliffs, 6 Skylark, 2 **Ring Ouzel**, 150 Song Thrush, 350 Redwing, 200 Blackbird – still plenty of Thrushes around the island, 3 Chiffchaff, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Spotted Flycatcher and 14 Brambling





Blackbirds on the move (David Steel)

Tuesday 15th October

2,078W + 150 on island Redwing

584W Blackbird + 300 on island

81W Song thrush + 20 on island

6W **Ring Ouzel** (including group of three together)

Also 1N Sooty Shearwater, 25W Common Scoter, 18W Barnacle Goose, 2 **Jack Snipe**, Woodcock, Snipe, 2 Fieldfare, 1 Mistle Thrush, 1 Spotted flycatcher (late individual), 26 Brambling, 3 Siskin, 1 Reed Bunting





Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) over the island (David Steel)

Monday 14th October

2 **Mute Swan** both adult east, 11 **Whooper Swans** west, 51W 4N Common Scoter, 193W Eider, 2W Goosander, 6 red0-throated Diver, 1N **Black-throated Diver**, 1N Manx Shearwater. 1 merlin, 1 **Buzzard** circled south end then west, 3 Brambling, 6 Skylark, 20 Redwing, 5 Song Thrush, 10 **Twite**



Twite on Rona (David Steel)

Sunday 13th October

Quiet day...

2W Red-breasted Merganser, 4S goosander, 1 Jack Snipe on Rona, male Sparrowhawk, 10 Swallow (late!), 3 **Twite** on Rona

Saturday 12th October

Very quiet with a handful of Thrushes, 1 Stonechat, 3 Blackcap, 2 Chiffchaff

Friday 11th October

40 Pink-footed Goose, 9 Teal, 1 male south Goosander, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 1 **Jack Snipe**, 2 Snipe, 1 Merlin, 4 Chiffchaff, 3 Blackcap, 1 Stonechat, 1 Brambling, 2 **Twite** and 1 Siskin.





Northern lights off the low light (David Steel)

Thursday 10th October

Highlights: Aurora showing extremely well in the evening

28 Barnacle Goose, 3 Greylag goose, 18 Pink-footed Goose, 3 Wigeon, 47 Teal, 42 Curlew, 4 Snipe, 2 Little Gull, 4 Red-throated Diver, 1 west **Great Northern Diver**, 14 Sooty Shearwater, 6 Manx Shearwater, 1 'ringtail' Harrier west – probably Hen Harrier, 15 Skylark, 6 Chiffchaff, 3 Blackcap, 52 Redwing, 2 Stonechat, 1 Brambling, 2 **Twite** (first of the year).



Kestrel (left) Simon Pinder and Redwing (right) John Nadin

Wednesday 9th October

32 Wigeon, 2 Teal, 21 Common Scoter, 4 **Long-tailed Duck** (1 drake) north along east side, 2 red-throated Diver, 82 north Sooty Shearwater, 15 north Manx Shearwater, 50 redwing, 11 Song Thrush and 1 Brambling



Spot the bird...Water Rail hiding under rocks (Ciaran Hatsell)

Tuesday 8th October

Highlights:

1 **Water Rail** feeding on shoreline and hiding under rocks at Alterstanes

2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** still at Top trap

206 west Barnacle Goose, 19 Teal, 3 Common Scoter, 1 Lapwing again at lighthouse, 1 Golden Plover, 4 Jack Snipe, 5 Snipe, 1 Great Skua, 1 Arctic Skua, 10 Red-throated Diver, 1 Sparrowhawk, 2 Kestrel, 27 Skylark, 7 Chiffchaff, 6 Blackcap, 1 Whitethroat, 15 Goldcrest, male **Ring Ouzel**, 500 redwing (first major arrival of autumn with flocks spiraling in from up high then west), 2 Brambling and 1 Siskin.





Yellow-browed Warbler (Simon Pinder)

Monday 7th October

Highlights:

7 Yellow-browed Warblers (new influx)

2 lapland Buntings

12 Pink-footed Goose, 18 Wigeon, 26 Teal, 19 Common Scoter, 1 Lapwing over lighthouse (first of the year!), 1 Woodcock, 3 Jack Snipe, 9 Snipe, 2 Arctic Skua, 1 red-throated Diver, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 12 Skylark, 6 Chiffchaff, 3 Blackcap, 1 Whitethroat, 18 Goldcrest, 6 Redwing, 2 Brambling and 3 Siskin

Sunday 6th October

2 Barnacle Goose, 35 Teal, 1 Great Skua, 2 Arctic Skua, 1 Great Northern Diver, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Kestrel, 19 Skylark, 7 Chiffchaff, 3 Blackcap, 1 Whitethroat, 12 Goldcrest, 1 Redwing, 1 Brambling,



Whooper Swans moving west (Ciaran Hatsell)

Saturday 5th October
Highlights
2 Yellow-browed Warbler

13 Whooper Swan west (2 juvs) first of the autumn, 1 Wigeon, 3 Sparrowhawk, 20 Skylarks, 2 Chiffchaff, 4 Blackcap, 8 Goldcrest, 2 Redwing, 4 Song Thrush and 3 Brambling





Common Rosefinch (left) and Goldcrest (right) both Jon Nadin

Friday 4th October

Highlights:

10 Yellow-browed Warbler

1 Common Rosefinch 90 Pink-footed Goose, 1 Wigeon, 1 red-breasted merganser, 1 **Pomarine Skua**, 1 Red-throated Diver, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 8 Manx Shearwater, 1 Sparrowhawk, 13 Skylark, 8 Chiffchaff, 8 Blackcap, 25 Goldcrest, 13 Redwing, 10 Song Thrush



Redstart (John Nadin)

Thursday 3rd October

Highlights:

10 **Yellow-browed Warbler** (further influx)

5 **Common Rosefinch** (including 4 together by ringing hut)

480 Pink-footed Goose, 1 Wigeon, 1 Dunlin, 1 Woodcock, 1 Jack Snipe, 1 **Pomarine Skua**, 20 Sooty Shearwater, 24 manx Shearwater, 2 Sparrowhawk, 1 Short-eared Owl, 37 Skylark, 1 Willow Warbler (late individual), 25 Chiffchaff, 24 Blackcap, 2 Garden Warbler, 40 Goldcrest, 3 Fieldfare, 25 Redwing, 25 Song Thrush, 1 female Redstart, 6 Brambling.





Fieldfare (right) and kestrel (left) both John Nadin

Wednesday 2nd October

Highlights:

1 **Water Rail** on Rona

2 **Yellow-browed Warbler**

1 **Common Rosefinch**

1 **Lapland Bunting** over west cliffs

4 Woodcock, 25 Sooty Shearwater, 35 Manx Shearwater, 1 Sparrowhawk, 2 Short-eared owl, 18 Skylark, 22 Chiffchaff, 35 Blackcap, 2 Lesser Whitethroat

(probably *Blythi* birds), 1 Whitethroat, 50 Goldcrest, 4 Fieldfare, 15 Redwing, 25 Song Thrush, 3 Brambling.



Barnacle geese (left), Common Rosefinch (right) Both John Nadin

Tuesday 1st October
Highlights:

*****RADDES WARBLER** 1 caught and ringed in Bain Trap. Most recent records 2022 x2, 2021 x2, 2019 and 2016!

4 **Yellow-browed Warbler**

4 **Common Rosefinch**

565 west Barnacle Geese, 1 **Pomarine Skua**, 2 Great northern Diver west, 19 Sooty Shearwater, 15 Manx Shearwater, 15 Skylark, 15 Chiffchaff, 20 Blackcap, 1 Garden Warbler, 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 4 Goldcrest, 11 Fieldfare, 5 Redwing, 15 Song Thrush.





Monday 30th September

Highlights:

6 **Yellow-browed Warbler** new influx which started mid-afternoon,

1 *Blythi* lesser **Whitethroat**

2 **Common Rosefinch** still together

5 south **Brent Geese**, 94 south Barnacle Geese, 12 Wigeon, 1 Golden plover, 1 Ringed Plover, 66 Purple Sandpiper, 1 **Jack Snipe**, 3 Snipe, 11 south **little Gull**, 6 Arctic Skua, 1 Red-throated Diver, 1 Storm petrel – fledged chick found dead against the lighthouse, 1 north Sooty Shearwater, 15 Manx Shearwater, 1 **Short-eared owl** on Rona, 12 Chiffchaff, 10 Blackcap, 1 Garden Warbler, 3 Blackbird, 3 Fieldfare (first of autumn), 5 Redwing,





Sunday 29th September

Highlights:

1 *Blythi* lesser **Whitethroat**

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

1 **Lapland bunting** over main light

2 **Common Rosefinch** still together

2 South Barnacle Geese, 1 male Velvet Scoter, 1 Golden plover, 157 GBB Gull,
2,518 Herring Gull, 1 LBB Gull, 5 Arctic Skua, 1 Red-throated Diver, 1 south **Great
Northern Diver**, 5 Sooty Shearwater, 81 Manx Shearwater, 1 female Sparrowhawk,
8 Chiffchaff, 1 Reed Warbler, 3 Blackcap, 2 Redwing,



Saturday 28th September (the Bird Observatory 90th birthday!)
Highlights:

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

1 *Blythi* lesser **Whitethroat**

2 **Common Rosefinch** still together

20 Wigeon, 19 Golden Plover, 1 Ringed Plover, 2 Great Skua, 7 Arctic Skua, 2 red-throated Diver, 5 Sooty Shearwater, 114 Manx Shearwater, 1 female Sparrowhawk, 10 Chiffchaff, 1 Reed Warbler, 2 Blackcap, 4 Redwing,

Friday 27th September

Highlights:

1 **Yellow-browed Warbler** still lingering

2 *Blythi* lesser **Whitethroats**

1 **lapland Bunting** (first of autumn)

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

2 **Common Rosefinch** still together

1 Golden Plover, 1 **Buzzard** over south end – 4th of the year, 15 Chiffchaff, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Blackcap, 2 Redwing





Yellow-browed Warblers (David Steel)

Thursday 26th September

Highlights:

4 **Yellow-browed Warblers** remain

1 '*blythi*' **Lesser Whitethroat**

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

Record count of Sooty Shearwater see below)

Big numbers of Sooty Shearwater logged with 732 north over the day. Also 102N Manx Shearwaters, 2 **Pomarine Skuas**, 5 Arctic Skuas and a Great Skua. Previous highest counts of Sooty Shearwater...

732 north on 26th September 2024

669 north on 22nd September 2002

640 north on 12th October 1993

503 north on 25th September 2020





ringed Common Rosefinch (David Steel)

Wednesday 25th September

Highlights:

4 **Yellow-browed Warblers** remain

1 '*blythi*' **Lesser Whitethroat**

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

2 **Common Rosefinch**

Also: 24N Sooty Shearwater, 204N Manx Shearwater, 2S Red-throated Diver, 3 Arctic Skua, 1 **Grey Plover** west, 1 Ringed Plover, 1 Golden Plover, 20 Skylark, 3 Willow Warbler, 10 Chiffchaff, 1 Reed Warbler still, 1 Blackcap, 1 Garden Warbler, 3 Goldcrest, 30 Robin, 1 Tree Pipit.





Buzzard mobbed by crows (David Steel)

Tuesday 24th September

Highlights:

1 **Buzzard** (3rd this year) flying over north end mobbed by crows

12 **Yellow-browed Warblers** remain

1 '*blythi*' **Lesser Whitethroat**

2 **Common Rosefinch**

1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** still at visitor centre

Also 14N Sooty Shearwater, 27n Manx Shearwater, 1 Golden Plover, 2 Skylark, 30 Chiffchaff, 3 Blackcap, 1 Reed Warbler, 2 Garden Warbler, 3 Whitethroat, 3 Goldcrest and 25 Robin





Monday 23rd September

2 Knot on Rona, 2 Snipe, 4 Kestrel, 12 **Yellow-browed Warblers** (including 4 ringed). Overall 19 Yellow-browed Warblers ringed in three days!), 5 Willow Warbler, 20 Chiffchaff, 1 **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 Blackcap, 3 Garden Warbler, 1 *blythi* **Lesser whitethroat**, 1 Whitethroat, 3 Redwing, 1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** for 3rd day at visitor centre, 2 Redstart, 2 Whinchat, 1 Stonechat, 2 together **Common Rosefinch** and 17 Siskin





Sunday 22nd September

1 Ringed Plover, 1 Snipe, 3 Kestrel, 17 **Yellow-browed Warblers** (including 7 ringed), 5 Willow Warbler, 15 Chiffchaff, 1 skulking **Grasshopper Warbler**, 4 Blackcap, 2 Garden Warbler, 1 *blythi* **Lesser whitethroat**, 3 Whitethroat, 2 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** for 4th day at Low light bushes and 2nd day at visitor centre, 3 Redstart, 1 Whinchat, 1 Stonechat, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Brambling, 1 **Common Rosefinch** and 7 Siskin,



Red-breasted Flycatcher (David Steel)

Saturday 21st September

28 Teal, 5 Golden Plover, 1 Ringed Plover, 2 Snipe, 3 Kestrel, 18 **Yellow-browed Warblers** (including 8 ringed), 5 Willow Warbler, 6 Chiffchaff, 1 Blackcap, 2 Garden Warbler, 1 Whitethroat, 1 Redwing (first of autumn), 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 1 Pied Flycatcher, 2 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** for 3rd day at Low light bushes and new bird at visitor centre, 1 Stonechat, 6 Brambling (first of autumn),



yellow-browed Warbler (Gordon McDonald)

Friday 20th September

1 Arctic Skua, 3 Kestrel, 2 **Yellow-browed Warblers** (first of the year), 1 Willow Warbler, 7 Chiffchaff, 2 Garden Warbler, 1 Spotted Flycatcher, 1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** Low light bushes, 1 Stonechat,

Thursday 19th September

2 Arctic Skua, 2 Red-throated Diver, 4 Willow Warbler, 6 Chiffchaff, 1 immature **Red-breasted Flycatcher** Low light bushes (second of the year following one in spring)

Wednesday 18th September

2 west Brent Goose, 44 Common Scoter, 4 Arctic Skua, 7 Red-throated Diver, 2 Willow Warbler, 3 Chiffchaff,

Tuesday 17th September

43N Wigeon, 1 Common Sandpiper, 4 Red-throated Diver, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 2 Chiffchaff,

Monday 16th September

1W **Grey Plover** calling over island, 1 Great Skua, 2 Red-throated Diver, 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Chiffchaff,

Sunday 15th September

1 Great Skua, 2 Chiffchaff,

Saturday 14th September

140 Manx Shearwater, 1 Arctic Skua, 1 Golden Plover, 1 **Marsh Harrier** (first this year), 1 Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaff, 3 Goldcrest, 2 **Tree Sparrow**, 3 Grey Wagtail

Friday 13th September

600 Pink-footed Goose, 1 **Goldeneye** (first in 2 years – missed last year!), 2 Arctic Skua, 1 Red-throated Diver, 8 Manx Shearwater, 1 Song Thrush, 2 **Tree Sparrow**.





Migrating Tree Sparrows (David Seel)

Thursday 12th September

86 Pink-footed Geese, 16 Teal, 1 **Hen Harrier** (2nd of the year), 1 Greenshank, 2 Arctic Skua, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 27 Manx Shearwater, 16 **Tree Sparrow**, 1 **Hooded Crow** (first this year) near the Kettle area.

Wednesday 11th September

20 Pink-footed Goose, 29 Teal, 1 Arctic Skua, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 1 Blackcap, 1 Garden Warbler, 1 Song Thrush, 2 **Tree Sparrow** and 1 Grey Wagtail

Tuesday 10th September

1,000+ (first major arrival) Pink-footed Goose, 1 Wigeon, 3 Arctic Skua, 2 Sooty Shearwater, 3 Manx Shearwater, 2 **Tree Sparrow**.



first pink-footed Geese of the autumn (David Steel)

Monday 9th September

Seawatching proved productive as all four skuas were seen whilst first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn!

Seawatch: 41 Sooty Shearwater, 292 Manx Shearwater, 12 Arctic Skuas, 2 juvenile **Long-tailed Skua**, 1 dark-phase **Pomarine Skua** with 'full spoons', 30 Red-throated Diver, 3 Great Northern Diver, 29 Common Scoter, 2 Greylag Geese and 213 Pink-footed Geese in three skeins.

Also 4 Golden plover, 1 Ringed Plover, 1 Knot, 1 Merlin, 1 juvenile Cuckoo still, 444 House Martins, 167 Swallows and 18 Sand Martins.



Wryneck caught and ringed

Sunday 8th September

Another quiet day with thick fog but a Wryneck caught and ringed

Highlights: Wryneck 1 caught and ringed in the Low Trap, Grey Plover 1 at south end (first of the year), 1 juvenile Cuckoo still present, 2 Whitethroat, 1 Sedge Warbler, 2 Garden Warbler.



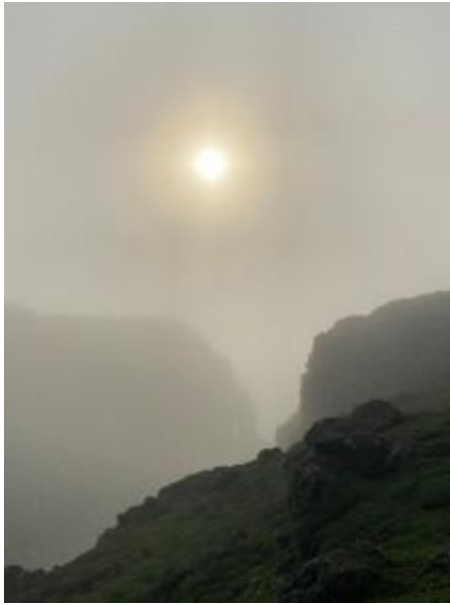
Water Rail in engine room! (David Steel)

Saturday 7th September

Thick fog all day with no seawatching and very few migrants

Highlights: 1 teal, 1 Ringed Plover, 1 juvenile Cuckoo still present, 1 Tree Pipit, 1 **Water Rail** found balanced on a pipe in the engine room and was caught 7 ringed – adult male – second record of season.

Friday 6th September



Foggy Isle of May (David Steel)

Thick fog all day except for 2.5 hours late in the day allowing some seawatching to occur.

66 Manx Shearwaters, 55N Sooty Shearwater, 2 Great Skua, 1N **Great Crested Grebe** (first record since 2009!), 2 Juvenile **Black Tern** feeding off south end for an hour close to island, 1,000 Guillemots, 1 Golden Plover, 3 Willow Warblers, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Song Thrush, 10 Wheatear – that's it! (quiet)

Thursday 5th September

Surprisingly quiet despite strong north-easterly winds

33N Manx Shearwater, 8N Sooty Shearwater, 6N Great Skua, 5 Teal, 2 Puffins, 1 Greenshank, 1 Golden Plover on West braes, 1 Snipe, 2 Willow Warbler, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 reed Warbler, 1 Whinchat and 18 Wheatear

Wednesday 4th September

Quiet day with still sunny conditions

13W red-throated Diver, 10W Common Scoter, 5 Wigeon, 3 Arctic Skua and 1 Great Skua. 2W **Bar-tailed Godwit** (only 2nd record this year), 6 Golden Plover, 1 Knot, 1 Dunlin, 2 Snipe, 2 Grey heron, 1 Cuckoo juvenile still lingering, 1 Reed Warbler still, 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 5 Pied Flycatchers, 1 Redstart, 2 Whinchat, 26 **Tree Sparrow** together in a flock at the lighthouse then north towards Fife (first record this year) and 1 Tree Pipit.

4 Minke Whales feeding together off north end on flat seas + 30 Harbour Porpoise



Spotted Flycatcher (David Steel)

Tuesday 3rd September

Highlights: 38 west Red-throated Diver, 4W Goosander, 1W **Pintail**, 3W Wigeon, 4 Teal, 6 Manx Shearwaters, 10 Pied Flycatcher, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Reed Warbler, 1 Garden Warbler, 4 Whinchat and 1 Tree Pipit.



Wood Warbler (David Steel)

Monday 2nd September

Winds moved to the ESE and more migrants arrived

Highlights: 12 west including flock of 6 Snipe, 8 west Ringed Plover, Short-eared owl on Rona, 6 Whinchat, 36 Wheatear, 10 Redstart, 30 Pied Flycatcher (17 ringed), 4 Spotted Flycatchers, 25 Willow Warblers, 2 **Wood Warbler** at back of fluke street, 1 Reed Warbler in Water tank bushes (first of autumn) 5 Chiffchaffs, 3 Garden Warbler, 2 Tree pipit, 80 Meadow Pipit,



Pied Flycatcher (David Steel)

Sunday 1st September

Winds switched to the south-east bringing a wave of migrants to the island

Highlights: 4 Teal, 2 Common Sandpiper, 1 Greenshank, 1 Snipe (first of autumn), 3 Whinchat, 40 Wheatear, 12 Pied Flycatcher (7 ringed), 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 1 Garden Warbler, 1 Goldcrest (first of autumn), 3 Robin (first autumn arrivals), 1 Tree pipit, 80 Meadow Pipit,

Wednesday 29 May

A quiet day with a Collared Dove, Roseate Tern and a Grey Heron the most notable sightings.

Monday 27 May

An early shout of a **Nightjar** disturbed from the back of Fluke St sent Obs residents scrambling across the isle. It was relocated near the Engine Room where it spent most of the day dozing on the rocks. the fifteenth island record but first since 2017. Meanwhile a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was caught and ringed continuing a good run of spring records. At least two male Red-backed Shrikes remained and a Roseate Tern put in an appearance.



Nightjar (Mark Newell)

Sunday 26 May

A quiet start to the day before a decent arrival of five Red-backed Shrikes and two Icterine Warblers (adding to the remaining one) early afternoon. A Quail was also seen on Rona while a Great Skua flew over the isle.

Saturday 25 May

A Roseate Tern briefly over Kirkhaven was the first of the year. Two Minke Whales, a Humpback Whale and several Porpoise appeared in the calm morning sea. Red-backed Shrike, Icterine Warbler, Rosefinch, Ring Ouzel and Whinchat all remained.

Friday 24 May

Icterine Warbler, Common Rosefinch and Ring Ouzel remained with the first Swift of the year. A late afternoon flurry of new birds with Black Redstart, Whinchat and a new Red-backed Shrike.

Thursday 23 May

At least three Bluethroats and Icterine Warbler and Rosefinch all remained.

Wednesday 22 May

A Common Rosefinch singing near the Low Trap was the first of the year. Six Bluethroats and a new Icterine Warbler were found before rain stopped play in the afternoon.

Tuesday 21 May

There appeared to be no new arrivals with the exception of two Barnacle Geese that repeatedly circled the isle and were seen amongst the gulls on Rona. The Ring Ouzel and a male red-backed Shrike remained and then the shout went up of an Icterine Warbler caught in the Top Garden, the first of the year.

Monday 20 May

A Ring Ouzel was the only clear arrival while the Marsh Warbler and a pair of Red-backed Shrikes remained.

Sunday 19 May

A good arrival of common migrants with at least 9 Whitethroat, 4 Garden Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Sedge Warbler, 1 Redstart, with 50 Barnacle Geese over. A Marsh Warbler was trapped while 2 Bluethroat and three Red-backed Shrikes remained.

Saturday 18 May

Red-backed Shrikes increased to four with two of each sex. One female **Bluethroat** remained but a new, male, was caught at the Low Light.

Friday 17 May

There appeared to be only a handful of new arrivals but what birds! First up was a brown form (Hepatic) female Cuckoo before a female Bluethroat was trapped. By the end of the day four Bluethroats were found while a pair of Red-backed Shrikes appeared in the afternoon.

Thursday 16 May

The highlight was a first summer **Little Gull** amongst the Kittiwakes on Chatterstones. Elsewhere a Yellow Wagtail flew over and 5 Tree Pipits were noted.

Wednesday 15 May

A **Reed Warbler** at the Main Light was the first of the year. Other common migrants included 3 Tree Pipit, 3 Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Whitethroat, 1 Garden Warbler.

Tuesday 14 May

The undoubted highlight was the sight of three **Spoonbills** flying south along the west cliffs. Only the fourth island record with the last being in 2013. A small arrival in the afternoon was headed by five Garden Warblers. Otherwise a smattering of Chiffchaffs & Willow Warblers, two Tree Pipits, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and two Kestrels.

Sunday 12 May

Kestrel, Spotted Flycatcher, Sedge Warbler and Tree Pipit were apparent arrivals.

Saturday 11 May

Black Redstart and Whinchat were the most notable arrivals. Minke Whale, Bottle-nosed Dolphins and Porpoise were around the isle again.

Friday 10 May

Three Short-eared Owls were a surprise as was a Red-breasted Merganser flying across the isle. Migrants were generally in short supply but a Minke Whale showed well off the east side in calm conditions. The highlight occurred around midnight with a spectacular display of Northern Lights. (photo by Erin Taylor)

**Thursday 9 May**

A Spotted Flycatcher was the first of the year. A scattering of other common migrants appeared through the day with two Whinchat amongst an increase in Whitethroat and Willow Warblers.

Wednesday 8 May

First Common Tern of the year but the main interest was offshore with three cetacean species. Four Harbour Porpoise were followed by up to 15 Bottle-nosed Dolphin and then a young Humpback Whale appeared off the east side before heading south.

Tuesday 7 May

General reduction in migrant numbers but two Wryneck remain.

Monday 6 May

A damp morning and light easterlies brought new arrivals. A male Quail showed well by the Main Light while a Wryneck remained nearby. The first Garden Warbler of the year was near South Horn and at least ten Sedge Warblers were new in. Pied Flycatchers increased to four and Whitethroats to 15. Two Ring Ouzel appeared.

**Sunday 5 May**

A Grasshopper Warbler was the first of the year of this barely annual migrant. Otherwise little change from yesterday with a good spread of migrants and two Wrynecks still present. A Sedge Warbler, Sparrowhawk and Short-eared Owl were new arrivals.

Saturday 4 May

A damper day but possibly too much haar for a major increase in birds. The two Wryneck, Bluethroat and Grey headed Wagtail all remain. Whinchat increased to two while Tree Pipit were up to six and seven Reed Buntings appeared. Common Sandpiper was also new and a second Redstart.

Friday 3 May

Another day of high excitement despite a bit of an overnight clear out. First up was a Wryneck seen by the Bain trap before hopping inside and trapped. The first island record since 2016 with a second unringed bird seen along Holymans Road in the

afternoon. A Quail was flushed near the Byres. Early afternoon a stunning male Bluethroat was found parading around the bank below the Beacon. The Grey headed Wagtail remained. A number of common migrants was headed up by three Pied Flycatchers and a Whinchat.

Thursday 2 May

A proper good birding day with significant arrivals from early afternoon until dark. Rarest for the isle was a Crane flying north at dusk, the third island record. Earlier a Nightingale was found near the Main Light, the first record since 2015 and 23rd island record. A Grey-headed Wagtail was the other stand out bird while a Cuckoo and Pied Flycatcher were the first of the year. In addition 1 Black Redstart, 1 Redstart, 5 Lesser Whitethroat, 2 Whitethroat, 8 Blackcap, 1 Mistle Thrush, 20 Willow Warbler, 15 Chiffchaff.

Wednesday 1 May

A Sedge Warbler on Rona was the first of the year while a Hummingbird Hawkmoth was at the Low Light. 4 Fieldfare, 3 Lesser Whitethroat and 3 Whitethroat were amongst a small arrival.

Tuesday 30 April

Two Lesser Whitethroat were the years first. Ten Wheatear were scattered around with at least five Willow Warbler and three Blackcap.

Monday 29 April

Single Arctic Tern, House Martin and Whitethroat were the first of the year. Short-eared Owl was again present with a scattering of common migrants

Sunday 28 April

A drop of rain finally brought some migrants to our yard. Highlights were the first **Whinchat** and **Iceland Gull** (2 third summers at roost) of the year. In addition a **Short-eared Owl** flew north while arrivals included 2 Redstart, 4 Blackcap, 1 Brambling, 1 Willow Warbler, 3 Chiffchaff, 1 Ring Ouzel, 1 Fieldfare, 3 Song Thrush.

Thursday 25 April

The first Great Skua of the year flew past while a Snipe was on the pools. A Redpoll flew over and 3 Siskins were on Rona. Otherwise, as you were with single Ring Ouzel, Redwing and Starling remaining.

Wednesday 24 April

A male Brambling for a second day. Ring Ouzel and a Redwing remain. Two Whimbrel. Very quiet in cold northerlies.

Monday 22 April

Small arrival with a Blackcap, 2 Willow warbler, 5 Chiffchaff, 8 Song Thrush, 1 Fieldfare and a Whimbrel. A Ring Ouzel remains.

19-21 April

A fairly quiet few days with little movement. Two Ring Ouzels lingered. A Manx Shearwater passed the north end on 19th and 45 Pink footed Geese flew north on 20th.

Wednesday 14th February

Greylag Goose 1, Wigeon 5, Mallard 4, Teal 5, Long tailed Duck 1f, Turnstone 25, Purple Sandpiper 60, Redshank 4, **Whimbrel** 1, Snipe 3, Kittiwake 2, Black-headed Gull 1, Black Guillemot 1, Red-throated Diver 1, Shag 300, Cormorant 20, Woodpigeon 7, Skylark 5, Starling 1, Blackbird 4, Fieldfare 1, Redwing 2, Robin 3, **Snow Bunting** 1.

Tuesday 13th February

Greylag Goose 1, Woodpigeon 7, Woodcock 2, Snipe 1, Fieldfare 1, Redwing 4, Robin 3.

Wednesday 7th February

Little Grebe on Loch. Also Long-tailed Duck 1m, Short-eared Owl 1, Woodpigeon 13, Snipe 3, Woodcock 2.



Wednesday 10th January

White-billed Diver still present with two Great Northern Divers before departing the isle.

Tuesday 9th January

Fourth island record of White-billed Diver off the west side of Rona.

Wigeon 4, Mallard 2, Teal 9, Eider 12, Long-tailed Duck 1m, Woodcock 4, **Whimbrel** 1, Curlew 23, Redshank 4, **Great Northern Diver** 1, **White-billed Diver** 1 1st winter, **Black Guillemot** 1, Shag 210, Cormorant 32, Grey Heron 1, Kestrel 1, Woodpigeon 9, **Short-eared Owl** 2, Blackbird 8, Song Thrush 2, Robin 4.

Monday 8th January 2024

Teal 4, Woodcock 4, **Whimbrel** 1, Curlew 54, Redshank 4, **Great Northern Diver** 1, Kestrel 1, Woodpigeon 5, **Short-eared Owl** 2, Blackbird 5, Song Thrush 3, Robin 2.