

## ORKNEY BIRD RECORDS

JUNE 2016

One-two **Great Northern Divers** were off North Ronaldsay until 10<sup>th</sup> but the only other record was of one in Evie Bay on 30<sup>th</sup>. The long-staying **Great Crested Grebe** remained on the Loch of Tankerness all month until at least 26<sup>th</sup>. Between two and seven **Manx Shearwaters** were seen off North Ronaldsay each day between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with another on 25<sup>th</sup>. **Storm Petrel** sightings were almost coincident with these with two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 on 26<sup>th</sup> and nine on 28<sup>th</sup> as were those of **Leach's Petrels** with singles on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

A **Pink-footed Goose** was on North Ronaldsay on 13<sup>th</sup> while 23 **Barnacle Geese** remained there until 4<sup>th</sup>, three more being seen near Peerie Water, Evie on 17<sup>th</sup>. A **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** was on Papay on 6<sup>th</sup> with another at the Loch of Tankerness on 27<sup>th</sup>. A drake **Ring-necked Duck** was on the Loch of Clumly quarry pool on 21<sup>st</sup> along with 70 **Tufted Ducks**.

There were five sightings of **Ospreys**, over Ward Hill, Hoy on 5<sup>th</sup>; the Harray Loch on 6<sup>th</sup>; Cottascarth, Rendall on 7<sup>th</sup>; the Isbister Loch on 14<sup>th</sup> and Harray again on 19<sup>th</sup>. An immature **White-tailed Eagle** was seen on Rousay on 1<sup>st</sup>.

A **Dotterel** was on Ward Hill, Hoy on 5<sup>th</sup>, perhaps a bird that had already laid a clutch in Scotland, en route to Norway (as some are known to do) to lay another, in both localities leaving the males to look after the eggs and any subsequent chicks! **Golden Plover** numbers on North Ronaldsay had built up to 50 by the end of the month but there was no sign of returning **Knots** the only ones being up to 22 there from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Sanderling** numbers on North Ronaldsay peaked at 169 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The only **Little Stint** was one at Westayre Loch, Sanday on 1<sup>st</sup>.

A male **Ruff** was at the Graemeshall Loch on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and two were at nearby Wester Sand on 14<sup>th</sup>; on 18<sup>th</sup>, five males and two females were at The Loons. Up to ten migrant **Black-tailed Godwits** were seen on North Ronaldsay, in Deerness and at the Graemeshall Loch during the month but much more significant was the sight of one mobbing a Stoat at a known breeding site on 18<sup>th</sup>, a sign of the new, unwanted pressure that our ground-breeding birds are now under. 105 was a good count of **Bar-tailed Godwits** on North Ronaldsay on 10<sup>th</sup>. One-two **Whimbrels** were logged on North Ronaldsay on eight dates but with none between 10<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. A **Greenshank** was at Voy on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were on Papay on 1<sup>st</sup> while on North Ronaldsay there were two on 9<sup>th</sup> and one on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>.

A fine sighting was of a **Long-tailed Skua** between Flotta and Cava on 30<sup>th</sup>. Three **Little Gulls** were seen, at the Tankerness Loch on 9<sup>th</sup>, on North Ronaldsay on 13<sup>th</sup> and at Eve's Loch, Deerness on 15<sup>th</sup>. An immature **Mediterranean Gull** was found at Fea Hill, Tankerness on 22<sup>nd</sup> and an **Iceland Gull** at Westayre Loch, Sanday on 1<sup>st</sup>. **Glaucous Gulls** were reported from Carness on 1<sup>st</sup> and Echnaloch, Burray on 4<sup>th</sup>, the latter bird being subsequently seen elsewhere on Burray. However, the find of the month

was undoubtedly the **Caspian Tern** at Graemeshall Loch on 3<sup>rd</sup>; sadly, it stayed only briefly and gave views only to the finder.

**Cuckoos** were reported from North Ronaldsay, Rendall, Stenness and Toab during the month and, at least at the Mainland sites, were undoubtedly attempting to breed. A **Nightjar** at Stove, Sanday was another excellent sighting of a species that is occurring more regularly in Orkney and which apparently even attempted to breed on North Ronaldsay last year. The only **Swift** was one on North Ronaldsay on 18<sup>th</sup> while 220 was a good count of **Sand Martins** over the Loch of Skail on 28<sup>th</sup>.

Two late **Tree Pipits** were on North Ronaldsay on 3<sup>rd</sup> while single **White Wagtails** occurred there up to 8<sup>th</sup>, single **Bluethroats** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and two **Redwings** on 10<sup>th</sup>. Two **Grasshopper Warblers** were reported from Stromness on 1<sup>st</sup> while, in Rendall, one-two were heard singing between 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. A **Marsh Warbler** was on North Ronaldsay from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and a **Garden Warbler** in Rendall on 10<sup>th</sup> while a **Lesser Whitethroat** was seen at Rackwick on 29<sup>th</sup>. The only **Chiffchaffs** were one-two on North Ronaldsay up until 9<sup>th</sup> but one of these, on 3<sup>rd</sup>, was identified as being of the Siberian race, *tristis*. A migrant **Willow Warbler** was logged on North Ronaldsay on 29<sup>th</sup>.

One-two **Siskins** were reported from Rendall on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and from Stromness on 9<sup>th</sup>. Displaying **Redpolls** were reported from Rackwick, Dounby and Sanday while another was in Stromness, all on 9<sup>th</sup>. Birds identified as **Lesser Redpolls** were on North Ronaldsay on 2<sup>nd</sup> (one) and 28<sup>th</sup> (five). A **Scarlet Rosefinch** was on Papay on a typical date of 6<sup>th</sup> while a late **Lapland Bunting** was on North Ronaldsay on 10<sup>th</sup>.

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