

FRIENDS OF FAIR ISLE NEWSLETTER

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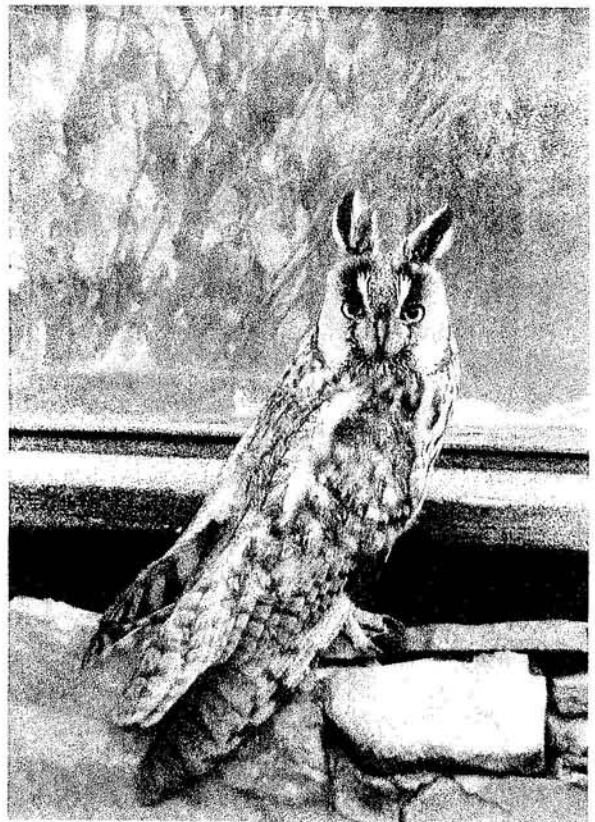
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Welcome to the latest news from Fair Isle. Since the last newsletter Hollie and I have handed over the reins of the Obs to David & Susannah Parnaby, who arrived in late February with their daughter, Grace. Already halfway through their first season, they have settled in well and are quickly establishing themselves not only in their new jobs but their new lifestyle. There is much more to running a successful Observatory and guesthouse than might appear obvious to many and David & Susannah's first year will no doubt be a steep learning curve, just as it was for Hollie and myself. We have been doing our best to make it as smooth a transition as possible and we know from experience that having a dedicated team behind you makes all the difference. This is therefore my last editorial and with this newsletter you will find the 2008 FIBO Report. I must apologise for the late delivery of this but hope it brings back fond memories for many of you. The 2009 & 2010 Reports are to be combined into one and will be out early next year to bring us back on schedule and will be my final publication as Warden of FIBO. Hollie and I have had twelve wonderful years in charge and

though sad to have left the Obs, we are pleased to be remaining on Fair Isle and enjoying island life from a different perspective. We would like to thank all the 'Friends of Fair Isle' who have played a part in those last twelve years, the FIBO Directors for their unwavering support and of course the many many members of staff and volunteers who have worked side by side with us to make Fair Isle Bird Observatory what it is today. We have already started our post-FIBO chapter and are now living at Burkle and run the Quoy croft. I am part-time crew on the Good Shepherd and Hollie has taken up knitting and the School Secretary post. You may also see us at the Observatory next time you visit, as we continue to help out in a smaller capacity when needed. The children too are enjoying having a large garden to play in and living nearer to their friends. When you next visit do call in to say "hello!"
All the best. Deryk



A New Regime at FIBO

As Deryk and Hollie and their four children bow out of FIBO, this is the perfect time to introduce the new Warden and Administrator and the staff for 2011...



David, Susannah and Grace have moved to Fair Isle from Aberdeenshire, where they had been living for the last six years.

David has worked in conservation in a variety of roles from the Isle of Man to Israel since leaving University. His recent career has been spent working for the RSPB in Aberdeenshire, the last three years of which were at the Loch of Strathbeg reserve. His interest in birds goes back as far as he can remember, with his Grandpa Parnaby the biggest early influence on his birding, taking him on regular trips to Washington WWT. His favourite bird in the world is the Griffon Vulture, with Wheatear, Peregrine and Yellow-browed Warbler his favourite British species.

Since leaving the University of East Anglia Susannah has failed to keep any of the promises she made to herself to avoid academia, agriculture and insects. Instead she worked as a research assistant at an agricultural college in Devon, before going on to complete a PhD on pesticide risk indicators at the Scottish Agricultural College in Aberdeen. Although not so keen as David on hours of vagrant hunting or checking gulls, Susannah is also a birder and has managed 14 lifers on Fair Isle so far!

Grace's favourite bird is the Oystercatcher, although she doesn't keep a list (yet). She turned two in May and loves living on Fair Isle. If she is not in the Obs, she can usually be found on the beach or at the playground with Marilyn her childcarer.

Any of you visiting the Obs this year will notice a few familiar faces amongst the 2011 staff. Will Miles (Assistant Warden in 2006) returns as Seabird Officer having spent time on St Kilda and gained a PhD since he last worked on Fair Isle. Jason Moss makes the jump up the coast from the Farne Islands for his first season on Fair Isle and is keeping up his reputation for enthusiastic birding and rarity finding! The wardening team is completed by Carrie-Marell Gunn, returning for her second season as Ranger. Carrie is incredibly popular amongst the visitors and islanders and is worth keeping on the right side of as she will be responsible for giving lifts to the rarities in the autumn!

Just as important are the domestic team, led by Roy Ball in his first season as Cook on Fair Isle. Roy is supported by the newly arrived Sue Squirrel and they are responsible for the fantastic quality of food that is produced on a daily basis at FIBO, not always an easy task given the extra challenges of life on a remote island. Also new in post are Domestic Assistants Liz Morison and Robin Mortlock, both of whom are charged with the task of keeping the Obs clean and tidy and providing extra help in the kitchen. Last, but by no means least, is the return of Becki Rosser for her ninth season involved at FIBO. Becki is Domestic Assistant and also a birder and ringer of very high standards. Her highlights this year have included ringing her first Cuckoo and the production of an never ending array of fantastic homebakes!

Finally, thanks to Chris Findlay and Lindsey Davis who left us in July for pastures new. Chris's food received lots of compliments, best wishes for the future guys.

Highlights of Autumn 2010

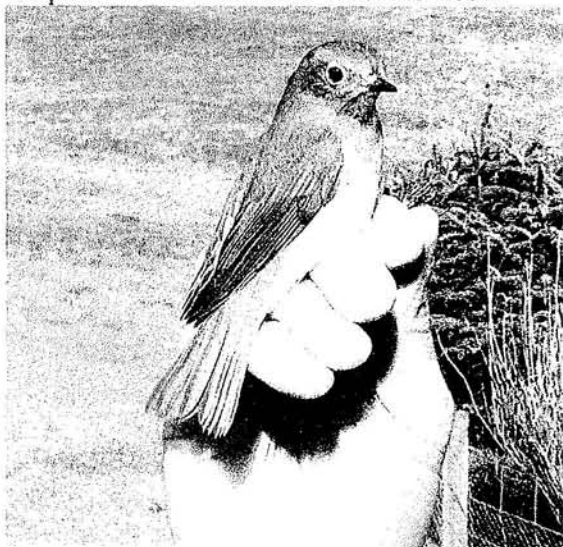
August started quietly with the first notable bird, a Common Crossbill, not appearing until 7th with the first Willow Warbler the next day, a Common Rosefinch on 10th and Ruff and Grasshopper Warbler on 11th. An early Blackbird appeared on 13th and easterly winds on 14th brought the first Barred Warblers, Wood Warblers and a fine Arctic Warbler. This bird stayed for another day, whilst Barred and Wood Warblers were seen in small numbers (1-3) almost daily until the end of the month. A Spotted Crake on 18th – 19th was the next good bird with Turtle Dove, Wryneck and Common Rosefinch present on 20th when a Basking Shark was spotted just offshore at South Light. Thirty-five Teal on 21st was a good count and the following day 66 Ringed Plover, 148 Wheatear and 20 Willow Warbler were also logged, along with the first Fieldfare, Marsh Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. An Icterine Warbler arrived on 25th with a Common Rosefinch, beginning a run of daily sightings until 1st September, peaking at seven on the last date. The isle's first breeding Sedge Warblers (below) fledged two young on 26th.



Two Lapland Buntings on 27th were the forerunners of an amazing passage of these northern buntings. Sixty arrived the following day, rising to 90 on 29th, 142 on 31st and 185 on 1st September. An early Glaucous Gull was on 30th and a Sooty Shearwater passed by the following day when a Marsh Warbler was overshadowed by another Arctic Warbler.

September opened with a Slavonian Grebe and more Barred Warblers (at least three were logged daily during the first ten days of the month). Wrynecks however were in short supply with singles on 2nd & 9th the last of the autumn. Good numbers of common migrants on 4th held nothing better than four Barred Warblers and six Common Rosefinches. A fall on 7th produced counts of 29 Common Redstart, 12 Tree Pipit, 16 Spotted Flycatcher, 7 Pied Flycatcher and 25 Willow Warbler. Raptors followed the next day with 7 Sparrowhawk, 11 Kestrel and 2 Peregrines logged along with the first Chaffinch and Bramblings of the autumn and counts of 15 Grey Heron, 18 Whinchat and 36 Willow Warbler. The autumn's first Redwing on 9th was accompanying 13 Song Thrush, 32 Garden Warbler and 16 Blackcap. A Short-toed Lark was star bird of 10th and a Common Buzzard went through the following day. Waders stole the show the next day with Curlew Sandpiper, 4 Ruff, Little Stint and a Pectoral Sandpiper. The first (13) Pink-footed Geese passed over on 13th (peaking at just 57 on 22nd) and 4 Curlew Sandpipers was a good isle count on 14th. A quiet (but very windy) 15th was enlivened by a Swainson's Thrush at Lower Stoneybrake. Unfortunately only the finder had clinching views! The only other Fair Isle record of this dainty American thrush was back in September 1990. The first Snow Bunting on 16th and Whooper Swans on 18th were a reminder that winter was fast approaching. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers arrived on the latter date, with one

remaining into October. Bluethroat and Ortolan both put in an appearance on 19th. Following a ten day absence, Barred Warblers appeared again on 20th (1-4 were then seen daily until the month's end) and the first Yellow-browed Warblers (5) also arrived. Star bird however was a Buff-bellied Pipit at North Light, which remained in the area until 30th. A flighty Citrine Wagtail on 22nd had to pay second fiddle to a cracking Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Upper Leogh. Both birds were still present the following day when Corncrake and Arctic Redpoll were added to the list of good birds. The final week of the month is often the best of the autumn but although there were lots of common migrants and a fair scattering of scarcities (eg Glaucous Gull, Richard's Pipit, 5+ Bluethroat, 15+ Yellow-browed Warblers, Corncrake, Little Bunting, Great Grey Shrike and Hawfinch) there were not too many rarities. A Common Nightingale at the Mast on 26th showed some very interesting features indicative of a foreign race, but unfortunately only to a lucky handful of people. A small number of birders are able to say they have now seen TWO Red-flanked Bluetails in Britain on the same day; one was trapped in the Gully after lunch on 27th (below) and another frequented the Mast later that afternoon!

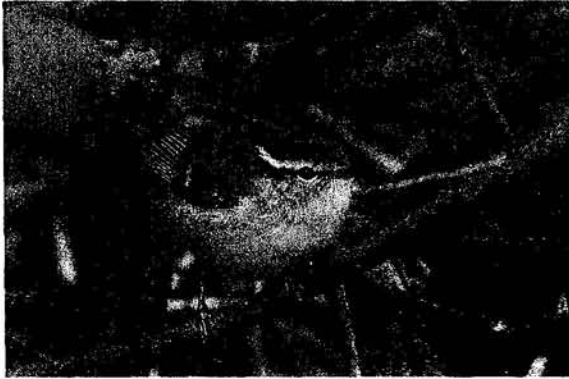


Lapland Buntings (below) peaked at 195 on 28th whilst a Mandarin on 29th (until 3rd October) was the first for the isle and the month ended with an Olive-backed Pipit and hundreds of finches including 100 Brambling and 210 Siskin. October continued in the same vein with 65 Chaffinch, 155 Brambling and 290 Siskins on 1st and there was a continual passage of finches up to the middle of the month.



A Red-breasted Flycatcher also on 1st was one of three during October. Corncrake and Moorhen were both flushed on 2nd but another, much smaller, ditch-skulker stole the show – a Lanceolated Warbler at Quoy/Schoolton. A Little Gull on 4th was the start of a light passage with 1-3 daily until 9th, with another on 15th. A Honey Buzzard flew through on 6th, when Chaffinches peaked at 130. A Grey Plover on 7th was less common on Fair Isle than the Dotterel that joined it on 10th. A Treecreeper (of the continental race *familiaris*) on 8th was the first since 1998. It remained until 11th and was able to witness a large arrival of thrushes on 9th. Redwings dominated with 3,000 counted but there were also 650 Song Thrush, 260 Blackbird, 41 Fieldfare, 18 Ring Ouzel and three Mistle Thrush also logged. Two Hen Harriers also arrived as did 55 Blackcap, 40 Chiffchaff and 22 Reed Bunting. Lapland Bunting numbers remained around the 100 mark until 10th when Slavonian Grebes appeared with up to five counted on 14th/15th. Also on 10th, 500

Meadow Pipits brought with them a fine Olive-backed Pipit, found skulking in Vaia's Trees. Yellow-browed Warblers (below), present from 8th, peaked at 12 on 11th with birds remaining until 19th.



An influx of Goldcrests and Chiffchaffs on 11th numbered 240 & 60 respectively but attention was stolen by a showy Blyth's Reed Warbler on South Harbour beach, although the Olive-backed Pipit was also at times equally as confiding at Schoolton. As light faded late in the afternoon a Red Kite arrived, staying until the following morning. Chiffchaffs increased to 73 on 12th when a Red-breasted Flycatcher was also found. The first Little Auk was seen from the *Good Shepherd* crossing and birds were then seen regularly from land, including 108 off Bunes on 26th. A photogenic Long-eared Owl outside the shop on 13th contrasted with the flighty Raddes Warbler at Schoolton/Kenaby. The autumn's second Little Bunting remained from 14th-17th. Ducks were a feature of 15th with four Tufted Duck, 14 Long-tailed Duck and two Velvet Scoter adding to the regular counts of Wigeon, Teal, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers but all were overshadowed by a male King Eider off Bunes. The 16th will live long in the memory of the Warden for it is the day he finally added Rough-legged Buzzard to his Fair Isle list – not once, but twice! Other arrivals that day included the autumn's third Red-flanked Bluetail, four

Common Crossbill and the first Waxwings and Northern Bullfinches. It was also the peak day for Redpolls of several species/subspecies including 100 Mealy, 14 Lesser and several Greenland and Arctic. Conversely it was the last day a Barred Warbler was seen. As a colder NW'ly airflow settled in, little movement was observed apart from a couple of Glaucous Gulls and four Orca (18th), until calmer NE'ly weather on 23rd brought in 23 Waxwing, a Bluethroat and a cracking male Black-throated Thrush, which remained until 28th. Waxwings (below) peaked at 50 on 25th when the last of the breeding Bonxies departed. Migration began to rapidly tail off towards the end of the month as the first wintry flurries were experienced.



Highlights of Spring 2011

March

Highlights included a Great-grey Shrike found on 22nd at Dutfield, but sadly found dead the next day. A Coot in Field Burn (11th – 21st) was an exciting Fair Isle record! Winter wildfowl often dominated, with a Whooper Swan present all month (although sadly the 5 Bewick's Swans on 16th February didn't wait for the arrival of the new wardening team!), up to 7 Pink-footed Geese and 2 European White-fronted Goose present amongst the Greylags. Raptors included a lingering pair of Merlins throughout, a female Kestrel on 2nd and the breeding pair of Peregrines, plus an occasional interloper (not appreciated by the locals!). A Water Rail was found on 20th along with a Moorhen on 17th. Wader highlights included a Sanderling on 31st and Woodcock on five dates, peaking at 5 on 17th. The first Bonxies of the year arrived on 25th over Ward Hill (the same day as the first Puffins returned), while wintering Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were present throughout, with 2 of the former present for most of the month. A Short-eared Owl arrived on 5th at Field, while a Grey Wagtail was seen at Wirvie on 17th, Black Redstarts (16th and 24th), Stonechats on 22nd and 31st and the first Wheatear of the year on 30th. Small numbers of thrushes throughout included a fall of Blackbirds on 17th with 77 present and Mistle Thrushes on 5 dates, peaking at 3 on 18th. The first 2 Chiffchaffs of the year arrived on 17th, Goldcrest on 24th, 5 Brambling on 31st, Greenfinch on 16th-17th, 10 Siskins on 28th, Mealy Redpoll on 22nd and 31st, Greenland Redpoll on 18th, 25th (2) and 30th, Hawfinch on 29th-30th, Lapland Bunting on 6th and 18th-21st and up to 12 Snow Buntings.

April

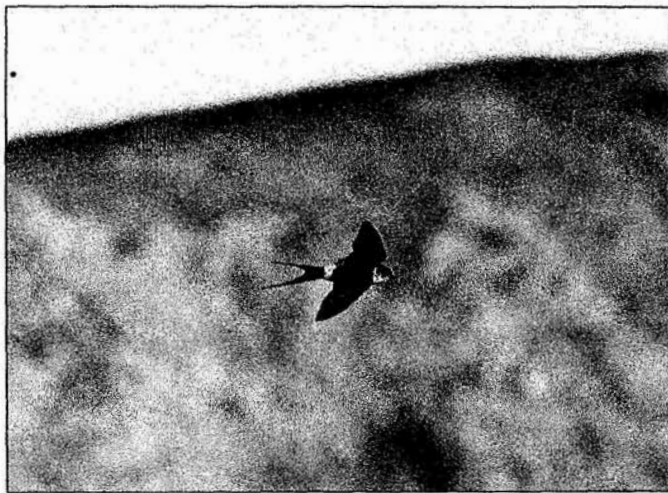
The first real signs of spring passage began to commence, with first records for the year for many commoner migrants occurring during the month. These included a drake Scaup on Golden Water on 20th, drake Common Scoter on 24th, Greenshank on 22nd, Green Sandpiper and Wood Sandpiper on 26th, Swallow, House and Sand Martin on 10th, Yellow Wagtail on 22nd (with up to 3 during the month), Common Redstart on 19th (peaking at 9 on 30th), Grasshopper Warbler on 23rd, Sedge Warbler on 21st, two Wood Warbler on 30th (only the third ever April record), Willow Warbler on 10th (with a peak of 24 on 29th), male Pied Flycatcher on 30th, Crossbill on 3rd. Also, another Hawfinch arrived on 11th when it was trapped in the Burkle chicken coop! In addition to the more expected common summer returnees, a reasonable scattering of scarcer arrivals were capped at the end of the month by the

appearance of a stunning second-year male Collared Flycatcher (below) along the highest cliffs of Hoini on 30th. This, the fourth record for Fair Isle, showed well until 5th May, although at times it could be elusive as it fed at the base of Hundi Stack. Further highlights included a female White-spotted Bluethroat, which was trapped in the Vaadal on 17th, 2 Subalpine Warblers, with an unraced female found on 24th (lingering until 3rd May) in the Lower Stoneybreck garden and a second year male *albistriata* found at Dronger on 29th. Trapped in the Observatory garden the next day, this bird lingered until 6th June, singing on occasions – an epic 38 day stay! Further highlights included a Black-bellied Dipper that spent a short while touring the Gilly Burn and its surrounding ditches on 26th. With raptors being generally scarce on the island a Common Buzzard on 25th, Hen Harrier on 26th and an Osprey on 27th were all notable.



May

Taking up where April left off, May saw a flush of rarities kicking off the month. With the Collared Flycatcher still lingering, further excitement was generated by an incredibly showy Great Snipe on 2nd May. Initially flushed from the area surrounding the Utra Scrape, it proceeded to show well on the ground and in flight, where all of its ID features could be noted and photographed. Hot on the snipe's heels, the next day produced a Red-rumped Swallow (next page) at Utra late in the afternoon. Hawking for insects over the Kirki Geo and Utra Scrape, it put on an incredible show, performing close fly-by's all evening. Later into the month another rarity appeared in the shape of a Thrush Nightingale at Auld Haa on 26th. Initially offering good views, the bird became more difficult to observe, and was not seen again in the afternoon. The 26th also saw another rare occurrence, with the confirmation of breeding Blackbirds. A pair fledged two youngsters at Houll before going on to raise a second brood, the first successful nesting by this species on Fair Isle since 1973!



Further to these highlights, various scarcer species were also recorded throughout the month. These included Wrynecks on three dates at the start of the month, peaking at three on 2nd, a Short-toed Lark at Sukka Mire on 13th, two smart male Grey-headed Wagtails, on 18th-20th and 23rd, Red-spotted Bluethroats on four dates, peaking at two on 26th, two Marsh Warblers (26th-28th and 29th), Icterine Warblers on 9 dates, peaking at three on 26th, Wood Warbler at the Haa on 12th, two Red-backed Shrikes (at Meadow Burn and Wester Lothar) on 26th-27th, Tree Sparrows on 10 dates, peaking at six on 4th-5th, Common Rosefinches on six dates at the end of the month, peaking at four on 29th-31st, two Hawfinches (12th and 22nd), a male Northern Bullfinch on 12th and a smart Rustic Bunting for five days, moving from Quoy to the Observatory from 21st. Finally, a male *cantillans* Subalpine Warbler was caught in the Gully on 31st.

June

Migration begins to slow this month, with numbers and frequency of common migrants decreasing, but a surprise could always be just round the corner and so it proved this year. Highlights for the month included a fine Greenish Warbler (in the company of an Icterine Warbler) at Auld Haa for two days from the 9th, the only spring record in the UK this year. Further good birds included a Blyth's Reed Warbler trapped in the Plantation on 10th and a smart female Woodchat Shrike found on 14th at Chalet that lingered around Field until the 16th. Along with these stunning rarities, a superb supporting cast of scarcities could be seen throughout, with few days not hosting one or two good birds. The 'Eastern' Subalpine Warbler from back in April and 4 Common Rosefinches lingered into the start of the month, while new birds included two Hobbys (4th and 15th - 21st), another male *albistriata* Subalpine Warbler at Schoolton on 6th (the fourth 'Subalp' of the spring), Bluethroats on 8th and 18th, five Marsh Warblers, two Icterine Warblers (9th) and a female Red-backed Shrike at Barkland on 23rd.

Ringling

Up to the end of July a total of around 1814 birds of 64 species have been ringed by the Obs. Highlights have included two Wrynecks, two Bluethroats, two Subalpine Warblers, three Marsh Warblers, a Blyth's Reed Warbler, Icterine Warbler, five Common Rosefinches and five Leach's Petrels.

Interesting recoveries of Fair Isle birds have included a Common Rosefinch trapped on 3rd June this year in the Gully that was re-trapped at Spurn Bird Observatory, Yorkshire on 20th June, an interesting southerly movement. Further interesting recoveries have included several Fair Isle colour ringed Twite re-sighted on Orkney during the winter, suggesting an important wintering location for our breeding birds. Also, two Gannets ringed in the summer of 2010 were found at Ceuta, North Africa and Faro, Portugal in the same winter. A Wheatear ringed on 9th June 2010 was re-trapped at Princetown, Devon on 2nd October 2010 and a Garden Warbler ringed on 17th August 2003 was found on 26th June 2010 in Rogaland, Norway!



Common Rosefinch at the Obs, where it was later trapped.

Cetaceans in 2011

A busy start to the year for cetacean sightings, with Killer Whales stealing the show by putting on some impressive displays. The first were a party of 8 seen on 25th and 26th March, with further sightings of 2 on 13th April and 8 on 30th June. The latter group generated a lot of publicity by hunting seals in South Harbour and were featured in several newspapers!

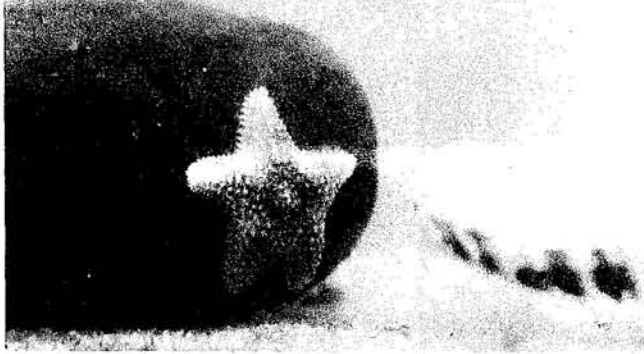
Minke Whales were seen from the Good Shepherd on 25th May and 27th May (3) with singles seen from the island on 10th and 27th June and 10th July.

After the expected slow start to the year, a flurry of dolphin sightings in July saw 10 Risso's from the Good Shepherd on 12th, 6 White-sided (also from the ferry) on 19th and 3 White-beaked from South Light on 26th.

The smallest cetacean, Porpoise, were first seen on 11th April, with sightings of up to 5 on 8 further dates until the end of July.

Fair Isle Firsts

For the keen naturalist the best way to discover a 'first' for Fair Isle is to look away from the birds and investigate some of the smaller island life. Henry Hyndman, 10, of Auld Haa made an exciting discovery whilst rock pooling in 2009, when a cushion star he found (measuring just 1.5cm across) turned out to be the most northerly ever record of this species. Earlier this year, this developed into an even more interesting record. Henry takes up the tale. "I was rockpooling and I was so excited to find my second little cushion star! It was laying eggs! It had been over 2 years since I found my first and I go tidepooling all the time. I was so happy."



Asterina phylactica - a cushion star whose scientific name is bigger than it is!

A small colony of these animals were present in one rock pool and Nick Riddiford, ex-Warden of FIBO (and general 'go-to guy' for all manner of wildlife on Fair Isle) suggests that it could be a sign of global warming, as the species is more normally found in the Mediterranean and west coast of Ireland and Scotland.

Another first for the island found in somewhat unusual circumstances was the Longhorn beetle, *Rhagium bifasciatum*, which Nick Riddiford discovered when it landed on the arm of Carrie the Ranger as they chatted outside the Obs! A migrant

species found in the UK and Scandinavia, it was first thought to have been brought across the North Sea on easterly winds.



However, the presence of a second and third individual, also around the Obs, hinted at another origin. It seems likely that they have hatched from driftwood brought up to the Obs garden to provide cover for birds! As a pinewood species, it is unlikely to become a permanent resident on Fair Isle despite its enterprising attempt at colonisation!

Volunteering

Every year FIBO is helped out by fantastic volunteers who exchange their time and energy for the chance to experience life at the Observatory. Thanks to Gillian Shorter, Charlotte Kingston and Lena Holmström who have been helping to keep the place clean (and much more besides). We have also been helped by recipients of JHMF awards who have contributed to the ornithological work, thanks very much Joseph Cooper, Teresa Donohue and also Virginia Díaz (below) who joined us from Tenerife. There will be more information on volunteering in the next newsletter.



The Official Grand Opening

On 2nd July, we invited representatives from organisations who financed the new building project, politicians, councillors, major donors, ex-Wardens and Administrators, the press and the whole island population to a celebration and thank you for all their support. Also in attendance were many of the country's eminent ornithologists, invited to see the new facilities and discuss the direction of our future research. Thankfully, the weather was kind and the helicopter carrying most of the dignitaries got in. After being shown round the building, everybody then gathered in the newly completed Visitor Centre where FIBOT President Roy Dennis welcomed and thanked everyone and cut the 'official' ribbon. Outgoing Warden, Deryk Shaw then gave a speech detailing the building project from the initial decision to rebuild, choosing a site, raising the funds, the trials of building on a remote island, the added stress when the building firm went bankrupt, the inevitable delays and having to cancel the first guests to finally opening the doors (seven weeks late) and seeing the hugely positive reactions from all who visited, which made all the stress and hard work worthwhile. This was followed by a light-hearted view from islander Jimmy Stout who was present when the first Obs was opened (although he was too young to remember it!) and talked about the importance of FIBO to the island as a whole. Ex-Warden and current Chairman, Roger Riddington then summed up the morning's proceedings and invited everyone to an impressive buffet lunch, laid on by the FIBO chefs, Roy and Chris. After lunch, the helicopter departed with press, politicians and councillors, leaving those attending the Research Meeting and Directors and ex-Wardens & Administrators to attend an entertaining evening of chat and live local music in the FIBO bar. Sunday saw the AGM and Directors meeting and on Monday

a highly productive Research Meeting took place attended by the likes of Professor Ian Newton, Andy Clement (BTO), David Jardine (SOC) and chaired by Peter Evans. Everyone agreed that the whole weekend was a great success and that the future for FIBOT and Fair Isle is a bright one!

Humbled to know you

Those who visited FIBO in 2010 will know that Jack Ashton-Booth (Assistant Warden that year) is an exceptional artist and an incredibly nice young man. We were therefore delighted to learn that he has been headhunted to illustrate a book written by Springwatch presenter and RSPB President Kate Humble. Entitled '*Watching Waterbirds*'. It is an easy to read guide to birdwatching through Kate's eyes aimed at those with limited knowledge but wanting to know more and Jack's lifelike illustrations really do add to its appeal. It is available from most good bookshops and all proceeds go to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. For more details of Jack's outstanding work check out his blog 'Bird and Wildlife Illustration' at <http://dunbirdin.blogspot.com>

A New Observatories Book

It's been four years in the planning and producing but an update to the 1975 Bird Observatories Book is now on the shelves. A hardback T&AD Poyser publication, entitled *Bird Observatories of Britain and Ireland* it details the history, work and flavour of each of the 18 currently accredited Bird Observatories and is interspersed with photographs and anecdotes about 'memorable days' or 'big birds'. A huge amount of work has gone into the book and with nearly 600 pages it is quite a substantial volume. It retails at £60 and can be found at many good bookshops or bought from any Bird Observatory, including Fair Isle. An essential read for anybody who likes visiting these important ornithological outposts.

Other Island News

Rev Stewart Wilson

March 8th 1934 – February 13th 2011

Early in the morning on Sunday 13th February, the Reverend Stewart Wilson passed away peacefully at his home, East Aesterhoull, with his son Steven and daughter Serena by his side. Fittingly, soon after the news had been passed around the isle, the Chapel bells started ringing for Sunday service. A few days later, after a moving service in the Kirk and following the tradition of the isle menfolk taking turns to carry the coffin along the road, Stewart was laid to rest in the island Kirkyard.

Jimmy Midway hits a Century

On 7th March 2011 James A. Stout (Myers Jimmy) celebrated his 100th birthday. Jimmy has long been associated with birdwatching on Fair Isle, he has been responsible for two additions to the British List and has his name on a long list of Fair Isle firsts. He was joined at his care home in Lerwick by his family and many friends, who travelled from

far and wide to share his milestone birthday with him.

Newest Arrival

On 4th June 2011, Darren & Angela Wiseman of Barkland became grandparents when Angela's daughter Maree gave birth to a healthy 8lb 6oz baby boy in Aberdeen. Mother and baby, Daniel Charles Alexander Coles, arrived back on Fair Isle a few days later and are enjoying their new life together, living at West Aesterhoull.

Folk Festival

On 30th April, Fair Isle was a host destination for the 31st Shetland Folk Festival. A fantastic night was had by all in the Hall as guest performers Wrigley and The Reel, Eilidh MacKenzie & Band and Ryan Coupar & Tim Edey entertained us with a mixture of quality music and amusing banter! We can't wait for the next one!

And finally.....Thank you all for your continued support. Keep up to date with FIBO news on our website and blog.



Close encounter: part of a group of Killer Whales hunting a seal in South Harbour in late June.

Pictures: The Parnahys, Collared Flycatcher, Common Rosefinch, Beetle, Virginia and Killer Whales by David Parnaby. Red-rumped Swallow by Jason Moss. Cushion Star by Tommy Hyndman. All other photos © Deryk Shaw.