

Rare birds in Guernsey

2011



La Société Guernesiaise
Ornithological Section

M. Polak

Report on rare birds in the Bailiwick of Guernsey in 2011

Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm, Jethou, Brecqhou and associated islets

Mark Lawlor and the Bailiwick of Guernsey Rarities Committee

The following records have been submitted to, assessed by and accepted by the Bailiwick of Guernsey Rarities Committee which is organised through the Ornithological Section of La Société Guernesiaise. The members of the committee for 2011 (*M.P.Lawlor, M.A.Guppy, A.J.Bisson, P.Alexander*) would like to thank all the observers and photographers who sent in details of their rarity observations.



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The systematic list is based on the BOU British List. Although the Committee's area covers Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, there were no records submitted and/or accepted from the smaller two islands this year. For each record, the following information is given where available; number of birds, age and sex if known, date and location of first sighting, further locations, whether it was trapped or photographed, the names of the finder(s), and whether it was seen by anyone else (*et al.*). For each species, it states how many previous records there have been from that island (if known) and there is also a comment on the birds natural range and migrations. There are also the editor's comments and analysis of sightings in Guernsey.

Cover drawing : Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, Vale, October 2011 by Mark Lawlor

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

One, 6th and 7th March, Havelet Bay, photo.

The second year running that this species has been seen in the island. Statistically though, it is still a very rare bird, with just three records since 1994. The total number of Guernsey records is impossible to ascertain as there were a few feral birds at large in the 1960's and 1970's.

(A common resident species throughout the UK and Northern and Central Europe)



White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

Thirteen, from December 2010, L'Eree Old Aerodrome (Colin Best NR), photo. Numbers falling until the last bird was present on 11th February.

(Breeds in Arctic Russia, wintering in large flocks in Europe including Britain and France)

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

At least seventeen, 14th November, off Jaonneuse Point.

(J. Hooper)

Three, 14th November, off Jaonneuse Point.

(J. Hooper)

This species is a familiar sight on the island since there is a large feral breeding flock established. Most of these birds are present in the L'Eree area but they do wander from time to time to other sites on the island. Hence, it is difficult to distinguish these local feral birds from any truly wild individuals which may arrive from the continent. The above sightings were thought to be of wild origin since they were seen to fly past the island at distance, a behaviour which would be highly unlikely for the local birds. Also, research shows that there was a notable passage of this species in the English Channel area at around the same time.

(A common resident semi-feral species throughout the UK and Northern and Central Europe. Truly wild populations breed in Northern Europe and winter as far south as the Mediterranean)

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

One, first-winter male, from December 2010 until 1st April, Pembroke/L'Ancrese Bay, photo.

(Breeds in the Arctic, wintering in the seas of northern Europe. Usually very uncommon in the English Channel)

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

One, female, from December 2010 until 18th March, Grande Mare, photo.

(Breeds in northern forests, wintering on lakes and coasts of central and western Europe)

Pacific Diver (*Gavia pacifica*)

One, 8th January to 8th February, Grandes Havres, photo.
(1st Guernsey record)

(M. A. Guppy, et al.)

The bird from last year returned to Grandes Havres Bay for its second winter. This time it was even more elusive and was only seen two or three times during its month stay.

There have now been 8 records of this species in Europe and these are shown on the map below. As well as Guernsey, there have been 3 in England, 1 in Wales, 1 in Ireland, 1 in Spain and 1 in Finland. It is of note that, just like our bird, three others have returned to the same site in a subsequent winter. However, there were no sightings of the bird in early 2012, although this was not a very cold winter.

(Breeds in the Arctic America, wintering in the Pacific Ocean.
Not recorded in Europe until 2007 and is an extreme rarity)



M.A. Guppy

Pacific Diver records in Europe (to 2011)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

One, from December 2010, at various locations in St. Martins, St. Andrews and Castel, until last seen on 6th April at Ruette Julienne, Castel, photo. (8th Guernsey record)

(Almost cosmopolitan breeder in warmer climates, in Europe mainly in Spain and Portugal, although expanding northwards in France. Outside breeding season disperses widely)

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

One, 26th March, Grande Mare. (A. J. Bisson, et al.)

One, juvenile, 3rd August, Grand Pre, photo. (C. Carre, et al.)

One, 16th September, Les Tielles. (J. Hooper, et al.)

These are the 21st to 23rd records for Guernsey. This is the third time that three have occurred in a single year. Three very different records: an early spring overshoot; mid-summer post-breeding dispersal; an autumn migrant. The latter was migrating within a flock of four Grey Herons.

(Summer visitor to central and southern Europe, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa)

left, Cattle Egret, Ruette Julienne, April 2011 - right, Purple Heron, Grand Pre, Aug 2011



C.Bale



R.A.Ferbrache

Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*)

One, 2nd August, Claire Mare, trapped, photo. (22nd Guernsey record).

(C. J. Mourant)

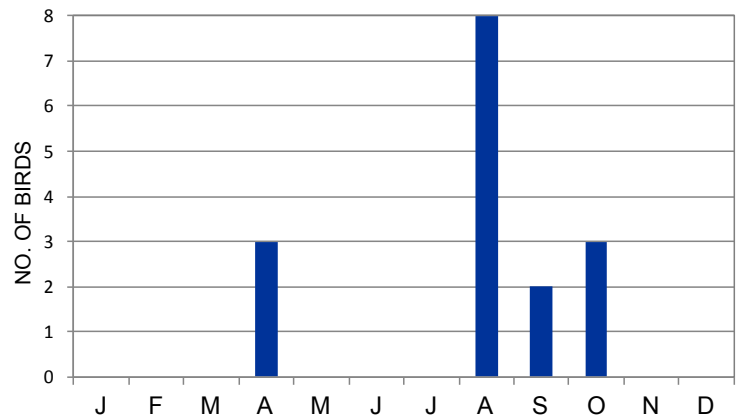
The graph below shows that August is the peak month for Spotted Crane in Guernsey, with half of all modern records being in that month.

(Summer visitor, breeding in central and northern Europe, wintering mainly in Africa. Rare and local in France and the UK.)



C.J.Mourant

graph 1 :
month of arrival of Spotted Cranes in Guernsey since 1970.



Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Two, 10th April, Claire Mare/Colin Best NR, photo. (7th Guernsey record)

One, 9th and 10th May, Pulias Pond, photo. (8th Guernsey record)

(M. P. Lawlor, A. C. Lawlor, et al.)

After the flock of three birds present last spring, it was a surprise to see another two birds in the same spot this year - the temporary pond behind the main reedbed at the Claire Mare - albeit two months earlier in the season. Continuing the recent run of records, another appeared on the roadside pond at Pulias on Liberation Day. This bird showed very well during its stay. All records of this species are within the last 25 years, and it would be not a surprise if it became a more frequent visitor due to climate change drying out its breeding areas in southern Europe.

(Breeds in southern and western continental Europe, some wintering around the Mediterranean and some migrating to Africa)



Claire Mare - M.P.Lawlor



Claire Mare - R.Carre



Black-winged Stilt - Pulias - C.Bale



Pectoral Sandpiper - Claire Mare - A.Gidney

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

One, juvenile, 19th to 23rd September, Claire Mare, photo.
(18th Guernsey record)

(M. P. Lawlor, et al.)

Two, Colin Best NR, L'Eree, 30th September to 1st October.
(19th Guernsey record)

(J. Hooper, et al.)

The first records for five years. This autumn was very good for this species, with lots of records from this side of the Atlantic. This was due to regular weather systems racing across the ocean, pushing the birds in the wrong direction as they migrated over the sea. Tragically, after its popular five-day stay, the first bird (right) was caught and killed by a cat whilst feeding on the reserve. An example of the devastating effect that domestic cats have on the populations of wild animals.

(Breeds in Arctic North America and Eastern Siberia. A long-distance migrant, wintering in South America.)



M.Cunningham

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

One, 4th September, Fort le Marchant, photo.
(16th Guernsey record)

(U. Lundberg)

One, 12th to 20th September, L'Ancrese G.C., photo.
(17th Guernsey record)

(M. P. Lawlor, et al.)

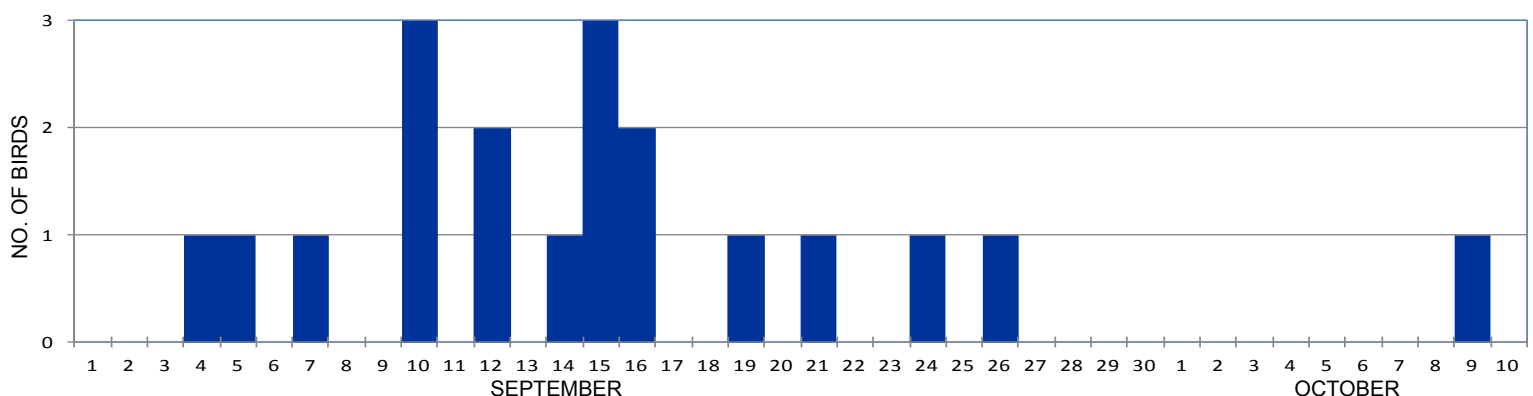
As with the previous species, there were record flocks of this species in Europe this year, so it was not a surprise to see more than one bird visit the island. The graph below shows that the majority of Buff-breasted Sandpipers recorded in Guernsey were in a seven-day period in mid-September (there is also a single Spring record). The Fort le Marchant bird is thus the earliest ever Autumn record.

(A North American species breeding in the Arctic and migrating south over the western Atlantic each autumn to its wintering grounds in South America.)



U.Lundberg

graph 2 : day of arrival of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Guernsey in Autumn.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper
L'Ancrese - M.Cunningham



Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

One, adult, 25th September, at sea (to the North of Guernsey), photo. (14th Guernsey record)

A full breeding-plumaged adult bird feeding around the boat was a real treat for local birders on their annual pelagic trip.

(Breeds in the high Arctic and winters at sea off southern Africa. Migrates south pelagically through the eastern Atlantic.)



C.Bale



C.Bale

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)

One, first-winter, 16th December, Petit Bot, photo. (19th Guernsey record)

Unfortunately, this bird was picked up ill by a member of the public and taken to the Animal Shelter, where it died the next day.

(Breeds in the high Arctic of Greenland and Canada. Winters further south, mainly in Northern Europe.)

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

One, 18th and 19th October, Grand Pre NR, photo. (1st Guernsey record)

(J.Hooper, et al.)

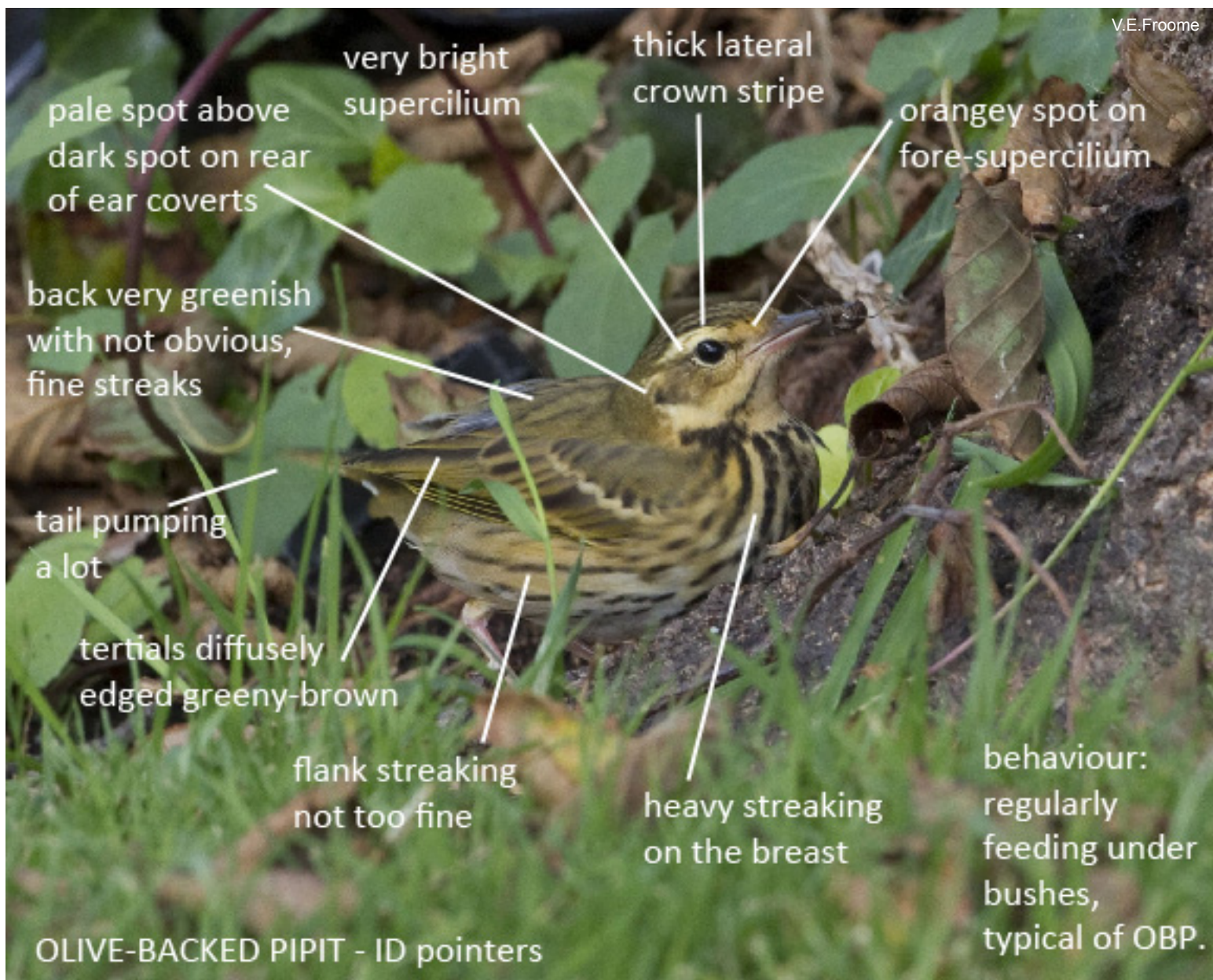
This new species for the Channel Islands was discovered feeding in gardens adjacent to the northern path around the Nature Reserve at the Grand Pre, around lunchtime on 18th October, a classic date for this species to appear. Olive-backed Pipits occur every year on Scilly and other similar locations, and so local birders have been looking out for one for a long time. This species of pipit is quite unlike the more familiar pipits as it likes to feed underneath bushes and trees and so was very elusive in the dense vegetation of these gardens. It did show out in the open though and was observed feeding on the short grass of the lawns. But unfortunately, many birders missed it due to its skulking nature. Most similar to Tree Pipit in plumage, but darker and greener above, with stronger face pattern and underpart streaking.

(Breeds in northern Russia and other areas of Siberia, winters in southern Asia. A regularly recorded but rare vagrant to Western Europe in the Autumn.)



V.E.Froome

V.E.Froome



Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

One, from December 2010 until 12th February, Fort le Crocq and Vazon, photo.

At least two, 14th November until the end of the year, between L'Eree and Vazon, photo.

Recently, there have been one or more Water Pipits wintering every year on the West coast beaches of Guernsey. It has been very difficult to calculate the exact number involved because the species can be very subtle and difficult to differentiate from a bright Rock Pipit, especially since many of our Rock Pipits are of the Scandinavian race. So many of the pipits reported as Water Pipit have turned out not to be so.

(Breeds in mountains of S and C Europe, migrating to winter in the lowlands, including the UK)



Black-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava feldegg*)

One, male, 20th April, La Claire Mare NR. (1st Guernsey record).

(D. M. J. Spicer)

Whilst photographing birds from the hide at the Claire Mare late in the evening, the observer had the good fortune of snapping a Yellow Wagtail with a jet black head. Unfortunately, this brief sighting was the only sighting of this rare visitor. The Black-headed Wagtail is a sub-species of Yellow Wagtail which breeds in the Balkans and Turkey and is a very rare visitor the NW Europe. What was perhaps the same bird was seen in Jersey a few days later on 23rd April, and there were reports from Anglesey and Scilly in the same week.

(Summer visitor to south-eastern Europe.)



D.M.J.Spicer

Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

Up to 7, from December 2010, Highlands Estate and Rue Cohu, Castel, photo. Numbers reducing until last seen by Castel Church on 9th January. (11th Guernsey record)

(Breeding in Northern Scandinavia and Russia, usually moving further south in the winter. A very irruptive species, reliant on food availability, it will occasionally move into Western Europe in big numbers.)

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

One, female, 3rd September, Claire Mare, trapped, photo. (11th Guernsey record)

(C. J. Mourant)

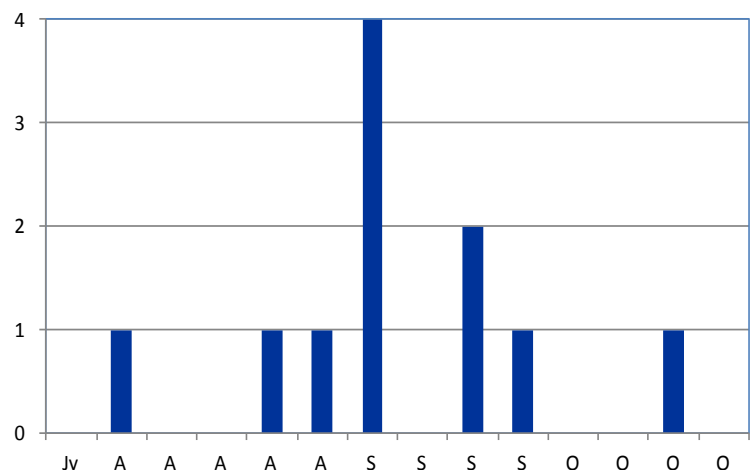
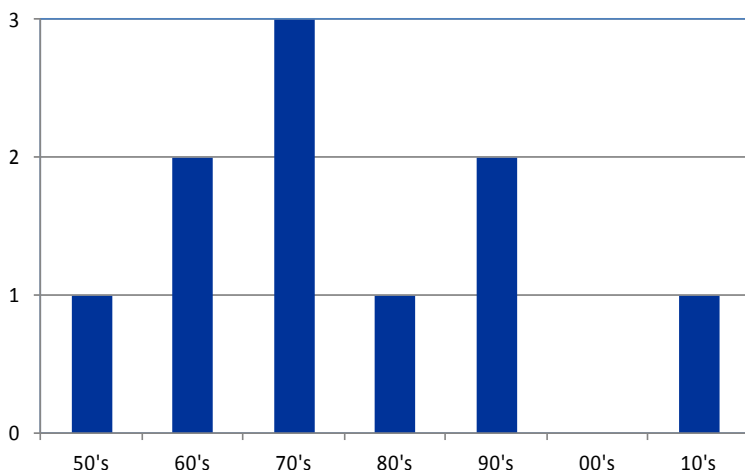
This was the first Bluethroat to be recorded in Guernsey since 1996 and so was well overdue. Unfortunately, once released it disappeared into the reedbed forever. The left hand chart below shows the decline in records over the last couple of decades. The right hand chart shows that this bird was caught in the peak week for Bluethroat records. It is difficult to tell which subspecies the bird belonged to.

(Summer visitor to Europe. Red-spotted race common in Northern. White-spotted race uncommon in western Europe.)

graphs 3 & 4 : Bluethroat records by decade (left) and by week of arrival (right).



C.J.Mourant



Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)

One, female, 11th to 15th November, Pleinmont, photo. (4th Guernsey record).

(R. J. Murphy, L. Thomson, et al.)

Guernsey has been spoilt in recent years with three Desert Wheatears recorded in the last decade, all of which have been very cooperative. Unlike all the other records, this bird was a female, and spent most of the time on the bare, desert-like terrain of the Scramble Track at Pleinmont.

(Breeds in the deserts of central Asia, Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa. Mainly a short-distant migrant, but the easterly populations are more migratory.)



C.Bale



C.Bale

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*)

One, singing male, 10th to 13th June, Pleinmont, trapped for ringing, photo. (2nd Guernsey record)

(R. J. Murphy, L. Thomson, et al.)

A long-overdue second record of this rare but regular visitor to the UK. This male bird was exceptionally elusive, rarely showing out in the open in the field, singing from deep within the scrub. Luckily, the ringers caught the bird in a mist net and were able to confirm the bird as belonging to the western race of the species.

(Summer visitor to the whole of the Mediterranean, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa)



M.P. Lawlor

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*)

One, juvenile, 13th November, Fort Hommet, photo. (27th Guernsey record)

(R. A. Ferbrache, et al.)

The most interesting aspect of this record was the very late date. This is the first ever November sighting of this species on the island, and there has only ever been one record in late October. This bird was found late-afternoon and was seen to go to roost in a Tamarisk, but did not appear the next day.

(Common summer visitor to central and southern Europe, wintering in Africa)



R. A. Ferbrache

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

One, female, 15th to 18th April, 'Fish Factory' area, Rocquaine Bay, photo. (11th Guernsey record)

(R. & M. Austin, et al.)

This bright and showy individual surprised the finders by the coast road at Rocquaine. Staying for a few days it was enjoyed by most local birders. Five of the eleven records have been in the last decade, and this increase will surely continue as global warming moves the species further north.

(Summer visitor to the Mediterranean, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa. Breeds quite far North in France)



C.Bale

Rose-coloured Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)

Two, juveniles, 1st to 4th October, Richmond, Vazon, photo. (34th Guernsey record)

(C. Bale, et al.)

At least one Rose-coloured Starling a year is almost a certainty here on the island, with records every year between 1997 and 2008. However, there were none recorded either last year, or the year before that. The species made up for this, with two birds appearing together in the large Starling flock which roams around the beaches and gardens of the Vazon and Fort le Crocq area each autumn. This is the second time that two birds have been seen together after two were at Chouet in October 1997.

(Breeds in the Steppes and open country of western Asia. Juveniles often disperse west in Europe in autumn)



A.Gidney



C.Bale

CATEGORY D : This category is for species that may have arrived in Guernsey under their own steam from a wild population, but the likelihood of the bird originating from a captive source is very high. It is mainly for species that are very commonly kept in captivity and often escape into the wild.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Two, adult male and adult female, 1st January to 7th February, Marais Nord, ringed, photo.

(P. K. Veron, P. Alexander, et al.)

During a Moorhen-ringing session, these two birds appeared in the trap. Mandarins have occasionally been seen in Guernsey but due to their popularity in collections, these have always presumed to be recent escapes. However, the British population is spreading all the time, and ringing recoveries have shown that these birds can fly long-distances, so there is the chance that these birds crossed the Channel. There are a few birds seemingly resident on Jersey however, and I am sure there will be collections in nearby France, so the origin of these birds remains a mystery.

(Originally from the Far East, feral populations breed in Southern England and elsewhere in Europe)



P.Alexander

SCARCE SPECIES : Below is a list of other rare sightings in Guernsey in 2011. The species below occur too regularly to be classed as official rarities, and are generally labelled “scarcities”. Since these species are not official rarities, no formal report form has had to be completed, and no assessment has taken place by the Rarities Committee. So, since these records are “unchecked” they are listed with the assumption of correct identification by the observer, and the proviso that a few may be in error. A few reports of birds are not included due to circumstances indicating a high likelihood of error.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

2, Colin Best NR/Claire Mare, 4th to 16th September.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

3, Vale Pond, 22nd & 23rd March.

1, Claire Mare, 1st May.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Up to 6, Grande Mare, 1st January to 20th February.

1, Marais Nord, 1st January.

1, Paradis, 1st & 2nd January.

1, Reservoir, 3rd to 6th March.



Pochard, Grande Mare, Feb - M.A.Guppy

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

1, Perelle, 5th to 12th October.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

At least 2, along west coast, 1st January to 6th February.

2, Herm, 12th February.

1, Portinfer, 2nd July.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

1, Pembroke, 22nd April.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

1, Jaonneuse, 9th December.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

1, Cobo, 9th to 16th January.

1, L'Eree, 6th February.

1, Grandes Havres, 16th February to 26th March.

1, Perelle, 26th February.

1, Vazon, 25th March.

1, L'Eree, 4th to 6th April.

Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

1, Pleinmont, 25th May.

1, Delisles, 25th May.

1, Pleinmont/St. Peters, 26th & 27th June.

1, Herm/Fermain/St. Andrews, 1st & 2nd July.

1, Rocquaine, 11th July.

1, Pleinmont, 19th & 20th August.

1, Pleinmont, 15th September.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

1, Pleinmont, 8th April.

1, Creux Mahie, 31st August.

1, Corbiere/Mont Herault/Pleinmont, 6th to 8th November.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

1, Cambridge Park, 10th September.

1, Pleinmont, 17th October.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

2, Claire Mare, 15th March.

1, Claire Mare, 26th March to 1st April.

1, Claire Mare, 12th April.

1, Claire Mare, 28th April to 1st May.

Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*)

1, Pleinmont, 13th & 14th August.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

1, L'Eree, 1st January.

1, Vazon, 22nd January.

1, Belle Greve Bay, 22nd January.

1, L'Eree, 1st May.

1, Vazon, 6th September.

1, L'Eree, 11th September.

1, Vazon, 23rd September.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

1, L'Eree, 17th August.

1, Belle Greve Bay, 28th August.

2, L'Eree, 31st August.

1, Claire Mare/L'Eree, 2nd to 13th September.

1, Colin Best NR, 2nd October.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

2, L'Eree, 28th & 29th October.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

2, Colin Best NR, 18th to 28th March.

1, Colin Best NR, 11th & 12th September.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)

2, Grande Mare, 7th to 11th February.

1, Claire Mare, 18th March.

1, Claire Mare, 25th October to 11th December.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

2, Colin Best NR, 20th April.

Up to 18, L'Eree, 30th April to 3rd May.

1, Vazon, 31st August.

2, L'Eree, 4th September.

1, Vazon, 8th October.

1, Grandes Havres, 11th December.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

2, Claire Mare, 17th to 19th April, one until 30th.

1, Reservoir, 24th July.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

1, Jaonneuse, 18th September.

1, Chouet, 13th November.

1, Fort le Crocq, 13th November.



Dotterel, Pleinmont, Aug - V.E.Froome

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

- 4, Jaonneuse/Chouet, 8th October.
- 1, Jaonneuse, 5th November.
- 1, Chouet, 6th November.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

- c.8, Jaonneuse, 7th November.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

- 5, Pulias, 19th September.
- 3, Pelagic trip to waters NW of island, 25th September.
- 1, Cobo/Grandes Rocques/Perelle, 19th October.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

- 2, Jaonneuse, 15th August.
- 1, Jaonneuse, 18th September.
- 1, Pulias, 19th September.
- 1, Pelagic trip to waters NW of island, 25th September.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

- 1, Chouet, 4th September.
- 1, Fort le Crocq, 3rd October.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

- 1, L'Ancrese, 4th January.
- 1, Vazon, 26th February.
- 1, St. Peters Church, 18th March.
- 1, Route de Pleinmont, 3rd May.
- 1, Pulias, 29th September.
- Up to 5, Pleinmont area, 14th October to 20th November.
- 4, Icart, 15th October (may include birds from previous record)
- 1, Candie Road, SPP, 18th October.
- 1, Rue de la Corderie, 12th November.
- 1, FortHommet, 22nd November.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

- 1, Prevote, 24th March.
- 1, Les Adams, 26th March.
- 1, Pleinmont, 15th April.
- 1, Rue du Dos D'ane, 25th April.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

- 1, Grand Pre, 31st August to 2nd September.
- 1, Lihou Island, 1st September.
- 1, Route de Pleinmont, 2nd September.
- 1, Lihou Headland, 3rd to 11th September.
- 1, Fort Doyle, 3rd to 5th September.
- 1, Rue Godfrey, 13th September.
- 1, Paradis, 17th September.
- 1, Pulias, 21st to 28th September.
- 1, Chouet, 21st September.
- 1, Lihou Headland, 22nd to 24th September.

Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)

- 1, Mont Herault/Pleinmont, 16th to 26th October.
- 1, Jerbourg, 29th October.
- 1, Pleinmont, 4th November.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*)

- 1, L'Eree, 13th to 15th March.
- 1, L'Eree, 22nd to 25th April.
- 1, Mont Herault, 1st & 2nd October



Arctic Tern, Perelle, Oct - V.E.Froome



Richard's Pipit, L'Eree, Mar - C.Bale



Hoopoe, Les Adams, Mar - C.Bale

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)

1, L'Eree, 10th to 13th September.

Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava*)

1, Pleinmont, 7th April.
 2, L'Eree, 8th & 9th April.
 3+, L'Eree/Claire Mare, 18th April to 2nd May.
 2, Pleinmont, 19th April.
 1, Grande Mare, 28th April.

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)

1, Grand Pre, 20th March.
 1, Marais Nord, 26th to 27th March.
 1, St. Sampsons (Track) Marais, 31st May to 10th June.
 1, Rue des Bergers, 12th August.
 1, Grand Pre, 23rd November.

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)

1, Pleinmont, 5th August.
 1, Claire Mare, 6th August.
 1, Vale Pond, 25th August.
 1, Pleinmont, 15th September.

Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

1, Pleinmont, 5th August.
 1, Pleinmont, 16th October.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

1, Pleinmont, 20th May.
 1, Tielles, 26th June.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

1, Rousse, 14th & 15th October.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

1, Marais Nord, 9th to 19th April.
 1, Lihou Island, 17th April.
 1, Rohais, SPP, 20th April.
 1, Brock Rd, SSmp, 20th April.
 1, Pleinmont, 25th April.
 1, Rue de la Corderie, 26th April.
 1, Pleinmont, 1st May.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*)

1, Jerbourg, 27th March.
 1, Pleinmont, 17th September.

Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*)

1, Pleinmont, 9th October.
 1, Mont Herault, 18th November.

Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

12, Pleinmont, 29th October.

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

1, Mont Herault, 25th to 31st October.

Snow Bunting (*Acanthis cabaret*)

1, Miellette, 23rd October.
 1, Claire Mare/L'Eree area, 29th October to 4th November.
 1, Longue Hougue, 2nd November.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

1, Pleinmont, 17th August.



Blue-headed/Spanish Wagtail, L'Eree, Apr - V.E.Froome

The Yellow Wagtail shown in the photo above was thought perhaps to be of the Spanish race 'iberiae'. The Rarities Committee looked into the identification of this sub-species and concluded that it was impossible to be certain from the photo submitted. There are clearly characters fitting Spanish Wagtail, such as the white throat, darker face and thin supercilium, but these were not clear enough to be sure. Currently, there are no accepted records from Britain of this race due to identification difficulties. It is likely that that this bird may be an integrade between the Blue-headed and Spanish forms of the species from SW France.



Melodious Warbler, Claire Mare, Aug - C.J.Mourant



Tawny Pipit, L'Eree, Sep - V.E.Froome