

Stronsay Bird Report
24 September 2007

With virtually no winds from the east during the last month very few migrants have been recorded on the island so far this autumn – just a single each of Redstart, Whinchat, Wood Warbler, and Yellow Wagtail. The most unexpected sighting was from the ‘west’ – an American Pectoral Sandpiper found at the Lea Shun on 6 September.

There are at least 2-3 Merlins on the island at present and Hen Harriers are seen daily – although it is impossible to predict where – and two Little Gulls have been seen regularly, feeding over the Meikle Water and along the shore of Mill Bay. Good numbers of Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits are present, the former most likely to be seen in fields of short grass with Curlew, the latter around the loch-sides. Both House and Sand Martins have been seen in the last few days and there have been a few late broods of Swallows emerging well into September. Regular visitor Steve Ricks discovered a Slavonian Grebe close inshore off the reserve on 12 September.

Otters have been seen on a number of occasions from various sites and, as ever, Dale Farm played host to the only sighting of Convolvulus Hawk Moth this autumn – so far!

John and Sue Holloway, Stronsay Bird Reserve
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