

# Autumn Gold

29<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014



Leader: Steve Duffield

Participants: Roger Tozer, Della and Malcolm Shaw

**Summary:** This autumn was like no other recent autumns in the Outer Hebrides with a great deal of settled weather during September ensuring that migrants and American waders were thin on the ground. Even so we did experience some movement with a visit to Rubha Ardvule on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October being one of the more exciting mornings. Here we caught the tail end of a small, seabird passage with a hectic half an hour producing 3 skua and 2 shearwater species. We also got great views of 1 possibly 2 **Pomarine Skuas** later the same day in South Uist. The last day there were more signs of migration with a couple of flocks of Snipe seen hurtling low over the moorland at Druidibeg and a few small skeins of Barnacle Geese picked up giving us a tantalising glimpse of what could have been. The supporting cast was still impressive with some good views of raptors including **Hen Harrier** and **Merlin** virtually daily and both **Golden Eagle** and **White-tailed Eagle** on 3 dates including 3 of each on the last day. We also caught up with a flock of 32 **Corn Buntings** at Balemore which is a notable sized flock these days for this sadly, rapidly declining species. Mammal wise we saw otters on 3 dates with 2 sightings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and some outstanding views at Lochmaddy on 2<sup>nd</sup>; as well as Red Deer and plenty of Grey and Harbour Seals. All in all we had a great week with little rain and plenty of time out, enjoying the wildlife in some stunning scenery.

### **Daily Dairy:**

#### **29<sup>th</sup> September:**

Weather – Force 4 – 5 south to south-westerly winds; sunny and warm throughout the day.

I dropped in to pick up Roger, Della and Malcolm at Hestimul just before 9am and was greeted with a **Merlin** hurtling low over the garden; having been alerted to its presence by the **Swallows** feeding over the trees. Once all were on board we travelled a short distance to South Uist and the South Ford off Hebridean Jewellery. Lots of **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** were on the tidal sands with smaller numbers of **Sanderling**, **Turnstone**, **Redshank** and **Bar-tailed Godwits**. Nearby we spotted a **Black-tailed Godwit** at the north end of Loch Bee plus a selection of other waders

and wildfowl until a young **Peregrine** dropped in and scattered birds all over. It made various half-hearted attempts to catch **Teal** before heading south over the loch. On returning to the vehicle a **Lapland Bunting** was heard calling as it flew over (unseen) amongst masses of **Skylarks**. We continued to Ardkenneth for a view across the north-western part of Loch Bee and quickly spotted a very distant immature **White-tailed Eagle** heading south on the far side of the main road. A **Peregrine** hurtled past once again putting up much of the wildfowl which included **Wigeon**, **Teal** and a vocal **Whooper Swan**. From here we continued on towards Ardivachar with what was probably the same **Peregrine** making a low and very fast pass over the car as we drove past North Bay which held masses of **Sanderling**. Ardivachar itself was quiet apart from a few **Eiders** and Grey Seals bottling off-shore. In the distance we saw a large flock of **Golden Plover** in flight over the machair. After a good walk across the machair to the west of Loch Bee we returned to the car to find the flock had settled close to where we had parked. A closer inspection revealed nothing unusual.



We returned to the main road and headed further south and to North Loch Eynort where we enjoyed lunch at the road end. Here we had good views of an immature **White-tailed Eagle** over the car park for around 5 – 10 minutes as well as **Buzzards** and a couple of **Kestrels**. A **Chiffchaff** was heard calling in the trees at Archie's garden as well as **Dunnock**, **Song Thrush**, **Wren** and a fly-over **redpoll**. A pleasant walk through the trees and shrubs produced lots of Harbour Seals in the sea loch as well as a **Golden Eagle** over the southern ridge of Ben Mor and a distant Red Deer. The sunshine also brought out the insects with a couple of active Common Hawker dragonflies and Red Admiral. We moved on to the south side of the loch where we found a few **Red-breasted Mergansers**, more seals and a fairly brief otter that did come out on the rocks for a short while but disappeared all too soon.

We moved on to the west side and stopped off at Peninerine where we found lots of waders on the beach including **Dunlin**, **Sanderling**, **Ringed Plover**, **Turnstone**, **Curlew**, 2 **Knot** and a couple of **Golden Plover**. 2 **Red-throated Divers** were off-shore as well as small numbers of **Eider** whilst a juvenile **Hen Harrier** gave us a fly by. A little further north we stopped off at Druidibeg to have a quick look around the plantation although all was quiet apart from good views of 2 juvenile **Hen Harriers** together close to the road on the way back. The south end of Loch Bee was also fairly quiet with a few **Snipe**, **Redshank**, **Golden Plover** and **Lapwing** although the best bird was a **Merlin** we spotted perched on a small hummock close to the loch.

Our last stops saw us at Stinky Bay and nearby Coot Loch where we added to the variety today with a couple of **Wheatears**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin**, **Turnstone** and **Eiders** at the former; whilst at the latter site we picked up **Coot**, 13 **Gadwall**, **Wigeon**, **Teal**, **Little Grebe**, **Moorhen**, **Snipe** and **Curlew**. Finally a juvenile **Hen Harrier** floated by putting many of the waders in the air and rounding off an action filled first day.

### 30<sup>th</sup> September:

Weather – A moderate south-westerly wind with rain early morning fortunately stopping around 9am to leave the rest of the morning sunny; becoming gradually cloudier in the afternoon.

A small but heavy looking passerine unfortunately gave us the slip in the garden at Hestimul and although we searched at various times during the day we never managed to relocate it. A **Willow Warbler** was seen in the small trees behind the Dark Island Hotel before we stopped to scan Coot Loch from the road. Here we had the usual **Wigeon, Teal, Shoveler, Little Grebe** and **Tufted Duck** as well as great views of a juvenile **Hen Harrier** hunting the margins of the loch and passing close to our vehicle.

We moved on to North Uist and headed across the Committee Road and around the north of the island to Griminish Pier where we took a walk to Callernish House. 4 **Greenshank** were roosting on a rock in the stretch of water separating us from the island of Vallay and a few **Red-breasted Mergansers** were feeding in the channel. Further off-shore beyond Vallay we could see large numbers of **Gannets** feeding. The garden at Callernish was quiet with a couple of **Robins** and **Wren** as well as a **Wheatear** and a few **Rock Pipits** along the shore. A Red Admiral was noted around the garden and a couple of Grey Seals were bobbing in the tidal race. A very active otter holt was also seen during the walk with many footprints leading to the shore but no sign of the actual animals.

We continued around the north-west corner of the island stopping briefly at Hougharry before driving out to the coast at Balranald. A short walk onto the headland of Aird an Runair produced a winter plumage **Great Northern Diver** and a couple of **Razorbills** offshore with **Sanderling, Redshank** and **Turnstone** feeding amongst the seaweed. Smaller birds were represented by a couple of **Wheatears** and **Rock Pipits** as well as a fly-by **Twite**. As we got back to the vehicle a large **Peregrine** came scooting along the edge of the dunes before turning south and sailing along the ridge line to the south and out of sight. We enjoyed our lunch on the coast before heading around to Loch Sandary, picking up a **Moorhen** on Loch nam Feithean, en route. 2 **Whooper Swans, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Teal** and more **Moorhens** were seen before we pulled over on the edge of the machair at Balemor / Hastain. Our main aim here was to find some of the dwindling numbers of **Corn Buntings** that are hanging on in the islands and as we got out of the car, one landed

on the fence next to us. This was followed by a flock of them rising from the stubble field adjacent and landing on wires to the north. In all we counted 32 of them; quite a respectable total these days. A **Merlin** shot over whilst we were scanning and a couple of **Buzzards** drew attention to themselves with their distinctive flight calls, whilst on the machair we picked up a small flock of **Golden Plover** feeding in the fields.

We left the machair and moved on to Langass Lodge where a brief walk allowed us to pick up a **Kestrel** as well as 2 **Blackcaps** feeding in the brambles. **Buzzards**, **Goldcrest**, **Wren**, **Dunnock**, **Chaffinch** and **Stonechats** were also obvious whilst a couple of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the tidal loch where we also spotted a small group of Red Deer. We left Langass and headed for the isle of Baleshare, picking up a large Red Deer stag on a small island in Loch Leodasay just before heading across the causeway to this small island. Good numbers of **Gadwall** were on Loch Mor (30+), along with **Shoveler**, **Wigeon**, **Teal**, **Tufted Duck** and **Little Grebe**. We had another juvenile **Hen Harrier** on the island as well as **Buzzard**, **Golden Plover** and **Curlew**.

We finally pulled over for a scan off Balivanich on the way back to the guesthouse and managed to spot 4 **Slavonian Grebes** including a close one just offshore from our parking spot. We retired back to Hestimul before our evening meal at the Dark Island.

### 1<sup>st</sup> October

Weather – Strong south-westerly winds were blowing throughout the day although it was mostly sunny with occasional showers.

Today we headed south for Eriskay but long before we reached there we pulled over to admire a **Merlin**, perched on roadside telephone wires north of Loch Bee. Our next stop was at the south-west tip of South Uist at Smerclate. A short walk along the shore produced a few **Bar-tailed Godwits**, **Curlew**, **Turnstone**, **Teal**, **Red-throated Diver**, **Gannets**, **Kittiwake**, **Rock Pipit** and **Wheatear**. Grey Seals were also seen either resting on rocks or bobbing in the sea around the point. From here we moved

on to Eriskay and had a walk around the harbour on the east side. It was generally pretty quiet although we did get good views of both Grey and Harbour Seals in the sheltered bay. As we were walking back towards the vehicle Roger spotted a large bird to the west which turned out to be an immature **White-tailed Eagle**. It began to soar, gaining height as it did so until it became a distant speck in the sky and drifted north but not before allowing us all to enjoy good views of this huge bird.



We headed back to South Uist and drove a short distance north before parking on the west coast at Garrynamonie and taking a short walk along the beach to the mouth of a small burn. A **Merlin** came hurtling past us in the usual high speed fashion whilst on the shore we found **Sanderling**, **Ringed Plover**, **Turnstone**, **Dunlin**, **Curlew** and a variety of gulls including a late immature **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

Continuing north we crossed Bornish machair on a rough track and had a walk to the point at Rubha Ardvule. A female **Long-tailed Duck** was showing well on Loch Ardvule as we headed for the point off which we spotted a few **Kittiwakes**, **Gannets** and a **Red-throated Diver**. Other birds we found here included a **Merlin** along with **Kestrel**, **Sanderling**, **Turnstone**, **Ringed Plover**, **Tufted Duck**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Rock Pipit** and **Wheatear**. As we headed back across the machair we also had a female **Hen Harrier** and a couple of **Twite** showing well on a stock fence.

We continued picking our way north, pausing at the Howmore River where we had a couple of **Teal** before heading out to Peter's Port on the east side of Benbecula in the hope of spotting an otter. There was no sign of afore said beastie although we did have a **Black Guillemot** sheltering in an inner arm of a sea loch, **Red-breasted Mergansers** and a couple of **Grey Herons** showing well.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> October:

Weather – A strong southerly wind was blowing in the morning and increased throughout the day to a force 9; mostly cloudy with occasional showers.

Conditions were rather wild today although this didn't stop us getting out and we headed up to Lochmaddy first thing in the morning and walked out towards the Spanish suspension bridge. The wind had picked up dramatically and **Gannets** had started fishing inside Lochmaddy harbour, when after around 20 minutes Malcolm and Della attracted our attention to an otter that was in the seaweed only a few yards away from them. It popped its head out of the weed and bobbed up and down trying to figure out what was in front of it. Malcolm and Della stayed very still and got some excellent views as the otter tried to ascertain what they were as it moved through the seaweed towards us. Roger and I also got some stunning views before it moved further out and began fishing. It came out on rocks a couple more times before it headed off out of view after around 30 minutes. Satisfied with this great experience we headed back to the vehicle picking up 3 **Goldfinch** on the way.

We continued north pausing at Oban Trumisgarry where we found 3 **Greenshank** as well as **Redshank** and **Curlews** before heading to Berneray and the north-east shore

at Rushgarry. Here we had a selection of waders on the beach including **Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin** and **Ringed Plover** with **Red-throated Diver**, **Gannets**, **Shag**, **Cormorant** and **Eiders** off-shore. Loch Bhrusda was very quiet so we continued down to Borve Community Hall for some shelter during lunch. We drove to the south end and walked across the machair to the west shore. The machair held lots of **Golden Plover** and **Lapwings** whilst offshore there were at least 12 **Common Scoter**, **Eiders**, a couple of **Great Northern Divers** and a few **Gannets**. We left the wild weather of Berneray and returned to North Uist, taking the road around the north of the island towards Grenitote. Before reaching the township we had both a **Buzzard** and **Hen Harrier** close to the road and keeping low in the strong winds. At Grenitote we parked in the coast car park / picnic area to scan the waders that were gathering on the sands as the tide receded. Lots of **Bar-tailed Godwits** were moving from their roosting area on the rocks nearby and amongst them we spotted **Grey Plover**, **Knot** as well as **Sanderling**, **Dunlin** and **Turnstone**. A flock of **Golden Plover** were in nearby fields and a few **Twite** were seen.

We continued west, stopping briefly at Malaclate before taking the Committee Road. At the north end where a small stream reaches the tidal sands of Claddach Vallay we had good views of a summer plumage **Grey Plover** as well as a few **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin**. We crossed the moors, heading south until turning off west once again, this time to have a look around Baleshare. We managed to locate good numbers of **Gadwall**, **Shoveler**, **Teal**, **Wigeon**, **Tufted Duck** and **Little Grebe** on Loch Mor before returning to the main road and Benbecula. A stop at Balivanich produced good views of **Eiders** and **Slavonian Grebe** whilst Stinky Bay held our only **Purple Sandpiper** of the week as well as **Turnstone**, **Ringed Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Dunlin**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Curlew**.

We returned to the guesthouse where a handful of **Swallows** were still hawking around the garden before heading off to the Dark Island for dinner.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> October:

Weather – A moderate south-westerly was blowing throughout the day; cloudy with sunny spells although cooler than the last few days.

We headed straight for the headland at Rubha Ardvule, South Uist this morning and walked out to the point. The seabird action was already underway on our arrival although we did experience an exciting half an hour as birds were almost constantly moving. These included 2 **Pomarine Skuas** (with one passing over the headland behind us), an **Arctic Skua** and 3 **Bonxies**. 12 **Great Northern Divers** flew south (one group of 4 as we were walking around the point); 3 **Red-throated Divers**, a **Long-tailed Duck**, around 6 **Arctic Terns**, a **Manx Shearwater**, **Sooty Shearwater** (Steve only), lots of **Gannets**, **Kittiwakes**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Razorbills**, **Guillemots** and 2 **Black Guillemots**. After around 45 minutes, once the action had calmed down considerably we took a walk around the north side of the headland where we managed to pick up an otter feeding in the surf. Whilst we were waiting for it to emerge a **Bonxie** came in close overhead giving us all great views. On the shore were **Curlew**, **Sanderling**, **Turnstone** and **Ringed Plover** whilst driving back across Bornish machair from the headland we picked up a **Merlin** and **Hen Harrier** giving us a fine start to the day.

Our next stop took us to North Loch Eynort where we enjoyed our lunch in the parking area at the end of the road. Not long after arriving we spotted our second otter of the day which was showing well on a rock in the centre of this tidal loch where it was eating its last catch. After a while it entered the water and started to fish before heading in our direction although it was lost from view. After lunch we took a walk around the wooded area although it was generally quiet we still had a couple of **redpolls**, **Song Thrush**, **Chaffinch**, **Wren** and **Robins** as well as plenty of Harbour Seals. We left the shelter of Loch Eynort and moved back over to the west coast and had a short walk along the shore at Stoneybridge. As we made our way along the top of the bank we suddenly became aware of an adult **Pomarine Skua** that was sat on the sea close inshore. We put the scope on it and managed to get a couple of photos before it flew off to the north. Other birds here included **Eiders**, **Turnstones**

and **Sanderling**. Nearby Peninerine held a similar array of birds but also included a couple of **Red-throated Divers** and **Ringed Plover**.



Our final area to explore today was the complex of bays and tidal pools around the South Ford. We started at Balgarva where we picked up 3 **Shelduck**, **Teal**, **Dunlin**, **Ringed Plover**, **Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Knot** and **Grey Plover**. As we were returning from Balgarva to the main road either the same or another dark morph **Pomarine Skua** flew in from Loch Bee and passed close and low overhead giving us a great view as it flew north. We did race back to Balgarva in the hope of seeing it again but it had vanished. Nearby North Bay held masses of **Sanderling** running up and down the beach following the waves rising and falling whilst both **Ringed Plover** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** were also present. Our final stop was at Ardivachar where amongst the usual gulls we managed to find a single immature / juvenile **Lesser Black-backed Gull** lingering with the good feeding to be found on the seaweed covered shore.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> October:

Weather – The day started with a light south-westerly wind, increasing in the afternoon; mostly sunny with occasional showers.

We began our last full day together with a walk on the machair at Borve / Liniclate, around the point and back to the vehicle. This proved to be very productive with 2 **Merlins** heading out over the South Ford towards South Uist; an immature **White-tailed Eagle** following in the same direction 5 minutes later plus a **Red-throated Diver**, **Slavonian Grebe** and **Eiders** off-shore. The beach held **Greenshank**, **Redshanks**, **Dunlin**, **Turnstone**, **Ringed Plover** and **Sanderling** whilst small birds were represented by **Skylarks**, a couple of **Wheatears** and **Rock Pipits**.

We moved on to South Uist and took a walk at Grogarry Lodge down towards Loch Grogarry which was fairly quiet although there were good numbers of **Little Grebe** present and a **Slavonian Grebe**. A couple of **Swallows** were hawking around the trees at the lodge and we also picked up another **Wheatear** and a **Reed Bunting**. Nearby Druidibeg had few migrants with **Goldcrest**, **Song Thrush**, **Robin**, **Wren** and **Duncock** being seen. We continued to the end of the road and had lunch at Loch Skipport. A short walk towards the pier and we spotted another **White-tailed Eagle**, this time perched on a hill top to the east. Steve returned to the vehicle to fetch scopes just in time to see the eagle and a second individual take to the air and head south ahead of a heavy shower. We also spotted 2 **Kestrels** here before taking shelter back at the car ourselves. As we returned towards the main road two fast flying wader flocks were spotted shooting low over the hills which turned out to be around 50 **Snipe** ; at last things were on the move.

We headed a couple of miles south and parked up at Howmore where we took a walk along the shore and back across the machair. **Sanderling**, **Ringed Plover** and **Turnstone** were on the shore as well as good numbers of **Meadow Pipits** and **Pied Wagtails** at the mouth of the Howmore River. Offshore we saw two small skeins of **Barnacle Geese** (37 and 22) heading south over the sea before we headed back across Drimsdale machair. A sudden eruption amongst the birds drew our attention to a **Peregrine** that flew over, heading back towards Druidibeg. We got back to the

vehicle and were generally milling about when we spotted 3 **Golden Eagles** over Tharshal. This low hill is adjacent to the main road so we jumped into the car and shot off down the road only to find that the eagles had disappeared. Luckily one came back giving great views before it too drifted off. We hung on for a while hoping that one may return and were rewarded with a **Peregrine** soaring over the same hill. From here we turned back north calling in at West Gerinsh and Loch Bee where we picked up more **Golden Plover**, **Snipe**, **Redshank** and a couple of **Kestrels**. A little further north we had another flock of **Barnacle Geese** coming in from the east and apparently re-orientating as they headed west across Loch Carnan. A final look at Stinky Bay and we said our goodbyes before Della and Malcolm continued north to Lewis and Harris the following day and Roger returned to his home in the Highlands.

## Species List:

Red-throated Diver	Seen virtually daily in small numbers
Great Northern Diver	We had sightings on 3 days
Little Grebe	Fairly common and seen almost daily
Slavonian Grebe	4 were seen off Balivanich, 30 <sup>th</sup>
Fulmar	Seen off Ardvule, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Manx Shearwater	A couple off Ardvule, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Sooty Shearwater	A distant bird off Ardvule, 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Steve only)
Gannet	Common off-shore
Cormorant	Common
Shag	Fairly common
Grey Heron	Common and seen daily
Mute Swan	Common
Whooper Swan	Noted on Loch Bee and Loch Sandary
Greylag Goose	Very common
Barnacle Goose	2 small flocks noted off Drimdale, 4 <sup>th</sup>
Shelduck	A few seen on Loch Bee
Mallard	Common
Shoveler	Seen on 2 dates
Wigeon	Seen almost every day of the trip
Teal	Fairly common with sightings on every day of the trip
Tufted Duck	Common
Eider	Common and seen daily
Long-tailed Duck	A female on Loch Ardvule, 1 <sup>st</sup> and one south there, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Common Scoter	12 off the west side of Berneray, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Steve only)
Red-breasted Merganser	Seen every day in small numbers
White-tailed Eagle	Seen on 3 dates with 3 on 4 <sup>th</sup>
Golden Eagle	Sightings on 2 dates with 3 on 4 <sup>th</sup>
Hen Harrier	Seen every day apart from the last
Buzzard	Common
Kestrel	Fairly common and seen on 4 dates
Merlin	Seen every day apart from 1

Peregrine Falcon	We has sightings on 3 dates
Coot	Small numbers still on Coot Loch
Moorhen	Noted on 2 days
Oystercatcher	Very common
Ringed Plover	Common and seen daily in good numbers
Grey Plover	Seen on 2dates
Golden Plover	Common and seen daily
Lapwing	Common on the machair and adjacent fields
Knot	Small numbers seen on 3 dates
Sanderling	Very common
Purple Sandpiper	One at Stinky Bay, 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Turnstone	Common and seen daily
Dunlin	Common
Redshank	Common
Greenshank	Fairly common and seen on 3 dates
Bar-tailed Godwit	Common and most days
Black-tailed Godwit	Sightings on 29 <sup>th</sup> only
Curlew	Common and seen daily
Snipe	Common and seen daily
Great Skua	Seen well on 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Ardvule
Pomarine Skua	2 seen at Ardvule on 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Arctic Skua	1 heading south at Ardvule, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Black-headed Gull	Common
Common Gull	Very common
Herring Gull	Common
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Immatures seen on 2 dates
Great Black-backed Gull	Common
Kittiwake	Noted on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Arctic Tern	A few off Ardvule, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Black Guillemot	Noted on 2 dates
Razorbill	Seen on 3 dates
Guillemot	Seen on 3 <sup>rd</sup> off Ardvule
Rock Dove	Common and seen daily with some large flocks

Collared Dove	Fairly common and seen daily
Skylark	Common
Swallow	Small numbers seen daily
Rock Pipit	Seen every day in small numbers
Meadow Pipit	Common
Pied Wagtail	Seen regularly in small numbers
Hebridean Wren	Fairly common and seen on daily
Hebridean Dunnock	Seen almost daily in suitable habitat
Robin	Seen every day
Wheatear	Small numbers seen every day apart from 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Stonechat	Common
Hebridean Song Thrush	Sightings every day apart from 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Blackbird	Common
Blackcap	2 at Langass Lodge, 30 <sup>th</sup>
Willow Warbler	1 on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Chiffchaff	Heard calling at Loch Eynort. 29 <sup>th</sup>
Goldcrest	Noted on 2 dates
Hooded Crow	This increasing species was seen every day
Raven	Common
Hebridean Starling	Very common
House Sparrow	Common
Chaffinch	Recorded on 3 dates
Linnet	Noted on 3 dates in small numbers
Twite	Seen on 4 days during the week
Common Redpoll	Seen on 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Goldfinch	Noted on 2 <sup>nd</sup> only
Greenfinch	Fairly common and seen almost every day
Reed Bunting	Sightings on 3 dates
Corn Bunting	32 at Balemore, 30 <sup>th</sup>
Lapland Bunting	1 heard at Balgarva, 29 <sup>th</sup>

**Mammals:**

Otter	Sightings on 3 dates
Grey Seal	Common and seen on almost every day
Harbour Seal	Common
Red Deer	Noted on 3 dates
Rabbit	Seen most days
Brown Rat	One on 1 <sup>st</sup>

**Insects:**

Common Hawker  
Red Admiral  
Moss Carder Bumblebee  
White-tailed Bumblebee

Steve Duffield

Western Isles Wildlife

7 Carinish, Isle of North Uist, HS6 5HL

Email: [steveduffield@mail.com](mailto:steveduffield@mail.com)

Tel. 01876 580619 / Mobile 07867 555971