

# Isle of May Rarities and Scarcities 2018

## Year List

A good return of 169 species recorded, third best ever annual total despite the season being dominated by westerly winds (it was a tough year at times).

## Top Six Year Lists:

1 <sup>st</sup>	180:	2016
2 <sup>nd</sup>	177:	2017
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>169:</b>	<b>2018</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	168:	2013 and 2015
6 <sup>th</sup>	162:	2010

## Birds not recorded this season:

Grasshopper Warbler (!), Reed Warbler (!), Wood Warbler, Quail, Bluethroat (3<sup>rd</sup> year without record in past four years), Wryneck and Firecrest (first time since 2014) amongst others

## Major Highlights:

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Rose-coloured Starling</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Short-toed Lark</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Olive-backed Pipit</b>
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Raven</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hawfinch</b>

Other noticeable records included three Balearic Shearwaters, two Sabine's Gulls, two Thrush Nightingales, fourth ever spring Greenish Warbler, two 'Siberian' Chiffchaffs (*tristis*), Marsh Warbler and Ortolan Bunting. Record counts of several species including Tufted Duck, Grey Plover, Black Guillemot and Pomarine Skua amongst others.

## Rare & Scarce Species List 2018

### Whooper Swan

26 <sup>th</sup> March	24 North
28 <sup>th</sup> March	10 North
1 <sup>st</sup> April	2 North
1 <sup>st</sup> June	2 North
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	12 south
17 <sup>th</sup> October	7 South
18 <sup>th</sup> October	16 South
20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Juvenile feeding on island
29 <sup>th</sup> October-11 <sup>th</sup> November	Adult feeding and lingering on Rona

### Shoveler

31 <sup>st</sup> March	Drake with Eiders off of Pilgrims Haven then south – first live bird since 2010 (one dead in 2012)
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### Tufted Duck

7-9 <sup>th</sup> May	1 Female on Loch
27 <sup>th</sup> June	3 Males on Loch
18 <sup>th</sup> October	16 West – record count for the island

### Scaup

18 <sup>th</sup> October	8 West (2 male, 6 female) – first records since 1993 (!)
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### Long-tailed Duck

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9 South
7 <sup>th</sup> April	3 South
8 <sup>th</sup> April	4 North
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct-11 <sup>th</sup> November	1-2 on seven dates

### Goldeneye

3 <sup>rd</sup> October	1 female West
14 <sup>th</sup> October	1
19 <sup>th</sup> October	2
24 <sup>th</sup> October	2
26 <sup>th</sup> October	2
27 <sup>th</sup> October	2

### Black-throated Diver

3 <sup>rd</sup> October	1 South
24 <sup>th</sup> October	1 West – 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> records for the island

### Great Northern Diver

1 <sup>st</sup> October	1 North
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	3
10 <sup>th</sup> October	1 North
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	2 North
27 <sup>th</sup> October	1 North
5 <sup>th</sup> November	1 North

### Balearic Shearwater

5 <sup>th</sup> September	Single in feeding frenzy off west side
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	2 in feeding frenzy off east side – first records since 2009

**Red-necked Grebe**

10<sup>th</sup> January 1 off Low Light  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2 off Colms Hole  
12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 1 off east side

**Osprey**

26<sup>th</sup> March single north  
5<sup>th</sup> May single north  
10<sup>th</sup> May 1 North  
15<sup>th</sup> August 1 south

**Marsh Harrier**

24<sup>th</sup> April Female/Imm off West Cliffs – recorded for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year

**Hen Harrier**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 1 “Ringtail” South off Island - first record since 2015  
4<sup>th</sup> October 1 “Ringtail” in off then West over island

**Buzzard**

24<sup>th</sup> April 1 over Island – quiet year for the species  
29<sup>th</sup> August 1 North  
6<sup>th</sup> September 1 North  
28<sup>th</sup> September 1  
1<sup>st</sup> November 1

**Water Rail**

28<sup>th</sup> March 1  
11<sup>th</sup> April 1  
12<sup>th</sup> October 1  
5<sup>th</sup> November 1 in Bain Trap

**Corncrake**

15<sup>th</sup> October Adult dead at base of Main Light – first record since 2013

**Grey Plover**

9<sup>th</sup> September 12 South – record count for the island

**Black-tailed Godwit**

1<sup>st</sup> July Single summer plumage adult south

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

11<sup>th</sup> September Juvenile at Beacon; first for the Isle of May

**Ruff**

25<sup>th</sup> August female-type South

**Sanderling**

29<sup>th</sup> October single south

**Sabine’s Gull**

28<sup>th</sup> September Juvenile in Kittiwake flock  
5<sup>th</sup> October Juvenile North

**Mediterranean Gull**

14<sup>th</sup> October-4<sup>th</sup> November Single adults on six dates

<b>Glaucous Gull</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Immature off South End
<b>Iceland Gull</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Immature at Rona roost
<b>Black Tern</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> August 25 <sup>th</sup> August	1 off east side Adult north off east side
<b>Pomarine Skua</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept-28 <sup>th</sup> October	1-4 noted on 12 dates with a peak of 11 south on 26 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Black Guillemot</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 12 <sup>th</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup> March 30 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> April 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept-13 <sup>th</sup> November	1 Adult 3 off Alterstanes 3 off Alterstanes 6 off Alterstanes – record count for island 2 3 Single on eight dates single on five dates
<b>Stock Dove</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> May	single on South Plateau (recorded second consecutive year)
<b>Red-backed Shrike</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> May	Female favouring Beacon area
<b>Raven</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> April	single North, 10 <sup>th</sup> island record and first since 2010
<b>Waxwing</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> October	single calling over
<b>Coal Tit</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> October 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 1 <sup>st</sup> November	single of British race single of British race – only 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> record since 1996
<b>Short-toed Lark</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Single favouring the Beacon area; 6 <sup>th</sup> island record and first since 1998
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	7 – third consecutive year recorded 1
<b>‘Siberian’ Chiffchaff (<i>tristis</i>)</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct-5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2 with single remaining until 13 <sup>th</sup> November. Heard calling (a lot), photographed and feather samples taken when trapped. 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> records in recent years.
<b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> October	5

12 <sup>th</sup> October	3
13 <sup>th</sup> October	2
14 <sup>th</sup> October	1
15 <sup>th</sup> October	2

**Greenish Warbler**

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May                      Single trapped and ringed – 4<sup>th</sup> ever spring record

**Marsh Warbler**

26<sup>th</sup> May                                      Single trapped and ringed, first cord since 2012

**Icterine Warbler**

26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May                              1-2 Present  
 2<sup>nd</sup> June                                      1 (total of three different individuals seen during this period)

**Barred Warbler**

3<sup>rd</sup> September                              immature

**Treecreeper**

4<sup>th</sup> September                              1 at Horse Hole  
 3<sup>rd</sup> October                                      1  
 5<sup>th</sup> October                                      1  
 9-10<sup>th</sup> October                              1  
 22<sup>nd</sup> October                              1 – joint record year with 2011 total of five.

**Rose-coloured Starling**

31<sup>st</sup> May-4<sup>th</sup> June                              Adult caught and ringed, favouring Beacon area, 3<sup>rd</sup> island record and first since 1991

**Thrush Nightingale**

4<sup>th</sup> May    1 caught and ringed  
 31<sup>st</sup> May    1 at Water Tank Bushes

**Red-breasted Flycatcher**

23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May                              Single female/first-summer

**Tree Sparrow**

8<sup>th</sup> May    1 North over Island  
 25<sup>th</sup> August                                      21  
 30<sup>th</sup> August                                      68  
 6<sup>th</sup> September                              70 – record count for island  
 8<sup>th</sup> September                              31  
 9<sup>th</sup> September                              3  
 11<sup>th</sup> September                              1  
 6<sup>th</sup> October                                      17  
 15<sup>th</sup> October                                      30  
 18<sup>th</sup> October                                      16  
 25<sup>th</sup> October                                      1

**Olive-backed Pipit**

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October                              1 caught and ringed  
 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October                              1 caught and ringed – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> records for island (6 in the last four years!)

**Hawfinch**

31<sup>st</sup> March                                      Male at Crossparks

13<sup>th</sup> April 1 on South Cliffs  
11<sup>th</sup> October Female caught and ringed – 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> records for island

**Common Rosefinch**

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> September immature/female favouring Low Light bushes

**Common Crossbill**

5<sup>th</sup> June 2  
27<sup>th</sup> June 3 South  
16<sup>th</sup> October 1 south

**Yellowhammer**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2  
12<sup>th</sup> October 1  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2  
19<sup>th</sup> October 1  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 1

**Ortolan Bunting**

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> September Immature favouring West Braes – first since 2010

**Lapland Bunting**

15<sup>th</sup> April Female at Beacon  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 1  
8<sup>th</sup> September 1 South  
12<sup>th</sup> September 1  
15<sup>th</sup> September 3 South

**Others:**

**Bar-headed Goose**

27<sup>th</sup> April 1 over island!! (presumed escape)