

Sanday Ranger Newsletter



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December Sightings & Reports



Night Heron © Russ Neave

No sooner had we gone away for a couple weeks at the end of November, than a rare heron was found near Black Rock Jetty! This juvenile Night Heron was found and reported to Adam Hough who was able to dash out and photograph (thanks to the finder and Adam for putting the news out). Thankfully (for Russ), the bird hung around until at least 15th December and he was unable to catch up with on our return. This Night Heron was only the 7th record for Orkney and the first since 1998! Unfortunately, it has remained frustratingly elusive for me and despite countless attempts I still haven't seen it so if you do happen across it, please let me know!

Our regular wintering drake American Wigeon has found it's way back to North End this winter and has been seen several times on both North Loch and Loch of Rummie amongst a large flock of Eurasian Wigeon. We have also recorded a drake Smew which is a rare bird for Orkney, although recently it has switched allegiance to North Ronaldsay. I'm hoping it comes back so I can record it on the 2017 Sanday Bird list!



American Wigeon © Russ Neave



It's been a busy month with seal pups still. Unfortunately, the recent storms have taken their toll and we have recorded several dead pups around the island. We have also needed to rescue two pups. One had managed to get trapped in the rock armour at Loth (huge thanks to Ian Simpson & John Boyd for helping us release this little one) and we ended up using a tractor to lift the rock out of the way to release it

none the worse for wear. The second pup was found on the beach at Backaskaill underweight and in need of a little R&R at Orkney Seal Rescue. A late night pick up followed by a trip on the ferry and this little one is now responding well and should be released once up to weight. (Many thanks to Heather & Evan and Jane & Geoff for reporting this wee lady and Imogen for helping with the pick up.) Young pups often get themselves in to difficult situations so please do contact me if you are worried about any on the beach or you find one wandering up the road or a field or garden away from the coast!

*Eyes to the seas and skies!!
EMMA*

If you have any interesting, unusual or mystery sightings, find injured or dead birds, seals or cetaceans, have any questions about Sanday or would like to book on an event, you can contact me on:



Tel: 01857 600272 or 07593 026957

or email ranger@sanday.co.uk

AVIAN FLU UPDATE - PREVENTION CONTROLS EXTENDED TO 28TH FEBRUARY 2017

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone that has been in place since 6 December will be extended until 28 February to help protect poultry and captive birds from avian flu. The zone requires keepers of poultry and other captive birds to continue to keep their birds indoors, or take appropriate practical steps to keep them separate from wild birds. Avian flu has been detected in wild Wigeon recently as well as a Peregrine Falcon so it is in the wild population which could potentially visit Sanday. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-flu-prevention-zone-extended>

If you are worried about your chickens or ducks getting bored which can lead to problems such as de-feathering and bullying, there are some great DIY ideas here to relieve boredom in the coop.

<http://naturalchickenkeeping.blogspot.co.uk/2014/08/BoredomBustersForChickens.html>

<http://www.fresheggdaily.com/2013/02/10-boredom-busters-for-chickens.html>



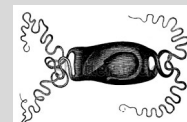
SANDAY RANGER

Sanday Development Trust

Sanday Ranger Events - January 2017

Wednesday 11th January - 2pm - Beachcombing at Lopness

Join me for a beachcombing session along the tideline at Lopness. We will be heading north from the Lopness picnic area. **MEET: Lopness picnic area. Cost: Free, light refreshments provided.**



Thursday 12th January - 7.30pm - Birdwatching for Beginners Session 1 (repeated)

Come along to this indoor workshop and learn about the wildfowl & waterbirds which make Sanday their home. We will look at all the main species found on Sanday and you will get helpful ID charts to take home. **VENUE: Heilsa Fjold Cost: £3, light refreshments provided.**

Saturday 14th January - ALL DAY - Curlew Census

As part of the BTO Curlew Appeal, we will be conducting an island-wide Curlew count. **If you would like to take part, please contact me for further information. 01857 600272 or ranger@sanday.co.uk**



Wednesday 18th January - 2pm - Healthy Walk round Lady

A healthy circular walk round Lady village on tarmacked roads. Suitable for all, this is a great practice for our Paths for All Health Walks which will start in Spring 2017. **MEET: Heritage Centre. COST: Free, light refreshments provided.**

Saturday 21st January - 11am - Practical Wildfowl Identification

Come and join me for a session on wildfowl identification. This is a great chance to put your wildfowl ID skills from Birdwatching for Beginners into practice. **Meet: Heritage Centre, Lady. Cost: Free, light refreshments provided.**



Wednesday 25th January - 2pm - Looking for Otters

Do you know the signs to spot an otter? Come along and find out how to recognise otter tracks, spraint and other signs. Learn how to use trailcams. **MEET: TBC—please contact me if you are interested in this session, venue will be dependent on recent otter activity.**

Thursday 26th January - 7.30pm - Birdwatching for Beginners Session 2

Come along to this indoor workshop and learn about the waders which make Sanday their home. We will look at all the main species found on Sanday and you will get helpful ID charts to take home. **Venue: Heilsa Fjold Cost: £3, light refreshments provided.**



Saturday 28th January - 11am - Healthy Walk round Lady

A healthy circular walk round Lady village on tarmacked roads. Suitable for all, this is a great practice for our Paths for All Health Walks which will start in Spring 2017. **MEET: Heritage Centre. COST: Free, light refreshments provided.**

Sunday 29th January - 2pm - Practical Wader Identification

Come and join me for a session on wader identification. This is a great chance to put your wader ID skills from Birdwatching for Beginners into practice. **Meet: Heritage Centre, Lady. Cost: Free, light refreshments provided.**

