



A Million
voices for
Nature

RSPB Orkney Events 2011

Orkney Mainland guided walks & Hide Sessions

RSPB

Come along to some of our Orkney Mainland Reserves and enjoy spending time watching birds and other wildlife as you go on a guided walk or sit in relative comfort and view the wildlife from three of our hides with an RSPB Warden.

Weekly from 1st April to 21st October. Duration: Guided Walks 1 ½ - 2 hours.

Booking not essential but if you wish to do so, please call the RSPB Orkney Office on 01856 850176. Stout footwear and waterproofs are required for these events.

27 April, 11, & 25; May, 8, & 22 June; 6 & 20 July and 3 Aug

Marwick's Seabird City

Come see, hear and smell this seabird spectacular with the RSPB Warden at the magnificent Marwick Head reserve.

time: 10am Cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adult £2; children (Under 16) £1; infants free. Meet: Marwick Bay Car Park (HY230242)

info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

20 April, 4 & 18 May; 1, 15 and 29 June; 13, and 27 July;

Hobbister Coastal Walk

Join the RSPB Warden on a walk across the moorland and along the Scapa coast. See displaying curlews, stonechats, fulmars and maybe even short-eared owls and possibly a hen harrier.

time: 9.30am meet: Hobbister Car Park off the A964 (HY395069) cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adults £2; children (Under 16) £1; infants free.

info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

2, 16 and 30 May

Birsay Moor Stroll

Join the RSPB Warden on an early walk across the moorland following a peat track towards Muckle Billia Field, enjoying great panoramic views of Orkney. See a variety of moorland species including Great & Arctic Skua, Hen Harrier, Curlew, and Short-eared owl.

Time: 9.00am meet: Birsay Moors View Point/Picnic Spot off the B9057 HY348245) cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adults £2; children (Under 16) £1; infants free.

info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

Warden "Surgery Sessions" at the Hides

RSPB

Join the RSPB Warden on a Friday morning (whatever the weather) at one of our hides to view the specialities from The Loons, Mill Dam & Burgar Hill hides. The warden will be available to show people birds, help with identification, provide optical advice, answer general enquiries and indeed point you in the direction of other good bird watching areas on Orkney.

1, 15 & 29 April; 13 May; 10, & 24 June; 8 & 22 July; 26 August; 23 September and 21 October

The Loons Hide

Wildfowl & waders. Singing sedge warbler, reed bunting and the odd scream from the elusive water rail. Hunting hen harrier and short-eared owls possibility. Target species Black-tailed Godwits

Time: 9:30am until 12:30pm meet: The Loons Hide off the B-class road between Twatt & Marwick (HY247243) cost: free info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

8 April; 6, & 20 May; 3, & 17 June and 1, 15 & 29 July and 12 August

Burgar Hill Hide

The star of the show here is the breeding Red-throated Divers (a real Orkney speciality). Also viewable a variety of other wildfowl including breeding Wigeon as well as breeding waders and the occasional hunting skua or raptor.

Time: 9:30am until 12:30pm meet: Burgar Hill Hide off the A966, north of Evie, follow the sign posts to hide which over looks Lowrie's Water, Birsay (HY345257) cost: free info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

22 April; 27 May; 9 September and 7 October

Mill Dam Hide, Shapinsay

Wildfowl & waders. Eight species of duck breed here and hundreds of swans, ducks and geese use the wetland in Autumn/Winter. Hunting raptors, including hen harriers a possibility.

Time: 10:30am until 1:00pm meet: Mill Dam Hide, Shapinsay, 1 mile north east of Balfour village (HY 483177) cost: info/bookings: Alan Leitch 01856 850176

RSPB Brodgar Guided Walks

Tuesdays each week from 26 April to 26 July

Birds for Beginners at Brodgar

Come and learn about Orkney's birds and wildlife on a guided walk around the RSPB reserve surrounding the Ring of Brodgar, spotting birds as you go. You will be accompanied by friendly RSPB staff and volunteers. Although aimed at beginners, everyone will enjoy this pleasant, easy walk in the heart of Orkney's World Heritage Site.

Time: 10.30am, duration up to 2 hours meet: Ring of Brodgar car park (HY295135). cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adults £2; children (under-16) £1; infants free. info/bookings: Jenny Dewar 01856 850176.

Stout footwear and waterproofs required for this event.

Thursdays each week from 19 May to 28 July

RSPB/WHSRS

Archaeology & Birds at Brodgar – a two-in-one!

Guided walk around the Ring of Brodgar, led jointly by Historic Scotland Rangers and RSPB staff. You will learn about the history as well as the birds and wildlife in and around this Neolithic Site.

Time: 10am Duration: 1 hour meet: Ring of Brodgar Car Park (HY295135)

cost: free. info/bookings: Jenny Dewar 01856 850176

RSPB Hoy Guided Walks

Tuesday 3 May 'Nearly' dawn chorus Walk

Join the Warden for an early morning walk to Hoy's ancient woodland, Berriedale, to enjoy nature's symphony. Meet: Moaness Pier. Time: 8.10am.

Duration: 2-3 hours. Cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adults £2; children (under-16) £1. N.B. Extra cost for local bus transport of approx £2.

Family friendly. Bring picnic, binoculars. Moderate walking.

Booking essential: Lee Shields on 01856 791298

Hoy Nature Trails

Why not join the Warden for a guided walk to learn more about the wildlife and history of the reserve, while you enjoy the spectacular scenery.

Meet: Moaness Pier. Time: 10.30am. Duration: 2-3 hours. Family friendly and suitable for Nature Detectives. Moderate walking. Bring picnic, binoculars.

Cost: RSPB members free; non-members: adults £2; children (under-16) £1.

N.B. Extra cost for local bus transport of approx £2.

Booking/ info: RSPB Office 01856 850176 or Tracey Neate 07818 803105.

Dates: May Tuesday 10, 24, 31

June Tuesday 7, 21, 28

July Tuesday 5, 12, 19, 26

Tuesday 14 June

Junior wardens

RSPB & North Walls School

A fun walk, where you can learn about the wildlife, landscape and local history of the RSPB Hoy reserve from the local North Walls school pupils, who will be playing the role of Warden for the day.

Meet: Moaness Pier. Time: 10.30am Duration: 2-3 hours. Family friendly and suitable for Nature Detectives. Moderate walking. Bring picnic and binoculars.

Cost: RSPB Members free; non-members: adults £2; children (under-16) £1.

N.B. Extra cost for local bus transport of approx £2.

Booking essential: Lee Shields on 01856 791298.

RSPB Guided Walks on Papa Westray and Peedie Package Tours in 2011

Wednesdays & Saturdays each week from 11 May to 30 July

RSPB Papa Westray Guided Walks

Guided walks by the RSPB warden around the RSPB reserve of North Hill where you can witness life in the seabird city along the cliffs, watch spectacular aerial chases between terns and skuas and enjoy the wild flowers. Booking is essential.

Time: 1.30 until 3.30pm. meet: Rose Cottage. cost: free. info/bookings: Papay Warden 01857 644240.

Wednesdays & Saturdays each week from 11 May to 30 July

Papa Westray – Peedie Package Tour

Adults: £25 (whole day), £20 (mornings & lunch only); under-16s: £15 (whole day), £12 (mornings & lunch only); under-5s free. Prices include tour, lunch and afternoon tea. Travel costs to Papa Westray are not included in the Peedie Package Tour.

One-day tour: Minibus tour to archaeological sites in the morning followed by lunch at the Hostel. In the afternoon, the RSPB Papay Warden will take you round the RSPB North Hill reserve to see all the local wildlife. This is followed by afternoon tea. Booking is essential.

For whole or half-day Peedie Package Tours, please call the Papay Co-op on 01857 644321. For Guided Walks in the afternoon only, please call the Papay Warden on 01857 644240.

Stout footwear and waterproofs essential.

How to get to Papa Westray:

Catch the 7.20am ferry to Westray from the North Isles Pier in Kirkwall Harbour. On Westray, take the minibus from Rapness to Pierowall (extra cost of £2 each way). Catch the ferry on to Papa Westray. Return to Kirkwall at 7.20pm (12-hour round trip).

Ferry tickets cost: adult £14.10 return; OAPs & under-16s £7.10 return. For more info/bookings: call Orkney Ferries on 01856 872044.

RSPB Guided Walks on Egilsay and Rousay

Thursday 2 June Onziebust Reserve - Waders and Wetland Wildlife

Wetlands and coastal walk with RSPB Wardens at the peak time for breeding waders and corncrakes if we are lucky. Seals and Arctic terns along the beaches, a great chance to explore this beautiful island.

Meet: Egilsay pier at 9.30am (ferry departs Tingwall at 8.20am). Ferry departs Egilsay 1.35pm.

Info/bookings: Barry/Rebecca O'Dowd 01856 821395, mobile 07818 805294.

Booking essential.

Tuesday 14 June Trumland Reserve – Hen Harriers and Bonxies

Moorland guided walk with the RSPB Wardens looking for hen harriers, bonxies and red-throated divers.

Meet: Rousay Pier. Time: 9.00am. Ferry departs Tingwall at 8.20am. Finish at 1.15pm. Ferry back to Mainland 2.10pm (then every 2 hours), pub at pier.

Info/bookings: Barry/Rebecca O'Dowd 01856 821395, mobile 07818 805294.

Booking essential.
