



British Birds Rarities Committee

Rarity Form

Email to: nigel-hudson@tiscali.co.uk

This form has been designed to be used electronically. Your submission will be processed far more quickly and accurately if it is typed rather than handwritten.

To move to the next field simply press 'Tab' then 'End' and start typing.

Note: If attaching images please send them as separate files and not within this Word document.

Species: Yellow Wagtail	
Date first seen: 6 th May 2010	Date last seen: 6 th May 2010
No. of Birds: 1	Age/Sex: male
County: Northumberland	Location: Brownsman & Staple Island, Farne Islands
Please fill in your email address to ensure that you get an acknowledgement	
Finder: Mark Breaks	Email:
Identifier (if different): Mark Breaks	Email:
Submitter (if different): Mark Breaks	Email:
Other observers: Jason Moss, David Steel et al.	
Any who disagrees with identification? No	
Optical aids: 2 Telescopes (ED50 27x) plus high quality binoculars	
Distance from bird: 20 – 50m	
Have you enclosed photographs? Yes	Was the bird videoed? Yes
If photos are available on public websites (BirdGuides & Surfbirds etc) then please give www address: www.breaksbirdphotography.co.uk , www.farnephotoblogspot.com	
Have the photographs been published in magazines? If so, where: No	
Species present for comparison: Rock Pipit, Pied Wagtails	
Which species were alongside the bird: Rock Pipit	
Observer(s) experience of the species: Good experience with British Yellow Wagtail's moticilla flava flavissima. Also more limited experience with Blue-headed flava, Grey-headed Wagtail thunbergi (from Fair Isle) and Spanish iberiae (Mallorca).	
Observer(s) experience of similar species on the same day or previously: Reasonable experience with Citrine Wagtails on Fair Isle.	
Weather (general description): Overcast and cold with heavy showers in the morning	
Wind direction and Force: N/NE force 3	
Light conditions (good, dull, etc & sun behind, side etc): good	
Visibility (distance): good	
Rain, mist, etc: heavy rain showers in morning	
Cloud cover: 8/8	
Address of submitter:	
Phone No:	
And finally, is the record 100% certain? Sub-species unknown due to lack of literature	

Please try to cover

1. Circumstances of finding the bird (if applicable) but keep it brief
2. Plumage, bare parts etc and call (if possible)
3. Jizz (that 'indefinable something' about the way it behaved)

Description:

After an early morning bird around Brownsman I (MB) returned to the cottage where after a few minutes I heard a bird call outside that I immediately recognised to be a Yellow Wagtail. Stepping outside with Tom Simon at 11:00 hrs we picked up the bird walking through areas of Sea Campion just north of the cottage showing occasionally before the bird took to flight calling whilst heading south. Walking down to the pond area we unfortunately startled the bird from the near banking resulting in it flying out over the sea before it appeared to land on Staple Island. At this time we were unable to follow the bird due to high tide and work. By mid afternoon the tide had dropped allowing us to cross over the Staple along with Jason Moss. A quick walk around the island relocated the bird feeding and showing well but still rather flighty whilst looking settled. David Steel was then called from Inner Farne and further views were obtained.

Behaviour: The bird was flighty and, even when it appeared settled, would range widely between different parts of Staple Island, from areas of bare rock to rank grass. However it appeared to favour an area of sparsely vegetated shingle on the east side of the island. Its flight was typically strong and undulating.

Head: Mainly dark grey blue in colour with darker blackish lores that fade out to the ear coverts. Supercilium - well pronounced white behind the eye with an ill defined white spot in front. Chin and Throat clean white with sharp well defined border to yellow breast.

Upperparts: The wings were black, with distinct pale edges to the tertials and wing coverts. The tertials completely covered the primaries. The birds mantle was a dark greenish brown colour, with faint, ill-defined dark vertical streaks. The rump was a slightly brighter greenish yellow than the mantle. The tail was black with white outer tail feathers.

Underparts: The whole of the underparts of the bird were a vivid yellow colour, including the undertail coverts.

Bare Parts: The legs and bill of the bird were black

Call: The bird was heard to call on a number of occasions, both on the ground and in flight. On the ground the bird tended to utter a loud, high pitched, buzzy 'pzzist', unlike the typical flavissima call. This call was also uttered in flight. The flight call typically heard was thought to be slightly harsher and buzzier than flavissima but with relatively little experience in last 2 years it's hard to be certain.



