

## **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**

### **Out Skerries, Shetland; 25 Sept 2011**

Weather: Force 4-5 S Wind, 20% cloud, dry.

On 25 Sept 2011 as I was walking near the Haa on Housay I heard a wagtail calling in flight ahead of me. The call was a loud, piercing Citrine Wagtail-like call and when it landed distantly on a grassy bank I assumed it was indeed a Citrine Wagtail. It was too distant to make any detail out with my 10 x 42 bins but I could see it was a grey and white wagtail. I took a few photos with my camera and 400mm lens I was carrying and on reviewing the enlarged images on the back of the camera I realised that it was actually a 1st winter eastern race Yellow Wagtail. This bird reminded me of a very similar looking bird that I had seen on the island in 2005.

I alerted Stephen Dunstan to the bird's presence and we were both able to get distant views over the next couple of hours. It was very flighty throughout and we were never able to get close views.

I managed to get a few more photos that afternoon but in the failing light these were not of a high quality. I didn't notice any yellow tones on the bird in the field but on reviewing the photos there seems to be a suggestion of a small area of pale lemon on the rear of the flanks.

I attempted to get a sound recording but due to the windy conditions and the bird's distance the recordings were very faint and the resulting sonograms lack a lot of detail.

Shortly before dusk the bird flew south-west towards Mioness and we didn't see it again.

*Michael McKee*

















