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Opening Extract from...

Return to One Man's Island

Written by Keith Brockie

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KEITH BROCKIE

Return to

ONE MAN'S ISLAND

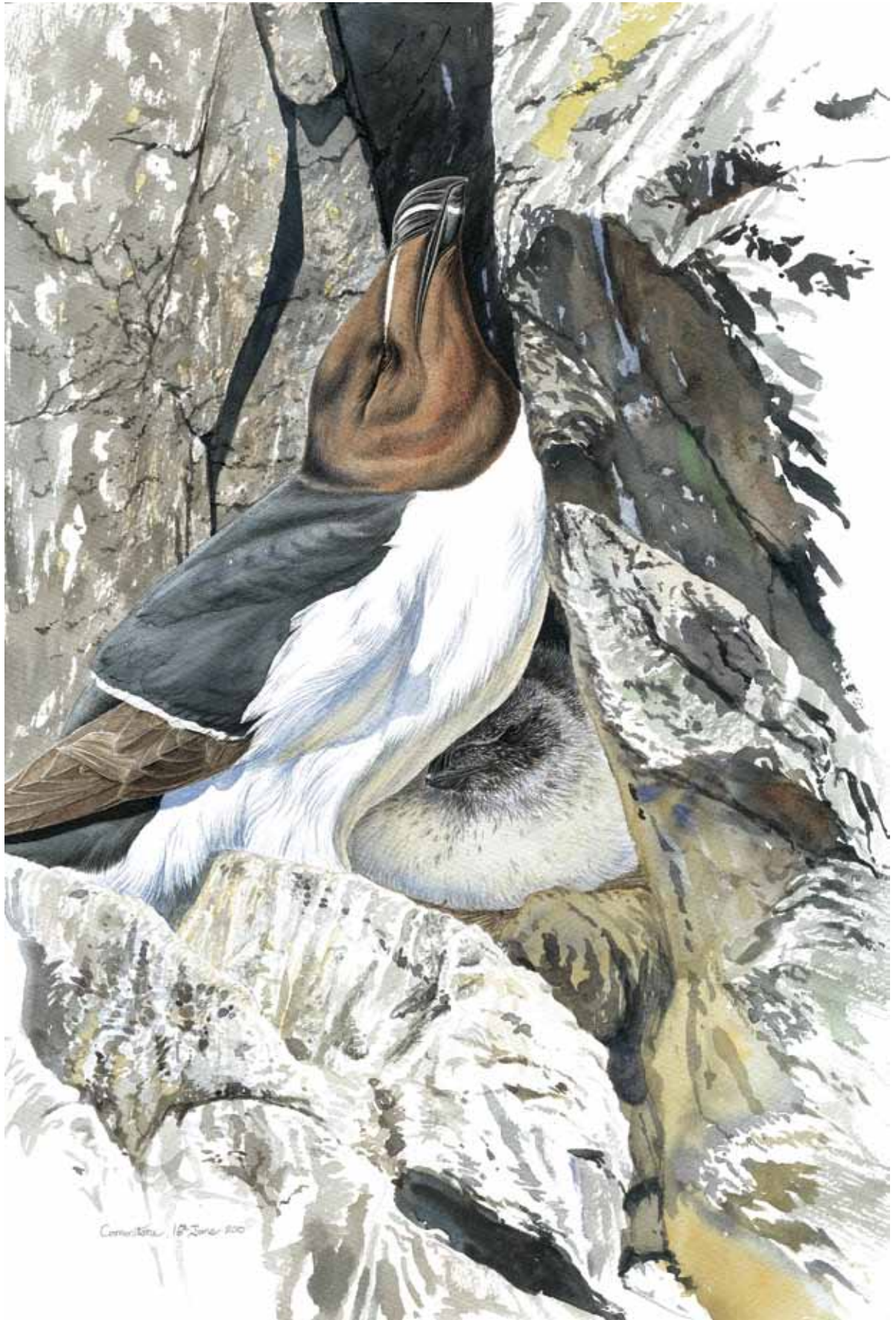
PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES FROM
THE ISLE OF MAY



16 June, painting
a watercolour of a
razorbill and chick
opposite Cornerstone.
The adult was shielding
its chick from the
strong sunshine while
obviously enjoying the
heat itself. My powerful
Questar telescope
allowed me to pick out a
nicely posed individual
amongst the throng of
auks on the cliffs.



Opposite:
Razorbill shielding a chick,
Watercolour, 31 x 45 cms



Male shelduck,
Pencil & Watercolour,
19 x 26 cms



Shelduck sketches



♂, 13th June 2010
Kirkhaven Wall

13 June. The male shelduck on the wall again waiting for his female to emerge with the ducklings which I could hear cheeping in the burrow. I had hoped to sketch her, but she came out with her eight ducklings at 20.00 hours and went quickly down to Kirkhaven through a hole in the wall. She then took her brood down to the harbour and swam out of sight round the reefs.

20 June. Windblown puffins sitting on the edge of the cliff in Bishop Cove.

Windblown puffin,
Pencil & Watercolour,
33 x 22 cms



Rabbit studies,
Pencil & Watercolour,
30 x 34 cms



16 June 2011. Studies of rabbits. Above, feeding outside the Low Light window; and, opposite, sunning themselves on the slopes nearby. Most of the adult rabbits are still casting their winter coats – no doubt due to the cold early summer weather. They have been in very large number over the past two years, which has meant a dearth of thrift in flower. Luckily they don't seem to like the ubiquitous sea campion.

Wet seal pup,
Pencil & Watercolour,
38 x 27 cms



4 November 2009. This young pup with wet fur, alongside its mother on the rocks just by Kirkhaven pier, spent a lot of time swimming with her at high tide from day one. In contrast most pups try to keep out of the water if they can avoid it.

Moulted pup,
Pencil & Watercolour,
35 x 42 cms



14 October. A fully moulted fat pup I found lying well away from the sea in the middle of Rona. It must have been born around 23 September, the earliest pup on the island in 2010. I approached the pup quietly and sat only a metre away to sketch it. It has typical wet patches around the eyes. Amongst the shell and other debris are the lower jawbone and scapula from a pup casualty in a previous year.