

Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Falkland Islands 2013

Report by Mike Morrison for Falklands Conservation.

This report summarises the sightings of rare and vagrant birds submitted to Falklands Conservation or made by the author, volunteers and staff of Falklands Conservation between July 2013 and June 2014. Thank you to everyone who reported their rare bird sightings.

Adelie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae*

A single bird was seen at the Pretty Banks, near Teal Inlet settlement, by Jeff Halliday on the 12th December.

Snares Crested Penguin *Eudyptes robustus*

Two birds were seen by Adam and Alison Howe at Black Point on the north coast of Elephant Beach on the 21st January, one of the birds quickly went down over the rocks, but Adam was able to photograph the other to get a positive identification.

Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi*

The bird previously seen at Diamond Cove, Johnson's Harbour was seen again this season at the same colony by Andy Stanworth and Will Miles on the 20th November, on the 22nd December by Mike Morrison and on the 5th January by Alan Henry, Mark Cutts and Nick Smith. Another bird on a nest with an egg was also seen at a Rockhopper colony on the south coast of Berkley Sound, Murrell Farm on the 30th October, this bird was thought at first to be a Hybrid (Rockhopper x Macaroni) but was later identified as a Northern Rockhopper from photographs taken by Sgt Steve Kelly and identified by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Rob McGill reported a single bird at Carcass Island settlement on the 1st February; this bird had been about the settlement for a couple of month's information Micky Reeves.

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*

Two birds were seen off Steeple Jason Island during a strong northerly wind on the 30th October by Micky Reeves and Will Miles. Two to three birds were also seen by Micky Reeves off Steeple Jason Island on the 18th February in a strong northerly wind.



Coscoroba swans, Mike Morrison.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

A single bird off Cape Pembroke on the 1st January and another bird at the same location on the 8th February both reports from Nick Smith.

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Two birds seen on Pebble Island by Nigel Hewitt on around the 29th December, one was seen at Big Pond and one at Cape Tamar at different times so a single bird cannot be ruled out. A single bird was also seen at Big Pond by Mark Cutts on the 20th February. Two birds were reported from this location in 2010 with one remaining up until the end of 2011 but no reports in 2012.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

A single bird was seen at Doctor's Creek, Fox Bay by Richard Lewis over the Christmas period.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

A single bird at Volunteer Lagoon first seen on the 10th November by Derek Pettersson, and was seen in the area over the next three weeks.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

The first seen this season was by David Pole-Evans at Saunders Island on the 12th March, reported by Micky Reeves. Kristiane Thorsen reported two birds at the Market Garden; Stanley on the 28th March, on the same day Sue Morrison saw a single bird flying past the house at 10 Fitzroy Road East, Sue also saw a single bird at Ross Road East on the 2nd April. Andy Stanworth reported two birds on Victory Green, Stanley on the 3rd April. Two birds on the greens at Ross Road East on the 5th April Mike Morrison, two birds seen flying in the same location on the 16th April Sue Morrison. Micky Reeves reported a single bird at the east of Stanley on the 12th April. A single bird was seen by Mike Morrison and Stuart Bennet on the shore line below the Market Garden on the 20th April.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Derek Pettersson saw two birds on the greens at Volunteer Point on the 27th November. On the 29th November Dennis Middleton reported two birds on the grass near Dolphin Cottage, Stanley which he seen flying off, later that day Alan Henry found three immature birds on the shore line of Stanley Harbour below the fields at the Market Garden, Alan later (24th December) found one of these birds dead under the nearby bridge at FIPASS the other two birds remained in the same location until the 20th April. These birds are most probably migrant rather than resident as there were no reports of breeding last season. Carol Peck observed a single bird crossing the road near Surf Bay, later probably the same bird was seen in a small pond east of 'Megabid' on the 29th December, this bird was in poor condition and was later caught and fed in captivity before being released at the pond at Pleasant Roads on the 18th January. Nick Smith reported three birds on the large pond in Whale Point, Fitzroy on the 15th December. Two birds in Pleasant Roads pond on the 31st December and the skeletal remains with primary feathers attached of two birds

were found near Big pond in Whale Point, Fitzroy by Sue and Mike Morrison. A single bird was seen by Alan Henry and Mark Cutts on Laguna Verde on the 7th March, and on the 16th March Nick Smith, still in the same location on the 5th April Alan Henry.

Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala*

Keith Knight reported a single bird at Fox Bay on the 30th October.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

A female was seen at Yorke Bay pond by Sue Morrison on the 8th September. A pair was seen on small ponds south east of Stanley Airport, Cape Pembroke on the 30th September by David and Isobel Castle, they remained in the area until at least the 7th October Mike Morrison. On the 8th February a single male in eclipse plumage was seen on the small ponds opposite Gull Island pond by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith, this bird was seen again in the same location on the 28th February. A pair was seen by Micky Reeves on the ponds at Elephant Point, Saunders Island on the 21st February. Alan Henry reported a single male on Gull Island pond on the 5th April. On the 8th June Micky Reeves found a pair on the pond east of the Airport runway in Cape Pembroke this pair stayed in the area up until the 2nd July.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

David and Isobel Castle seen a pair at Sea Lion Island on the small pond west of Long Pond on the 4th October. Alan Henry saw a male bird on flood water to the south-west of Goose Green settlement on the 19th October; this bird remained in the area at least until the 2nd November. A single bird was seen at Pebble Island by Nigel Hewitt in late December. Three females were seen by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith on the ponds on Keppel Island on the 1st February. A single female on a small pond east of Round Pond, south side of Stanley Common on the 30th March Sue and Mike Morrison, still present on the 4 April (Micky Reeves). Alan Henry reported a single male on Gull Island pond on the 5th April.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

The last report of this species was in October 2006 and this summer has brought in an influx of reports. I also believe five birds have been seen at South Georgia. The first report of this year was by Brian and Monica May when they saw a male bird on a small pond at the road crossing of the Estancia Brook on the 27th August. A female bird was seen at Sea Lion Island on the 4th October by David and Isobel Castle, this bird was still in the same area on the 1st November, Mike Morrison and Carol Peck. On the 19th October Alan Henry saw a pair on the pond in Garden Point, North Arm and three birds on a small pond near Saladero (1 female & 2 males), the pair in Garden Point were still present on the 2nd November but only the male by the 24th November and 28th December, still present on the 8th March (Mark Cutts and Nick Smith). Only a single female at Saladero by the 28th December (Alan Henry). At Pebble Island Micky Reeves saw two female birds on the 20th October and the next day saw another female bird in a different area. A pair was seen by Andy Stanworth and Will Miles at Bull Point, North Arm on the 14th November; also on the 14th November a pair was seen at Weddell Island by Martin Beaton. One male and two females were sighted by Nick Smith on Sand Pond at Mount Pleasant Complex on the

24th November one of the females was still present up to the 26th December. Trudi Pettersson saw a male bird at Cow Bay, Johnson's Harbour on the 1st December. Micky Reeves saw a male at North End pond, New Island on the 6th December, and three males and three females on the ponds at Keppel Island on the 21st December. A single male was seen on a pond in Motley Point, Walker Creek on the 28th December by Alan and Trish Henry. A male and two females were seen on the large pond opposite Gull Island pond, Mare Harbour Road on the 28th December by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith. A single male was reported from Saunders Island by David and Susan Pole-Evans on the 24th December. A male and a female were seen on the Egg Harbour ponds by Alan Henry on the 18th January. A single male was seen on the ponds at Keppel Island on the 1st February by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith.

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*

Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Steeple Jason Island on the 27th March.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

A single bird was seen at Bull Point, North Arm on the 14th November by Andy Stanworth and Will Miles. A bird at Elephant Beach farm on Elephant Beach pond was also first seen on the 14th November by Mandy and John McLeod; this bird stayed in the area for about eight weeks. A single bird was seen at Pebble Island by Nigel Hewitt at the end of December. Two birds on the ponds in Elephant Point, Saunders Island on the 21st February reported by Micky Reeves.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

Micky Reeves saw a single bird on Bertha's Beach Pond on the 5th April, still in the same location the next day Mike and Sue Morrison and Stuart Bennet.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

A single bird at Packe's Port Howard was reported by Shirley Pole-Evans on the 30th September. A single bird also seen at Saladero by James McGhie at the end of October.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Alan Henry sighted a single bird at the road crossing near Cobbs Pass to the west of Goose Green settlement on the 19th & 20th October. On the 1st April Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Kettle Creek near Teal Inlet settlement.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

A single bird was seen at Yorke Bay pond, Cape Pembroke on the 23rd October by Alan Henry.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

On the 31st October Tony Chater spotted a single bird on the beach at Sury Bay, Cape Pembroke. Two birds were found by Mark Cutts, Nick Smith and Tony Tindale at Bertha's Beach on the 2nd March and Micky Reeves reported four birds at this location on the 5th April.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Two birds south of the Airport runway, Cape Pembroke on the 22nd October and three birds on the 23rd both reports from Alan Henry. Two birds to the north-east of the Airport runway on the 12th December Mike and Sue Morrison. Two birds were also seen by Mark Cutts and Nick Smith in Cape Pembroke on the 1st January.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolour*

Andy Stanworth seen a single bird at Motley Point, Walker Creek on the 5th January, another single bird was seen at Big pond Whale Point, Fitzroy amongst hundreds of White-rumped Sandpipers by Sue and Mike Morrison on the 12th January.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Three possibly more first year birds amongst approx one thousand South American Terns at Cape Pembroke seen on the 16th November by Nick Smith and Alan Henry. Nick Smith also saw an adult bird in winter plumage at Whale Point, Fitzroy on the 15th December.

Chilean Pigeon *Columba araucana*

A single bird was seen and photographed by Eileen Davis in her garden at 15 Ross Road West on the 27th May, from the photograph it looked like an immature bird.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

Annie Pitaluga reported a single bird at Salvador settlement on the 4th November; the bird had been about the settlement for the last three days. On the 7th November Tracy Evans reported a single bird at Pebble Island settlement. Andy Stanworth saw a single bird at Steeple Jason Island on the 17th March. A single bird in the yard at 10 Fitzroy Road East feeding on the hen's food on the 1st May this bird visited the yard daily until the 17th May (Sue Morrison). A single bird was reported on the 13th May by Tony Heathman at the Estancia farm which had been seen about two weeks ago.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Louise Clarke saw a single bird at the west end of Stanley on the 24th January. Nick Smith reported one or possibly two immature birds at the vegetable garden at New Island settlement on the 28th March.

Austral Negrigo *Lessonia rufa*

A male bird was seen at Fanning Head, Race Point Farm by Michelle Jones on the 20th October. On the 4th February Alan Henry reported a female bird which flew onto the FPV *Protegat* and remained on board for a couple of hours, this was to the north of the Falklands at 49°06S 60°17W.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Kristiane Thorsen reported a splendid male bird at the Market Garden on the 14th November; this bird was present in the area for a few days

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga*

A single bird was seen by Carol Peck near the Narrows Bar, Stanley on the 15th October. Three birds at Volunteer house reported by Derek Pettersson on the 18th October. Micky Reeves saw a single bird at the neck on Steeple Jason Island on the 29th October and two birds at the same location the next day and three possibly four birds to the west of the neck on the 2nd November. Alan Henry saw a single bird at the lighthouse, Cape Pembroke on the 22nd February. A single bird was seen over a small pond at the road crossing of the Estancia Brook by Sue and Mike Morrison on the 23rd February, on the same day Mandy McLeod reported three birds at Elephant Beach farm. Sue Morrison saw a single bird at Surf Bay beach on the 5th March. Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Steeple Jason Island on the 27th March. Stuart Bennet saw a bird at Kent Road, Stanley and one or possibly two along the Airport Road on the 13th April. Kristiane Thorsen reported at least three birds at the Market Garden on the 14th April, the same day Alan Henry seen two birds at Ross Road East, Stanley. Two birds plus another swallow species were seen by Sue Morrison flying past Fitzroy Road East on the 16th April and possibly the same birds were seen by Alan Henry on the same day at Snake Street, Stanley; also on the 16th April two birds were seen by Kristiane Thorsen roosting in the trees at the Market Garden shop. Three birds were reported by Ian Strange amongst the trees on Snake Street on the 17th April.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Micky Reeves saw two birds at Carcass Bay, Coast Ridge Farm on the 8th October. Kristiane Thorsen reported a single bird at the Market Garden on the 16th October. A phone call on the 20th October from Heather Smith alerted me to a Barn Swallow which was flying into the conservatory at Stanley House. Micky Reeves saw an immature bird at the sand beach on Pebble Island on the 25th October. Micky was to also see one at the house on Steeple Jason Island on the 6th November. Two birds over the sand grass at Bertha's Beach on the 6th April (Mike Morrison), also on the 6th April Derek Pettersson reported two birds at Volunteer House which had been about for a few days. A single bird was seen by Alan Henry at Stanley cemetery on the 16th April.

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia*

Will Miles sighted a single bird just to the east of Johnson's Harbour settlement on the 21st November.

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus*

A single bird at the settlement garden on New Island photographed by Charlene Rowland and reported by Nick Smith on the 28th March, Charlene also reported another bird at Ship Harbour, New Island with both birds still present in July. Alan Henry found a single bird at the very end of Cape Pembroke on the 11th April; this bird remained in the same area at least until the end of June.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

Jim Woodward photographed a bird at Little Chartres on the 25th November which Alan Henry identified as this species.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

A single bird was seen at the house on Steeple Jason Island on the 7th November by Micky Reeves, Andy Stanworth and Will Miles. This is the third record of this species in the Falkland Islands all within the last four years.

Patagonia Sierra-finch *Phrygilus patagonicus*

Will Miles saw a single female bird at the house on Steeple Jason Island on the 29th October seen again the next day and off and on over the next week in the same location.

Mourning Sierra-finch *Phrygilus fruticeti*

A single bird at Mount Pleasant Complex which was first seen on the 6th September, feeding from wild bird seed which was put out for the sparrows, by an observant RAF sergeant. This bird remained in the area and was seen by Mark Cutts feeding on seed on the 15th January and by Nick Smith up until the 4th April. It was first thought to be a female but as time passed it became apparent it was an immature male. A male bird at the settlement on New Island was reported by Ian Strange on the 20th February which had been about for two weeks, also seen at the same location by Nick Smith on the 27th March, Charlene Rowland reported it still present in July.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Junco capensis*

A single bird was reported by Charlene Rowland at New Island at the end of August. Nick Smith seen a bird at the settlement on New Island on the 28th March, which most probably is the same bird reported at the settlement in August. Charlene also reported six and possibly up to eight birds present on New Island at the end of June, Micky Reeves saw six of the birds on the 17th June. Derek Pettersson saw a single bird at Volunteer house on the 5th April.

Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*

Les and Jill Harris saw a single bird on Fitzroy Road, Stanley on the 4th November which they believe to be this species; this would make it a first record for the Falkland Islands.