

Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Falkland Islands 2014

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 2014 and June 2015. Thank you to everyone who reported their rare bird sightings.

Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi*

The bird seen at Diamond Cove over the last five seasons was seen again this season on the 2nd November and had now mated with a Southern Rockhopper and when seen on the 14th December had a recently hatched chick (Mike Morrison). On the 27th December the chick was seen dead with the Southern Rockhopper mate standing by (S Crofts & B. J Robson, First record of a vagrant Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* producing a hybrid chick with a Southern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes c chrysocome* at the Falkland Islands).

Lisa Lowe on the 11th November reported the bird seen last year had also returned to the colony at the Murrell, seen by myself and Alan Henry on the 19th November but was standing alone unmated. On the 31st December Alan Henry saw another bird at a colony in Eagle Point, Johnsons Harbour.

Kerguelen Petrel *Pterodroma brevirostris*

On the 14th June a bird was found on the 'Pacific Leader' which was docked at the Noble Temporary Dock this bird was later released at dusk by Alan Henry.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

Will Miles saw a single bird to the south of Grand Jason Island and two birds to the north of Steeple Jason Island on the 16th March.

Flesh-Footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

A single bird was seen in flight and then briefly on the water where it was photographed at position 49° 57'S, 62°14'W by Alan Henry in the north of the zone on the 16th October.

[This is the first recording of this species in the Falkland Islands zone.](#)

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

A single bird was reported by Derek Pettersson near Green Patch settlement on the 31st October; Pauline Sackett reported a single bird at Fitzroy settlement on the 6th February. Another single bird was reported by Vernon Steen on the 9th May seen at Celery Island in Berkeley Sound.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

A regular visitor, the first sighting this year was from Micky Reeves who saw a single bird at the Neck, Steeple Jason Island on the 17th March and over the next two days. Carol Morrison at Sea Lion Island saw a single bird on the 19th March. Three birds at Hookers Point on the 30th March Sue & Mike Morrison, also on the 30th Micky Reeves and Will Miles saw one at Cape Dolphin, one at Teal Inlet, seventeen in the paddock by the Estancia, one at the colverts on the Estancia road, eleven flying over Port Harriet, one at Beckside Farm and one at Ten Acres, Stanley. Derek Pettersson

reported twenty-one birds at the portacabin on the greens at Volunteer Point on the 31st March; Sue Morrison also saw four birds the same day at Stanley Airport. A single bird on the Triangle, Ross Road on the 2nd April and another single bird at Moody Brook Road on the 3rd April. One was seen flying west from Fitzroy Road on the 10th and 11th April Sue & Mike Morrison. Alan Henry found three dead birds in Cape Pembroke on the 11th April. Three birds on the gravel at Stanley Airport on the 14th April Sue Morrison. A single bird seen on the 'Charles Cooper' on the 26th April Mike & Sue Morrison.

Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*

Elaine Turner reported a single bird at Rincon Grande settlement on the 6th October. On the 12th October one was reported at Fitzroy settlement which had been about for a couple of days, by Allan Eagle and Isobel McLeod. A single bird was also reported at North Arm settlement by Emma Reid on the 14th October. Leiv Poncet saw one at Beaver Island on the 11th November. Marie Coutts reported a single bird on the greens near the Beaver hanger Ross Road West, Stanley on the 6th February.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

The pair reported at Cape Pembroke in the last report remained in the area on various ponds up until at least the 19th October seen by many observers. A male bird was seen by Micky Reeves near Boxer Bridge, Cape Pembroke on the 17th April this bird was seen in the area up until the end of June (Sue Morrison).

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

On the 14th September a male bird was reported at Sand Point, Lorenzo by Jan and Tanya Clarke.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*

Richard and Toni Stevens reported a single bird at Port Sussex settlement on the 18th May and seen over the next two days.

American Purple Gallinule *Porphyryla martinica*

Andy Stanworth reported a sub-adult bird on Kidney Island on the 17th February. An immature bird was discovered on the front road by Sally Blake and rescued by staff at Falklands Conservation on the 24th April unfortunately the bird died later in the day, Alan Eagle also reported a strange bird at Fitzroy from the description may have also have been this species and from the timing may have been the same immature bird found on Ross Road.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

A single bird west of the house on Steeple Jason Island seen by Micky Reeves on the 12th December.

Tawny-throated Dotterel *Eudromias ruficollis*

A single bird near Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke seen by Sue Morrison on the 30th August and this bird was seen in the area over the next six days.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

A single bird with two White-rumped Sandpipers on the fields at the Market Garden on the 27th September Alan Henry. Two birds at Penguin Walk, Cape Pembroke on

the 1st October Mike & Sue Morrison. Another single bird at small ponds south side of the lighthouse track Cape Pembroke on the 27th October Alan Henry, also seen again the next evening by Mike & Sue Morrison.

Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus*

Sue Morrison saw a single bird on the gravel to the north west of the runway at Stanley Airport on the 16th April this bird was seen in the area over the next two days.

Chilean Skua *Catharacta chilensis*

Micky Reeves saw a single bird on Steeple Jason Island on the 29th October.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single bird at Sea Lion Island reported by Carol Morrison on the 5th and 25th November, this is most probably the same bird returning each season since 2006.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

A single bird on the south side of 6 Jeremy Moore Avenue, Stanley seen by Andy Stanworth on the 22 February. A single bird was also seen on the fields at the Market Garden possibly an immature bird as showing unusual plumage by Mike & Sue Morrison on the 3rd May.

Black-winged Ground Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*

A single bird was seen at the Neck on Steeple Jason Island on the 16th March by Will Miles, this bird was seen in the same location by Will Miles and Micky Reeves up until the 22nd March when they left the island.

[This is the first recording of this species in the Falkland Islands.](#)

Fire-eyed Diucon *Pyrope pyrope*

On the 7th April Sue Morrison saw a bird in the yard at 10 Fitzroy Road East, Stanley seen over the next week along Fitzroy Road. Another single bird was reported by Jamie Simpson at the rear of Racecourse Road on the 12th April and two birds by Sonia Felton in her garden near Government House on the 17th April two birds were also reported by Jeremy Poncet in the Government House gardens on the 5th May. We know that there were two birds in Stanley at this time and it is probably that there were three or possibly four, other sightings in both east and west Stanley up until the end of June.

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga*

Brian Aldridge reported a single bird at Rowlands Rise, Stanley on the 7th October. Micky Reeves saw one at Steeple Jason Island on the 2nd November. Two birds at Sea Lion Island on the 25 November seen by Carol Morrison. A single bird seen by Micky Reeves on the 28th November at Beauchene Island. Andy Stanworth saw a single bird at the shearing shed, Grand Jason Island on the 12 December. A single bird was seen by Derek Pettersson at Brisbane gate and followed all the way to Volunteer house on the 12th February. On the 15th March Jeremy Pierce saw up to six birds at the sea lion beach on Sea Lion Island and another two individual birds on the same day were seen by Carol Morrison also on Sea Lion Island. On the 21st March Micky Reeves saw three birds at the cinnamon grass on Steeple Jason Island. A single bird on Fitzroy Road on the 8th April seen by Sue Morrison and the next day Ross Poole saw two

birds on John Street. Two birds at the rear of Racecourse Road on the 12th April reported by Jamie Simpson.

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

A single bird was seen at elephant corner Sea Lion Island on the 7th November by Mike Morrison.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A single bird Fitzroy Road East, Stanley on the 11th October (Sue & Mike Morrison). Two birds in the Hanger at FIGAS sheltering from the snow squalls on the 13th October (Stuart Bennett). On the 14th October Kristiane Thorsen reported an immature bird at the Market Garden. A single bird along the Airport Road on the 21st October (Alan Henry, Sue & Mike Morrison). Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Steeple Jason Island on the 26th October. Alan Henry saw one at the back of Surf Bay Beach and two at Yorke Bay Pond on the 27th October. Two birds at the back of Surf Bay Beach on the 28th October (Sue & Mike Morrison). Another single bird at The Market Garden on the 29th October (Kristiane Thorsen). Two birds were seen at the Rabbits Ears, New Island on the 15th November by Micky Reeves also on the same day four birds were reported at North Harbour, New Island by Leiv Poncet. A single bird was seen at Carcass Island settlement by Micky Reeves on the 8th December. Also on the 8th December Andy Stanworth saw one at the shearing shed on Grand Jason Island and also found two dead birds inside the shanty. A single bird near the public jetty Ross Road on the 26th April (Sue & Mike Morrison) the next day Alan Henry saw a single bird at Ross Road West. Ian Strange reported a single bird in the trees on Snake Street, Stanley on the 28th April.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Andy Stanworth reported a single bird at Walker Creek on the 16th November.

Southern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

A single bird seen at the house on Steeple Jason Island by Micky Reeves on the 18th March. Another single bird was seen by Will Miles at Carcass Island settlement on the 23rd March and two birds at Port Stephens settlement on the 26th March also by Will Miles.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Junco capensis*

Kristiane Thorsen seen a single bird at the Market Garden on the 4th July this bird was heard singing in the same location on the 30th July. On the 13th November Micky Reeves saw a single bird at New Island.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

An adult male bird was seen by Mike McRae and Nikki Summers at the hen run at Cape Dolphin on the 3rd December, when seen the next day by Alan Henry and Micky Reeves it had moved to some *Cupressus macrocarpa* trees nearby at the old garden and cow shed site, still in the same location when seen on the 5th and 8th December by Mike & Sue Morrison where it was seen feeding on Bluebottle Flies. It was seen again by Nikki and Mike in the large garage at Cape Dolphin on the 17th February. On the 26th December another adult male was seen and photographed by Bobby and Janet McLeod at 75 Davis Street, Stanley, on the 1st May Maria and Ian Strange reported the bird in the trees at their property on Snake Street this bird was seen in

nearby locations over the next six weeks up to the 15th June when Micky Reeves observed it feeding on greenfly. I think it fair to assume that two birds arrived in the islands during December or earlier of this North American species as it is very unlikely that a bird would go from Cape Dolphin to Stanley back to Cape Dolphin and back again to Stanley.

[This is the first and second records of this species in the Falkland Islands.](#)