

## Rare and Vagrant Birds 2015-16

### **Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi***

The bird at the Murrell Rockhopper colony returned again this season and when seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December appeared to be mated with a Southern Rockhopper where it was seen to be protecting its mate on the nest, but a visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> December to the site revealed a pair of Southern Rockhoppers brooding a chick, Mike Morrison. Seen again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December standing alone at the edge of the colony, Adrian Lowe.

### **Great Grebe *Podiceps major***

Two birds were seen on the water off the sand beach at Round Pond by Brian and Judy Summers on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, ten days later one was seen at the west end of Stanley Harbour by Alan Henry (may possibly be one of the two) David Castle also reported one at the head of Stanley Harbour on the 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea***

Alan Henry photographed a single bird in the south of the zone in Falkland waters on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

The first report this year was of a single bird with a herd of cattle near Monty Dean's, Green Patch by Derek Pettersson on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Eight birds were seen by Jeanette Clarke at Sand Point, Lorenzo on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. On the 16<sup>th</sup> April Kristiane Thorsen reported 80+ birds at the Market Garden, Stanley, Very cold at the time with snow squalls there were no sign of the birds the next day. Two birds were seen flying around Fitzroy Road East on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April Mike & Sue Morrison.

### **Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera***

The male bird reported in the last report remained in the area of Boxer Bridge and Cape Pembroke, seen by Sue Morrison at Boxer Bridge on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> August and Long Pond on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, seen on flood water to the east of runway at Stanley airport on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October. On the Large Pond east of the airport on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October. The last sighting was on Surf Bay Pond on the 18<sup>th</sup> October Mike & Sue Morrison.

### **Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango***

A single bird at New Island on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, reported by Charlene Rowland who said it stayed in the area for a couple of days.

### **White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus***

A single bird at Whalebone Cove, Cape Pembroke first seen by Richard Morrison on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, this bird remained in the area up until the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis***

Micky Reeves reported a single bird at East Pond, Sea Lion Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and another single bird south of the airstrip on Sea Lion Island on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Charlene Rowland saw a single bird at New Island settlement on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. A single bird was also reported from Fox Bay by Keith Knight on the 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis***

Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Bull Hill, Sea Lion Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> September. On the 30<sup>th</sup> September Diane Towersey reported finding a dead bird in her garden at Port Stephens settlement.

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus***

Will Wagstaff reported seeing a single bird at Sea Lion Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Sanderling *Calidris alba***

Alan Henry saw nine birds at Bertha's Beach on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii***

Micky Reeves reported a single bird at East Pond, Sea Lion Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and another at Bull Hill, Sea Lion Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Two birds were seen just to the south of the Lagoon, Sea Lion Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November, Mike Morrison. A single bird at the ponds on the south side of the road, Cape Pembroke on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, Sue Morrison. Seven birds at this location on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Mike and Sue Morrison, six birds on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, Alan Henry, and six birds again on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, Mike and Sue Morrison. Alan Henry saw four birds at Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia***

A single bird seen by Jeremy Bird on the 10<sup>th</sup> November near to FIPASS, Stanley Harbour, and this bird remained in the area until at least the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

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

**Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor***

Two birds at Whale Point, Fitzroy on the 9<sup>th</sup> January one bird at Kelp Point and the other on the north end of Big Pond both with White-rumped Sandpipers, Mike and Sue Morrison, one of the birds still present on the 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Chilean Skua *Catharacta chilensis***

Alan Henry photographed a single bird on the water from the *FPV Protagate* whilst on fisheries patrol at the western edge of the zone on the 15<sup>th</sup> December at position 52°.14'S, 63°.18'W.

**Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan***

A single bird at Sea Lion Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> November seen by Micky Reeves.

**Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata***

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March Alan Henry saw a single bird in flight from Mink Park, Stanley heading in a westerly direction.

**White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps***

A single bird was reported by Sonia Felton at Government House gardens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, and remained in the area for three weeks; the last report was from Tim Bonner who saw it on the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Another single bird was seen by Alan Henry when it landed on the *FPV Protagate* staying on board for about three hours before flying off in a westerly direction.

### **Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope***

The birds reported on in the last report, were still sighted in Stanley over the next five weeks.

One on the wall at KEM Hospital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Sue Morrison, another sighting by Sue was on the fields by the FIPASS road on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. Tim Stenning saw one at 5B Ross Road West on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. Carol Morrison saw one in the yard at 10 Fitzroy Road East on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. Nick Bonner saw one at 8A St Mary's Walk on the 5<sup>th</sup> August, and the last report was from Jamie Simpson who sighted one at 7 Racecourse Road on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus***

Will Wagstaff saw a single bird on Pebble Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni***

Three birds were seen by Micky Reeves at the tussac at the west end of Sea Lion Island on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. A single bird at Cape Dolphin house late afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> March, Mike and Sue Morrison. Two birds were seen by Kristiane Thorsen at the Market Garden flying towards the Seamen's Centre on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. Two birds were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April by Alan Henry on Fitzroy Road and later in the day on Moody Brooke Road, Alan also seen a single bird at Gypsy Cove on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April. Micky Reeves saw a single bird at the junction of Fitzroy Road and Snake Street on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Six birds were seen by Alan Henry on Fitzroy Road on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. On the 9<sup>th</sup> April phone calls from Nic Huin and Alan Henry alerted us to three birds at the junction of James Street and Snake Street, and another bird at Fitzroy Road, very tame flying low to the ground and landing frequently on the fence posts, possibly exhausted having just arrived in the islands. Phyllis Rendell reported four birds at Ross Road West on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, Phyllis also noted they were very tame.

### **Southern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon***

Alan Henry sighted a single bird near to Gypsy Cove along the sand grass at Yorke Bay on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Charlene Rowland also reported a single bird at New Island settlement on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Marie Deligniers reported a single bird at Dunbar farm on the 19<sup>th</sup> May which had been there for a few days, still present at the farm in early October 2016.

### **White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus***

A single bird at West Point Island was reported by Thies and Kicki on the 21<sup>st</sup> April it had been about for a couple of weeks.

### **Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti***

A single adult male bird at New Island settlement in late November but was fatally harassed by the Falkland Thrush's (pers. comm.) Charlene Rowland.

### **Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis***

A single bird was reported by Marie Deligniers at Dunbar farm on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Charlene Rowland reported up to six birds at New Island and had been resident for several months.

Micky Reeves saw a single male at the small pond on Sea Lion Island on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla***

The bird sighted in Stanley and mentioned in the last report was found dead by Colin Smith in his greenhouse on James Street, Stanley on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Colin said that he had seen the bird in the area about a month previously; the bird had accessed the greenhouse through a window which had a pane missing.

**Must include – and is Ray Tipper’s photo - Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi***

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November an Avian Adventures bird tour group, sighted a single bird on diddle Dee shrub on Pebble Island just to the east of Cape Coventry as they driving back towards the settlement. Report and photos by Ray Tipper.

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

**Double-collared Seedeater *Sporophila caerulescens***

A single female bird at Volunteer house reported by Derek Pettersson on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, myself, Alan Henry and Micky Reeves visited the site the next day where we observed it feeding on the seed of Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and roosting in the cover of the nearby Macrocarpa trees *Cupressus macrocarpa*.

[This is the second record of this species in the Falkland Islands a male bird was seen on New Island in February 2009.](#)

**Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis***

Paul Robertson seen a ‘jet black bird’ at Port Stephens settlement on the 27<sup>th</sup> September, the bird was only seen briefly on the ground before it flew off, which may have been this species, Paul specially noted the dark green pattern on the back which could relate to an adult male in breeding plumage.