

# Rare and Vagrant Birds Report

## July 2017 – June 2018

### Rare and vagrant bird sightings in the Falklands

Every year we receive many wind-blown avian visitors. Sharp eyed bird watchers document these strangers and provide a list to Mike Morrison. Here is the full list of sightings of the visitors for the period, and where they were found.

A big thank you to everyone who takes the time to send in these reports.

#### **Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarcticus***

Chris May reported a single bird at George Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca***

Micky Reeves photographed a single bird off shore at the west end of Sea Lion Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. A report received late from last season was of a single bird flying overhead on Kidney Island on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Paulo Catry.

#### **Atlantic Yellow-Nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos***

Andreas Bange observed a single bird off shore at the settlement rookery at New Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis***

A single bird was seen and photographed at sea between Grand and Flat Jason Islands on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, by observers Will Miles, Andy Stanworth, Sarah Crofts and Jenny Sturgeon.

#### **Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica***

Will Miles saw a single bird off Cape Pembroke on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### **Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi***

The bird at Salvador settlement mentioned in last years report was still present on the 18<sup>th</sup> July and on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, it was joined by a second bird for a while but didn't stay, information Nick Pitaluga. Likewise the bird near Fitzroy settlement was also present on the 4<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September, Simon Hardcastle. A single bird near Salvador settlement on the 25<sup>th</sup> February, Mike Morrison.

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

The first report this season was on the 16<sup>th</sup> February when Sue Morrison saw one flying east along Davis Street, Stanley. Later that evening Tim Bonner reported one with the horses near the Racecourse, Stanley. Two birds at Port Stephens on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March, Will Miles. One at Sapper Hill, Stanley on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, Arina Berntsen. Ten birds at Volunteer Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, Will Miles. Micky Reeves saw nine birds on the 10<sup>th</sup> March at the garden area on Sea Lion Island, Micky saw two at sea lion cliff on the 11<sup>th</sup> two at Long Pond on the 12<sup>th</sup> and one at Rockhopper Point, Sea Lion Island on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. Two birds at Steeple Jason Island on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, Santiago Imberti. Still two birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> March at Steeple, Andy Stanworth, Jenny Sturgeon and Will Miles. On the 16<sup>th</sup> March Vernon Steen reported four birds at

Paragon in the last week. Small numbers were seen in and around Stanley up until the 13<sup>th</sup> April, many observers.

**Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis***

Jim Woodward reported two birds at Swan Inlet on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. A single bird at the Market Garden in by the polytunnels on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, Kristiane Thorsen. Two days later Kristiane reported that she had found the bird dead.

**Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala***

Micky Reeves reported that the bird from last season was still present on Sea Lion Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, but not seen later in the season.

**Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera***

Montana Short reported a male bird on Mary Hill Quarry on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, still present in the same location on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, Mike & Sue Morrison. Derek Pettersson also reported a single male at Cow Bay, Johnsons Harbour on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. Four birds were seen by Alan Henry and Andrew Miller on the small ponds near the Mare Harbour road; one adult male two females and one possibly an eclipse/immature male on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. At the same location on the 13<sup>th</sup> May there were six birds two adult males one eclipse/immature male and three females, Mike & Sue Morrison, one male flew off but managed to photograph the other five.

**Chimango Caracara *Phalcoeboenus chimango***

A single bird at Hill Cove settlement which was seen and photographed by Peter Nightingale on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Another single bird was observed in the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> September by David and Isobel Castle at Surf Bay, late afternoon of the same day Alan Henry saw one flying over the Cemetery/ Snake Street in Stanley. Richard Stevens reported a single bird at Swan Pond, Port Louis on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.  
(pictured right by Peter Nightingale)



**White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera***

Alan Henry found two birds on Yorke Bay Pond on the 14<sup>th</sup> April; one of the birds had an injured wing and would hide in the pond weeds whenever approached. One of these birds remained in the same location up until the 19<sup>th</sup> June. Five birds were seen by Jody Aldridge and Sian Nightingale at the ponds at West Lagoons on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis***

Sally Blake saw a single bird on the south side of the Racecourse on the 16<sup>th</sup> September; still present the next day, Mike Morrison.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

A single bird at Kelp Point, Whale Point, Fitzroy on the 1<sup>st</sup> January managed to get a few photographs before it disappeared, Mike & Sue Morrison. (*pictured right*)



**Sanderling *Calidris alba***

Alan Henry saw a single bird on Surf Bay beach on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Micky Reeves saw up to thirteen birds on Bertha's Beach on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

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

Micky Reeves saw a single bird at the old airstrip on Sea Lion Island on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and another single bird on the 30<sup>th</sup> October at the Big Pond at the south beach on Sea Lion Island. Another single bird at Beaver Pond, Sea Lion Island on the 28<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January, Micky Reeves. Micky also saw a single bird at the Big Pond between north and south beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. Peter Young saw a single bird at Surf Bay on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius***

A single bird on Big Pond, Whale Point, Fitzroy on the 7<sup>th</sup> November seen and photographed by Mike Morrison. (*pictured below*)



**Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata***

Two birds at Saunders Island settlement seen and photographed by David Pole-Evans on the 4<sup>th</sup> March these birds remained in the same location for a month. Two birds were also seen at Steeple Jason Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> March by Will Miles, Andy Stanworth and Jenny Sturgeon. On the 27<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April Nic Huin reported a single bird in the gardens at Government House. Carol Morrison saw one on Race course Road on the 31<sup>st</sup> March which was probably the same bird as seen in the gardens at Government House.

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

Andreas Bange saw a single bird at New Island settlement on the 29<sup>th</sup> December. A single bird was also seen at Carcass Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> March by Will Miles, Andy Stanworth, Sarah Crofts and Jenny Sturgeon.

**Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus***

A single bird at Saunders Island about half way between the settlement and the Neck reported by 'Biffo' Tuson on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana***

A single male bird was seen by Jillian Williams on the 7<sup>th</sup> December on the beach and in the fields below the Market Garden in Stanley. (pictured below)



**Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus***

Derek Pettersson reported a single male bird which had been spotted by a tourist at Volunteer house on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, Mike Morrison and Alan Henry went down to Volunteer's on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and were able to see and photograph the bird. [This is the first report of this species in the Falkland Islands.](#)

(pictured right)



**Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa***

Andreas Bange saw and photographed a single female bird at New Island on the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga***

Andreas Bange reported a single bird at New Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and another single on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Micky Reeves saw a single bird at Sea Lion Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Andreas Bange saw two birds at New Island on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and a

single bird on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Charlene Rowland and Andreas Bange reported three birds at New Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. Micky Reeves reported a single bird (probably this species) at Sea Lion Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November and another single bird sitting on the grass outside the lodge at Sea Lion Island on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, and another single bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Andreas Bange reported a single bird at New Island on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. A single bird at New Island on 14<sup>th</sup> December seen by Carol Morrison, Carol also saw two birds at the north end of New Island the next day. Micky Reeves saw up to fifteen birds at the garden area on Sea Lion Island on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February Kristiane Thorsen saw two birds at the Market Garden, Stanley, where she observed one bird feeding the other. A single bird at the Lodge on Sea Lion Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, Micky Reeves. Will Miles and Andy Stanworth saw two birds at Steeple Jason Island on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. Micky Reeves reported a single bird at Sea Lion Island on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

Charlene Rowland and Andreas Bange reported a single bird at New Island on the 31<sup>st</sup> October seen up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Kristiane Thorsen reported a single bird at the Market Garden, Stanley on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Andreas Bange saw a single bird at New Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Alan Henry saw a single bird at Hadassa Bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Joshua Peck reported two or more at Pebble Island on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. Single birds were also seen by Andreas Bange at New Island between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November. Two birds along the Airport Road on the 11<sup>th</sup> November which was probably this species, Mike & Sue Morrison. Single bird on the rubbish dump road on the 18<sup>th</sup> November which was observed by Robin, Nick and Alan Woods and Mike Morrison. A single bird came flying through by Volunteer House on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Alan Henry and Mike Morrison.

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

A single bird at Steeple Jason Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, possibly the same bird was seen again two days later by Will Miles, Andy Stanworth and Sarah Crofts.

### **Patagonian Mockingbird *Mimus patagonicus***

Charlene Rowland reported a single bird at New Island on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Mourning Sierra-Finch *Rhopospina fruticeti***

A single female bird (had no tail feathers) at New Island settlement on the 26<sup>th</sup> December until the 10<sup>th</sup> January which was observed by Andreas Bange.

### **Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca***

A single bird seen and photographed by Mike Pole-Evans near Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, seen the next day by Micky Reeves in the sand dunes.

### **Patagonian Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus***

Charlene Rowland reported a single female bird at New Island on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. Also seen by Andreas Bange who reported it at the same location up until the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

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

Riki Evans saw a single bird at Pebble Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, also one reported by Susan Pole-Evans at the Neck, Saunders Island on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Sonia Felton reported that the bird was still at Cape Dolphin that was reported in last years report, still present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Mike & Sue Morrison. A single bird was seen at West Point Island by Santiago Imberti on the 10<sup>th</sup> March. Santiago also saw a single bird on Steeple Jason Island on the 11<sup>th</sup> March; three birds were seen by Will Miles and Andy Stanworth on Steeple Jason Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and a single bird on the 16<sup>th</sup> March which may have been one of the three. Micky Reeves saw a single bird near the Lodge on Sea Lion Island on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Will Miles also saw a single bird at Carcass Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Grassland Yellow Finch *Sicalis luteola***

Eight birds in a flock at Steeple Jason Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> March observed by Will Miles and Andy Stanworth.

### **European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

A single bird at the house at Cape Dolphin first noticed by Sonia and Andy Felton on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, where Sonia managed to get some photographs through the kitchen window. Sue and Mike Morrison went out to Cape Dolphin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June, saw it feeding with the Long-tailed Meadowlarks but very weary and difficult to approach, (Mike & Sue Morrison). Micky Reeves saw it on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and managed to get a photograph.

The arrival of this species in the Falkland Islands could be considered unusual but reading an extract from “Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica” by Martín R de la Peña and Maurice Rumboll (1998), “there is an established population in Buenos Aires which is expected to spread”. Twenty years later we find an individual has reached the Falkland Islands. [This is the first record of this species in the Falkland Islands.](#) (pictured below by Micky Reeves)

