

Rare and vagrant bird report: Highlights

July 2018 – June 2019

Collected by Mike Morrison

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

A single bird seen by Joshua Peck on Pebble Island on the 7th December, another single bird was seen on a small pond on Bleaker Island by Lesley Campbell-Stephens on the 25th January. This bird was seen on the sea near to the pond for a few days before it disappeared, information by Nick Rendell.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

A single bird in Stanley harbour near Gilbert House on the 7th December, reported by Brian Summers. On the 9th December a single bird was seen in the harbour at West Point Island by Allan White and Nicky Summers. This is the largest species of Grebe in the world, ranging in length from 67–80cm and weighing up to 2 kg.

Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*

A single bird was seen on a pond in Bull Roads, Bull Point by Andy Stanworth on the 14th November, this is the first record of this species since 1924.

Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca*

This endangered albatross species was seen a number of times during the 2018–19 summer. A single bird roosting on the ground and calling, near the Lighthouse at Cape Pembroke on the 12th November observed by Alan Henry. Two birds were seen on the ground along the coastline of Phillips Point on the 20th November by Beverly Bates. Robert

Rowlands saw a single bird again at Cape Pembroke on the 30th December. Two birds were seen and photographed in flight in Port William near to Top and Bottom islands by Daniel Biggs in March.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*

Tony McMullen Brought in a dead bird for identification which he found at San Carlos on the 27th August.

Magellanic Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani*

Alan Henry photographed a bird on the water and in flight in Falkland waters on the 13th June.

Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus*

Two birds were seen on the greens at the back of Volunteer Beach by Grant Munroe and Amanda Kuepfer on the 7th May.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

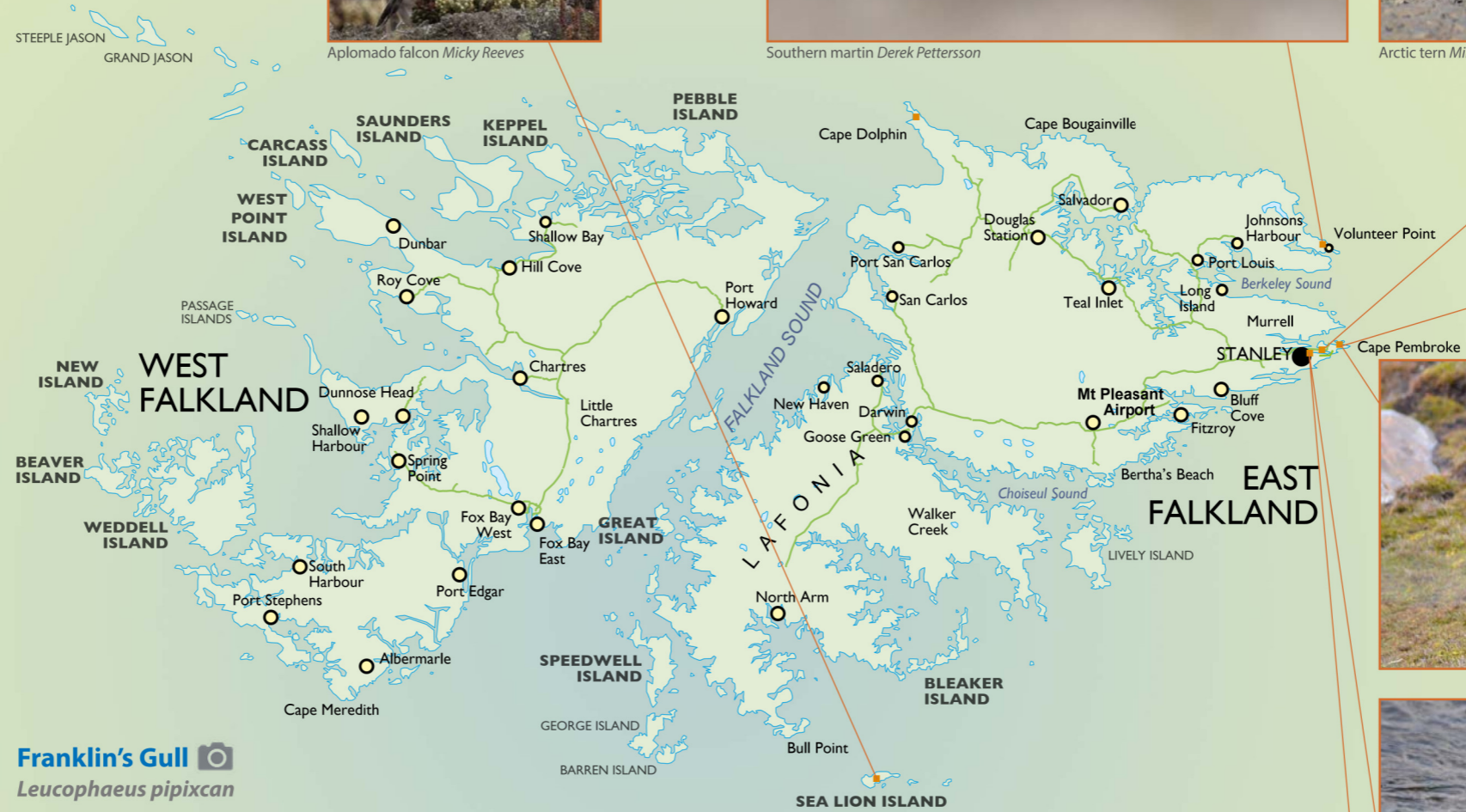
Traighana Smith saw a single bird at Long pond, Sea Lion Island on the 11th December also seen again a few days later in the same location.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

A single bird was seen by Andy Pollard at the first creek to the south of North Arm settlement on the 15th November.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A single bird was seen and photographed in flight at sea by Alan Henry on the 4th January.



Aplomado falcon Micky Reeves



Southern martin Derek Pettersson



Arctic tern Mike Morrison



White-crested elaenia Andy Pollard



Sooty albatross Sue Morrison



Franklin's gull Alan Henry



Great grebe Brian Summers

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

A single bird was seen by Alan Henry with kelp and brown-hooded gulls in front of Victory Green, Stanley harbour feeding on krill which had been washed up on the beach on the 10th and 11th February. This small gull gets its name from the early 19th century Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

A single bird at Cape Pembroke which was roosting on the lighthouse road in the evening of the 20th November, possibly resting after a long flight as when disturbed would only lift off and land on the road again, Sue and Mike Morrison.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

A single bird was seen in flight along the Bypass Road in Stanley by Megan Boldenow and Thomas Farrugia on the 21st February.

Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis*

A single bird at the airstrip on Sea Lion Island seen and photographed by Micky Reeves on the 25th April had been seen two weeks before but not positively identified. This bird was still present at Sea Lion Island on the 21st May (per Andy Pollard). This bird has a large natural range stretching from the US through to Tierra Del Fuego, however overall population

declines are likely owing to habitat loss and degradation across this large area.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

A single bird was seen by Andy Pollard on the north side of the lighthouse, Cape Pembroke on the 23rd January. This small flycatcher is quite variable, depending on from where it originates; a population in the deserts of northern Chile and Peru has a spikier crest and duller wingbars whilst another population in the Andes

from Bolivia to Ecuador has a weaker crest with the white base sometimes concealed.

Southern Martin *Progne elegans*

Derek Pettersson reported a single bird at Volunteer House on the 8th November, this bird stayed in the area for a couple of days.

Creamy-bellied Thrush *Turdus amaurochalinus*

A single bird at the Long Pond, Sea Lion Island seen by Micky Reeves on the 13th April.

Thank you to those who sent their observations, the full report is available on request to info@conservation.org.fk.