

Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Falkland Islands 2005

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This report summarises the sightings of rare and vagrant birds submitted to Falklands Conservation or made by the authors and staff of Falklands Conservation during 2005.

Adelie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae*

A single bird, an immature having no white eye ring, was seen on the south beach just west of Hooker's Point on 26th May (Mike & Jacqui Summers).

Royal Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus schlegeli*

A single bird was present on 4th January at the Tamar Rockhopper penguin rookery on Pebble Island (Allan White).

Erect-crested Penguin *Eudyptes sclateri*

A single bird on the south coast of Port Harriet Point was sighted on 9th October (Mike & Donna Evans). The bird, first recorded in January 1997, returned to the rookery at Marble on Pebble Island and was present all through the breeding season. It is thought to have mated with a Rockhopper penguin – on 19th November it was incubating an egg (Mike Morrison & Alan Henry).

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*

A single bird was seen just off Cape Pembroke on 14th March (Alan Henry).

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

A single bird was recorded at Cape Pembroke on 15th March (Alan Henry).

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

Three sightings were made during the year, all of single birds. The first was at Bertha's Beach Pond, on 13th February (Mike & Sue Morrison, Alan & Trish Henry), the second on Weddell Island on 17th February (Lesley Garland), and the third at Duperrey Harbour on 4th July (Pat & Daniela Whitney).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Although now considered a regular visitor there were very few sightings in 2005. One was at the Agricultural Department on the 20th March. Dennis Middleton saw two at Dolphin Cottage, Stanley, on the 30th March and Sue Morrison saw a single bird on Brandon

Road, Stanley, on 1st April, and another on Fitzroy Road, Stanley on 4th April.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

This is a rare breeding species. A pair successfully bred on Pebble Island in 2000/01. All 2005 sightings are from East Falkland, mainly the Fitzroy area: a single bird on Triste Point pond, Walker Creek, on 9th January (Sue & Mike Morrison); four birds in a bay by Elephant Island, Kelp Lagoon, on 6th February (Andy Douse); two birds, possibly a pair, on the big pond in Whale Point on 12th & 13th February and five birds on Bertha's Beach Pond 13th February (Sue & Mike Morrison, Alan & Trish Henry); four birds on the big pond in Pleasant Roads, two birds on the big pond in Whale Point, and two birds on Bertha's Beach Pond were all seen on 10th April (Sue & Mike Morrison); two birds again seen on the big pond in Whale Point on 15th December, and seven on 22nd and 31st December (Alan Henry).

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

This is a rare breeding species but there have been no reports of any breeding in recent years. A single male in eclipse plumage in Turners Stream, near Chatta Creek, seen on 28th December 2004, was in the same location on several dates (1st & 14th January 19th February and 6th March) (Sue & Mike Morrison). On 11th January a single male was spotted on the second beach pond at Cattle Point, also in eclipse plumage and probably the same bird seen in near by Sand Pond in November 2004 (Sue & Mike Morrison). A single female at Moody Brook, first recorded on the 21st August, was in the same area until 13th September (Sue & Mike Morrison). A pair was observed on Hawk's Nest Pond north on 27th and 29th November (Robin Woods & Alan Murray). A single male, also in eclipse plumage, was seen at Fox Point, Fitzroy on 31st December (Alan Henry).



Cinnamon Teal at Moody Brook (Alan Henry)

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

A single teal in eclipse male or female plumage was recorded on a small pond on Pleasant Island, Fitzroy, on 7th March by Tim Reid, an experienced birder, who has seen this species in South America. This is possibly the first record of this species in the Falkland Islands but no corroborating evidence from field notes has been submitted.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

Four birds, two males and two females, were seen on 11th January on a small pond in Cattle Point, North Arm (Sue & Mike Morrison). These are possibly some of the same birds from a party of six in the same area in December 2003 and February 2004. A single adult male was on Enderby Pond, Lively Island, 1st March (Nic Huin and Tim Reid).



Red Shovelers, Cattle Point (Mike Morrison)

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

A single bird was recorded in Mary Hill Quarry, Cape Pembroke, from 8th to 13th May (Sue & Mike Morrison). A single bird was seen on Hawk's Nest Pond south (Will Wagstaff) in mid November, and was still in the same location on 26th and 27th November (Robin Woods & Alan Murray).

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

The first recorded attempt at breeding in the Falklands of this species occurred on Bleaker Island in 2005 (see 2004 Report). Two birds were seen on a pond near Elephant Point, Saunders Island 23rd January (Andy Douse). These are possibly two of the three seen in the same location by Andy in September last year. Three birds were seen on the same pond on the 4th November (Alan Henry & Mike Morrison). Three birds were also seen on Enderby Pond, Lively Island, on 1st March (Nic Huin & Tim Reid).

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Single birds were recorded in Windmill paddock at Teal Inlet from 23rd to 26th September (Kristiane Thorsen), on the airstrip at Port Stephens on 10th October (Mike & Donna Evans) and in a field near Estancia House on 22nd October by Tony & Alisa Heathman.



Hudsonian Godwit, Kelp Point (Alan Henry)

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

For the third year in succession this species has returned to Whale Point, Fitzroy, which seems to be their favoured wintering ground. All 2005 records are from here: a single bird at Kelp Point on 6th February (Andy Douse), fifty-one birds near the wreck of the St Mary on 13th February (Sue & Mike Morrison, Alan & Trish Henry), two birds at the wreck of the St Mary and one at Kelp Point on 10th April (Sue & Mike Morrison), sixteen birds at Kelp Point 15th December (Alan Henry) and six birds at Kelp Point on 22nd December (Alan Henry).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipe*

Two birds were on the big pond in Whale Point, Fitzroy, on 6th February (Andy Douse) and one bird here on 12th & 13th February (Sue & Mike Morrison and Alan & Trish Henry).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Three birds were observed on the sand beach at Ronda, Salvador on 20th March, and on 26th March a single bird was seen at the big pond, Bull Point, North Arm, with large numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers (Mike & Sue Morrison).



Lesser Yellowlegs, Whale Point, Fitzroy (Mike Morrison)

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Three birds were seen on a sandy point at Sand Hills, Walker Creek, on 10th January (Sue & Mike Morrison) and a single bird on the big pond Whale Point, Fitzroy, on 6th February (Andy Douse). Eight birds were at Bull Point, North Arm, on 8th October (Sue & Mike Morrison, Alan Henry) and two birds at Penguin Walk, Cape Pembroke, on 13th October (Alan Henry). Three birds were recorded on 4th December at Sea Lion Point, Ronda, Salvador, (Sue & Mike Morrison), five birds at Cape Pembroke on 4th December and thirteen on 10th December (Alan Henry), and a single bird here on 11th December (Tim Reid).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Two birds were seen by a small pond at Fox Point, Fitzroy, on 3rd January (Sue & Mike Morrison), first recorded here on 18th December 2004.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

A single bird was present on Pebble Island on 21st & 22nd November (Terry Spruce).

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

A single bird was seen off Cape Pembroke on 9th January (Alan and Bob Henry).

Chilean Skua *Catharacta chilensis*

A single bird was observed on Steeple Jason Island on 22nd November (Tim Reid).

Eared Dove *Zenaidura macroura*

Alan Eagle reported a single bird near the hay barn at Fitzroy settlement on 21st April. A single bird was observed flying in a southerly direction 25th April from the house at 10 Fitzroy Road East, Stanley (Sue Morrison). A single immature bird was found dead at Government House on 3rd May (Gordon Liddle). This is possibly the same bird seen by Dennis Middleton on the 30th April.

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephanoides*

Roddy Napier recorded a single bird at West Point Island between the 2nd and 4th April. A description given by



Black-crowned Monjita on Pebble Island (Mike Morrison)

Dennis Harris of a very small green bird with a fast wing beat, seen in the yard at 15 Fitzroy Road, Stanley on the 8th November, was possibly also this species.

Black-crowned Monjita *Xolmis coronata*

There was a single bird near Marble Shanty, Pebble Island, on 19th November (Alan Henry, Mike Morrison, Joan & Terry Spruce). This is the first record of this species in the Falkland Islands.

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*

Single male was seen on Sea Lion Island on 3rd October. (Ian Duncan).

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta leucopyga*

Two birds were seen on the Eliza Cove Road on 8th February and a single bird was seen over sand grass in Fox Point, Fitzroy, on 13th February (Alan Henry). Thirty to forty birds were seen at Volunteer Shanty by Rod Tuckwood, reported on the 23rd February 'as seen a few days ago'. Tim Reid and Nic Huin reported six birds on Steeple Jason Island migrating east on 7th March, and a single bird on Carcass Island on 9th March. A swallow, possibly this species, was seen on Davis Street, Stanley, on 10th October (Gordon Liddle).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A single bird was seen with two Cliff Swallows on Fitzroy Road East, Stanley 2nd and 3rd April (Alan Henry).

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Two birds were seen on Fitzroy Road East, Stanley, on 2nd April. (Sue & Mike Morrison). One bird was seen in the same area until 5th April by Alan Henry.

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Junco capensis*

A single bird was seen at Pebble Island settlement on 15th May (Arina Berntsen).

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

A single adult male was seen at Pebble Island settlement on 19th September (Tracy Evans, Jacqui Jennings). This is the third record of this species in the Falkland Islands, all in the last four years.



Cliff Swallow, Stanley (Alan Henry)