

Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Falkland Islands 2006

Mike Morrison and Alan Henry

This report summarises the sightings of rare and vagrant birds submitted to Falklands Conservation or made by the authors, volunteers and employees of Falklands Conservation during 2006.



Chinstrap Penguin, Stanley (Alan Henry)

Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarcticus*

Two reports both within a week, the first from Annie & Nick Pitaluga of one on the road by Piazza Creek Salvador on 31st August, and the second by Sally Blake of one on the shoreline near the 'Jbelum' on 2nd and 4th September and seen by the Capstan Gift Shop carpark, Stanley, over the next two days.

Erect-crested Penguin *Eudyptes sclateri*

The Erect-crested once again returned in mid October to the Rockhopper colony at Marble on Pebble Island (Allan White).

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

A single bird a non-breeding adult at the Head of the Bay, Green Patch on 3rd November (Sharon Halford info Alan Henry) still in the same area two days later (Sue Morrison).

Spectacled Petrel *Procellaria conspicillata*

Single bird seen from a long line fishing vessel reported on 29th March.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

A single bird was seen on 7th April at Dunnose Head by Rosemary Wilkinson. Single bird reported by Shirley Knight at North Arm between the Fox Bay settlements also in April, possibly the same bird was seen during May and June at Fox Bay West by Norma Edwards. Tony Anderson saw a single bird in the creeks between the Estancia and Malo on 23rd October.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

All the sightings were in April – two birds at Bravo slip, Stanley on 1st (Sue & Mike Morrison and Alan Henry), single bird at Brookfield farm on 3rd (Jock McPhee), Another single bird on Philomel Hill, Stanley on 5th (Nic Huin) and three birds were seen flying west past 10 Fitzroy Road East, Stanley on 21st (Sue & Mike Morrison).

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Roger Edwards saw a single bird at Second Bay, Fox Bay on 28th September photographed by Padre David Norfield.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Seven birds on Big Pond, Whale Point, Fitzroy on 5th February (Sue & Mike Morrison) four were still in the same area a week later (Alan Henry). Six Birds in Kelp Lagoon, Fitzroy on 11th February (Nic Huin, Ali Liddle & others). Five birds in the Big Pond, Whale Point, Fitzroy and two birds on Bertha's Beach Pond on 27th March (Alan Henry). Two birds were seen flying over Darwin settlement on 14th September by Julie Granville. On 11th November Allan Eagle reported that a pair of Coscoroba's had four cygnets on Big Pond, Whale Point, Fitzroy. When visiting the area on 3rd December it was discovered that two pairs had young, one with four cygnets and the other with one cygnet (Sue & Mike Morrison). All cygnets surviving seen again 7th Jan and 11th Feb 2007. On 12th Feb Alan Henry observed the cygnet's practice flying on the pond in very windy conditions. This is the second recorded breeding in recent years - the other was on Pebble Island in 2000/01.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

A pair on Ship Harbour Pond, Pebble Island, seen on 19th January and 8th February by Allan White. A single male was also seen on Big Pond, Bleaker Island on 2nd October (Mike & Phyllis Rendell).

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

Just one sighting of a single male on Swan Pond, Cape Dolphin, on 1st October by Alan Henry.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

Single bird seen near the jetty at Goose Green settlement by Chris Taylor and reported by Diana Aldridge on 24th April, Diana phoned again on 21st July when the Coot had been seen again roosting in the wreck of the 'Vicar of Bray'. Photographed and identified on 23rd July.



Red-gartered Coot (Mike Morrison)

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Three birds seen on the pond in Elephant Point, Saunders Island on 14th October by Harriet Hall. In late December Janus Eliens and Felix van der Ouwelant found seven adult coots with chicks, (two of the pairs with three chicks, one pair with two chicks and a lone adult on the ponds in Elephant Point, Saunders Island (info Robin Woods). Alan Henry who visited the site a month later found five of the chicks all feathered and well grown (all three pairs had lost one chick from when first seen). This is the first successful breeding of White-winged Coots recorded in the Falkland Islands the only other attempt was on Bleaker Island in Dec04/ Jan 05.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Two birds at Yorke Bay Pond seen in flight on 10th November (Alan Henry). Three birds seen in the same area on 12th Nov (Mark Cutts & Steve Copsey), and all three again the next day by (Sue Morrison). Two birds were seen again on 23rd & 24th Nov, one seen on 6th Dec (Gavin Harrison, Jonathan Meiburg, Mike Morrison & Robin Woods) and two on 7th December (Alan Henry). One bird remained in the same area up until 30th December when it was last seen.

South-American Painted Snipe *Nycticryphes semicollaris*

Single bird flushed from tall, dense vegetation of *Carex trifida* & *Elymus glaucescens* on the eastern shoreline of Grand Jason Island, flushed several times over the next two days (14th to 16th November) but was only seen in flight because it remained hidden when on the ground (Giselle Boths, Gavin Harrison, Mike Morrison & Robin Woods). A dark slim bodied bird with two distinct gold-yellow stripes running down either side of the back to meet above the rump and a white 'halter'. Distant photographs show a fairly long, down curved and broad bill. Notably smaller than the resident Snipe *Gallinago paraguayiae magellanica* which was also in the same area and with a noticeably different flight action, it did not



American Golden Plover (Mike Morrison)

call when flushed or in flight. The conclusion was that it is almost certainly this species, and if so, is the first record for the Falkland Islands. Confusion with other species is highly unlikely.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

Most of the records are from Whale Point, Fitzroy that now seems an annual wintering site. Two birds near the wreck of the St Mary Whale Point on 5th February (Sue & Mike Morrison). Fifteen birds Kelp Point, Whale Point on 12th February (Alan Henry). Three birds in the same location on 27th March (Alan Henry). Three birds at George Island on 21st November (Chris May). Seven birds near the the St Mary Whale Point on 26th November (Alan & Trish Henry, Sue Morrison, Mark Cutts and Steve Copsey). Eight birds at Kelp Creek, Whale Point on 3rd December (Sue & Mike Morrison).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Single bird seen at the north west end of Steeple Jason Island in early November by Anthony Bellamy. Another single bird was seen by David Rabbitts at Cat Cove, West Point Island on 22nd November.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Only the one record of a single bird seen by Allan White near the settlement at Pebble Island on 27th February the bird was identified by Chris Lehen.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Ten birds amongst lots of White-rumped Sandpipers and Two-banded Plovers on a tidal beach south side of Bertha's Beach on 5th February (Sue & Mike Morrison). Twelve birds seen on the same beach on 12th February three of which were immature (Alan Henry). Three birds seen at the end of East Cove on 13th November and two in the same location on 8th December (Steve Copsey & Mark Cutts).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Two birds at Sand Hills, Walker Creek on 12th February (Sue & Mike Morrison). Two birds seen at Bertha's Beach on 8th November and five possibly seven on 21st November and three birds observed on 22nd November (Steve Copey & Mark Cutts). Two birds just to the south of Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke on 6th December (Gavin Harrison, Jonathan Meiburg, Mike Morrison & Robin Woods).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Single bird seen near York Bay Pond on 28th & 29th October (Robin Woods, Steve Copey & Mark Cutts). A single bird was also seen at Big Pond, Pebble Island on 29th & 30th October (Mark Finn of Birdwatching Breaks). One bird at Bertha's Beach on 8th and 23rd November (Steve Copey & Mark Cutts). Two birds near the beach at Pleasant Roads, Fitzroy on 26th November (Alan & Trish Henry, Sue Morrison, Steve Copey and Mark Cutts) still in the same location on 3rd December (Sue & Mike Morrison). A single bird at the ditch south of Yorke Bay Pond on 6th December (Gavin Harrison, Jonathan Meiburg, Mike Morrison & Robin Woods) (photographic identification indicates a different bird from that of 28th Oct Alan Henry). One was in the same area on 9th Dec (Steve Copey, Mark Cutts & Robin Woods).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Two birds seen and photographed at Sea Lion Island on 8th October (Mike Probin). Four birds at Sea Lion Island on 1st November (Mark Finn).

Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Single bird at Sea Lion Island observed in flight by Robin Woods on 12th December had previously been reported by (Andrew Clarke).

Chilean Pigeon *Columba araucana*

Single bird seen by Jay Moffat on 30th December in the garden at Cantera House and photographed by Jimmy Moffat. A report also of a 'Pigeon' previously at Port Howard been there for a while but had gone by 29th Dec (which may possibly be the same bird) (Simon & Susie Bonner).

Eared Dove *Zenaidura macroura*

One to three birds at Pebble Island settlement from 6th to 12th March (Arina Berntsen) identified by Allan White.

Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*

Single bird at Fox Bay settlement reported and photographed by Ken Halliday on 11th August which had been about for a couple of months. A single bird was also seen at Sea Lion Island on 1st November. Single bird at 9 Jeremy Moore Avenue, Stanley on 21st December (Jane & Tim Cotter) seen again the next day on the Race Course and at the house and photographed close-up (Robin Woods).

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*

Single male at Volunteer Point first seen down the Point then followed back to the shanty, reported by Rod Tuckwood on 18th October but seen about a fortnight before that.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*

Single bird at Carcass Island near the airstrip on 11th & 12th January reported by Tom Ulrich. A single male at Pebble Island settlement from 24th October until 6th November (Arina Berntsen), Photographed and identified by Allan White.

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Only one record, that of a single bird at Carcass Island on 10th April (Nic Huin).

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*

Single bird flying over tussac plantation at the end of Cape Dolphin on 19th February (Sue & Mike Morrison). A single bird with a Barn Swallow at Hookers Point on 28th March (Alan Henry). Four birds at Goose Green settlement in the early evening of 16th April (Hay Miller). Single birds were seen at different locations on Grand Jason Island (may have been one or more birds) on 14th November (Giselle Botha, Gavin Harrison, Mike Morrison, & Robin Woods). A single bird was also seen at Paragon House by Vernon Steen reported on 23rd December but seen about two weeks before that.

Blue and White Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*

Single bird at Pebble Island settlement on 22nd to 27th October seen and photographed by Allan White and identified by Alan Henry.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

One at the anchorage with other swallows about 8.45pm on 14th Nov (R Woods).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Two birds at the south side of Hookers Point on 26th March and a single bird with a Chilean Swallow at the same location on 28th March (Alan Henry). Two birds seen at Brookfield Farm on 29th September (Jock McPhee). Single bird seen at New Island on 6th and 7th October (Tony Chater). Several birds were seen at Port San Carlos on 4th November (Steve Copey & Mark Cutts). Nic Huin also sighted a single bird off Navy Point on 4th November.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Eight swallows appeared by the 'Condor' while at anchor at Grand Jason Island just at dusk on 13th November probably looking for a roost site, some may have been this species and possibly *Riparia riparia* (Bank Swallow), Cliff Swallows were seen the next day on Grand Jason Island; single birds were seen at different locations and may have been one or more



Mourning Sierra-Finch, Steeple Jason (Alan Henry)

birds. (Gavin Harrison, Giselle Botha, Mike Morrison & Robin Woods).

Patagonian Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus*

A single female at Gypsy Cove on 4th June (Alan Henry) this bird remained in the same area until 29th September. A single male was seen in the gardens at New Island during the winter (Tony Chater).



Female Patagonian Sierra-Finch, Cattle Point (Alan Henry)

Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti*

Single male bird on the north shoreline of Steeple Jason Island to the west of the shearing shed in early November (Anthony Bellamy) still in the same location on 29th November (Robin Woods & Mike Morrison).

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Several seen at New Island through the winter (Tony Chater). Two birds at Shell Point, Fitzroy on 3rd December (Fred Clark).