

Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Falkland Islands 2007

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 staff of Falklands Conservation during 2007.

Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarctica*

Single bird at Volunteer Beach on 20th December reported by Ian Coleman.

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*

Two birds were seen from a launch off Menguera Point on 11th April (Alan Henry).

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

Alan Henry saw three birds off Cape Pembroke Point on 25th March.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

A single bird at the small pond near the house at 'Hawkbit' on the morning of 4th April (Fred Clark). Rod and Phyllis Tuckwood saw another single bird at the head of Chubut Creek, near Johnson's Harbour on 5th May, and Sharon Halford saw a bird in the same location on 18th June, which was most probably the same one. Gonzalo Hobman also saw a single bird at the Chartres River in October. Single bird near the wreck of the St Mary flew over to Burnt Island in Kelp Lagoon 2nd December (Sue & Mike Morrison).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

The first three were seen this year on 27th March on the rugby pitch south of the Bypass Road (Alan Henry). One seen the next day flying over the town and then heading east down the harbour (Sue & Mike Morrison). One on 29th March in a yard on James Street (Sue Morrison) and also one at the Market Garden the same day (Alan Henry). One seen flying west on Davis Street on the 11th April (Sue & Mike Morrison). A flock of five and another flock of nine were seen to the south of Stanley on the 13th April (Alan Henry). On 14th April one was seen at North Arm Settlement, fourteen at Bull Point, North Arm, and one at Nor-west Arm house

(Sue & Mike Morrison). Two birds seen at a creek near Cattle Point old house site and one on the road half way between North Arm and Goose Green on 15th April (Sue & Mike Morrison). Two birds seen flying west on the morning of 17th May from Fitzroy Road East, Stanley (Sue & Mike Morrison).



Cattle Egret (Alan Henry)

Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopus*

Single bird observed at the north end of New Island in mid February (Tony Chater pers. comm.). A single bird seen at the east end of Stanley Airport runway 17th October (Micky Reeves) and four birds at New Island 3rd December - Alan Henry (Tony Chater pers. comm.). One bird also reported from Carcass Island on 3rd December.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

The Coscoroba Swan can now be termed as a rare breeding species. All the records this year are from the population at Whale Point/Pleasant Roads area at Fitzroy. Two pairs, which bred earlier in the spring, successfully reared their cygnets (one with five young and the other with six). Another pair, seen with five young cygnets on 29th December, was not seen again when visiting the area. There are now a total of twenty-four birds in this area (Alan Henry and Sue & Mike Morrison).

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

A single male was seen near Fitzroy settlement on 24th July by Allan Eagle, a single male Cinnamon Teal was also seen at Island Harbour creek (Micky Reeves) on 28th July and by Allan Eagle on 2nd August, and where the road crosses the Fitzroy River on 29th July (Sue & Mike Morrison). Seen by many observers and photographed at Fitzroy River over the next few months the last report was on 14th November (Brian Aldridge). It is probable that all of these sightings were the same bird. Alan Henry also saw a single male at the Big Pond in Whale Point, Fitzroy, on 25th November.



Coscoroba Swans (Alan Henry)



Pectoral Sandpiper (Alan Henry)

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

A pair was seen on the pond in Cattle Point, North Arm, on 3rd February by Sue & Mike Morrison. A single bird was also seen at Hawks Nest Ponds on 3rd December (Will Wagstaff).

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

A single male bird was seen at Dunnose Head Farm on 20th May by Rosemary & Clive Wilkinson. This bird stayed about the area for several weeks.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

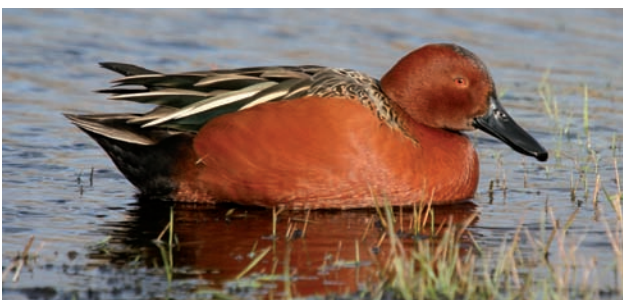
A single bird seen at the ponds in Elephant Point, Saunders Island, with the White-winged Coots on 25th January (Alan Henry).

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

The White-winged Coot is another species that can now be classed as a rare breeder. Two birds seen on Big Pond, Bleaker Island, on 30th June (Nick Rendell) and were still present on 16th September (Phyllis Rendell). Two pairs on the pond at Keppel Island were seen sometime in the early spring by Nigel Wyn (David Pole-Evans pers. comm.) and nine birds on the ponds in Elephant Point, Saunders Island, on 12th November by Mike Morrison. These Coots bred again as six young were seen later in the season (David Pole-Evans pers. comm.). A single bird was seen on Enderby Pond, Lively Island, on 26th November (Robin Woods and James St Clair).

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Just one sighting, which was probably this species, was seen on a field near Fitzroy settlement on 17th November (Allan Eagle and Isobel McLeod).



Cinnamon Teal (Alan Henry)



Baird's Sandpiper (Alan Henry)

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

All the sightings are from Whale Point, Fitzroy area, which now seems to be the favoured over-wintering site. Ten birds on 7th January at Kelp Point (Sue & Mike Morrison), nine at the same location on 11th February (Sue & Mike Morrison and Alan Henry), twelve birds at the wreck of the *St Mary* on 12th February (Alan Henry and Mark Cutts). Two birds at the same location on 25th November (Alan Henry). Six birds near the *St Mary* on 29th December (Sue & Mike Morrison and Alan Henry).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

A single juvenile bird was seen at Double Pond, near Port Purvis on 21st January (Will Wagstaff).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Six birds on the East Cove side of Bertha's Beach on 7th January (Sue & Mike Morrison), and a single bird at Shag Island Beach, Salvador, on 13th January (Sue & Mike Morrison.)

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Five birds on the north side of Cape Pembroke on 2nd January (Sue & Mike Morrison). A single bird at Whale Point, Fitzroy, on 8th January (Alan Henry & Vaughan Ashby). Two birds were seen by Alan Henry on 10th October at Cape Pembroke and a single bird at the small ponds on Cape Pembroke on 19th October (Alan Henry). A single bird at Bull Point, North Arm, on 20th October (Sue & Mike Morrison). Eight birds seen south of Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke, on 11th November (Alan Henry). Five birds on the gravel runway, Cape Pembroke, on 12th & 13th December (Alan Henry).



White-winged Coots (Alan Henry)



Wilson's Phalaropes (Alan Henry)

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Single bird at the ditch near Penguin Walk, Cape Pembroke 6th & 8th January (Sue & Mike Morrison). Single bird at the ponds in Elephant Point, Saunders Island 25th January (Alan Henry).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Two birds seen on ponds south of Stanley on the Common near the 'Clay Pigeon Range' on 4th February (Fred Clark). Two birds were also seen on the Big Pond in Whale Point, Fitzroy, with hundreds of White-rumped Sandpipers on 11th February (Sue & Mike Morrison).

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephanioides*

A single male bird was seen feeding from flowers of *Fuchsia magellanica* at 55 Fitzroy Road, Stanley, on 29th April (Graham Taylor pers. comm.); one week later (probably the same bird) was seen feeding from flowers in the back yard of 19 Fitzroy Road (Les and Jill Harris).

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*

On 28th October a female bird was found freshly dead on the 'Elizabeth Boyd' which was docked at FIPASS after she had returned from Punta Arenas (Micky Reeves). A male bird was seen on Sea Lion Island from the end of October to about 6th November (James St Clair).

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Six birds arrived at New Island in mid February after some very strong winds (Tony Chater pers. comm.). Three birds were reported from Carcass Island on 21st February (Derek Clarke info Alan Henry). Five to six birds were seen at Lively Island in the second week of February (Terry O'Dwyer). A single bird was seen at Carcass Island by Alan Henry on 25th & 26th October and Rob McGill reported seeing it off and on through the winter, most probably one of the three seen in February.

Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata*

A single bird was seen in flight at Sea Lion Island on 13th November (Christian Savigny).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A freshly dead bird was found in the yard at 19 Fitzroy Road on the 2nd October (Jill Harris). On 3rd October a single bird was seen on the south side of Hooker's Point feeding over the kelp on the boulder beach (Alan Henry). Sue Morrison saw a possibly immature bird on Davis Street, Stanley, on 5th October, and on the same day Alan

Henry saw a single bird at Moody Valley. Another bird was seen at Gypsy Cove on 6th October (Sue Morrison). Alan Henry saw the swallow at Fitzroy settlement on 17th October, which Allan Eagle had seen the previous day. A single bird at Carcass Island on the 25th & 26th October (Alan Henry) and a single bird at the west end of Stanley on 27th October (Alan Henry). Another bird was seen at Gypsy Cove in the early morning of 10th November (Sue & Mike Morrison). Three birds were seen at Port San Carlos on 21st and 22nd November, which were possibly this species (Andrew Smith).

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

A single bird at New Island in mid February (Tony Chater pers. comm.) and a single bird at Gypsy Cove on 22nd July (Sue & Mike Morrison). This bird stayed in the same area until 12th September, when it was last sighted (Alan Henry).



Rufous-collared Sparrow (Alan Henry)

The following birds arrived on the cruise ship *Ushuaia*, which departed Mar del Plata, Argentina, on 24th October. The birds flew onto the ship soon after whilst sailing down the Argentine coast. They then stayed with the ship and only departed when the ship arrived at Stanley on 26th October and was docked at FIPASS overnight. It is understood that the Cowbird remained on board but was gone by the next morning, 27th. There were no reports of any sightings from anyone after their arrival. The nearby Market Garden would probably have provided a suitable habitat, although their arrival was unknown to local birders at the time. Thanks go to Christian Savigny for the report, to Mark Pearman for the translation, and Alan Henry for the information.

Crowned Slaty Flycatcher *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*

Single adult. This is the first record of this species in the Falkland Islands.

White-banded Mockingbird *Mimus triurus*

Two birds. This is the first record of this species in the Falkland Islands.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

A single juvenile bird. This species has been reported three times previously.