



Manx Ornithological Society: publisher of the *Peregrine* journal of Manx natural history

Summary of bird sightings in the Isle of Man, April 2023

Brent Goose – A single bird was present around Peel Bay from 8th to 11th. Peak count from Derbyhaven and Langness was 78 on 2nd. Strandhall saw four present up to 17th.

Gadwall– A drake was at Langness on 5th; followed by pair at Strandhall on 7th and again on 27th. 27th also saw two drakes at Pooil Vaaish.

Shoveler – A pair were at Glascoe on 1st and 15th.

Long-tailed Duck – The Derbyhaven individual was reported on 2nd; then after a hiatus reported again on 24th and 28th.

Common Scoter – 12 flew past Peel Castle on 26th.

Red-breasted Merganser – A redhead was reported flying south off Peel on 21st. A drake was present at Langness between 21st and 24th.

Goosander – A redhead was present on Clype Reservoir between 4th and 11th.

Alpine Swift* - A report of a single bird over Ramsey Bay on 10th. Another single bird was seen twice over Douglas Promenade on 12th.

Little Ringed Plover* – After a bird being present in MBLPOANR early in the month; an individual was found on Kionslieu Dam on 19th; then another individual at Pooil Vaaish on 26th & 27th.

Purple Sandpiper – The high count came again from Port St Mary of 21 on 7th. Peel saw three reported on 17th. On 23rd five were roosted on the Sugar Loaf.

Common Sandpiper – The first report came from Peel Bay on 15th; followed by reports from the Lhen, Kionslieu, Langness and Port Lewaigue. The highest reported count was of four at Poyll Dhooie on 28th.

Black-tailed Godwit – A single bird was present at Langness from 5th and reports continued up to the end of the month.

Jack Snipe – Two were recorded near Sulby on 3rd; another report of two came from Snuff the Wind on 29th.

Great Skua – Away from the Calf, an individual has been reported from Langness on 17th, 18th & 23rd – likely the same bird.

Sandwich Tern – Regular reports through the month; ranging from Carrick Bay, Castletown Bay, Peel Bay and along the northwest coast. Rue Point saw the highest counts, 42 reported on 25th.

Little Tern – The first report from Rue Point was of two on 25th; with seven reported there the following day.

Common Tern* - A single bird was reported from Rue Point on 25th.

Black-throated Diver – A single bird flew south past Peel on 4th.

Great Northern Diver – 30th saw a single breeding plumage bird off Peel.



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Hobby* - An individual was seen over the Ayres on both 7th and 15th.

Osprey - Singles seen over Colby on 8th; Regaby on 15th and the Ayres on 26th.

Cuckoo – The first report of the year came from Regaby on 8th; where one was also reported on 22nd. The 23rd saw one near Jurby; 25th on the Smeale Ayres; 28th near Andreas and 29th in Ballure Plantation.

Whitethroat – First report came of a bird singing at the Lhen on 24th; then reports of single birds at Langness, Rue Point and near Cregneash in following days.

Sedge Warbler – The 24th saw the first report of a bird in the reedbeds at Croit-e-Caley; with reports also from Ballachurry and the Lhen in following days.

Grasshopper Warbler – The first report came on 18th of an individual near Glen Mooar. This was followed on 25th with a bird at Kionslieu which was reported up to 28th; the 28th also saw reports from the Smeale Ayres and near Ramsey. On 29th a bird was heard at the Lhen.

Tree Pipit* - A single bird was at Ballaghennie on 14th.

Yellow Wagtail* - A first summer flava bird was at Pooil Vaaish on 24th.

Whinchat – A good number of records of this infrequently reported species. The first record came from near Sulby on 20th; then individuals at Pooil Vaaish on 24th; Point of Ayre on 26th; Langness on 27th and Patrick on 29th.

Fieldfare – A late departing flock of 106 was seen near Sulby on 10th.

Redwing – One was seen at Silverdale on 1st; then three among the previously mentioned Fieldfare flock on 10th.

Tree Sparrow* - An individual was seen in an Andreas garden on 7th.

Crossbill – At least two were present in Kerrowdhoo Plantation on 25th.



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Calf of Man Interesting Sightings, April 2023

Sourced from trektellen.org, with thanks to Aron Sapsford

Cuckoo – The first of the year was recorded on 21st; followed by three on 22nd and two on 24th.

Stock Dove – A single sighting of one on 6th.

Common Sandpiper – The 22nd saw the first of the year when two were seen; followed by singles on 25th, 26th & 30th.

Great Skua – The first sighting on the single bird came on 15th; and recorded regularly thereafter.

Puffin – singles were recorded on 2nd & 17th.

Merlin – a relatively late bird on 8th.

Swallow – peak count during the month was 45 on 24th.

Willow Warbler – The highest count for the month was 90 on 27th; of which 79 were caught and ringed.

Ring Ouzel – A single record of one bird on 18th.

Redwing – Single birds were recorded on 20th; 24th & 30th.

Fieldfare – Several late records of Fieldfare; with five present on 27th and the last a single on 29th.

Spotted Flycatcher – The first of the year was an early record; a bird caught and ringed on 27th. The earliest arrival date since 2007 and only fifth ever April record for the Calf.

Redstart – Records of one on 17th; then two on 22nd; three on 23rd and one on 24th & 25th.

Grasshopper Warbler – Three on 18th were the first for the year; with a single on 27th.

Blackcap – peak count was 40 on 18th & 27th, with 35 recorded on three other dates.

Sedge Warbler – The first of the year came on 23rd when two were recorded; the highest count reaching 10 on 28th.

Whitethroat – The 22nd saw the first record of two, the 28th seeing the highest count of nine.

Treecreeper – A single was ringed on 4th; and seen again on 6th.

Wheatear – main movements were 144 on 18th and 150 on 20th, mostly involving 'Greenland' race birds.

Tree Pipit* - Single birds were recorded on 28th and 29th.

Twite – A single bird was recorded on 5th.

Yellowhammer* - An individual was seen on 4th.



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Compiled by David Kelly

Sourced from Manx Birdlife website, and some eBird contributors; with thanks.

Species marked with * are yet to be considered by Manx Bird Records Committee.

Please note that sightings of sensitive breeding species may not be included in this summary during the periods outlined at <http://manxbirdlife.im/sightings/start-and-end-dates-for-sensitive-breeding-species/>. Sightings of these species on the Calf may still be reported where they do not relate to breeding birds.



Little Ringed Plover, Pooil Vaash 26th April. © David Kelly

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