



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

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

Whooper Swan – The highest count from the northern plain saw 30 at Ballacain on 28th.

Pintail – Four birds were seen in flight at Derbyhaven on 28th.

Common Scoter – In Port Erin Bay two were present on 11th with one remaining on 26th & 30th. Off Sartfield, Jurby were 21 on 3rd and 11 on 28th; four records from Peel, the highest count being six.

Long-tailed Duck – The male remains at Derbyhaven being reported on nine dates. Another male was present off Cronk-y-Bing on 18th & 28th.

Goosander – At Kionslieu two drakes were present throughout the month. A redhead was present on the Colby River on 15th. On the River Neb two redheads were seen on 16th and at St Johns Fishery a single on 12th.

Whimbrel – A single bird was present at Langness on 15th, 18th & 26th, with two observed on 30th.

Greenshank – The individual remains between Derbyhaven and Langness; becoming the first of this species to be recorded in the Christmas Bird Race.

Little Auk* – A single bird passed the Point of Ayre on 8th; another individual passed Peel on 28th.

Mediterranean Gull – A second winter bird was present in Ramsey Bay on 14th.

Iceland Gull – A first winter bird was present around Peel Harbour and bay from 19th to 22nd.

Great White Egret* – An individual was again at Bishops' Dub on 13th.

Black-throated Diver – Reported off Peel Castle through the month, the highest count being 12 together on 19th. Single birds were present in Ramsey Bay on 2nd; Derbyhaven Bay on 6th and off Glen Wyllin on 1st, 13th & 15th.

Waxwing – The flock remained around Ramsey Bakery until at least 14th, numbers fluctuating from 11 to 14. A single bird was seen near Four Road, Port Erin on 26th.

Chiffchaff – Single birds were seen at Ballabeg on 15th, in a St Johns garden on 17th. Unfortunately, not seen during the bird race.

Tree Sparrow* – A site near Ballabeg held up to 12 birds through the month.

Brambling – Single birds were seen at two sites near Ballabeg on several dates; and two were reported from a Douglas garden on 25th.

Twite – Seven were among a mixed flock in fields near Jurby on 3rd. At Peel Castle a flock of 12 were present from 14th to 19th, six remaining on 24th. 22 were at Poilvaish on 21st, with 17 present at nearby Poyll Richie on 26th.

Crossbill – 15 were in trees at Kionslieu on 5th. In Archallagan Plantation two were seen on 31st.

Reed Bunting – 15 were among a mixed flock in fields near Jurby on 3rd; and a site near Ballabeg held up to 8 birds during the month.



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Manx BirdLife Christmas Bird race – The 2023 race from 25th to 31st achieved a record 121 species; many thanks to everyone who contributed!



Iceland Gull, Peel Marina 20th December 2023. © David Kelly

Compiled by David Kelly, National Bird Recorder

Sourced from Manx BirdLife website and Twitter feed, and some eBird contributors; with thanks.

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

For Manx Birdlife Recent Sightings visit: <http://manxbirdlife.im/sightings/>

For daily updates of Calf of Man sightings **(Mar – Nov)** visit: <https://trektellen.org/>

For more information on the Manx Ornithological Society visit: <http://manxbirdlife.im/manx-ornithological-society/>

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