



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

### Summary of bird sightings in the Isle of Man, March 2023

**Pink-footed Goose** – Two were among Greylags between Ballabeg and Colby on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Whooper Swan** – The highest count of the Ballaugh Cronk group was 35 on 15<sup>th</sup>; 30 remained on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Green-winged Teal\*** – The wintering male remains at Poyll Vaaish and was last reported on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Garganey\*** - A drake was present on Kerrowdhoo Reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-tailed Duck** – The long-staying immature male remains in Derbyhaven Bay, last recorded on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Scoter** – Three flew south off Peel on 6<sup>th</sup>. Two were seen off Ramsey Vollan on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Alpine Swift\*** - The first report was of a single bird passing Peel on the morning of 17<sup>th</sup>. On 19<sup>th</sup> two were observed for several hours over the Point of Ayre Quarry; a single was seen the following day. Reports of one or two continued there until 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Red-breasted Merganser** – A redhead was reported flying south off Peel on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ruff** – A single bird was present at Langness on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Sandpiper** – 33 was the highest count roosting at Port St Mary on 23<sup>rd</sup>; 32 counted on both 6<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Gull** – A single was seen off Peel Castle on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** – The first records of the year came on 28<sup>th</sup> of singles in both Castletown Bay and Peel Bay. Three were seen at Rue Point on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Diver** – Off Peel five recorded on 11<sup>th</sup> and eight on 13<sup>th</sup>. One seen off the Point of Ayre on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Great Northern Diver** – One off Peel on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Owl** – The night of the 10<sup>th</sup> saw a bird reported near Ballabeg.

**Sand Martin** – The first record was four at Orrisdale (Kirk Michael) on 14<sup>th</sup>, then 14 at Kerrowdhoo Reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup>. The Point of Ayre area saw four on 19<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 20<sup>th</sup>; then regular reports thereafter.

**House Martin** – The first of the year was a single bird at the Point of Ayre on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Swallow** – The first report was of five near the Lhen on 19<sup>th</sup>. Three were seen overflying Peel on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Wheatear** – The first records of two at Peel on 18<sup>th</sup>; on 19<sup>th</sup> with three at the Sound and one at Poyll Vaaish; sightings thereafter coming from Poyll Ritchie, Scarlett, Langness, Fort Island, Peel Castle, Rue Point and the Point of Ayre.

**Kingfisher** – The Castletown individual was last reported on 10<sup>th</sup>; however, the Douglas bird continues to be observed.



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**Willow Warbler** – The first of the year was reported from Ballachurry on 26<sup>th</sup>; with singing heard there again on 31<sup>st</sup>. Near Cregneash on 30<sup>th</sup>. Singing at Ballannette on 31<sup>st</sup>. One in Peel on 29<sup>th</sup>

**Black Redstart** – Single birds were seen at Peel (3<sup>rd</sup>), Marine Drive (5<sup>th</sup>), Derbyhaven (7<sup>th</sup>) and Point of Ayre Lighthouse (20<sup>th</sup>). The Marine Drive saw two together on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fieldfare** – 12 were seen at Mount Rule on 14<sup>th</sup>, five at Patrick on 17<sup>th</sup>; 10 were reported north of Andreas on 30<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> also saw two near Cregneash.

**Tree Sparrow\*** - The last record of the Poyll Vaaish birds was of one on 11<sup>th</sup>. As we approach breeding season locations of sightings may not be included in these summaries; however please do report any sightings via the webpage listed below.

**Twite** – Nine were seen at the Sound on 26<sup>th</sup>.



Alpine Swift at Point of Ayre Quarry, 19<sup>th</sup> March. © Brian Kelly.



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Compiled by David Kelly

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

### **Calf of Man Interesting Sightings, March 2023**

Sourced from trektellen.org, with thanks to Aron Sapsford

**Stock Dove** – A scarce bird for the Calf, one bird was caught and ringed on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Manx Shearwater** – The first returning birds of the year were seen offshore on 23<sup>rd</sup> and several were seen ashore on the night of 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Sandpiper** – Seven were seen in a night-time roost at Cow Harbour on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Swallow** – The first of the year was recorded on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Willow Warbler** – The first bird of the year arrived on 25<sup>th</sup> with another on 26<sup>th</sup>, four on 30<sup>th</sup> and seven on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Chiffchaff** – The first passage bird was seen on 11<sup>th</sup>, then daily from 18<sup>th</sup> with an arrival of 50 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Blackcap** – The first of spring passage was seen on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldcrest** – 26<sup>th</sup> saw a remarkable fall, with 300 birds counted; 200 of which were caught and ringed.

**Firecrest\*** – A female was caught and ringed on 27<sup>th</sup>.



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**Wheatear** – The first of the year were recorded on 18<sup>th</sup>, with the highest count of 20 being reached on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock Pipit** – An all-time high count of 107 individuals was made on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Twite** – After a count of 32 on 6<sup>th</sup>; two on 19<sup>th</sup>; singles on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and finally 29 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer\*** - A male was seen near the observatory on 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

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

For more information on the *Peregrine* Journal visit: <http://manxbirdlife.im/manx-ornithological-society/articles-in-peregrine/>