



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

Summary of bird sightings in the Isle of Man, May 2026

Pink-footed Goose – For the third summer two appear to not be migrating; noted at POANR from 8th to 23rd.

Wigeon – A late drake was at Pooilvaish on 1st, 5th & 8th. A single at POANR on 10th.

Pintail – A drake was seen at POANR on 14th.

Little Ringed Plover* – A bird was at Kionslieu on 10th & 11th, and again on 24th.

Black-tailed Godwit – Two at Langness on 20th, three on 21st. At POANR two on 14th then singles on 16th, 17th & 29th.

Whimbrel – Peak count at Langness was 46 on 2nd.

Ruff – One present at POANR on 14th & 16th.

Great White Egret* – A possible bird was seen between Colby and Ballabeg on 8th.

Arctic Skua – Two flew N off POA on 13th. A pale phase bird flew through Castletown Bay on 20th.

Osprey – One flying N over South Barrule Plantation on 9th, followed by one at Kionslieu on 10th. A bird passed POA on 28th.

Honey Buzzard* – A bird was reported over Castletown on 27th.

Hobby* – A bird was seen at Surby on 27th.

Common Tern – The regular adult was first noted back at POANR on 8th.

Arctic Tern – The first birds returning birds seen off POA with six on 4th. 40+ present by the end of the month.

Yellow-legged Gull* – An adult was reported at West Marine, Peel on 8th & 28th. Another bird S off the castle on 4th.

Turtle Dove* – A report of one in Jurby on 26th.

Hoopoe – One seen on Bradda Head on 3rd.

Cuckoo – Singles seen at Surby on 3rd, Druidale on 8th and Langness on 15th. Bird heard calling at South Barrule Plantation on 16th; and at Surby, Santon and Ramsey on 21st.

Yellow Wagtail* – A blue-headed type bird was present at Sandwick on 1st & 2nd.

Spotted Flycatcher – Birds were relatively late to arrive; records of singles at Langness on 23rd, Surby and Bradda Glen on 24th and Howe Glen on 27th. Two were seen at POANR on 23rd.

Compiled by David Kelly

Sourced from Manx Birdlife website, eBird and the *Manx Bird Alert* group; with thanks.



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Calf of Man Interesting Sightings, May 2026

Sourced from trektellen.org, with thanks to Eleanor Grover

Cuckoo – Singles on 4th, 10th, 11th & 23rd.

Purple Sandpiper – The last spring records were 15 on 2nd; 27 on 3rd, 13 on 4th and 35 on 10th – all on Chicken Rock.

Common Sandpiper – One at Cow Harbour on 28th, a late spring bird.

Great Crested Grebe – A bird flew north off South Harbour on 26th.

Puffin – Two on 8th were the first of only four records in the month.

Great Skua – The regular bird was noted throughout the month.

Osprey – A bird flew north over the Observatory on 8th.

Whinchat – A female was in the Lighthouse Fields on 2nd.

Fieldfare – A late bird was recorded at the Observatory on 4th.

Spotted Flycatcher – A late start with the first being a single on 18th; followed by four on 21st, 12 on 22nd, and six on 23rd & 24th.

Reed Warbler – One bird in song at the Withies on 22nd.

Subalpine Warbler sp.* – A bird was caught and ringed on 10th; suspected Western but awaiting DNA analysis.

Tree Pipit – One on 5th.

Tree Sparrow* – A single bird was at the Observatory on 26th.

Common Rosefinch* – A bird was singing at the Observatory on the morning of 26th.



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Yellow Wagtail, Langness 1st May 2026. © David Kelly

POA – Point of Ayre

POANR – Manx Birdlife Point of Ayre National Reserve

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.

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/>