



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

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

Brent Goose – The first to return to Langness and Derbyhaven Bay were two on 3rd, with numbers rising to 31 by 29th. Elsewhere eight passed Peel on 1st and a single on 16th.

Whooper Swan – 12th saw six over the north coast at three locations. 16 overflew the Lhen on 14th, the largest flock in the month. Over Baie ny Carrickey three flew east on 11th and three west on 15th. A single bird was present at Cranstal from 21st to 23rd, with two there on 22nd.

Wigeon – Numbers built up in the second half of the month, high counts including 52 at Glascoe on 22nd, 68 at Langness on 29th and 76 at Strandhall on 31st.

Velvet Scoter – Two were seen offshore at the Point of Ayre on 23rd.

Common Scoter – Most records came from Peel on ten days in the month, the highest count being 15 on 17th. Three were seen from Niarbyl on 21st.

Long-tailed Duck – A male was off Jurby on 23rd. A juvenile was in Derbyhaven Bay on 26th and seen at Poyll Brienn, Langness from 29th to 31st.

Goldeneye – A male was present in Derbyhaven Bay on 24th & 27th.

Goosander – Redheads were present on the river at Leigh Terrace, Douglas on 21st; and between Pooil Vaaish and Poyll Ritchie on 31st.

Red-breasted Merganser – A redhead was in Castletown Bay on 10th and Derbyhaven Bay on 22nd.

Ruff – A single bird was present at Langness on 2nd.

Woodcock – Some of the first birds of winter included one on farmland at Sulby on 22nd and one near Dalby on 27th.

Greenshank – A single bird was present between Derbyhaven and Langness from 19th to 31st.

Little Gull – One was seen in Peel Bay on 15th.

Mediterranean Gull – Single birds seen off Peel on 2nd & 15th. Singles were also seen at Strandhall on 25th, Langness on 26th & 28th, with three birds seen off Douglas Street, Castletown on 31st.

Common Tern* - Juveniles were present along the north coast early in the month with three at the Point of Ayre on 5th.

Arctic Tern – Two juveniles were in the company of Common Tern at the Point of Ayre on 5th.

Arctic Skua – Individuals were seen passing Peel on 2nd, 4th & 5th; two seen on 3rd. A bird was seen far offshore at Rue Point on 5th.

Great Skua – A single bird flew south off Peel on 28th.

Cattle Egret* – An individual was seen in fields at Cranstal on 21st, remaining until at least 23rd.

Short-eared Owl – Multiple records of single birds: Ballaghennie Ayres on 13th, Bradda Head on 16th, Rue Point on 26th, Derbyhaven 29th and Jurby on 31st.

Kingfisher – Sightings of single birds at Poyll Ritchie on 9th and Poyll Dhoogie, Ramsey on 14th.



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Merlin – Records of individuals from Point of Ayre: 5th, 9th, 12th & 15th; and Langness 10th- 30th.

Swallow – As numbers tail off sightings late in the month included two over Castletown on 27th, and four there on 31st.

Fieldfare – The first returning record was of a single at Langness on 8th. Significant flocks of 400-500 reported around Andreas on 24th.

Redwing – Among the first record were nine near Cregneash on 9th. Like for Fieldfare large flocks were reported around Andreas on 24th.

Wheatear – Late sightings included singles at Douglas Harbour on 11th, Scard on 12th and Fort Island on 29th.

Tree Sparrow* - Having not been seen since March, two were seen at Poil Vaaish on 25th.

Hawfinch* – A bird was seen at feeders in Kirk Michael on 26th.

Brambling – Two were among mixed finches on stubble at the Lhen on 23rd.

Twite – A flock of 24 were seen at Peel Castle on 11th. A flock of 14 were present at Poil Vaaish on 25th & 31st. A single bird was seen at Poyll Brienn, Langness on 26th.



Whooper Swan and Cattle Egret, Cranstal 23rd October 2023. © David Kelly

Compiled by David Kelly, National Bird Recorder

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



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Calf of Man Interesting Sightings, October 2023

Sourced from trektellen.org, with thanks to Aron Sapsford

Pink-footed Goose – Eight overflowed on 1st, another eight seen on 11th.

Whooper Swan – Eight overflowed on 11th.

Water Rail – A single was recorded on five dates from 9th to 23rd.

Woodcock – The first of winter was recorded on 24th.

Arctic Skua – Seawatches produced 15 on 4th.

Long-eared Owl – A individual was recorded on 12th.

Short-eared Owl – A single bird was recorded on 29th and 30th.

Red-eyed Vireo* – The individual from September remained present up to 3rd.

Radde's Warbler* – A first Calf and Manx record, an individual was caught and ringed on 25th.

Ring Ouzel – Three individuals were recorded on 10th, 21st & 24th.

Redwing – Peak count of 160 on 12th.

Fieldfare – The first passage birds were recorded on 9th, the peak count for the month being 29 on 21st.

Tree Sparrow* - Only one record, a single on 22nd.

Brambling – The first autumn birds were recorded on 21st when three were recorded, followed by one on 22nd & 23rd and two on 28th & 30th.

Little Bunting* - An individual was caught and ringed on 11th.

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 visit: <https://trektellen.org/>

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/>