

Recent reports

January 2025



Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Harry Hussey

This summary of unchecked reports covers the period from early October to early December 2024.

Headlines In this extended period, North Ronaldsay was the place to be, notching up Fea's/Desertas Petrel (also two off Cornwall), Brown Booby, Eyebrowed Thrush, American Robin, Siberian Rubythroat and Black-faced Bunting (with others in Gower and Lincolnshire). Fair Isle and Shetland also scored highly, with records of Bufflehead, American Coot, Brünnich's Guillemot and American Pipit. Scilly had Common Nighthawk and two Blyth's Pipits, whilst Northumberland scored with Grey-headed Lapwing and Oriental Turtle Dove. Others that might normally be first-line entries in the headline list included a popular Scarlet Tanager in Yorkshire, a Little Crake in Pembrokeshire, two Booted Eagles, two Red-eyed Vireos and two Dark-eyed Juncos, whilst a fine array of waterfowl included up to six White-winged, and single Stejneger's and Black Scoters.

'Grey-bellied Brant' *Branta bernicla* ssp. Lurgangreen (Co. Louth), 10th November; Sandymount Strand (Co. Dublin), 21st November to 5th December; Blackrock (Co. Dublin), 28th November to 9th December. **Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*** Islay (Argyll), 11th October to 21st November; Rockliffe Marsh (Cumbria), 2nd December. **Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*** Islay, 16th October to 6th December; Loch of Spiggie area (Shetland), 22nd–23rd October; up to two, Cross Lough (Co. Mayo) and Dunfanaghy (Co. Donegal) during the period. **Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*** Flamborough Head (Yorkshire), seven (from Swedish reintroduction scheme), 11th November onwards. **Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*** Tacumshin (Co. Wexford) 26th October to 9th November. **American Wigeon *Mareca americana*** Records from five English, seven Scottish, two Irish and two Welsh recording areas. **American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*** Cross Lough, long-stayer to 1st November. **Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*** Abberton Resr (Essex), long-stayer to 30th November. **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*** Records from nine English recording areas. **Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*** Long-stayers Argyll, Perth & Kinross and Staffordshire; others Avon, Cambridgeshire, Devon, Essex, Fife, Highland and Surrey, and at least 12 in Ireland. **King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*** Yell (Shetland), 4th December. **White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi*** Wadbister (Shetland), long-stayer to 18th October; Craigielaw/Gosford Bay (Lothian), 7th–14th October and 3rd–11th November; Bamburgh (Northumberland), 19th–26th October; Lunan Bay (Angus & Dundee), 27th October to 22nd November; Inch (Co. Kerry), 30th October to 11th November; Bluemull Sound (Shetland), 5th November. **Stejneger's Scoter *Melanitta stejnegeri*** Craigielaw, 4th November. **Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*** Holkham Bay (Norfolk), 24th October. **Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*** Foula (Shetland), 17th November to 4th December.

Lesser White-fronted Geese

23. Lesser White-fronted Geese *Anser erythropus*, Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, November 2024.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* St Mary's (Scilly), 20th October.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Lewis (Outer Hebrides), 4th November; Donna Nook (Lincolnshire), 4th November; Islay, 9th November; Lundy (Devon), 16th November; Ballycotton (Co. Cork), 17th–18th November.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (Northumberland), 26th–29th October.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Loch of Spiggie, 26th November to 8th December. **Little Crake *Zapornia parva*** Bosherton (Pembrokeshire), 9th–15th October.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Records from Cambridgeshire and Cornwall. **American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*** Records from 14 Irish, three English and two Scottish recording areas. **Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*** East

Chevington (Northumberland), 5th–6th December. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Holme Dunes (Norfolk), 22nd October; Burnham-on-Sea (Somerset), returning bird sporadically 10th November to 6th December; Bantham (Devon), 11th November. **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Long-stayers Devon, Norfolk and Orkney, others Greater London, Kent, Co. Cork and Co. Wexford. **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* St Mary's, one 10th October, two 13th October. **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* Cameron Reservoir (Fife), long-stayer to 18th November. **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Long-stayer Essex, others Lancashire & N Merseyside, Norfolk, Pembrokeshire, Scilly and Wiltshire. **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* 20 individuals from six English, three Scottish and one Welsh recording areas; 13 individuals in Ireland.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* Records from Co. Antrim, Co. Cork, Cornwall, Co. Donegal, Highland, Norfolk and Northumberland. **Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* Maidens (Ayrshire), 26th November. **'Azorean Yellow-legged Gull'** *Larus michahellis atlantis* St Buryan, 3rd November; Newlyn (all Cornwall), 9th November to 8th December; returning bird, Annagh Marsh (Co. Mayo), 12th October to 2nd December. **South Polar Skua** *Stercorarius maccormicki* from Scilly pelagic, 10th October.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* Fair Isle, 15th October.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* Black Head (Co. Clare), 9th–10th November. **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* Records from one English, seven Scottish and one Welsh recording areas.

Black-browed Albatross *Gavia pacifica* Dunmabo (Co. Mayo), 21st October. **Fea's/Desertas Petrel** *Pterodroma feae/deserta* From *Scillonian III*, 18th October; The Lizard (both Cornwall), 19th October;

North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 2nd November. **Scopoli's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea* From Scilly pelagics, four 23rd October, one 29th October. **Yelkouan Shearwater** *Puffinus yelkouan* Berry Head (Devon), 20th October; Pendeen (Cornwall), 3rd December. **Barolo Shearwater** *Puffinus baroli* Cape Cornwall (Cornwall), 18th October.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Kithurst Hill (Sussex), again 9th–10th October.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* 25 miles south of Clonakilty (Co. Cork), 6th September. **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* North Ronaldsay, 8th November.

Double-crested Cormorant *Nannopterum auritum* Doon Lough (Co. Leitrim), long-stayer to 4th December.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Sparham Pools (Norfolk), 3rd December. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Records from eight English recording areas.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* Pale morph, various sites west Cornwall 10th–19th October; dark morph, various sites Berkshire/Oxfordshire 31st October to 2nd November. **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* Two males, Tacumshin, continuing to late October at least, then moving to Ballyvergan (Co. Cork) from 10th November. **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* Long-stayers Norfolk and Pembrokeshire throughout, Yorkshire to 11th October, Ballyvergan, 14th November to 2nd December; others Devon, Hampshire and Isle of Wight. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Records from three English and single Irish and Welsh recording areas.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* Holyhead (Anglesey), 26th

October; Durlston (Dorset), 27th October.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* Amble (Northumberland), 5th November. **Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*** St Mary's, 24th October. **Daurian/Turkestan Shrike *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*** Bempton Cliffs (Yorkshire), long-stayer to 10th October; Sandwich Bay (Essex), 18th October; Gillingham (Dorset), 19th–26th October.

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* Records from Cheshire & Wirral, Cornwall (2) and Norfolk (3).

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Records from Co. Cork, Scilly and Shetland.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Records from Highland (3) and Yorkshire (up to 3), plus four other English, one more Scottish and two Welsh recording areas.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* Sennen (Cornwall), 13th October. **Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*** Up to nine, found 26th October to 1st December, in six English and single Irish and Welsh recording areas. **Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*** Up to six, in three English and two Scottish recording areas. **Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*** Up to 13, from six English and three Scottish recording areas, and six birds in Ireland. **Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*** Mizen Head (Co. Cork), 11th–26th October. **Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*** Unst (Shetland), 9th–19th October. **Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*** Bridge of Fitch (Shetland), long-stayer to 9th October; Inishbofin (Co. Galway), to 9th October; Mizen Head, 9th October; Fair Isle, 17th October; Saltwick Nab (Yorkshire), 17th–19th October. **Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*** Unst, long-stayer to 17th October. **Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus***

dumetorum Howth Head (Co. Dublin), 10th October; Achill Island (Co. Mayo), 31st October. **Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*** North Ronaldsay, long-stayer to 27th October. **Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*** North Ronaldsay, 15th October; St Mary's, 28th–30th October.

'**Northern Treecreeper**' ***Certhia f. familiaris*** Low Newton-by-the-Sea (Northumberland), 25th–26th October.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* Records from six English, two Scottish and single Irish and Welsh recording areas.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* North Ronaldsay, 7th and 9th November. **American Robin *Turdus migratorius*** North Ronaldsay, 16th–18th October. **Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*** North Ronaldsay, 13th October. **Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*** Kynance Cove (Cornwall), 12th–14th October; Bempton Cliffs, 16th–29th October; St Mary's, 30th–31st October. **Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*** Cromer (Norfolk), 4th–9th October (confirmed by DNA analysis). **Amur/Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri/maurus*** Records from five English recording areas. **Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*** St Mary's, 11th October; Collieston (North-east Scotland), 19th October. **Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*** Beachy Head (Sussex), 22nd October to 6th November; Winterton-on-Sea (Norfolk), 13th and 15th November. **Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*** Seaford Head (Sussex), 8th–15th November.

Desert Wheatear

24. Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, Beachy Head, Sussex, November 2024.

'Black-bellied Dipper' *Cinclus c. cinclus* Fair Isle 22nd November.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* Bryher, 14th–19th October; St Agnes (both Scilly), 16th November. **Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*** Records from Cornwall (2), Fair Isle, Co. Galway, Norfolk, Scilly (3) and Shetland (up to 5). **Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*** Records from Co. Cork, Cornwall (2), Dorset, Orkney and Scilly. **American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*** Rerwick (Shetland), 26th–29th October.

'Arctic Redpoll' *Acanthis flammea hornemanni/exilipes* Fair Isle, long-stayer to 14th October; Whalsay (Shetland), 17th November.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Gibraltar Point (Lincolnshire), 26th October. **European Serin *Serinus serinus*** Records from five English and two Irish recording areas.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* Records from Devon, Norfolk and Scilly. **Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*** North Ronaldsay, 19th–28th October; Donna Nook, 25th–29th October; Oxwich (Gower), 26th October.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* Helston (Cornwall), 31st October; Upton (Dorset), 9th–10th November.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* Shelf (Yorkshire), 8th–13th November.