



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

Summary of bird sightings in the Isle of Man, April 2024

Brent Goose – The highest count from the month was on 8th with 124 at Langness. The last birds recorded at Langness were on 25th with 37 still present; 19 were also at Strandhall on that day.

Wigeon – Late remaining birds included two at Strandhall on 11th, one at Glascoe on 13th, two at Poolvaish on 18th and a single drake remained at Langness up to 23rd.

Gadwall– A pair were at Poolvaish on 25th, then at Langness on 28th. A drake was in pools at Cranstal on 24th.

Long-tailed Duck – The male at Derbyhaven continued to be reported through the month.

Red-breasted Merganser – A drake was present at Langness from 10th to 13th.

Goosander – A drake was present on Kerrowdhoo Reservoir on 23rd.

Alpine Swift* - A possible Alpine Swift was reported from Fleshwick on 7th.

Swift – Early returning birds were reported from Point of Ayre on 21st, Dalby Mountain on 25th and over Peel on 30th.

Purple Sandpiper – The high count came again from Port St Mary of 26 on 24th.

Common Sandpiper – The first record was a single at Poolvaish on 11th. Two were seen at Port Soldrick on 18th. Kionslieu saw one on 19th, three on 21st with two again on 23rd & 26th.

Black-tailed Godwit – At Langness one was present on 9th, seven on 27th, two on 28th and 14 on 30th. In the north a single was on the Ballaghennie backslacks on 19th and four were on the Glascoe floods on 24th.

Greenshank – The overwintering bird was last noted at Langness on 6th.

Great Skua – Sightings from Fort Island on 13th & 17th. A single was also seen off Marine Drive on 27th.

Great Crested Grebe – An adult bird was present in Derbyhaven Bay on 4th & 5th, and adult also seen in Douglas Bay on 13th.

Slavonian Grebe* - A breeding plumage adult was in Derbyhaven Bay on 5th

Sandwich Tern – Off Gansey a single on 5th, two on 9th & 15th. The highest count from Peel Bay was eight on 23rd & 24th. Along the north coast Rue Point saw the highest counts with 43 on 19th and 47 on 22nd.

Little Tern – The first sighting at Rue Point was a single on 21st, two were also seen off the Lhen on that day. By 24th 10 were at Rue Point.

Marsh Harrier* - An individual was seen over the Point of Ayre on 19th.

Osprey – A bird was seen off the Lhen on 19th, which flew north-east and seen passing the Point of Ayre a short time later.

Cuckoo – The first record came on 13th from Greeba Curragh, after which birds were heard near Dhoon Glen on 21st and the Lhen on 30th. Individuals were seen at Ballakesh on 22nd and Meayll Hill,



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Cregneash on the morning of 28th. A single bird was heard from Arrasey Plantation and surrounds from 24th to 28th.

Whitethroat – The first of the year was recorded at MBLPOANR on 20th. Single birds were at Ballachurry on 21st, Derbyhaven on 24th, Niarbyl on 26th and Perwick on 27th & 28th.

Sedge Warbler – The first of the year was heard at Lhagagh Mooar (Andreas) on 14th, the first bird at Ballachurry was seen on 16th.

Grasshopper Warbler – Single birds heard from Greeba Curragh and Langness on 13th. Birds were heard at Kentraugh from 19th to 28th. A bird was reeling at Kionslieu on 19th & 20th.

Tree Pipit* - Birds were seen or heard over MBLPOANR several times in the latter half of the month.

Redwing – A late bird was seen at the Point of Ayre on 24th, and a flock of 38 were recorded near Patrick on 26th.

Tree Sparrow* - Three birds were seen at Ballachurry on 25th.

Twite – A late flock remained at Poolvaish with 10 on 11th, and nine still on 18th.

Crossbill – Sightings from Conrhenny Plantation from 23rd to 26th, and nine in Arrasey Plantation on 27th.



Slavonian Grebe, Derbyhaven 5th April 2024. © David Kelly



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Calf of Man Interesting Sightings, April 2024

Sourced from trektellen.org, with thanks to Aron Sapsford

April 2024 saw a record high variety for the month of April with 104 species recorded.

Tufted Duck – An unusual sighting for the Calf with two seen on a seawatch on 9th.

Cuckoo – The first of the year was on 22nd, with two recorded on 24th and a single on 30th.

Swift – A single bird was recorded over South Harbour on 22nd.

Grey Plover – A single bird was seen flying up the Glen on 20th.

Common Sandpiper – The first was reported on 19th, with two present on 20th.

Little Egret – One was seen on 16th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker – The bird first observed in March remained on the Calf until at least 17th.

Great Skua – The first sighting of the single bird came on 18th and recorded regularly thereafter.

Ring Ouzel – Single birds were recorded on 1st, 2nd, 6th, 15th & 18th.

Spotted Flycatcher – The first of the year was caught and ringed on 30th.

Black Redstart – An adult male was seen near the observatory on 23rd.

Redstart – A female was caught and ringed on 27th.

Whinchat – Two records of singles on 21st & 26th.

Firecrest* - A bird was caught and ringed on 23rd.

Grasshopper Warbler – The first of the year came on 13th, singles then recorded on 14th, 20th & 23rd; two recorded on both 26th & 28th.

Sedge Warbler – The first two were recorded on 13th, though numbers were low for the remainder of the month.

Garden Warbler – One bird was caught and ringed on 26th, two on 30th.

Whitethroat – The 22nd saw the first record of two, the 28th seeing the highest count of nine.

Lesser Whitethroat – A single bird was caught and ringed on 28th.

Tree Pipit* - A single on 6th was first of the year, with three recorded on 18th and two on 26th.

Twite – A late single bird was observed on 4th & 5th.

Compiled by David Kelly

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



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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/>