

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Harry Hussey

This summary of unchecked reports covers the period from early March to early April 2014.

Headlines In a period dominated by high pressure and above-average temperatures there was a widespread early arrival of summer migrants, accompanied by Great Spotted Cuckoos in Devon and Pembrokeshire, Night Herons and Purple Herons in the southwest and Black Kites in Hampshire and Kent. A drake Baikal Teal in Cambridgeshire in late March had apparently been present for two weeks when discovered, while a Wood Duck on South Uist attracted considerable debate. The expected build-up of White-billed Divers began in northern Scotland, and a Pacific Diver appeared briefly in western Ireland.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* Long-stayers: Islay (Argyll), at least to 26th March; Ballyconnell (Co. Sligo), to 27th March. Also: Mutton Island, Quilty (Co. Clare), two, 12th–24th March. **Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*** Loaningfoot/Mersehead (Dumfries & Galloway), two long-stayers to 15th March, one to 28th; Poole Harbour, 30th March, then Stanpit Marsh (both Dorset), 31st March to 3rd April, then past Seaford Head and Birling Gap (Sussex), also 3rd April. **Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*** South Uist (Outer Hebrides), 27th–30th March. **American Wigeon *Anas americana*** Long-stayers in Co. Armagh, Highland and Outer Hebrides; also Cambridgeshire, 14th March intermittently to 3rd April; Kent, 28th March. **Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*** Fen Drayton Lakes (Cambridgeshire), 29th March to 4th April. **Black Duck *Anas rubripes*** Loch Sunart/Strontian (Highland), long-stayer to 25th March. **Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*** Stanwick GP (Northamptonshire), 1st April. **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*** Minsmere (Suffolk), 26th March to 1st April; Dagenham Chase (Greater London), 30th March and 2nd April. **Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*** Tittesworth Resr (Staffordshire), long-stayer to 27th March; Alturlie Point (Highland), 24th–30th March; Lough Gara (Co. Sligo), 29th March. **King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*** Long-stayers: Largo Bay (Fife), to 18th March; Gullane Bay (Lothian), to 29th March; Blacksod (Co. Mayo), to 4th April; Unst (Shetland), 15th–22nd March. Also, Narin Strand, 17th March, then Portnoo (both Co. Donegal), 19th–26th March; Burghead (Moray & Nairn), 2nd April; Loch Eriboll (Highland), 3rd April. **Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata***

Long-stayers in Co. Cork, Cornwall, Denbighshire (up to five to 17th March), Dorset, Fife and Lothian. Also: Ballyvaughan (Co. Clare), 10th March; Rerwick (Orkney), 1st–3rd April; Campbeltown Loch (Argyll), 1st April.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* Kilcolgan Point, Tawin (Co. Galway), 5th April. **White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*** Portsoy (North-east Scotland), ten, 26th March, one to 27th; Point of Stoer (Highland), 30th March; Achnahaird (Highland), 30th March; Lewis (Outer Hebrides), two, 31st March; South Ronaldsay (Orkney), 1st April; Burghead, 2nd–4th April.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* St Mary's (Scilly), 17th–20th March. Presumed **Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*** Saltwood (Kent), long-stayer found dead 25th March. **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*** Long-stayers at Steeple Claydon (Buckinghamshire), to 4th April and Hillsborough (Co. Down), to 23rd March; also Newcastle (Co. Wicklow), 11th March; Southwold (Suffolk), 24th March; Mousehole (Cornwall), 31st March. **Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*** St Mary's, 25th March; Millbrook (Cornwall), 2nd–3rd April. **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*** Many records of one or two from Co. Antrim, Co. Armagh, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire & Wirral, Cleveland, Co. Cork, Cornwall, Co. Derry, Co. Durham, Essex, Isle of Wight, Kent, Co. Kerry, Co. Limerick, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Orkney, Pembrokeshire, Perth & Kinross, Co. Sligo, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Sussex, West Midlands and Co. Wexford.

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Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* North Uist (Outer Hebrides), long-stayer to 1st April.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Bridgemyary (Hampshire), 20th March; Dungeness (Kent), 23rd March. **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Wykeham Forest (Yorkshire), 21st–22nd March; Hollesley (Suffolk), 24th March.

Sora *Porzana carolina* St Mary's, presumed long-stayer from February again 4th April. **American Coot** *Fulica americana* Loch Flemington (Highland), long-stayer to 4th April.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Lepe CP (Hampshire), long-stayer to 1st April. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* North Uist, long-stayer to 11th March. **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes (Hampshire), long-stayer to 31st March.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Long-stayer, Nimmo's Pier (Co. Galway), to 30th March. **Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* Long-stayers: Loch Caolisport (Argyll), to 11th March, and Cardiff Bay (Glamorgan) to 3rd April, with two on 30th March. Also: Scrabster (Highland), 11th March. **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla* Long-stayer, Ballycotton (Co. Cork), to 16th March. Also: Groomsport

(Co. Down), 23rd March, presumed same as Ballycotton. **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan* Canna (Highland), long-stayer again 10th March. **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus* Long-stayers at Campbeltown (Argyll), to 15th March, and Mullet Peninsula (Co. Mayo), to 23rd March; also, Portmagee (Co. Kerry), 9th–25th March.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* Giltar Point (Pembrokeshire), 11th–23rd March; Branscombe (Devon), 4th April. **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* East Tilbury (Essex), 24th March. **Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus* North Uist, 28th March.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Long-stayers: Ramsgate to 29th March; Dungeness (both Kent) to 3rd April; Coleshill (Warwickshire), to 10th March. **Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Great Barr (West Midlands), long-stayer to 17th March; Oulton Broad (Suffolk), 19th March to 4th April. **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* Yarrow Valley (Lancashire & N Merseyside), 5th February; Fair Isle, 30th March. **Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* Leiston (Suffolk), long-stayer intermittently to 27th March.

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* Macclesfield (Cheshire & Wirral), 8th–30th March, intermittently. **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* Long-stayers: Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire), 14 to 15th March, then 1–4 to 26th March; Hemsted Forest (Kent), to 24th March; Broughton (Lincolnshire), to 21st March; Lynford (Norfolk), five 23rd–27th March, 1–3 to 30th March; Postensplain (Shropshire), four to 16th March, three to 31st; Leith Hill (Surrey), to 18th March; Broomhead Resr (Yorkshire), six to 21st March, then 2–5 to 2nd April. Also: Farnham Heath (Surrey), 10th–26th March; Dove Stone Resr (Greater Manchester), 30th March to 1st April. **Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Holt, seven long-stayers to 11th March; Grimes Graves (both Norfolk), six, 19th March; Barnsmore (Co. Donegal), 28th March.

Richard Stonier



125. Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*, Giltar Point, Pembrokeshire, March 2014.