

Recent reports

Compiled by Barry Nightingale and Harry Hussey

This summary of unchecked reports covers early November to early December 2017.

Headlines An apparent 'North American Horned Lark' at Staines Reservoirs was by far the most unexpected highlight of a quiet period on the mainland. Brief respites from the persistent westerlies saw a Red-flanked Bluetail reach Suffolk, single Pied and Desert Wheatears in Cleveland and Norfolk, and parties of Parrot Crossbills lingering in Norfolk, Suffolk, Berkshire/Surrey and Derbyshire. The best of the rest included a returning Pacific Diver off Cornwall, Shetland's first Pied-billed Grebe present throughout, an American Coot in Co. Kerry, a Wilson's Snipe on Scilly, Snowy Owls in Orkney and Scilly and a Gyr Falcon in Co. Mayo.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* Collieston (North-east Scotland), long-stayer to 5th November. **Cackling Goose** *Branta hutchinsii* Islay (Argyll), two long-stayers, to 2nd December; Rockliffe Marsh (Cumbria), 10th–13th November, presumed same near Gretna (Dumfries & Galloway), 16th November. **American Wigeon** *Mareca americana* Long-stayers in Highland (3), Leicestershire & Rutland, Outer Hebrides and Worcestershire; new arrivals in Devon, Co. Donegal, Co. Down, Lancashire & N Merseyside, North-east Scotland, Northumberland and Yorkshire. **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* Blashford Lakes (Hampshire), long-stayer to 10th November; Rutland Water, 6th November, presumed same Eyebrook Resr (both Leicestershire & Rutland), 10th November to 3rd December; Ham Wall/Shapwick Heath (Somerset), two, 8th November, one to 10th and again 1st December. **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* At least 15 reported from Ireland. **Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* Blashford Lakes (Hampshire), long-stayer to 4th November; Lough Gill (Co. Kerry), 9th November; Chew Valley Lake (Avon), 12th November; Rahasane Turlough (Co. Galway), 15th November to 3rd December; Dozmary Pool (Cornwall), 26th November to 3rd December. **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* Long-stayers Ynyslas (Ceredigion), to 26th November, and Whiteness Head (Highland), to 1st December; Rough Point, 16th November, same Kilshannig (both Co. Kerry), 3rd December; Wester Quarff (Shetland), 4th November to 3rd December. **Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* Records from Co. Clare, Cornwall, Denbighshire, Fife, Co. Galway, Co. Kerry (3), Lothian, Co. Louth, Co. Mayo, Scilly and Shetland.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* Newlyn/Penzance, 4th–25th November and 30th to 2nd December, with it or another Pendower (all Cornwall), 26th November. **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* Records from Borders, Co. Clare, Co. Durham, Fife, Norfolk, Northumberland (2), Orkney and Shetland (2).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* Loch of Spiggie (Shetland), 4th November to 3rd December.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Records from Cleveland, Cornwall, Co. Derry, Devon, Essex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Sussex, Co. Wexford and Yorkshire. **Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Shrewsbury (Shropshire), long-stayer to 25th November, when taken into care. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Shapwick Heath (Somerset), 34, 17th November, with smaller numbers in one Scottish, two Irish, three Welsh and another 17 English recording areas.

American Coot *Fulica americana* Lough Gill (Co. Kerry), 9th November.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Bannow Bay (Co. Wexford), long-stayer to 8th November. **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* Records from Co. Cork, Cornwall, Dumfries & Galloway, Outer Hebrides (2), Co. Sligo and Co. Wexford (2 or 3). **Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* Long-stayer again at Farlington Marshes (Hampshire), 7th November, then Brownsea Island (Dorset), 24th November to 3rd December. **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* Records from Angus & Dundee, Co. Derry, Co. Kerry (2), Co. Wexford (3) and Yorkshire. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* Whitton Sands (Lincolnshire), 4th November. **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* Long-stayers: Oare Marshes (Kent), to 26th November, then two, 27th November to 1st December, one to 3rd; Marshside (Lancashire & N Merseyside), two to 5th November; Saltfleet (Lincolnshire), to 6th November; Tacumshin (Co. Wexford), to 10th November, then two, 12th–19th November, one 1st–3rd December. **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago delicata* St Mary's (Scilly), 3rd–6th November. **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* Covenham Resr (Lincolnshire), 10th November to 3rd December; Pegwell Bay (Kent),

Tony Blake



34. 'North American Horned Lark' *Eremophila alpestris alpestris/hoyti*, Staines Reservoir, Surrey, November 2017.

15th–17th November. Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* Abbotsbury (Dorset), long-stayer to 12th November. Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* Long-stayers Lodmoor (Dorset), to 3rd December and Tacumshin, to 10th November; Kilnsea (Yorkshire), 1st–3rd December.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* Devon, long-stayer to 28th November; others in Ayrshire and Dorset. Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* Long-stayer Newtownlynch Pier, 9th–15th November, same Kinvarra, 18th–22nd November, Nimmo's Pier, 2nd December, and at Mutton Island and Kinvarra (all Co. Galway), 3rd December.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* Eday (Orkney), 18th November; Bryher (Scilly), 30th November.

Brydon Thomason



35. 'Coues's Arctic Redpoll' *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*, Baltasound, Shetland, November 2017.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Northumberland, long-stayer at Tynemouth to 5th November. Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Ballinderry (Co. Tipperary), 17th November. Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* Ballinlough (Co. Mayo), 12th November.

'North American Horned Lark' *Eremophila alpestris alpestris/hoyti* Staines Resr (Surrey), 25th–28th November. Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Polgigga (Cornwall), 17th November.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Records from Cornwall, Devon, Kent and Scilly. Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* Records from Dorset and Essex. Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* Dungeness (Kent), 9th November.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* Records from Cornwall, Hampshire, Norfolk, Pembrokeshire and Yorkshire.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* Lowestoft (Suffolk), 7th–8th November. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* Halstow Marsh (Kent), 19th November to 3rd December. Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* Happisburgh, 2nd December, then Eccles-on-Sea (both Norfolk), 2nd–3rd December. Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* Skinninggrove (Cleveland), 6th November.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Lundy (Devon), 14th November.

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* Records from Norfolk, Shetland (3) and Suffolk. Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Influx into England; Santon Warren (Norfolk), up to 42, 23rd November to 3rd December; Upper Hollesley Common (Suffolk), five, 25th, six, 26th November; Swinley Forest (Berkshire/Surrey), 16, 25th November to 3rd December; Derwent Dale (Derbyshire), three, 2nd December, four, 3rd December.