

Manx BirdLife Christmas Bird Race 2016 Update

On 1st January 2017, Mark Fitzpatrick wrote:

'Well, unless any new sightings come to light, we've ended this year's Manx Christmas Bird Race with the magnificent total of 113 species. This is a new record.

The last two species to be discovered were: Black Redstart and Black-throated Diver. Both seen by Keith Johnson in Peel/Peel Bay.

The total number of species seen compares with totals of 111, 108, 100, 109, 103 for each of the previous five years.

Despite the fantastic efforts of Manx birdwatchers, there were some species that could be called 'the ones that got away':

- Reed Bunting; reported in all 5 previous races, but not this year.
- Barn Owl: seen in 4 previous races. No owls seen this year.
- Black Swan: seen in 3 previous races. Not wild birds, but still interesting. Have they all died?

At the other end of the scale, one new species was reported this year that had never been seen during a Bird Race before, namely Pink-footed Goose.

Three species were seen this year that had only been seen during one of the previous Bird Races, which were Water Rail, Knot and Waxwing.

There were 88 species that have now been seen in all six Bird Races: Mute Swan, Whooper Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Brent Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Eider, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander, Pheasant, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Little Grebe, Fulmar, Gannet, Cormorant, Shag, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine, Moorhen, Coot, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Sanderling, Snipe, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Stonechat, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Mistle Thrush, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Treecreeper, Magpie, Chough, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow, Raven, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Siskin, Linnet and Twite.'