

## RECORDS

2006

### December

22 Dec: A flock of 50 **House Sparrows** feeding between tables in restaurants in Casemates Square, the largest number recorded there together for several years. This seems to reflect a renewed increase in numbers of this species, while **Feral Pigeon** numbers remain lower due to culling.

21 Dec: **Firecrests** present in the Botanic Gardens after a cold spell in north-eastern Spain.

7 Dec: The **Booted Eagle** has remained on the Rock since the 20 Nov, and has been reported by several observers in the last few weeks.

6 Dec: An **Eagle Owl**, presumably one of the resident pair, was seen flying low, lit by the floodlights, over the Industrial Park at Lathbury late at night.

3 Dec: The **Griffon Vulture** that remained on the 17 Nov has been seen several times since then and was again seen over the Rock today.

### November

20 Nov: A light phase **Booted Eagle** has set up residence on the Upper Rock and was seen hunting along the ridge, and roosted in the PSA Nursery in the evening.

19 Nov: A flock of six **Sanderling** on Eastern beach and eight **Turnstones** on the rocks at Europa foreshore were the highest number ever recorded in one flock of each species. Two **Common Sandpipers** chased each other, in a territorial dispute, along the western end of the runway. Also single **Cormorants** were again seen flying into the harbour, flying north along Eastern beach and resting on Sandy Bay beach.

17 Nov: The **Short-toed Eagle** remained on the Rock and was again seen today, followed later by a **Griffon Vulture**; possibly the bird seen at the rubbish tip on the 14th.

15 Nov: A **Short-toed Eagle** and a **Booted Eagle** were observed soaring over the Rock, and disturbing the **Yellow-legged Gull** population that flew out in panic.

14 Nov: A **Cormorant** flew south over the harbour in the early morning, and a single **Griffon Vulture** was seen at the rubbish tip at Hole in the Wall area.

12 Nov: Just after midday several flocks of **Griffon Vultures**, numbering a total of 340 birds, flew in from Spain and soared over the Rock. They were accompanied by 13 **Booted Eagles** and all returned north after 13:00hrs.

9 Nov: A **Sparrowhawk** flew over Europort at 10:30am and a male **Bullfinch** was seen at the top of the Rock by the Cable Car Station.

8 Nov: A stunning male **Bullfinch** and a late **Garden Warbler** were trapped and ringed at Jews Gate. Just after midday several flocks of **Griffon Vultures** numbering 630 birds in total flew in from across the Bay and gained height over the Rock before returning north into Spain. They were accompanied by 2 **Booted Eagles** and a single **White Stork**. The **Griffon Vulture** rescued on Oct 21 was ringed and released in the hope that it would join up with the others that flew over the Rock earlier today.

7 Nov: Numerous flocks of finches, mainly **Chaffinches**, **Greenfinches**, **Goldfinches** and some **Serins** and **Linnets** continued to cross the Strait and many were forced to shelter on the Upper Rock due to bad weather. Many **Black Redstarts** arrived overnight and some were trapped and ringed including a female **Common Redstart**, a late trans-Saharan migrant.

6 Nov: A **Stone Curlew** flew south over Europort at 18:00 in the evening during the stormy weather, and a **Sparrowhawk** flew down to hunt over Windmill Hill from the Upper Rock.

3 Nov: Another late **Honey Buzzard**, a dark phase bird, was observed flying over the Rock in the afternoon.

## October

31 Oct: Large numbers of **Song Thrushes** were recorded in the Botanic Gardens, with over 40 counted at first light.

30 Oct: Late raptors over the Rock in the afternoon included a **Common Buzzard**, a late **Honey Buzzard** and a light phase **Booted Eagle**.

29 Oct: Conditions on the Upper Rock were similar to the previous days and there was an immense passage of **finches** and other passerines that included flocks of **Skylarks**, **Meadow Pipits** and **White Wagtails**. Other species seen were several **Tree Pipits**, two female **Redstarts** trapped and ringed, with a male seen down in the Vineyards area, all very late trans-Saharan migrants; a couple of **Ring Ouzels** and several **Song Thrush** and large numbers of **Black Redstarts** all moving up the slope in the early morning. Only small numbers of **Blackcaps**, **Robins** and **Chiffchaffs** were present indicating that these species had not arrived in numbers over the last few days.

28 Oct: The cloudy levanter conditions during the early morning concentrated a huge number of finches on the upper reaches of the Rock. **Chaffinch** flocks were landing in the bushes around Douglas Path where there was an accumulation of over 600 birds. With them were smaller numbers of **Goldfinch**, **Greenfinch**, **Serin** and a few **Linnets**. Two **Brambling** were also observed and numbers of **Song Thrush** were also present. Lower down below the cloud level around Jews Gate large flocks of hirundines were feeding on the emerging flying ants. Several hundred **House Martins** accompanied large numbers of **Crag Martins** and there were also some **Swallows** and **Red-rumped Swallows** present.

At Europa Point there was a notable passage of **Cory's** and **Balearic Shearwaters** out of the Mediterranean with some **Levantine Shearwaters** in the opposite direction. **Gannet** numbers in the Strait area had grown and many were still heading into the Med, and there were over 100 **Sandwich Terns** feeding on the Europa reef. Interesting observations included two early **Razorbills** after the one last week, and two **Black Terns** feeding offshore.

27 Oct: Cloudy conditions produced a fall of **finches** on the Upper Rock that was reported by our GONHS employees feeding the Barbary Macaques. They also picked up a dead **Common Wheatear** of the subspecies **leucorhoa** that had been knocked down by a car.

22 Oct: More late migrants included a male **Common Redstart**, a **Willow Warbler** and a **Pied Flycatcher** in the North Front Cemetery. An early **Razorbill** was seen fishing in the harbour and another was off Europa Point. Diurnal passage include many **Greenfinch** and **Goldfinch** flocks with a few **Chaffinches**, and some **White Wagtail** flocks were also seen flying south towards Africa from Europa Point.

21 Oct: A tired **Griffon Vulture** was chased over the town by over 80 **Yellow-legged Gulls**. The bird took refuge on the roof of the Varyl Begg Estate but fell four floors into the well of the building where it was picked up by the residents. It was handed in to the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre where it is recovering and will be released in due course.

18 Oct: A late **Garden Warbler** was seen feeding on the berries of Lantana in the Botanic Gardens.

16 Oct: Late trans-Saharan migrants included single **Pied Flycatchers** in the Alameda Botanic gardens and at Jews Gate today.

15 Oct: Arrival of **Crag Martins**, **Black Redstarts** and **Stonechats** noted in the Europa Point area. A small group of four **Turnstones** were on Europa Foreshore, and three pairs of **Peregrine** were seen hunting along the coast between Europa Advance, Europa Point and Camp Bay. One was seen to take a **Crag Martin** from low over the sea soon after the latter had left its roost site on a nearby cliff.

12 Oct: A **Spanish Imperial Eagle** flew in from across the Bay rising on the up-currents in Camp Bay. The bird, a juvenile, was observed by Vincent Robba, Stanley Olivero and other members of the Raptor Rehabilitation Unit from Windmill Hill. It was intercepted by the local pair of Ravens as it soared over the observers and glided steadily in a northerly direction over the southern end of the Rock.

## September

29 Sep: A **Turnstone** and a **Whimbrel** were on rocks below Europa Point.

24 Sep: An unusual flock of over 30 **Tern sp.** flew west high over the ridge of the Rock at a height of over 600m above sea-level. They were observed behind a small flock of Honey Buzzards that were taking a similar route.

19 Sep: Sixty-two birds were ringed at the Jews' Gate station, including 21 **Pied Flycatchers**, 4 **Nightingales** and 2 **Melodious Warblers**. A **Cattle Egret** flew south over Princess Caroline's Battery on the Upper Rock in the evening.

11 Sep: Three **Tawny Owls** were seen together in the former PSA Nursery on the Upper Rock, behaving like a family party, suggesting possible nesting in an area where they have been seen regularly in recent years.

## August

30 Aug: A small flock of 4 **Avocets** flew west past Europa Point.

28 Aug: A **Royal Tern** was seen flying west in the afternoon off Europa Point. This constitutes the eleventh record for Gibraltar.

24 Aug: Some trans-Saharan migrants on the move with the first **Garden Warbler** trapped and ringed at Jews' Gate, and adult **Woodchat Shrike** and two **Melodious Warblers** at North Front Cemetery.

19 Aug: A flock of 9 **Glossy Ibises** flew north across the Strait and then headed over Europa Point and into the Bay. The birds presumably came from the Smir marshes in Northern Morocco due south of Gibraltar. This is the second record for Gibraltar after a wait of 31 years. A flock of 10 **Oystercatchers** flew west past Europa Point. This scarce wader has been seen regularly in the last four weeks with a total of 50 birds so far this summer.



Glossy Ibises over Europa Point

C. Perez

14 Aug: After a long spate of unfavourable weather the winds finally turned to westerly and brought with it some more raptor passage. Over 2400 **Black Kites**, 3 **Montagu's Harriers**, 9 **Honey Buzzards** and single **Booted Eagle** and **Sparrowhawk** flew over the Rock in a three hour period in the afternoon before the winds again fell light. A **Zitting cisticola** and a **Hoopoe** were present at Europa Point.

10 Aug: A flock of 15 **Ruddy Turnstones** flew south along Eastern Beach late in the evening.

12 Aug: Over 900 **Black Kites** flew over the Rock in light winds before the winds rapidly changed to a moderate easterly.

9 Aug: An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was seen in the Alameda Botanic Gardens this morning. The bird gave its presence away by its characteristic call.

8 Aug: The **Moroccan Wagtail** was again present at Europa Point in the evening.

7 Aug: Three light phase **Booted Eagles** were observed flying over the town at midday.

6 Aug: A **Moroccan Wagtail** *Motacilla alba subpersonata* was seen at Europa Point this evening. The wagtail, that had been seen on the 30th July at the same location, was thought to be a **White Wagtail**. Extended views of the bird and a series of photographs confirmed the bird's identity. This constitutes the 2nd record for Europe of this subspecies of **White Wagtail**, (Portugal July 1995). Observers, T. Jesty, K. Bensusan, P. Acolina, C. Perez. Also at Europa Point a **Gull-billed Tern** flew east close to the observatory.



Moroccan Wagtail *Motacilla alba subpersonata*

C. Perez

5 Aug: Two **Spoonbills** were observed this morning flying north into the Bay from Europa Point. Also at Europa Point, hundreds of **Audouin's Gulls** on passage heading out of the Mediterranean. mainly adult and juvenile birds with a few first, second and third year birds. Also some **Mediterranean** and **Black-headed Gulls**, and two immature **Slender-billed Gulls**.

4 Aug: A **Common Chiffchaff** was seen and heard singing in the morning in the Alameda Botanic Gardens. Approximately over 400 **Black Kites** flew south over the Rock this morning, before the wind turned to easterly and passage shifted across the Bay.

1 Aug: A juvenile **Roller** was observed flying north over the frontier in the morning.

## July

30 July: A flock of 30 **Flamingoes** took a short-cut and flew east from the Bay of Gibraltar over the frontier and into the Mediterranean at midday.

28 July: A flock of 150 **Black Kites** were seen soaring over the airfield at 09:00 this morning, but the wind strength decreased and the birds flew west along the bay. At midday a light phase **Eleonora's Falcon** was spotted soaring low with **Common Swifts** over the northern end of town. This falcon usually turns up in the area following the migrant **Common Swifts** on passage. A flock of 47 **Flamingoes** flew west past Europa Point in the evening.

27 July: Heavy passage of **Common Swifts** with thousands of birds flying south over the Rock from midday onwards. In the evening huge flocks were seen over the crest of the Rock at O'Hara's gaining height as they approached from the east side of the Rock and then flew steadily south. At 18:30 four **Black Kites** were observed gaining height over Windmill Hill as the westerly winds increased in strength.

23 July: First observations of the southward passage of juvenile **Audouin's Gulls**. Immatures and some adults have been passing throughout June and July.

A **Short-toed Eagle** arrived across the Strait with westerly winds this morning. This was followed at 15:30 by a vulture that flew onto the balcony of the Europa Point lighthouse. Close scrutiny by observers K. Bensusan and T. Jesty led to the confirmation that the bird was a **Ruppell's Vulture**. Other observers arrived at the scene to photograph the bird that then flew to an adjacent building close to the main road and attracted the interest of passers-by. The **Ruppell's Vulture** remained on the roof all night and then transferred to the roof of the Shrine close by. The following day at mid-day it flew north over town and soared over the northern end of the Rock where it remained over Rock Gun, chased by **Yellow-legged Gulls**. It was last seen there at 14:45hrs.

This is the first record of the bird for Gibraltar, although it has been recorded frequently in the Tarifa area in late summer and autumn in the past few years, with at least seven different individuals in August/September 2005. One tired individual was also caught on arrival across the Strait at Tarifa on the 26/05/2003, confirming the arrival of these birds from Africa; a recent phenomenon. (*Rare Birds in Spain. Recent Reports: June 2003*)



Immature Ruppell's Vulture

C. Perez

**21 July:** At 08:00hrs this morning a single **Black Kite** was seen flying south over town. This is the first indication of southward movement of raptors over Gibraltar. Some **Black Kites** have already been gathering around the Tarifa area in the last few days before crossing the Strait.

**20 July:** Two light phase **Booted Eagles** were observed soaring over town in the morning.

**19 July:** A **Short-toed Eagle** was seen flying along the cliffs on the east side of the Rock.

**18 July:** After a fresh easterly wind with the levanter cloud over the Rock, three **Hoopoes** were seen in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. These birds were disoriented by the cloud during their southward migration.

**10 July:** The resident **Eagle Owls** were spotted flying out of a fissure on the east side of the Rock. Three were seen, so we can presume that breeding took place again this year and that at least one young was reared. **Peregrines** had been observed mobbing around another recess behind some bushes high up on the cliffs, and the presence of **Yellow-legged Gull** remains around that entrance, earlier on in May and June, revealed the nesting site. Unfortunately the nest was well hidden behind the bushes and breeding success was suspected but not established.

**7 July:** A **White Wagtail** and a **Thekla Lark** were seen in the vicinity of the Frontier and may be nesting close by.

**6 July:** A further three **Short-toed Eagles** and a light phase **Booted Eagle** flew north over the Rock.

**5 July:** More raptors arrived from across the Strait today; they included three **Short-toed Eagles**, three **Griffon Vultures**, two **Black Kites**, two **Honey Buzzards**, one **Booted Eagle** and a single **Common Buzzard**.

4 July: A **Hoopoe** was observed at Jews' Gate on the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, and a **Honey Buzzard** flew north over the Rock.

3 July: An adult and four immatures **Common Terns** flew past Europa Point at midday.

2 July: Two **Honey Buzzards** were observed flying north over the Rock at mid-day, and a **Slender-billed Gull** flew west past Europa Point during the evening.



Slender-billed Gull

C. Perez

## June

27 June: A **Spoonbill** flew north across the Strait and along the east side of the Rock. The bird presumably came from the Smir lagoon in Morocco where there is a small breeding population.

26 June: Three more **Griffon Vultures** flew north over the town area.

25 June: A single **Gull-billed Tern** flew west past Europa Point.

24 June: Sea watches at the Europa Point Observatory has commenced again, with feeding groups of **Cory's Shearwaters** and good passage of **Balearic Shearwaters** moving out of the Mediterranean on a daily basis. First summer **Gannets** and immature **Audouin's Gulls** also passed through in good numbers with single adult **Black-headed** and **Mediterranean Gulls** moving west. **Griffon Vultures** are still passing north with eighteen birds, of which six flew along the east side of the Rock to face the gauntlet of breeding **Yellow-legged Gulls**.

23 June: A juvenile **Lanner** arrived from the south over Windmill Hill and interacted with one of juvenile **Peregrines** being trained for release by the Raptor Rehabilitation Unit. It then continued heading north. Five juvenile **Peregrines** have been handed in to the Unit this year. Four will be released in coming weeks, but a fifth had a serious wing injury and cannot fly so that it will be incorporated into the captive breeding programme. An adult **Great Spotted Cuckoo** was flushed near to the top station of the Cable Car.

22 June: A **Kingfisher** was seen on a balcony at West View Park. The **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Grey Wagtail** were again observed at the Botanic Gardens.

21 June: A huge breeding success for the **Peregrine** population on the Rock with a record twenty-three young fledged. Five were reared by the pair breeding on sea cliffs near Europa Point.

20 June: An adult **Grey Wagtail** was at a pond in the Botanic Gardens.

16 June: A **Griffon Vulture** seen flying north over the Rock.

15 June: Five **Honey Buzzards** flying north over the Rock. Also a **White Wagtail** in New Harbours, a different site from where nesting appears to have occurred in the last two years. A **Grey Wagtail** was also at the Open Air Theatre pond in the Botanic Gardens in the evening.

8 June: A **Spotted Flycatcher** has been singing and holding territory in the Alameda Botanic Gardens for the last week.

1 June: Another **Siskin**, a male, was trapped and ringed at the same location as yesterday's bird. Both had cloacal protuberance and could indicate the presence of nesting and possibly incubating females close by, so observers should monitor the gardens over the next few weeks.

## May

31 May: A late **Siskin** was trapped and ringed at the Alameda Botanic Gardens. Possibly a remaining bird from the winter influx in January 2006.

14 May: Extraordinary influx of **Icterine Warblers**, after prolonged easterly winds, with four trapped and ringed at Jews Gate and one other seen in the vicinity, in the company of a Melodious Warbler. These constitute the second to sixth records, with the first trapped and ringed on the 25th August 1973.



Icterine Warbler

C. Perez

11 May: Three **Alpine Swifts** at Europa Point, near one of their traditional nesting sites.

10 May: Two **Corn Buntings** with brood patches have been caught at Jews' Gate over the past few weeks, and a male has been heard singing at Windmill Hill Flats. Nesting is therefore strongly suggested.

6 May: A new pair of **Peregrine Falcons** has become established in an urban site in Gibraltar. While nesting has not yet been confirmed, this brings to eight the total number of territories for this species within Gibraltar.

1 May: In the early morning four **Red-necked Nightjars** were seen and heard around the Jews' Gate Field Centre in the Nature reserve.

## April

30 Apr: A **Chaffinch** singing in the Botanic Gardens, an unusual location for the species during the breeding season.

28 Apr: A **Golden Oriole** was trapped and ringed at Jews' Gate.

24 Apr: 9 **Black-winged Stilts** on Gibraltar's Eastern Beach.

20 Apr: A **Lanner** was seen flying north over Jews Gate.

15 Apr: A recently-fledged **Western Mediterranean Shag** waded out onto a busy Catalan Bay beach, clearly disorientated. It was promptly collected by the GONHS Rehabilitation Unit and released near the traditional nesting sites at Governor's Beach. It was in good condition and flew off well.

12 Apr: Two **Zitting Cisticolas** were in song flight over the Gibraltar side of the frontier fence at British Lines Road. These were the first birds of the species recorded in Gibraltar since the cold spell at the end of January 2005.

2 Apr: A flock of 10 **Little Egrets** was seen in the Rosia Bay area. One had been seen in Gibraltar harbour on the previous day.

## March

28 Mar: A **Merlin** flew north over Jews' Gate with other raptors.

24 Mar: A **Woodcock**, 7th record, was found dead in the upper town after a stormy night.

22 Mar: A male **Pallid Harrier** was among the raptors seen flying north from Jews' Gate. Several flocks of **Bee-eaters**, the first of the season, crossed the Strait and headed north.

20 Mar: **Hoopoes** seen on the Upper Rock and Botanic Gardens.

18 Mar: Overnight rain brought a small fall of migrants to the Cemetery that included 7 **Black Redstarts**, 8 **Chiffchaffs**, 18 **Song Thrushes**, 1 **Scops Owl**, 5 **Robins**, 2 **Hoopoes**, 8 **Subalpine Warblers**, 1 **Black-eared Wheatear** and the first arrivals of more species including 1 **Willow Warbler**, 1 **Nightingale**, 4 **Woodchat Shrikes**, 1 **Northern Wheatear**, 1 **Corn Bunting** and a male **Common Redstart**.

17 Mar: The first **Bonelli's Warbler** of the season was trapped and ringed at Jews Gate.

15 Mar: Arrivals of trans-Saharan migrants included the first **Black-eared Wheatear**, **Iberian Chiffchaff** and **Tree Pipit** at Jews Gate.

14 Mar: An early **Golden Oriole** was seen at Jews Gate. Most records of this species are in late April and May.

12 Mar: Two **Sooty Shearwaters** were seen 4.5km east of the Rock. Some flocks of **Puffin** were also on the move out of the Mediterranean.

11 Mar: An adult **Lanner** was observed flying north at midday over Jews' Gate with other raptors.

9 Mar: **Hoopoes** regular all week at the Botanic Gardens, true to their local name "Gallito de marzo".

5 Mar: Passage north of **Black Kites** and **Short-toed Eagles**, with **White Storks** and **Black Storks** also seen. A **Dartford Warbler** was seen at Windmill Hill and a group of 14 **White Wagtails** were seen arriving

from the Strait. A **Hoopoe** was at the Botanic Gardens. Wintering **Robins** and **Black Redstarts** still present.

*2 Mar:* The first **Scops Owl** of the season was trapped and ringed at the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory at Jews Gate this morning. The **Grey Heron** was again reported from the Botanic Gardens.

## February

*28 Feb:* A **Pallid Swift** and a **Sand Martin**, the first of the season, were seen flying over the Upper Rock.

*26 Feb:* A flock of 18 **White Storks** flew north over the Rock.

*26 Feb:* A **Dartford Warbler** was seen at Jews' Gate.

*24 Feb:* The first migrant **Short-toed Eagle** of the season flew north over the Rock together with 137 Black Kites this afternoon. Also two fledgling **Blackbirds** were in a garden on the Westside reclamation, the first of the year. **House Sparrows** were feeding young in a nest nearby.

*22 Feb:* A **Crossbill** was in the New Mole area in the South District.

*21 Feb:* The **Grey Heron** was seen once again fishing in the Open Air Theatre pond in the Botanic Gardens. There was a **Hoopoe** there also, and at least one other seen on the Upper Rock. A male **Lesser Kestrel** was seen flying north low over Rosia Road.

*20 Feb:* Two **Hoopoes** were seen in the Botanic Gardens - the first of the year at this traditional location.

*19 Feb:* Thirty **Black Storks** arrived from the Strait and flew north over Europa Point. Two **Turnstones** were seen at the Point.

*16 Feb:* The first **Red-rumped Swallow** for the spring flew past Jews' Gate today.

*14 Feb:* The wintering **Short-toed Eagle** was again observed along the eastern side of the Rock.

*12 Feb:* After strong easterly winds with heavy levanter conditions the first **Hoopoe** of the season was seen on the lawns of the Montagu Gardens residential complex. The wintering **Sparrowhawk** was observed again in the area of Royal Anglian Way on the Upper Rock.

*2 Feb:* Two **Booted Eagles** (one dark phase and one light phase) flew in over Gibraltar from the north, clearly wintering birds.

## January

*31 Jan:* The first **Black Kite** of the season was recorded flying north over Gibraltar.

*29 Jan:* The **glossy starling** was seen at the Botanic Gardens. Two **House Martins** arrived across the Strait and flew north over Europa Point.

*28 Jan:* A total of 90 **Siskins** have now been ringed at the Botanic Gardens. A **House Martin** was seen flying north over Europa Point

*21 Jan:* During the winter bird count a flock of 10 **Swallows** was observed flying north. A total of 4 **Firecrests** were recorded, with 3 on the Upper Rock and 1 in the gardens, and a **Dartford Warbler** was recorded on Windmill Hill, the second of the year.

19-20 Jan: 54 **Siskins** were trapped and ringed in the Alameda Botanic Gardens. Only 30 **Siskins** had been ringed previously in the last 14 years.

18 Jan: An **Eagle Owl** was seen at first light flying along the cliffs on the east side of the Rock. Up to 75 **Siskins** regularly seen in the Botanic Gardens.

17 Jan: A **Long-legged Buzzard** was seen over Jews' Gate.

14 Jan: A **Glossy Starling** (*Lamprotornis* sp.), probably an escape, was at Europa Pass.

12 Jan: A **Booted Eagle** was observed over the crest of the Rock. **Tawny Owls** were heard in the Botanic Gardens. At least forty **Siskins** were feeding in a *Ficus* tree in the same locality earlier in the day.

9 Jan: A female **Sparrowhawk** and a **Firecrest** were among birds seen in the Upper Rock.

7 Jan: A male **Sparrowhawk** was seen soaring over the Botanic Gardens.

6 Jan: The **Grey Heron** is now a daily visitor to the Botanic Gardens, flying in from the south low among the trees and arriving at the pond in the Open Air Theatre soon after first light. After being disturbed it invariably heads north, often mobbed by **Yellow-legged Gulls**. A female **Sparrowhawk** was seen at Anglian Way.

4 Jan: The wintering **Short-toed Eagle** was seen over the Botanic Gardens. Two **Great Cormorants** flew south over the South Mole. An early **Dartford Warbler** was seen at Windmill Hill.

3 Jan: A male **Spanish Sparrow** was observed perched on Aloes at Europa Point.