

Recent Records 2009

Table of spring soaring birds passage 2009

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November December

* Subject to acceptance by Gibraltar Rarities Committee.

December

26 Dec: After a period of dry conditions the weather finally broke last week with numerous Atlantic depressions reaching Iberia and affecting Gibraltar with strong westerly winds and heavy rain. A visit to Europa Point in the early afternoon in southerly winds proved fruitful. There were many seabirds feeding inshore and passing west, among them over 150 **Gannets**, 48 **Mediterranean Gulls**, 89 **Audouin's Gulls**, 12 **Lesser-black Backed Gulls**, 18 **Great Skuas**, 4 **Balearic Shearwaters** and single **Black-headed Gull**, **Razorbill** and **Cormorant**. Three **Shags** flew east past the Point and many **Yellow-legged Gulls** were also present.

09 Dec: A **Griffon Vulture** flew low over town during the morning, disturbing the Yellow-legged Gulls.

08 Dec: At midday a flock of 10 **Blue-crowned Conures** was seen over town. This is the largest flock recorded to date, of this exotic species which has become established in Gibraltar.

07 Dec: A **Booted Eagle**, possibly the same bird again, was over the Rock in the afternoon and was joined by a **Short-toed Eagle**. These two species are now regular during the late autumn and winter in the area.

03 Dec: The **Booted Eagle** was once again over the Rock this morning, and the **Griffon Vulture** was perched on a tower by the airfield, and when approached flew off strongly into Spain.

01 Dec: A single **Griffon Vulture** flew high over the Rock in the afternoon, disturbing the Yellow-legged Gulls in the process, whilst further down a low flying light phase **Booted Eagle** was observed over the Botanic gardens.

November

30 Nov: Five **Griffon Vultures** flew over the Rock after northerly winds set in during the morning.

22 Nov: Over the last week several records of **Cormorants** have been received, as the species establishes a wintering population in the area.

11 Nov: A **Razorbill** was seen swimming along the waterfront at Europort in the morning. This species enters the Mediterranean throughout November along the centre of the Strait and is rarely observed in inshore waters at this time of the year.

07 Nov: A flock of 65 **White Storks** headed north over the Rock during the morning. The light phase **Booted Eagle** was again hunting in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve.

06 Nov: At noon a **Black Kite** was observed flying over the Upper Rock.

05 Nov: A light phase **Booted Eagle** was seen low over the town this morning. Two **Cranes** were seen on separate occasions flying east to west across the Isthmus.

04 Nov: A pair of light phase **Booted Eagles** were seen low along the cliff line of Devil's Gap in mid morning. Four **House Martins** were seen off Western Beach flying south.

03 Nov: A very tired **Griffon Vulture** was picked up from the area of Europa Point and taken to the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre.

02 Nov: As winds changed overnight to westerly with a warm front through the region, a flock of 35 **White Storks** crossed the Straits and flew north, gaining height over the east side of the Rock.

01 Nov: Low levanter cloud brought in some more migrants including many **Song Thrushes**, a **Ring Ouzel** and up to 8 **Redwings** around the Jews Gate Bird Observatory. Also present were some **Blackcaps** and **Robins**, but not as many as the previous days. The **Booted Eagle** was still around on the Upper Rock.

October

31 Oct: Up to six **Skylarks** were present on Windmill Hill. Also there were 12 **Song Thrushes**, 5 **Stonechats**, 14 **Black Redstarts**, 10 **Robins** and a few **Chiffchaffs** and **Blackcaps** apart from the resident birds. A light phase **Booted Eagle** was seen hunting over the Rock.

30 Oct: Many wintering birds arrived again this morning with good numbers of new **Blackcaps**, **Robins**, and **Black Redstarts**. There were also some **Chiffchaffs** and **Song Thrushes** present. New arrivals included two **Dunnocks**, one of which was trapped and ringed. Small passage of finches and **Meadow Pipits** continued throughout the earlier part of the morning. Five **Booted Eagles**, three **Short-toed Eagles** and a **Buzzard** made an appearance in mid morning but later flew back north.

29 Oct: The first **Redwings** arrived on the Rock with two birds seen around Jews Gate. Also heard was the first **Siskins** of the year with other finches moving south. A late **Garden Warbler** was trapped and ringed at the Observatory at Jews Gate. At midday three **Booted Eagles** flew over the southern end of the Rock, with a **Short-toed Eagle** also present.

28 Oct: Many **Song Thrushes** have been arriving most mornings with the first notable passage of finches. **Greenfinches**, **Goldfinches** and **Serin** dominated the flocks heading south with some **Chaffinches** and **Linnets** also present. The pair of **Peregrines** at the southern end of the Rock awaited the flocks.

27 Oct: Passage of migrants continued with the same species as on previous days including a late trans-Saharan migrant; a **Common Redstart**.

26 Oct: Again there was a large fall of migrants with the dominant species **Robins** and **Blackcaps** much in evidence. Also present were good numbers of **Black Redstarts**, **Song Thrushes** and **Chiffchaffs**, with overhead passage dominated by finches and **Meadow Pipits** heading south. A late **Garden Warbler** was trapped and ringed.

24/25 Oct: The weather over the weekend was glorious with light variable winds and superb clear skies, and temperatures above average in the 26C. With such weather conditions not many birds were expected in the ringing station, but surprisingly **Blackcaps** and **Robins** were everywhere with hundreds of birds in the garden areas and in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, together with many **Chiffchaffs**, **Black Redstarts** and **Song Thrushes**. Many were trapped and ringed with over 120 birds in the morning. Among these were some

Greenfinches and individual **Serins**, but the large influx of finches and **Black Redstarts** of other years have yet to materialise. Windmill Hill held many of these migrants with good numbers of **Stonechats**, **Black Redstarts**, **Robins** and **Song Thrushes**.

Off Europa Point, **Gannets** continued entering the Mediterranean, with some lingering to feed on the flying fish shoals. These were accompanied by some **Cory's Shearwaters**, as they gather before departing into the Atlantic. Heading out also were several adult **Mediterranean Gulls** and **Sandwich Terns**. Overhead several flocks of **Goldfinches**, **Greenfinches**, **Linnets**, **Serins** and **White Wagtails** and **Crag Martins** headed south across the Straits.

19 Oct: The winds changed to light north-westerly, and this encouraged some **Griffon Vultures** to overfly the Rock with 58 birds that returned north accompanied by six **Black Storks**.

18 Oct: Light easterly winds encouraged some raptors over the Rock, including a late **Black Stork**, 45 **Booted Eagles** and a single **Honey Buzzard**. Just after midday a flock of 380 **Griffon Vultures** flew over the Rock and gathered height before returning back into Spain.

Some wintering migrants arrived at Windmill Hill and included over 25 **Meadow Pipits**, 20 **Black Redstarts**, 14 **Stonechats**, 7 **Dartford Warblers**, several **Song Thrushes** and a **Skylark**.

16 Oct: **Meadow Pipits** and **Black Redstarts** arrived in small numbers during the end of the week, and three **Common Nightjars** were trapped and ringed at Jews Gate Bird Observatory. A **Baillon's Crake** flew into an apartment in the Westside 2 area and was released the following day. [More news on this here.](#)

12 Oct: The heavy levanter cloud lifted during the afternoon and in the late evening a **Nightjar sp.** was seen departing from the Upper Rock. At night-time one **Scops Owl** was seen perched on the fence close to Moorish castle.

11 Oct: With the return of heavy levanter, the first **Black Redstart** of the autumn was trapped and ringed at the Observatory together with the arrival of many wintering birds including **Greenfinches**, **Blackcaps** and **Robins**. The heavy cloud also produced up to three **Scops Owls** and a late **Red-necked Nightjar**, on the roads on the Upper Rock. One of each were dazzled and captured for ringing

08 Oct: A **Red Kite** and a **Booted Eagle** were observed over the Rock in the morning. At the Jews' Gate ringing station many **Blackcaps** and **Robins** arrived over the last few days and many were captured and ringed. Other arrivals included the first **Song Thrushes**, and amongst late trans-Saharan migrants were **Common Redstart** and **Whinchat**.

06 Oct: Around midday, about 45 **Booted Eagles** and 8 **Short-toed Eagles** flew south along the crest of the Rock in light winds.

03 Oct: The Euro-birdwatch Day took place in the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens and was well attended. Several species were seen, but the only trans-Saharan migrants recorded were a female **Redstart** and a **Garden Warbler**. Overhead there was a trickle of **Sparrowhawks**, and a lone **Marsh Harrier** and two **Honey Buzzards** flew south. In the afternoon participants went to Europa Point at the Marine Observatory where **Cory's Shearwaters** and juvenile **Gannets** gathered to feed on shoals of Flying Fish. Several **Audouin's Gulls** flew past and a couple of **Black-headed Gulls** stopped below to feed. Several flocks of **Crag Martins** flew past heading south, and two **Yellow Wagtails** were also present in the area.

02 Oct: A flock of 10 **Black Storks** flew over the Rock in the late afternoon, and a lone **Griffon Vulture** soared over the crest of the Rock and stayed to roost overnight.

September

30 Sep: Thousands of **House Martins** were flying south this morning over the Rock. Many were flying along the crest of the Rock, but as the levanter cloud increased, many flocks were low over the town and around Jews Gate Observatory. With them were several hundred **Swallows** and a few **Red-rumped Swallows** and **Crag Martins**. At the ringing station, many **Blackcaps**, **Robins**, and some trans-Saharan migrants, including **Redstarts**, **Pied Flycatchers**, **Garden Warblers** and **Willow Warblers** continued to be trapped and ringed throughout the morning. An adult female **Lanner*** was observed at close quarters as it arrived over Windmill Hill and flew north.

29 Sep: A drive around the Upper Rock at night produced two **Scops Owls**.

27 Sep: Most migrants were still on Windmill Hill with new arrivals including a **Reed Warbler**, and two **Pied Flycatchers**.

26 Sep: The day began with heavy levanter cloud followed by rain. Several species were caught and ringed including **Scops Owl**, **Whinchat**, **Orphean Warbler**, **Blue Rock Thrush** and several **Willow Warblers**, **Redstarts** and **Pied Flycatchers**. Overhead were very large flocks of hirundines, composed mainly of **House Martins**, with a few **Swallows** and an **Alpine Swift**. Two **Grey Herons** flew south, and two **Marsh Harriers** flew over the Rock for a few hours lost in the cloud. On Windmill Hill a fall of migrants included at least 17 **Common Wheatears**, one male **Black-eared Wheatear**, 2 **Redstarts**, 2 **Tree Pipits**, 2 **Yellow Wagtails**, 8 **Stonechats**, 6 **Whinchats**, 7 **Blue Rock Thrushes** and single **Subalpine** and **Orphean Warblers**. At night 3 **Scops Owls** and a **Red-necked Nightjar** were observed along the roads on the Upper Rock.

25 Sep: A drive around the roads on the Upper Rock at night produced two **Red-necked Nightjars**. Both were captured and ringed before being released.

23 Sep: Several migrants were seen at the Botanic Gardens including at least 4 **Pied** and 2 **Spotted Flycatchers**, 3 **Willow** and one **Melodious Warblers**, and an **Iberian Chiffchaff**.

21 Sep: A **Red-necked Nightjar** was flushed from the upper nets at Jews gate in the early morning.

20 Sep: Migrants along the crest of the Rock included several **Willow Warblers**, **Tawny Pipits** and two **Ortolan Buntings**. **Willow** and **Garden Warblers** were also present around the Observatory at Jews' Gate.

19 Sep: A **Lanner*** came in from the sea and briefly landed before taking off along the cliff edge at Buffadero. Small passage of raptors throughout the day with a trickle of **Honey Buzzards**, **Marsh Harriers**, **Booted Eagles** and **Sparrowhawks**, and single **Osprey** and **Montagu's Harrier**. On Windmill Hill there were 7 **Common Wheatears**, a male **Black-eared Wheatear** and several **Zitting Cisticolas**.

18 Sep: A **Short-toed Treecreeper** was observed in the Botanic Gardens.

17 Sep: Three **Egret sp.** were observed flying south over the harbour, and a **Grey Wagtail** was heard in the Botanic Gardens.

16 Sep: Several migrants were in the Botanic Gardens including many **Blackcaps**, seven **Pied Flycatchers**, three **Iberian Chiffchaff** and single **Robin**, **Redstart**, **Willow Warbler** and **Spotted Flycatcher**. Approximately 60 **Honey Buzzards** were seen sporadically throughout the day.

15 Sep: Honey Buzzards continued passing south throughout the morning low over town, with over 300 individuals. A **Marsh Harrier** was also present.

14 Sep: A **Purple Heron** flew north early in the morning over Europort. In the evening a small passage of **Honey Buzzards** was observed heading south from Europa Point. They included at least 150 of this species, including two **Ospreys** and two **Sparrowhawks**. Offshore there were no signs of any feeding except for a few **Corys Shearwaters** and a couple of **Gannets**. A single **Cormorant** flew south overhead, the first arrival of the season.

13 Sep: Just after midnight an injured migrant was seen hopping in the middle of the road, close to Europort. It was captured and turned out to be a first year **Whinchat**. It was later released on Windmill Hill that morning, where it flew, albeit weakly. Other migrants were present there including a **Hoopoe**, **Black-eared Wheatear**, **Orphean Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, **Tawny Pipit** and **Willow Warbler**. Also in the area were at least 10 **Zitting Cisticolas**, up to 8 **Barbary Partridges**, and a flock of **Swallows** and **House Martins** feeding along the cliff edge with a single **Sand Martin**, and a hunting **Sparrowhawk** which narrowly missed a **Blackbird**. Overhead at least 120 **Booted Eagles** flew over the Rock. In the evening two **Robins** were heard at the northern end of the Botanic Gardens.

Offshore, at Europa Point there was a feeding frenzy as **Striped Dolphins** and **Tuna** chased shoals of flying fish. They were closely followed by at least 200 **Corys Shearwaters** that chased the fish as they broke the surface catching a few in the process. **Yellow-legged Gulls** then chased the shearwaters to rob them of their fish. Several first year **Gannets** were also present, including a **Yelkouan Shearwater**.

11 Sep: A **Grey Wagtail** was heard over the Botanic Gardens. Another flock of over 50 **Booted Eagles** flew over the Rock before returning north.

10 Sep: As the easterly winds became light, 50 **Booted Eagles**, and single **Egyptian Vulture**, **Marsh Harrier** and an **Osprey** flew over town. A **Yellow Wagtail** was heard over the harbour heading south.

09 Sep: Several trans-Saharan migrants were observed on the Rock with a **Pied Flycatcher** and two **Common Redstarts** around the top of the Rock, and another **Pied Flycatcher**, a **Spotted Flycatcher**, a **Willow Warbler** and 5 **Iberian Chiffchaffs**. **Tawny Owls** were again heard in the Botanic Gardens and have now become a daily feature of the night in the area. A **Kingfisher** was observed around Coaling Island within the harbour.

07 Sep: At least 8 **Iberian Chiffchaffs**, 15 **Blackcaps**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and a **Robin** were seen in the woodland bed of the Botanic Gardens.

06 Sep: A **Stone Curlew** was again seen along the cliff at the southern end of Windmill Hill. It may have been the same individual seen previously on the 2nd. Small numbers of **Booted Eagles** have flown over the Rock over the last few days, and returned north due to strong easterly winds.

02 Sep: Raptors began crossing at first light and continued throughout the day with many **Honey Buzzards** crossing several miles to the east of the Rock and flying directly south to Africa. Over 6700 of this species were counted, together with 600 **Black Kites**, 4 **Egyptian Vultures**, 4 **Marsh Harriers**, 15 **Montagu's Harriers**, 9 **Booted Eagles**, and single **Osprey**, **Eleonora's Falcon** and a **Black Stork**. Also overhead were several flocks of **Bee-eaters** heading south as well as some **Swallows** and a **Short-toed Lark**.

01 Sep: The winds changed to light westerly bringing with them some raptors. Throughout the morning and early afternoon over 3000 **Honey Buzzards**, 530 **Black Kites**, 5 **Marsh Harriers**, 4 **Montagu's Harriers**, 19 **Short-toed Eagles**, 57 **Booted Eagles** 7 **Sparrowhawks** and a **Black Stork** flew south over the Rock. Passage fizzled out during the afternoon. A visit to Windmill Hill proved interesting when an unseasonal **Stone Curlew** was observed there. Also present were several **Zitting Cisticolas**, and single **Melodious**

Warbler and Tawny Pipit.

August

30 Aug: Over the last two days small numbers of **Booted Eagles** have been flying across the bay towards the Rock before returning north. The prevailing strong easterly winds with associated levanter cloud has prevented them from crossing the Strait. A **Hoopoe** was seen briefly along the Europort area.

28 Aug: A female **Common Redstart** and an **Iberian Chiffchaff** were observed in the Botanic Gardens.

27 Aug: A flock of 28 **Avocets** flew south past Europa Point in the evening.

25 Aug: Raptor expectations were short-lived as the winds dropped during the morning, bringing only 60 **Black Kites** and over 100 **Honey Buzzards**. Later during the day winds fell light variable and back to easterly in the evening. A **Quail** was seen briefly in the Botanic Gardens.

24 Aug: The winds changed to westerlies and as winds freshened in the late afternoon 70 **Black Kites** 200 **Honey Buzzards** and single **Booted Eagle** and **Montagu's Harrier** flew over the Rock. Over 7 **Iberian Chiffchaff** were feeding in the Botanic Gardens.

23 Aug: A total of 30 **Booted Eagles** and 2 **Short-toed Eagles** were observed at midday .

22 Aug: Throughout the late morning and afternoon 71 **Booted Eagles**, 10 **Short-toed Eagles** and 20 Swallows flew over town.

20 Aug: Small influx of raptors from Spain over Gibraltar during mid morning, with approx 50 **Booted Eagles** 30 **Black Kites** 5 **Short-toed Eagles** and single **Honey Buzzard**, **Montagu's Harrier** and **Sparrowhawk**. They all flew across the bay back to Spain. In the afternoon several hundred **Cory's Shearwaters** were feeding off Europa Point.

19 Aug: Another day with easterly winds which only produced six **Booted Eagles** over the town at midday. A flock of 6 **Avocets** flew south past Europa Point in the evening.

18 Aug: Only three **Booted Eagles** were over the Rock today.

17 Aug: Fresh to strong easterly winds have been dominant for over a week now, hampering migrating raptors, some of which headed easterly and arrived over the Rock just after midday. A total of 120 **Booted Eagles**, an **Egyptian Vulture** and 90 **Short-toed Eagles** were observed during the afternoon, with a further 251 **Black Kites** later on including at least 20 **Swallows**. No crossing of the Straits were confirmed for these birds, which find the weather conditions difficult, and they tend to accumulate in the Strait area until conditions improve or the wind changes.

14 Aug: The presence of **Iberian Chiffchaffs** in the Botanic Gardens has increased, with at least ten individuals feeding in the more humid and denser parts of the gardens. With them were at least two **Spotted Flycatchers**, (possibly the local pair) and a **Melodious Warbler**.

11 Aug: A **Kingfisher** was seen at Eastern Beach in the morning, and a **Hoopoe** was observed flying around the Casemates area. Just before midday over 70 **Booted Eagles** and 10 **Short-toed Eagles** flew in high over town into an easterly wind, with most returning north.

10 Aug: An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was heard singing in the Botanic Gardens.

09 Aug: Light winds only produced 8 **Black Kites** over town during the morning. A juvenile **Goshawk** flew low over Montagu Gardens, later returning north.

08 Aug: Early morning passage of 722 **Black Kites** and two **Montagu's Harriers** took place low over the town and harbour. Winds freshened to a south-westerly in the afternoon producing a further 2294 **Black Kites** over the Bay and harbour. A **Zitting Cisticola** flew south over the Cable Car top station, and a **Bonelli's Warbler** and a male **Golden Oriole** were present there. **Common Swift** passage was notable with over 1000 per hour heading south.

07 Aug: A significant passage south of **Black Kites** over the Rock in the evening, with a total counted of 4978, including 3122 between 16.55hrs and 18.15hrs. Other raptors included an **Egyptian Vulture**, a **Marsh Harrier** and two **Montagu's Harriers**.

06 Aug: An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was heard singing in the Botanic Garden. Westerly winds set in during the morning and progressively freshened bringing some 40 **Black Kites** and a **Montagu's Harrier** over the Rock. By midday, there was a heavy passage of **Common Swifts** with flocks numbering several hundred flying south along the crest of the Rock. Two **Tawny Owls** were calling in the Botanic Gardens at about 11pm.

05 Aug: As the fresh levanter winds and associated cloud dissipated at midday 18 **Booted Eagles**, 4 **Short-toed Eagles** and single **Egyptian Vulture** and **Montagu's Harrier** flew over the Rock before returning back north.

04 Aug: A **Kingfisher** flew into a window at Water Gardens in Gibraltar Port. It soon recovered and was released in the Botanic Gardens. An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was singing in the Gardens, and a juvenile **Woodchat Shrike** was at the entrance to Windmill Hill.

03 Aug: A **Spotted Flycatcher** still present in the Botanic Gardens.

02 Aug: As winds freshened in the late afternoon, 44 **Black Kites** and over 200 **Common Swifts** flew south over the Rock.

01 Aug: Two **Long-legged Buzzards*** were seen over Gibraltar Town. Recent records are reminiscent of past years when up to two individuals have spent several months on the Rock outside the breeding season. Recent confirmation of nesting in Cadiz Province, Spain, a mere 18 km to the west of Gibraltar, suggests these birds may be Spanish rather than Moroccan in origin. In the late afternoon 2201 **Black Kites** and a **Lesser Kestrel** flew south.

July

31 Jul: A **Bonelli's Warbler** and two **Iberian Chiffchaffs** (one of them singing) were at The Mount, Gibraltar. **Spotted Flycatchers** were still present in the Botanic Gardens.

30 Jul: A **Long-legged Buzzard*** was seen over the Rock.

29 Jul: Two **White Wagtails** at the Victoria Stadium, Gibraltar. Clearly a regular presence of this species now in the area.

28 Jul: Eight **Blue-crowned Conures** together in the Botanic Gardens, the largest number seen for some months, suggests possible recent breeding

27 Jul: A **Bonelli's Warbler** at the Botanic Gardens.

25 Jul: **Spotted Flycatchers** still present in the Dell area of the Botanic Gardens.

24 Jul: **Lesser Kestrel** census results revealed a total of 15 nests active, with 25 young

fledged between them (pus one being reared at the Raptor Unit). This is a return to 2006 levels as far as active nests (19 in 2007, 21 in 2008), but fledging success is low. Two of the 2008 sites had been taken by feral pigeons, the other four were empty.

Also a **Bonelli's Warbler** was singing in "The Dell" within the Botanic Gardens in the morning and a **Spotted Flycatcher** in the Sandpits area of the Gardens..

23 Jul: Two **Black Kites** over the Upper Rock in the early afternoon marked the start of the southward raptor migration as observed from Gibraltar. A **White Wagtail** was again at the Victoria Stadium.

21 Jul: Three **Zitting Cisticolas** were present on Windmill Hill. The species disperses at the end of July and August and turns up regularly at this site. A **White Wagtail** was at the Victoria Stadium, by Gibraltar airfield.

18 Jul: A **Robin** was seen in the vicinity of St. Bernard's Church, in close proximity to suitable habitat at Jacob's Ladder.

17 Jul: A **Hoopoe** was observed on Windmill Hill. This is one of the earliest species to commence its return passage south.

16 Jul: A **Zitting Cisticola** was heard calling on the Talus slope, and close by the colony of **Alpine Swifts** was active with up to 10 birds wheeling around and entering fissures in the cliff face where their nests are found. These are located 35m above sea-level, on the North Face of the Rock.



Alpine Swifts on the North Face of the Rock

C. Perez/GONHS

15 Jul: Another **Honey Buzzard** was observed from Europa Point arriving across the Strait and heading north.

14 Jul: A late **Honey Buzzard** flew north over the Rock in the afternoon. In the evening a juvenile **Black Kite** was seen flying in from the Strait low over Windmill Hill. This bird-of-the-year had possibly tried unsuccessfully to cross earlier, but the possibility of a young Moroccan bird dispersing cannot be completely discarded. The **Melodious** and **Bonelli's Warbler** were

present in the woodland area of the Botanic Gardens.

13 Jul: The young **Spotted Flycatchers** flew the nest over the weekend and the adults were feeding at least two young early this morning. Also in the same area was a **Melodious Warbler**. After four days of light variable winds, the south-westerlies freshened and a **Short-toed Eagle** crossed the Straits followed shortly by another with a **Black Kite**. The first juvenile **Audouin's Gull** of the season flew out of the Mediterranean past Europa Point.

10 Jul: The nest of the **Spotted Flycatchers** was found in a Californian Pepper Tree in the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, where the adults were seen feeding young. This is the first time this species has bred in Gibraltar.

9 Jul: A **Long-legged Buzzard*** seen over Gibraltar town in the afternoon. The pair of **Spotted Flycatchers** was present still in the Botanic Gardens.

8 Jul: A **Booted Eagle** flew north over the Rock in the early afternoon. A **Bonelli's Warbler** was again seen at the Botanic Gardens.

7 Jul: A pair of **Spotted Flycatchers** still present in the Botanic Gardens. Two **Bonelli's Warblers** nearby, one singing.

6 Jul: **Tawny Owls** still present in the Botanic Gardens with at least two heard during the night. Persistent presence in suitable habitat strongly suggests nesting.

4 Jul: A **Short-toed Eagle** flew in from the Bay and later headed back towards the west after being forced to land by mobbing gulls.

3 Jul: A **Black Kite** flew over the Rock at midday apparently having crossed the Strait. In the afternoon a **Short-toed Eagle** flew north as south-westerly winds freshened.

2 Jul: Small passage of adult **Mediterranean** and **Audouin's Gulls** in the late afternoon flying out of the Mediterranean.

1 Jul: A **Short-toed Eagle** was seen along the east side of the Rock at midday and another arrived across the Strait and flew over Windmill Hill in the late afternoon.

June

30 Jun: Moderate south-westerly winds brought some late raptors across the Strait. These included three **Short-toed Eagles** and a **Black Kite**.

29 Jun: A **Short-toed Eagle** flew north over the Rock at midday.

28 Jun: Small passage of mainly adult **Audouin's Gulls** continued throughout the day, with four adult **Mediterranean Gulls**, several **Black-headed Gulls** and **Corys** and **Balearic Shearwaters** flying west off Europa Point. A **Grey Heron** also flew south. Two **Honey Buzzards** arrived across the Strait and headed north.

27 Jun: As westerly winds freshened, adult **Audouin's Gulls** were observed from Europa Point heading west, with over 100 birds in an hour. Also several flocks of **Balearic Shearwaters** and a couple of **Corys's Shearwaters**. Three adult **Black-headed Gulls** also headed out through the Strait.

26 Jun: This morning two **Spotted Flycatchers** were observed in the Botanic Gardens, close to natural habitat in the Mediterranean bed. They will be monitored to see if they intend to breed in the area. Small passage of **Balearic Shearwaters** heading west out of the Mediterranean, with 49 birds in an hour, from Europa Point, including two **Corys's Shearwaters**. A **Short-toed Eagle** flew north over the Rock in the afternoon.

25 Jun: A late **Spotted Flycatcher** was observed at the entrance to the Botanic Gardens this morning. In the late afternoon three **Honey Buzzards** flew north.

24 Jun: A **White Wagtail** was seen at the Air Terminal.

23 Jun: The winds turned to moderate westerlies this morning and produced a **Griffon Vulture** heading north. During the afternoon a further three **Griffon Vultures**, a **Short-toed Eagle**, a **Black Kite** and two **Honey Buzzards** flew over the Rock. A recently fledged juvenile **Lanner*** was seen at close quarters, having arrived across the Straits.

21 Jun: A **White Wagtail** seen in the Westview Park area, where they have now apparently nested for several years. Another was a relatively short distance away on open ground immediately north of the frontier fence by Western Beach.

19 Jun: Several **Lesser Kestrel** nests on the North Face are this year occupied by **feral pigeons**. Census results will be published as soon as they are available.

18 Jun: This year's census of nesting **Peregrine** reveals 20 young fledged from 7 pairs. In addition 7 were reared in captivity, of which 2 have already been trained and released successfully. A flock of approximately 20 **Flamingoes** were observed flying south off Eastern Beach in the evening.

14 Jun: Three **Alpine Swifts** were seen feeding over Windmill Hill flats.

12 Jun: **House Martins** present at their usual nest sites at Four Corners. Small numbers seen feeding over Spanish side of isthmus and at least two artificial nests in use, and a late **Spotted Flycatcher** was observed in the Alameda Botanic Gardens.

11 Jun: At least one, probably two **Tawny Owls** were calling during the night at the Botanic Gardens.

9 Jun: Three **Griffon Vultures** and four **Black Kites** flew in from Africa in the mid afternoon, and continued north.

8 Jun: Four **Griffon Vultures** and two **Booted Eagles** were among the raptors seen flying north today.

3 Jun: Raptor passage observed included 105 **Black Kites**, 10 **Short-toed Eagles**, 17 **Griffon Vultures** and 4 **Egyptian Vultures**.

2 Jun: A pair of **White Wagtails** was seen feeding around the sports complex around Victoria Stadium.

May

31 May: Some raptor passage observed, with a **Honey Buzzard**, 5 **Booted Eagles** and 69 **Black Kites** counted.

17 May: Observed passage included 227 **Honey Buzzards** and 125 **Black Kites**.

16 May: A late **Robin** was present in the Botanic Gardens, where they have bred sporadically in the past.

15 May: An interesting day of raptor passage. The count at Jews' Gate included 189 **Honey Buzzards**, 303 **Black Kites**, 80 **Booted Eagles**, 12 **Short-toed Eagles**, 249 **Griffon Vultures** and a **Hobby**.

14 May: Passage was small, with only 177 **Honey Buzzards**, 48 **Black Kites** and 3 **Booted Eagles** counted, mainly in the morning before the weather became overcast with low clouds.

13 May: Only 111 **Honey Buzzards** and 235 **Black Kites** seen, but there were also 50 **Griffon Vultures** and 3 **Egyptian Vultures** counted.

12 May: Raptors included 182 **Honey Buzzards**, 454 **Black Kites** and 36 **Griffon Vultures**.

11 May: A total of 269 **Honey Buzzards** were counted. Other birds included 1083 **Black Kites**, 49 **Booted Eagles** and 19 **Griffon Vultures**.

10 May: Westerlies once again brought soaring birds over Gibraltar, including 1542 **Honey Buzzards**, 6 **Booted Eagles** and 2 **Black Storks**.

03 May: Despite calm conditions, 2 **Egyptian Vultures** arrived from the Strait low over Jews' Gate.

02 May: The only bird of note at Jews' Gate was a **Tawny Pipit**.

01 May: Passage seen included 109 **Honey Buzzards**, 39 **Short-toed Eagles**, 19 **Booted Eagles**, 9 **Hobby** and a **Grey Heron**.

April

30 Apr: Passage seen included 15 **White Storks**, 206 **Black Kites**, 1 **Hen Harrier**, 2 **Egyptian Vultures**, 26 **Honey Buzzards** and 518 **Common Swifts**. Also seen were a **Yellow Wagtail** and a **Golden Oriole**.

29 Apr: Raptors included 11 **Egyptian Vultures**, 151 **Griffon Vultures** and 7 **Marsh Harriers**. Also seen were 4 **Red-rumped Swallows**.

28 Apr: Passage noted included 36 **Black Storks** (including one flock of 25), 26 **Sparrowhawks** and 233 **Honey Buzzards**, as well as 620 **Common Swifts**. Also seen were 57 **Greater Flamingo** flying north over the Bay.

27 Apr: Raptor passage included 909 **Black Kites**, 10 **Egyptian Vultures**, 2 **Hobby**, a **Peregrine**, 44 **Short-toed Eagles** and 308 **Honey Buzzards**. A **Cormorant** was also seen flying north. A flock of 11 **Cattle Egrets** flew south over Gibraltar harbour this morning. A **White Wagtail** was seen in the Europort area, where it has bred in recent years.

26 Apr: Visible passage included a flock of 22 **Black Storks**, also 38 **Honey Buzzards**, an **Osprey** and a **Common Buzzard**.

25 Apr: Passage included 556 **Black Kites**, 13 **Egyptian Vultures**, 14 **Griffon Vultures**, 10 **Honey Buzzards**, 2 **Hobby**, 12 **Black Stork** and 250 **White Storks**. Also, an **Eleonora's Falcon**.

24 Apr: The first **Whinchat** of the year was ringed, as was a **Red-necked Nightjar**. A late **Robin** seen (on several occasions since 20 Apr) near the Trafalgar Cemetery, where it has bred in the past. One caught at Jews' Gate with no fat in contrast to recent migrants also suggests possible nesting attempt. Only two raptors seen, a **Honey Buzzard** and a **Marsh Harrier**. Also a **Red-rumped Swallow**.

23 Apr: The first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the spring was ringed.

22 Apr: A **Scops owl** was seen on Signal Station Road.

21 Apr: The first **Honey Buzzard** of the season was seen from Jews' Gate. Passage included 26 **Short-toed Eagles**, 30 **Booted Eagles** and 289 **Black Kites**. One of the **Black Kites** was carrying green wing tags. A **Short-toed Eagle** that had been brought down by gulls was ringed and released.

20 Apr: Also 367 **Black Kites**, 14 **Booted Eagles**, 12 **Short-toed Eagles** and 47 **Sparrowhawks**, among others. A **Chiffchaff** of the Scandinavian race, *Phylloscopus collybita abietinus* was ringed.

19 Apr: Passage observed included a White Stork, 5 Black Storks and a Hobby. The first two **Pied Flycatchers** of the season were ringed.

18 Apr: A **Green Woodpecker*** was seen and later heard near Jews' Gate. The only raptors seen on passage were 2 **Black Kites** and 3 **Sparrowhawks**. Also recorded at Jews' Gate was a **Tawny Pipit**. Fall conditions overnight did bring good numbers to the North Front Cemetery, with birds recorded there including 22 **Woodchat Shrikes**, 14 **Nightingales**, 1 **Reed Warbler**, 6 **Melodious Warblers**, 7 **Garden Warbler**, 1 **Subalpine Warbler**, 1 **Spectacled Warbler**, 8 **Common Whitethroat**, 5 **Willow Warblers**, 1 **Bonelli's Warbler**, 1 **Ortolan Bunting**, 5 **Common Redstart**, 2 **Whinchat** and 2 **Turtle Doves**. 4. Two **Ortolan Buntings** were ringed.

17 Apr: A total of only 62 raptors recorded on passage, but these included a **Hen Harrier** and a **Merlin**. Birds ringed included 2 **Scops Owls** and a late **Iberian Chiffchaff**.

16 Apr: Another slow day for passage. Among birds recorded were 3 **Egyptian Vultures**, 50 **Booted Eagles**, 2 **Hobby** and 10 **Black Storks**. A **Woodchat Shrike** was ringed.

15 Apr: Slow raptor passage, the highlights being 22 **Montagu's Harriers** and one **Hen Harrier**.

16 Apr: A **Woodchat Shrike** was seen at construction site at Europort, where the garden used to be. A brood of **Great Tits**, in a nestbox in the Botanic Gardens, left the nest today. This is one of two pairs in the Gardens this year. Other resident birds present and apparently nesting in the Gardens are **Yellow-legged Gull**, **Collared Dove**, **Blackbird**, **Blackcap**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Wren**, **Blue Tit**, **House Sparrow** and **Greenfinch**.

15 Apr: Overnight rain brought migrants to North Front Cemetery, including 15 **Woodchat Shrikes**, 3 **Nightingales**, 2 **Subalpine Warblers**, a **Whitethroat**, a **Melodious warbler**, a **Whinchat** and 2 **Ortolan Buntings**.

14 Apr: Passage was lighter today and included an **Egyptian Vulture**, 5 **Short-toed Eagles** and 14 **Booted Eagles**. A **Red-necked Nightjar** was ringed.

13 Apr: Passage continued with birds seen including 4 **Black Storks**, 4 **Egyptian Vultures**, 39 **Booted Eagles**, 62 **Sparrowhawks** and 2 **Hen Harriers**.

12 Apr: A good total of 1214 **Black Kites** and other migrants including 3 **Griffon Vultures**, 3 **Egyptian Vultures**, an **Osprey**, 108 **Booted Eagles**, 17 **Black Storks** and 3 **White Storks**.

11 Apr: Some raptor passage was seen including 6 **Booted Eagles**, 4 **Montagu's Harriers**, 3 **Marsh Harriers** and a **Hobby**.

10 Apr: Continued presence of **Eagle Owl** confirmed at its usual nesting site with a male seen at dusk. Passage birds included 512 **Black Kites**, 47 **Montagu's Harriers**, 2 **Hobby**, 5 **Black Storks**, as well as **Bee-eaters**, **Swallows**, **House Martins** and a **Red-rumped Swallow**. A **Tawny Pipit** was ringed.

07 Apr: Visible passage included 16 **Black Storks**, an **Egyptian Vulture**, 87 **Booted Eagles**, 2 **Ospreys** and 3 **Hobby**.

06 Apr: A fledged **Blackbird** was seen in the Alameda Gardens. Migrants present in the Gardens included a **Woodchat Shrike**, a **Nightingale** and a **Bonelli's Warbler**. A **Garden Warbler** and a **Black-eared Wheatear** were ringed.

05 Apr: A **Scops Owl** was ringed at Jews' Gate. Also a **Yellow Wagtail** and 76 **Bee-eaters**

seen.

03 Apr: Raptors included 110 **Black Kites**, 82 **Sparrowhawks** and 116 **Booted Eagles**. Also seen were 84 **Bee-eaters** and 2 **Red-rumped Swallows**.

02 Apr: Some raptor passage was visible, including an **Egyptian Vulture**, 12 **Montagu's Harriers**, 176 **Booted Eagles** and 152 **Sparrowhawks**. Other visible migration included a **Black Stork**, 22 **Bee-eaters** and 14 **Spanish Sparrows**.

01 Apr: A flock of 32 **Greater Flamingoes** was seen flying north up the Bay of Gibraltar. Raptors included 16 **Booted Eagles**, 22 **Marsh Harriers**, 22 **Montagu's Harriers** and 24 **Sparrowhawks**. Three **Ravens** were also seen flying north.

March

31 Mar: Raptors included 13 **Short-toed Eagles**, 1 **Osprey**, 13 **Marsh Harriers**, 135 **Sparrowhawks** and 4 **Black Storks**.

30 Mar: Today's passage included 214 **Black Kites**, 8 **Short-toed Eagles**, 53 **Booted Eagles**, 1 **Buzzard** and 1 **Bonelli's Eagle***

29 Mar: Birds seen migrating included 466 **Black Kites**, 10 **Short-toed Eagles**, 24 **Booted Eagles**, 1 **Buzzard**, 4 **Ospreys**, 11 **Montagu's Harriers**, 21 **Marsh Harriers**, 16 **Cormorants** and 1 **Black Stork**.

28 Mar: Raptors seen moving north over Jews' Gate included 16 **Sparrowhawks**, 3 **Ospreys**, 212 **Black Kites**, 55 **Booted Eagles**, 5 **Egyptian Vultures** and 7 **Marsh Harriers**. Also seen were 7 **Red-rumped Swallows**, 3 **Yellow Wagtails** and 2 **Siskins**.

27 Mar: A **Scops Owl** (first of the year) and 2 **Whitethroats** were ringed at Jews' Gate.

26 Mar: The first **Orphean Warbler** of the year was ringed at Jews' Gate.

23 Mar: A **Linnet** and 2 **Common Redstarts** were ringed at Jews' Gate. Seen were 8 **Bee-eaters** and 4 **Red-rumped Swallows**.

22 Mar: A small passage of 32 **Black Kites** and 1 **Red-rumped Swallow**. A **Bonelli's Warbler** and 2 **Nightingales** were ringed.

20 Mar: A return to westerly winds for the day resulted in good raptor passage with 2644 **Black Kites**, 78 **Short-toed Eagles**, 81 **Booted Eagles**, 3 **Marsh Harriers**, 3 **Montagu's Harriers**, 75 **Sparrowhawks**, 1 **Osprey** and 24 **Black Storks**.

19 Mar: The only raptor observed was a lone **Booted Eagle**. Birds ringed included a **Hoopoe**, an **Iberian Chiffchaff**, a **Subalpine Warbler** and a **Nightingale**.

17 Mar: An adult **Ring-billed Gull*** (2nd Record) was with **Yellow-legged Gulls** on the sports field at Europa Point. Four **Sand Martins** were seen flying north over Jews' Gate. A **Hoopoe** was also seen in the area. A **Sparrowhawk** was hunting at Martin's Path on the Upper Rock.

16 Mar: An unusual record of a **Coal Tit*** seen bathing in a fountain at the Botanic Gardens. Three **Red-rumped Swallows** seen flying north; also one **Sparrowhawk**. An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was singing in the Botanic Gardens.

15 Mar: The first **Bonelli's Warbler** of the year was ringed, as was the second **Nightingale** and another two **Iberian Chiffchaffs**.

14 Mar: The first **Subalpine Warbler** of the season ringed at Jews' Gate Observatory.

13 Mar: A **Willow Warbler** was ringed at Jews' Gate. At least one **Iberian Chiffchaff** singing in the Botanic Gardens.

12 Mar: The first **Nightingale** of the year was ringed today at Jews' Gate. A **Hoopoe** was seen feeding on Pine Processionary Moth caterpillars at the Botanic Gardens.

10 Mar: With Easterlies still blowing, raptor migration was not visible from the Rock. Birds ringed included 2 **Song Thrushes**, 2 **Iberian Chiffchaffs** and a **Hoopoe**.

09 Mar: A flock of 13 **Cranes** flew in from the south-west, over Windmill Hill, and continued in a north-easterly direction. Three **Iberian Chiffchaffs** were ringed at the Jews' Gate Observatory. Another was singing in the Botanic Gardens.

08 Mar: With the change to Easterlies, attention at the Jews' Gate Observatory turned once more to ringing. A **Woodlark** was among the birds ringed today. Also ringed was the first **Willow Warbler** of the year, and an **Iberian Chiffchaff**.

07 Mar: An excellent day for **Short-toed Eagles**, with 1060 counted flying north over Gibraltar. Other visible passage included 2 **Black Storks**, 329 **Black Kites**, 4 **Sparrowhawks** and a **Common Buzzard**.

06 Mar: Better weather was reflected in migration picking up, with 1275 **Black Kites**, 22 **Short-toed Eagles**, 12 **Egyptian Vultures**, and 6 **Black Storks** seen among a sprinkling of other species.



White Storks about to land on the cliffs below Windmill Hill

E. Shaw/GONHS

05 Mar: Stormy weather resulted in only limited visible migration, the highlight of which was a flock of 103 **White Storks**, which arrived from the Strait in very strong winds, forcing the birds

to land on the cliffs below Windmill Hill Flats, a very rare occurrence. Some flew on about two hours later, watched by HRH The Princess Anne while on a walk up Mediterranean Steps. The rest stayed on the Flats themselves for a while longer until the wind strength decreased.



White Storks resting on Windmill Hill Flats

L. Glenister

03 Mar: Rainy, windy weathered curtailed passage, with only a sprinkling of raptors seen, among which were 3 **Marsh Harriers** and a **Lesser Kestrel**. A flock of 24 **Crag Martins** flew north in the company of **House Martins**.

02 Mar: The first **Pallid Swift** of the year was seen in the area of Cathedral Square in Gibraltar's city centre. Several **Hoopoes** were seen in various locations on the Upper Rock today, and one in the Botanic Gardens. An **Iberian Chiffchaff** was ringed at Jews' Gate.

01 Mar: The highest number of raptors passing so far this year, with a total of 2468 **Black Kites**, 48 **Short-toed Eagles**, 7 **Sparrowhawks**, a **Marsh Harrier** and also a **Black Stork** being observed flying north over the Jews' Gate observatory.

February

28 Feb: After a spate of easterly winds with some rain overnight, winds subsided and there were many gulls feeding offshore at Europa Point, with a several **Kittiwakes**, over fifty **Black-headed Gulls**, ten **Mediterranean Gulls** and some **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and **Audouin's Gulls**, including an adult on the cricket pitch at Europa. The North Front Cemetery held a **Dartford Warbler** and a **Corn Bunting**, with another three of the latter species on Windmill Hill, together with two **Hoopoes**, two **Skylarks**, and over thirty-five **Stonechats** and many **Black Redstarts**.

24 Feb: A further three **Iberian Chiffchaff** were caught and ringed this morning at the Observatory. Another bird of this species was heard in the Alameda Botanic Gardens, where it was feeding on the nectar of a flowering Agave with other **Chiffchaffs**. Good numbers of **Stonechats** and **Black Redstarts** were observed on Windmill with birds returning north. Also at this site were single **Thekla Lark** and **Hoopoe**. Another **Hoopoe** was recorded from the North Front Cemetery.

An hours watch at Europa Point produced four **Common Scoter** heading east, six first winter **Mediterranean Gulls** and several **Black-headed Gulls** and **Gannets** heading west. **Kittiwake** passage out of the Mediterranean continues daily with 112 birds counted during the period.

23 Feb: The first trans-Saharan phylloscopus, an **Iberian Chiffchaff**, was caught and ringed at Jews Gate. Arrivals of this species and **Bonelli's Warbler** were recorded north of Gibraltar, in the Sierra de Grazalema yesterday, (Avesforum). Another **Red-rumped Swallow** was recorded heading north today.

22 Feb 2009: Three **Red-rumped Swallows** were observed with **Swallows** heading north over Jews Gate.

21 Feb: Throughout the day small numbers of **Kittiwakes** were observed exiting the Mediterranean, with up to twenty eight birds in half an hour.

The first **Lesser Kestrel** was seen in a nest hole on the North Face.

19 Feb: Over the last three days the weather improved and clear skies, warm sunshine and light westerly winds must have encouraged raptors to cross the Strait. Today when the winds freshened a little, there were 30 **Black Kites**, a **Swallow** and a single adult **Egyptian Vulture**, the first of the year, that headed north. A **Hoopoe** was observed around the Observatory at Jews Gate

17 Feb: Following an improvement in the weather, a **Hoopoe** was seen in the Europa Point area. Off Europa Point, twenty six **Mediterranean Gulls** flew east against the strong winds.

15 Feb: The first **Hoopoe** of the year was seen on Windmill Hill after a night of strong easterly winds.

14 Feb: The first **Cory's Shearwaters**, a flock of 33 birds were observed entering the Mediterranean off Europa Point. Some **Kittiwakes** were still in the vicinity, and six **Mediterranean Gulls** flew east.

with 13 Feb: A **Kittiwake** was in Little Bay and offshore a flock of 26 flew west.

12 Feb: Small numbers of **Swallows** and **House Martins** have been flying north during the past week including single **Black Kites** on the 8th and the 10th. Off Europa Point, on a fishing boat, one of our members encountered several **Kittiwakes** which readily came to feed on handouts and were so tame that some could be picked from the surface.

07 Feb: Thirteen **Black Kites** flew north over Jews Gate early in the morning shortly followed by four **Swallows**, but winds went light and no more birds were seen.

06 Feb: There were at least seven **Great Cormorants** on rocks off Little Bay and another seven *Phalacrocorax sp.* possibly also this species, on rocks at Seven Sisters, this afternoon. At 17:00hrs the **Yellow-legged Gull** colony on the Upper Rock were disturbed, flying out calling in a great commotion. Scanning the skies, a very high black bird was seen flying north. Expecting a raptor, inspection proved the bird to be a **Great Cormorant** flying at over 1500ft high. As spring approaches **Great Cormorants** will begin to head back to northern Europe.

In the evening there was a *potpourri* of species feeding below Europa Point. Birds there included a **Kittiwake**, a **Mediterranean Gull**, two **Black-headed Gulls**, 6 **Audouin's Gulls**, a **Shag** and numbers of **Gannets**.

05 Feb: A morning visit to Europa Point revealed over 12 **Black-headed Gulls**, a **Mediterranean Gull** and a single **Kittiwake** feeding below the Point, together with a two **Great Cormorants**. Offshore **Gannets** were moving out of the Mediterranean with small numbers drifting by. An adult **Audouin's Gull** also headed west. Later that afternoon the

winds increased to gale force with strong gusts and the prediction of a possibility of a tornado in the vicinity. By then all the small gulls had disappeared and only a few **Gannets** were bracing the conditions.

04 Feb: A break in the weather in the early morning saw two **Black Kites**, fourteen **Swallows** and four **House Martins** arrive from Africa and head north.

03 Feb: Two **Black Kites** and a **Sparrowhawk** were observed over Windmill Hill heading north.

01 Feb: Three more **Swallows** flew north today.

January

24 Jan: A total of 24 **Barn Swallows** were counted heading north over Jews Gate. An early **Sparrowhawk** was observed arriving from across the strait, and headed north.

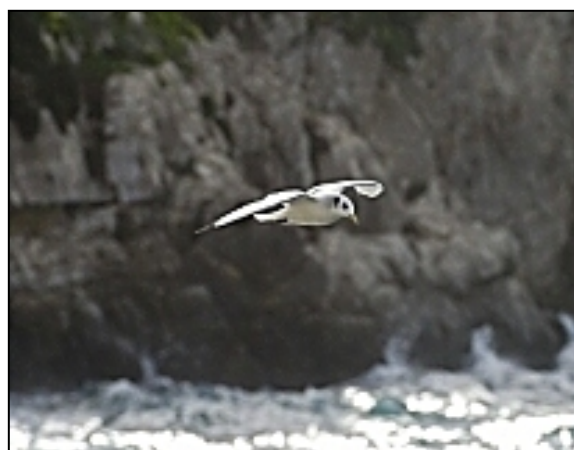
29 Jan: The first **Swallow** of the year was seen flying north over Jews' Gate at 08:30 this morning.

28 Jan: Four **Black Kites** were seen from Jews Gate in the early afternoon arriving from Africa. A **Tawny Owl** was heard calling during the night around Jews' Gate.

27 Jan: A single **Black Kite** was observed from Jews Gate at 10:00 in the morning.

26 Jan: Three **Black Kites** were observed arriving at Europa Point, and later flew north over the Rock. A **Thekla Lark** was present on Windmill Hill.

25 Jan: Winds were backing south-westerly with strong gusts during mid morning. Around midday 4 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were observed heading west along the coast with 2 **Balearic Shearwaters** and a **Great Skua** heading west. Also good movement of **Gannets** close inshore due to the high winds, with 84 birds, but very little movement offshore. A sighting of two **Common Terns** inshore was un-seasonal for the time of the year. A **Cattle Egret** was present on Europa foreshore. A flock of 64 **White Storks** flew north over the Rock.



Immature Kittiwake and adult against cliffs at Little Bay

K. Bensusan

4 Jan: A mid morning survey of the western coastline revealed that the **Black-legged Kittiwakes** had moved to the area of Camp and Little Bays with over 20 **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, 2 **Med Gulls**, and at least 40 **Black-headed Gulls**. Off Little Bay over 40

Gannets were diving on a shoal of small fish and 3 **Great Cormorants** were also present, but as the northerly winds intensified most of the birds moved out into the Strait.



Kittiwakes feeding along Little Bay



C. Perez

At Europa Point, another 8 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were feeding along the shoreline and 12 **Black-headed Gulls** were down below the point with a few **Gannets** moving west offshore.

A **Black Kite** was observed flying north at 13:00 over the Rock.

23 Jan: Strong onshore winds saw 12 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** coming very close to shore off Europort, within Gibraltar harbour, which is very unusual for this uncommon species. Another 25 **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were observed around the Coaling Island in the harbour area. At least two birds remained in the area the next day, when they were seen off the rocks at West View Promenade. A wintering **Sparrowhawk** was seen again briefly on the Upper Rock.

12 Jan: The annual Winter Bird Count produced some interesting sightings of scarce birds with up to three **Firecrests** in the south district gardens, two **Skylarks** on Windmill Hill, and a single **Zitting cisticola** on the Great Sand Slopes with two more on Windmill Hill. Low numbers of some species included only 3 **Song Thrushes** on the Upper Rock with a single on Windmill Hill. A short summary and species totals can be found in the [news page](#).

10 Jan: A **Short-toed Eagle** was seen flying north from Gibraltar over the isthmus. It is likely that this was one of the three wintering individuals seen in Gibraltar over recent weeks. Two are currently being cared for at the GONHS Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Unit.

07 Jan: The first **Black Kite** of the year was seen flying north over Windmill Hill Flats after coming in over the Strait.

05 Jan: Birds seen at Europa Point included a **Great Skua** heading west, 4 **Gannets** feeding offshore, and 5 **Turnstone** feeding on the rocks below the Point.