

January 2009: Amur Falcon is now an annual visitor to Seychelles

Amur Falcon was not recorded in Seychelles until 1995. It has now been reported annually since 2001 with a total of 28 records accepted by Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) together with a number of other records in current circulation around the committee. Late-2008 saw a further unprecedented number of reports.



Male Amur Falcon at Seychelles Golf Club, Mahé, Seychelles (Adrian Skerrett)

At the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of SBRC held on 7 January 2009, it was agreed that:

1. The status of Amur Falcon in Seychelles should be changed from “vagrant” to “annual”.
2. SBRC will continue to collect reports of all sightings but will not request record forms and descriptions from observers.
3. All reports received from November 2008, as detailed below, are accepted.

Up to 50 at the airstrip, Denis Island 21-24 November 2008 declining to 25-30 by 27 November 2008 a few remaining to December (J Nevill)

One immature found exhausted at Tusculum, Glacis, Mahe on 21 November, cared for and released on 22 November 2008 (R Thomson, E Palmer)

About 30 at Bird Island from 21 November declining to 8-9 by 31 December 2008 (J Savy, R Bresson)

Up to 9 at North Island 21 November to 2 December 2008 (1 on 21 November, 9 on 22 November, 2 thereafter) (L Vanherck, B Roux, J Reymecke).

One male at Vallée de Mai, Praslin on 21 November 2008 (H Kisbye, S Kisbye)
One male found dead at Amitie, Praslin on 21 November 2008 (V Laboudallon).

Up to 4 at Desroches 22-24 November 2008 (1 immature on 22 November, one male, one female, one immature on 23 November and one male, one female and two immatures on 24 November) (M Betts)

Twelve at the airstrip, Amitie, Praslin on 24 November 2008 (H Kisbye, S Kisbye)

One male circling over Cousine Island accompanied by numbers of fairy terns and repelled towards Praslin on 24 November 2008 (K Jolliffe, S-M Jolliffe, J Henwood)

15-20 at the airstrip, D'Arros on 25 November 2008 declining to 4 (2 males, 2 female/immatures for 6 to at least 18 December 2008 (J Claude, G Ollman, U Engelhardt)

One female circling over Cousine Island accompanied by numbers of fairy terns and repelled towards Praslin on 25 November 2008 (K Jolliffe, S-M Jolliffe, J Henwood)

One female circling over Cousine Island accompanied by numbers of fairy terns and repelled towards Praslin on 26 November 2008 (K Jolliffe, S-M Jolliffe, J Henwood)

One female circling over Cousine Island accompanied by numbers of fairy terns and repelled towards Praslin on 27 November 2008 (K Jolliffe, S-M Jolliffe, J Henwood)

One male at Amitie, Praslin on 28 November 2008 (G Jessie, R Tiatouse, I Krummholz)

Up to three including one male and at least one female at The Island Conservation Centre, Point Larue, Mahe from 25 November to 12 December, a female remaining to at least 22 December 2008 (A Dufrenne, A Jean-Louis, A Padayachy, P Vandange, M Accouche, G Galman, G Rocamora, AP Skerrett)

Up to 10 at Seychelles Golf Club, Anse aux Pins, Mahe 1-19 December 2008 (still present on last date), 3 males, 3 females and 4 immatures; including 4 dead on 19 December (M Loustau-Lalanne, AP Skerrett, B Cooper, AW Diamond, J Komdeur, D Richardson)

Up to 3 at the airstrip and IDC A frames, Alphonse 12-17 December 2008 (2 on 12 December, 3 on 14 December, 1 on other dates) (A Rose, PA Adam, R Bijoux)