

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2014**



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

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Map of the Calf of Man



The Calf of Man Bird Observatory

The Calf of Man is a rocky islet extending to approximately 616 acres and it is situated half a mile off the south-west coast of the Isle of Man in the middle of the Irish Sea. The Calf is owned and administered by Manx National Heritage (MNH) and it is run as a Bird Observatory and Nature Reserve. The island is an ideal place to study many aspects of bird life, with around 33 species breeding annually and it is located on one of western Britain's major migration routes. Breeding seabirds include Manx Shearwater, Fulmar, Razorbill and Shag and colonies of the three larger *Larus* gull species. You can also see a variety of species around the island such as Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Chough, Raven, as well as other rare and unexpected migrants.

Since 1959 organised ornithological work has been carried out on the Calf of Man from spring to autumn each year by wardens. As an accredited Bird Observatory since 1962, the Observatory meets British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) requirements. Currently, MNH contracts Manx Wildlife Trust to employ an Ornithological Warden and an Estate Warden to provide a seasonal presence on the Calf from March to November. Bird ringing is an integral part of the Observatory's work and ringing demonstrations are often held for the public.

Between 1959 and 2014, 243,275 birds (158 species) have been ringed on the island. Trapping is carried out using a variety of conventional traps including Heligoland and Crow Traps and mist nets.



Grey Seals at South Harbour (Photo: Nick Purdew)

Visitor Information

The Estate Warden and Ornithological Warden are in charge of the day to day running of the islet and visitors must at all times follow their advice and instructions.

The Calf of Man is open to the public daily. The Manx Museum and National Trust and its Bye-Laws, require that certain conditions **MUST** be observed at all times. These regulations are made in the best interests of preserving those aspects of the Calf of Man which we all treasure and enjoy.

PLEASE HELP US TO MAINTAIN THIS BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT BY OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING:

- There must be no interference with the bird life or other wildlife.
- Climbing tackle and climbing is strictly prohibited.
- Dogs are not permitted.
- No camping and lighting of fires.
- Vessels must not be left unattended at any of the harbours at any time to ensure that the Calf visitor/supply boats have access to the harbours at all times.
- No fishing from 1st April to 31st July.
- Visitors must leave no litter.
- From May to July visitors must keep to paths and tracks and keep out of enclosed fields.
- Manx National Heritage expects the behaviour of visiting parties to be of a high standard. In the event of misbehaviour by any group, individual, or lack of adequate control by the adult in charge of children, the wardens have the authority to terminate the visit and ask the individual/group to leave the islet at their own expense.
- Manx National Heritage operates a no smoking policy at all of its properties.

Visitor accommodation is available in the Observatory during the summer season – normally, from May to mid-September. The accommodation consists of self-catering hostel style accommodation for up to 8 people with a visitor kitchen, lounge and log burner. Intending over-night visitors must pre-book accommodation by contacting the Calf Bookings Officer, Manx National Heritage, Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY Tel: 01624 648015.

During the summer season, private operators run visits to the Calf from Port St Mary. The vessels operate depending on weather conditions and demand. For more information, please contact:

- Juan Clague, Kionslieu, Plantation Road, Port St Mary, IM9 5AY
Tel: (01624) 834307 Mob : (07624) 490615
- Mike Keggen, Shore Road, Port St Mary, IM9 5DX
Tel: (01624) 833133 Mob: (07624) 493824
- Chris Burton, email: shonaboattrips@manx.net
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Calf of Man
Bird Observatory Report
2014

Ornithological Warden – Jodie Crane
Estate Warden – Nick Purdew

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Ornithological Warden's Report

The 2014 season proved to be another good year for biodiversity recording on the Calf of Man. The season began on 14th March with the arrival of the wardens, and ran until 10th November when the Observatory closed for the winter. In contrast to 2013, the weather was mild but changeable throughout the spring, and led into a good summer with long spells of warm and dry weather, proving favourable for both breeding birds and overnight guests. The first storms of autumn arrived in late August, however conditions throughout September were superb and proved ideal for passage migrants, with some excellent days of visible migration. As ever, weather in October and November proved unpredictable and extreme at times, with bad weather delaying the departure of one very hardy volunteer for over a week.

Spring brought a good selection of migrants, the highlights being a Hoopoe and an incredible two Eastern Subalpine Warblers that were both caught at the Observatory within 30 minutes of each other. An Iberian Chiffchaff seen in April was a first for both the Calf of Man and the Isle of Man, and obligingly spent most of the morning singing around the Observatory; this allowed substantial sound recordings to be made to verify its species identity unambiguously. Severe winter storms impacted Shag breeding, with numbers considerably lower than previous years. The impact of the storms was also evident from the number of dead seabirds washed up in the Puddle: 16 birds in total including Guillemot, Razorbill, Shag, Kittiwake and gulls. Colour ringed gulls continued to produce an excellent array of resightings as far away as Spain and Portugal, and an exciting new project colour ringing Wheatear was initiated.

Autumn brought an excellent variety of rare and scarce species including a first-year Melodious Warbler and the almost annual Common Rosefinch and Yellow-browed Warbler. Autumn was particularly memorable for the movement of wagtails, with exceptional numbers of Grey Wagtails as well as both Pied and White Wagtails, resulting in the highest ever annual total of Grey Wagtails being ringed (178 birds). The long periods of favourable weather during September resulted in the highest ringing total for that month in over 10 years, with 1235 birds ringed.

Unfortunately, 2014 turned out to be a poor year for Basking Sharks both locally and nationally, and the season ended without a single sighting from the Calf of Man. More encouragingly, calm weather conditions throughout the summer and into September provided ideal conditions for spotting cetaceans, with good numbers of Harbour Porpoise spotted, often with calves, as well as Risso's Dolphins and a superb number of sightings for Minke Whale, which were often seen feeding in the tidal races off Chicken Rock lighthouse. Grey Seals bred in good numbers later in the season, however persistent strong winds in October took their toll on pup survival.

The 2014 season would not have been possible without the help of many people. Firstly, thanks must go to Kev Scott as Ringer in Charge for the Observatory, for his good humour, advice and help in ornithological matters. Thanks are also due to Duncan Bridges and Shaun Murphy for overseeing work throughout the season, and also to Juan Clague and Anne Kaye for keeping the Calf well supplied. Special thanks go to the RAF Valley Sea King helicopter crew, and Port St Mary lifeboat and coastguards. Several volunteers assisted with ornithological work throughout the season. Richard Cope gets a special mention as an ex-warden for returning to the Calf at the start of the season to help us settle in, and for providing continuing advice and support throughout the season. James Savage provided invaluable assistance with ringing and data entry at a busy time of year, and Claire Robertson and Emmeline Gray made a valuable contribution to the Manx Shearwater annual survey. Thanks also to everyone else who made the season great. Finally, a very special thank you goes to Nick Purdew for pretty much keeping everything running whilst I chased after birds!

Jodie Crane



Melodious Warbler (Photo: Jodie Crane)

Estate Warden's Report

As the many wardens before me will testify, this place gets under your skin in such a way that you will never forget your experience of being a Calf of Man warden and an 'island person'. Despite the many inevitable frustrations and challenges to your sanity that living on a small island (one that is only populated by only two people for many weeks) throw at you, you will always leave this place having fallen in love with it. And it's not just the beautiful nature of the place, its wildlife, all the brilliant people you will meet and the splendid isolation that makes it so special. It's the sense that, in a modern world full of busy-ness and a constant bombardment of 'stuff', you are living a much more back-to-basics existence. Inevitably, as one of the only two inhabitants for eight months you will feel a sort of ownership over the island. Only a Calf warden knows the feeling!

The violent winter storms that preceded our arrival on the Calf rendered it inaccessible for much of the winter meaning that there was plenty of work to do in early spring; gutters and flashings to repair around the Obs and the removal of possibly the most prolific winter build-up of seaweed on Cow Harbour jetty ever seen, due in part to the mild winter. Our start was, however, made a little easier by Kate Hawkins (MNH), Ben Jones (former Calf warden) and Pat Griffiths (our long-standing volunteer). They made the trip out to the island a week prior to our arrival in order to carry out the monthly bait point monitoring checks. As a result the Observatory had already been opened up and the electro-mechanical systems fired into life after a long winter lay-off. Even so, the first week of life on the island is a whirlwind of familiarising yourself with the geography, place names, daily tasks and the general operations. To mash two sayings together – you really have to hit the deep end running.

Estate work

Dry-stone walling: Work this year was focussed on continuing to repair the Sea Field wall with a 12 metre gap along the southern boundary being built up by staff from Lloyds TSB, while a group from Skandia helped to repair the south-eastern corner under the guidance of Pat Griffiths and Dave Fisher. Pat, Dave and I also fixed several small gaps in various parts of the Withy Field and the Gibdale walls.

Fencing: The jumping wires along the eastern Withy Field boundary running down into the Sea Field were completed leaving just the southern wall to be completed with jumping wires, wall gaps and gates needed to make the front field system stock-tight.

General building maintenance: The Observatory received a good tidy-up this year with lots of general rubbish being cleared out of the outbuildings, workshop and living quarters. Some work was also carried out by building contractors to fix the crumbling chimney stack on the warden's side of the building along with various other patches and repair jobs around the Obs. Additional IBCs for increased water storage were installed in the yard next to the rainwater butts in order to provide a ready supply of fire-fighting water. Next year's wardens will also benefit from the creation of an outdoor solar shower in the yard – let's hope they get as good a summer as we have had this season!

Bracken bruising and spraying: While all of the field systems received a good bruising this year, only the Back Field was sprayed as the prolonged hot and dry weather and a general lack of days with light winds prevented application by knapsack sprayer.

Last year's poor winter meant that no lambs were able to be shipped off so as a result the flock was carrying a few more heads this year than is usual. With the help of Jim Middleton and his dog, Lassie, we were able to make the annual round-up in August with a total of 60 ewes, 42 hoggs (yearling lambs) and 68 lambs penned in the Front and Middle Fields so that they could be sheared and drenched. A few wild ones escaped the round-up and several were subsequently let out by some visitors who obviously hadn't read the countryside code. After another few attempts at herding the escapees back into the fields the majority were recaptured. Two runs in Juan's boat saw a total of 80 tupps, hoggs and lambs shipped off.

Pond maintenance: The millpond received some much-needed attention this year as a lot of horsetail had built up. Rather than drain the entire pond as is usually done we donned our waders and pulled out the horsetails at the root balls with chomps – a slightly more time-consuming approach but one that should reduce disturbance to hibernating invertebrates. A single caddisfly case was found but no dragonfly or damselfly exuvia.

Additional works carried out: The exceptionally stormy weather of winter 2013/14 wreaked further havoc in South Harbour. Huge seas smashed the corner marker stone in the entrance to the harbour and washed large stones off the protective rock wall opposite the jetty presenting a hazard to incoming vessels in low water conditions. Large spring tides presented an opportunity for the MNH technical team to rebuild the corner stone, install a new marker post and remove some of the obstructing rocks.

Day visitor total: 253 recorded

Overnight guest total: 252 for a total of 50 bookings made

Nick Purdew



Veg Garden (Photo: Jodie Crane)

Manx Shearwater Recovery Project

The Shearwater Recovery Project continued this year in its monitoring phase whereby a 100m grid of bait tubes and strategically placed snap traps and kill traps were baited with non-toxic monitoring blocks and checked monthly for signs of rat activity. Early season work mainly involved rationalising the whole grid, replacing any lost bait stations as well as setting up the ring of coastal bait stations and snap traps. In May a day visitor reported sighting a rat in the vicinity of Spaghetti Junction so six DOC kill traps were moved into the area as a precaution. In all likelihood the 'rat' was a young rabbit and no further sightings were made and there were no takes on the surrounding bait stations. In October, however, there could be no mistaking the rat that was caught on a well-placed camera trap in the hide behind Cow Harbour Store. A rat was also seen on Kitterland in the same period. In response a 50m contingency grid baited with rodenticide was set up around the area and monitored for the remainder of the season. Given the lack of concrete sign of rats on the island prior to this and the sighting coinciding with a spring tides, it is entirely possible that the creature had swum across the Sound as it well within the capabilities of a brown rat to swim that distance. It is equally possible that a remnant population could exist on the Calf but be 'tube shy' and therefore not give away their presence on the island by bait stations alone. Either scenario presents a worrying situation and a challenging solution to finally making the Calf rat free. While this episode has presented many questions, the rat was captured on film confidently taking about sixty rodenticide blocks from a constantly refreshed pile in the hide and after several days it was not seen again and was assumed to have consumed a lethal dose. Weather permitting the monitoring effort will continue through the winter months and hopefully this experience will provide valuable new tactics in keeping the Calf rat free and allow the seabird population to thrive.

Farewell, Calf

Eight months have been and gone all too quickly yet in the strange Calf of Man time-warp sort of way it seems that we have been here for years. It certainly feels like home and I will miss whatever it is about this place that I can never quite articulate. There are almost too many people to thank for giving me their help, support and advice over the course of this season. Firstly, thanks to Richard Cope for the sound advice he gave us at the start of the year to "try not to kill yourself" (through over-work - not misadventure).

A big thank you to Kev Scott for bringing some much-needed male banter and general bloke-y-ness when he provided holiday cover for Jodie. A huge collective thank you to all the volunteers who have helped us this season, especially those involved in carrying out the monthly bait point monitoring; Pete 'The Yorkshireman' Bann , Pat Griffiths, Dave Fisher, and David 'not that David Bellamy' Bellamy. Without people like you we would never get half of the work done. Thanks are also due to all the staff at the Manx Wildlife Trust and Manx National Heritage, in particular Duncan Bridges (MWT) and Shaun Murphy (MNH) for giving me this amazing job. Sorry for all the stupid questions and endless requests for equipment and supplies!

Lastly and most importantly, thanks to Jodie, my 'partner in grime' for putting up with me for all these months and being the green-fingered genius behind our unbelievably productive veg patch.

Monthly Summaries

March

The first week on the Calf was dominated by strong SW gales, reaching force 8-9 on the 19th. There were few birds around on the first couple of days: a Fieldfare and Snipe were seen on the 16th, and the first Merlin, Reed Bunting and Starlings seen on the 18th. The 19th saw seven Curlew and a Redshank sheltering from strong winds, as well as the arrival of the first three Wheatear and a flock of 22 Starlings. On the 20th 19 Turnstone and 25 Oystercatchers were seen around the Sound, and a Fieldfare, two Greenfinches, 10 Goldfinches and two Lesser Redpoll were noted around the Observatory. The 21st brought the first Sparrowhawk along with two Merlin. Waders were abundant around the coast, owing to the unsettled weather, including a Purple Sandpiper and 19 Turnstone, which may have been the same group from the previous day. A Grey Heron was also seen at the Withy. Inland, the first Skylark passed through as well as a Woodpigeon, Fieldfare and a good passage of 120 Meadow Pipits. The 22nd was quiet except for a Sparrowhawk and continuing passage of 152 Meadow Pipits. On the 23rd two Redshank, five Turnstone, a Black-headed Gull and a Common Gull were seen from South Harbour, elsewhere another Merlin, two Sparrowhawk, 24 Starlings and 150 Meadow Pipits were seen. There was then little of note until the 26th when the first Magpie of the season was seen in the Withy, and a Lapwing on Caigher. A single Grey Plover was heard flying over, and five Redwing, a Redshank and 18 Chiffchaffs were also noted. The first big movement of Wheatear came on the 28th, when 29 were seen. Meadow Pipit migration was also noticeable with 110 counted, as well as a Collared Dove and Woodpigeon around the Observatory. A Snipe was the main bird of note on the 29th, whilst an improvement in the weather for the last two days of the month saw migration get well underway for several species. On the 30th 30 Wheatear, 60 Chiffchaff, 55 Goldcrest, 25 Chaffinch and 18 Goldfinch were seen, whilst the 31st saw the first four Swallows, three Willow Warblers, Dunnock and Blackcap of the year, as well as over 60 Goldcrests.

April

The first week April saw wet weather, fog, and strong winds. The first Shelduck were seen on the 1st and a small arrival of thrushes was apparent around the island, along with eight Robins, 50 Chiffchaff and a Reed Bunting. Elsewhere 25 Wheatear and 130 Meadow Pipits were seen. Two Merlin were

the only birds of note on the 2nd and little else was notable until the 4th, when a Lapwing was seen at South Harbour. Heavy fog on the morning of the 4th also brought a spectacular arrival of thrushes including 30 Blackbirds, 100 Redwing and an impressive 260 Fieldfare. Around the Observatory, 25 Chaffinches, three Blackcaps and 30 Chiffchaff were also present. A Woodpigeon, 10 Willow Warblers and a Greenfinch were noted on the 5th, whilst the 6th brought the only Ring Ouzel of the spring. A Brambling was the highlight of the 7th, along with eight Swallows, whilst a Siskin on the 8th proved to be one of only a few seen on the Calf in 2014. Fine weather on the 9th brought a Buzzard, seen flying high over the central glen, with other birds of note including two Magpies, two Sparrowhawk, three Sand Martins and a Black Redstart. Razorbill numbers began to build on the 10th, with 220 seen in large groups along the north coast. The 11th proved a good day for waders with six Curlews and seven Redshanks present. Passerines were also on the move with four Swallows, 20 Willow Warblers, four Blackcaps and the first Grasshopper Warbler seen. There was then little of note until the 14th when a Merlin, two Sand Martins, 16 Swallow and 35 Goldfinch were seen. The 15th brought the first White Wagtail whilst numbers of Goldfinch and Willow Warbler continued to build. A total of 38 Linnets were also seen. The 18th was a good day for redpolls, with 20 Lesser and one Common Redpoll around the Observatory. Two Tree Sparrows were also present. Two Greylag Geese over Mill Giau on the 19th were the highlight of the day, and the first Cuckoo of the year arrived on the 21st, along with an influx of 40 Willow Warblers. Small numbers of Sand Martin continued to move through on the 22nd and 23rd, and a single Blue Tit was seen on the feeders around the Observatory. A Golden Plover was heard flying over on the 24th, in addition to 20 Swallows, 40 Willow Warblers and a good movement of 25 Wheatear. Many species continued to move through on the 25th, with a Grey Heron seen flying past the lighthouses and a Redstart at the Observatory. The first Sedge Warbler arrived on the 27th along with 80 Willow Warblers. A Redstart and Cuckoo were a good start to the day on the morning of the 28th. However, the highlight came later that afternoon with the arrival of a stunning Hoopoe in the back field, which fed around the Observatory until dark. A Cuckoo and Redstart were seen again on the 29th, as were 22 Swallows, a Woodpigeon, four Blackcap and three Sedge Warblers; the final day of the month saw a Grasshopper Warbler new in, but little else of note.

May

Weather conditions improved considerably in May, with long spells of clear weather resulting in excellent passage. The 1st brought a Short-eared Owl and 20 Willow Warblers, whilst the 2nd saw a Black Redstart, seven Sedge Warblers, eight Blackcap, 60 Willow Warbler and 3 Rooks. A Woodpigeon and Common Sandpiper on the 3rd were the only birds of note, whilst the 4th brought two White Wagtails. A good movement of hirundines on the 5th saw 80 Swallow and 10 House Martin, as well as 80 Meadow Pipits and a Short-eared Owl. A Sand Martin was seen on the 6th, and eight Blackcaps were recorded around the Observatory. The 7th brought the first Swift of the year, in addition to a Cuckoo and 40 Swallows. Little of note was seen on the 8th. Hirundines continued to move through on the 9th with 46 Swallows and six House Martins being recorded. A total of five Curlews were also seen around the coast. Wheatears moved through in decent numbers on the 10th, and 10 Lesser Redpolls and a Sand Martin were also seen. The 11th brought a Sparrowhawk and a small influx of Goldfinches, whilst the 12th proved considerably busier with the first Tree Pipit, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Garden Warbler, two Rooks and a mix of finches. Whitethroats arrived in good numbers on the 13th, with over 20 around the Observatory, accompanied by 12 Sedge Warblers, and 12 House Martins. The 14th proved to be a memorable day with the arrival of two male Eastern Subalpine Warblers, which were caught around the Observatory. Other highlights included two Whinchats in the Twin Fields, eight Spotted Flycatchers, 13 Jackdaws, a Grasshopper Warbler and 20 Sedge Warblers. Passage continued on the 15th with 80 Meadow Pipits, 70 Wheatear, two Garden Warblers and 15 Spotted Flycatchers. A Common Sandpiper was also seen at Cow Harbour. The 16th proved equally busy with the continuation of ideal weather conditions, seeing the arrival of 31 Linnets, 100 Meadow Pipits, a Redstart, 70 Swallows, five Sand Martins, 10 Chiffchaff a Tree Pipit and a Grasshopper Warbler. Passage was slow on the 17th and 18th with 2 Swifts the only notable record, whilst a Cuckoo and three Swifts were seen on the 19th. Skylarks began to move on the 20th when two Merlin were also seen. The 21st saw two Skylarks, 90 Meadow Pipits, 18 Stonechats, 10 Blackbirds, a Grasshopper Warbler and a lone Greenfinch. Sightings for the remainder of the month were slow with two Arctic Terns through the Sound on the 31st being the most notable sighting, however small numbers of warblers and finches continued to move through.

June

June was a typically slow month, with small numbers of warblers, finches and flycatchers present on most days. Three Collared Doves were present on the 6th, and three Swifts were seen on the 7th. An influx of 20 Goldfinches on the 13th included a number of juveniles. The 15th proved notable for its coastal birds, with a Whimbrel, one Redshank, three Curlews and a Common Gull seen. A group of five Grey Herons were seen flying over the Observatory early on the 16th, and a Sparrowhawk and 16 Starlings were also recorded. Small numbers of Starling and Curlew moved through over the next days. The 22nd saw two Grey Herons and a late Redstart. The 23rd brought a Woodpigeon, 100 Meadow Pipits, 18 Starlings and a House Martin. There was little of note then until the 25th when a Mistle Thrush was seen. Sightings improved toward the end of the month, when 28 Oystercatchers, five Chiffchaff, four Willow Warblers, a Blackcap, three Greenfinch and 84 Rooks were seen. The 29th brought Goldfinches and a Siskin, and the last day of the month saw the arrival of a Cuckoo, a Lapwing, 12 Swifts, a Grey Heron, three Greenfinches and 21 Goldfinches.

July

The month got off to a good start with a juvenile Grey Wagtail present around the Observatory, as well as a Spotted Flycatcher and four Greenfinches. A Curlew was seen on the 2nd as well as 15 Swifts and a single Willow Warbler. A group of 30 Linnets were notable on the 3rd, but there was little to report on the 4th. Four Sedge Warblers were seen on the 5th and four Greenfinches were new arrivals. Linnet numbers continued to increase reaching 65 in total. A Snipe and a Black-headed Gull were the highlights of the 6th, as was a Buzzard on the 7th. The 8th was quiet; however the 9th brought a Lapwing, an Arctic Tern, a single Curlew, a Collared Dove, five Whitethroats, 10 Starlings and two Greenfinches. Two Rooks flew over the island on the 10th, and a Common Sandpiper was seen on the 11th. A Great Skua was seen flying through the Sound on the 13th and three House Sparrows were newly arrived on the 16th. Two Common Sandpipers were seen on the 18th, followed by a single the next day. Numbers of Curlew began to increase around the 22nd, with eight present, and sightings becoming daily for the remainder of the month. Three Ringed Plovers were seen near South Harbour on the 25th, whilst two Swifts, 15 Swallows, a Reed Bunting and two Goldcrest were seen elsewhere on the island. A group of seven Lapwings arrived on the 26th and remained in the Withy field for several days thereafter. Twelve

Curlews were also seen, as were three Goldcrest, 60 Linnets and a Sedge Warbler. The final days of the month continued in a similar fashion, with small numbers of birds passing through. Three Song Thrushes were seen on the 31st.

August

The weather in August was mixed, but often windy and with considerable quantities of rain throughout the month. The first few days of the month were generally quiet, with two Curlews and a Collared Dove on the 1st and two Common Sandpipers on the 2nd. Strong winds on the 3rd brought 14 Curlews, two Common Sandpipers and a Redshank. A seawatch produced 697 Manx Shearwaters. Over 80 Meadow Pipits, 12 Stonechats, 24 Wheatears, 34 Linnets, 16 Goldfinches and a Sedge Warbler were recorded around the island on the same date. There were nine Willow Warblers present on the 4th, however heavy rain on the 5th prevented the arrival of any new migrants. A Whitethroat and 32 Linnets were seen on the 6th as well as a single Redshank and Song Thrush. Light winds and clear skies on the 7th brought three Sand Martins, two House Martins and 14 Swallows, whilst two Sedge Warblers, three Whitethroats and one Spotted Flycatcher were seen around the Observatory. Three Common Sandpipers were seen at South Harbour on the 8th, however little of note was seen until the 13th when a Grey Heron appeared at Cow Harbour. A Whimbrel was seen on the 14th, as were 11 Curlew, 60 Swallows, 19 Wheatears and eight Willow Warblers. The 15th saw 10 Sand Martins, three House Martins and 18 Swallow, as well as a good movement of 76 Meadow Pipits, 29 Wheatears and 65 Linnets. The 16th was notable for building numbers of Swallows, with 67 seen, and also a large flock of 23 Oystercatchers roosting at Cow Harbour. Little of note was seen then until the 21st when a first-year Melodious Warbler was found at the Observatory, accompanied by a small arrival of Blackbirds, Chaffinches and Goldfinches. A Merlin on the 23rd was the first of the autumn, with other notable recordings including a Whimbrel, 14 Robins, 15 Willow Warblers and 25 Swallows. The 24th saw a good arrival of new migrants including a Woodpigeon, five Sand Martins, 20 House Martins, 80 Swallows, 30 Robins, two Whitethroats and 12 Goldcrests. Strong winds dominated for the remainder of the month, resulting in three Turnstones and 13 Curlews on the 25th, and a Grey Heron and 55 Swallows on the 26th. Wagtails began to move on the 27th with three Grey Wagtails and 22 “alba” wagtails seen, as well as a Whimbrel, 20 Goldcrests, a Reed Bunting and a Spotted Flycatcher. A

Sparrowhawk and 17 “alba” wagtails were seen on the 28th, and Meadow Pipits were observed migrating in good numbers on the 29th. Rain on the 30th limited sightings, although 21 Curlews, 27 Swallows, three Spotted Flycatchers and singles of Blackcap, Sedge Warbler and Chiffchaff were seen. Conditions improved considerably on the last day of the month, resulting in a busy day for migrants. Amongst these were three Lapwing, a Grey Heron, 20 Curlews, 100 Meadow Pipits, six Grey Wagtails, 21 “alba” wagtails, 35 Robins, 18 Willow Warblers, 15 Goldcrests, three Spotted Flycatchers, and singles of Sedge Warbler and Blackcap.

September

September was a fantastic month both in terms of weather and passage. Robins began to move in good numbers, with 32 recorded on the 1st along with 16 Swallows, six Blackcaps, 12 Willow Warblers and four Spotted Flycatchers. September 2nd was one of the busiest days of the year for migrants, with clear skies and light winds encouraging many birds to make their departure from the islet. Twenty Grey Wagtails, 50 Robins, four Whitethroats, 30 Willow Warblers, 10 Chiffchaffs and a Sparrowhawk were amongst those noted, however the highlight of the day was easily the arrival of over 600 Goldcrests around the island; one of the biggest falls for a number of years. Many birds were still present the following day, with good numbers of most species continuing to move through. Particularly notable was a huge offshore post-breeding aggregation of Manx Shearwaters, numbering in the region of 2500 individuals. A Snipe and Garden Warbler were notable on the 4th, whilst two Skylarks, 100 Swallows and 25 Grey Wagtails were seen on the 5th. Wheatear continued to move through with 24 seen on the 6th, in addition to 12 Curlews and 50 Swallows. The 7th saw 90 Meadow Pipits, 12 Turnstones and five Knot, as well as 21 Grey Wagtails and 40 Robins. Waders were again present in good numbers on the 8th with 16 Curlew and three Redshanks recorded. Robins continued to move in good numbers, with 80 arriving overnight. Two Great Tits were also present around the Observatory. Two “commic” terns were seen on the 9th. The highlight of the 10th was the capture of a Common Rosefinch at the Observatory, following favourable south-easterly winds, and a Mistle Thrush was also seen. Three Golden Plover flew over on the 12th, and two Garden Warblers were present around the Observatory making the most of the ample blackberry crop. A Redstart was the only bird of note on the 13th, whilst the 14th saw two Golden Plovers, three Snipes and the first decent

movement of Skylarks, with 26 seen. The 15th saw the arrival of 24 Swallow, a Blue Tit, 23 Goldfinches and a Reed Bunting, and another Golden Plover was heard flying over. A Redstart and 30 Linnets were noted on the 16th, and a Merlin, Grey Heron, Common Sandpiper and 90 Meadow Pipits were seen on the 17th. Ten Chiffchaffs were new in on the 10th, along with two Spotted Flycatchers and 30 Goldfinches taking advantage of the nyger feeders in the back garden. Small numbers of migrants passed through over the next couple of days, until an exceptionally calm day on the 21st saw records pick up with 56 Skylarks, 160 Meadow Pipits, 40 Wrens, 40 Robins, 20 Blackbirds, seven Song Thrushes, 10 Blackcaps, 30 Chiffchaffs, 10 Chaffinches, two Reed Buntings and a Short-eared Owl seen. A group of 60 Pink-footed Geese were also seen flying past the lighthouses. The 22nd brought eight Golden Plovers, 78 Skylarks, 150 Meadow Pipits and 47 Goldcrest. There were no sightings of note on the 23rd, and a Snipe was seen on the 24th. Fifty Goldcrest were new in on the 25th, as was a Mistle Thrush and seven Starlings on the 26th. The 27th saw a Redshank and Turnstone around the coast, and a good arrival of passerine migrants including 120 Meadow Pipits, 38 Skylarks, five Blackcaps, 20 Chiffchaffs, 90 Goldcrest and 30 Chaffinches. It also proved to be an excellent day for wagtails with 23 Grey Wagtails, 50 White Wagtails, and 150 “alba” wagtails logged. A Yellow-browed Warbler was the highlight of the day. The 28th saw the biggest Meadow Pipit movement of the autumn, with 350 birds recorded. Wagtails continued to move in large numbers similar to the previous day, and Skylarks were also seen in good numbers. A total of 74 Linnets were also seen. Strong winds began to dominate toward the end of the month, but good numbers of common migrants continued on passage.

October

The generally settled weather September did not persist into October, with several bouts of severe gales through the month, and many rainy days. However, the first couple of days continued to have favourable weather. Despite this, few birds were moving on the 1st, but migration picked up substantially on the 2nd when large numbers of birds were seen moving through including 70 Goldfinches, 18 Siskins, 35 Greenfinches, and 60 Chaffinches as well as 250 Meadow Pipits and 200 Skylarks. Wagtails were also on the move with 40 greys and 90 “alba” wagtails noted. Bad weather on the 3rd and 4th produced few notable sightings. Migration was hindered by wet weather and strong winds on the 5th, but early morning rain on the 7th grounded a considerable number of birds including 20 Siskins and 50

Goldfinches, a Ring Ouzel and 30 Song Thrushes. Starlings began to move through in greater numbers, with a flock of 54 present. There was also a small influx of 18 Chiffchaffs. The 9th saw the arrival of at least three Ring Ouzels with two Golden Plovers and a Snipe seen elsewhere on the island. The 10th brought 64 Skylarks, 140 Meadow Pipits, 38 Song Thrushes, a Mistle Thrush, 56 Goldfinches and 120 Chaffinches. Two Sparrowhawk were present on the 11th, as well as a Short-eared Owl, a late Tree Pipit and 60 Goldcrest. The 12th was a busy day seeing 52 Skylarks, 12 White Wagtails, 120 Chaffinches, 30 Wrens, 37 Dunnock, a Blue Tit, six Great Tits, 10 Lesser Redpoll and two Tree Sparrows. The 13th was quiet again with only a Redshank, Short-eared Owl and Garden Warbler of note. The 14th brought two Merlin, and a decent fall of thrushes including a Ring Ouzel, 52 Blackbirds, three Fieldfares and 130 Redwings. A Snipe was recorded on the 15th as were 70 Redwings. A Water Rail in the Withy on the 16th was particularly notable and another Ring Ouzel was sighted. Strong winds prevented much from moving, and the only notable bird of the 19th was a stock dove. Bad weather continued with only a Woodcock of note on the 21st, however, a seawatch produced 598 Kittiwakes. A Snipe and Woodcock were present on the 22nd, and the 23rd saw an impressive influx of 320 Starlings as well as 21 Redwings and two Merlin. Two Whooper Swans were the highlight of the 24th, with other notable sightings including two Woodcock and 200 Starlings. Waders were the flavour of the day on the 27th, when 14 Curlews were seen at the Cletts and six Turnstones at Cow Harbour. Starlings continued to push through in good numbers on the 28th, with 140 seen. A Lapwing was also spotted at Kione Roauyr. A calm morning on the 28th brought a good influx of migrants, including 22 House Sparrows, 30 Goldcrest, 110 Starlings, two Sparrowhawk, three Merlin, a Tree Sparrow, a Woodpigeon, Ring Ouzel, Blue Tit, two Mistle Thrushes, 13 Lesser Redpoll and nine Rooks. The 30th saw a good number of thrushes including 75 Blackbirds, 23 Fieldfares, 45 Song Thrushes and a single Redwing. The month ended on a quiet day with only 18 Redwings and a Coal Tit of note.

November

Three Woodcocks were present around the Observatory on the 1st, as were two Woodpigeons, 30 Blackbirds, two Blackcaps and 11 Greenfinches. The 2nd brought 17 Curlews and 14 Robins, whilst the 3rd saw another Woodcock, 15 Turnstone at Cow Harbour and a Black-headed Gull through the Sound. A Great Northern Diver was seen flying south past Bushels on the 4th, as were

four Woodpigeons, 16 Skylarks, two Grey Wagtails, 16 Wrens, 17 Song Thrushes, 18 Redwings, seven Chiffchaffs, 420 Starlings, three House Sparrows and 12 Lesser Redpoll. A group of 13 Mistle Thrushes were also seen feeding in the twin fields. The 5th also proved to be a busy day, with 65 Blackbirds, 26 Fieldfares, three Magpies, 48 Jackdaws, five House Sparrows, 30 Chaffinches, six Dunnocks, 28 Robins, 12 Wrens, 17 Song Thrushes, two Grey Wagtails, 16 Skylarks and four Woodpigeons. The 6th was quiet except for a lone Brambling. The 7th saw a single Merlin, Grey Heron, Woodcock, Skylark, and Grey Wagtail, in addition to 35 Blackbirds and 300 Starlings. The only notable record on the 8th was the arrival of 40 Fieldfare. The 9th brought two Sparrowhawk, a Grey Heron, Woodcock, six Skylark, 11 Fieldfare, 26 Redwing and eight Jackdaws. The final day of the season produced little of note, with eight Skylarks, two Blackcaps and two House Sparrows recorded.



Grey Heron (Photo: Jodie Crane)



Redstart (Photo: Jodie Crane)

Systematic List

In total, 115 bird species were observed on the Calf during 2014. The systematic list below follows the sequence and scientific names given in the British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (8th edition), maintained by the British Ornithologists Union (BOU) and last published in *Ibis* 155: 635-676. The current version of the British List is available at <http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/>.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A 1st year bird was washed up dead on 20th April; having been ringed just 17 days earlier in Castletown Harbour. It is possible that the bird died on the Isle of Man and that tidal currents carried it to the Calf, however this represents just the ninth record of the species on the Calf.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay Chiaullee

Two individuals flying past the Observatory on 24th October were the only record for the season.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A flock of 60 were seen flying past the lighthouses on 21st September.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Guiy feie

Two individuals flew over Mill Giau on 19th April.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Thunnag y Scape

Up to three individuals were seen regularly around the island between 1st April and 30th May. No nests were confirmed on the Calf itself although at least one pair may have attempted to breed. A single nest was found on Kitterland on the 2nd May.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Thunnag Laaghag

Two females were seen at Grant's Harbour on 2nd August.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag feie

Pairs were seen regularly throughout the breeding season, with one pair seen with newly hatched chicks at the Mill Pond on 18th April. No individuals were

seen in July or August, but small numbers were seen regularly from September until the end of the season.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Laagh Loughlinagh

Eiders were seen on a daily basis from the start of the season until the end June with up to 70 individuals recorded, and became less abundant thereafter. Nesting attempts were numerous and widespread across the island, with at least 16 nests on Rarick, and a considerable number along the coast between South and Cow Harbour. Chicks were first seen on 15th May. Small numbers of individuals were seen from July onwards, with the final sighting being 10 birds at Cow Harbour on 7th October.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Eider

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	90	478	790	308	19	4	7	10	0
Max count	15	70	70	20	4	2	1	10	0

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Arrag Vooar

One individual flying South past Bushell's House on 4th November was the only record for the year.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eean Croymmagh

Recorded in every month, with a maximum of 70 on 19th April; pairs bred at several colonies across the island. There were few sightings in October and November, until birds returned to the breeding ledges on 10th November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scraayl

The first bird of the season was seen off Cow Harbour on 4th May. Manx Shearwaters bred at several colonies across the island (see separate report). A seawatch on 3rd August recorded 697 individuals in one hour however the highest count for the season was on 3rd September when a flock of 2500 were seen on the water at dusk, just north of Gibdale. The last individuals were seen on 7th September.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Kitty Varrey

Only recorded during night-time mist netting sessions at South Harbour during June and July, with up to eight individuals on 25th June.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

Seen offshore almost daily from 16th March. Three figure counts of 102 on 18th May, and 140 and 148 on 3rd and 29th August respectively.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Arragh Vooar

One or two individuals seen regularly in the Sound from the start of the season until June, with numbers increasing in the autumn after an influx of juveniles, leading to a maximum count of eight on 31st August.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fannag / Feeagh Varrey

Seen almost daily around the island throughout the season with at least 50 birds seen regularly; bred in good numbers. Counts peaked on 14th September with 120 individuals present in a large post-breeding flock in the Sound.

Grey Heron *Butorides virescens*

Coayr / Coayr ny Hastan / Coayr Glass

A good year for herons: first record on 21st March, with one or two individuals seen occasionally in all months except July. A maximum of five was recorded on 16th June, when a group flew over the Observatory in the early morning. Sightings increased in the autumn.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Sightings were common throughout the season, with records of one or two individuals during spring, increasing to up to five in the autumn on 19th October, including a grey male.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk / Shirragh / Shirragh ny Giark

Sparrowhawk were seen in all months, but were most prevalent in April. Autumn saw a good number of migrating birds and dispersing juveniles.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Two records during the season; one on 9th April, seen flying high over the Glen and another on 7th July.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Drean Ushtey

One record for the year on 16th October, with a single individual caught on a camera trap in the Withy hide.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Garee breck / Bridgeen

Seen around the island on an almost daily basis throughout the season; several pairs attempted to nest with at least three successfully fledging young. Large groups were often seen roosting around Cow Harbour including high counts of 25 on 20th March, 28 on 28th June, and 31 on 27th October.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag Reeast/Fedjag Reeast

Spring records were scarce with only one individual heard flying over on the 24th April. Records were more numerous in autumn with small numbers of birds seen in both September and October, with high counts of eight on 22nd September and six on 4th October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Earkan

The first record for the season was one individual on Caigher on 26th March, with further singles seen on 4th April and 30th June. Records became more numerous during July with a single on the 9th and a flock of up to seven seen on consecutive days in the Withy field, which were presumably the same group. Three individuals on 11th September and a single on 28th October were the only other records for the season.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag Ainnit

Three individuals seen on 25th July at South Harbour was the only record for the season.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

There were no records during spring, with the first individual seen on 25th June. Four records of single birds in August were the only other sightings for the season.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottage

Up to six individuals were seen regularly throughout March and April, with numbers dropping off during late May and June. Autumn saw an increase in numbers on return migration, reaching a peak of 21 on 30th August.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres**Goblaghan*

March saw the only spring records with 19 individuals seen at South Harbour on the 20th and 21st during a period of stormy weather. A further five were seen on the 23rd. There were then no records until 25th August when three were seen at South Harbour. The remainder of the season saw a further four records of 12 birds on the 7th and one bird on 27th September, six on 27th October and finally 15 on 3rd November.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Two records for the season saw three on 31st August and five on 7th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One individual at South Harbour on 21st March was the only record for the season.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first record was a single on the 3rd May, with another following on the 15th. There were then no further records until 11th July when a single bird was seen at Cow Harbour. There were a further two records in July, and sightings increased from July onwards with a maximum of three individuals seen on 8th August, and two further sightings in the month. The last sighting was on 17th September.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus**Goblan Marrey*

The first record was on 19th March, with regular sightings until July when none were recorded. There were two records of single birds in August, a maximum of three birds on 8th September, and the final sighting on 13th October.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola**Ushag Rennee*

There were no spring records, however autumn proved busy with the first sighting on 21st October and a further three for the month. November also saw a good number of records with a maximum of three individuals on the 1st and a further four records of single birds.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago**Coayr Heddagh*

Spring records were scarce with just two sightings in March. There was then a break in records until July, when one was seen on 6th. August also had no records, but sightings increased into the autumn; a maximum of three birds

occurred on 14th September, with both September and October having seven bird days each. The last record was on 30th October.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A single bird through the Sound on 13th July was the only record for the season.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pibbin / Poltag

Two individuals on the sea below Kione Roauyr on 12th June was the only record for the season.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille*

Caillagh Ghoo

Numbers were low throughout the season compared to previous years. The first sighting was a single individual on 21st March, with the majority of sightings in April and May. The highest count for the season occurred on 19th April when 10 individuals were seen below the lighthouses. Although sightings were scarce after May, two juveniles were regularly seen in the Puddle until the end July.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

The first sighting of the season was on 18th March, with numbers building through April reaching a maximum of 220 on 10th. Razorbills bred at various locations around the Calf. No birds were seen inshore after 15th July, offshore sightings thereafter were infrequent.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Stronnag / Chennell

The first sighting of the season was on 18th March, with small numbers during April and May. A high count of 160 occurred on 13th June. There were few records after July 15th with the exception of a first winter bird that was seen in the puddle throughout September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

There was one sighting during the season on 9th July, flying past the Lighthouses.

“Commic” Tern *Sterna sp.*

A sighting of two individuals through the Sound on 9th September was the only record for the season.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla**Perragh*

There was no evidence of breeding on the Calf in 2014, following a significant decline over recent years. Kittiwakes were seen in all months except June. Autumn had the majority of records, with a large flock regularly roosting in the Puddle in August. A period of rough weather in October produced a high count of 598 birds during a seawatch on the 21st.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus**Pirragh*

There were three records during the season. One individual was seen on 23rd March, a second on 6th July flying through the Sound and a final sighting on 3rd November also through the Sound.

Common Gull *Larus canus**Foillan Vane*

The first sighting was on the 23rd March with an individual seen off the Burroo. The only other sighting was an individual seen on Caigher between 15th & 17th June.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus**Foillan Saggyrt*

The first sighting was on 14th March, with birds seen almost daily until the end September after which sightings became infrequent. Lesser Black-backed Gulls bred on the Calf and appeared to have a reasonably successful breeding season. A high count of 60 was recorded on 16th August.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus**Foillan*

Herring Gulls were present throughout the season and bred at several large colonies around the island. An early spring peak of 505 individuals was recorded on 19th March, with numbers thereafter regularly exceeding 200. Numbers dropped throughout the autumn; however individuals were still recorded daily.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus**Juan Mooar*

Present throughout the season. The spring peak occurred on 19th March, with 186 birds seen in a large roost on Caigher. The peak autumn count was 230 on 26th October during a period of very strong winds.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas**Calmane Gorrym*

One record for the season was an individual seen around the Observatory on 19th and 20th October.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Calmane keylley

The first record was on 21st March, with single birds seen occasionally between March and June. There were no further records until 24th August when one bird was seen at the Observatory. The remainder of records were in late October and early November, when a maximum of eight birds were seen on 5th November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

The majority of records occurred in the spring, with a maximum of three on both 25th May and 6th June. The last record was on 3rd August.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Cooag

The first record was a single bird on 21st April, with two further sightings in the month. May saw two records, and the final sighting for the season was a single bird on 30th June.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

The first record was on 1st May with a second sighting on the 5th which may have been the same individual. There were then no records until 21st September when a single bird was seen around the Observatory. Two records in October were the last of the season.

Swift *Apus apus*

Birds were seen on eight days between May and July, reaching a maximum of 15 on 1st July.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

A stunning individual was found in the Back Field late on 28th April, and after a short disappearance spent the remainder of the evening foraging in the Front Field.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair Ruy

Kestrels were seen regularly throughout the season, with a notable increase in sightings in the autumn. The highest count for the season was up to three individuals on several days in late September.



Hoopoe (Photo: Jodie Crane)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

April and October saw the majority of sightings for this species, with 22 and 27 bird days respectively. The first bird was seen on 18th March; however, there was a break in sightings after 20th May until 23rd August when the first autumn individual was seen.

Peregrine *Falco peregrines*

Shirragh y Ree

Although seen around the Calf throughout the season, there was no confirmed breeding for a second consecutive year, despite two pairs appearing to be resident. A pair was seen regularly around the Burroo early in the season, and were seen copulating, but they disappeared shortly after, and no nesting attempt was found nor juveniles seen around the Calf.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

Seen daily throughout the season with April and May providing the highest counts; 57 were seen on 17th April, and 60 on 31st May. Flock sizes in spring regularly exceeded 40 individuals, which likely contained non-breeding

individuals that crossed the Sound. Breeding attempts were largely successful with a good number of first year birds seen in June and July.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Pieanat/ Piannad

The first sighting was a single individual on 26th March which stayed until 10th April, and was joined by a second individual on 9th April. The only other spring record was one individual on 30th May. There were no further sightings until 12th October when a single bird was seen. The last record of the year was three individuals seen around the Observatory on 5th November.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Caaig/ Juan teayst

Spring sightings were limited to May, with sightings made on seven days throughout the month and reaching a maximum of 13 on 14th. There was then a break in records until 9th September when a pair was seen around the Observatory. The pair was seen frequently for several weeks, often investigating the Chough nest box in the silo. The maximum count for the season occurred on 5th November when a flock of 48 spent the morning on the Observatory telephone aerial.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Trogh

Three individuals flying over the Observatory on 29th April were the first of the season, with sightings made infrequently in most months thereafter. The maximum count of the season was 84 birds on 28th June.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Resident on the Calf and attempted to breed although considerably less common than the Hooded Crows; up to six Carrion Crows were seen throughout the season. A pure Carrion Crow pair nested in the Withy field, whilst several mixed pairs were also seen.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Fannag Ghlass

Resident, numerous and bred on the Calf. Hooded Crows were seen on a daily basis throughout the season, with a maximum of 17 birds seen on 9th April.

[Hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow]

Up to 4 hybrid crows were seen infrequently throughout the season.

Raven *Corvus corax**Feeagh/ Feeagh Vooar*

Seen on a daily basis around the Calf, with at least three pairs breeding and successfully fledging five young during the season; a maximum of 17 were seen flying over the Observatory on 18th September.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus**Ushag y fuygh*

Goldcrests were seen throughout the season, with a spring maximum of 60 on 31st March. Numbers began to decline in early April, with few records through May, June and July then numbers started to pick up toward the end August. The 2nd September brought a sizeable fall with 600 being seen around the island, whilst the 27th saw 90 birds being recorded. After this date, numbers began to decline, although sightings were made almost daily until the end of the season.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus**Drean Gorrym*

A poor year for Blue Tits with only one spring record of an individual seen on two consecutive days in April. There were no further sightings until 10th September when the first bird of the autumn was seen around the Observatory. Birds were seen on six days in September and on two days in October with an individual on 29th being the final record for the season.

Great Tit *Parus major**Drean Mooar*

There were no spring records, with the first sighting of the season coming on 4th September. At least one individual was then seen each day until the end of the season, with a maximum of six on 12th October. A number of individuals stopped over for several weeks.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

One individual on 31st October was the only record of the season.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* *Ushag Tappagh/ Ushag y Tappee / Usagh Happagh / Ushag Cabbagh*

Spring records were scarce with birds seen on one day in March and three days in May. The first record of the autumn was on 5th September after which sightings increased throughout September before declining in late October. Good weather on 2nd October saw the highest count of the season with 200 birds recorded. The last record was on 10th November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia**Gollan Geinne*

There were 10 records in the spring and a further three in the autumn. The first record was on 9th April with small numbers of birds seen on five further days during the month. Sand Martins were seen on four days in May, and were then absent until the autumn when three individuals were seen on 7th August. The peak count occurred on 15th August when 10 birds were seen. The final sighting for the month and ultimately the season was on the 24th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica**Gollan geayee*

The first record was on 31st March when four individuals were seen. Sightings became more common toward the end April with double figures regularly recorded. May saw the heaviest passage with a peak of 80 on the 5th; small numbers were seen throughout the summer months, with at least three pairs nesting on the Calf. Autumn passage picked up in late August and early September reaching a peak of 100 on 5th September after which numbers steadily declined until the last record on 11th October.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum**Gollan Thie*

The first record of the season was on 16th April when two individuals were seen. May proved to be the busiest month, with up to 12 birds seen on 13 days. A single bird on 23rd June was the sole record for the month, after which there were no sightings until 7th August. Sightings were uncommon in autumn with only three in August, four in September and two in October. The peak count of the season was 22 birds around the Observatory on 21st September.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A single individual around the Observatory on 27th September was the only record for the season.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita**Beealerey*

Spring passage began on 16th March, with birds seen almost daily until the end May. The spring peak occurred on 1st April when 50 birds were recorded. Numbers were very low through June, July and August however records became more regular throughout September with birds present every day, often in double figures. The peak count for the autumn was 30 birds on 23rd September. Small numbers of Chiffchaff were seen until the end of the season thereafter.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

A single individual on 29th April was heard calling persistently throughout the morning, although it proved difficult to see. Audio recordings of the vocalisations were made in order to confirm the species. This is the first record for the Isle of Man.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Drean vane

The first record of the season was on 31st March, with numbers building throughout April to a peak of 80 on the 27th. Numbers remained high through early May, but declined considerably toward the end of the month. June and July saw fewer records; however, numbers increased into August, reaching an autumn peak of 30 on 2nd September. Numbers declined thereafter with the final sighting of the season on the 28th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Bayrn dhoo

A male on 31st March was the first record of the season, with up to four birds seen on 14 days in April. Numbers continued to increase into early May with a spring peak of 10 on the 14th. There were only seven records between June and August, with autumn passage getting underway in September. The highest autumn count was 10 birds on 21st September. Sightings were common during the remainder of the season. The last record was a Belgian-ringed bird caught at the Observatory on 10th November.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder garee

One individual on 12th May was the first record of the season, followed by two further individuals three days later. These were the only spring records. There were a good number of sightings through the autumn, with one or two on eight days in September and October. The final record for the season was on 13th October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

A single individual was seen around the Observatory on 21st April. This was the only record for the season.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Fynntag ny Keylley

The first birds arrived on 24th April, with a spring peak count of 26 occurring on 14th May. Birds were seen on an almost daily basis through to early July,

after which there were relatively few sightings until the last birds on 21st September.

“Eastern” Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*

Excellent weather on 14th May saw a good arrival of migrants, including two striking male Subalpine Warblers which were trapped at the Observatory.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

All records occurred in spring; there were three records of single birds in April, and six records involving seven individuals in May, the last being on the 21st.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

A first-year individual was caught at the Observatory on 21st August and stayed until 1st September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first bird arrived on 27th April. Peak passage occurred on 14th May when 20 individuals were recorded. Numbers were low throughout the summer and autumn, with only one or two birds recorded on a few days each month. The final sighting was on 14th September.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Drean

Wrens were seen regularly throughout the season and bred in good numbers on the Calf. There was good passage in autumn with a peak of 40 individuals on 21st September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Truitlag

Records occurred in all months with the exception of August. The first record was on 18th March with sightings on a further six days during the month. Sightings were scarce in April and May, with only four sightings of 13 birds. Records increased in late June when groups with juveniles were seen regularly. Sightings were only occasional until mid-October when autumn passage got underway. Large flocks were thereafter commonplace with numbers often into three figures. The peak autumn count was on the 4th November when 420 Starling were seen in a number of flocks.

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*

A poor spring for Ring Ousels with only one record on 6th April; autumn provided more records with nine individuals seen, with the first on 19th September. A further six records throughout October, with a maximum of three on 9th and the final bird of the season on the 29th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Lhondhoo

Blackbirds were seen on a daily basis throughout the season, with several resident pairs breeding around the island. Spring passage peaked on 4th April when 30 birds were seen. Passage continued at a steady pace before dropping off in late May. Several broods fledged around the Observatory. Autumn migrants started to arrive in early October and maintained high numbers until the end of the season, reaching a peak of 75 on 30th October and 65 on 5th November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ushag sniaghtey

There were six spring records; three singles in March and three further records in April, including a spectacular arrival of 260 Fieldfare on the morning of the 4th, which spent their time in the sycamores or feeding in the Front Field. The first records of autumn were singles on 13th & 16th October, with three on 14th; there was then a gap in records until a further single on 29th followed by 23 on 30th and four the next day. During November, records of single figure counts were made almost daily, with high counts of 26 on 5th and 40 on 8th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Lhon/ Thresh len

Records were scarce in the spring and summer, but sightings became almost daily in September with a maximum of seven birds recorded. Passage increased significantly during October with numbers regularly exceeding 20 individuals and a peak of 45 on the 30th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Lhon Geayee

Only three spring records with five on 26th March, four on the 1st and an arrival of 100 on 4th April. Autumn passage began on 14th October when 130 birds arrived, with 70 recorded on the following day. Sightings occurred regularly on a further 15 days until the end of the season.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus**Lhon Keylley*

There were no spring records, with the first being a single bird on 25th June, followed by another single on the 27th. There were two records of single birds in September, and three records of four birds in October. November had the two highest counts of the season with 13 seen feeding together on the 4th and three individuals around the Observatory on the 5th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata**Skybbyltagh breck*

The first record was on 12th May, with the majority of spring passage following in the next two weeks, with a peak of 15 individuals on 15th. June and July had only three records however numbers increased in August and September with a maximum of four on 1st September. The final sighting was on the 21st September.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula**Cleeen jiarg / Spittag*

Records were almost daily throughout the season. Spring numbers were low with a maximum of 11 on 31st March. Numbers dropped off over the summer with only a handful of resident birds present. Autumn migration began in late August with numbers increasing toward the end of the month. September was a good month with daily counts regularly exceeding 20 and high counts of 50 on the 2nd and 80 on the 8th. Robins continued to move through in reasonable numbers until the end of the season.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A bird seen at the Smithy on 9th April was the first record for the season. A female around the Observatory on 2nd May was the only other record for the season. This is the second consecutive year with no autumn sightings.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first record of the season came on 25th April with two individuals present around the Observatory; following this there were three records of single birds in April. May saw an additional two records of single birds and a further single on June 22nd was the last of the spring. Autumn saw three records of single birds in mid-September, the last of which was seen on the 16th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

In spring a single bird was seen at the Withy on 28th April and two birds in the Twin Fields on 14th May. Autumn saw only one record of a single bird in the Withy on 18th September.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola**Boid y chonne / Kione dhoo y eeigyn*

Several pairs were already present at the start of the season. Re-colonisation of this species continued following a significant decline in 2012, with at least five pairs breeding in 2014: at the Lighthouses, Jane's House, the Back Field, Withy and Seafield. The first brood fledged on 14th May and most pairs were known to have at least two broods. A high count of 20 was made on 24th June. Post-juvenile dispersal led to several counts of over 10 individuals in July and August. Numbers remained good in September and began to decrease in October with small numbers seen until the end of the season.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe**Claggan cloaie*

The first to arrive were three males seen on 19th March, followed by a surge of up to 30 at the end of the month. Good numbers were recorded on passage in April, with an increase in numbers into May, and a high count of 70 on the 15th following good weather. Numbers continued to be high through June. Breeding productivity was good with several broods fledging during the summer, and reasonable numbers of juveniles moving through. Autumn saw reasonable numbers, reaching 29 on 15th August. Thereafter numbers began to decline through September with the last records of the season culminating with a single on 12th October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis**Drean mollagh /Bogh Keeir*

Spring sightings were poor with only single records in March and May. Autumn passage was excellent and got underway in September, with 10 records of 14 birds before the end of the month. October saw the bulk of the autumn migration with a considerable movement of birds between the 9th and 14th reaching a maximum of 37 on the 12th. Numbers declined towards the end of the season.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Dunnocks

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	1	0	1	0	0	0	14	268	32
Max count	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	38	6

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Jallyn

A superb year for this species; there were no records until 16th July when three birds were present around the Observatory. There was then a break until the end of September when a single bird was caught at the Observatory. October and November saw good movements of birds, with an exceptional flock of 22 seen in the front hedge on 29th October, making 2014 the best year for House Sparrows in over a decade.

Annual bird-day totals of House Sparrow, 2005-2014

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bird-days	3	14	17	16	2	32	26	3	7	49

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Two birds were caught at the Observatory on 18th April, and were the only spring record. October had two sightings of three birds on the 12th and 29th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Ushag Ghlass

There were no spring records, with the first 'sunny bottom' of the season, a dispersing juvenile, seen on 1st July and for several days thereafter having taken up temporary residence in the drainage channel behind the Observatory (giving nice views from the kitchen!). Autumn passage was underway by the end August, with small numbers moving through, but fine weather throughout September saw good numbers flying over throughout the month. Passage continued at a slower pace through October and November.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Grey Wagtails

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	0	0	0	0	3	9	325	98	6
Max count	0	0	0	0	1	6	50	40	3

White/Pied Wagtail *Motacilla a.alba/yarelli*

Ushag Vreck/ Ushag voltee

Pied Wagtails *M. a. yarelli* were seen on a daily basis throughout the spring, however there was little evidence of migration with numbers typically being low. At least four pairs bred on the island. There were a small number of White Wagtail *M. a.alba* seen through April and May. Autumn migration was

superb, owing to a calm and clear September. Birds started to move in the last week August, and peaked in late September with over 200 “alba” wagtails seen on the 27th and 28th, including up to 60 White Wagtails. Numbers dropped off quickly in October, with no records in November.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

There were three spring records of singles on 25th April, 12th and 16th May. There was a single late autumn record on 11th October when a single bird was trapped at the Observatory.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Tweet/Cheet/Ushag y Veet

Numbers were high throughout spring, reaching an early peak of 152 on 22nd March. Good numbers bred on the Calf. September and October were busy with autumn passage, reaching a peak of 350 on 28th September and 250 on 2nd October. Numbers dropped off quickly after mid-October with low numbers observed until the end of the season.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Meadow Pipits

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	1396	1848	1621	1629	1081	1186	2330	1258	103
Max count	152	130	100	100	90	100	350	250	30

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fushag Varrey

Present throughout the season in coastal areas, although spring numbers were low. Numbers peaked in early October with over 20 recorded daily between the 4th and 6th. A number of pairs bred successfully.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A single individual was present around the Observatory between the 7th and 11th April. Autumn brought two records, one on 12th October and a second on 6th November.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Ushag y Choan /Ushag veg vreck

First seen on the 16th March with numbers increasing, largely due to a steady passage of migrating birds and reaching a spring peak of 25 on 4th April; numbers remained low over the summer, with only two pairs nesting around

the Observatory. Autumn migration began in late September; however, the bulk of passage occurred in October, peaking on the 10th and 12th when 120 birds were recorded. Numbers then tailed off into early November with small numbers of birds continuing to move through until the end of the season.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Chaffinch

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	64	294	156	93	122	124	202	816	155
Max count	25	25	10	10	12	12	30	120	30

Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*

A first year bird caught at the Observatory on 10th September was the only record of the season. This was the 28th Calf record of this species.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Corkan Keylley glass

Another poor year for this species, with only 228 bird days (similar to 223 in 2013 and 243 in 2012). There were occasional spring records from 25th March with maximum daily counts of only two in March and one in April and May. In June and July there was a small movement of juveniles, with up to five seen. August and September were very quiet with just one record. Sightings increased in October with several sizable flocks moving through, reaching a peak of 35 on the 2nd. Small groups were seen through to the end of the season.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Greenfinch

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	6	6	2	6	24	0	1	145	38
Max count	2	1	1	3	5	0	1	35	11

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip ny Kempey / Ushag y lien

Seen almost daily throughout the season; groups of six or more were regularly seen during spring, with a maximum of 38 on 15th April. Several recently fledged juveniles in June indicated that breeding had taken place. Numbers began to increase in July and August with a maximum of 65 birds in both months. Numbers continued to stay high in September, reaching 74 on the 28th, before decreasing into October and November.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Linnets

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	33	282	337	222	435	342	333	169	19
Max count	5	38	31	20	65	65	74	32	9

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Bytermmyn dhone/Lossan ruy

The first bird was seen on 25th March, with spring passage getting underway in mid-April; a maximum of 20 were seen on 18th. May also saw a good number of records, with birds seen almost daily in the first half of the month. Small numbers were recorded in June, with none then seen until 10th October, after which there were six further records of up to 13 individuals. November saw records of up to 12 birds on five days.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

A single bird was trapped at the Observatory on 18th April.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Lossey ny Keylley / Kiark my Leydee

Seen daily throughout the season; good numbers were recorded during spring, with April being the busiest month, reaching a maximum of 35 on the 15th. Numbers decreased through May, with several pairs taking up residence to breed over the summer. Autumn passage got underway in September and October, with a peak of 70 birds on 2nd October and a high count of 50 on the 7th. Numbers declined thereafter; however small counts were made until the end of the season.

Monthly bird-days and peak counts of Goldfinch

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	76	438	308	261	253	256	386	522	40
Max count	18	35	22	21	22	20	30	70	7

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

A very poor year for this species; the first record of the season was on 8th April when a single individual was seen. There was then a gap until another single was seen on 29th June. All other records were in the autumn, with two birds seen on the 3rd September, and up to 13 seen on seven days in October.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompey ny Guirtlagh

A quiet season for this species with just singles seen on 14 dates between 17th March and 28th April. There were also single records in May, July and August and four birds were seen on three days in September. Two records on the 16th and 29th October were the last of the season.

Escapes:

[Great-horned Owl] *Bubo virginianus* (Canadian species)

An escaped individual spent much of the season roosting in the Upper Lighthouse, and having a significant impact on local gull numbers.



Subalpine Warbler (Photo: Jodie Crane)

Ringling Report

The 2014 season proved to be an exciting year for bird ringing on the Calf of Man. A total of 3902 birds of 59 species were ringed. Spring highlights included a recently fledged Raven caught by hand at Kione Roauyr, which was only the 6th to be ringed on the Calf. 14th May was one of the busiest ringing mornings of the spring, bringing a good variety of warblers including not one, but two first-year male Eastern Subalpine Warblers.

Mist netting was typically quiet throughout the summer months, however generally favourable weather conditions resulted in a productive breeding season and a good number of pulli being ringed, including Shags, Chough, Swallows, Pied Wagtails, Hooded Crows, Goldfinch and over 200 gull chicks, thanks to the efforts of Kev Scott.

Colour ringing projects continued for Rock Pipits, large gulls, and Chough in 2014. A new project for Wheatear using engraved rings was undertaken, and will hopefully result in many resightings in the future. The gull ringing project continues to have excellent results with reports of colour ringed gulls coming from as far afield as Morocco and Portugal.

The autumn got off to an excellent start with a Melodious Warbler on the 21st August, which was retrapped on several days until 1st September. The 2nd September brought the first big fall of the autumn with 151 birds ringed, the majority of which were Goldcrests. A Common Rosefinch was caught on the 10th September and a Yellow-browed Warbler on 27th September. Persistent good weather throughout September resulted in a monthly total of 1235 birds ringed, which was the highest September total since 2002 (1284 birds). Almost daily usage of a Grey Wagtail tape lure in the front field crow trap resulted in 178 Grey Wagtails being trapped, surpassing the 2008 annual record for this species (107) by a considerable margin.

October weather was much more unsettled, with only limited opportunities for mist netting. Despite this, a total of 806 new birds were ringed including three Woodcock, three Ring Ousels and a Stock Dove. The Stock Dove was only the 3rd to be ringed on the Calf, with the previous records in 1966 and 1989. Other ringing highlights included a recently fledged Raven, being only

the 6th to be ringed on the Calf, and also a first-year Grey Heron which was a new species for the Calf.

The number of Manx Shearwaters ringed in 2014 (42) was a significant increase on 2013 (34) and the best total since 2008 (54). This may indicate that greater numbers of shearwaters are visiting the colony at South Harbour. Unfortunately, no chicks were able to be ringed in 2014.

Several birds ringed elsewhere were found dead during the 2014 season, including two Gannet washed up at South harbour and a Razorbill in the Puddle, for which the original ringing data are eagerly awaited.

Monthly ringing totals for new birds in 2014, with the total number of species in parentheses.

Month	Monthly total for new birds (species)
March	133 (13)
April	399 (23)
May	458 (27)
June	337 (28)
July	145 (22)
August	216 (22)
September	1235 (29)
October	806 (31)
November	173 (13)
Annual total	3902 (59)

Top ten species for newly ringed birds during 2014

Species	Annual total for 2014
Goldcrest	647
Chaffinch	339
Willow Warbler	305
Robin	291
Meadow Pipit	268
Goldfinch	223
Chiffchaff	209
Blackbird	183
Grey Wagtail	178
Herring Gull	158

Original ringing year of birds re-trapped or re-sighted during 2014, that were originally ringed on the Calf of Man

Species	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Eider	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manx Shearwater	2	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	1	1	1	1
Storm Petrel	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Wren	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackbird	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robin	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stonechat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheatear	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied Wagtail	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meadow Pipit	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldfinch	10	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reed Bunting	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In addition, three birds previously ringed on the Calf were found dead on the Calf during the 2014 season. These included a Wheatear ringed in 2011 that was the unfortunate victim of a rodent snap-trap, a Herring Gull ringed in 2004, and a Great Black-backed Gull ringed in 1999, which was found freshly dead on Caigher.

Ringling Totals 2014

Species	Ringed 2014			Grand Total	Recoveries	
	Juv/ Adult	Pulli	Total		2014	1959- 2014
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brent Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	4	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	21	-	4
Eider	3	-	3	31	-	-
Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fulmar	-	-	-	136	-	3
Manx Shearwater	42	-	42	749	-	21
Storm Petrel	22	-	22	5146	4	550
Gannet	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cormorant	-	-	-	7	-	3
Shag	2	60	62	7544	12	572
Grey Heron	1	-	1	1	-	-
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	50	-	3
Sparrowhawk	9	-	9	206	-	15
Kestrel	1	-	1	140	-	10
Merlin	-	-	-	35	-	1
Peregrine	-	-	-	9	-	-
Grey Partridge	-	-	-	14	-	-
Water Rail	-	-	-	37	-	-
Corncrake	-	-	-	7	-	-
Moorhen	-	-	-	38	-	-
Coot	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	291	-	5
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	27	-	2
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	32	-	1

Dunlin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	12	-	-
Snipe	-	-	-	34	-	1
Woodcock	3	-	3	24	1	2
Whimbrel	-	-	-	1	-	-
Curlew	-	-	-	25	-	-
Redshank	-	-	-	21	-	-
Greenshank	-	-	-	1	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	-	-
Turnstone	-	-	-	36	-	-
Species	Ringed 2014			Recoveries		
	Juv/ Adult	Pulli	Total	Grand Total	2014	1959- 2014
Common Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	2	2	364	6	18
Herring Gull	1	157	158	13884	14	473
Great Black-backed Gull	-	42	42	2625	1	136
Kittiwake	-	-	-	939	-	22
Guillemot	-	-	-	618	-	31
Razorbill	1	2	3	1357	5	78
Puffin	-	-	-	7	-	-
Stock Dove	1	-	1	3	-	-
Woodpigeon	-	-	-	27	-	2
Collared Dove	-	-	-	46	-	-
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	15	-	2
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cuckoo	-	-	-	113	-	1
Scops Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	22	-	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	62	-	1

Swift	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hoopoe	-	-	-	4	-	-
Wryneck	-	-	-	22	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	5	-	-
Skylark	-	-	-	61	-	-
Sand Martin	-	-	-	50	-	-
Swallow	26	12	38	3643	-	39
House Martin	-	-	-	69	-	1
Tree Pipit	2	-	2	468	-	2
Meadow Pipit	268	-	268	14731	-	37
Rock Pipit	1	-	1	247	-	-
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey Wagtail	178	-	178	564	-	2
Pied Wagtail	74	2	76	1306	-	3
Waxwing	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wren	64	-	64	4053	-	5
Duncock	55	-	55	2209	-	11
Robin	291	-	291	9189	-	58
Thrush Nightingale	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nightingale	-	-	-	9	-	-
Bluethroat	-	-	-	9	-	-
Black Redstart	2	-	2	104	-	-
Redstart	5	-	5	1339	-	7
Species	Ringed 2014			Recoveries		
	Juv/ Adult	Pulli	Total	Grand Total	2014	1959-2014
Whinchat	-	-	-	726	-	3
Stonechat	38	-	38	2436	-	9
Wheatear	61	-	61	3347	-	16
Ring Ouzel	3	-	3	302	-	4
Blackbird	183	-	183	16510	1	182
Fieldfare	-	-	-	253	-	-

Song Thrush	112	-	112	7786	-	48
Redwing	23	-	23	1607	-	2
Mistle Thrush	2	-	2	236	-	6
Grasshopper Warbler	4	-	4	397	-	-
Sedge Warbler	58	-	58	5260	1	19
Marsh Warbler	-	-	-	5	-	-
Great Reed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	32	-	1
Blyth's Reed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	13	-	-
Melodious Warbler	1	-	1	18	-	-
Blackcap	90	-	90	2787	-	3
Garden Warbler	10	-	10	650	-	4
Barred Warbler	-	-	-	27	-	-
Lesser Whitethroat	-	-	-	93	-	-
Whitethroat	77	-	77	6405	-	14
Subalpine Warbler	2	-	2	18	-	-
Sardinian Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	7	-	-
Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	-	1	35	-	-
Dusky Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	1
Western Bonelli's Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wood Warbler	-	-	-	74	-	2
Chiffchaff	209	-	209	9334	-	32
Willow Warbler	305	-	305	39555	-	69
Goldcrest	647	-	647	38973	-	130
Firecrest	-	-	-	60	-	1
Spotted Flycatcher	39	-	39	4229	-	19
Pied Flycatcher	-	-	-	349	-	2

Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	-	-	16	-	-
Long-tailed Tit	-	-	-	273	-	3
Coal Tit	-	-	-	462	-	5
Blue Tit	4	-	4	1856	-	43
Species	Ringed 2014			Recoveries		
	Juv/ Adult	Pulli	Total	Grand Total	2014	1959-2014
Great Tit	11	-	11	1379	-	31
Treecreeper	-	-	-	62	-	-
Golden Oriole	-	-	-	5	-	-
Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	10	-	-
Great Grey Shrike	-	-	-	3	-	-
Woodchat Shrike	-	-	-	3	-	-
Magpie	-	-	-	390	-	6
Chough	-	10	10	461	1	42
Jackdaw	-	-	-	20	-	1
Rook	-	-	-	7	-	-
Carrion Crow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Hooded Crow	-	1	1	102	-	2
Raven	-	1	1	6	-	-
Starling	7	-	7	1645	-	17
House Sparrow	17	-	17	202	-	1
Tree Sparrow	5	-	5	115	-	-
Chaffinch	339	-	339	10190	-	82
Brambling	2	-	2	47	-	-
Serin	-	-	-	1	-	-
Greenfinch	17	-	17	3341	-	68
Goldfinch	221	2	223	3522	2	18
Siskin	-	-	-	436	-	4
Linnet	9	-	9	2427	-	6
Twite	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lesser Redpoll	55	-	55	981	2	9

Common (Mealy) Redpoll	2	-	2	18	-	-
Crossbill	-	-	-	10	-	-
Common Rosefinch	1	-	1	15	-	-
Bullfinch	-	-	-	5	-	-
Hawfinch	-	-	-	4	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellowhammer	-	-	-	13	-	-
Ortolan Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rustic Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Bunting	-	-	-	2	-	-
Reed Bunting	4	-	4	796	-	2
Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	3611	291	3902	243236	49	3031

Recoveries and Controls

Recoveries are birds ringed in the Calf and observed somewhere else, whilst Controls refer to birds captured or sighted at the Calf previously ringed in other places.

Key to codes used in this report

Age codes:		Capture type:	
0	Unknown or not specified	A	Alive and probably healthy - fate unknown
1	Nesting or chick not yet able to fly	R	Recaptured and released by a ringer
2	Full grown, year of hatching unknown	S	Sick or injured, not known to have been released
3J	Young in juvenile plumage and able to fly freely	X	Found dead
3	Definitely hatched during current calendar year	XL	Found long dead; over a week
4	Hatched before current calendar year, exact year unknown	XF	Found freshly dead; less than a week
5	Definitely hatched during last calendar year	VV	Rings read in the field, not by a ringer
6	Hatched before last calendar year, exact year unknown	RR	Rings read in the field by a ringer
		+F	Shot or intentionally killed by man – fresh
		Sex:	
		M	Male
		F	Female

Manx Shearwater

EL91368	1	12/09/2006	Copeland Bird Observatory (Down) 84km SSE
	R	30/04/2014	Calf of Man 7 yrs 230 days
EW82900	1	07/09/2009	Copeland Bird Observatory (Down) 84km SSE
	R	03/06/2014	Calf of Man 4 yrs 269 days

These records indicate where the origin of the birds re-colonising the Calf may be coming from.

Storm Petrel

2365347	4	26/06/2014	Ballyreagh (Londonderry) 174km SE
	R	26/06/2014	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 0 days
2591774	4	30/06/2014	Calf of Man 55km WNW
	R	11/07/2014	Sheepland Harbour (Down) 11 days
2661480	4	22/07/2012	MWNT (Ceredigion) 213km N
	R	26/06/2014	Calf of Man 1 yr 339 days
2476514	4	16/07/2013	Ailsa Craig (South Ayrshire) 135km S
	R	10/08/2013	Calf of Man 25 days
2563281	4	14/07/2005	Calf of Man 259km S
	R	09/08/2013	Skomer Isle (Pembrokeshire) 8 yrs 26 days

2591865	4	27/07/2012	Calf of Man
		284km NNE	
	R	27/07/2013	Fife Ness (Fife)
		1 yr 0 days	
2591876	4	05/08/2012	Calf of Man
		55km WNW	
	R	10/08/2013	Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass (Down)
		1 yr 5 days	

2365347 illustrates the species ability to move significant distances in very short times.

Shag

1180645	1	13/06/1991	Calf of Man
		46km NNE	
	XF	06/04/2014	Rue Point (Isle of Man)
		22 yrs 303 days	
1365338	1	19/05/2001	Calf of Man
		49km NE	
	XF	14/01/2014	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)
		12 yrs 240 days	
1379795	1	01/06/2003	Calf of Man
		50km NE	
	XF	24/02/2014	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)
		10 yrs 268 days	
1406105	1	21/05/2007	Calf of Man
		46km NNE	
	XF	19/01/2014	Rue Point (Isle of Man)
		6 yrs 243 days	
1406153	1	10/06/2007	Calf of Man
		42km NNE	
	XF	05/03/2014	Near The Lhen (Isle of Man)
		6 yrs 268 days	
1406176	8F	10/04/2008	Calf of Man
		50km NE	

	XF	10/01/2014	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)
		5 yrs 275 days	
1446356	1	14/05/2011	Calf of Man
		46km NNE	
	X	18/03/2014	Rue Point (Isle of Man)
		2 yrs 308 days	
1468522	1	21/05/2012	Calf of Man
		12km E	
	A	24/02/2014	Langness (Isle of Man)
		1 yr 279 days	
1468628	1	05/05/2013	Calf of Man
		27km NNE	
	X	04/03/2014	Glen Mooar (Isle of Man)
		303 days	
1468689	1	02/06/2013	Calf of Man
		119km NE	
	X	27/01/2014	Southernness (Dumfries and Galloway)
		239 days	
1468605	1	23/04/2013	Calf of Man
		33km NNE	
	XF	20/12/2013	Ballaugh (Isle of Man)
		241 days	
1468717	1	15/06/2013	Calf of Man
		79km N	
	XF	24/12/2013	Port William (Dumfries and Galloway)
		192 days	

A typical series of recoveries which illustrate that most Calf bred birds remain in and around the Irish Sea.

Mute Swan

W30947	5	03/04/2014	Castletown (Isle of Man)
		11km W	
	XF	20/04/2014	Calf of Man
		17 days	

Woodcock

EL87790 4 10/11/2012 Calf of Man
142km WNW
+F 23/10/2013 Parkanaur (Tyrone)
347 days

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GR64543 1 23/06/2012 Calf of Man
R 10/07/2012 Calf of Man
17 days
RR 09/02/2013 Colmenar Viejo Landfill (Madrid), **Spain**
1491km S
231 days
RR 10/02/2013 Colmenar Viejo Landfill (Madrid), **Spain**
1491km S
232 days
RR 24/03/2014 Playa de Tapia de Casariego (Asturias),
Spain
1175km S
1 yr 274 days
GR64613 1 04/07/2012 Calf of Man
RR 07/09/2012 Taboeira Landfill (Aveiro), **Portugal**
1515km S
65 days
RR 23/04/2013 Quarteira Port (Faro), **Portugal**
1904km S
293 days
RR 01/10/2013 Quarteira Port (Faro), **Portugal**
1904km S
1 yr 89 days
GR64661 1 10/07/2012 Calf of Man
RR 16/07/2013 Angeirs, Matosinhos (Porto), **Portugal**
1451km SSW
1 yr 6 days

	RR	14/08/2013	Torreira, Portugal
		1506km S	
		1 yr 35 days	
GR64662	1	10/07/2012	Calf of Man
	RR	12/12/2012	Sagres (Faro), Portugal ,
		1921km S	
		155 days	
	RR	18/05/2013	Quarteira Port (Faro), Portugal
		1904km S	
		312 days	
	RR	26/10/2013	Quarteira Port (Faro), Portugal
		1904km S	
		1 yr 108 days	
	XF	04/06/2014	Downpatrick (Down)
		67km WNW	
		1 yr 329 days	
GR64679	1	13/07/2012	Calf of Man
	RR	09/11/2013	San Sebastian (Guipuzcoa), Spain
		1210km S	
		1 yr 119 days	
	VV	16/01/2014	Quarteira Port (Faro), Portugal
		1904km S	
		1 yr 187 days	
	RR	18/02/2014	Quarteira Port (Faro), Portugal
		1904km S	
		1 yr 220 days	
GR64875	1	16/07/2013	Calf of Man
		1904km S	
	RR	09/12/2013	Quarteira Port (Faro), Portugal
		146 days	

Herring Gull

GN53345	1	25/06/2011	Calf of Man
	R	14/07/2011	Calf of Man
		19 days	
	RR	15/07/2012	Bray Harbour (Wicklow), Eire
		127km SW	
		1 yr 20 days	
	RR	20/03/2013	Ballycotton Pier (Cork), Eire
		327km SW	
		1 yr 268 days	
	RR	07/02/2014	Ballycotton Pier (Cork), Eire
GN53364		327km SW	
		2 yrs 227 days	
	RR	26/02/2014	Ballycotton Pier (Cork), Eire
		327km SW	
		2 yrs 246 days	
GR64595	1	24/06/2011	Calf of Man
		25km NW	
	XF	15/04/2014	off Ardglass (At Sea)
GR64595		2 yrs 295 days	
	1	01/07/2012	Calf of Man
	R	07/07/2012	Calf of Man
		6 days	
	VV	17/03/2014	Peel (Isle of Man)
GR64649		20km NNE	
		1 yr 259 days	
	1	09/07/2012	Calf of Man
		289km SW	
	RR	09/02/2014	Ballynagaul Pier (Waterford), Eire
GR64698		1 yr 215 days	
	1	23/06/2013	Calf of Man
	R	03/07/2013	Calf of Man
		10 days	
	XL	13/07/2014	Dunleer (Louth), Eire
		106km WSW	
		1 yr 20 days	

GR64715	1	23/06/2013	Calf of Man
		75km N	
	X	13/01/2014	Port Logan Bay (Dumfries and Galloway)
		204 days	
GR64753	1	28/06/2013	Calf of Man
		56km WNW	
	RR	03/03/2014	Ardglass Harbour (Down)
		248 days	
GR64789	1	30/06/2013	Calf of Man
		380km SSE	
	RR	12/01/2014	Exeter Quay (Devon)
		196 days	
GR64828	1	03/07/2013	Calf of Man
		20km NNE	
	VV	17/03/2014	Peel (Isle of Man)
		257 days	
	VV	28/03/2014	Peel (Isle of Man)
		268 days	
GF78681	1	21/06/1997	Calf of Man
		1km E	
	X	24/04/2013	The Sound (Isle of Man)
		15 yrs 307 days	
GN53332	1	27/06/2011	Calf of Man
		8km ENE	
	R	12/07/2011	Calf of Man
		15 days	
	VV	05/09/2013	Strandhall (Isle of Man)
		2 yrs 70 days	
GR08688	1	14/07/2011	Calf of Man
		8km ENE	
	RR	05/09/2013	Strandhall (Isle of Man)
		2 yrs 53 days	

GR64598	1	01/07/2012	Calf of Man
	VV	20/10/2012	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	111 days
	VV	12/12/2012	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	164 days
	VV	13/12/2012	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	165 days
	RR	24/01/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	207 days
	VV	05/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	219 days
	VV	07/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	221 days
	VV	11/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	225 days
	VV	23/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	237 days
	VV	28/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	242 days
	VV	01/03/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	243 days
	VV	12/03/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	254 days
	VV	28/03/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	270 days
	VV	22/10/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	1 yr 113 days
GR64672	1	11/07/2012	Calf of Man
	VV	07/02/2013	Peel (Isle of Man)
		20km NNE	
		211 days	
	VV	05/09/2013	Strandhall (Isle of Man)
		8km ENE	
		1 yr	56 days

Great Black-backed Gull

HT95148	1	05/07/2013	Calf of Man
		259km S	
	RR	11/09/2013	Skomer Isle (Pembrokeshire)
		68 days	

Razorbill

K04714	1	21/06/2010	Calf of Man
		427km SSE	
	XF	11/02/2014	Taddiford, Barton on Sea (Hampshire)
		3 yrs 235 days	
K04736	6	20/05/2011	Calf of Man
		123km ESE	
	XF	19/02/2014	Fairhaven (Lancashire)
		2 yrs 275 days	
K04772	1	28/06/2013	Calf of Man
		775km NNE	
	XF	29/01/2014	Greenbank, Yell (Shetland)
		215 days	
K20829	1	27/06/2009	Puffin Island (Isle of Anglesey)
		96km NNW	
	XL	24/03/2014	Calf of Man
		4 yrs 270 days	
M64965	6	13/06/1996	Calf of Man
		92km ENE	
	XF	26/02/2014	St Bees (Cumbria)
		17 yrs 258 days	
M64979	1	21/06/1996	Calf of Man
		112km SSE	
	XL	30/03/2014	Dinas Dinlle (Gwynedd)
		17 yrs 282 days	

Chough

EL87805 1 03/06/2013 Calf of Man
RR 24/08/2013 Calf of Man
82 days
VV 26/10/2013 Langness (Isle of Man)
12km E
145 days

Blackbird

LB12958 3F 14/10/2010 Calf of Man
134km SE
XF 18/03/2014 Greasby (Merseyside)
3 yrs 155 days

Sedge Warbler

D401195 4 14/05/2014 Calf of Man
163km NNW
R 29/06/2014 Aros Moss (Argyll and Bute)
46 days
Y895573 3 12/09/2012 Squire's Down (Dorset)
380km NNW
R 15/05/2014 Calf of Man
1 yr 245 days

Goldfinch

L215493 5 04/05/2011 Calf of Man
1088km SSE
XF 05/03/2014 Saucats (Gironde), **France**
2 yrs 305days
Y859720 5M 02/05/2013 Calf of Man
162km ESE
R 10/04/2014 Sutton Weaver, Runcorn (Halton)
343 days
12969468 5 08/04/2013 Bois-De-Lessines (Hainaut), **Belgium**
699km WNW

BLB R 02/05/2013 Calf of Man
24 days

Lesser Redpoll

Y539745 5 21/05/2012 Calf of Man
380km ESE

R 04/04/2014 Silt Fen Farm (Norfolk)
1 yr 318 days

D222851 5 19/02/2013 University of East Anglia (Norfolk)
431km WNW

R 02/05/2013 Calf of Man
72 days

Y859927 4M 28/05/2013 Calf of Man
473km ESE

R 26/10/2013 Hollesley Heath (Suffolk)
151 days

Manx Shearwater Report

Introduction

Manx Shearwaters (*Puffinus puffinus*) were historically numerous on the Calf of Man. However, following the introduction of invasive rats around 200 years ago, the population declined to such an extent that it was thought locally extinct until the rediscovery of a small breeding population in 2000. Localised rodent baiting has since been undertaken to control the impact of introduced rats on the shearwater population. Subsequent annual monitoring of the known sub-colonies indicates a potential increase in the total population of breeding shearwaters since 2000 however considerable variation in survey methods, effort and data recording between years makes these results difficult to interpret. In 2012 the 'Manx Shearwater recovery project' was initiated with the objective to eradicate the invasive population of rats from the Calf of Man, in an attempt to benefit both shearwaters and other vulnerable bird species. In addition to its conservation value, this project represents an excellent opportunity to monitor the recovery of a seabird population following the eradication of invasive rodents. Manx Shearwaters are a long-lived species, and produce only one egg per breeding attempt. As such, their rate of population growth is likely to be slow, particularly as the total number of breeding pairs on the Calf may only number around 350 (Hayward, 2013). Consequently, annual monitoring of the breeding population will be necessary over a number of years in order to monitor population trends. This report aims to outline a standardised method of data collection to ensure that the recovery of the Manx Shearwater population on the Calf of Man can be consistently and accurately recorded and interpreted.

Methods

In 2014, Manx Shearwater sub-colonies on the Calf of Man were monitored following methods outlined in the Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland (Walsh et al., 1995). The playback method used is a standardised method that can be used to monitor population trends, and can also be extrapolated to give whole colony counts where the colony area is known.

Sampling was conducted between 4th and 13th June, during the incubation period when adults are present in the burrows. Surveys were conducted during the day to limit detection of immature and prospecting birds. Circular

quadrats were selected at random within the known colony limits, and marked out with a stake and a 2.96m length of rope giving a total area of 30m² for each quadrat. Six quadrats were sampled at each of five sub-colonies (Bay Fine was not surveyed due to the small number of burrows), totalling 30 quadrats for the Calf as a whole. All burrows within each quadrat were surveyed.

A 15 second recording of a male Manx Shearwater was played at natural volume at each burrow entrance, and any vocal responses noted. Additional physical signs of burrow occupancy (in immediate proximity to the burrow entrance) including droppings, feathers, and recent signs of digging, were also noted. All apparently occupied burrows were marked with a stake and logged using a handheld GPS. Quadrat positions were also marked with GPS for use in future years.

Intensive monitoring in 2013 provided an accurate indication of colony area at each subcolony. Colony area was calculated from burrow positions in 2013 and used to extrapolate the estimated total population for each subcolony as detailed in the 'Seabird monitoring handbook'. Typically only males respond to the use of playback, and as such a correction factor of 1.98 was applied to estimate the total number of occupied burrows.

Results

Quadrat sampling using playback methods resulted in an estimated total of 424 occupied burrows on the Calf of Man, distributed across five main subcolonies (Table 1). Estimates were calculated for each subcolony using the following equation:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of responses} \times \text{Correction factor}}{\text{Number of quadrats}} \right) \times \text{Subcolony area}$$

Table 1 – Results of Manx Shearwater monitoring in 2014

† Values given in brackets are those from the 2013 survey

Subcolony	Total number of burrows in quadrats	Burrows with physical signs of occupation	Playback responses	Estimate of occupied burrows †
Cletts	58	21	3	40 (41)
Gibdale	28	7	3	47 (22)
Kione ny Halby	36	17	3	50 (47)
Kione Roauyr	47	7	4	80 (54)
South Harbour	27	13	6	207 (85)

South Harbour was estimated to be the largest sub-colony, with Kione Roauyr also containing a considerable proportion of the overall breeding population (Table 1). The estimate produced using quadrat sampling and playback methods in 2014 was similar to that produced in 2013 using exhaustive playback methods (348 occupied burrows) (Hayward, 2013). Considerably more burrows showed physical signs of occupation than yielded vocal responses to playback (Table 1), and a higher proportion still showed no evidence of occupation.

Discussion

The combined use of quadrat sampling and playback methods (see Walsh et al., 1995) in 2014 resulted in the highest estimated number of occupied burrows on the Calf of Man to date. This continues the general trend of population growth recorded on the Calf of Man since Manx Shearwaters were first surveyed in 2000, and suggests that efforts to control the invasive population of rats on the Calf may be having a discernible effect. The results also suggest that there are currently substantial numbers of unused burrows in existing sub-colonies that would potentially be available for occupation in the future should the breeding population continue to expand. Sampling revealed a considerable discrepancy between the number of burrows recorded with physical signs of occupancy and the number from which vocal responses to playback were recorded. This discrepancy may indicate the presence of immature or prospecting individuals, which is encouraging for future population growth. Due to limited manpower an exhaustive search for new burrows was not feasible in 2014.

The life history traits of Manx Shearwaters mean that population growth is likely to be relatively slow following complete rat eradication, and thus surveying of the breeding population will need to be carried out long-term in order to record how the population responds. As such, it is imperative to adopt a standardised approach to both data collection and recording in order for data to be comparable between years. It is also essential that data are reported in a standardised way, potentially through the creation and dissemination of appropriate recording forms to future wardens and volunteers. The quadrat sampling method described in this report offers a standardised approach to data collection enabling meaningful comparisons to be made between years, and follows current guidelines from the scientific literature.

The quadrat sampling method is particularly advantageous as it requires only one visit to each subcolony during the early incubation period, and requires only one or two people to collect the necessary data. The 'Seabird monitoring handbook' clearly outlines the method and can therefore be referred to by future Calf wardens to ensure that data is collected using the same method each season. It is important to ensure continuity of data collection between years, given the regular turn-over of wardens working on the Calf. In previous years both search effort and data collection methods have varied

considerably, which is likely to have affected the resulting population estimates.

Monitoring the Manx Shearwater population also requires regular surveys for new burrows across the Calf of Man, to provide improved estimations of subcolony area and enable any newly established colonies to be found. However, conducting an exhaustive search for burrows such as that undertaken in 2013 requires numerous people and takes a considerable amount of time and less intensive burrow surveys are of limited use for long-term monitoring. In addition, the low reproductive rate of Manx Shearwaters means that colonies are likely to grow slowly, and new colonies will only be founded rarely. As such, new burrow surveys should be conducted on a regular but less frequent basis than occupancy surveys, perhaps once every five years, but when undertaken should be exhaustive and use a large team of volunteers.

In 2014 a total of 42 adult Manx Shearwaters were ringed at the South Harbour subcolony, with an additional 16 individuals retrapped, of which two were controls (i.e. ringed elsewhere in Britain). Tape lures were not used in 2014 in order to restrict ringing to those individuals breeding or prospecting on the Calf.

References

Hayward, W. 2013. Calf of Man Annual Report.

Walsh, P.M., Halley, D.J., Harris, M.P., del Nevo, A., Sim, I.M.W., & Tasker, M.L. 1995. Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland. JNCC/RSPB/ITE/Seabird Group, Peterborough.

Non-Avian Report

Butterflies

The abundance and variety of butterflies on the Calf of Man are monitored using the transect method. A fixed route around the island is walked on a weekly basis between April and September (weather dependant), and butterflies within five metres either side of the transect line are recorded. This is the eighteenth year of recording butterflies along the established transect route. Butterfly transects were carried out by Estate Warden Nick Purdew. In addition to the transect counts, casual butterfly observations were made on a daily basis and recorded in the log.

There are eight butterfly transect sections on the Calf:

1. The Observatory to the crossroads.
2. The crossroads to the top of Mill Giau.
3. The top of Mill Giau up the Glen to the gate, following the west side of the wall.
4. The gate back down the Glen to the Mill, following the track.
5. The Mill to South Harbour stores
6. South Harbour stores to Ghaw Yiarn.
7. Ghaw Yiarn to the junction above Cow Harbour.
8. Cow Harbour junction to the wall at the start of the netting area.

Large White

One record in week 20, exact date unrecorded.

Small White

The first of the season was a single individual on 5th July, with sightings of up to 5 individuals seen daily by the end of the month. Small numbers of up to 5 were seen in August.

Green-veined White

Up to five were seen on seven days in April with the first seen on the 18th. There were regular sightings through May, with a maximum of seven. Up to four were seen regularly in June however there was only one record in July. Sightings continued to be irregular in August, with up to six seen. Small numbers were present in early to mid-September.

Small Copper

First seen on 16th May and on four days thereafter, reaching a monthly peak of seven on the 30th. A maximum of seven were seen on 3rd June, and one or two on five other dates in the month. Small numbers were seen on six days in July, with up to eight recorded and similar numbers in August. Small Coppers were regularly seen through September, reaching a maximum of eight. The two last records came in early October, with the last on the 4th.

Common Blue

First seen on 3rd June, then irregularly throughout the month in small numbers; there were no further records in the season.

Table 1 – Total number of butterflies seen on transects in 2014. Numbers in parentheses are estimated values generated by the recording software. Species names in italics are day flying moths.

Week	Large White	Small White	Green-veined White	Small Copper	Common Blue	Red Admiral	Small Tortoiseshell	Peacock	Dark-green Fritillary	Grayling	Gatekeeper	Meadow Brown	<i>Common Heath</i>	Total
1							(1)							1
2							2							2
3							1							1
4			2				4	1						7
5			2				2							4
6			1											1
7				1									1	2
8			2										4	6
9			3	7		1							9	20
10			1	5	1		1						1	9
11			(1)	(4)			(1)		(1)					7
12			2	3					6				2	13
13			1						33			3		37
14						3	2		35		1	10		51
15							(3)		(25)					28
16		(3)		(6)					(5)					14
17		5		7		5			3			96		116
18		5	3	4				1	3	1		43		60
19			6	3								37		46
20	1		1									1		3

21			2	1				1						4
22			1			3								4
23				5		1								6
24			2	4		5								11
25						16								16
26														0

Red Admiral

First seen on 20th May, with up to three seen on five days in the month. Sightings increased significantly in the last week June with 20-30 recorded on three days. Small numbers were present through July, reaching a maximum of eight. Increasing numbers were observed through August, up to 14 maximum but regularly above 10. Red Admirals were seen daily through September, with a spectacular influx of 60 on the 21st and 40 on 22nd, which spent much of their time basking on the Observatory walls. Regular records continued through to the end October, with a maximum of eight on 12th and the last record on 30th. There were two further records of eight and three individuals on 5th and 7th November respectively.

Painted Lady

Four records through the season. The first record of the year was at South Harbour on 29th July, with others on 27th August, 22nd September and the last on the 5th November.

Small Tortoiseshell

First seen on 10th April, with up to four seen regularly until the end of the month. There were no sightings in May and only singles seen on two days in June. Small numbers were seen occasionally in July, but the rest of season saw only one record in August and three at the end September.

Peacock

Records were infrequent, with the first on 23rd March, and up to two present on three days in April. There were no records in May or June, and only two singles on the 25th and 31st July. Singles were recorded on five days in August, but there were no records in later months.

Dark-green Fritillary

There were a couple of early records with one on 31st March, and another on 8th April. None were seen in May, with the next sighting on 15th June after which records became daily, peaking at 33 on the 23rd. Numbers remained high in early July, but dropped off toward the end of the month. There were no further records.

Speckled Wood

Two individuals were seen on the Calf during the season: one at Kione ny Halby on September 22nd and one on the Burroo on 12th October.

Grayling

Single individuals on the 9th and 23rd July were the first of the season. One further individual was seen on 3rd August, followed by four on the 7th.

Meadow Brown

First seen on 23rd June, sightings increased through July reaching 95 on the 28th and regularly exceeding 20. Good numbers were present in the first half August with up to 37 on the 6th.

Gatekeeper

A single record on 1st July was the only sighting for the season.

Small Heath

Only one individual for the season, on 14th August.

Moths

A total of 80 moth species were recorded in 2014. Traps were run between 25th May and 22nd September, at sites around the Observatory. Both the actinic Skinner and mercury vapour Robinson traps were used. All moth species recorded in 2014 are detailed in the systematic list below.

169. Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulae*

One on 20th June. Ten on 5th July & two on 25th July.

1376. Small Magpie *Eurrhpara hortulata*

Seven on 5th July. One on 1st August.

1405. Mother of Pearl *Pleuroptya ruralis*

Two on 1st August.

1653. Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides*

One on 5th July.

1689. Mullein Wave *Scopila marginepunctata*

One on 5th July.

1702. Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata*

Three on 1st August.

1708. Single-dotted Wave *Idaea dimidiata*

One on 5th July. One on 1st August.

1722. Flame Carpet *Xanthorhoe designate*

One on 6th August.

1738. Common Carpet *Epirrhoe alternata alternata*

Two on 1st August & one on 6th August.

1752. Purple Bar *Cosmorhoe ocellara*

Two on 1st & 6th August.

1755. Chevron *Eulithis testate*

Three on 1st, 10 on 6th & four on 15th August.

1759. **Small Phoenix** *Ecliptopera silaceata*

One on 1st August.

1768. **Grey Pine Carpet** *Thera obeliscata*

One on 22nd September.

1769. **Spruce Carpet** *Thera britannica*

One on 22nd September.

1777. **July Highflyer** *Hydriomena furcata*

One on 1st & two on 15th August.

1826. **Triple-spotted Pug** *Eupithecia trisignaria*

One on 5th July.

1834. **Common Pug** *Eupithecia vulgate*

Three on 29th May.

1846. **Narrow-winged Pug** *Eupithecia nanata*

Two on 5th July.

1884. **Magpie** *Abraxas grossulariata*

One on 5th July. One on 6th August.

1902. **Brown Silver-line** *Petrophora chlorosata*

Four on 25th & 29th May. Three on 3rd June.

1906. **Brimstone** *Opisthograptis luteolata*

One on 1st August.

1913. **Canary-shouldered Thorn** *Ennomos alniaria*

One on 22nd September.

1937. **Willow Beauty** *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*

One on 1st August.

1941. **Mottled Beauty** *Alcis repandata repandata*

One on 1st August.

1952. **Common Heath** *Ematurga atomaria*

Seen commonly during the day between 16th May and 8th June, reaching a maximum of 10 individuals.

1961. **Light Emerald** *Compaea margaritata*

One on 5th July.

1981. **Poplar Hawkmoth** *Laothoe populi*

One on 1st June. Four on 5th July.

1984. **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** *Macroglossum stellatarum*

One on 24th May. One on 10th September.

1995. **Puss Moth** *Cerura vinula*

Two on 27th May.

2056. **Wood Tiger** *Parasemia plantaginis plantaginis*

One on 19th June, freshly emerged.

2057. **Garden Tiger** *Arctia caja*

Four on 5th July. Two on 1st August.

2060. **White Ermine** *Spilosoma lubricipeda*

Four on 25th May

2061. **Buff Ermine** *Spilosoma luteum*

One on 29th May. 10 on 5th July.

2069. **Cinnabar** *Tyria jacobaeae*

After the first was trapped on 13th May the species was regularly encountered during the day through to the final record on 9th July, with a peak count of 94 on 5th July. Cinnabar caterpillars were again abundant on Ragwort around the Observatory during the late summer.

2087. **Turnip Moth** *Agrotis segetum*

One on 6th August.

2089. **Heart and Dart** *Agrotis exclamationis*

Two on 5th July. One on August 1st.

2090. **Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux*

Two on 5th July. 21 on 1st and seven on 6th August.

2091. **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon*

One trapped on 6th August was the only record.

2102. **Flame Shoulder** *Ochropleura plecta*

Four on 29th May.

2107. **Large Yellow Underwing** *Noctua pronuba*

Nine on 5th July. 30 on 1st and 42 on 6th August. One on 22nd September.

2109. **Lesser Yellow Underwing** *Noctua comes*

One on 6th and 18 on 15th August.

2111. **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** *Noctua janthe*

One on 1st, 10 on 6th and five on 15th August

2117. **Autumnal Rustic** *Eugnorisma glareosa*

Two on 22nd September

2118. **True Lover's Knot** *Lycophotia porphyrea*

Fifteen on 5th July. 29 on 1st, four on 6th and one on 15th August.

2120. **Ingrailed Clay** *Diarsia mendica*

Thirteen on 5th July. Three on 1st August.

2123. **Small Square-spot** *Diarsia rubi*

Two on 25th & six on 29th May. Three on 1st and one on 15th August

2126. **Setaceous Hebrew Character** *Xestia c-nigrum*

One on 6th August. One on 22nd September.

2133. **Six-striped Rustic** *Xestia sexstrigata*

Singles on 1st, 6th & 15th August.

2134. **Square-spot Rustic** *Xestia xanthographa*

Two on 6th & four on 15th August.

2135. **Heath Rustic** *Xestia agathina agathina*

One on 1st & two on 15th August.

2147. **Shears** *Hada plebeja*

Four on 29th May.

2160. **Bright-line Brown-eye** *Lacanobia oleracea*

Two on 25th & seven on 29th May. 24 on 5th July.

2163. **Broom Moth** *Melanchra pis*

Four on 29th May.

2167. **Pod Lover** *Hadena perplexa*

One on 29th May. One on 1st August.

2171. **Marbled Coronet** *Hadena confuse*

One on 25th & two on 29th May.

2173. **Lychnis** *Hadena bicruris*

One on 15th August.

2174. **Grey** *Hadena caesia*

One on 25th May. Two on 5th July. One on 6th August

2176. **Antler Moth** *Cerapteryx greminis*

Three on 1st & 6th and six on 15th August.

2198. **Smoky Wainscot** *Mythimna impure*

One on 1st & 6th and two on 15th August.

2232. **Black Rustic** *Aporophyla nigra*

Four on 22nd September.

2255. **Feathered Ranunculus** *Polymixis lichenea lichenea*

Two on 22nd September.

2270. **Lunar Underwing** *Omphaloscelis lunosa*

53 on 22nd September.

2289. **Knot Grass** *Acronicta rumicis*

One on 25th & two on 29th May. One on 5th July.

2305. **Small Angle Shades** *Euplexia lucipara*

One on 29th May. One on 22nd September.

2306. **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa*

One on 15th August. Three on 22nd September.

2318. **Dun-bar** *Cosmia trapezina*

1 on 6th August.

2321. **Dark Arches** *Apamea monoglypha*

Twelve on 5th July. 30 on 1st, 41 on 6th and 17 on 15th August.

2342. **Rosy Minor** *Mesoligia literosa*

Two on 1st & one on 6th August.

2343. **Common Rustic** *Mesapamea secalis*

Eight on 1st, 31 on 6th and seven on 15th August.

2350. **Small Wainscot** *Chortodes pygmina*

Two on 6th and one on 15th August.

2353. **Flounced Rustic** *Luperina testacea*

Two on 6th August.

2360. **Ear Moth** *Amphipoea oculatea*

One on 6th August.

2361. **Rosy Rustic** *Hydraecia micacea*

One on 6th August.

2364. **Frosted Orange** *Gortyna flavago*

One on 22nd September.

2434. **Burnished Brass** *Diachrysia chrysitis*

One on 6th August.

2439. **Gold Spot** *Plusia festucae*

One on 1st August.

2442. **Beautiful Golden Y** *Autographa pulchrina*

One on 5th July.

2450. **Spectacle** *Abrostola tripartite*

Three on 29th May. Three on 5th July. One on 6th August.

2469. **Herald** *Scoliopteryx libatrix*

One found dead on 20th September.

2477. **Snout** *Hypena proboscidalis*

Three on 5th July. Two on 1st August.

Mammals

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Despite ongoing monitoring, a single individual was caught on camera trap at Cow Harbour on 29th September. This resulted in a rapid deployment of a contingency baiting grid around the site by the wardens and a single volunteer and regularly monitoring continued through to the end of the season. The rat was pictured taking large quantities of bait soon after, and was not seen again after 9th October.

Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Although not actually seen, there was evidence of Wood Mice teeth marks on chocolate-wax monitoring blocks at several sites around the island during the season.

Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*

Two (affectionately known as Cyril and Simone) were seen regularly inside the Observatory throughout much of the season, enjoying oatcakes and often needing to be rescued from the recycling bin by the wardens.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

High numbers were recorded all around the island despite die-off due to Myxomatosis, with up to five black rabbits seen at various locations around the island.

Bat sp.

One inside the Estate Warden's room in the early hours of one morning in June, and two feeding along the track outside the Observatory on 7th September.

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

Seen daily, especially at regular haul-out spots around the Cletts, Cow Harbour and South Harbour; a peak count of 160 was made on 19th June. The first pup was seen on 26th September. Unfortunately, severe weather throughout much October resulted in a high mortality rate for the pups.

Monthly seal-days and peak counts of grey seals

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Seal-days	404	882	1002	891	361	595	762	1265	159
Max count	54	130	121	160	136	147	138	105	35

Common Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Only occasionally seen around the Calf between March and August during 2014; the first sighting was three individuals near Cow Harbour on 26th March. Thereafter singles were recorded on 26th April, 13th and 16th May. Two were seen on 23rd June, with a single on 27th August the final sighting for the season.

Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

An excellent year for Minke Whales, with the first seen on 29th June from the Observatory, aided by incredibly calm seas; continuing good weather led to further sightings of four individuals on 1st July, seen near to Chickens Rock Lighthouse, and two on the 25th. Two more were seen on August 7th and three on September 5th were the last of the season.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

First seen on April 1st, with several sightings a month until the end August, after which numbers dropped off considerably. Family groups with calves were seen in late summer, with a maximum of 10 individuals seen on 25th June.

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

Spring sightings were rare with only one group of six seen on 26th May. A group of 14 were seen on 25th July. The majority of sightings came in September when five were seen on both the 5th and 17th, and the high count of the season came on the 29th when at least 17 individuals were seen around the Calf, mainly around the Sound.

Dolphin sp.

Two dolphins seen from the lighthouses on 6th August were not assigned to species.

Reptiles

Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*

Seen regularly between 23rd March and 21st September, with a maximum of seven on 4th September; a particularly late individual on a glorious day on 10th October was the last of the season.

Odonata

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

One on 30th August, and singles on 7th and 26th September.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

A good year for this species, with up to three seen on six dates in September and a single sighting in early October.

Hawker sp *Aeshna sp.*

Seen on three dates in early September.

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